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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. *The KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular \$8.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Student \$4.00; Life, \$100.00; Family, \$2.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and request for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer.

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THE COVER

The K.O.S. thanks Bud Tindall for providing the photograph of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) at the nest in memory of his good friend and associate, member Gene Boaz, who recently passed away (see IN MEMORIAM)

IN MEMORIAM: GENE BOAZ

Gene Boaz, owner of *Nature's Images* by Gene Boaz, President of the Jackson Purchase Audubon Society and member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, died September 30, 1999. He spent 41 years actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America. A scholarship fund for boy scouts is continuing in his name. Donations can be made to the Gene Boaz Scholarship, P.O. Box 487, Owensboro, Kentucky 42302. Gene was a certified rehabilitator for birds of prey. He enjoyed photographing birds and rehabilitating injured birds. Gene was a professional photographer, but he was always willing to allow his images to be used free of charge by KOS, Land Between the Lakes, the Boy Scouts of America, and many other worthy causes. His business is being continued by his wife Denise Boaz in Benton, Kentucky. He left over 100,000 images of birds and other wildlife. KOS will miss Gene Boaz and expresses its sincere sympathies to Denise Boaz and family.

THE SUMMER SEASON, 1999

Fred M. Busroe

The weather in June and July was unusually warm with the entire state under drought conditions. The drought conditions certainly had an effect on bird populations. In spite of the dry conditions some interesting observations were made such as the Eurasian Collared-Dove in western Kentucky and nesting Spotted Sandpipers at the Falls of the Ohio. The last known Spotted Sandpiper nesting at the Falls was 27 June 1993.

Publication of any unusual sighting of birds in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky Birds. Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and will be reported periodically in the *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations - WMA = Wildlife Management Area; AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Ball = Ballard County; BWMA = Ballard WMA, Ballard County; Bar = Barren River Lake, Barren County; BG = Bowling Green, Warren County; Blo = Blood River Embayment, Calloway County; Breck = Breckenridge County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; CCSP = Carter Caves State Park, Carter County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Bath/Menifee/Rowan cos.; Din = Dinsmore Woods, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County; Ful = Fulton County; GCA = Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone County; Gri = Basil Griffin Park, Warren County; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.; Bark = Lake Barkley; Livingston/Lyon/Trigg cos.; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Lyon/Trigg cos.; L#9 = Lake Number 9, Fulton County; Lew = Lewis County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; MDP = Middle Creek Park, Boone County; Muhl = Muhlenberg River, Muhlenberg County; Old = Oldham County; Open = Open Pond, Fulton County; Par = Paradise, Muhlenberg County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio cos.; Pine = Pine Bluff Shores, Calloway County; Red = Red River Gorge, Menifee/Wolfe cos.; Sin = Sinking Springs, Calloway County; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; Warn = Warren County.

Common Loon - 1 at KyDam on June 1 and one on July 4 at Bar (DR).

Horned Grebe - 1 on June 29 at KyDam (Hap).

- Eared Grebe** - 1 on June 25 at Gri (LD, DR),
American White Pelican - 83 on June 30 at L#9 (JTE).
Great Blue Heron - 25 on June 26 at Blo and 17 at Open on June 26 (Hap).
Great Egret - 1 on July 27-31 at AJJ (FR).
Snowy Egret - 1 on July 11 in Ful (Hap),
Little Blue Heron - 21 immatures on July 2 at Pine (Hap, JTE); 2 on July 18 at LBark (DO); 1 immature on July 31 at AJJ (FR)
Cattle Egret - Approximately 200 on July 18 at LBark (DO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 43 on July 17 at LBL, Bark, and KyDam (Hap, CP).
Bufflehead - An adult male on June 1 at KyDam (DR).
Ring-necked Duck - 2 adult males on July 12 at PWMA (DR).
Red-breasted Merganser - 1 on July 18 at Smi (DO).
Ruddy Duck - 13 on July 17 at LBL area (Hap, CP) .
Osprey - 4 on July 2 at Pine (Hap, JTE); 13 on July 17 at LBL, Bark, KyDam area (Hap, CP).
Mississippi Kite - 4 on June 12 in Ful (Hap,CP); 6 on June 27 at Open and 4 on July 11 in Ful (Hap); 1 to 2 birds between July 12 - 25 (four dates) PWMA (DR); 3 on July 18 at BWMA (DO).
Bald Eagle - 1 on July 11 in Ballard County (Hap, CP); 1 on July 18 at BWMA (DO).
Cooper's Hawk - 2 on June 7 in Breck (DO) . ,
Broad-winged Hawk - 1 on June 29 at CCSP (FR).
American Kestrel - 8 on July 18 at Par (DO).
American Coot - 1 present through the season at Gri (DR) . ,
American Golden-Plover - 2 on June 22 at open (Hap).
Semipalmated Plover - 1 on June 19 at Par (MB, DR).
Piping Plover - 1 on June 16 and 18 at Par (DR); 1 on July 18 at Par (DO).
Black-necked Stilt - 3 on June 1 at Open (DR); 2 on June 12 in Ful (Hap, CP), and 2 on June 22 at Open (Hap).
American Avocet - 1 on July 16 at Par (DR).
Greater Yellowlegs - 1 on July 16 at Par (DR).
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 on July 6 at Par (DR); 8 on July 18 at Par (DO); 4 on July 31 at Par (MB).
Solitary Sandpiper - 12 on July 27 and 5 to 6 on July 29-31 at AJJ (FR); 1 on July 25 at Par (MB).
Spotted Sandpiper - 2 adults were observed regularly during June and July with 2 downy young observed on July 12 at Falls (DC, RD).
Upland Sandpiper - 1 on June 27 at Open (Hap).
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 1 on July 18 at Par (DO); 5 on July 2 at Par (MB).
Western Sandpiper - 2 on July 16 at Par (DR); 1 on July 18 at Par (DO).
Least Sandpiper - 1 on July 6 at Par (DR) ; 9 on July 27 and 6 on July 31 at AJJ (FR); approximately 70 on July 25 and 80 on July 31 at Par (MB).
Baird's Sandpiper - 2 on July 25 and 1 on July 31 at Par (MB)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 1 on July 7 in Ful (DR); 1 on July 31 at AJJ (FR); 7 on July 25 at Par (MB); 20 on July 31 at Par (MB).

- Stilt Sandpiper** - 1 on July 19 at Par (DR).
Short-billed Dowitcher - 1 on July 14 at Par, PWMA (MB); 5 on July 16 at Par (DR).
Laughing Gull - 1 second-year bird at KyDam on July 7 (DR).
Ring-billed Gull - 15+ on June 2 at Falls (RD).
Bonaparte's Gull - 1 on June 2 at Falls (RD).
Caspian Tern - 1 on July 25 at Par (MB).
Forster's Tern - 2 on June 2 at Falls (RD),
Least Tern - 2 on June 12 in Ful (Hap, CP); 3 on July 18 at Muhl (DO).
Black Tern - 1 on June 2 at Falls (DR); 1 on July 18 at Par (Do).
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - 1 on June 1 at Hic (DR); 1 on June 3
 at BG (JE, RD), 2 on June 12 in Ful and 4 on July 5 in Bal1 (Hap, CP); 4 on July 11 in
 Ful (Hap). No documentation has been submitted to the KBRC.
Barn Owl - 2 on July 24 (SK) and 3 on July 25 in Hart (DR).
Chuck-will's-widow - 4 on June 7 Breck (DO).
Acadian Flycatcher - An adult on nest on June 12 at MCP (LMc); 5 on
 July 19 at PWMA (DO).
Willow Flycatcher - 2 on June 7 in Old (DO).
Bell's Vireo - 4 singing in Ohio County on July 14 (DR).
Blue-headed Vireo - 2 on June 9 and 5 on June 10 at Red (FR)
Cliff Swallow - 100 on July 5 at Ball (Hap, CP); 500 on July 11 in Ful (Hap); 350 on July
 17 at Bark and KyDam (Hap, CP).
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 male on June 9 at Rock Bridge Trail, Red (FR).
Brown Creeper - 1 singing on June 9 on Rock Bridge Trail, Red (FR).
Wood Thrush - 12 on June 10 at Red (FR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler - 1 June 10 at CRL and 1 on June 30 in Lew (FR). **Black-and-white
 Warbler** - 10 on June 10 at Red (FR); 1 on June 12 at Din (LMC).
Swainson's Warbler - 1 on June 9 at Red (FR). .
Louisiana Waterthrush - An adult feeding young on June 12 at MCP (LMC); 4
 on June 30 at CCSP (FR).
Lark Sparrow - 1 on June 15-16 in Warn (DR).
Savannah Sparrow - 2 singing on June 19 at GCA (LMc).
Grasshopper Sparrow - 2 were singing July 24 at Par, PWMA (MB).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - A male in song on June 12 at Din (LMC).
Blue Grosbeak - Numerous observations of adults and fledged young in Camp (FR)
Dickcissel - A total of 21 were observed during the period near Mad (JWH).
Baltimore Oriole - Nest with young during early June at Bur (LMc).

Correction - The Fall 1998 report recorded two Whip-poor-wills at Joe Creason Park, Jefferson County, this should have been two Common Nighthawks.

Contributors - Mark Bennett (MB), Hap Chambers (Hap), Dona Coates (DC), Robert Dever (RD), Lester Doyle (LD), Jackie Elmore (JE), Joe T. Erwin (JTE), James W. Hancock (JWH), Steve Kistler (SK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Clell Peterson (CP), Frank Renfrow (FR), and David Roemer (DR).

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1999 Survey of Kentucky Heronries

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Steven Thomas

In 1999 the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) conducted a joint survey of most of Kentucky's known heronries. A majority of the sites were surveyed by helicopter overflights on June 4-5 1999, and the most current information for additional sites was gathered from a variety of other sources.

The 1999 aerial survey was conducted similarly to the last one conducted by KSNPC and KDFWR in 1994 (Palmer-Ball and Wethington, *Kentucky Warbler* 70:77-83, 1994). Nesting colonies were circled several times, and the number of active nests was estimated by noting the presence of incubating adults, young, and/or white-wash beneath nests. In addition, nests were scanned for detection of species other than Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*). As in 1994, the survey was conducted late enough in the season to detect the presence of species like Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) that do not commence nesting as early as Great Blues. A more accurate count of Great Blue nests could be obtained before the appearance of leaves in early spring, but rarer species would likely be absent.

Results for the 1999 survey are presented in Table 1; they are arranged roughly by geographic location from northeast to southwest in the state. Only one site checked in 1994 was not checked in 1999: the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nysticorax nysticorax*) colony on Lake Barkley at Taylor Bay, Trigg County, last known to be active in 1994, but now abandoned in favor of a new site on the lake near Kuttawa, Lyon County. The 1999 total of approximately 2,235 nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons represents an increase of nearly 28% over the 1994 total of 1,750 pairs. In addition, Great Blues nested at no less than 48 distinct sites in 1999, a two-fold increase over the 1994 total of 24 sites. Most of the new colonies are small sites that have been found in central Kentucky, but several new sites have been discovered in the western part of the state, including a few located during the June 4-5, 1999 overflight. Of the 24 active Great Blue Heron nesting colony sites surveyed in 1994, 21 remained active (although at least six had moved slightly), and three were found to be abandoned in 1999. Of the 21 sites that remained active, nine had increased in numbers, eight had decreased in numbers, and four had remained fairly stable since 1994. In addition, three old sites that were surveyed but not active in 1994 were found to be recolonized, eight sites that have been discovered since 1994 were surveyed and found to be active, and 15 new sites were reported for the first time in 1999.

One observation of considerable interest was the presence of at least 100 recently used (*i.e.* 1997 or 1998?) heron/egret nests at the former site of "Ken

tucky Cranetown" on the Long Point Unit of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge in western Fulton County. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, this nesting colony harbored large numbers of Great Egrets, some Double-crested Cormorants and the state's only known nesting Anhingas. Reestablishment of this heronry would greatly increase potential for the latter two species to nest in Kentucky again. This site will be monitored closely in future years.

It was disappointing that the number of colonies where Great Egrets were found nesting had not increased since 1994. The species had abandoned the two sites where they were found in 1994 (Axe Lake, Ballard Co. and Middle Bar, Hickman Co.), but they were found at two new sites (Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit of Sloughs WMA, Union Co. and Mayfield Creek, Ballard Co.). Unfortunately, the number of nesting pairs of Great Egrets has decreased from 25+ in 1994 to probably less than 15 in 1999.

The number of nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons remains relatively stable; however, based on the presence of adults at scattered sites in the Land Between the Lakes area, we feel certain that at least one as yet undiscovered nesting colony exists somewhere in that region. The Louisville Zoo harbored a thriving population of Black-crowns in 1994, but the birds lost favor in subsequent years when they began to prey upon young of some of the zoological collections. Unfortunately, a recent effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to move the nesting birds off the zoo grounds has resulted in a great reduction in the numbers of nesting birds. A few birds have relocated to residential areas near the zoo, but there, too, they have not been well received by local residents. It is frustrating that the birds will not return to nearby Shippingport Island where the colony thrived from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s. Black-crowned's that nested in the vicinity of Winchester, Clark County, in the early 1990s disappeared in the mid-1990s and have not been relocated.

The state's most diverse heronry now exists on an island in northern Lake Barkley, near Kuttawa, Lyon County. Black-crowned Night-Herons and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) initiated nesting at this island in 1996, and a few Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) were found nesting there in 1997. The presence of at least two adult Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) at this colony in 1999 was believed to confirm the nesting of this species in Kentucky for the first time. The numbers of nesting Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons are currently much higher at this site than have ever been documented elsewhere in the state.

We would like to thank Wayne Davis and Kirk Greenfield (KDFWR), Roseanna Denton, Gay Hodges, and David Roemer (Kentucky Ornithological Society), Charles Elliott (Eastern Kentucky University), Marc Evans and Deborah White (KSNPC), Randell Gibson (Bakerton, Ky.), Ed Hartowicz (Lexington, Ky.), Silbert Hartis (Bowling Green, Ky.), Richard Kessler and John Palis (Ky. Chapter of The Nature Conservancy), Steve Kickert (U.S. Forest Service), Don Livingston (Ky. Division of Air Transport), Joe Meiman (Mammoth Cave National Park), Robert Meyers (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture), Ed Ray (Cadiz, Ky.), and Robert van Hoff (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District) for providing us with current

Table 1. 1999 Summary of Kentucky Heronries.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Pond Run near mouth, Greenup Co.	9.21.99	BCNH	--	No recently used nests observed, but 10-12 adults were observed in the vicinity; colony assumed to be abandoned or relocated; last reported in 1993 with 15-20 nests. New colony; reported by Dr. Charles Elliott (Eastern Ky University).
Bluegrass Army Depot, Madison Co.	6.30.99	GBH	13	Reported by Marc Evans/Deborah White (KSNPC); up from 5 nests in 1993.
Kentucky River, Steamboat Hollow, Franklin Co.	6.23.99	GBH	20±	First reported in 1997 by Don Livingston (Ky Div of Air Transport) with ca. 50 nests.
Guist Creek, Shelby Co.	6.04.99	GBH	35-40	First reported in 1995 by Ed Hartowicz with 17 nests. Heronry has been decimated by USDA program to remove the nesting population from zoo grounds. A few nests have relocated nearby on private land; down from 200± in 1994.
Little Kentucky River, Trimble Co.	5.31.99	GBH	78	Checked by Robert van Hoff, U.S. Army Corps, but remains abandoned since early 1990s.
Louisville Zoo, Jefferson Co.	6.15.99	BCNH	10+	
Shippingport Island, Jefferson Co.	spring 99	BCNH	--	
	"	LBH		
	"	CE		
Fort Knox, Pearl Pond, Bullitt Co.	6.08.99	GBH	--	New colony; six inactive nests, but a bird was observed perched on one of them; colony apparently active in 1998.
Lake Linville, Rockcastle Co.	summer 99	GBH	6	New colony; reported by Roseanna Denton (KOS).
Laurel River Lake on upper Craig Creek embayment, Laurel Co.	spring 99	GBH	2+	Reported by Steve Kickert (U.S. Forest Service); colony site has moved three times on the lake; formerly on Cane Branch, then Indian Camp Creek, now farther NE on Craig Creek embayment; down from 17 nests in 1992. Reported by local resident, Lee Clue; up from 10+ nests in 1994.
Lake Cumberland, White Oak Creek, Pulaski Co.	summer 99	GBH	15-20	

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Lake Cumberland, near Lees Ford Dock, Pulaski Co.	3.25.99	GBH	43	Reported by Roseanna Denton (KOS); first reported in 1997 by same observer with 23 nests.
Lake Cumberland Lowgap Island, Russell Co.	spring 99	GBH	+	Reported active by Don Livingston (Ky Div of Air Transport); first reported in 1998 by same person with 50± nests.
Green River below Greensburg, Green Co.	May 99	GBH	5+	Reported by Richard Kessler (The Nature Conservancy); first reported in 1998 by same observer with 10- 12 nests
Cumberland River below Burkesville, Cumberland Co.	summer 99	GBH	18-24	First reported in mid-1990s by local fishing guide, Randell Gibson via Gay Hodges (KOS).
Cumberland River in Turkey Neck Bend, Monroe Co.	summer 99	GBH	6+	New colony; first reported in 1998 by local fishing guide, Randell Gibson.
Barren River Reservoir, Mason's Island, Barren Co.	May 99	GBH	12+	New colony; reported by David Roemer (KOS).
Gaspar River above Clear Fork Creek, Warren Co.	spring 98	GBH	Not checked	First reported in 1998 by local resident, Greg Johnson, to David Roemer (KOS) with 12-13 nests.
Rough River, Grayson/Ohio cos. Roundabout Swamp, Butler Co.	5.24.98 6.05.99	GBH GBH	Not checked --	First reported in 1998 by Joyce Porter (KOS) with 35 nests. Abandoned; first and last reported active in 1998 by John Palls (The Nature Conservancy) with 13 nests (3 active) (see next entry).
Mud River, Butler/Muhlenberg cos.	6.05.99	GBH	2	New colony site; likely represents relocation of Roundabout Swamp birds (see previous entry).
Bull Run, Ohio Co.	6.05.99	GBH	8	Up from 2-4 nests in 1994.
Ben's Lick, Ohio Co.	6.05.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; first and last reported active in 1998 by Don Livingston (Ky Div. of Air Transport) with 20-30 nests present.

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Hooper Creek wetland, Muhlenberg Co.	6.05.99	GBH	30±	New colony; first reported in spring 1999 by Kirk Greenfield (KDFWR).
Elk Pond Creek, Muhlenberg Co.	6.05.99	GBH	1	Colony was abandoned due to logging when last checked in 1994; contained 100± active nests in 1990.
Green River nr. Davenport Landing, Muhlenberg Co.	6.05.99	GBH	15	New colony; first reported in spring 1999 by Silbert Hartis to Western Kentucky University
Cypress Creek wetland, Muhlenberg Co	6.05.99	GBH	20	First reported in 1997 by KSNPC with 5-10 nests.
Green River N of Ashbyburg, McLean Co.	6.05.99	GBH	25	Up from 10-15 in 1994.
Green River above Audubon Parkway, Daviess Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Reported in 1998 by Joe Meiman (Mammoth Cave NP) with 25-30 nests; could not locate and assumed to be abandoned.
J.J. Audubon State Park wetland, Henderson Co.	6.04.99	GBH	70±	New colony; first reported in April 1999 by KSNPC.
Uniontown (Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA), Union Co.	6.04.99	GBH	250+	Colony remains relatively stable since 1994.
Knoblick Creek above Deer Creek, Webster Co.	"	GE	3+	First time for confirmed nesting of this species here.
	6.05.99	GBH	50-60+	Up from 45+ in 1994.
Tradewater River W of Providence, Crittender/Webster cos.	6.05.99	GBH	75+	Colony has moved slightly; numbers remain relatively stable since 1994.
Flat Creek White City WMA, Hopkins Co.	6.05.99	GBH	45-50	New colony; first reported in spring 1999 by Wayne Davis (KDFWR).
Tradewater River SE of Dawson Springs, Hopkins Co.	6.04.99	GBH	49	New colony; reported by Ed Ray (KOS).
Blakely Bend Slough, Caldwell Co.	6.05.99	GBH	5	Down from 30 nests in 1994.
Tradewater River below mouth of Flynn Fork, Caldwell/Hopkins cos.	6.09.99	GBH	24	Reported by Ed Ray (KOS); may be new location for colony reported by KDFWR in 1992, but not located in 1994 and 1999 aerial surveys.

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Piney Creek, Crittenden Co.	6.05.99	GBH	15-20	Down from 30± in 1994.
Livingston Creek above Skinframe Creek, Crittenden/Lyon cos.	6.04.99	GBH	75+	Up from 40+ nests in 1994; may have incorporated Claylick Creek birds (see next entry).
Livingston Creek, ca 1.0 mi above mouth, Crittenden/Lyon cos.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last known active in 1992 with 20± nests (see previous entry).
Claylick Creek nr. mouth, Crittenden/Livingston cos.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; last known active in 1994 with 15-20 nests.
Sugarcamp Creek, Livingston Co.	6.04.99	GBH	50-75 / 25-30+	Latter nests at new location ca. 1.0 mi to S; up from 50± nests in 1994.
Muddy Fork of Little River, Trigg Co.	6.05.99	GBH	75-80+	Up from 30-50 nests in 1994.
Lake Barkley nr. Kuttawa, Lyon Co.	6.12.99	BCNH	100+	This is relocation site for Taylor Bay colony that was present into the mid-1990s.
	"	CE	300+	First reported nesting at this site in 1998; numbers have increased dramatically.
	"	LBH	30+ ads/10+ yg	First reported nesting at this site in 1998; numbers have increased dramatically.
	"	SE	2+ ads	Nests or young could not be found, but presence of adults in the colony was thought to confirm nesting.
Lake Barkley south of dam, Lyon Co.	6.12.99	BCNH	25+	First reported in 1995 by KSNPC with 50 nests.
Clear Pond in Tennessee River floodplain, Marshall Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last reported active in 1991 with 4 nests.
Tennessee River floodplain slough (nr Little Cypress), Marshall Co.	6.04.99	GBH	20-25+ / 12	Latter nests at new site in slough to west; down from 65 nests in 1994.
Cypress Creek Swamp, Marshall Co.	6.05.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; last reported active in 1996 by Margaret Shea (The Nature Conservancy) with 50 nests.

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Malcom Creek, Marshall Co.	6.05.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last reported active in 1991 with 25-50 nests.
Bear Creek, Cap Spring Branch, Marshall Co.	6.05.99	GBH	200+	Colony remains relatively stable.
Jonathan Creek, Calloway Co.	6.05.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last reported active in 1989 with 20± nests.
Blood River, Calloway Co.	6.05.99	GBH	75+	Up from 50+ nests in 1994.
Ohio River floodplain east of 1-24, McCracken Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; last reported active in 1994 with 100+ nests.
Metropolis Lake, McCracken Co.	6.04.99	GBH	3	New colony site on TVA property west of State Nature Preserve; may be relocation of West Ky WMA colony (see next entry).
West Kentucky WMA, McCracken Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; first and last reported active in mid-1990s by C. Logsdon (KDFWR) with a small number of nests (see previous entry).
Kaler Bottoms WMA, Graves Co.	6.04.99	GBH	10	Colony has moved slightly south to new location on the WMA; down from 50± in 1994 (see next entry).
West Fork Clarks River, N of Kaler Bottoms WMA, Graves Co.	6.04.99	GBH	10	New colony site; likely part of Kaler Bottoms WMA colony (see previous entry).
Axe Lake, Ballard Co.	6.04.99	GBH	200+	Colony has relocated to SE of main lake after absence of at least one year (see next entry); down from 250+ in 1994.
Flat Lake, Ballard Co.	"	GE	--	Species no longer present; down from 15-20 in 1994..
	6.04.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; first and last reported active in 1998 by KSNPC with 200+ nests; apparently involved Axe Lake birds that have moved back in 1999 (see previous entry).

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. nests	Remarks
Buck Lake, Ballard Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last reported active in 1991 with ca 20 nests.
Minor Lake, Ballard Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Abandoned; first and last reported active in 1997 by Wayne Davis (KDFWR) with 24 nests.
Mayfield Creek, Ballard Co.	6.04.99	GBH	100±	Up from 50-75 in 1994.
	"	GE	10+	New colony site for this species; may be Middle Bar or Axe Lake birds (see Middle Bar and Axe Lake entries).
Fish Lake, Carlisle Co.	6.04.99	GBH	150±	Colony remains relatively stable.
Murphy's Pond, Hickman Co.	6.04.99	GBH	25+	Colony has moved back into the central pond area; up from none in 1994.
Middle Bar, Hickman Co.	6.04.99	GBH	75±	Heronry has moved slightly, perhaps due to the logging activities; down from 100-150 nests in 1994.
	"	GE	--	Species no longer present; may have moved to Mayfield Creek colony site?
Obion Creek between US 51 and KY 307, Hickman Co.	6.04.99	GBH	42	New colony sites; nests are in four separate locations in this stretch (25 + 7 + 2 + 8). May be birds from other sites on Obion Creek (see next two entries).
Obion Creek SW of KY 58, Hickman Co.	6.04.99	GBH	5-10	Down from 15-20 in 1994, but some may have relocated to new sites on upper Obion Creek (see previous entry).
Obion Creek NE of KY 123, Hickman Co.	6.04.99	GBH	50-60	Down from 100+ nests in 1994, but some may have relocated to new sites on upper Obion Creek (see previous entry).
Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton Co.	6.04.99	GBH	--	Remains abandoned; last reported active in 1990 with 5 nests (see next entry).

Table 1 continued.

Site	Date	Species	No. Nests	Remarks
Bayou de Chien at Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton Co	6.04.99	GBH	30-35	New colony; could be relocation site for Little Bayou de Chien colony (see previous entry).
Obion Creek WMA, Schaaf Tract, Fulton Co.	6.04.99	GBH	20	A colony of approximately 20 nests was reported here in 1992 by KDFWR, but it was not located during the 1994 aerial survey
Reelfoot NWR, Long Point Unit, Fulton Co.	6.04.99 "	GBH? GE?	--	100+ used nests were present; used perhaps as recently as 1998, but recently abandoned; last reported active in 1963.

Key: BCNH = Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*); CE = Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*); GBH = Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); GE = Great Egret (*Ardea alba*); LBH = Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*); SE = Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).

information on some heronries. Funding for this survey was provided in part by taxpayer donations received through the Nature and Wildlife Fund.

—Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 (brainard.palmer-ball@mail.state.ky.us)(Palmer-Ball) and Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601(steven.thomas@mail.state.ky.us) (Thomas).

The Fall Meeting of the K.O.S. Lake Cumberland State Resort Park September 24-26, 1999

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Cumberland State Resort Park, Jamestown, Kentucky on 24 through 26 September. The birding highlight of the meeting occurred on a Sunday morning field trip when several attendees located a Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*). The bird, if approved by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee, will constitute the first record of this species in the state. The bird was located in a campground area below Wolf Creek Dam.

The meeting was called to order by President Wendell Kingsolver at 7:30 p.m. CDT on Friday. The Friday evening program consisted of several presentations, all of which were informative and well received by the members. The presenters and their topics were as follows:

David Roemer, Videos of interesting Kentucky birds since the Spring meeting.

Lee McNeely, Video of a Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassianus*) that made a short visit to northern Kentucky this Fall.

Neil and Virginia Eklund, Slides of birds of Alaska from their recent trip.

Wendell and Marilee Thompson, Slides of the birds of Midway Island and a report on their volunteer work at that location.

Lori Burris, Relevant projects underway at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Gary Ritchison, the KOS web site.

At the conclusion of the evening program, refreshments were served on the convention center deck overlooking the lake.

On Saturday morning, members departed on field trips to Green River Lake and the Cumberland Lake area. Field trip leaders were Fred Busroe and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. The Board meeting was held in the afternoon. The general meeting on Saturday night was also the annual business meeting. There were two major items of business, the election of officers and the consideration of proposed by-laws changes.

During the business session, the following slate of officers was elected by the membership: President, Marilee Thompson; Vice President, Kathy Caminiti; Recording Secretary, Mark Bennett, Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.; Treasurer, Lee McNeely; Councillors, Gary Ritchison and Arthur Ricketts. The officers above took office at the conclusion of the Fall meeting and will serve for a term of one year, except for the Councillors who will serve a two-year term with a

The by-laws changes were approved by the membership present after some questions and discussion. The major changes were as follows:

Change the requirement for affiliate clubs to require only five KOS members KOS Board seat for any affiliate with 10 or more KOS members (changed from requiring 100% KOS membership of any affiliate). Move the fall meeting to a central part of the state if possible because it is the annual business meeting (change between locations for spring and fall to make annual business meetings more accessible to all members), and change the assumption of office for all officers to just after the Fall meeting (a procedural change only).

The revised by-laws will be printed in their entirety in a future edition of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Following the business meeting, the Saturday evening program was provided by Dr. Gary Ritchison, a biology professor at Eastern Kentucky University, on *Owls in Kentucky*. Included in the presentation were descriptions of the species, habitat requirements, housing requirements, and diet. Specimens used in scientific study of the owls were displayed for members.

On Sunday morning, members journeyed on a single field trip to Wolf Creek Dam area and discovered the Brown-headed Nuthatch. David Roemer led the trip. The end of this field trip constituted the end of the meeting. A total of 93 species were recorded during the weekend of birding.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING 1999

Birds observed at the Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park and Green River Lake, September 24-26, 1999 were as follows: Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech- Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow for a weekend total of 93 species.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

ALBANY:	David Chaffin
BOWLING GREEN:	Blaine Ferrell, David Roemer, Joan Roemer
BURLINGTON:	LeeMcNeely, Lynda McNeely, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti
CANEYVILLE:	Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel
CARLISLE:	Ginny Kingsolver, Wendell Kingsolver
COX'S CREEK:	Dona Coates, Roger Coates
DANVILLE:	Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund
FALLS OF ROUGH:	Kathryn Clay, Joyce Porter, Dora Lee St. Clair
GILBERTSVILLE:	Rowena Cary
LEXINGTON:	Shirley Davis, Wayne Davis, Bobbi Shain, Lou Shain, JimWilliams
LOUISVILLE:	Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Laura Burford, Bonnie Dever, Robert Dever, Katharine Fulkerson, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.,
MOREHEAD:	Fred M. Busroe
MORGANTOWN:	Carroll Tichenor, Doris Tichenor
MT. STERLING:	Gerald Robe
MURRAY:	Hap Chambers
OWENSBORO:	Janet Howard, Cassie Knight, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson
PADUCAH:	Bernice Caddell
RUSSELLVILLE:	Adrea Bennett, Mark Bennett, Steve Bennett, Tammie Bennett
SOMERSET:	Roseanna Denton, Linda McClendon
CHATTANOOGA, TN:	John Henderson
DYERSBURG, TN:	Betty Leggett, Ken Leggett

FIELD NOTES

Brown Pelican at Kentucky Dam

About 3:30 CDT on 30 May 1999, while birding from the east pull-off on Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall counties, we observed an adult Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) flying over Kentucky Lake from the east. The pelican had a white head and neck but there was no yellow visible. Otherwise, the bird was dark brown in color, suggesting that it was an adult in non-breeding plumage. It landed on a buoy several hundred yards away, and we were both able to have an excellent look through a Kowa scope. After a few minutes the pelican flew south to southwest out over the lake, dove into the water three times in that unique peli

can style, and rested briefly on the water several times. It then flew out of sight heading south. After reporting the observation to KOS member Hap Chambers by phone we returned to the pull-off but were unsuccessful in relocating the pelican. The weather was warm and clear, and the wind was from the south at about 15 miles per hour. This represents the second time a Brown Pelican has been reported in Kentucky. The first time was on 20 November 1998, at the same location (*Ky. Warbler* 75:3, 1999). -- **BONNIE AND ROBERT DEVER**, 1872 Princeton Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40205-1854.

Spotted Sandpipers Nesting in Lexington, Kentucky

In June of 1995, Birch Rambo and I began observing a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) on our field site at an abandoned rock quarry on Georgetown Road, Lexington, Kentucky. One adult bird was seen regularly around a distinct patch of vegetation and on June 20 we located and photographed the nest. It was well-hidden in dense vegetation and contained four eggs. We made nest observations somewhat irregularly due to work constraints and not wanting to encourage abandonment by the adult.

On 29 June, we discovered two nestlings and two eggs in the nest. On 1 July we returned to take photographs and found the nest empty. We were able to locate an adult and after following it for a lengthy time, two fledglings were flushed from a large rock pile. We were able to capture one nestling and photograph it. We never observed more than two nestlings at one time. However, we were reluctant to continue our pursuit because the nestlings were well hidden within the rock piles and we were afraid of crushing them.

Spotted Sandpipers rarely nest in Kentucky. According to Brainard Palmer-Ball (1996), only three Spotted Sandpiper nests have been reported in Kentucky; all were found at the Falls of the Ohio between 1965 and 1970. -- **KELLY M. HELTON**, 3138 Montavista Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40502.

Barn Owls on Little Black Mountain in Harlan County

On July 24, 1999, while surveying for bats on Little Black Mountain in Harlan County, Kentucky, the author was walking along an active logging road at 3:30 am when he encountered two Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) calling to each other on an upslope hillside. Despite repeated attempts to observe these owls over a 20 minute span, the author was unable to make visual confirmation. Regardless, being familiar with the intraspecific calling patterns typical of these birds, the author was certain they were Barn Owls.

Upon returning to the same survey location later that summer, the author observed a Barn Owl while driving at 1:45 am. The owl was perched on top of a large boulder approximately one meter off the ground adjacent to the logging road. This bird quickly took flight and flew across the road in clear view of the headlights and headed downslope from the logging road. Later that week on August 5, a Barn Owl was heard at 11:00 pm while in route walking between bat net sites. This bird

was several hundred meters southwest of where the original observations were made. The following evening at 7:30 pm, a Barn Owl was observed along the logging road while driving to the bat net sites. This bird flew along the logging road in the same direction that the author was driving. The owl periodically landed permitting the author to observe the bird on multiple occasions.

These owls inhabited a recently fragmented forest, and an active logging operation was ongoing within 0.5 km of where most of the observations were made. The area had been logged and the larger diameter stems removed sometime between mid-June and the date at which the owls were first observed, as the author had been in the area conducting songbird surveys earlier in the year in May and early June and at that time logging had not begun. All stems left standing in the area were < 45 cm in diameter at breast height, with basswood (*Cilia* sp.), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) being the species of trees most frequently observed. The site was situated on a bench at approximately 900 meters in elevation, upslope and within sight distance at night of the lights from the Manalapan Mine at the base on the mountain. Other owls heard while conducting surveys in the area included Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*) and Barred Owls (*Strix varia*). Although typically associated with farmland and open country, Barn Owls are known from adjacent Letcher and Bell counties (Palmer-Ball 1996), so their occurrence in the Cumberland Mountains is not unprecedented. What was surprising to the author was their occurrence in habitat that was largely forested at elevations of around 900 meters. Mengel (1965) did not list the Barn Owl as a species native to the Cumberland Crest avifaunal region, but suggested that the habitat preferences of the Barn Owl were difficult to classify. The present observations suggest that the Barn Owl does, at least sporadically, occupy habitat at higher elevations in the Cumberland Mountains in Kentucky.

The extent to which Barn Owls breed in Kentucky remains poorly understood, and whether the author observed (heard) a breeding pair remains inconclusive. Regardless, because the Barn Owl is considered to be a species of special concern in Kentucky (KSNPC 1996), any observations of potential breeding adults provide useful information on the status of the species in the state.

Because Barn Owls can nest in both artificial and natural settings (Palmer-Ball 1996), it is unclear whether logging might have an effect on the nesting habitat of these birds. Despite numerous conversations with employees of the mine situated nearby, the author obtained no insight as to whether these birds roosted in the large storage buildings at the base of the mountain or whether they used natural cavities in trees.

Funding for this study was provided by Manalapan Mining Company, Inc. This investigation (KAES #99-09-124) is connected with a project of the Kentucky

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- Mengel, R. M. 1965. The birds of Kentucky. American Ornithologists Union Monographs, No. 3, Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
- Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. 1996. The Kentucky breeding bird atlas. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- MICHAEL J. LACK, Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0073.

NEWS AND VIEWS**Ray and Cathy Harm Website**

Ray Harm wanted to make KOS members aware of the remaining prints available. Members are encourage to visit the web site prepared by Cathy at <http://personal.riverusers.com/~harm>.

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

Remember, the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is in service at 502-894-9538. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. regularly updates the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. Help support this service with your reports.

K.O.S Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund

Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500) to assist them in conducting research on birds in Kentucky should contact the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (email: blaine.ferrell@wku.edu) for a set of guidelines and an application form.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings and birds observed out of season should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC (P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005) for consideration by the committee for official state record status.