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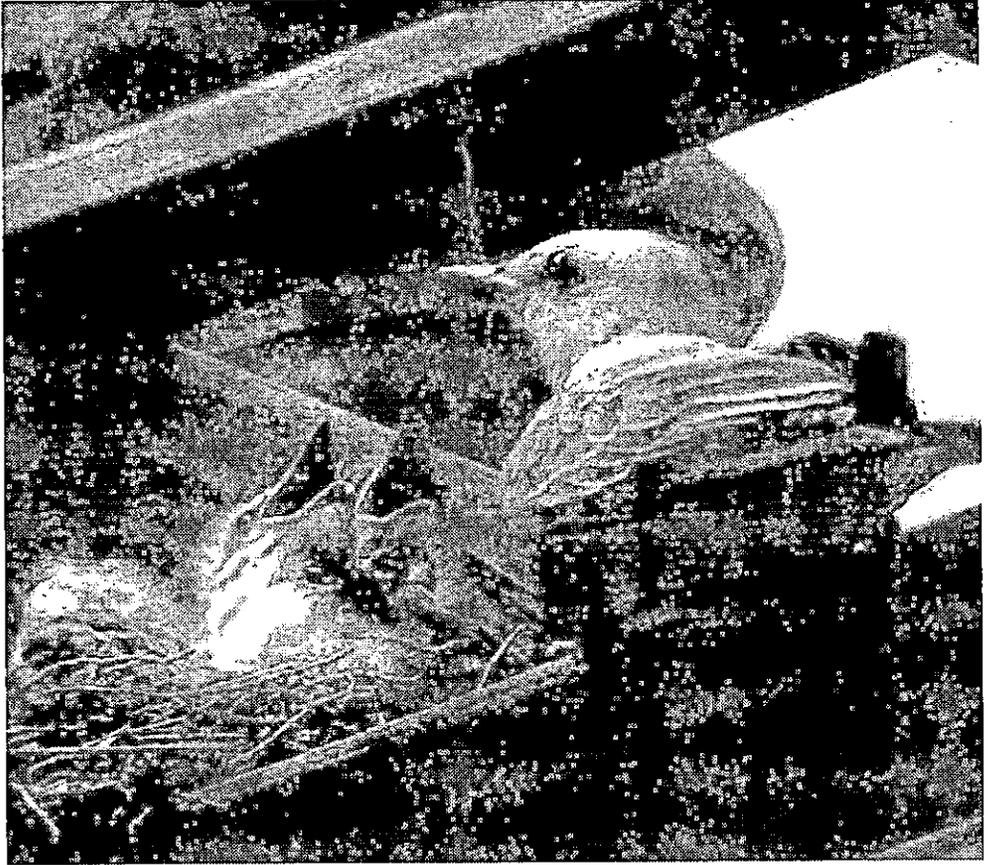
The Kentucky Warbler

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE NESTING SEASON , JUNE-JULY 2002, Fred Busroe	59
KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2001 FALL MEETING, Mark Bennett	68
TREASURER'S REPORT, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.	71
FIELD NOTES	72
NEWS AND VIEWS	76

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank David Roemer for the cover photograph of young Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Tyrannus forficatus*) being fed near Grand Rivers, southern Livingston County, June 19 (see Nesting Season report).

THE NESTING SEASON, JUNE-JULY 2002

Fred M. Busroe

Precipitation during the season was below normal with much of the state experiencing mild to moderate drought conditions. This summer was the fourth warmest on record with a record number of days with temperatures over 90° F. The hot humid conditions undoubtedly had an effect on birding activity.

Most noteworthy among the reports for this period were the first documented nesting records for two species: Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Livingston and Lyon counties, and Snowy Egret in Lyon County. Also, the rediscovery of nesting Double-crested Cormorants and only the second documented successful nesting of American Coots were reported from Calloway and Union counties, respectively. More information was gained concerning current nesting status of the Bachman's Sparrow in southwestern Kentucky and continued nesting activity of Red-breasted Nuthatches was documented in the Red River Gorge, Wolfe County.

Abbreviations – KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Ano = Ano surface mine, Pulaski County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon counties; Bar = Barren River Lake, Barren County; Bee = Bee Rock Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Pulaski County; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson counties; Blo = Blood River Embayment of Kentucky Lake, Calloway County; Bro = Brown Power Plant, Dix Dam, Mercer County; BSF = Big South Fork National Recreational Area, McCreary County; Cal = Calloway County; Cam = Campbell County; Camp #11 = Camp #11 Mine, near Morganfield, Union County; Cas = Casey County; Cha = Chaney Lake, Warren County; Cree = Creelsboro, Russell County; Doe = Doe Run Lake/Park, Kenton County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County; Ful = Fulton County; Glas = Glasgow, Barren County; Gray = Grayson County; Hard = Hardin County; Hick = Hickman, Fulton County; I#8 = Island # 8 Slough, Fulton County; JMF = Jefferson County Memorial Forest, Jefferson County; KyBend = Kentucky Bend, Fulton County; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/ Marshall counties; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Livingston/Marshall counties; L#9 = Lake # 9, Fulton County; LCum = Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County; LL = Little Lick Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Pulaski County; Liv = Livingston County; LRL = Laurel River Lake, Laurel County; Long = Long Point Unit of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; McC = McCreary County; McL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; Mars = Marshall County; Mel = Melbourne, Campbell County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mor = Morgan's Pond, Christian County; More = Morehead, Rowan County; MtZ = Mt. Zion, Pulaski County; Open = Open Pond, Fulton County; Paradise = TVA Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Pul = Pulaski County; Pum = Pumphouse Pond, Pulaski County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio counties; Red = Red River Gorge, Powell/Wolfe counties; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; SWMA = Sloughs WMA, Henderson/Union counties; WYC = Watertown Yacht Club, Campbell County; Wal = Walton's Pond, Warren County; Wil = Willow Pond, Fulton County.

Common Loon – 1 to 2 birds may have summered at three locations as indicated by the following observations: 2 birds on LRL about June 13-19 (fide SK) and probably the same 2 birds there again on July 25 (DS); 1 bird on the Ohio River above J.T. Meyers Dam, Union Co., during June (fide RM); and 1 bird below Bark on June 21 (SM).

Pied-billed Grebe – The species was present until mid-June and may have nested at Cha (DR); an adult was at I#8 on June 22 (DR); 1 bird on June 23 at L#9 (KL, BL); 2 pairs were observed with young (1 nearly grown juvenile with one pair, 3 half-grown juveniles with the other – the latter young assisting in building or refurbishing a nest) at Sauerheber on July 1 (DR) confirming nesting in that county for the first time; adult birds (early migrants?) were present at Mor on July 5 (BPB, MM) and on a small pond at MtZ on July 11 (RD); others assumed to be early migrants were observed at several locations during the latter half of July (m. ob.) including 1 adult and 1 immature on July 27 at L#9 (HC).

Double-crested Cormorant – Quite noteworthy was the rediscovery of this species nesting in the state (last reported in the early 1950s) — 14 nests containing young were first observed June 25 (DR, JTE) and photographed on July 6 (BPB, AC) and July 7 (HC) on an island in southern KyLake, Calloway County. However, it was subsequently learned that birds had been nesting at this location since 2000, with likely fewer nests present in both 2000 and 2001 (PR, TY). Also reported was 1 bird at Bro on July 28 (RD).

American White Pelican – A probable group of 18 birds was seen from a great distance circling north over the PWMA, Ohio/Muhlenberg counties on June 7 (MM, MV); a group of approximately 120 individuals was observed loafing on a sandbar upstream from Hick on July 15 (BPB, PB).

Great Blue Heron – Nesting season appeared to be generally successful from most accounts. The following miscellaneous observations were reported: 1 bird on June 9 in Gray (JP); 17 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 1 on June 22 in Hard and 46 at the Falls on July 14 (DO); 9 on June 23 at L#9 (KL, BL); 6 on July 6 at LCum (RD).

Great Egret – Breeding was observed in several heronries as follows: at least one active nest on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, Lyon County, on June 14 (BPB); at least two active nests on the Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit of SWMA, Union County, on July 15 (BPB); three or four active nests on Middle Bar, Hickman County, on July 15 (BPB, PB); probably 50+ active nests near the confluence of Bayou de Chien and Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton County, on July 15 (BPB, PB). Post-breeding dispersal was in evidence by early July with 10 birds at Mor on July 5 (BPB, MM) and small numbers were quite widespread by mid-July (m. ob.); largest post-breeding concentration reported was more than 700 birds at I#8 on July 22 (DR); also reported were 15 birds on June 21 at KyBend and 99 birds on June 24 at Open (KL, NM); 35 birds on June 30 in Ful (HC); 1 bird on July 20 at PWMA, Muhlenberg County (HC, RD, ME); and single birds on July 28 at Bro and on July 26 and 29 at Fishing Creek, LCum (RD).

Snowy Egret – Nesting has been considered likely at the Lake Barkley heronry near Kuttawa, Lyon County, for several years, but active nests (at least five) were observed on June 14 confirming nesting of this species in KY for the first time (BPB). Also, two birds were reported on June 30 in Ful (HC).

- Little Blue Heron** – At least 10-12 active nests were observed (but probably twice that number were actually present) at the heronry on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, Lyon County, on June 14 (BPB); a vagrant adult was observed near South Williamson, Pike County, in mid-July for a rare far eastern KY record (LE).
- Cattle Egret** – At least 200 (perhaps 300+) active nests were present at the heronry on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, Lyon County, on June 14 (BPB); additional active nests (ca. 50 and ca. 35) were located on two islands above Bark on July 6 (BPB, AC); 1 wandering individual was at Mor on July 5 (BPB, MM) and July 7 (DR).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** – A total of 200+ active nests were spread about three islands on northern Lake Barkley, one near Kuttawa and two above the dam, Lyon County, on June 14/July 6 (BPB, AC); a count of 140 birds feeding and loafing below Bark on July 7 was rather impressive (BPB); peak count of feeding/loafing birds at the Falls was 104 birds on July 14 (DO).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – An adult was observed at the Falls on June 15 (BPB); 2 adults (ferrying food to nearby woods) and a juvenile were observed at Sauerheber on July 18 (DR, TD).
- Least Bittern** – 6 birds were observed in a marsh on the Sinclair Unit of PWMA, Muhlenberg County, on July 20 (HC, RD, ME).
- Mute Swan** – A pair of adults without young was observed on July 15 in a swamp along Cypress Creek NW of Central City, Muhlenberg County, where they nested in 2001 (BPB).
- Wood Duck** – 20 birds on July 26 at Pum (RD); 72 on July 27 at L#9 (HC).
- Blue-winged Teal** – Small numbers bred successfully at McL and Cha (one brood on June 30 at McL and two broods on June 21 at Cha) and at Mor (two broods on July 7) (DR); nesting also was suspected at several locations in western Ful in June (DR, HC), especially at Open, where 17 birds (perhaps including young) were observed on June 24 (KL, NM); a few birds summered but nesting was not confirmed at Camp#11 (BPB).
- Canvasback** – A female that was capable of flight was present at Mor from June 27 (BPB, BM) to July 15 (DR).
- Ring-necked Duck** – A drake (perhaps injured?) summered at Camp#11 (BPB); another was observed at Mor June 28 - July 15 (DR).
- Lesser Scaup** – Again this year, a few birds (probably injured) lingered on Lake Barkley between the dam and Eddyville, Lyon County (m. ob.); also this summer, 1 to 2 birds (known to be or likely injured) were observed on KyLake above the dam (m. ob.), at Blo (HC), and on the Jonathan Creek embayment of KyLake, Marshall County (ME).
- Hooded Merganser** – Several broods of young were observed on flooded back water areas along the levee in the lower Hickman bottoms, Fulton County, on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); 1 to 3 birds were observed at a few other locations in central and western Kentucky without substantive evidence of nesting; these included 2 birds at Mor on June 27 (BPB, BM) and 3 birds on July 4 at gravel pit near Pet and 2 birds on July 20 at EBP (LMc).
- Ruddy Duck** – For some reason, a relatively conspicuous late spring movement or lingering event occurred with birds present at several locations well into summer — 3 males were on flooded backwater areas along the levee in the lower Hickman bottoms on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); 4 were at McL on June 1/3 with 2 still there on June 4 (DR); a pair was still present at Mor on June 4 (DR), but a

dozen were there on June 19 (DR) and 4 still there on June 28 (DR); at least 1 drake lingered at Camp#11 and was last observed there on July 22 (BPB).

Mississippi Kite – Birds were observed in traditional summering areas as follows: 3 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 1 on June 22 in Mar (DR); 3 on June 30 in Ful (HC); and 1 on July 27 at Long (HC). More interesting, however, were the follow reports of extralimital birds outside of known breeding areas: adult and first-year birds were observed off and on all summer on the Sinclair Unit of PWMA, Muhlenberg County, as follows: 1 adult on May 14 (MM, MV); 1 adult on June 8 (MM, MV); 2 adults and 1 unaged bird on June 17 (MM, MV); 1 adult on June 25 (MM, MV); 2 adults on July 20 (HC, RD, ME); and 6 birds (4 adults, 2 first-year birds) were observed perched in a single tree on July 24 (BPB); also, a first-year bird was seen at Sauerheber on July 18 (DR, TD).

Osprey – The traditional pair on the Ohio River near Bayou, Liv, was present at the nest on June 14 (BPB); a new location for nesting and the easternmost record for the state was confirmed in July along Clear Creek, western Hopkins County, on June 26/27 (ND, JCI, ME, HW); relatively unusual for mid-summer was a bird at the Falls on July 14 (DO); a bird at MCFH on July 28 may have been a summering non-breeder or early migrant (GR).

Northern Harrier – An ongoing raptor study on the PWMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio counties detected the presence of NO LESS than 26 nests during May-July (MV, MM).

Bald Eagle – Apparently a generally successful nesting season; a pair returned to and nested successfully at LRL, where a pair had attempted nesting in the mid-1990s without success (fide SK); also, 1 adult on July 22 at MCFH (FB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1 bird on July 28 at JMF (DO).

Cooper's Hawk – 1 bird on June 15 at Doe and 2 on July 7 at Red (FR); 1 on July 16 in Jefferson County (DO); an active nest was watched during the season at MtZ, with an adult incubating on April 15 and 4 large young in the nest on July 7 (RD).

Red-shouldered Hawk – 5 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 2 on June 23 at Bern (DO); 2 on July 6 at LCum (RD); 1 on July 29 at Blo (HC).

Broad-winged Hawk – 3 birds on June 2 at Bern (DO); 3 on June 2 in Cas (RD); 1 on July 7 at Red (FR).

Red-tailed Hawk – 1 bird on June 15 at Bern (DO); an adult feeding a juvenile on June 18 in Cam (FR); 3 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 2 on June 30 in Ful (HC); 4 on July 19 at MtZ (RD); 2 on July 27 at L#9 (HC).

American Kestrel – 20 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM).

Peregrine Falcon – 5 pairs of nesting birds are now present along the Ohio River between Lou and Ashland (on bridges and power plants) with the addition of a new pair on a bridge at Milton, Trimble County, this year (JCs).

American Coot – A few birds lingered at several locations in central and western portions of the state into June and July (m. ob.); these reports included 6 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); nesting was documented in the state for the first time since 1968 when at least several pairs with young chicks were observed at Camp#11 on May 29 and continued into July (BPB).

Black-bellied Plover – Last observed June 1/3 at McL (DR) and on June 19 at Mor (DR); the latter establishes a new late spring departure date for the state.

American Golden-Plover – An early fall migrant (molting adult) was present at Mor on July 5 (BPB, MM) and July 7 (DR).

Semipalmated Plover – Lingered spring migrants were last observed as follows:

20 birds in the lower Hickman bottoms, Fulton County, on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); 30+ birds at McL on June 3 (DR); 1 bird on a pond at MtZ on June 3 (RD); a few birds at Mor on June 4 (DR); it is unclear if 2 birds at Open on June 22 (DR) were lingering spring migrants, non-breeding visitors, or early fall migrants? Obviously returning fall birds included 1 at Wil on July 20 (KL, NM), 4 on July 29 at Blo (HC) and 1 on July 29 at LCum WMA (RD).

Black-necked Stilt – At least 2 pairs attempted to nest at Open in mid-June (2 birds incubating, 5 adults observed, third nest possible on June 22 (DR)), but water dried up there soon thereafter and the nesting was considered unsuccessful (DR, HC); an amazing count of 37 birds at Open on 24 June established a new state high count for the species (KL, NM); 1 bird was at McL on June 1 (DR), but 3 birds were there on June 2 (TD) with 2 lingering to June 4 (DR).

Willet – Probably an early returning fall bird was observed and photographed at Open on June 22 (DR).

Greater Yellowlegs – Last lingering spring migrants (single birds) were observed on June 1 at Wal and June 3 at McL (DR). First returning fall birds (singles) were observed on July 20 at Paradise (HC, RD, ME), on July 28 at Bro (RD) and on July 29 at Blo (HC).

Lesser Yellowlegs – Likely first fall migrant was observed at Open on June 22 (DR); 50+ were at Camp#11 on July 22 (BPB); also reported were 2 birds on July 29 at Blo (HC) and 1 on July 29 at LCum (RD).

Spotted Sandpiper – A probable nesting record for a pond at MtZ was documented by the following observations: 1 bird there in latter May and on June 1 and 5; 4 juveniles still with some down on July 2, and 2 birds there on July 11 (RD). Another suspicious report was of a bird exhibiting territorial behavior at Mor on June 27 (BPB, BM). Reports of returning fall migrants included 1 bird on July 14 at the Falls (DO) and 10 birds on July 26 at LCum WMA (RD).

Solitary Sandpiper – 2 birds on July 26 at AJJ (FR); 1 on July 29 at MtZ (RD).

Least Sandpiper – 75 returning fall migrants were already at Mor on July 15 (DR); at least 145 birds were at Camp#11 by July 22 (BPB). Also reported were 7 birds on July 20 at Paradise (HC, RD, ME); 3 on July 20 at Wil (KL, NM); 2 on July 25 at MtZ (RD); 3 on July 26 at AJJ (FR); 2 on July 27 at Wil and 8 at Blo on July 29 (HC).

Western Sandpiper – First reported fall migrants were observed near Long on July 22 (3 birds) (DR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Lingering spring migrants were last observed as follows: 100 birds in the lower Hickman bottoms, Fulton County, on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); 100+ at McL on June 3 (DR); a few at Mor on June 4 (DR); 1 on June 7 at MtZ (RD); 26 on June 11 and 23 on June 13 at MCFH (FB); 10 on June 13 at Camp#11 (BPB); 3 at Cha on June 16 (DR); and 27 on June 24 at Open (KL, NM). Returning fall birds were reported as follows: 20 on July 20 at Wil (KL, NM); 4 on July 29 at Blo (HC); and 3 on July 29 at LCum (RD).

White-rumped Sandpiper – Lingering spring migrants were last observed as follows: ca. 8 birds in the lower Hickman bottoms, Fulton County, on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); 40+ at McL on June 3 (DR); 2 on a pond near MtZ on June 3-4 with 1 still there on June 7 (RD); a few at Mor on June 4 (DR); 18 at Camp#11 on June 13 (BPB); and 2 at Mor on June 19 (DR).

Pectoral Sandpiper – Likely first fall migrant was 1 bird at Open on June 22 (DR); 30 were at Mor on July 15 (DR); 60+ were at Camp#11 on July 22 (BPB); 150+ were near Long on July 22 (DR). Also reported as follows — 12 birds on

- July 20 at Paradise (HC, RD, ME); 1 on July 26 at AJJ (FR); 35 on July 29 at Blo (HC); and 28 on July 29 at LCum (RD).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – First reported on July 15 at Mor (DR); relatively impressive early fall counts of 26 birds observed at Camp#11 (BPB) and 15 birds near Long (DR), both on July 22.
- Short-billed Dowitcher** – Last spring migrants were birds of the eastern race, *L. g. griseus* and were observed as follows: 1 bird at Wal on June 1 (DR) and 2 birds at McL on June 1-2 (DR, TD). Returning fall migrants (3 birds) were observed on July 29 at Blo (HC).
- Laughing Gull** – An adult bird was perched on an island in Lake Barkley above the dam, Lyon County, on July 6 (BPB, AC).
- Bonaparte's Gull** – An adult in alternate plumage was observed on Bar, Allen/Barren counties on June 24 (DR) for a very rare summer record.
- Ring-billed Gull** – An obvious influx of adult birds occurred in early to mid-July with numbers appearing on rivers and lakes across the western part of the state; 7 birds at the Falls on July 14 were likely part of this movement rather than summering birds (DO); a count of 75 birds on KyLake, Calloway County, was rather impressive for July 7 (HC); with ca. 250 at KyDam, and 200 on the Ohio River below Smithland Dam, Liv, by July 22 (DR).
- Caspian Tern** – A few birds lingered in the vicinity of KyDam into early June (BPB, MM, MV); other possible summering birds (5 to 6 individuals) were observed on KyLake, Calloway County, on June 25 (DR, JTE); likely early fall arrivals were observed on Lake Barkley above the dam, Lyon County, on July 6 (BPB, AC) on the lower Ohio River, Liv, July 7 (BPB, AC) and on KyLake, Calloway Co. – same location as June 25 report – on July 7 (17 birds) (HC).
- Forster's Tern** – At least 6 first-year birds were still at KyDam on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV); a few birds possibly summered or returned rather early as follows: 1 bird on KyLake, Calloway County, on June 25 (DR, JTE); 2 at the same location on June 28 (DR, JTE) and 1 at the same location on July 7 (HC); an adult in alternate plumage was observed on a pond near Woodburn, Warren County, on June 28 (DR); a bird on the Ohio River below Smithland Dam, Liv, on July 7 was more likely an early fall migrant (BPB, AC).
- Common Tern** – At least 6 adult birds were still at KyDam on June 1 (BPB, MM, MV).
- Black Tern** – 5 birds were at Paradise on July 28 (MBt, DR); 4 birds were on LCum on July 29 (RD).
- Least Tern** – As of early August, Least Terns were having a better year of it than in 2001, especially on the lower Ohio River (where nesting was completely unsuccessful in 2001); mid-July surveys of four sites on the lower Ohio by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources detected more than 70 active nests, most at one site in Liv between Ledbetter and Smithland where fresh dredge spoil had been placed in the river in June; this site lies JUST outside of KY waters in adjacent Pope County, IL. (PB, *et al.*). Reports of birds at or near traditional Mississippi River breeding areas included 5 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 6 birds on June 23 at L#9 (KL, BL); 4 birds on June 30 in Ful (HC); and 3 birds at Wil and 6 birds at L#9 on July 20 (KL, NM).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** – The most disjunct new reports this summer were from northwestern Shelby County (LL), northwestern Harrison County (EC), and Glas (DR), all in mid-July.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – 1 bird on June 2 at Bern (DO); 1 on June 9 at SC (JP); 41

- on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 6 on July 6 at LCum (RD).
- Eastern Screech-Owl** – 1 bird on July 27 at LL (RD).
- Great Horned Owl** – 1 bird on June 3 at SC (JP).
- Barred Owl** – 2 birds on June 1 at Bee (RD); 1 on June 22 in Gray (DO); 2 on July 29 at Blo (HC).
- Common Nighthawk** – 1 bird on July 20 at PWMA (HC, RD, ME).
- Chuck-will's-widow** – 1 bird on June 3 at SC (JP).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** – At least 6 birds on June 15 at Bern (DO); 10 on July 6 at LCum (RD).
- Acadian Flycatcher** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 18 on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Willow Flycatcher** – 1 bird on June 9 in Gray (JP); 2 on June 14 near City Park in More (FB); 2 on July 6 at WYC (FR); 1 showing territorial behavior on July 13 in Breck (DR); one territorial adult on 16 July in Henry County (DR); and 2 including a territorial male on July 18 at Sauerheber (DR).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – One of the more eventful occurrences for the Kentucky summer season was the discovery of two different nests within about two miles of one another in the western part of the state. A bird was first seen at what turned out to be the eventual nest site #1 near Grand Rivers in southern Liv in May and independently observed and photographed on June 1 (RR); the presence of the bird was first circulated on the BIRDKY listserve based on a report on June 16 (JQ); the nest was discovered on June 17 (DR); 5 young fledged within a week or so and the family group was last reported on July 7 (JE); interestingly, a second male bird was observed near the nest on June 17 (MM, MBt, HC, MV). A second pair (possibly involving the female from the first nesting and the "second" male) was discovered about two miles away on June 29 below Bark (CP, HC); this pair was attending a nest some 100+ feet above the ground on a tall powerline tower on July 6 (BPB, AC); 3 young fledged from this nest during the first few days of August (m. ob.). In addition to these birds, single adults were reported from Land Between the Lakes, Trigg County, on June 18 (AW) and in northeastern rural Shelby County on June 19 (CM, HB—photos).
- Loggerhead Shrike** – 2 birds on June 8 in Pul (RD); 2 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 2 on July 27 at L#9 (HC).
- White-eyed Vireo** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 2 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 16 on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Bell's Vireo** – 1 bird showing territorial behavior June 17 – 22 near Grand Rivers in southern Liv (DR); 1 on July 20 at PWMA (HC, RD, ME).
- Blue-headed Vireo** – Unusual for central Kentucky was a singing male at Bern, Bullitt County, on June 8 (BPB) and June 16 (DO); 4 birds, with 1 observed on a nest, at LL on June 1 (RD, *et al.*); 1 adult and 1 juvenile on June 25 at LL and 2 on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 1 on June 15 at Doe and 1 on June 19 at Mel (FR).
- Warbling Vireo** – 2 birds on June 8 in Pul (RD); 3 on July 6 at WYC (FR).
- Horned Lark** – 1 juvenile on June 3 at MtZ (RD); 28 on June 21 at KyBend and 67 on June 24 at Open (KL, NM).
- Purple Martin** – 50 birds on June 1 in Pul (RD); 6 on July 20 in Gray (JP).
- Tree Swallow** – 9 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 2 on June 22 in Hard (DO); 5 on July 6 at LCum (RD); 100+ on July 27 at L#9 and 50 on July 29 at Blo (HC).

- Bank Swallow** – Several colonies were thriving on the Ohio River between Ledbetter and Smithland, Liv, on July 7 (BPB, AC).
- Barn Swallow** – Ca. 100 birds on July 29 at Cree (RD).
- Cliff Swallow** – A colony with 10–12 active nests was observed on June 1 near Monterey, Owen County, for a new county nesting record (LMc); 75 on June 9 in Gray (JP); 1 on June 23 in Lou (DO); a total of 36 on June 30 in Pul and 200 on July 21 at Cree (RD); numerous active nests were observed on the US 51 bridge between Wickliffe and the Ohio River, Ballard County, in mid-July for a new county nesting record (MG, JM).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – 5 birds including a pair and a juvenile were observed at the now traditional nesting area in Red River Gorge, Wolfe County, on July 7 (FR).
- Bewick's Wren** – Single singing males were heard on two BBS routes in June as follows: 1 ca. 2.0 mi NW of Spurlington in northern Taylor County on June 9 (BPB) and 1 ca. 3.4 mi S of Mackville in western Washington County on June 20 (BPB); the pair that was present near Mount Sterling, Scott County, in May successfully raised young and the male was last heard there in mid-June (LB).
- Cedar Waxwing** – 1 bird on a nest on June 29 in Pul (RD); 2 on July 20 at SC (JP).
- Blue-winged Warbler** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO).
- Northern Parula** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 1 on June 1 at Mel and 3 on June 9 at BSF (FR); 21 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 11 on June 29 at Bee and 11 on July 6 at LCum (RD); 5 on July 2 at Mel and 2 at Red on July 7 (FR).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** – A late departing spring migrant or summer vagrant female was observed at Lou on June 16 (MS).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** – 1 bird on June 9 at BSF (FR); 14 on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Yellow-throated Warbler** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 3 on June 7 at Red and 2 on June 19 at Mel (FR).
- Pine Warbler** – 2 birds on June 1 at Bern (DO); 6 on July 1 at LL (RD); 3 on July 7 at Red (FR).
- Prairie Warbler** – 1 bird on June 1 at Bern (DO); 10 on June 30 at Ano (RD).
- Cerulean Warbler** – 2 birds on June 1 at LL (RD).
- Black-and-White Warbler** – 2 birds on June 1 at Bern (DO); 8 on June 29 at Bee (RD); 2 on July 7 at Red (FR).
- Prothonotary Warbler** – 5 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 15 on July 6 at LCum (RD).
- Worm-eating Warbler** – 13 birds on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Swainson's Warbler** – Probable breeding birds were reported from some traditional sites in the Daniel Boone National Forest with 4 birds at LL on June 29 (RD) and 1 bird at Red on July 7 (FR). Five birds were still heard singing and one carrying food at LL on July 27 (RD); a bird at Carter Caves State Park, Carter County, on June 29 was north of previously documented breeding range in eastern Kentucky (SM).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – 2 birds on June 2 at Bern (DO); 2 on June 4 at MtZ (RD).
- Kentucky Warbler** – 1 bird on June 9 in Gray (JP); 3 on June 15 at Bern (DO); 2 adults and 1 juvenile on July 30 at MtZ (RD).
- Hooded Warbler** – 2 birds on June 15 at Bern (DO); 35 on June 29 at Bee (RD).
- Yellow-breasted Chat** – 1 bird on June 9 in Gray (JP); 2 on June 15 at Bern (DO); 2 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 6 on June 25 at LL (RD).

- Summer Tanager** – 2 birds on June 15 at Bern (DO); 2 on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 3 on June 28 at MtZ (RD); 2 on July 6 at Mel (FR).
- Scarlet Tanager** – 5 birds on June 15 at Bern (DO); 7 with a female carrying food on June 29 at Bee (RD); 3 on July 6 at Mel (FR).
- Bachman's Sparrow** – More work was done with the Fort Campbell, TN-KY population this year; 18 birds were banded as part of research work being conducted there by D. Moss and J. Giocomo. At least one active nest was found in the TN portion of the Reservation. A single bird was reported from rural Calloway County between New Concord and Hamlin on June 28 (DR) near where the species was observed in the late 1980s.
- Grasshopper Sparrow** – 2 birds on June 23 in Nelson County (DO); 1 on June 25 in McC, 17 on June 30 at Ano, and 2 on July 25 at MtZ (RD).
- Lark Sparrow** – Probable and confirmed nesting birds were reported at two locations within the Kentucky portion of Ft. Campbell, Trigg County, in June and early July (DM, JG).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – Probable breeding birds continue to be reported in decent numbers at a variety of locations scattered across central and western portions of the state; among these reports were several birds that were heard in a field in northern Jessamine County in late June, which would represent a new county nesting record if confirmed (MBn). Also reported were 1 bird on July 2 at MtZ and 1 bird on July 14 at Ano (RD).
- Song Sparrow** – 6 birds with an adult on a nest with four eggs on July 4 at MtZ (RD).
- Blue Grosbeak** – 1 bird on June 5 in Gray (JP); 5 on June 18 along the AA Highway, Cam (FR); 3+ on June 22 in Hard (DO).
- Dickcissel** – 6 birds on June 21 at KyBend (KL, NM); 5+ on June 22 in Hard (DO); 6 on July 20 at Wil (KL, NM).
- Bobolink** – Birds were again nesting in northern Jessamine Co. on a farm where they have been present for several years (MBn).

Observers: Pat Brandon (PB); Laura Burford (LB); Mark Bennett (MBt); Horace Brown (HB); Mike Burns (MBn); Fred Busroe (FB); Jessica Call (JCl); John Castrale (JCs); Hap Chambers (HC); Elizabeth Chesna (EC); Amy Covert (AC); Roseanna Denton (RD); Nick Drozda (ND); Tom Durbin (TD); Melissa Easley (ME); Jackie Elmore (JE); Joe Tom Erwin (JTE); Les Estep (LE); Marc Evans (ME); Jim Giocomo (JG); Mark Gumbert (MG); Steve Kistler (SK); Lee Lafferty (LL); Betty Leggett (BL); Ken Leggett (KL); John MacGregor (JM); Scott Marsh (SM); Lee McNeely (LMc); Mark Monroe (MM); Calvin Montfort (CM); Bill Moore (BM); Nancy Moore (NM); Robert Morton (RM); Daniel Moss (DM); Darrin O'Brien (DO); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB); Clell Peterson (CP); Joyce Porter (JP); Jamie Quinn (JQ); Scott Record (SR); Frank Renfrow (FR); Paul Rister (PR); Gerald Robe (GR); David Roemer (DR); Robert Rowe (RR); David Skinner (DS); Matt Stickel (MS); Mark Vukovich (MV); Heather Weese (HW); Alan Whited (AW); Terry Yarbrough (TY).

**Kentucky Ornithological Society
2002 Fall Meeting
September 27 through 29, 2002
Natural Bridge State Resort Park**

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held September 27 through September 29 at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. President Kathy Caminiti called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EDT on the evening of the September 27. Immediately following the call to order, Vice-president Hap Chambers introduced the speakers for the evening.

The first speaker was David Roemer of Bowling Green. Mr. Roemer used PowerPoint to present "Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Selected Other Kentucky Birds". Digital photographs of the recent nesting occurrence of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in southern Livingston County near Grand Rivers were the highlight of the program. Photographs of the adult birds, the nest, fledglings, and general activity of the birds were presented. Other uncommon and common species observed recently in Kentucky were included in the program including Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, Bobolink, Baird's Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher.

The second speaker for the evening was Lee McNeely of Burlington. Mr. McNeely's topic was "Birding Ethics". Using slides, Mr. McNeely took attendees to a variety of locations and a variety of real-life situations to ask, "What would you do?" Locations used during the slide presentation included south Texas, the island of Attu, Kentucky, and others. Situations involved trespassing on private property, reporting rare species, tape playing and pishing, in addition to many other issues. The American Birding Association Code of Ethics was used as a guidepost for decision-making for the questions.

During the Friday night session, remaining books and miscellaneous articles from the Anne L. Stamm collection were offered for sale to members to augment the Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund. Refreshments consisting of soft drinks, bottled water, cookies, and other snacks were offered in the meeting room at the conclusion of the program during a social period.

Early morning fog dampened Saturday morning field trips that departed the lodge at 8:00 a.m. Luckily, the fog gave way to partly sunny skies by about 10:30 a.m. Three trips with several birders in each trip birded the area until almost 12:00 Noon. The trips and leaders were as follows: Zeb Weese, Park Naturalist and KOS member, a four mile hike on the trails of the park, Lee McNeely, a gentle walk on the roads near the lodge and the chair lift, and Gerald Robe, the Rock Bridge Trail in the Red River Gorge.

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. Gary Ritchison presented a workshop program on bluebirds and their conservation. The forty-five minute program covered the Eastern Bluebird housing requirements, preferred habitat, competition with the House Sparrow and European Starling, and other interesting facts about the species. The KOS Executive Board met from 3:00 to 5:45 p.m. while other members birded on their own or relaxed around the lodge.

Dr. Denver Holt of the Owl Research Institute in Charlo, Montana, presented the Saturday evening program beginning just after 7:30 p.m. (see related article on Denver Holt and the Owl Research Institute in this issue of *The Kestrel*.) Dr. Holt informed participants with slides and a brilliant lecture on the unique features of owls. The presentation included owl evolution, owl taxonomy, structural features

of owls such as their ears, feathers, and head shape, as well as dietary considerations, habitat considerations, and other factors. Another focus of the program was the location and observation of owls. During this segment, a variety of owl species were shown in their typical habitat as they might appear in daylight hours and techniques for finding the birds were discussed.

Following the program, the annual business meeting of the Society was held. There were two orders of business. The first item was the election of officers for the year 2003. The slate of the nominating committee was approved on a voice vote with no opposition noted. Officers elected by the Society are: Kathy Caminiti, President, Hap Chambers, Vice President, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Corresponding Secretary, Jim Williams, Treasurer, Gerald Robe, Recording Secretary, Doris Tichenor, Councillor, Phyllis Niemi, Councillor. All offices are for one-year terms except councillors who hold a three-year term.

The second order of business was a proposed increase in dues. The change in dues structure was approved by the Society membership on a voice vote with no opposition noted. The new dues structure is: Individual \$15, Family \$20, Student \$10, Contributing \$25, Corporate \$100, and Life \$300.

Sunday morning found that the fog had not relented. Zeb Weese and Gerald Robe led morning field trips to within the park and to the Red River Gorge, respectively. This day, the fog burned away more quickly and birding conditions were somewhat improved. The field trips concluded in the late morning bringing a close to the 2002 fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

A total of 88 species of birds was observed over the weekend. A total of 72 members and guests attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Bennett, Recording Secretary
Russellville, Kentucky

Attendance at the Fall 2002 KOS Meeting

BEREA: Paul Hager, Jean Hibberd, Gene Stinchcomb

BOWLING GREEN: Valerie Brown, Dave Dunham, Diane and Jackie Elmore, Blaine Ferrell, David and Joan Roemer, Dale and Kim Rainey

BROWDER: Preston and Shari Forsythe

BURLINGTON: Joe, Joey and Kathy Caminiti, Lee and Lynda McNeely.

CAMPTON: Kim Feeman

CANEYVILLE: Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel.

CARLISLE: Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver

COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates

FT. WRIGHT: George and Marian Crabtree

FRANKFORT: Amy Covert

HARRODSBURG: Betsy Sale

LEXINGTON: Rhonda Bryant, Bruce Cryder, Shirley and Wayne Davis, Daniel Marsh, Scott Marsh, Joan Van Arsdall, Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Jesse Barkin, Jane and Pat Bell, Richard Cassell, Celia Lawrence, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MORGANTOWN: Carroll and Doris Tichenor

MT. STERLING: Gerald Robe

MURRAY: Hap Chambers

OWENSBORO: Janet Howard, Cassie Knight, Marilee and Wendell Thompson

PAINT LICK: Ilona Leki, Ken Tunnell

PRINCETON: John and Phyllis Niemi

RICHMOND: Brandon, Brianna, Gary and Tammy Ritchison, Mark Vukovich

RUSSELLVILLE: Mark Bennett

SCIENCE HILL: Roseanna Denton

SOMERSET: Gay Hodges

TAYLOR MILL: Dave and Sandy Luzader

GLENVIEW, IL: Jeffrey Sanders

CORYDON, IN: Mary Walter

CINCINNATI, OH: Mark Hipskind

HENDERSONVILLE, TN: Debby Ventress

KNOXVILLE, TN: Elizabeth Mei Wong

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA: Roly Lloyd

Birds Observed at the Fall 2002 KOS Meeting

(Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Red River Gorge Geological Area, and Vicinity)

Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch.

**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT**

September 27, 2001 - September 25, 2002

Beginning Balance (September 27, 2001)	\$3,500.71		
RECEIPTS	1st half yr	2nd half yr	2001-2002
Reimbursement to petty cash (after fall 2001 meeting)	\$100.00	\$-.—	
Fall 2001 meeting registrations	\$316.00	\$-.—	
Spring 2002 meeting registrations	\$-.—	\$369.00	
Membership dues (new memberships/renewals)	\$1,720.00	\$179.00	
Life memberships	\$-.—	\$-.—	
Sales (KOS pins, field cards, Annotated Checklists)	\$58.00	\$28.00	
Sales of back issues of The Ky Warbler (to go to Gordon Wilson Fund)	\$135.00	\$-.—	
Annual transfer of interest from endowment fund	\$764.79	\$-.—	
Donations to Gordon Wilson Fund	\$162.00	\$-.—	
Donations to Anne Stamm Fund	\$80.00	\$159.00	
Donations to General Fund	\$10.00	\$-.—	
Donations to Burt Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund	\$5.00	\$-.—	
Transfer from Burt Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund	\$500.00	\$-.—	
Totals	\$3,850.79	\$735.00	\$4,585.79
DISBURSEMENTS	1st half yr	2nd half yr	2001-2002
Fall 2001 meeting room rental	\$50.00	\$-.—	
Fall 2001 meeting miscellaneous expenses	\$49.57	\$-.—	
Spring 2002 meeting catering expenses	\$-.—	\$145.22	
Spring 2002 meeting speaker room	\$-.—	\$59.28	
United Graphics (two+three issues of The Ky Warbler)	\$1,288.00	\$1,701.00	
United Graphics (mailing envelopes)	\$177.00	\$155.00	
Postage (\$125 annual fee; four issues of The Ky Warbler; one meeting flyer)	\$210.00	\$200.00	
BellSouth (Ky bird line — 11 months)	\$118.45	\$104.00	
Ky. State Treasurer (annual filing fee)	\$4.00	\$-.—	
Transfer to Endowment Fund	\$200.00	\$-.—	
Transfer to Gordon Wilson Fund	\$377.00	\$-.—	
Transfer to Anne L. Stamm Fund	\$80.00	\$159.00	
Transfer to Burt Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund	\$5.00	\$-.—	
Corresp. Sec. Misc. expenses reimbursement	\$486.25	\$61.27	
Bank Account Stamp (for deposits)	\$-.—	\$18.55	
Burt Monroe Avian Research Fund grant award (to EKU)	\$500.00	\$-.—	
Anne Stamm library collection appraisal (Buteo Books)	\$75.00	\$-.—	
Bookkeeping error (recorded during audit)	-.—	\$11.50	
Totals	\$3,620.27	\$2,614.82	\$6,235.09
Net gain (loss)	\$230.52	\$(1,879.82)	\$(1,649.30)
Ending Balance (September 25, 2002)			\$1,851.41

The K.O.S. accounts and financial statements were audited by Wendell Thompson, September 28, 2002.

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD FOR NESTING SNOWY EGRETS

Since the early 1980s, a mixed-species nesting colony of wading birds has been present on Lake Barkley in western Kentucky. When first discovered in 1981, this colony was situated on an island near the community of Linton in southern Trigg County (Thomas 1982). At that time, most of the breeding birds were Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) with small numbers of Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) and Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) (Thomas 1982). In the mid- to late 1980s this colony shifted northward to an island off the mouth of Taylor Bay in northern Trigg County, where it remained active into the mid-1990s (Palmer-Ball and Wethington 1994). During that time, Little Blue Herons were not confirmed breeding in the colony, but up to 8-10 pairs of Cattle Egrets were observed there (Palmer-Ball and Wethington 1994) and a single nest of Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) was observed in 1989 (Stamm 1990).

Probably in 1996, the colony shifted again, this time to an island near the Old Kuttawa Recreation Area in Lyon County. This island was created by the placement of dredge spoil at the site in November 1987 (W. Ligon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pers. comm.); trees, mostly black willows (*Salix nigra*), cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) and sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*), soon sprouted in the bare soil and grew quickly, creating a favorable habitat for nesting waders by the early 1990s. Beginning in 1997, Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons were detected nesting in the colony (R. Denton, pers. comm.) and numbers of both species increased significantly in subsequent years, reaching the highest levels ever documented for the state (Palmer-Ball and Thomas 1999); in fact, by 1999, numbers of Cattle Egrets began outnumbering Black-crowned Night-Herons. In 2001, at least one pair of Great Egrets nested in the heronry. In addition to serving as a breeding site, the colony, wherever it has occurred on Lake Barkley, has been used as a night-time roost for many herons and egrets during and subsequent to the end of the nesting season.

During the past few years, the presence of small numbers of Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) at and in the vicinity of the 'Kuttawa' nesting colony has suggested that at least a few birds were nesting, but such confirmation has been lacking. The first evidence of possible Snowy Egret nesting at the 'Kuttawa' heronry was the relatively late observation of one to two immatures foraging along the lakeshore of Lake Barkley near Suwanee, Lyon County, 25 September to 2 October 1998. The following summer, on 10 June 1999, Steven Thomas (Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources), Robert van Hoff (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and myself visited the heronry to determine the approximate number of heron and egret nests present. During that visit, two or three adult Snowy Egrets were seen, but we could not obtain further evidence of nesting. On 14 June 2002, I visited the heronry, cautiously working around the perimeter of the island in a small boat. During about three hours of careful observation, I was able to find at least five active Snowy Egret nests, one containing an approximately half-grown chick that was fed several times while I watched, and four others on which the adult birds appeared to be incubating eggs or brooding small young. During my observations I was able to obtain a few photographs of the nesting birds. In addition to these nests, the following counts of nests of other species were made: Cattle Egret (200+); Black-crowned Night-Heron (35-50+); Little Blue Heron (10-12+); Great Egret

(1). A complete survey of nests was not conducted; thus, there were undoubtedly many more, at least of the three most common species, present.

All five Snowy Egret nests were small platforms of sticks that were situated in the forks of branches of some of the smaller deciduous trees on the island. I estimated the nests to vary from six to twelve feet above ground. All five nests were loosely associated with collections of Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret nests, perhaps more closely with the former species. Although the tops of eggs could be seen in one nest, it was impossible to determine the size of that clutch; the contents of the remaining three nests were not observed.

The nesting of Snowy Egrets in Kentucky is not unexpected; even Mengel (1965) suspected that the species might soon breed in Kentucky as of the early 1960s due to the presence of breeding birds in western Tennessee. Since about 1950, it has been confirmed nesting in western Tennessee (Ford 1998), southeastern Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992), western Illinois (Bohlen 1989) and southwestern Indiana (Jackson 1997). In fact, a recent nesting colony of smaller waders including many Snowy Egrets in southeastern Missouri (near Charleston, Mississippi County) has been situated in close enough proximity to far western Kentucky that feeding adults have routinely crossed the river to feed in Kentucky during the day.

I would like to thank Frank Bennett and Ken Brock for providing Snowy Egret nesting references for Illinois and Indiana, respectively.

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AMERICAN COOTS NESTING IN UNION COUNTY

The American Coot (*Fulica americana*) is a common waterbird across much of North America, nesting primarily in wetlands of Canada and the northern United States and wintering on reservoirs and coastal wetlands of the southern United States and Central America (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). In Kentucky, the species is most abundant during migratory periods in April and October/November, but relatively large numbers may overwinter in years lacking extremely cold weather. In summer, a few individuals regularly linger on bodies of water of nearly any size, but little evidence of nesting has been compiled over many years of record-keeping.

On 30 May 2002, I was conducting a waterbird survey of some impoundments on the Peabody Coal Company's Camp #11 Mine in Union County, which is located approximately six miles east-southeast of Morganfield. This facility has four separate impoundments varying in size from about 20 to more than 50 acres in size. Three of these impoundments were constructed for the deposition of coal slurry (a waste product from the cleaning of coal). These slurry impoundments have now been reclaimed by direct seeding of native prairie grasses on the upland areas, and controlling the water level in the inundated lower areas. The fourth impoundment was built as a fresh water supply lake and now serves as a final settling lake for the slurry impoundments.

Surrounding the open water portions of most of these impoundments are extensive patches of reeds (*Phragmites communis*) and other wetland plants including cattails (*Typha* spp.). In one such impoundment, I was scanning the margin of the vegetation when I located a family group of coots that consisted of two adults and at least three small chicks. Further scanning of the margins of the patches of reeds yielded views of at least two additional family groups, each containing 2-3 young. Characteristic of newly hatched coot chicks, their heads were covered with bright orangish down and their bills were bright red. The adult coots gathered and delivered food to the chicks while they hid in the edge of the reed patches; the adults would browse on algae, but seemed to be feeding only invertebrates, especially dragonfly nymphs, to the young.

I returned to the site on 13 June 2002, and located one family group containing five young which were large enough to be feeding on their own in addition to being fed occasionally by the two parents. On that date I obtained several photographs of this family group. On 22 July 2002, I visited the site and found that young coots from a number of families had mostly joined into a single, loose group of no less than thirty-five individuals. A few were still about two-thirds grown, very pale gray in color, and were still somewhat downy, while most were larger, although lighter in color and smaller, with smaller bills, than a few nearby adults. It is interesting to note that while I visited this site on several occasions in June 2001, I detected only a couple of adult American Coots. I am unsure if nesting that year went undetected or if it did not occur. Prior to 2001, these impoundments had never been surveyed for nesting birds.

Reports of breeding American Coots in Kentucky are few, and only one previous record may have pertained to successful nesting. Several attempts were documented from the transient lakes in southern Warren County in the first half of the 20th Century by Wilson (1929, 1935, 1939, 1940), but all failed due to fluctuations in the water levels of the lakes or predation. A report of nesting based on the observation of an adult with five young in Fayette County on 28 April 1968 [seemingly an improbably early date for young?] was included by Stamm (1969). In addition to these records, there are other vague and unconfirmed reports listed by Wilson (1942) for Crittenden and Union counties.

I wish to thank the Peabody Coal Company for allowing me to conduct surveys of waterbirds at the Camp #11 Mine, and special thanks is extended to Bob Hill, environmental scientist for the facility. -- BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR, Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

LITERATURE CITED

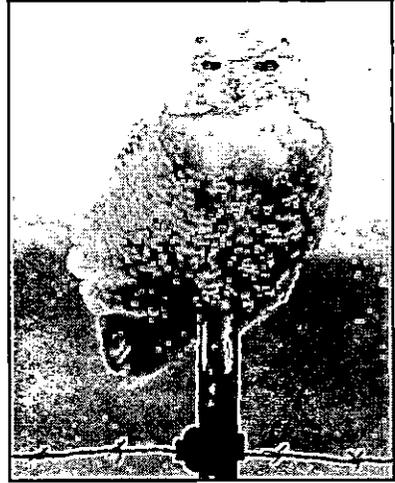
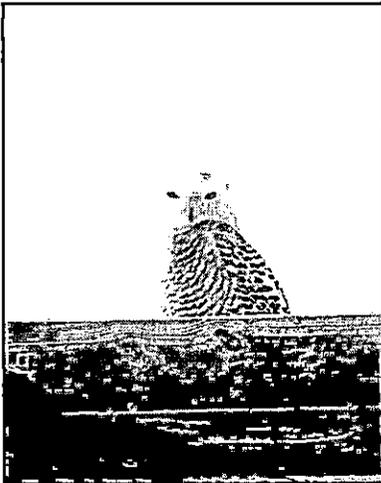
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SNOWY OWLS, WINTER 2001-02

The winter of 2001-02 was relatively mild, but Kentucky hosted at least three Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) during the season. Movements of Snowy Owls are apparently independent of weather conditions, being much more closely tied to the population cycles of certain small mammal prey and corresponding owl population levels on the breeding grounds of the Arctic tundra.

First to be reported was an immature female bird that was found at the Grant County High School at Dry Ridge on 13 November 2001 by Marshall Iseral. Reports by others in the area confirmed that it had been in the vicinity for about a week, and subsequent to the November 13, it or another individual was reported by various local individuals for a week or two.



Photographs of the three Snowy Owls that were observed in Kentucky during the winter 2001-2002. Top left: immature female in Grant County (by T. Harp); top right: second-year male in Pendleton County (by K. Caminiti); bottom: immature female in Henderson County (B. Palmer-Ball, Jr.).

On the late afternoon of 9 December 2001, an immature female bird was discovered by Robert Soaper on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County. This bird was perched in a soybean stubble field off KY 268 and was photographed by Brainard Palmer-Ball before it took flight to the southwest and went out of view. It was never reported again.

Finally, on 22 February 2002, a local resident in Pendleton County contacted Jeff Hays with Raptor, Inc., in Cincinnati about a Snowy Owl that had been present in the farmland about five miles south of Falmouth for several days. This bird ended up lingering in the immediate vicinity of the original reports for about five weeks, being last observed on 1 April 2002. Over its five-week stay, the bird was admired by hundreds of people. On 11 March 2002, the bird was banded; it proved to be a second-year male.

This apparently represents only the second time that more than one Snowy Owl has made an appearance in Kentucky in a given winter. During the winter of 1949-50, three separate individuals were reported (*Audubon Field Notes* 4:204, 1950; Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 279).—KATHY CAMINITI, 4980 Middle Creek Road, Burlington, KY 41005, JEFF HAYS, 7867 Bankwood Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45224 and MARSHALL ISERAL, 1015 Mason Sipple Road, Williamstown, KY 41097.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Spring KOS Meeting at Blue Licks State Park

The Spring KOS meeting will be held at Blue Licks State Park on April 25 to 27. The room release date is February 15, 2003. Mark your calendar and let's enjoy some great spring birding.

KOS 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 KOS 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) 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 record status.