

5-2002

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 78, no. 2)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 78, no. 2)" (2002). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 301.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/301

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

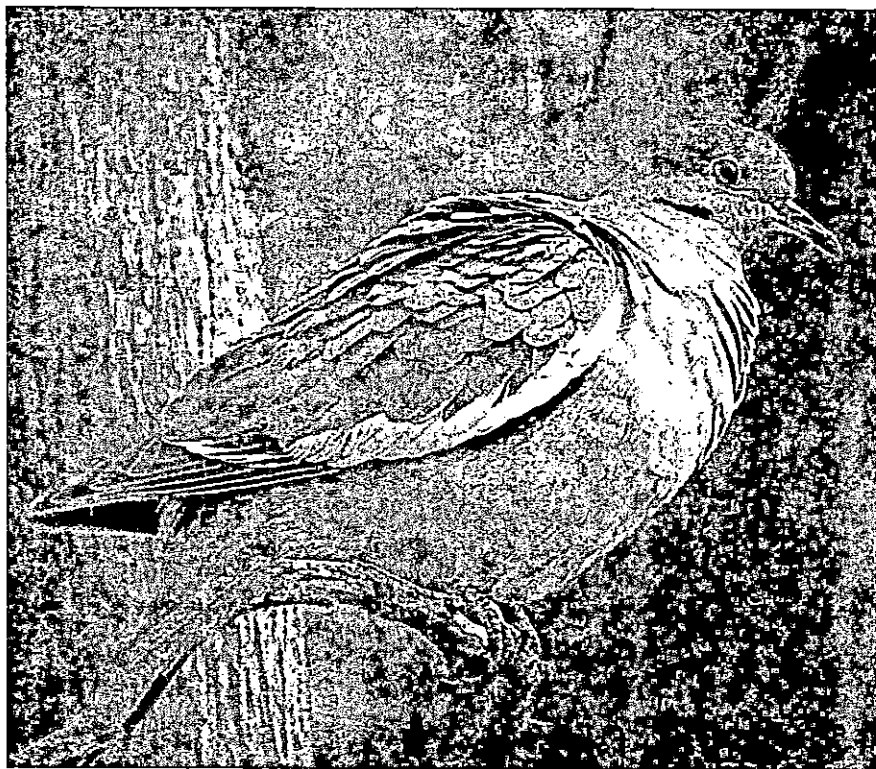
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 78

MAY 2002

NO. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

THE WINTER SEASON, 2001-2002, Fred M. Busroe	31
KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, Mark Bennett	35
FIELD NOTES	39
NEWS AND VIEWS	44

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President	Kathy Caminiti, Burlington
Vice-President	Hap Chambers, Murray
Corr. Secretary	Mark Monroe
	1114 Silvercrest Lane, Louisville, KY 40223
Treasurer	Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
	8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222
Recording Secretary	Mark Bennett, Russellville
Councillors:	
Jackie Elmore, Bowling Green	2001 thru 2002
Gerald Robe, Mt. Sterling.....	2001 thru 2002
Richard Cassell, Louisville.....	2001 thru 2003
Janet Howard, Owensboro.....	2001 thru 2003
Scott Marsh, Lexington.....	2002 thru 2004
Roseanna Denton, Science Hill	2002 thru 2004
Retiring President	Marilee Thompson, Owensboro

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.

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

Editorial Advisory Board

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Wayne Mason

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

Staff Artist..... Ray Harm

THE COVER

We thank David Roemer for the cover photograph of the White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*, observed in Murray, Kentucky. (see Field Note)

THE WINTER SEASON - 2001-2002

Fred M. Busroe

The winter season was rather mild, with few if any sub-zero temperatures reported. The precipitation was normal with little snow accumulation. Without question this affected the seasonal observations. Several unusual observations were reported. These included: a Snowy Owl, an American Bittern, a Prairie Falcon, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and an Inca Dove, along with several interesting perching bird observations.

Abbreviations - WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Bar = Barren River Reservoir, Allen/Barren counties; Bark = Barkley Dam, Lyon County; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Nelson County; Blo = Blood River Embayment, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County; BPB farm = Brainard Palmer-Ball Farm, Jefferson County; Brec = Breckinridge County; BRSP = Barren River State Park, Barren County; Cal = Calloway County; Camp = Campbell County; Can = Caneyville Reservoir, Grayson County; Car = Carroll County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; Dams = Barkley Dam and Kentucky Dam combined; Dav = Daviess County; Day = Dayton, Campbell County; Eve = Evergreen Cemetery, Campbell County; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County; Ful = Fulton County; Gal = Gallatin County; Gray = Grayson County; Han = Hancock County; Hart = Hart County; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; Jef = Jefferson County; Jon = the Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, Marshall/Livingston counties; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, Marshall/Lyon counties; L#9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Lyon/Trigg counties; LBark = Lake Barkley, Livingston/Lyon/Trigg counties; Lex = Lexington, Fayette County; Long = Long Point Unit of Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; Mark = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; Mars = Marshall County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; McL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Mur = Murray, Calloway County; New = Newport, Campbell County; NKU = Northern Kentucky University, Campbell County; OR = Ohio River, Jefferson County; Ple = Pleasant Hill Road, Cadiz, Trigg County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenburg/Ohio counties; Ref = Reformatory Lake, Oldham County; RRSP = Rough River State Park, Grayson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Six = Six Mile Island, Jefferson County; SWMA = Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; Trim = Trimble County; UKF = University of Kentucky Farm, Fayette County; Warn = Warren County.

Common Loon - 5 on December 5 at CRL (FB); 19+ on December 8 on OR (DO); 3 on January 1 at CRL (FB); 3 on February 16 (Hap, MM, DR).

Pied-billed Grebe - 5 on December 9 and 29 at Can (JP).

Red-necked Grebe - 1 at Bar from January 7 to 25, videotaped (DR, *et al.*) Documentation has been submitted.

Horned Grebe - 3 on December 7 at the dam, CRL (FB); 100+ on December 8 on OR (DO); 8 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR); 1 on February 22 at CRL (FB, LK).

American White Pelican - 2 on December 1 in Trigg, 7 at LBL on December 15 and 7 at Boyd's Landing, LBark, on February 18 (PL, WL); 1 on January 6 at LBL (Hap); 7 on February 16 at Bark (Hap, MM, DR).

Double-crested Cormorant - 8 on December 1 at Falls (DO); 4 on February 3 at Cal (Hap); 15 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).

American Bittern - 1 on January 5 at PWMA (DO). Second winter record for Kentucky.

- Great Blue Heron** - 20+ on December 1 at Falls (DO); 3 on December 15 at Gray (JP).
- Black Vulture** - 3 on December 1 at RRSF and 5 in Gray on December 15 (JP).
- Turkey Vulture** - 30 on December 13 in Gray (JP); 200 on February 2 at Long (Hap, RD).
- Greater White-fronted Goose** - 200+ on December 9 at SWMA (DO); 100 on January 9 at Long (DR); 1,000 on January 12 at Long (Hap); 200 on January 21 at Long (PL, WL); 7 on January 28 at SWMA (JP); 2,000 on February 2 at Long (Hap, RD).
- Snow Goose** - 4 on December 9 at SWMA(DO); 1 on January 8 at CRL (FB); 200 on January 12 at Long (Hap); 400 on January 21 at Long (PL, WL); 200 (50 were blue morphs) on January 28 at SWMA (JP); 1,500 on February 2 at Long (Hap, RD); 3,500 on February 17 at Long (Hap, ME); 2 on February 22 at CRL (FB, LK).
- Ross's Goose** - 2 on January 21 at Long (PL, WL); 1 on January 26 in Mars (DR); 2 on January 27 at Long (GC); 4 on February 2 at Long (Hap, RD); 1 on February 9 at PWMA (DR); 55 on February 17 at Long (Hap, ME).
- Canada Goose** - 354 on January 5 at Goose Lake, PWMA (DO); 1,000 on January 25 at SWMA (JP); **Richardson's race** - 4 on January 5 at PWMA, 1 on January 8 in Livingston County and 2 on January 31 at McL, videotaped (DR).
- Mute Swan** - 2 on December 10 at New (FR); 6 on January 11 on LBark (DR).
- Gadwall** - 3 on December 9 at Six (DO); 8 on December 25 at Falls, 2 on January 25 at SWMA, and 25 on January 27 at Falls (JP); 2 on January 4 at Mel (FR); 8 on January 29 at UKF (WD); 30+ on February 22 at Goose Ponds, CRL (FB, LK).
- American Wigeon** - 3 on December 9 at Falls (DO); 14 on January 25 at SWMA (JP).
- American Black Duck** - 21 on December 8 and 5 on January 26 at Falls (DO); 6 on January 6 at LBL (Hap); 15 on February 1 in Gray (JP).
- Mallard** - 100 + on January 2 on Ohio River, Camp (FR).
- Northern Pintail** - 1 on December 8 at Falls (DO); 1 male on December 10 at New (FR); 1 male on January 8 at MCFH (FB, LK); 22 on January 25 at SWMA (JP).
- Northern Shoveler** - 6 on December 8 at Falls (DO); 4 on January 28 at SWMA (JP); 101 on February 2 and 10 on February 17 at Long (Hap).
- Green-winged Teal** - 18 on December 8 on OR (DO); 106 on February 17 at Long (Hap).
- Canvasback** - 8 on December 8 on OR and 3 on February 3 at Falls (DO); 24 on January 20 at Jon (Hap); 12 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Redhead** - 280+ on December 8 on OR (DO); 2 on January 8 at MCFH (FB, LK); 4 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Ring-necked Duck** - 36 on December 8 on OR (DO); 2 on January 6 at LBL (Hap); 20 on January 8 at MCFH (FB, LK); 10 on January 25 at SWMA (JP); 75+ on February 22 at Goose Ponds, CRL (FB, LK).
- Greater Scaup** - 22 on December 8 on OR and 8 on February 3 at Falls (DO).
- Lesser Scaup** - 325 on December 8 at Six (DO); 200 on January 6 at LBL (Hap); 500 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Long-tailed Duck** - 1 on January 26 at KyLake (DR).
- Surf Scoter** - 4 at Falls, 27 at Six, and 5 in Gal on December 8 (DO).
- Black Scoter** - 3 at Six, 1 each at Carl and Gal on December 8, with a female at Falls on January 13 through the end of the period (MB, DO, JP).
- Common Goldeneye** - 2 on January 13 at Falls (DO); 4 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Bufflehead** - 60+ on December 8 on OR (DO).
- Hooded Merganser** - 2 at Falls, 9 at Six, 17 in Trim and 11 in Gal on December 8 (DR); 35 on January 8 at MCFH (FB).
- Common Merganser** - 1 on January 5 at Day (FR); 2 males and 1 female on January 11 on CRL (FB, LK); 1 male and 1 female on January 31 below Bark (PL, WL).

- Red-breasted Merganser** - 343 at Six and 42 on the Ohio River in Trim on December 8 (DO); 2 on January 1 at Day (FR).
- Ruddy Duck** - 12 on December 8 on OR (DO); 1 on January 9 on CRL and 2 on January 11 at MCFH (FB, LK); 20 on January 20 at Jon (Hap).
- Bald Eagle** - 1 on January 2 in Hart (MS); 2 at LBL and 1 at Blo on January 6 (Hap); 2 adults and 1 immature on January 8 at MCFH and 1 on January 9 at CRL (FB, LK); 1 on January 19 at Blo, 1 on February 2 and 2 on February 17 at Long (Hap); 4 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Northern Harrier** - 1 on December 8 at Falls (DO); 1 on December 15, 1 on January 2, 2 males on February 7 and 1 on February 19 in Gray (JP); 1 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 on December 18 at Eve and 1 on January 2 at New (FR); 1 on January 5 at PWMA (DO); 1 in Dav on January 15, February 5 and 14 (MT); 2 on February 10 at Eve and 1 on February 25 at New (FR).
- Cooper's Hawk** - 2 on December 9 in Lou (DO); 1 on December 20 and January 20 in Dav (MT); 1 on December 26 in Gray (JP); 1 on February 6 in Hart (MS).
- Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 on December 4 at Long (KL, *et al.*); 1 on February 7 in Brec (JP).
- American Kestrel** - 10 on January 25 in Henderson County (JP).
- Merlin** - 1 on January 2 in Warn (DR).
- Peregrine Falcon** - 2 on January 26 at Lou (DO).
- PRAIRIE FALCON** - 1 on December 4 near L#9; videotaped (DR *et al.*) Documentation has been submitted.
- Wild Turkey** - 75 on December 20 and 50 on February 24 in Han (MT); 42 on February 12 at LBL (PL, WL).
- Sandhill Crane** - Approximately 100 in Rowan County on December 31 (LK); 43 on January 17, and 80+ on January 18 in Hart (MS); 56 on January 19 at Blo (Hap); 350 on January 26 in Hart and 450+ in Warren County (MS); 45 on January 26 at RRSP (JP).
- Killdeer** - 7 on February 28 in Dav (MT).
- Greater Yellowlegs** - 1 on December 4 in Ful (DR).
- Lesser Yellowlegs** - 1 on December 4 in Ful (DR).
- Least Sandpiper** - 12 on December 9 at SWMA (DO); 5 on January 6 at Blo (Hap); 3 on January 21 at Jon (PL, WL).
- Common Snipe** - 104 on December 9 at SWMA (DO); 8 on January 6 at Blo (Hap); 1 on January 19 at RRSP (RF, MH).
- American Woodcock** - Vocalizations were heard at LBL on February 2 (PL, WL); 3 vocalizations on February 22 in Hart (MS).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - 271 on December 8 at Falls (DO); 1 on December 22 at New (FR); 425 on January 19 at Blo (Hap).
- Ring-billed Gull** - 278 on December 8 at Falls (DO); 110 on December 29 at New, 400 at the mouth of the Licking River, Camp, and 635 in flight at Camp on December 31, with 500 on January 1 to 2 at New (FR); 120 on January 4 at Mel (FR); 425 on January 19 and 300 on January 20 at Blo (Hap); 150 on February 2 at Long (Hap, RD) and 300 on February 3 at Blo (Hap); 1,500 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR); 84 on February 17 at Falls (DO); 1 on February 25 in Hart (MS).
- Herring Gull** - 2 on December 8 at Mark (DO); 10 on February 3 in Cal (Hap); approximately 200 on February 16 at Dams (Hap, MM, DR).
- Thayer's Gull** - An adult and an immature from December 3 through the period at Dams (DR); 1 immature on January 27 and February 16 at Bark (PL, WL); 2 on February 16 at

- Bark (Hap, MM, DR).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** - at least 1 through the period at Dams (DR); 1 second-year bird on February 16 below Bark (WL).
- Glaucous Gull** - 2 first-year birds from December 3 through the period at Dams (DR); 1 on February 16 at KyDam (Hap, MM, DR); 1 on February 22 below KyDam (PL, WL).
- Great Black-backed Gull** - 1 on January 11 at KyLake (DR). Videotaped.
- Forster's Tern** - 2 on January 6 and 5 on January 20 at Blo (Hap); as many as 3 observed on several trips during the period at Jon (PL, WL).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** - 5 on February 10 at Hic (KL *et al.*); 11 on February 16 in Hic (DO); 1 on February 2 in Mur (PL, WL).
- INCA DOVE** - 1 on February 9-10 at Hic; videotaped (BY *et al.*). Documentation has been submitted.
- Eastern Screech-Owl** - 1 on December 2 at Bern (DO); 1 on December 6 at SC (JP).
- Great Horned Owl** - 1 on January 19 at Blo (Hap).
- SNOWY OWL** - 1 second-year male from at least February 22 to April 1 south of Falmouth Pendleton County; Photographed and banded (JH, KC, *et al.*).
- Barred Owl** - 1 on January 13 in Gray (JP); 1 on January 19 at Blo (Hap).
- Short-eared Owl** - 8 on January 5 at PWMA (DO).
- Loggerhead Shrike** - 1 on January 19 and 20 in Gray (JP); 4 on February 16 in Ful (DO).
- Horned Lark** - 20 on December 1 at RRSP and 15 on January 25 in Henderson County (JP).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 on December 1 and 17 in Lou (DO); 2 from December 9 to 14 and 1 on February 4 in Lex (WD); 1 on December 15 at LBL (PL, WL); 1 at SC from December 25 to January 19 (JP); 2 in Dav on December 3, February 3 and 18 (MT); 2 on February 18 in Mars (PL, WL).
- Brown Creeper** - 2 on December 2 at Bern (DO); 1 on December 18 at Eve (FR); 1 on January 19 in Brec (RF, MH); 1 on February 12 in Dav (MT).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 4 on January 5 at PWMA (DO); 4 on January 19 in Brec (RF, MH).
- Eastern Bluebird** - 14 on December 1 at RRSP (JP); 15 on December 2 at Bern (DO).
- Hermit Thrush** - 2 on January 3 at CRL dam, CRL (FB); 1 on January 13 at BPB farm (DO); 1 on January 19 in Brec (RF, MH).
- American Robin** - Approximately 1,500 on December 27 at NKU (FR); 5 on December 31 in Dav (MT); 275 on January 5 at PWMA (DO).
- European Starling** - An estimated 120,000 at NKU roost on December 27 (FR).
- Gray Catbird** - 1 on December 8 in Jef (DO).
- Brown Thrasher** - 1 on December 15 and February 15 at LBL (PL, WL); 1 on January 5 at PWMA (DO).
- American Pipit** - 100+ on January 6 in Trigg County (DO).
- Cedar Waxwing** - 18 on December 9 in Gray (JP).
- Pine Warbler** - 4 singing on February 18 in Mars and 1 at Ple on February 27 to 28 (PL, WL).
- Palm Warbler** - 1 on January 13 at Bar (DR).
- American Tree Sparrow** - 10 on January 1 to 2 at Day (FR); 2 on February 3 near Ple (PL, WL).
- Chipping Sparrow** - Present during the period in Warn, with a high count of 19 on January 19 (DR); 37 on February 3 in Cal (Hap).
- Savannah Sparrow** - 4 on January 5 at PWMA (DO); 1 on February 20 at RRSP (JP).
- LeConte's Sparrow** - 1 on January 5 at PWMA (DO); 1 on February 9 at PWMA (DR).

Fox Sparrow - 2 on January 5 at PWMA (DO); as many as 10 during early January at Ple (PL, WL); 1 on January 19 in Brec and Gray (RF, MH).

Swamp Sparrow - 2 on December 9 at Can (JP).

White-throated Sparrow - 4 on December 3 and 10 on December 31 in Hart (MS); 25 on February 7 in Brec (JP); 11 on February 11 in Dav (MT).

White-crowned Sparrow - A high of 5 on January 19 at SC (JP); seen daily in Hart, with a high number of 53 on February 26 (MS).

Dark-eyed Junco - 12 on December 8, 11 on December 14, and 12 on February 3 in Dav (MT).

Lapland Longspur - Sighted regularly during the period in Trigg (PL, WL).

Indigo Bunting - 1 observed on February 18, 26 to 27 at feeder in Dav (MT).

Western Meadowlark - 1 on January 9 in Ful (DR).

Brewer's Blackbird - 7 on January 20 and 23 in Warn (DR).

Rusty Blackbird - 3 on January 19 in Gray (RF, MH); 50 on January 27 north of KyDam (PL, WL).

Brown-headed Cowbird - 3 on January 5 at PWMA (DO).

Purple Finch - 1 on December 12 in Hart (MS); 1 to 2 present in January and February at SC feeder, with 6 on February 14 in Gray (JP); 2 on January 12 at BRSP (DO); 2 on February 3 and 3 on February 18 in Dav (MT).

White-winged Crossbill - 1 female on January 19 in Warn, videotaped (DR).

Pine Siskin - 1 on December 18 at Eve (FR); 1 on February 8 at SC (JP).

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), Hap Chambers (Hap), Glen Criswell (GC), Wayne Davis (WD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Melissa Easley (ME), Rebecca Forman (RF), Mary Harrel (MH), Jeff Hays (JH), Lewis Kornman (LK), Betty Leggett (BL), Ken Leggett (KL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Paula Lisowsky (PL), Mark Monroe (MM), Nancy Moore (NM), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Joyce Porter (JP), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Marilee Thompson (MT), Ben Yandell (BY).

--- 437 Sunset Lane, Morehead, KY 40351

**Kentucky Ornithological Society Spring Meeting
Mammoth Cave National Park
April 26th through April 28th.**

President Kathy Caminiti called the spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting program consisted of slides shown by members, a silent auction for the benefit of the Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund, and an informal social time devoted to a discussion of Kentucky birds.

The Board established the Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund in memory of the late Anne L. Stamm, a venerable ornithologist and life-long member of the Society. The fund is dedicated to furthering the education of young people in the area of birding and/or ornithology. Items entered into the silent auction included numerous books, references, and journals donated to the Society by the late Anne L. Stamm, donations of books and materials from members, and donations of bird-related supplies from businesses. The silent auction was the primary focus of the activity on Friday night and continued through the close of the Saturday evening meeting. The total funds generated from the silent auction for the two-day period exceeded \$1,600. Places of business that donated items to the auction were:

---The Boggs Group, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

---David L. Flores Nature Photography, Taylor Mill, Kentucky.

---Wild Bird and Nature Store, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Society members donating items for the auction or cash to the Fund include: Leif Anderson, Peggy Barrington, Mark Bennett, Kathy Caminiti, Granville Carey, Joan Carey, Joan Carr, Margaret Chase, Michael Hamm, Janet Howard, Ron Lusby, Brian Myres, and Clell Peterson.

While the auction was proceeding as the basis of Friday's program, Joan Carr, David Flores, Win Ahrens, and Kathy Caminiti displayed slides of birds that they had taken recently. Mr. Flores, who is a professional photographer, displayed stunning images of the recent Snowy Owl from Pendleton County. In addition, the membership was able to enjoy assorted cheeses, vegetables, meats, and crackers, as well as bottled water, soft drinks, or wine.

On Saturday morning, two field trips departed the Mammoth Cave Hotel promptly at 8:00 a.m. The first trip was led by Dr. Blaine Ferrell. Locations visited on this trip included the Green River Ferry area and the River Styx nature trail. The second field trip was led by Jackie Elmore and visited Houchen's Ferry, Turnhole Bend Trail, and Sloan's Crossing Pond. Unfortunately, heavy rains hampered the Saturday morning field trips. Despite the weather, numerous species of woodland birds were observed.

On Friday afternoon, the KOS Board met from 3:00 to 5:15 p.m. During the Board meeting, the rain abated and many members were able to catch up on birding that had been dampened during the morning.

At 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, the Society was able to have dinner as a group in the meeting room of the Hotel. A buffet was available to members and the silent auction resumed and continued through the Saturday evening program.

At 7:00 p.m., the Saturday evening program began. There were three featured presentations: "Birding in Staffordshire England" by Frank Gribble, "Cuba: Remarkable" by Darrin O'Brien, and "Documenting Rare Birds in Kentucky" by David Roemer.

Frank Gribble, a resident of Staffordshire County in England, presented slides and information regarding birds and birding near his home. The slides included many remarkable species to be observed in England. Conservation efforts, population trends, habitats, and other issues facing the avian fauna of the county were discussed during the entertaining and informative program.

Darrin O'Brien, a KOS member from Louisville, presented a program on the birds of Cuba. Darrin participated in the American Birding Association sponsored Cuban Bird Survey in February and March of this year. Using PowerPoint as the delivery vehicle, Mr. O'Brien presented photos of Cuban endemic species and discussed the culture and the avifauna of this Caribbean Island. The difficulties and rewards associated with travel to Cuba were also discussed.

David Roemer made the final presentation of the evening. Using PowerPoint as a delivery vehicle, David presented photographs and video stills he has made while documenting rare or unusual birds in Kentucky. The purpose of the program was to point to the need for photographic documentation of rare bird sightings, regardless of the quality of the photo. Using his spotting scope, video camera, and digital camera, Mr. Roemer demonstrated the technique of merely holding the photographic equipment to the scope to produce acceptable photographic documentation of rare or unusual species.

The program concluded with an opportunity for members to sign a petition asking the United States government and the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to follow current law in dealing with the license request for the Thoroughbred Power Plant that is planned for possible construction in Muhlenberg County.

On Sunday morning, one field trip led by Lee McNeely left the hotel while a second trip led by David Roemer visited McElroy Lake in Warren County. Mr. McNeely's trip included visits to the Green River, the historic cave entrance, and the delightful area near the hotel. The second group traveled to the Warren County transient lake area in search of shorebirds and waterfowl. The local field trip concluded at about 11:00 a.m. and the McElroy trip concluded at about 12:00 p.m. officially closing the spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society for 2002.

During the meeting a total of 89 species was observed through Saturday. An additional 24 species were observed on Sunday bringing the grand total for the meeting to 113. All species on the meeting list for the spring of 2002 are listed later.

There were 71 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Bennett, Recording Secretary

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING 2002 KOS MEETING

Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Wood Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. The total number of species for Mammoth Cave and surrounding areas was 89.

A trip to McElroy Lake on April 28th added the following species: Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Laughing Gull, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, American Pipit, Savannah Sparrow. This brought the total number of species observed during the weekend to 113.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 2002

- ALEXANDRIA:** Ron and Mary Beth Lusby
BOWLING GREEN: Valerie Brown, Jeftie Carpenter, Dave Dunham, Tom Durbin,
Jackie and Diane Elmore, Blaine Ferrell, Kim Rainey, David and Joan Roemer,
Marvin and Nancy Russell, Herb Shadowen
BURLINGTON: Joe, Kathy and Joey Caminiti, Lee McNeely
CANEYVILLE: Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel
CARLISLE: Wendell and Ginny Kingsolver, Brian Myres
COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates
DANVILLE: Bill and Margaret Chase, Michael and JoAnn Hamm
ELIZABETHTOWN: Doug and Janet Gebler
FALLS OF ROUGH: Kathryn Clay, Joyce Porter, Doralee St. Clair
FRANKFORT: Amy Covert
GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary
LEXINGTON: Jim Williams, Scott Marsh, Rhonda Bryant
LOUISVILLE: Richard Cassell, Scott and Cheryl Jones, Mark Monroe, Darrin O'Brien,
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
MOREHEAD: Fred, Joanna and Katie Busroe
MORGANTOWN: Carroll and Doris Tichenor
MOUNT STERLING: Gerald Robe
MURRAY: Hap Chambers
OWENSBORO: Wendell and Marilee Thompson
PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell
PRINCETON: John and Phyllis Niemi
PROSPECT: Win Ahrens
RICHMOND: Gary Ritchison, Dr. and Mrs. Pete Thompson, Mark Vukovich
RUSSELLVILLE: Mark and Andrea Bennett
SCIENCE HILL: Roseanna Denton
SOUTH WILLIAMSON: Jim Carr, Les Estep
RAINBOW CITY, AL: Bettye Boyd
DAVIS, CA: Greg Schwab
MILAN, MI: Jeff Schultz
STAFFORD, ENGLAND: Frank Gribble

FIELD NOTES

First White-winged Dove Sighting in Kentucky

On April 14, 2002, my wife Kathy and I identified a White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*, in our back yard in Murray, Calloway County. The bird was present for the next four days, with the last sighting on April 18. It routinely fed on the ground under our feeders. It was fairly aggressive towards other birds. Often this bird called and since it was warm we had the windows open and could hear the very distinctive call quite plainly.

On the afternoon of April 20, I received a note by e-mail from Mr. Steve White, not the Murray State University professor, telling me that he had had a White-winged Dove at his feeders from April 17, 2002. I went to his home at 16441 US Route 68-E in Aurora, Marshall County, Kentucky, located directly across from the Lakeland Resort Motel and for one hour I observed this bird. It was indeed a White-winged Dove. Because this bird was spotted at his feeders on April 17, and since "my" bird was at my house all day on that date, I believe these are two different birds.

I have turned in proper forms for the Kentucky Bird Records Committee in that the bird at my house was a Kentucky first. David Roemer obtained several excellent images of the bird on April 16 as it sat in a tree in our back yard (see cover photo). ---CARL MOWERY, 1406 Vine Street, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Evidence of Breeding Pied-billed Grebes in a Restored Menifee County Wetland

Kentucky lost 81% of its wetland area between 1780 and 1980 (Dahl 1990). This habitat loss has resulted in declining populations of plants and animals dependent on wetlands for survival. Nearly half of the 800 species of migratory birds in the United States rely on wetlands to fulfill their life history requirements (Wharton *et al.* 1982). The Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF) covers more than 691,000 acres of land in eastern Kentucky. Wetlands are rare habitats within DBNF. To combat some of this loss of habitat in eastern Kentucky, the U.S. Forest Service, Morehead Ranger District, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations, has established over 100 wetland habitats on flood plains of the Licking River valley. The wetlands are designed to provide habitat for breeding and migratory waterfowl. However, the preponderance of the evidence is that most wetland restorations and construction efforts fail to replace the functions and values of the destroyed wetlands (Zeller 2000). Previous bird observations on these wetlands have found they were providing some value to birds (Haight and Reeder 1997), but extensive breeding of waterfowl had not been observed outside of birds using artificial structures (*i.e.*, nesting platforms and boxes).

On 9 June 2000 three hatchling Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) were observed at one of the wetlands in the Forest Service complex. The presence of naturally breeding birds suggests the wetlands are providing food, cover, and protection commensurate with

natural wetlands for this obligate wetland species. The wetland has an area of 0.6 ha, has an average depth of 0.5 m, and a maximum depth of 1.2 m. Cattails and rushes (*Typha latifolia* and *Juncus acuminatus*) ring the outer edge of about two-thirds of the marsh. About 10% of the wetland has a shallow flat dominated by moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), the rest is open water. We are hopeful that as these wetlands mature they will continue to increase the wetland bird populations in the region. --- MICHAEL E KENAWELL and BRIAN C. REEDER, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.

- Dahl, T. E. 1990. Wetlands losses in the United States 1780's to 1980's, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 21p.
- Haight, A. and B.C. Reeder. 1997. Avifauna use of constructed wetlands in the Cave Run Lake Area, *The Kentucky Warbler*, 73:24-27.
- Wharton, C.H., W.M. Kitchens, E.C. Pendleton, and T.W. Sipe. 1982. The ecology of bottomland hardwood swamps of the southeast: a community profile, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Services Program, FWS/OBS-87/37, 133pp.
- Zedler, J.B. 2000. Progress in wetland restoration ecology, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 15: 402-407.

SOME NOTES FROM THE 2001 BREEDING SEASON

During the summer of 2001, the authors made several noteworthy observations of breeding birds in the Shawnee Hills (Western Coal Field) region of Kentucky, details of which are included in the following notes.

On 7 June, we conducted a terrestrial survey of a tract of land in the Pennyrite State Forest next to Lake Beshear and along Copeland Bluff, in eastern Caldwell County. This tract of land is forested with relatively mature, closed-canopy deciduous woodland with Virginia Pines (*Pinus virginiana*) along the top of the bluff. Copeland Bluff, itself, is a massive sandstone cliff that extends for nearly a mile in total length and varies from 50-100 or more feet in height. In one of several coves along the cliff, we located *three* nests of Northern Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), all containing young. All three nests were within sight of one another in a U-shaped canyon created by the massive cliff, and all were situated within about 15 feet of the ground, thus near the base of the cliff. Because of the size of the cliff, which precluded any sizable trees from growing next to it, there was quite a large open area beneath the canopy of the towering trees nearby. This situation apparently made for an optimal nesting area. While nesting of Northern Rough-winged Swallows in natural situations has been previously documented in Kentucky (both on cliffs and dirt banks along streams), it was interesting to see a small colony present in a natural setting. Most Northern Rough-winged Swallows now nest in human structures such as bridges and along vertical rock walls of highway rights-of-way and quarries. Also notable at this same site was a colony of Big Brown Bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), a number of which were heard calling from behind a large slab of rock along the face of the cliff, approximately 60 feet above the ground. Similar to the swallows, this species largely has adapted to human structures for summer and maternity colony use, and it is quite unusual to find a colony of these bats in a natural situation.

On 22 June, we helped conduct an aerial survey of some western Kentucky heronries. One of the sites we checked was the known Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) colony adjacent to the Cypress Creek State Nature Preserve, northwest of Central City along Cypress Creek, about a mile north of KY 81, in Muhlenberg County. While circling over the site, we noted a pair of Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) with an approximately half-grown cygnet in their company. Subsequent to our flight, Mr. Wayne Rosso, who owns the portion of the swamp where we saw the swans, called the office of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission to report that a pair of swans had raised a young bird in the swamp during the summer. He reported having seen the adult birds there from January through the end of March, and he observed the cygnet on 23 June and photographed the family group on 3 July. Although there have been reports of captive and pinioned Mute Swans nesting in Kentucky, this appears to be the first report of the species nesting in a natural situation. It is unclear if this is a sign of things to come or just a random event.

During mid-June, we conducted surveys of several wetland areas, searching in particular for additional sites with nesting Least Bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Evidence of nesting was observed at several sites as follows. On 4 June, we heard a bird giving the species' descending "coo-coo-coo-coo" territorial call in a marsh dominated by reeds (*Phragmites communis*) along Clear Creek at Manitou-Richland Road several miles southwest of Madisonville, Hopkins County.

On 20 June, we conducted a canoe survey of an impoundment on the Sinclair WMA, just northeast of Drakesboro, in Muhlenberg County. This marsh has hosted breeding Least Bitterns in past years, including observations of an active nest in 1998 (Palmer-Ball, *KW* 74:86, 1998). During our visit, we located two bittern nests, one with an adult incubating a clutch of eggs and the other recently abandoned by at least two downy young that were observed in adjacent cattails (*Typha latifolia*). In addition to the bitterns, we observed two (a pair?) of Common Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) in the marsh.

On 21 June, we observed one adult Least Bittern and heard it giving territorial calls along Weirs Creek, downstream of KY 109, in western Hopkins County. Although no further evidence of nesting was obtained, this area contains numerous patches of cattails and looks excellent for the presence of a small breeding population.

Also on 21 June, we heard two Least Bitterns calling and observed a young bird, still retaining some down in the crown, in patches of reeds along the southeastern margin of the large, open-water lake in the Flat Creek Bottoms on the White City WMA, in southeastern Hopkins County. A thunderstorm forced us off the lake before we were able to complete a circuit of the area, but again, the habitat at this site appeared to be quite suitable to support a small breeding population.

On 10 July, we heard a Least Bittern giving territorial calls from a large marsh of reeds on the Camp #11 Mine, Union County. It is very possible that by this date the individual could have represented a migrant, but the fact that it was calling led us to believe that nesting at the site was possible.

The results of the surveys of these marshes indicate that Least Bitterns appear to be receptive to nesting in at least some marshes dominated by reeds rather than cattails (*Typha* spp.). A predominance of *Phragmites communis* in wetlands of this region often signals the presence of water quality problems (e.g., elevated levels of iron and other metals causing a low pH); such a situation may result in reduced levels of invertebrate and fish populations, which serve as prey for the

bitterns. However, it is apparent from our observations that there must be enough food to support Least Bitterns, at least in small numbers, in these systems of impaired water quality.

Finally, on 19 July, we noted a probable colony of breeding Sedge Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*) in an extensive growth of thick grasses on the Rockford Road Moist Soils Unit of the Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit of Sloughs WMA. This site is approximately three miles northeast of Uniontown, in Union County. At least four males were singing in the stand of grass, most of which was barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crusgalli*). This is a first summer and probable breeding record for Union County.—**BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.**, Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601, and **PAUL R. MOOSMAN, JR.**, 331 Funchess Hall, Department of Biology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849.

A Study of Barn Owl Pellets Found at a Boone County Nest Site

An examination of 23 owl pellets collected by Lee McNeely in August 2000 at a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) nest site near Burlington, Kentucky yielded remains of 42 voles (*Microtus sp.*), 5 short-tailed shrews (*Blarina brevicauda*) and one house mouse (*Mus musculus*) (Table 1). Most of the vole skulls had 5 clearly defined dentine islands in all three upper molars, which identified them as meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). I believe that all the voles were meadow voles, but several juveniles had less clearly defined dentine islands, making identification to species doubtful in these cases.

Table 1. Analysis of Barn Owl pellets for prey species.

Prey species	% of Pellets Containing Prey Remains	Number of Individuals	%Composition of Prey Species
Vole			
<i>Microtus sp.</i>	100%	42	87.5%
Short-tailed shrew			
<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	13%	5	10.4%
House mouse			
<i>Mus musculus</i>	4.3%	1	2.1%
Total		48	100%

The results of this study are similar to other studies of Barn Owl food habits in that voles are the main food item. For instance, 22 Barn Owl pellets collected in Superior Township, Michigan in 1942 by John and Frank Craighead contained 40 prey individuals consisting of 70% meadow voles and 30% white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*). The lack of any white-footed mice in the Boone County sample may indicate that this hunting territory was too frequently clipped to allow for much seed production. Seeds are the preferred food of white-footed mice, while voles prefer grass shoots and other fresh vegetation (Barbour 1974). This

inference is only speculative, though from Lee's description of the area it might be close to the mark. The semirural farmstead where the nest was found is close to a busy highway and shopping area and the Greater Cincinnati Airport is approximately one mile away, with broad noise buffer areas of closely mowed grass. No study of small mammal populations was conducted near the nest site, however, nor was it determined exactly where these owls hunted.

It would have been necessary to do a companion study of small mammal populations in the owls' hunting territory as was done in a study of Long-eared and Short-eared owl food habits (Machniak and Elliott, *Ky. Warbler* 73: 58-65) to draw any conclusions as to whether these prey items were chosen in an opportunistic or selective manner. This study merely adds one more small piece to an ongoing puzzle. ---FRANK LYNE, 7792 Watermelon Road, Adairville, Kentucky 42202.

Identification References:

The Wild Mammals of Missouri, Charles W. and Elizabeth R. Schwartz, University of Missouri Press and Missouri Conservation Commission, 1959.

Mammals of Indiana, Russell E. Mumford and John O. Whitaker, Bloomington Indiana University Press, 1982.

The Mammals of Virginia, Donald W. Linzey, Internet, 1998.

Literature Cited:

Craighead, J. J. and F.C. Craighead. 1969. Hawks, Owls and Wildlife, Dover Publications, Inc.

Machniak, A. and C. Elliott. 1997. Comparison of Long-eared and Short-eared owl winter food habits on a reclaimed stripmine in Western Kentucky, *The Ky. Warbler*, 73: 58-65.

Barbour, R.W. and W.H. Davis. 1974. Mammals of Kentucky, University of Kentucky Press.

Acknowledgements:

Lee McNeely - for sending me the owl pellets.

Brainard Palmer-Ball - for confirming my short-tailed shrew identification.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

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, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, 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.