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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 77, no. 1)

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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.

Editor.....B.R. Ferrell, Ogden College, Western Kentucky Univ.  
Bowling Green, 42101

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P.O. Box463, Burlington, KY 41005

Staff Artist..... Ray Harm

### THE COVER

Thanks to Kathy Caminiti for this photograph of a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) taken in Boone County. There was an influx of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings noted during the Mid-winter Bird Count period.

## FALL MIGRATION, 2000

Fred M. Busroe

This November was 2.7°F below normal with widespread upper teens on November 22. November 2000 was the coldest since 1991.

Shorebird migration was unusual with a scarcity of some species and an abundance of others that lingered to very late dates.

Several important observations occurred during the season. A first state record, an Inca Dove, was collected during a Carlisle County dove hunt. An Anhinga was photographed near John J. Audubon State Park. A Pacific Loon, Wood Storks, a Sabine's Gull and an Ash-throated Flycatcher were reported from western Kentucky.

**Abbreviations** - WMA = Wildlife Management Area; AJP = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Ash = E.W. Brown Power Plant ash pond, Mercer County; Ball = Ballard County; BWMA = Ballard WMA, Ballard County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Lyon County; Barn = Barren County; BRSP = Barren River State Park, Barren County; Bar = Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren counties; Bee = Bee Rock, Pulaski County; BBL = Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County; Blo = Blood River Embayment, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; CM#11 = Camp Mines #11, Union County; Cam = Campbell County; Can = Caneyville Reservoir, Grayson County; Cen = Central Park, Boone County; Coo = Cooley's Pond, Wayne County; Cra = Craig's Creek, Gallatin County; Dra = Drake's Creek, Warren County; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County; Fer = Anna Ferry Farm, Butler County; Flo = Florence, Boone County; GRL = Green River Lake, Adair/Taylor counties; Gray = Grayson County; Hart = Hart County; Hend = Henderson County; Hib = Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County; I#1 = Island #1, Carlisle County; Jef = Jefferson County; Jon = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; KBend = Kentucky Bend, Fulton County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, Marshall/Trigg counties; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; LBark = Lake Barkley, Livingston/Lyon/Trigg counties; LCum = Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County; Lak = Laketon, Carlisle County; Letc = Letcher County; Lim = Limestone Lake, Warren County; Linc = Lincoln County; Lin = Lake Linville, Rockcastle County; Liv = Livingston County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; Lyon = Lyon County, MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Meng = Meng's Pond, Warren County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; MCP = Middle Creek Park, Boone County; MtZ = Mt. Zion, Pulaski County; Muh = Muhlenberg County; NKU = Northern Kentucky University, Campbell County; New = Newport, Campbell County; Par = Paradise, Muhlenberg County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio counties; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; PMt = Pine Mountain, near Whitesburg, Letcher County; Pul = Pulaski County; Pum = Pumpphouse Pond, Pulaski County; Red = Red River Gorge, Powell County; Ree = Big Reedy Lake #9, Edmonson County, SWMA = Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; Thu = Thurston's Pond, Wayne County; War = Warsaw, Gallatin County; Warn = Warren County; WKUF = Western Kentucky University Farm, Warren County; WKUW = Western Kentucky University Woods, Warren County.

**RED-THROATED LOON** - 1 immature at GRL on November 12 (Hap, RD), November 18 (DO) and November 21 (DR). Documentation not submitted.

**PACIFIC LOON** - 1 on November 1 (BPB) and 19 (DR) on KyLake above dam. Observation was videotaped by DR.

**Common Loon** - 110+ on November 4 at GRL (RD, JE); 120+ on November 18 at GRL (BPB, DO), 100+ on November 4 at KyLake above the dam (DR).

**Pied-billed Grebe** - 7 on October 29 at Cra (JP); about 150 on Ohio River, Lou on November 4 (BPB); 10 on November 4 at Can (JP).

**Horned Grebe** - 1 on November 17 and 8 on November 18 at New (FR).

**American White Pelican** - 113 on September 24 at L#9 (KL); 245 on October 31 at KBend (GC); 110 on November 1 at KBend (KL, NM); 100 on November 4 at Bark (DR); 1 on November 15 at Smi (BPB).

**Double-crested Cormorant** - 20 on August 20 and September 9 on Ohio River at Cam (FR); 12 on August 24 at Blo (Hap); 17 on August 26 in Linc (RD); 2 on September 9 on farm pond in SE Gray (JP); 15 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 16 on September 16 at Falls (DO); 96 on September 26 at L#9 (KL); 60 on October 9 above dam on KyLake (FR); 23 on October 21 at Mel (FR); an estimated 3000 on October 23 and 5000 on October 25 at mouth of Little River, LBark (ER).

**ANHINGA** - 1 on August 17 (BPB, DR) through August 19 (JE) near J. J. Audubon State Park, Hend. Observation was photographed/videotaped.

**American Bittern** - 1 on October 8 at Muh (LMc, DR); 3-4 on October 14 at SWMA (DR, KOS).

**Great Blue Heron** - 35 on August 6 at Falls (JP); 25 on August 24 at Blo and 20 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 300 on August 30 at L#9 (GC, KL); 12 on September 16 at Falls (DO); 29 on October 3 at KBend (KL).

**Great Egret** - 12 on August 6 at Falls (JP); 285 on August 6 at Ball and 18 on August 24 at Blo (Hap); 7 on August 26 at MCFH (NKBC); 1600 on August 30 at L#9 (GC, KL); 1 on August 30 at AJP (FR); 1000+ on September 2 at L#9 (BPB, Hap, MT); 250 on September 3 at L#9 (KL); 63 on September 29 at Hib (FR); 10 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 1 on September 16 at Falls (DO).

**Snowy Egret** - 10 on August 6 at Ball (Hap); 200 on August 14 at L#9 (JS); an estimated 700 on August 30 at L#9 (GC, KL); 1 on October 3 at Lin (RD).

**Little Blue Heron** - 6 on August 6 at Ball and 2 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 6 on October 23 at I#9 (KL, NM).

**TRICOLORED HERON** - 1 on September 6 near Kuttawa, Bark (DR); 1 on September 30 in northern Madison County (SR). Documentation to be submitted to KBRC.

**Cattle Egret** - 5000+ on September 1 (BPB) and a high of 9700 on September 6 at Kuttawa roost, LBark (DR).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** - 3 on August 2 at AJP (FR); 30 on August 6 at Falls (JP); 3 on August 30 at AJP (FR); 1 on September 2 at Cra (LMc); 19 on September 16 at Falls (DO); 10 on October 9 at Bark (FR); 15 with 4 immatures on November 15 at Eddy Creek, LBark (BPB).

**WOODSTORK** - 3 sight records are the first in several years, 6 on September 2 at L#9 (KL), 5 on September 20 over Ball, McCracken County (FB) and 1 on September 26 over Jon (PC).

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** - 2 at Mitchell Lake, Ballard County on 19 August 2000 (SRd). Documentation submitted to KBRC.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** - 4 on October 4 at Sauerheber Unit, SWMA (BPB, *et al.*); 1 at Smi and at KyLake on November 4 (DR).

**Snow Goose** - 4 on November 26 at LCum (RD).

**Wood Duck** - 20 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 10 on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM).

**Gadwall** - High count during the season was 800+ at Jon (BPB); 3 on October 25 at KBend (GC, KL); 2 on November 1 at KBend (KL, NM); 50 in mid-November at Falls (BPB); 2 from November 19-22 at Can (JP, *et al.*).

**American Wigeon** - 4 on October 15 at KBend (KL, BL).

**Mallard** - 40 on September 9 at Jon (Hap); 82 on September 16 at Falls (DO).

- Blue-winged Teal** - 15 on August 24 at Blo and 20 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 68 on August 30 at L#9 (GC, KL); 250 on September 10 at L#9 (KL, BL, NM); 150+ near I#1 with 350+ at BWMA on September 9 (BPB); 4 on September 16 at Falls (DO).
- Northern Shoveler** - 4 on September 5 at KBend (GC, KL); 4 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 3 on November 18 on Ree (JP).
- Northern Pintail** - 2 at KBend on October 18 and 24 (KL, NM); 4 on October 25 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Green-winged Teal** - The highest count for October at KBend was 19 (KL, NM); 21 on November 5 at KBend (GC, KL); a high count for November 14 was 250 at CM#11 (BPB); 1 on November 21 at Can (MR RF).
- Ring-necked Duck** - 1100+ on November 9 above Bark (DR).
- Greater Scaup** - 2-3 throughout the period at Bark (DR); 1 male on November 24 in Pul (RD).
- White-winged Scoter** - 1 female on November 4 at Lou on Ohio River (BPB, JPa).
- Black Scoter** - 2 on October 29 at KyDam (DR).
- Long-tailed Duck (formerly Oldsquaw)** - 1 female present at Lim for at least three weeks from November 26 (JE, TD, DR).
- Common Goldeneye** - 4 on November 23 at LBark (JE).
- Ruddy Duck** - 1 from August 4 through the period at Ash (RD, *et al.*); 22 on November 15 at Bar (JE).
- Osprey** - 4 on August 26 at MCFH (NKBC); 1 on September 4 at Mel (FR); 1 on September 12 at L#9 (KL, NM); 2 on September 15 at LCum (RD); 5 on September 16 at PMt hawk watch (SS, *et al.*).
- Mississippi Kite** - 2 on August 26 at KBend (GC, KL); 1 or 2 juveniles near probable nesting area of SWMA in NE Union County on September 14 (BPB); 1 on September 4 (KL, *et al.*) and 1 on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Bald Eagle**<sup>L</sup> - 1 adult and 1 immature on August 26 at MCFH (NKBC); 5 immatures on October 17 at I#9 (GC); 3 on October 22 (GC, KL) and 3 on October 24 (KL, NM) at KBend; 3 on October 29 at L#9 (KL, BL); 1 adult on November 4 at GRL (JE).
- Northern Harrier** - 2 on October 8 at Hib (FR); 3 on October 22 at KBend (GC, KL); 1 on October 23 in Bar (MS); 1 on October 23 at WKUF (JE); 1-2 during October at KBend (KL, NM); 1 on November 22 at Can (JP); 1 on November 24 at Mel (FR).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 on November 9 in Cam (FR).
- Cooper's Hawk** - 2 on August 4 and 1 on August 14, 21 and September 12 in Hart (MS); 1 on November 4 near Cra (IP); 1 on November 10 at AJP (FR).
- Broad-winged Hawk** - 627 on September 15 and 318 on September 16 at PMt hawk watch (SS, *et al.*)
- Golden Eagle** - 1 on November 19 in Liv (DR).
- Merlin** - 1 on August 28, October 29 in Warn and September 19 at Lak (DR); 1 on September 15 and 16 at PMt hawk watch (SS, *et al.*); 1 on October 24 at KBend (KL, NM); 1 at Flo on November 19 (DG).
- Peregrine Falcon** - 1 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 1 on September 12 over Ohio River at New (FR); 1 on October 29 at Ohio River, Lou (DO); 1 on November 1 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Northern Bobwhite** - 5 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).
- YELLOW RAIL** - 1 on October 14 and 21 at SWMA (KOS, DR). Documentation not submitted.
- King Rail** - 1 on October 21 at SWMA (KOS); 1 on October 26 in Muh (DR).
- Virginia Rail** - 5+ on October 14 at SWMA (KOS) and 1 on October 26 in Muh (DR); 1 on October 28 PWMA (DO, *et al.*).

- Sora**-1 on October 14 at Cen (LMc); 12-15 on October 14 at SWMA (KOS); 1 or 2 on October 21 at SWMA (KOS).
- American Coot** - 2500 to 3000 on November 4 on Ohio River, Lou (BPB); 2000+ on November 4 at GRL (JE); several thousand on LBark and KyLake on November 4 (DR).
- Sandhill Crane** - Large number heard overhead on the night of November 16 in Hart (MS) and Lou (DO); 16 on November 4 at GRL (JE); 6 over Boyd County on November 13 (LT); 93 on November 21 at LCum (RD); 14 on November 21 over Cam (FR); 3 on November 23 at Pet (LMc).
- Black-bellied Plover** - 2 on October 28 at PWMA (DO); 3 on October 8 at Par (LMc); 1-3 during September at L#9 (GC, *et al.*); 1 on October 14 and 18 at KBend (KL, NM).
- American Golden Plover** - 1 on August 19 at Ash (RD); 2 on August 24 at Blo and 2 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 1 on September 13, 22, 23 and 28 at KBend (GC, *et al.*).
- Semipalmated Plover** - 1 on August 6 in Ball (Hap); 3 on September 16 at LCum (RD); a high of 7 on October 14 and 18 at KBend (KL, NM); a high of 7 on October 7 at L#9 (GC, KL).
- Killdeer** - 300+ on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Black-necked Stilt** - 4 on August 12 (Hap, *et al.*); 3 on August 14 (JS) and 2 on August 21 (RD) at L#9; 2 on August 17 and 3 on August 22 at L#9 (GC, KL).
- American Avocet** - 1 remained at Jon from September 29 to October 2 (ME, *et al.*).
- Greater Yellowlegs** - 3 on August 6 in Ball and 2 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 14 on October 14 at KBend (KL, MN); 1 on November 7 at Thur (RW).
- Lesser Yellowlegs** - 6 on August 24 at Blo and 5 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); a high of 24 at L#9 on September 10 (KL, BL, NM); 1 on October 3 at Lin (RD).
- Willet** - 1 on August 17 at L#9 (GC, KL); 1 on September 9 at Mitchell Lake, BWMA (BPB).
- Solitary Sandpiper** - 4 on September 10 at Jon (Hap).
- Hudsonian Godwit** - a juvenile was observed at KBend on 3 October (KL, NM). This is a third state record. Documentation has been submitted to the KBRC.
- Ruddy Turnstone** - 1 on September 2 near I#1 (BPB, Hap, MT); 1 on September 22 at Bark (DR); 1 on September 23 at Lak (Hap, DR).
- Spotted Sandpiper** - 4 on September 16 at Falls (DO).
- Red Knot** - Two individuals were observed over a month later than the species has ever been reported in Kentucky; 1 November 4-6 at Jon (Hap); 1 on November 19-24 at Jon (Hap, JE).
- Sanderling** - 22 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 56 on September 19 at Lak (DR); approximately 45 near I#1 on September 23 (BPB, Hap, DR); 6 on September 23 at I#9 (GC, KL, NM); 2 on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 8 on August 6 at Ball, 30 on August 24 at Blo and 10 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); a high of 30 on September 4 at KBend (KL, *et al.*).
- Western Sandpiper** - 1 on August 24 at Blo (Hap); 19 on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Least Sandpiper** - 30 on August 24 at Blo and 30 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 1 on September 16 at Falls (DO); 720 on September 28 (DR) and high count of 1059 on September 23 at L#9 (Hap, DR); 30 on September 29 at Hib (FR); 275+ on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM); 150 on October 20 at KBend (GC, KL); 350 on November 4 and 46 on November 19 at Jon (Hap).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** - 1 on August 6 at Ball (Hap); 2 adults on September 7-8 at Ash (BK, FL, BPB); 1 on September 9 at Mitchell Lake, BWMA (BPB); 1 on September 12 at L#9 (KL, NM); a juvenile on September 17 at Par (DR).
- Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 on August 26 at MCFH (NKBC); 1 on September 22 at Ash (RD).
- Pectoral Sandpiper** - 6 on August 6 in Ball, 140 at Blo on August 24, 15 on September 10,

- 2 on November 4 and 1 on November 19 at Jon (Hap); 105 on August 17 at L#9 (GC, KL); 1 at Falls on September 16 (DO); 8 on September 29 at Hib (FR).
- Dunlin** - 1 on October 8 at Par (LMc); 12 on October 20 and 22 at KBend (GC, KL); 9 on October 24 at KBend (KL, NM); 16 on November 4 -6 at Jon (Hap); 2 on November 15 in Bar (JE).
- Stilt Sandpiper** - 2 on August 6 at Ash (RD); 3 on August 13 at L#9 (GC, KL); 16 on September 4 at KBend (BPB, Hap, KL, NM); 2 on November 4-6 at Jon (Hap).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - 1 on August 22 at L#9 (GC, KL); 16 on September 2 at L#9 (KL); 9 on September 19 at Lak (DR).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** - 4 on October 15 at KBend (KL, BL); 2 on November 4-6 at Jon (Hap); 2 vocalizing on November 7 at Jon (BPB); 1 lingered at Jon until November 9 for a record late date (Hap).
- Common Snipe** - 12 on November 19 at Jon (Hap); 13 on November 27 at Lin (RD).
- RED PHALAROPE** - 1 on September 8 and 14 at Ash (RD, *et al.*); photographed and 1 juvenile on September 17 at Meng (DR; videotaped).
- Franklin's Gull** - 1 on September 5 and 9 above dam at LBark (BPB); 2 on October 1 at KyLake (BPB, MB); 6+ on October 4 at KyLake (DR, *et al.*); 1 at GRL (JE), 5 below Smi (DR) and 1 on Ohio River, Lou (BPB) were all seen on November 4; the second largest number reported for the state was on November 14 when a flight of 24 was seen at Lou (BPB).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - 1 juvenile on September 3 at Jon (Hap, BPB), a high count of 400-600 at Jon on November 24 (BPB).
- Ring-billed Gull** - Several hundred were present by September 1 at KyDam and Bark (BPB); 20 on October 20 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Herring Gull** - 57 above dam at Bark on September 24 (BPB); 3 on October 24 at KBend (KL, NM); 2 on November 5 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 from October 20 - November 30 at Bark (DR); 1 on November 7 at Jon (BPB, RD).
- Great Black-backed Gull** - 1 first-year bird was videotaped on September 19 above KyDam (DR); a first-year bird on September 29 at KyDam (FR).
- SABINE'S GULL** - A juvenile was at KyLake from September 30 - October 1 (BPB, *et al.*). Documentation not submitted.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** - 1 first-year bird on November 25 at Bark (MB, BPB, Hap, RD, DR). Documentation not submitted.
- Caspian Tern** - 5 on August 6 at Falls (JP); a state record of 172 on September 1 at north end of LBark (BPB); 3 on September 16 at LCum (RD); 1 on September 16 at Falls (DO); 2 on November 16, a late date, at Blo (Hap).
- Common Tern** - 1 on September 29 at Ash (RD).
- Forster's Tern** - 38 on September 10, 36 on November 4 and 19 on November 19 at Jon with 6 at Blo on November 16 (Hap).
- Least Tern** - 2 on August 6 in Ball (Hap); 1 on September 4 at KBend (KL, *et al.*).
- Black Tern** - 33 on September 8 at Ash (BPB, *et al.*).
- Eurasian Collared -Dove** - Reported from several areas including new locations of Simpson County (LD) and Owensboro (JSt).
- INCA DOVE** - The state's first Inca Dove was killed at a dove shoot in NE Carlisle County on October 1 (S. White, Murray State University). The bird was photographed, preserved and will be deposited at the US National Museum.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** - 1 on August 20 in Ball (DR).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - 1 on October 18 at WKUW (JE).
- Barn Owl** - 3-4 on August 17, with 1 present on August 2, Boone County (LMc, DV).



- Eastern Screech-Owl** - 1 heard on six dates in August and September in Hart (MS).
- Great Horned Owl** - 1 on August 25 at L#9 (GC, KL); 2 on August 25 and October 10, 18 and 27 in Hart (MS); 1 on September 12 at L#9 and KBend on September 14 and 18 (KL, NM); 1 on November 14 at Short Creek, Gray (JP).
- Barred Owl** - 2 on August 24 at Blo (Hap); 2 calling on October 13 in Cam (FR); 1 on November 5 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Long-eared Owl** - 1 on November 29 in the Riverqueen Unit of PWMA (BPB).
- Common Nighthawk** - 150+ on September 10 at Mel (FR).
- Rufous Hummingbird** - 6 individuals were reported and confirmed by capture and banding. First reported on October 31 and all lingered into December. An adult female near Brandenburg, Meade County (J. and R. St. Claire, *et al.*); adult female November 15 to December 20 at Lake Forest, Jef (B. Regan, *et al.*); adult female October 31 to December 20 in eastern Lou (B. Ashley, *et al.*); 2 adult females from early November to December 16 at Briensburg, Meade County (S. and B. Kane, *et al.*); 1 from early November to December 9 at Rockholds, Whitley County (S. Helton, *et al.*). The first 5 birds were banded by Chris Sloan and Portia MacMillan while the sixth was banded by Fred Moore, members of the Hummingbird Study Group.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - 1 on September 16 at BBL (LMc) was an early state arrival date by three days.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - 1 on August 24 in Warn (DR); 2-3 vocalizations on September 6 in Jeff and 1 on September 9 at I#1 (BPB).
- Acadian Flycatcher** - Call notes were heard on October 1 at Lak (BPB, MB).
- Least Flycatcher** - 1 singing in Jef on August 9 (BY).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** - 1 on October 15 at WKUW (JE, DE). Documentation has been submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.
- Loggerhead Shrike** - 1 on October 6 in Hart (MS); 2 on November 1 at KBend (KL, NM).
- White-eyed Vireo** - 1 on August 24 at Blo and 1 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); a juvenile learning to sing from mid-August to September 11 in Gray (JP); 1 on October 23 at WKUW (JE); 2 on November 1 at KBend (GC, KL, NM).
- Bell's Vireo** - 1 singing on September 1 at PWMA and on 1 on September 15 below Newburgh Dam in Hend (BPB).
- Blue-headed Vireo** - 1 singing on August 26 in Red (FR); 1 on October 18 at WKUW (JE).
- Warbling Vireo** - 2 on October 18 at KBend (GC, KL, NM).
- Philadelphia Vireo** - 1 on September 2 at Fer (DT); 1 on October 8 at WKUW (JE).
- Red-eyed Vireo** - An adult feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird on August 9 at MCP (LMc); 1 on October 16 at WKUW (JE).
- Fish Crow** - 1 on August 6 in Ball (Hap); 2 on October 3 and 18 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Common Raven** - 2 on October 23 at Bad Branch, Letc (BPB); 2 on November 11 in Letc (Hap, RD).
- Horned Lark** - 3 on September 10 at Jon (Hap); 200+ on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM); 50 on October 8 at Hib (FR); 65 on October 22 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Tree Swallow** - 20+ on October 20 at KBend (GC, KL); 20+ on November 10 at Bar (JE).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - 350+ on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM); 300+ on October 8 at Hib (FR).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - A pair near nest site on August 25 on Rock Bridge Trail, Red (FR); 1 from October 8-13 at WKUW (JE).
- Winter Wren** - 1 on September 30 at MCP (LMc).
- Sedge Wren** - At least two pairs were seen on August 16 at Ft. Knox airfield, Hardin County (BPB); 3+ on October 14 at SWMA (DR); 1 juvenile on October 21 at SWMA (KOS); 2 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).

**Marsh Wren** - 6+ on October 14 at SWMA (DR); 9 on October 21 at SWMA (KOS); 1 on October 28 at PWMA (DO); at least 5 on October 28 at SWMA (BY, MSt).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 1 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 1 on September 7, 9 and 22 at Fer (DT); 1 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** - 1 on September 22 at Fer (DT).

**American Robin** - An estimated 500 on October 24 and 1200 on November 28 at NKU (FR).

**European Starling** - An estimated 100,000 on November 28 at NKU (FR).

**American Pipit** - 1 on October 15 (KL, NM) and 2 on October 22 (GC, KL) at KBend; 20 on October 25 at Coo (RD).

**Cedar Waxwing** - 45 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); a high of 200 on November 19 at Can (RF, MH, JP).

**Blue-winged Warbler** - 1 on September 26 at WKUW (JE).

**Golden-winged Warbler** - 2 on September 12, 3 on September 17 and 2 on September 26 at WKUW (JE).

**"Brewster's Warbler"** - 1 on September 26 at WKUW (JE).

**Tennessee Warbler** - 20+ on September 13 at MCNP (JE); 15 on September 16 at BBL (LMc); 1 on September 22 at AJP with 6 on October 9 at KyDam (FR); 4+ on October 7 at BRSP (DO); 30+ on October 16 at WKUW (JE); 1 on October 21 in Cam (FR); 1 on October 28 at PWMA (DO); 1 on October 28 at Mel(NKBC); 2 on November 3 in Warn (JE); another late migrant on November 11 in Letc (Hap, RD).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** - 1 on October 18 at Mt2; (RD); 2 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM); 1 on October 23 in Warn and 1 on October 23 at WKUW (JE).

**Nashville Warbler** - 7 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); 5+ on October 3 at BRSP (DO); 2 on October 9 at KyDam (FR); 4 on October 12 and 1 on October 23 at WKUW (JE); 3 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM).

**Northern Parula** - 3 on August 13 at WKUW (JE); 2 on September 7 and 1 on September 19 at Fer (DT).

**Yellow Warbler** - 1 on October 8 at Muh (DR).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 1 on October 1 at Fer (DT); 40 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM); 7 on October 22 at KBend (GC, KL); 8 on November 18 at Ree and 8 on November 19 at Can (JP).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** - 3 on September 4 at MCP (LMc); 8 on September 13 at MCNP and 1 on October 18 at WKUW (JE); 1 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM).

**Magnolia Warbler** - 1 on August 20 at WKUW (JE); 1 on August 25 in Red (FR); 1 on September 6 at Fer (DT); 6 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); 15+ on September 12 and 1 on October 23 at WKUW (JE); 1 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM).

**Cap May Warbler** - 1 on September 9 and 16 at BBL (LMc); 1 on October 8 and 25 (WKUW) and 1 lingered to November 2 in Warn (JE).

**Black-throated Green Warbler** - 1 on September 6, 19 and 22 at Fer (DT); 1 on October 7 at BRSP (DO); 2 on October 16 in WKUW (JE).

**Blackburnian Warbler** - 4 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); 2 on October 18 in WKUW (JE).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** - 1 on August 31 at Fer (DT); 1 on October 8 in WKUW (JE).

**Pine Warbler** - 4 on August 25 in Red (FR); 1 on October 7 at BRSP (DO).

**Prairie Warbler** - 7 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); 1 on September 4 at Fer (DT).

**Palm Warbler** - 1 on September 24-28, 4 on September 29 and 2 on October 1 at Fer (DT); 2 on October 7 at BRSP (DO); 1 on October 16 near Leitchfield, Gray (JP); 1 on November 1 at New (FR).

- Bay-breasted Warbler** - 7 on September 13 and 1 on October 16 in WKUW (JE); 2 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Black-and-White Warbler** - 7 on September 13 in WKUW (JE).
- American Redstart** - 1 on August 13, 30+ on September 26 and 1 on October 10 in WKUW (JE).
- Swainson's Warbler** - 1 carrying food on August 2 at Bee (RD).
- Ovenbird** - 6 on September 26 in WKUW (JE).
- Northern Waterthrush** - 1 on September 9 at BBL and 1 on September 30 at MCP (LMc).
- Kentucky Warbler** - 1 on August 31 and September 1 at Fer (DT); 1 on September 26 at L#9 (KL, NM).
- Mourning Warbler** - 3 on September 14 at Dra (JE, DR); 1 on September 26 at L#9 (KL, NM).
- Hooded Warbler** - 1 on August 25 and 2 on August 26 in Red (FR); 2 on September 30 at Bee (RD).
- Wilson's Warbler** - 1 on September 15 at MtZ (RD).
- Canada Warbler** - 1 August 23 at WKUW (JE); 1 on September 6 at Fer (DT).
- Summer Tanager** - 3 on August 30 at Short Creek, Gray (JP); 4 on September 9 at BBL (LMc); 1 on October 7 at BRSP (DO); 1 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Chipping Sparrow** - 1 on November 11 in Pul (RD).
- Vesper Sparrow** - 1 on October 13 at MtZ (RD); 2 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).
- Lark Sparrow** - 1 on October 20 in Lyon (DR).
- Savannah Sparrow** - 6 on October 22 at KBend (GC, KL); 1 on November 17 at MtZ (RD).
- Henslow's Sparrow** - 12 on August 1 at MtZ (RD).
- LeConte's Sparrow** - 1 on October 14 at SWMA (KOS); 1 on October 26 in Muh (DR); 2 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - 1 on October 8 in PWMA (LMc, DR); 4 on October 14 at SWMA and 3 on October 26 in Muh (DR); 2 on October 28 at PWMA (DO).
- Fox Sparrow** - 1 on November 19 at KBend (KL, NM).
- Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 on October 5 at MtZ (RD); 5 on October 10 at WKUF (JE); 2 on October 17 at New (FR); 1 on October 28 at PWMA (DO); 1 on November 5 at KBend (GC, KL).
- Swamp Sparrow** - 10+ on October 3 at WKUF (JE); 2 on October 17 at New (FR); 6 on October 23 at L#9 (KL, NM).
- White-throated Sparrow** - A high of 22 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM); as many as 12 from November 23 to 30 in Hart (MS).
- White-crowned Sparrow** - 10 on October 17 at New (FR); 5 on October 18 and 4 on November 1 at KBend (KL, MN).
- Dark-eyed Junco** - 13 on October 18 at KBend (KL, NM); as many as 10 at Cra from October 29 - November 19 (JP).
- Lapland Longspur** - 1 on October 28 at ash basin, PWMA (DO, BPB); a flock of 34 and a flock of 13 were over CM#1 on November 28 (BPB).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 1 female on September 17 at Fer (DT); 8 on October 3 at KBend (KL, NM); an immature male at feeder on November 7 in Warn (LD).
- Blue Grosbeak** - 1 on August 1 and August 30 in Cam (FR); 1 on August 17 and 23 in Hart (MS); 1 on September 22 at Ash (RD); 3 on October 1 at West KyWMA, McCracken County (BPB, MB); 1 on October 15 at WKUF (JE); 1 lingered near WKUW to October 17 in Warn (JE, BPB).
- Indigo Bunting** - 1 late migrant on October 28 at Mel (NKBC).

**Dickcissel** - 4 on September 5 in Ful (BPB, Hap); 1 on September 14 at SWMA (KOS); 1 in Hend on September 15 (BPB); 1 on October 17 at Cha (BPB).

**Rusty Blackbird** - 1 reported on October 17 in Warn (BPB).

**Baltimore Oriole** - 3 at Short Creek, Gra from mid-August to September (JP); 1 on September 19 at Fer (DT).

**Purple Finch** - Scattered reports in early November (m.ob.); 1 from November 14-27 in Gray (JP).

**Pine Siskin** - 1 on October 16 at WKUW (JE); 1 on October 19 in Green County (SR).

**Contributors** - Frank Bennett (FB), Mark Bennett (MB), Pat Ceas (PC), Jackie Elmore (JE), Hap Chambers (Hap), Glen Criswell (GC), Lester Doyle (LD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Rebecca Foreman (RF), Darlena Graham (DG), Mary Harrel (MH), Bill Kemper (BK), Kentucky Ornithological Society field trip (KOS), Betty Leggett (BL), Ken Leggett (KL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Fred Loetscher (FL), Mark Monroe (MM), Nancy Moore (NM), Northern Kentucky Bird Club field trip (NKBC), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Jim Pasikowski (JPa), Larry Peavler (LP), Joyce Porter (JP), Ed Ray (ER), Scott Record (SRd), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Sue Reehm (SR), Jay Stenger (JS), Matt Stickel (MSt), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Steve Sweeney (SS), Doris Tichenor (DT), Lin Towler (LT), Matt Thomas (MT), Dennis Vesper (DV), Ben Yandell (BY).

-- 437 Sunset Lane, Morehead, KY 40351

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

### 2000-2001

Reports of 26 counts were received from across the state. A total of 129 species was recorded on count days, 122 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days but not represented on the table include: Long-tailed Duck (Bowling Green), Merlin (Louisville), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Ballard), 2 Rufous Hummingbirds (Land Between the Lakes), House Wren (Green River), 2 Vesper Sparrows (Kleber Wildlife Management Area), and Western Meadowlark (Ballard). Species added during the count week were Laughing Gull (Louisville), Lincoln's Sparrow (Land Between the Lakes), and Harris's Sparrow (Yelvington), bringing the count period total to 132 species. Eighteen species were observed on all counts and 12 species on only one count.

Temperatures were more normal throughout the count period compared with the last several years, with a low of 3°F on December 23 to a high of 55°F on December 16. The high was 10°F less compared with last year and the low was 19°F lower than last year. As a result of colder temperatures and snow cover to our north, numbers of several species appeared to be effected. Several waterfowl, including Canada Geese, Mallards, Canvasbacks and Green-winged Teal, experienced large increases in numbers compared with last year. Numbers of other waterfowl seemed to be unaffected. Other species, such as American Pipit and nuthatches, experienced a decline in numbers. The cold weather appeared to be responsible for a large influx of American Tree Sparrows (2,470 this year vs. 120 last year), Horned Larks (9,823 this year vs. 1,204 last year), and Lapland Longspurs (1,604 this year vs. 219 last year). Eleven Snow Buntings accompanied the latter two species. Cedar Waxwings also were in greater abundance. This may have been due to the concentration of large numbers of waxwings along the roads of Mammoth Cave National Park (3,500+ birds) due

to the abundance of cedar berries this year.

It will be interesting to see if the Eurasian Collared-Dove will increase in numbers. The Wild Turkey population appears to have continued to grow.

Thanks to the many observers and compilers who participated this year. Also, thanks to compilers that submitted documentation for unusual species. Please submit data for unusual species to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee to make these sightings official state records.

**Ballard County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1984.) Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 19; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 10° to 20°F; wind W, 5-12 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 13.5 (3.5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 80 (1 on foot, 79 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 166,683.

Observers: Hap Chambers, Robert Dever, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and David Roemer.

Cold temperatures and a brisk breeze made birding conditions less than ideal. During the few days prior to the count, a snow/freezing rain storm had coated the area with a couple of inches of crusty ice, making for especially difficult conditions for the birds. The species total (72) was relatively low for the area due to the lack of coverage of all habitats. Totals for Canada Geese, Snow Geese and Mallards were obtained from Pat Hahs, Biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, who happened to conduct an overflight waterfowl survey of the Ballard Wildlife Management Area during the count day. Highlights included small numbers of Greater White-fronted (15+) and Ross's (2) geese, 21 Bald Eagles, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull (on Ohio River opposite the WMA—a first record for the county), at least 100 Lapland Longspurs, and a Western Meadowlark (studied and photographed at point blank range on a roadside north of Bandana in rural Ballard County).

**Calloway County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 25% urban and residential, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 35% open fields, 20% lake shore and streams. Dec 30; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 14° to 23°F; wind W, 10 m.p.h. Very little open water.

Seven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 23 (3 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 146 (3 on foot, 143 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 9,479.

Observers: Hap Chambers (compiler), Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson, and Tommy Sherwood.

**Land Between the Lakes** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat as described in 1984 in *American Birds*. Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky a.m., partly overcast; temp. 42° to 53°F; wind W, 10 m.p.h. Rain in the morning, cloudy at noon and rain late afternoon.

Twenty observers in 8 to 12 parties. Total party-hours 50.25 (21.75 on foot, 28.50 by car). Total party-miles 348 (15 on foot, 333 by car). Total species 96; total individuals 36,763.

Observers: Mark Bennett, Richard Cassell, Hap Chambers, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Patrick Holcomb, Stephanie Holcomb, Bill Lisowsky, Paula Lisowsky, Carl Mowery (compiler), Kathy Mowery, John Pollpeter, David Roemer, Darrin Samborski, Daphne Sewing, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, Wendell Webb, and Avira Yasgur.

There were 13 adult and 3 immature Bald Eagles on the count day.

**Sorgho** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hwy. 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection.) Habitat river bottoms, 2 rivers, the Green and the Ohio, some woods, one county park, one state park, agriculture areas, and small feed lots. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy most of the day; temp. 23° to 19°F; wind 0-10 m.p.h. Ground covered with snow. There was light snow until mid-afternoon.

Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 20 (4 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 177 (4 on foot, 173 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 7,017. Hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls were seen during the count week.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Grace Ford, Joe Ford, Mike Henshaw, Janet Howard (compiler), Mary Kissel, Bill Little, Charles Morris, Laura Morris, Joyce Porter, Rob Rold, Marilee Thompson, and Carolyn Williams.

**Yelvington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of Hwy. 405 and 662). Habitat: Ohio River bottoms, Blackford Creek, Carpenter's Lake and environs, also feeders. Dec. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast-rainy; temp. 45°F; wind 5-7 m.p.h. Intermittent rain.

Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 38 (3 on foot, 35 by car). Total party-miles 93 (4 on foot, 89 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 2,078.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Mike Henshaw, Jody Jones, Bill Little, Brenda Little, Charles Morris, Laura Morris, A.L. Powell (compiler), Rob Rold, Roseann Radzelovage and Eric Williams.

Additional comments: Due to rain we were delayed in starting, but the rain didn't seem to bother the birds as we saw a decent number.

The Sandhill Crane and Wild Turkey are noteworthy, as is the Harris's Sparrow observed December 17 at the feeder of Mike Brown.

We would like to mention that three members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Mike Henshaw, Rob Rold, and Eric Williams joined us.

We could not get an accurate count of starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, cowbirds, and Common Grackles because of the large numbers in mixed flocks.

**Olmstead** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 1.5 hours of owling. Sky cloudy in the morning transitioning to partly sunny around noon to mostly sunny in the late afternoon; temp. 21° to 30°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Prolonged cold in the area caused every non-flowing body of water in the count circle to be frozen. Visibility was excellent at about 7 miles with light conditions ranging from outstanding to good.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 13.75 (8.25 on foot, 5.50 by car). Total party-miles 100.25 (4.25 on foot, 96.00 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 26,277.

Observers: Mark Bennett (compiler), Tommie Gail Bennett (feeder Watcher), Alyson Lyne, Frank Lyne, and David Roemer.

Additional comments: Highlights of this count included the following: one Bald Eagle, eight Northern Harriers, four Common Snipe, two Eurasian Collard-Doves (feeder watcher within circle), four Eastern Phoebe, three Loggerhead Shrikes, 890 Horned Larks, 18 American Tree Sparrows, 320 Lapland Longspurs, over 20,000 blackbirds, and a flock of eight Red Crossbills. The blackbirds above do not include a ribbon of mixed birds observed for nearly two hours flying northward in the late afternoon. This ribbon of birds had no visible beginning or end and was from 10 to 100 birds wide at any given moment.

**Paradise** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 30; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; light to moderate snow showers through most of the day; temp. 5° to 25°F; wind WNW, 5-12 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen; light snow cover.

Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 29.5 (9.5 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 152.5 (6 on foot, 146.5 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 15,758.

Observers: Mark Bennett, Robert Dever, Shari Forsythe, Mike Henshaw, Darrin O'Brien, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Robert Rold, Ed Toone, Eric



RUDDY DUCK	41			3	2	1	1	4		1	43	1	42	138															
BAIRD EAGLE	21	16	1	2	1	1	2						1	46															
NORTHERN HARRIER	8	6	1	8	49	1	10	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	2	106													
SHARP-SHAWK	1				2	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	20													
COOPER'S HAWK	1	4	7	2	2	2	1	4	6	4	1	1	1	3	6	1	3	44											
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	17	10	12	19	10	20	19	6	12	11	2	27	46	23	15	6	16	41	15	18	14	12	13	18	26	14	426		
RED-TAILED HAWK				8	1			1	CW										1									11	
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK																													5
GOLDEN EAGLE	3	4	9	22	10	15	14	7	8	14	18	17	22	10	15	17	23	5	36	31	10	21	8	33	42	414			
AMERICAN KESTREL											1												1	2					4
PEREGRINE FALCON	84	31	23	10	82	37	61	42	4	9	4	11	8	22	23							10	14	5	8	14	502		
WILD TURKEY	8	12	10	15											10							2	9	4	1			71	
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	1150	1817			82	12	1				66				10	1	7	97	7	8	6	270	1				3535		
AMERICAN COOT											5	55	CW	CW														97	
SANDHILL CRANE	3	66	1	1	2	5	3	1	2	2	15	3	1	2	3	21	2	5	4	2								144	
KILLDEER	7																											7	
LEAST SANDPIPER	1				4	1	1	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4											7	
COMMON SNipe																												22	
BONAPARTE'S GULL											3002																	3003	
RING-BILLED GULL	250	16	3521	17	68	5	121	508	CW		208	24	15	69	52	16												4890	
HERRING GULL	2	128				4	5	5	4													2	2					147	
FORSTER'S TERN																												5	
ROCK DOVE	30	274	125	15	40	15	383	3	26	15	724	62	248	6	24	78	39	139	143	15	28	30	62	156			2680		
MOURNING DOVE	24	162	50	99	191	164	31	157	34	48	6	39	385	211	116	235	91	421	50	679	481	145	301	76	121	878	5195		
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE	1					2																						3	
E. SCREECH OWL							1				3	2			CW							1	1	1	2			11	
GREAT HORNED OWL	3	2	ew	2	1	CW	1	4							CW							1			2			15	
BARRED OWL	5		1	1	3	2	17	1														1		1	1			17	
SHORT-EARED OWL																												22	
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	1	13	1	3	4	q	2	1	7	CW	4	1	3	2	1	12	3	2	2	5	10					79		
RED-H. WOODPECKER	3	3	3	1	4	1	ew	1	3	CW	1																	27	
RED-B. WOODPECKER	12	22	36	28	7	14	18	12	18	21	8	38	61	6	22	17	18	35	7	16	12	16	15	10	25	47	541		
YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER	4	2	6	1	2	1	2	1	4	3	1	2	11	4	2	6						3	ew	1	1			54	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	10	26	54	12	15	11	17	8	10	23	4	32	64	7	28	9	8	22	6	29	28	17	19	12	23	26	509		





BROWN THRASHER	4	2	6	1	1	1	1	4	1	3	3	1	5	32																
EUROPEAN STARLING	3600	1055	1107	3098	400	1050	700	1286	964	441	1092	2350	6753	151	1145	1270	1117	1999	883	2091	6042	1256	1483	1000	5519	3780	51632			
AMERICAN PIPTIT			6		1	1	45		21	25	3500	15	98	43	10	11	ew	6	6	24	70	13	332	77	52	4387	12			
CEDAR WAXWING	8	18	1	1	23	23	14	19	39	7	178	11	3	9	20	26	72	6	1	6	54	53	207	68	58	924	6			
YEL-RUMPED WARBLER																														
PINE WARBLER	1	1	1		3																									
PALM WARBLER																														
EASTERN TOWHEE	6	24	38	6	3	17	13	5	16	3	19	25	21	ew	3	5	42	8	8	5	23	8	21	39	338	3				
AM. TREE SPARROW	38	6	11	242	3	18	743	50	13	16	130	152	300	8	11	2	281	47	35	331	19	12	2	2	2470	2				
CHIPPING SPARROW	1		2	1																										
LEONCITES SPARROW																														
FIELD SPARROW	27	19	107	25	50	8	9	33	18	4	119	25	21	3	11	4	9	69	22	51	3	14	16	50	54	747	15			
SAVANNAH SPARROW	2	3	5	1	12	15	50	6	3	1	4	ew	2	1	10	1	13													
FOX SPARROW	63	33	62	93	88	49	182	61	67	9	77	190	288	33	74	59	28	366	58	91	37	107	143	116	207	157	2738	97		
SONG SPARROW	13	9	15	55	9	172	7	4	1	18	21	1	3	57	26	6	40	4	487	18	8	6	40	4	487	4	487			
SWAMP SPARROW	123	194	475	35	36	49	65	178	75	69	200	394	10	159	122	31	309	72	99	147	33	142	61	171	327	3596	728			
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	16	3		1	16	19	4	15	4	21	75	4	45	16	31	30	162	4	140	38	26	4	19	35	728	4	728			
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	125	403	741	141	32	55	176	94	71	130	255	558	340	35	135	17	45	362	210	152	32	108	79	230	90	275	4891	4891		
DARK-EYED JUNCO	100	500	112	92		320	3	7	1		5	206	156																	
LAPLAND LONGSPUR																														
SNOW BUNTING			3	2																										
NORTHERN CARDINAL	87	121	221	111	75	65	65	44	101	23	68	169	322	125	159	150	73	252	34	437	149	120	117	50	91	277	3506	11		
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	6000	3600	4642	2	10	2650	625	26	20	4				1	3	250	137													
EAST. MEADOWLARK	45	101	21	168	21	115	10	20	24	16	27	43	51	123	141	67	153	3	126	25	3	2	65	1370	2	65	1370			
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	6	3	6	59		39	7	10	15					3																
COMMON GRACKLE	12200	182	8789	194	10	19350	1250	100	1	7	22	16	13		13	564	49													
BROWN-H. COWBIRD	77	264	908	3		600	145	36		1					2	702	150	123	19	1	ew	2	5	114	3152	20	53	42833		
PURPLE FINCH			9	1	2	5	3	1	31	5	8				2	29	17	2	6	1										
HOUSE FINCH	110	44	31	11	45	40	63	123	207	2	211	107	108	60	52	6	24	89	35	297	174	25	5	86	306	455	2686	127		
RED CROSSBILL																														
PINE SISKIN																														
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	10	84	74	47	53	16	70	44	178	22	77	118	237	15	87	97	5	148	14	318	54	58	58	63	176	218	2283	2		
EVENING GROSBEEK			2																											
HOUSE SPARROW	53	57	5	188	10	8	12	97	2	16	71	219	24	91	36	249	25	306	137	25	43	25	29	72	1800	5	1800	5		
DAY OF COUNT	D19	D30	D16	J1	D16	D28	D30	D17	D30	D18	D30	D23	D31	D17	D23	D29	D27	D27	D31	D30	D16	D30	D16	D23	D16	D30	D30	D30	D30	
NUMBER OF SPECIES	72	72	96	48	52	68	86	73	65	49	61	74	86	58	52	51	50	75	45	60	61	61	71	59	68	73	73	73		
INDIVIDUALS	166683	9479	36763	7017	2078	26277	15736	3696	3531	8503	3106	7826	18554	2670	3723	4495	2812	8915	2065	12431	10622	6413	4743	4216	9253	9459	9459	9459		
OBSERVERS	4	7	20	14	11	4	11	6	5	4	6	10	23	8	7	6	3	12	4	30	21	9	7	5	7	11	11	11		

Williams, and Jonathan Young.

Cold, mostly cloudy skies and light to moderate snow showers prevailed throughout the day, making for difficult birding conditions. The species total (86) is about average given the amount of observer coverage (about average). Most of the waterfowl (17 species) were crammed into small parts of lakes that the birds had kept free of ice.

Highlights included at least 20 Greater White-fronted Geese, an adult Ross's Goose, and a sub-adult Mute Swan, all on or near the Gibraltar Unit of the Peabody WMA; a hardy Double-crested Cormorant; 36 Black Vultures; two Bald Eagles (adult and near-adult); all seven woodpeckers; three Pine Warblers (Muhlenberg County); what must be a record KY CBC total of 743 American Tree Sparrows (at least 200 in one flock in Ohio County!); a few Lapland Longspurs; and at least 14 LeConte's Sparrows (no less than 12 in one spot where the species has become regular on the Sinclair Unit of Peabody WMA in Muhlenberg County). Raptor abundance continues to remain below the peak of the late 1980's and early 1990's. Species that were lacking or especially low in numbers included Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Killdeer, Common Snipe, gulls, White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Two female Common Mergansers were observed the day before the count in Muhlenberg County.

**Bowling Green** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy with light snow in the a.m.; temp. 15° to 15°F; wind NW 5-15 m.p.h.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12.5 (2 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party-miles 72.5 (2.5 on foot, 70 by car). Total species 73; total individuals 3,696.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Dick Lord, Wayne Mason, Albert Meier, and Neil Shields.

**Glasgow** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. Dec. 30; 6:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky overcast in morning to partly cloudy in late afternoon; temp. 15° to 21°F; wind W 5-15 m.p.h. Gusty in morning to 5-10 m.p.h. by late afternoon. Intermittent snow showers in the morning, some heavy at times, made visibility poor during morning hours. Wind gusts up to 15 m.p.h.

Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14.5 (9.5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 61 (6 on foot, 55 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 3,531.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Billie Mae Moore, and Emma Jean Pitcock.

**Mammoth Cave National Park** (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky clear in the a.m. turning cloudy with sleet and snow in the p.m.; temp. 12° to 33°F; wind calm.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12.75 (2.25 on foot, 10.50 by car). Total party-miles 95 (4 on foot, 91 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 8,503. Ground was snow covered and roads were icy.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Dick Lord, and Ian Mason, McKenzieMason, and Wayne Mason. Roads were slick and nearly impassible.

Because of the abundance of cedar berries and snow covered conditions, thousands of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were concentrated along roadways. Unusual for this count were the Savannah Sparrows and the Killdeer which were foraging on ice at First Creek.

**Falls of Rough** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek (Ky Hwy 79 and 54 intersection). Habitat: Rough River, Rough River Lake, tributary streams, bottomland farms, yard feeders, woodland, and cultivated fields. Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 16° to 23°F; wind, negligible. Light snowfall throughout the day.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (1.75 on foot, 12.25 by car). Total party miles 129.3 (1.5 on foot, 127.8 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 3,106.

Observers: Kathryn Clay, Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel, Janet Howard, Deborah Peck, and Joyce Porter (compiler). Debbie Peck joined the count for one hour late in the day, making a third party.

**Bernheim Forest** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 23; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 20° to 30°F; wind SW/W, 0-12 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen; slight snow cover.

Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 31 (16.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party-miles 106 (8 on foot, 98 by car). Total species 74; total individuals 7,826.

Observers: Jamie Baker, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Dona Coates, Celia Lawrence, Joanna Minch, Philip Minch, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and Major Waltman.

The day was cold, but a light breeze and a mostly sunny sky made for good birding conditions. The species total (74) is above average for this count. Highlights included the two Greater White-fronted Geese and three Snow Geese observed with a flock of Canadas at a distillery pond north of Boston, Kentucky; three Golden Eagles all soaring together over the southern part of the forest along Wilson Creek; a dark morph Harlan's Hawk (probably this same individual has been observed off and on at the same location since the winter of 1995-1996); a small flock of migrant Sandhill Cranes; 20 Red-breasted Nuthatches; 17 Hermit Thrushes, 152 American Tree Sparrows; two Chipping Sparrows; a LeContes's Sparrow (closeley studied at the Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve east of Sheperdsville -- JB; MW); at least five Lapland Longspurs with two flocks of Horned Larks; and two Pine Siskins.

**Louisville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 12° to 25°F; wind W, 6 m.p.h. Light snow shower in a.m., snow cover 3-5 inches.

Twenty three observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 61 (34 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 384 (24.5 on foot, 359.5 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 18,554.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Win Ahrens, Michael Autin, Mary Bill Bauer, Rosemary Bauman, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (compilers), Dona Coates, David Dorman, Jane Fender, Rod Goforth, Cheryl Jones, Celia Lawrence, Jerry Lewis, Norman Lewis, Mark Monroe, Peggy Oates, Clara Ann Pallares, David Pallares, Brainard Palmer-Ball, George Rodgers, Helga Schutte, and Matt Stickel.

On this last day of the month, snow covered the ground and lakes and ponds were frozen as Louisville had experienced its coldest December on record. The cold weather brought huge numbers of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs into the area. A Brown Thrasher still lingered despite the cold and snow. Other interesting finds were two Bald Eagles, a Golden Eagle, a Merlin, a Peregrine Falcon, 300 American Tree Sparrows, and two Snow Buntings.

**Shelbyville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast all day except for brief period of sun in mid-afternoon. It snowed most of the day; temp. 15° to 18°F; wind N, 10-20 m.p.h. Heavy fog made visibility extremely poor until after 10:00 a.m. Heavy rains the day before, followed by a cold front that evening, into the night, and most of the count day with snow cover.

Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 26.25 by car). Total party-miles 206 by car. Total species 58; total individuals 2,670. Seen during the count period but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Short-eared Owl, Belted

Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Eastern Towhee. Observers: Heather Brown, Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Seth Brown, Todd Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), Benton Young and Steven Earl Young.

Extreme heavy rains on December 16 made it very difficult to locate congregated water fowl, Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons. A cold front brought down sparrows cranes and Lapland Longspurs. I believe it is the first time for Lapland Longspurs on this count.

**Frankfort** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.)

Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 23; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 40° to 29°F; wind E, 0-3 m.p.h. Moving water clear, still water partly frozen.

Seven observers in 5 parties, plus three at feeders for 12 hrs. Total party-hours 20.75 (4 on foot, 16.75 by car). Total party-miles 212.3 (4.5 on foot, 207.8 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 3,723.

Observers: James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durrell, Peggy Gould (compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Jeff Jones, Margaret LaFontaine, and Timm Williams

Food was scarce in the area. Privet was most abundant; there was some honeysuckle and multiflora rose. Very little *Smilax*.

**Hart County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center corner of Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat rural farmland and wooded areas, including Green River and 100 Acre Pond. Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy, then clearing; temp. 21° to 25°F; wind very gusty. Snow showers all day.

Six observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 67 (2 on foot, 65 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 4,495.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, John Brittain, Carol Friedman, Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler (compiler), and Mitch Sturgeon.

Cold windy day limited bird activity and numbers of bluebirds and Red-tailed Hawks.

**Green River** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat as described in 1999. Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 22° to 28°F; wind 0-10 m.p.h. Light snow, ponds frozen, but Campbellsville City Lake had one small open pool of water.

Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12 (3 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 63 (2 on foot, 61 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,812.

Observers: Lloyd Curry (compiler), Daniel Holt, and Richie Kessler.

Unfortunately, due to a miscommunication the Green River Lake itself was not covered, thus numbers are down, especially for gulls and waterfowl.

**Otter Creek Park** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat 38% farmland, 20% park area, 15% brushy fields, 13% woodland, and 14% ponds, creeks, lake and river. Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 22° to 28°F; wind 10-20 m.p.h. All water frozen, except the river and Doe Valley Lake and the creek across from the lake.

Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 33.5 (18 on foot, 15.5 by car). Total party-miles 206.5 (10.25 on foot, 196.25 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 8,915.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Richard Cassell, Dona Coates, Robert Dever (compiler), Celia Lawrence, Pat Sebree Meyers, Peggy Oates, Brainard Plamer-Ball, Jr., Mary Walter, and Mark Zody.

**Kleber Wildlife Management Area** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 31; 8:10 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 17° to 23°F; wind SSW, 0-5 m.p.h. Still water frozen, moving water open to partly frozen.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12.5 (2.5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-

miles 150 (2 on foot, 148 by car). Total species 45; total individuals 2,065.

Observers: Joe Burgess, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (compiler), and Ralph Gould.

**Danville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat as described before. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 15° to 20°F. Flurries in the a.m.

Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 47.5 (7 on foot, 40.5 by car). Total party-miles 404.3 (9.8 on foot, 394.5 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 12,431.

Observers: Joe Amburgey, Ron Barbato, Andre Brousseau, Bill Catron, Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Matt Ellis, Martha Foster, Bill Garriott, Mrs. West Hill, Tom Kearns, Gail Manning, Tori Morris, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, Amelia Nichols, John Nichols, Don Pelly, Erin Pelly, Rob Pendency, Herb Petitjean, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Rose-Marie Roessler, Ralph Schiefferle, David Shewmaker, Patsie Trollinger, Charles Vahlkamp, and Maynard VanHorn.

**Lexington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church on Tates Creek Road.) Habitat mixed residential and farmland. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 43° to 52°F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. Light rain in the a.m. to heavy rain in the p.m.

Twenty one observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 59 (18.5 by foot, 40.5 by car). Total party-miles 401 (16 by foot, 385 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 10,622. Nocturnal birding 2 hours over 5 miles.

Observers: Rose Canon, Wayne Davis, Phyllis Deal, Christopher Demoll, Edward Demoll, Mike Flynn, Jonathon Glixson, Paul Hager, Kelly Helton, Kevin Hopper, Allen Kingsland, Teri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Mark Morgan, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Susan Pollack, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, and Jim Williams.

**Burlington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 10° to 20°F; wind WSW, 8 m.p.h. One to two inches of snow cover on ground, light snowfall throughout most of the day, lakes, ponds, and streams frozen.

Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 23 (10 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 114 (7 on foot, 107 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 6,413.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Andy Dickerson, Ed Groneman, Lee McNeely (compiler), and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers: Marjorie Hill, Lynda McNeely, Nora Meyer, and Carmen Schulte.

The Mute Swans and Peregrine Falcon were found at the East Bend Power Plant. Above normal numbers were noted for Canada Geese, Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur.

**Warsaw** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 16; 7:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 45° to 54°F; wind SW, 5-12 m.p.h. Steady rain from start of count until 2:00 p.m..

Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 27.5 (9.5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 165 (4 on foot, 161 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 4,743.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Ed Groneman, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Tommy Stephens.

Steady rain hampered morning birding and kept some numbers low. Peregrine Falcons and Short-eared Owls were found at the Ghent Power Plant. Small numbers of Lapland Longspurs were present at two locations.

**Falmouth** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Caddo, Kentucky.) Habitat 50% woodland and forest edge, 25% river and lake shoreline, 20% agricultural, and 5% residential. Dec. 23; 7:40 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 3° to 28°F; wind SW, 6-10 m.p.h. Most lakes frozen, Licking and Ohio rivers were open, light snow.

Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (7 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 116 (3 on foot, 113 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 4,216.

Observers: Rhonda Bryant, Scott Marsh, Lee McNeely (compiler), Julie Ritchie, and Tommy Stephens.

The below zero wind chill factor kept numbers low during the early morning. The Red-breasted Nuthatches and Evening Grosbeaks were found at Kincaid Lake State Park.

**Richmond** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.75 miles north of intersection of Bobtown Road and the Kingston-Berea Road). Habitat Fencerows and roadsides (20%), woodland (20%), pasture and open fields (55%), lawns (4%), lakes and ponds (1%). Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast, occasional rain; temp. 45° to 55°F; wind SW, 10-25 m.p.h. Heavy rain beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 20.5 (8 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party-miles 219 (3 on foot, 216 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 9,253.

Observers: Mark Bostrom, Janet Gorrell, Brian Leibacher, Jen Leyhe, Mark Monroe, Brandon Ritchison, and Gary Ritchison (compiler).

**Somerset** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Bypass E. 80 and Highway 39, Crab Orchard Road.) Habitat 21% water edge, 13% cultivated, 24% wooded and edge, 11% urban, and 31% field/fence. Dec. 30; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 15°F to 26°F; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h. Light snow intermittently with one to two inches of snow on the ground.

Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 45.25 (16.5 on foot, 28.75 by car). Total party-miles 311 (8 on foot, 303 by car). Total species 73; total individuals 9,459.

Observers: Ray Cornett, Granville Cox, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Steve Hieronymus, Carolyn Gay Hodges, Laura Kamperman, Steve Kickert, Gary McClendon, Linda McClendon, and Arlene Morton.

Still water was frozen and moving water was partially frozen causing the number of some waterfowl to be down. Some areas weren't covered due to snow and ice covered roads.

Feederwatchers: Hazel Brown, Julie Denton, Grace Floyd, Evelyn Garrett, Ruth Hieronymus, Jim Hodges, Susan Hoffman, Eileen Hurst, Mary Moss, Joe Richards, Martha Ricks. Chris Wynne, and Margaret York.

## FIELD NOTES

### CALIFORNIA GULL AT CALVERT CITY

On February 11, 1996, we found an adult California Gull (*Larus californicus*) while birding at Calvert City, Marshall County, Kentucky. The bird was loafing with a large concentration of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) on an industrial settling pond along the Tennessee River near the end of KY 95. This pond has produced numerous sightings of unusual waterbirds over the years, especially gulls.

The California Gull was first noticed because of its slightly darker gray mantle color. Upon closer inspection, we could see that the bird had yellowish legs and feet with a suffusion of grayish or grayish-green tone. In size it appeared intermediate between nearby Ring-billed and Herring gulls, but closer in bulk to the Herrings. When the bird turned its head in profile, we could see that its eyes had dark irises, although we were unable to discern exactly what color and we could not clearly see the color of the eye-ring. There was a reddish spot on the distal portion of the lower mandible, and a black smudge appeared on both the upper and lower mandibles just distal of the reddish spot. The head, tail and underparts were clear white, although the back of the crown and nape were moderately streaked with light brown.

Although the day was very windy, and the sun was angled off to one side (making for some distinct shadowing on the bird's body), the distance of observation (about 150 yards) was sufficient for field confirmation of most all characters that identify the species. Details of the wing tips were not clearly discerned, although the views we obtained were indicative of a pattern of white mirrors and terminal spots that are typical for California Gull.

Photographs were taken of the bird and although lacking in specific detail, the slightly darker gray mantle and yellowish legs can be seen, as well as a comparison in size to nearby Herring Gulls. Also apparent is the shape of the head and bill, which is somewhat smaller and more rounded than Herring Gull and is fairly characteristic of the species. Jon Dunn, a nationally known authority on identification of North American birds reviewed these photographs and considered them to definitively identify the bird as a California Gull.

This represents the second record of California Gull for the state, the first being from Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall counties, in the spring of 1984. Based on records from surrounding states, it would seem that California Gull should continue to be expected to occur occasionally with concentrations of other gulls, especially during late fall, winter and early spring.—**BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.**, 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Kentucky, 40222, **MARK MONROE**, 22345 Ridge Road, Anchorage, Kentucky 40223, and **BURT MONROE, III**, 844 Rosewood Drive, Bloomington, Indiana, 46404.

#### MISSISSIPPI KITE NEST IN FULTON COUNTY

The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is an uncommon to fairly common, but very locally distributed nesting bird in southwestern Kentucky. Prior to the summer of 2000, evidence of nesting was limited to several observations of adults carrying food and recently fledged young in the counties bordering the Mississippi and lower Ohio rivers. On July 3, 2000, we visited the Long Point Unit of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, western Fulton County, in part to search for a kite nest. We had noticed birds frequenting several large blocks of bottomland forest on the refuge, and knew that the timing was right for nests to be active. We focused our attention on a pair of birds that were known to have been present during the spring, and watched for evidence of nesting behavior.

After about 30 minutes of observation, it was clear that the birds were repeatedly disappearing into a block of mature forest with food items. Upon moving for a better perspective, we discovered an active nest containing one downy chick approximately three-quarters grown.

The nest was typical of the species, a relatively small platform of sticks built in the fork of an upper branch of a large tree. The nest tree was a sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) approximately 100 feet in height. The nest was situated in about the middle of the crown, approximately 8-10 feet from the tips of the highest branches. The forest block in which the nest was located was approximately 1,000 feet wide by 3,500 feet long; the nest was situated a few hundred feet in from one of the corners and was visible to the surrounding open agricultural land from only one side. The normal clutch size for the species is two, but can vary from one to three, so this nest could be considered typical, especially if one of two young perished during the early nestling period.

We revisited the site on July 16, 2000, and found the young bird still present. On this date it appeared to be nearly full grown, lacking down, and perching on a branch next to the nest. When the adults would bring in food, it would hop back onto the nest to eat. During the time we watched feeding activity, all prey items brought to the nest appeared to be large



insects, mostly cicadas. As noted above, this is the first actual nest of Mississippi Kite that has been reported from Kentucky. — **MARK MONROE**, Biology Department, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, 40475, and **BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.**, Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### **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, Ogden College, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (email: [blaine.ferrell@wku.edu](mailto: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.

### **Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline**

The 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 Web Page**

Visit the Kentucky Ornithological Society's web page at [www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm](http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm).