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The Kentucky Warbler

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NO. 2



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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 and memberships should be sent to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

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Bowling Green, KY 42101

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Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee.....Lee McNeely
P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005

THE COVER

Thanks go to Kathy Caminiti for this photograph of an immature Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) taken in Campbell County.

THE WINTER SEASON 1999-2000

Fred M. Busroe

Mild weather persisted with near record warmth through the season. Precipitation, with no major snow, was not enough to alleviate the drought conditions of 1999.

The mild weather may have enticed some species to linger, yet may have caused others to occur in lower numbers. Several species, including Say's Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins in a large roost in northern Kentucky, Lapland Longspurs and several water birds in western Kentucky, helped make the season interesting.

Abbreviations - CBC = Christmas Bird Count; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Ano = Ano Strip Mine, Pulaski County; Ash = Ashland, Boyd County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Lyon County; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson cos.; Big = Big Bone Creek, Boone County; BSF = Big South Fork Recreational Area, McCreary County; Blo = Blood River Embayment, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County; Buc = Buckner, Oldham County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; Day = Dayton, Campbell County; Call = Calloway County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; Can = Caneyville Reservoir, Grayson County; Coo = Cooley's Pond, Wayne County; EBB = East Bend Bottoms, Boone County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; EKU = Eastern Kentucky University, Madison County; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County; FtT = Fort Thomas, Campbell County; Ful = Fulton County; GCA = Greater Cincinnati Area Airport, Boone County; GRL = Green River Lake, Adair/Taylor cos.; Gri = Basil Griffin Park, Warren County; Hart = Hart County; Jef = Jefferson County; Jon = Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, Marshall/Livingston cos.; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Livingston/Marshall cos.; LBark = Lake Barkley, Livingston/Lyon/Trigg cos.; LCum = Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County; Lau = Laurel County; Letc = Letcher County; Lin = Lake Linville, Rockcastle County; Log = Logan County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; McC = McCreary County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; MtZ = Mt. Zion, Pulaski County; New = Newport, Campbell County; Nat = Natural Arch, McCreary County; NKU = Northern Kentucky University, Campbell County; Oil = Oil Center, Lake Cumberland WMA, Pulaski County; Open = Open Pond, Fulton County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio counties; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Pul = Pulaski County; RNWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; Rich = Richmond, Madison County; RRSP = Rough River State Park, Grayson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Sil = Silo Overlook, Land Between the Lakes; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; Tow = Towhead Island, Jefferson County; Warn = Warren County; War = Warsaw, Gallatin County; WFTC = Wendell Ford Training Center, Muhlenberg County; WKUF = Western Kentucky University farm, Warren County; Whit = Whitley County; Wolf = Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County.

- Common Loon** - Approx. 10 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 1 on February 5 at Falls (DO); 7 on February 5 at GRL (RD); 4 on February 19 at Jon and 4 on February 26 at Bark (Hap).
- Pied-billed Grebe** - 14 on December 26 at Mel (LMc); 20 on January 20 at LCum (RD); 8 on February 5 at Tow (DO); 23 on February 5 at GRL (RD); 12 on February 26 at Bark (Hap); as many as 30 at Mel during the period (FR).
- Horned Grebe** - 2 at Mel on December 10-12 (FR); 3 on February 5 at Falls (DO); 2 on February 19 at Jon and 6 on February 26 at Bark (Hap).
- WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE** - 1 from February 2-5 at KyLake (Hap,DR).
- American White Pelican** - 12 on January 14 at LBark (DR); 15 on February 24 in Pul (RD); 62 on February 26 at Bark (Hap). (KBRC review pending)
- Double-crested Cormorant** - 6 on January 8 at Falls (DO); 325 on January 26 at Sil (DR); 12 on February 28 at Bark (Hap); 8 on February 27 at Jon (Hap, RD).
- Black Vulture** - 32 on January 31 in Pul (RD); 28 on February 5 in Russell County (RD); approx. 30 on February 23 at Buc (DO).
- Greater White-fronted Goose** - 800+ on December 29 at RNWR (DR); 2 on January 31 at LCum and 2 on February 10 in Pul (RD); 660 on February 16 at Open (BPB).
- Snow Goose** - 1 on December 17 at Mel (FR); one on January 20 at Wolf (RD).
- Wood Duck** - 5 on December 8 at Oil (RD); 5 on January 27 in Lou (DO); 10 on February 21 at Big and 6 at EBB (LMc).
- Gadwall** - 96 on December 21 and 94 on February 11 in Pul with 31 on February 13 at Lin (RD); 6 on February 9 at Blo, 12 on February 19 at KyLake and 8 on February 27 at Bark (Hap); 40 on February 5 at PWMA (JP).
- American Wigeon** - 3 on December 25 at LCum (RD); 8 on February 19 at KyLake (Hap); 1 on February 27 in Lou (DO).
- American Black Duck** - 24 on December 25 at LCum and 8 on January 30 at Wolf (RD); 3 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 2 on February 1 and 8 on February 9 at Blo (Hap).
- Mallard** - 250 on February 11 at Mel (FR); 40 on February 19 on KyLake (Hap).
- Blue-winged Teal** - 1 on December 25 at KyLake (DR).
- Northern Shoveler** - 3 on December 4 at PWMA (DO); 9 on December 21 at LCum (RD); 99 above KyDam on January 28 (DR); 6 on February 5 at PWMA (JP); 8 on February 1, 12 on February 9 and 10 on February 27 at Blo (Hap).
- Northern Pintail** - 3 on January 9 at Oil (RD); 8 on February 9 at Blo (Hap).
- Green-winged Teal** - 3 on December 24 at Ano (RD); 2 on January 27 at Lou (DO); 15 on February 9 at Blo and 10 on February 19 at KyLake (Hap); 10 on February 12 at Pet (LMc); 38 on February 13 at Coe (RD).
- Canvasback** - 1 on December 21 at LCum (RD); 6 on January 8 at Falls (DO); 12 on January 26 at Day (FR); 5 on February 5 in Taylor County (RD); 120 on February 11 at Mel (FR); 60 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark (Hap, RD).

- Redhead** - 1 on December 11 and 2 on February 13 in Pul (RD); 2 on February 27 in Lou (DO).
- Ring-necked Duck** - Approx. 300 on December 4 at PWMA (DO); 66 on December 8 at Oil, 35 on December 21 in Pul and 10 on February 5 in Taylor County (RD); 350 on February 5 at PWMA (JP); 15 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark (Hap, RD); 24 on February 21 at Pet (LMc); 25 on February 26 (Hap).
- Greater Scaup** - 300 on January 21 above Bark (DR); one on February 7 at Gri (LD).
- Lesser Scaup** - 39 on December 21 and 9 on January 13 at LCum with 3 at Lin on February 13 (RD); 7 on February 7 at Gri (LD); 700 on February 20 at Bark and KyDam (Hap, RD); 400 at Bark on February 26 (Hap); 8 on February 28 at CEL (LMc).
- Surf Scoter** - 2 on December 16, one on December 18, 2 on December 22 at Smi and 2 on December 28 above Bark (DR); 1 on January 5 at LCum (RD).
- Black Scoter** - 2 on December 10 at Smi and 2 on December 16 at Bark (DR).
- Oldsquaw** - 1 on December 15 at Bark with 1 at Smi on December 16 and January 27 (DR).
- Bufflehead** - Approx. 12 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 8 on February 5 in Taylor County (RD); 24 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark (Hap, RD).
- Common Goldeneye** - 2 on January 9 at Oil and 8 on February 5 at GRL (RD); 2 on February 18 at CEL (LMc); 30 on February 19 at KyLake with 30 at KyDam and Bark on February 20 (Hap).
- Hooded Merganser** - 4 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 14 on December 21 in Pul, 23 on December 25 at LCum and 96 on February 5 at GRL (RD); 2 on February 21 at CEL (LMc).
- Red-breasted Merganser** - 12 on December 13 at Mel (FR); 10 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark (Hap, RD).
- Bald Eagle** - 13 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 1 on December 21 at LCum with 3 on February 5 at GRL (RD); 1 on Ohio River near Big on February 12 (LMc); 5 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark with 2 on February 27 at Blo (Hap).
- Northern Harrier** - 6 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 1 at Oil and MtZ on December 26 with 4 at Ano on January 10 (RD); 1 on January 25 in Hart (MS); 1 on February 6 at Can (JP).
- Cooper's Hawk** - 1 on December 23 and February 29 at MtZ (RD).
- Red-shouldered Hawk** - 1 on January 8 at Pet (LMc).
- Red-tailed Hawk** - 4 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 6 on February 5 at GRL and 7 on February 21 in Pul (RD).
- Rough-legged Hawk** - 2 on December 4 at PWMA (DO); 1 on February 6 at GCA (LMc); 1 on February 21 in Pul (RD); 2-3 on February 27 at PWMA (BPB).
- Golden Eagle** - 1 immature on December 18 at Bern (DO); 1 on January 8 at Bern and 1 on January 18 at PWMA (DR).

- American Kestrel** - 5 on January 1 at PWMA (DO); 11 on February 11 at GRL (RD).
- Merlin** - 1 on February 5 at Green River WMA, Adair County (RD).
- Peregrine Falcon** - 1 on December 26 on the Ohio River at FtT (FR); 1 on February 5 in Lou (DO).
- Wild Turkey** - 20+ on December 18 at Bern (DO); 10 on December 21 in Pul (RD).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** - 1 on January 1 at PWMA (MB, DO), and same bird on January 2 at PWMA (DO). Documentation submitted to KBRC.
- American Coot** - 68 on December 21 in Pul and 70 on February 13 at Lin (RD).
- Sandhill Crane** - 157 on December 24 at Ano (RD); 30 on December 28 at Rich (CBC); 100 on December 31 at RRSP (JP); 89 on February 18 and approx. 3700 on February 21 in Hart (MS); 500+ on February 21 and 950 on February 23 in Green County (RS).
- Killdeer** - 100 on December 1 at LCum (RD).
- Least Sandpiper** - 17 on December 4 at PWMA (DO); 3 on December 11 at Plum Point, GRL (DO); 10 on January 1 at PWMA (MB, DO); 2 on January 21 at LBark (DR); 20 on February 1, 7 on February 9 and 12 on February 27 at Blo (Hap).
- Dunlin** - 1 on December 1 at Fishing Creek, Pul (RD); 3 on December 28 at Bark (DR).
- Common Snipe** - 7 on December 21, 2 on December 24 and 4 on February 13 in Pul (RD); 10 on January 1 at PWMA (MB); 11 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 21 on February 19 at Jon and 1 on February 26 at Bark (Hap).
- American Woodcock** - 1 calling on February 7 in Allen County (LD); one displaying on February 25-26 at SC (JP); 3 on February 26 in McC (RD).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - As many as 200 at Mel from December 10-17 (FR); 28 on December 18 at Falls (DO); 21 on December 18, 26 on January 6 and 4 on January 31 at LCum (RD); 3 on December 28 at Rich (CBC); 400 at Jon and 300 on KyLake on February 19 with 300 on February 27 at Jon (Hap).
- Ring-billed Gull** - 552 on December 21 at LCum, 450 on January 30 at Wolf and 207 in Taylor County on February 5 (RD); 7 on January 8 and 15 on February 5 at Falls (DO); 3500 on February 11 at Mel (FR); 1500 on February 19 on KyLake, 15,000 at KyDam and Bark on February 20, also 100 at Jon on February 27 (Hap).
- Herring Gull** - 1 on February 5 at GRL and 1 on February 11 at LCum (RD); 30 on February 11 at Mel (FR); 18 on February 19 on KyLake, 3000 on February 20 at KyDam and Bark with 5 at Jon on February 27 (Hap).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** - Observed throughout the period with a high of 7 on January 27 at KyDam and Bark (DR); 1 on February 26 at Bark (Hap).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** - At least 3 observed during the period at Smi and Bark (DR). (KBRC review pending)

Thayer's Gull - Several of various ages seen from January 24 to February 5 at Bark, KyDam and Smi (DR).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - 1 from December 4-15 at Mel (DR, FR). Documented with video.

Forster's Tern - 2 on December 31 at Jon (DR); 4 on February 26 at Jon (Hap).

Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 on December 4, January 21 and February 10 in Hart (MS); 3 on January 10 at Ano (RD); 3 on February 28 at BSF (SS).

Great Horned Owl - 1 on nest, February 21 at Bur (LMc).

Barred Owl - 2 on January 9 at Oil (RD); 1 on February 26 in the KyDam area (Hap, RD); 1 on February 26 in Waverly Park, Lou (DO).

Short-eared Owl - 6 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 2 on December 24 and 1 on January 10 at Ano, with 1 at GRL on February 5 (RD); approx. 20 on February 9 at WFTC (MM, BPB, ST); 3 on February 27 at PWMA (BPB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - 1 on February 28 at BSF (SS).

Red-cockaded Woodpecker - 1 on December 12 in Whit (DR).

Eastern Phoebe - 1 on December 28 at Rich (CBC).

SAY'S PHOEBE - 1 in Logan County on December 28 - January 14 (MB, DO, MM, DR). Documented with photographs and video.

Loggerhead Shrike - 1 on December 3, January 9 and 2 on February 16 in Pul (RD); 3 on December 28 at Rich (CBC); 1 on December 31 in Call (CBC).

Common Raven - 2 on December 7 in Letc (DR).

Horned Lark - 30 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 150+ on January 22 at EBP (JC, KC); 2 on January 25 at Day (FR); 22 on January 31 in Wayne County (RD).

Tree Swallow - 2 on February 27 at PWMA (BPB); 1 on February 29 in Ohio County (DR).

BARN SWALLOW - an individual on December 15 at KyDam is our second winter record; likely represents an especially late lingering fall transient (DR, video).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 1 to 2 were present throughout most of the period at a feeder in Ash (LT).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 7 on December 18 at Nat (RD); 1 on February 6 at Bur (LMc); 1 on February 26 at Lou (DO).

Brown Creeper - 4 on December 18 at Nat, 2 on December 26 at Oil and on February 27 in Lau (RD).

Winter Wren - 1 on December 1 in Pul, 1 on December 18 at Nat and 1 at Oil on January 9 (RD).

Marsh Wren - 1 on January 1 and 2 at PWMA (MB, DO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 19 on December 18 at Nat, and 10 in Lau on February 27 (RD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 2 on January 9 at Oil and 1 on January 30 at Wolf (RD).

Eastern Bluebird - 14 on December 26 at Oil (RD); 28 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 8 on January 30 at Wolf (RD).

Hermit Thrush - 3 on December 18 at Nat and 1 December 21 at Ano (RD); 2 on February 20 at Bern (DO).

- American Robin** - A roost at NKU started with 7000 on December 2 and increased to an estimated 90,000 by January 1 before the numbers decreased (FR); 600+ on February 7 at WKUF (LD); 45 on February 20 at Bern (DO); 200+ at BSF on February 21 (RD).
- European Starling** - A roost at NKU contained about 60,000 birds on December 2 and increased to an estimated 400,000 by January 7 (FR).
- American Pipit** - 1 on December 19 at Palmer-Ball Farm in Jef (DO); 275 on December 19 at WKUF (DR); 25 on December 29 in Log (RD); 55 on December 31 in Call (CBC); 80+ on January 1 in Log (DO); 6 on February 6 at Pet (LMc).
- Orange-crowned Warbler** - 1 on December 19 at Palmer-Ball farm in Jef was likely a lingering fall transient (DO).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 30 on December 26 at Oil and 50 on January 30 at Wolf (RD); 30 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 10 on February 20 in the KyDam area (Hap, RD).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** - 1 on December 18 (KF, TS). Documentation submitted to KBRC.
- Pine Warbler** - 1 on December 12 at Nat (RD); 1 February 20 in the KyDam area (Hap, RD).
- American Tree Sparrow** - 1 on December 4 a PWMA (DO); 1-3 from January 23-29 at SC (JP).
- Chipping Sparrow** - 1 throughout the period at Oil (RD).
- Lark Sparrow** - 1 on February 24 at Leitchfield, Grayson County (JP). (Documentation pending)
- Savannah Sparrow** - 1 on December 1 at Ano and 1 on December 26 in Pul (RD); 16 on January 2 at PWMA (DO).
- LeConte's Sparrow** - 5 on January 1 at PWMA (MB, DO); 2 on January 18 at PWMA (DR); 1 or 2 on February 27 at PWMA (BPB).
- Fox Sparrow** - 3 on December 19 at Palmer-Ball farm in Jef (DO); 12 on December 26 at Oil (RD); 1 on January 29 at SC (JP).
- Swamp Sparrow** - 43 on January 2 at PWMA (DO); 2 on January 9 at Oil (RD).
- White-crowned Sparrow** - 1-3 birds observed between December 18 and January 15 at Smi (DR); 3-25 daily from mid-December to January 30 in Hart (MS); 2 on January 26 at SC (JP); 15 on February 10 and 4 on February 29 at MtZ (RD)
- Dark-eyed Junco** - 2 pink-sided race on December 18 at Smi (DR).
- Lapland Longspur** - A flock of 250-300 on December 18 in Ful (DR); 25+ on January 22 at EBP (JC, KC); 10-12 on February 17 near Open (BPB).
- Western Meadowlark** - 1 on December 16 in Ful (DR); 2 on February 17 near Open (BPB)

Rusty Blackbird - 4 on December 31 at Bur (LMc); 1 on January 1 in Log (DO).

Brewer's Blackbird - 1 on February 29 in Warn (DR).

Purple Finch - 1 on December 8 and January 31 at MtZ (RD); 5 on December 11 at GRL (DO); 1 on December 28 at Rich (CBC); 5 on January 22 and 2 on January 29 at SC (JP); 2 on February 21 at BSF (RD); 2 on February 26 in Lou (DO).

Evening Grosbeak - A flock of 14 were sighted at EKU on December 2 (MM).

Contributors - Mark Bennett (MB), Joe Caminiti (JC), Kathy Caminiti (KC), Hap Chambers (Hap), Roseanna Denton (RD), Lester Doyle (LD), Kevin Flowers (KF), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mark Monroe (MM), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Joyce Porter (JP); Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Tommy Stephens (TS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Randall Sullivan (RS), Steve Stedman (SS), Steve Thomas (ST), Lin Towler (LT).

--437 Sunset Lane, Morehead, KY 40351

Kentucky Ornithological Society
Spring Meeting
Henderson, Kentucky
April 28 - April 30, 2000

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was called to order by President Marilee Thompson at 7:35 PM CDT on Friday evening, April 28. Three (3) speakers presented programs during the Friday evening session.

Opening the program was Scott Freidhof, Wildlife Biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Scott presented a detailed and interesting program on the Ruffed Grouse in Kentucky and surrounding states. Using field equipment, slides, and a video clip, Mr. Freidhof discussed the Kentucky Grouse population in detail including nesting habits, mortality, and field study techniques.

Mr. David Roemer was second on the program with video clips and oral information on many rare and/or unusual bird sightings in Kentucky since the fall 1999 meeting. David presented video footage of over ten (10) species, the highlights of which included Western Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, White-winged Crossbill, Black-legged Kittiwake, Great Black-backed Gull, Eared Grebe, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Marvin Russell of MEMCO, INC. concluded the evening program. Mr. Russell used a PowerPoint slide presentation to discuss several models of binoculars in various price ranges. The focus of the program was on newly introduced models. Examples of over twenty (20) models were on display and available for members to "try out".

Following the evening program and throughout the remainder of the two day meeting, surplus issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* were available to all members in attendance at no cost. A donation to the Society of twenty-five cents (\$.25) was suggested for each Warbler issue. Re-prints of other materials were also available for a nominal donation. (Back issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* will also be available at the fall 2000 meeting at Barren River State Resort Park.)

At 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, field trips departed for the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area and Audubon State Park. Co-leaders for the Sloughs trip were David Roemer and Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. The leader for the Audubon trip was Dr. Blaine Ferrell. By the end of the day Saturday, members had compiled a list of one hundred twenty-two (122) species, but no extreme rarities were discovered.

Saturday evening at 7:30 PM, Mr. Donald Boarman, Curator of the collections for John James Audubon State Park provided a very interesting program. Using a story-telling style, Curator Boarman detailed the personal and professional life of one of America's most well-known ornithologists, John James Audubon. Highlights of the program focused on Audubon's childhood, his time in Kentucky, and his up and down career as an outdoorsman, ornithologist and artist. The unique style of Audubon's bird paintings and how they related to Audubon the man were also a feature of the presentation.

On Sunday morning, field trips again visited the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area and Audubon State Park. Leaders for Sunday's field trips were David Roemer and Mark Bennett, respectively. Eight species were added to the list on Sunday, bringing the weekend total to 128 species.

There were 78 people in attendance at the spring meeting.

The spring 2000 meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society concluded on Sunday afternoon at the end of the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area field trip.-
- MARK BENNETT, Recording Secretary

MEETING ATTENDANCE

- BEREA: Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts
BLAINE: Scott Freidhof, Marilyn Freidhof
BOWLING GREEN: Tom Durbin, Diane L. Elmore, Jackie B. Elmore, Blaine Ferrell, Elizabeth Ferrell, Priscilla Ferrell, David Roemer, Joanie Roemer, Marvin Russell, Nancy Russell, Herb Shadowen, Jacky Shadowen
BRONSTON: Margaret York
BURLINGTON: Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely, Brian Myres
CADIZ: Cookie Gray, Willard Gray
CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver, Wendell Kingsolver
CYNTHIANA: Julie Richie
DANVILLE: Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund
FALLS OF ROUGH: Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel, Joyce Porter
FRANKFORT: Amy Covert
GARRARD COUNTY: Bill Case, Margaret Case
GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary
GREENVILLE: Carroll Tichenor, Doris Tichenor
LEXINGTON: Rhonda Bryant, Daniel Marsh, Scott Marsh, Jim Williams
LOUISVILLE: Richard Cassell, Darrin O'Brien, Bonnie Dever, Robert Dever, Katharine Fulkerson, Glenna Haberzette, Alan Montgomery, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Wally Roberts, Herb Zimmerman
MADISONVILLE: Ann Morgan, Marion Morgan
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe
MT. STERLING: Gerald H. Robe
MURRAY: Hap Chambers
OWENSBORO: Janet Howard, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson, Bill Tyler
PADUCAH: Bernice Cadell
PRINCETON: John W. Niemi, Phyllis B. Niemi
RICHMOND: Mark Monroe, Brandon Ritchison, Brianson Ritchison, Gary Ritchison, Tammy Ritchison
RUSSELLVILLE: Andrea Bennett, Mark Bennett
SCIENCE HILL: Roseanna Denton
SOMERSET: Linda McClendon
UTICA: Brenda M. Eaden, Tony D. Eaden
DYERSBURG, TN: Betty Leggett, Ken Leggett
HARRISBURG, PA: Jim Giocumo

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING 2000

Bird species observed in the proximity of J.J. Audubon State Park and the Henderson County sloughs included: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Wood, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow for a total of 120 species. Species observed on Sunday fieldtrips that were not included in the Saturday list were Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Winter Wren, Blue-headed Vireo and Louisiana Waterthrush, bringing the total to 128 species .

CAPTURE RECORDS OF NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS (*Aegolius acadicus*) DURING FALL MIGRATION IN MADISON COUNTY

In the autumn of 1996, colleagues of mine in eastern Pennsylvania, Eric and Melonie Atkinson, experimented with attempting to capture Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in their backyard. I was aware that tape playback had been used to capture these secretive birds during migration along major geographic barriers such as the Great Lakes and the East Coast, but I was rather skeptical that many birds could be captured in open farmland situated away from any such barrier. However, I was impressed when the Atkinsons captured 78 owls over the season.

During the following two autumns, Todd and Elizabeth Bauman took over the project and captured more birds each season. I was amazed at the ease with which numbers of these elusive creatures could be captured. I was even more amazed by the high percentage of recaptures (up to 10%) for these birds at other banding stations, occasionally with birds captured only a few days later in neighboring states. Despite the rarity of this species in Kentucky (less than 20 records), I was convinced that it could be captured in Kentucky during the fall migration.

In September of 1999, record numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported at banding stations across the Great Lakes, the Northeast, and the East Coast. With these encouraging reports, I decided to try to catch Northern Saw-whet Owls in Kentucky. I had learned from my experience in Pennsylvania, that optimal conditions were clear, moonless nights. Wind conditions also seemed to be best if either calm or with light north or west winds under 10 mph. If there was either too much wind or moon, attempts to capture birds often failed, perhaps because of the increased visibility of the nets.

To capture these birds, an audio playback of the territorial call of the species was played to lure the owls into mist nets. In this case, I used a standard tape player with a three-minute loop tape such as those in answering machines. The tape recorder was attached to an amplifier and two speakers placed in opposite directions. The resulting volume could be heard on calm nights up to one kilometer away by the human ear.

With the assistance of a fellow graduate student at Eastern Kentucky University, Brian Leibacher, we selected a site at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in Madison County about 10 miles southeast of Richmond. The location was in the center of the management area approximately one mile from the nearest residence. We chose the corner of a large grassy field where two perpendicular scrub rows met. The scrub rows consisted primarily of blackberry brambles, but also contained a few short (under 10 m.) deciduous trees and eastern red cedars. We hoped this would provide sufficient cover for migrating owls. Three 12-meter mist nets were used in an L-shaped configuration at this location with the speakers placed under the middle mist net.

We first attempted to capture owls on October 23, but experienced a problem with the loop tape that prevented a meaningful attempt from being put forth. We attempted again on November 12 when the weather was clear and there was no wind. We set the nets up around 7:00 p.m. EST and then left them up until 12:00 a.m. At 9:30 p.m., I was pleasantly surprised to see that we had captured an adult Northern Saw-whet Owl, my first in Kentucky (Table 1).

Following a cold front, the weather again looked favorable for the night of November 15. The sky was clear and the moon was approaching its first quarter. Winds were out of the north at 5 m.p.h. We set nets from 7:00 p.m. EST to 1:00 a.m., capturing four birds that evening (Table 1).

The night of November 16 proved to be the best of the season. Favorable conditions continued, and we ran nets from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Eight birds were captured that evening. However, the most interesting bird came at 9:00 p.m. An adult bird, my eighth of the season, was one that had been previously banded elsewhere (Table 1). Correspondence with the National Biological Survey Bird Banding Lab in Laurel, Maryland, the following week revealed that the bird initially had been captured over a year earlier on October 19, 1998, by Janet Shaffer in her backyard near Bedford, Pennsylvania, which is situated near the Maryland border, approximately 350 miles to the northeast of Richmond, Kentucky.

We subsequently attempted to catch birds on five more evenings. The night of November 17 yielded two birds in six hours, November 21 netted only one red-morph Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) in five hours of effort, November 28 provided three Saw-whets in five hours, and November 29 brought my last capture of the season in five hours (Table 1). No birds were captured on December 1 despite five hours of effort.

Totals for the season were 19 Northern Saw-whet Owls captured (including one foreign recapture) and one Eastern Screech-Owl in 44 hours of effort over nine nights. When one considers how difficult Northern Saw-whet Owls are to find in Kentucky, it is amazing to imagine how many birds must have actually passed through the state. The capture of 19 birds represents almost one bird for every two hours of effort, and basically doubled the number of records for Kentucky. Additionally, the numbers of birds passing through may have been considerably higher. On several nights, we heard or saw at least one or two birds that we believe eluded capture.

Many of the banding stations in the northeastern United States that have been operating for several years reported record numbers of owls this fall. However, in Kentucky, no such data set exists. I intend to repeat my efforts again in the fall of 2000 to see if the results of 1999 are a normal occurrence, or simply part of a rare invasion of Northern Saw-whet Owls.

A final note of interest includes the calls we were hearing. Although we were luring birds with the standard "Toot" advertising call, this particular call was never given by migrant owls. Instead, a rather forceful "Skeeeewww" call was given. This call usually descended at the end, but was also heard ascending. On

subsequent Christmas Bird Counts in 1999, this was the call given in response to tapes in Gallatin County (December 18) and Jefferson County (December 19) as well.—**MARK MONROE**, Biology Department, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky.

Table 1. Summary of Northern Saw-whet Owls captured in Madison County in November 1999.

Date	Time (EST)	Age	Comments
11/12	21:30	AHY	
11/15	19:30	HY	
11/15	21:30	AHY	
11/15	22:00	HY	
11/16	0:00	AHY	
11/16	20:15	AHY	
11/16	20:15	HY	Bird was recaptured at 22:20
11/16	21:00	HY	Foreign Recapture; bird was initially captured on October 19, 1998, near Bedford, PA.
11/16	23:00	HY	Probable male
11/16	23:30	HY	Probable female
11/17	0:50	HY	Probable female
11/17	1:10	HY	
11/17	1:10	AHY	
11/17	19:50	AHY	Female; very aggressive
11/17	23:40	AHY	Probable male
11/28	19:15	HY	Male
11/28	19:15	AHY	Female
11/28	21:40	AHY	
11/29	23:20	AHY	

HY - Hatching year bird (*i.e.*, hatched in 1999).

AHY - After hatching year bird in at least its second year.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

NEW NUMBER -- The new number for the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline is (502)-326-0878. Please report any unusual sightings in order to provide others with the opportunity to see rare birds.

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 Grant 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.

The K.O.S. Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at the Barren River Lake State Resort Park from October 6-8, 2000. Rooms will be held until September 6, so make your reservations for the Louie B. Nunn Lodge early by calling 1-800-325-0057.