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The Kentucky Warbler

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NO. 3



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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

K.O.S. thanks Kathy Caminiti for the photo of a Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) at a nest box in Grant County.

K.O.S. Thanks Fred M. Busroe

The Winter Season, 2002-2003 (*Ky. Warbl.* 79(2): 43-50) was Fred M. Busroe's last seasonal report for the K.O.S. Fred has compiled the seasonal lists over a period of approximately eight years since his first report compiled jointly with the late Anne L. Stamm for The Fall Season 1994. Those who have not compiled such a report might not appreciate the amount of work that goes into making certain all records are collected and that all reports are accurate. The large volume of submissions makes the task tedious and time consuming. The K.O.S. sincerely thanks Fred for his dedication and diligence in making sure the seasonal reports have been complete, accurate and on time.

I think the K.O.S. would be remiss if it did not take this opportunity to also thank Fred Busroe for his many years of service to K.O.S. in other capacities. He served as Councillor from 1981-1983, Vice President in 1984 and 1985 and filled in again in that capacity for a period of time in 1992 and 1993. He served as President of K.O.S. in 1986 and 1987. Fred also served as Recording Secretary on an emergency basis in 1991. He is also one of the founding members of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee and makes many contributions of his own regarding sightings of unusual birds and birds that are out of season. In short, Fred has served the society in whatever capacity was needed whenever it was needed willingly and very competently. His willingness to volunteer for tasks that benefit the K.O.S. and its members serves as a model for others. The K.O.S. thanks Fred for these many years of dedication.

Although Fred Busroe has retired from Morehead State University where he taught ornithology, K.O.S. knows that Fred will continue to be an integral part of this society, continuing to participate and help out when needed. We look forward to his continued involvement and friendship.



SPRING SEASON 2003

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Lee McNeely

The Spring Season 2003 was characterized by a lack of precipitation early followed by copious rainfall during late April and early May. March was marked by above-average temperatures, but April and May were near to slightly below normal. Unsettled weather patterns that occurred during late April and early May contributed to some good fallouts of birds during the last week of April and first ten days of May. Highlights from the season included a few rare spring migrants (Red-throated Loon, Yellow Rail and Marbled Godwit), a few vagrants (California Gull, White-winged Dove and Painted Bunting), and additional reports of increasing species (Black-necked Stilt and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher).

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Observers are cautioned that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance. Documentation must be submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vt.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented on videotape; “*” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; A.J. Jolly = A.J. Jolly Park, *Kenton*; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston*; Big South Fork = Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, *McCreary*; Blood River = Blood River embayment of Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Camp #11 = Peabody Camp #11 Mine, *Union*; Cooley’s = Cooley’s Pond, *Wayne*; Cypress Creek = Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, *Marshall*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; East Bend = East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*; Highland Creek = Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*; Homestead = Homestead Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; Ken Hopewell = Ken Hopewell Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; KyDam Village = Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, *Marshall*; KDFWR = Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall/Calloway/Livingston/Lyon/Trigg*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon/Trigg*; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF), *Pulaski*; LkBarkley = Lake Barkley, *Livingston/Lyon/Trigg*; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Lost River = Lost River Cave and Valley, Bowling Green, *Warren*; Lower Hickman Bottoms = Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson* (unless otherwise noted); Markland = Markland Dam on the Ohio River, *Gallatin*; McElroy = McElroy Lake, *Warren*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Meldahl = Meldahl Dam on the Ohio River, *Bracken*; Mt. Zion = Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; Newburgh = Newburgh Dam on the Ohio River, *Henderson*; Newport = Newport, *Campbell*; Obion = Obion WMA, *Fulton* (unless otherwise noted); Open Pond = Open Pond, *Fulton*; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant impoundments, *Muhlenberg*; Peabody = Peabody WMA, *Ohio/Muhlenberg* (unless otherwise noted); Petros Pond = Petros Pond, *Warren*; Rock Bridge = Rock Bridge, DBNF, *Wolfe*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

- Red-throated Loon** – a first-year bird (retaining dusky throat of juv. plumage) was observed on KyLake above the dam, *Marshall*, on 22-25 March (ph. BPB, HC).
- Common Loon** – a few of the more unusual reports included the following: 1 at Caneyville Reservoir, *Grayson*, on 26 March (JP); 3 were present for several days in mid-April on L. Peewee, *Hopkins*, (AM); Lark Carnico, *Nicholas*, hosted up to 11 birds on 26 April (m. ob.); one at Owsley Fork L., *Madison/Jackson*, on 29 April (PH); 1 at Camp Ernst L., *Boone*, on 29 April (LM); and 1 at a gravel pit at Petersburg, *Boone*, on 17 May (LM).
- Horned Grebe** – peak count was 18 on the Ohio R. at Newport on 21 March (FR).
- American White Pelican** – following up the mid-January bird in the same general area, 1 to 4 were seen on the Ohio R. from near New Richmond, OH, *Campbell*, to Chilo, OH, just above Meldahl, 15-17 March (CCn, LB, *et al.*); the species was numerous on north LkBarkley, *Lyon*, on 29 March (BY) with at least 75 still on LkBarkley above the dam on 17 April (BPB); 3 still there on 1 May (BPB, MM); and a bird with an injured wing that remained there into mid-May (BPB); also reported were 70+ on KyLake, *Calloway*, on 30 March (HC); and 1 at Paradise on 27 May (MV).
- Double-crested Cormorant** – “thousands” were observed in the KyLake/LkBarkley area on 6 April (HC, RD); some of the larger counts also reported were 300+ over Sinclair on 12 April (MV); 250+ on KyLake, *Calloway*, on 3 May (HC); and 91 in *Boone* on 10 May (*vide* LM).
- American Bittern** – 2 at Sauerheber on 12 April (DR, KOS); 2 at Chaney L., *Warren*, on 13 April (BPB); 2 or 3 at Long Point on 30 April (BPB, MM); 1 at Yatesville WMA, *Lawrence*, on 2 May (SF); and 1 at Camp #11 on 5 May (MM).
- Least Bittern** – only reports were single birds at Sauerheber on 5 May (BPB, MM) and Camp #11 on 8 May (BPB, JD).
- Great Blue Heron** – nesting colonies were active at Lee’s Ford, *Pulaski*, on 7 March (RD) and L. Linville, *Rockcastle*, on 25 April (RD); a nest at East Bend contained young on 10 May (LM).
- Great Egret** – first observed at Highland Creek on 13 March (CC).
- Snowy Egret** – among the few reports was 1 at Meng’s Pond, *Warren*, on 24 April (ph. DR) and 1 at Paradise on 16 May (MV).
- Cattle Egret** – only report of birds away from what might be considered expected areas was 2 at Ellis Park, *Henderson*, on 5 May (BPB, MM)
- Green Heron** – earliest reports included 1 at Bowling Green on 31 March (JE) and 1 at Mt. Zion on 3 April (RD).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – only report during the period was an adult at Long Point on 6 May (MM, LM, BPB).
- Black Vulture** – an impressive kettle of 200+ over Higginsport, OH, along the Ohio R., *Bracken*, 17 March was at least partially in Kentucky when observed (LB); also reported were 60 at Shelbyville on 14 March (JP).
- Turkey Vulture** – peak count was ca. 100 at Big South Fork on 9 March (RD).
- Greater White-fronted Goose** – 3 near Homestead on 1 March (BPB, RL, MW); 3 each at McElroy and Walton’s Pond, *Warren*, on 3 March (DR); 9 in western *Fulton* on 9 March (HC, *et al.*); 2 still at Sauerheber on 15 March (HC, RD, RDv); 4 still at Open Pond on 15 March (BY); 1 injured bird still at Sauerheber on 16 March (BY); and 1 still at Ballard WMA on 21 March (BPB).
- Snow Goose** – ca. 7,000 were still in the general vicinity of Open Pond on 16 March (HC, RD); also reported were 25 at McElroy on 6 March (DR) and 2 Blues at Cooley’s on 21 March (RD).

Ross's Goose – 1 at Walton's Pond, *Warren*, on 3 March (DR); the individual that wintered in southern *Ohio* was still present on 7 March (DR); 4 at Open Pond on 9 March (HC, *et al.*); 5 near Open Pond on 16 March (HC).

Tundra Swan – a portion of the wintering flock at Sauerheber was still present on 6 March (SV) with 9 last seen there on 13 March (MMn); 2 imm's. were at Blood River 1-8 March (HC, *et al.*). A flock of ca. 10 swans near Mt. Sterling, *Montgomery*, on 15 March were unconfirmed to species but thought to be Tundras (GR).

Gadwall – peak count was 200 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD); a drake lingered at Camp #11 to at least 20 May (BPB).

American Wigeon – peak counts included 50+ at McElroy on 8 March (BPB, AC); 48 at Cooley's on 12 March (RD); and 146 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD); a late drake was on the Ohio R. at Newport on 8 May (FR).

Blue-winged Teal – small numbers lingered at traditional wet-year breeding areas into mid- and late May (m. ob.).

Northern Shoveler – peak count was 152 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD).

Mallard x Northern Pintail – late in being reported was a drake captured and banded at Sauerheber on 21 February (ph. MMn, EC).

Northern Pintail – peak counts included ca. 40 in southern *Ohio* on 1 March (BPB, RL, MW); 64 along the Ohio R. in west *Boone* on 2 March (KCa); 130+ at McElroy on 3 March (DR); 75 at Highland Creek on 13 March (CC); and 110 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD).

Green-winged Teal – peak count was 120 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD).

Canvasback – peak count was 120 at Meldahl on 3 March (FR).

Redhead – peak counts included 250 at Meldahl on 3 March (FR) and 62 at Cooley's on 1 March (RD).

Ring-necked Duck – 1 drake (likely injured) lingered on LkBarkley above the dam until at least 6 May (BPB, MM, LM).

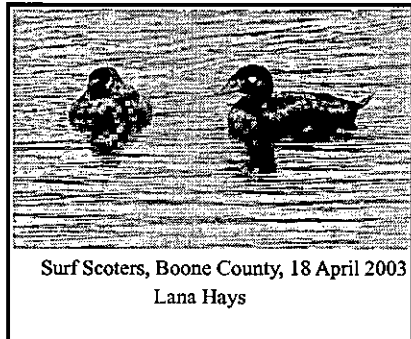
Greater Scaup – a few birds lingered on the Ohio R., *Campbell*, into mid-March (FR), with a drake at the Watertown Yacht Club until 3 April (FR); peak count of migrants was 80 at Meldahl on 3 March (FR); 1 likely injured male (ID'd as a probable Greater) lingered at Paradise through the end of the period (MV).

Lesser Scaup – at least 10 birds (most likely injured) lingered on LkBarkley near the dam into early May (m. ob.); a drake was at Camp #11 on 8 May (BPB, JD).

Surf Scoter – one at Meldahl on 3 March (FR); 2 at Marydale, *Boone*, on 18 April (ph. LH); 3 on KyLake above the dam, *Livingston*, on 28 April (BPB, MM)

White-winged Scoter – single birds were on the Ohio R. at New Richmond, OH, *Campbell*, on 2 March (DM) and 17 March (LB).

Bufflehead – a pair was present on LkBarkley above the dam to 5 May with a female present there until at least 8 May (BPB, JD).



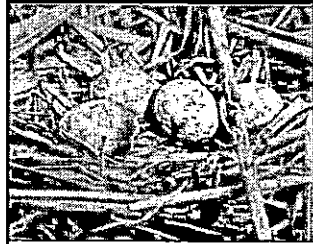
Surf Scoters, Boone County, 18 April 2003
Lana Hays

- Hooded Merganser** – females with broods of young were observed near Ellis Park, *Henderson*, on 5 May (BPB, MM); at Sauerheber on 9 May (BY); and at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, in late May (BY, MS).
- Common Merganser** – 2 late lingerers were observed at East Bend on 10 May (KCa, JC, *vide* LM).
- Ruddy Duck** – at least 6 lingered at Camp #11 through the end of the period (BPB).
- Osprey** – first arrivals included 1 on LkBarkley near the dam on 14 March (BY); 4 on LkBarkley, *Trigg*, on 16 March (JM); and birds on two nests at the same location on 17 March (ER). A previously unknown nest along the Green R. in southern *Ohio* was blown down by a storm in late April, but was rebuilt and active by the end of May (MV); as of early May, at least four pairs were thought to be nesting on structures in KyLake, *Calloway* (and adjacent *Stewart*, TN) (HC).
- Mississippi Kite** – first observed at Obion on 29 April (MM); single vagrant birds were also observed along the Natcher Parkway in *Ohio* near the *Butler* line on 1 May (DR) and at Sauerheber on 9 May (BY).
- Bald Eagle** – new nests were reported from the Jenny Hole Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson* (MMn), north of Audubon State Park, *Henderson* (BPB), on Rough River L., *Grayson* (RM, JBr, JP), on the Ohio R. downstream from Brandenburg, *Meade* (MMn, SV), and along the Rolling Fork, *Larue* (*vide* SV); the nest at Yatesville L., *Lawrence*, contained 2 chicks in late April (SF); relatively unusual were presumed migrants at McElroy on 30 March (LD); over Mammoth Cave on 28 April (MA); at Bowling Green on 11 May (DR); at Paradise on 16 May (MV); and along the Ohio R. at Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, on 18 May (LM).
- Northern Harrier** – a continuing study of nesting birds at Peabody had logged 14 nests by 19 May (MV).
- Red-tailed Hawk** – a dark morph “*Harlan’s*” was seen near Rockfield, *Warren*, on 3 March (*vt.* DR); a dark morph “*calurus*” was still at Homestead on 26 March (MV).
- Rough-legged Hawk** – last reported was 1 at Homestead on 29 March (MV).
- Merlin** – a probable wintering bird at Sinclair on 1 March (BPB, RL, MW); a likely migrant over Sinclair on 26 April (MM, MV); 1 over Kuttawa on 28 April (BPB, MM); 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms on 29 April (BPB, MM); 1 over Obion on 30 April (BPB, MM).
- Peregrine Falcon** – an unbanded imm. was observed in west *Boone* on 10 May (LM, JC); what was presumably the female of the Louisville pair was found sick on the riverbank on 28 May and subsequently died, probably due to poisoning of an as yet unknown nature (*vide* EW).
- Yellow Rail** – an individual was flushed seven times over a two-day period 1-2 April while mowing operations were underway on Surrey Hills Farm, east *Jefferson*, for a first spring record for the state (BPB). KBRC review required.
- King Rail** – only report was 1 flushed at Sauerheber on 5 May (BPB, MM).
- Virginia Rail** – at least 2 were heard at Cypress Creek on 22 March, indicating possible wintering there (BPB); at least 1 was at the same location on 6 April (HC, RD); 1 to 2 were at Sauerheber on 12 April (DR, KOS); at least 3 were heard at Long Point on 29 April (BPB, MM); at least 2 were heard at Gibraltar WMA, *Muhlenberg*, on 30 April (BPB, MM) and 6 May (BPB, MM, LM); a single bird periodically responded to a tape at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski* from 23 April through the end of the period, indicating possible breeding (RD, *et al.*).

Common Moorhen - 1 to 2 were observed at Camp #11, 5 May (BPB, MM) through the end of the period (BPB).

American Coot - a number of birds lingered at Camp #11 into May and a bird was observed incubating a nest on 5 May (ph. BPB, MM).

Sandhill Crane - flocks continued migrating north through central Kentucky during the first week of March (m.ob.), but numbers quickly diminished as weather improved. Peak counts were seen during the first few days of March when thousands were present in south central Kentucky, including 1,300 at McElroy on 3 March (DR). Birds outside the normal central Kentucky corridor included small flocks over west *Boone* (KCa); southwest *Logan* (MB, FL); Cave Run L., *Rowan* (EC); north *Boone* (KM, *sic* NK); and Lexington (IS). Last reported were 5 at McElroy on 23 March (TD).



American Coot Nest, Union Co.
"22 May 2003 B. Palmer-Ball, Jr."

Black-bellied Plover - 1 below Newburgh on 5 May (BPB, MM); species reported at Petros Pond on 17 May (TD); 3 at Paradise on 18 May (MV).

American Golden-Plover - first reports included a nearly record early bird at McElroy on 4 March (DR) and 16 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD); peak counts included at least 500 in west *Fulton* on 6 April (HC, RD) and 110 at McElroy on 7 April (DR); also reported were 16 at McElroy on 23 March (TD); 2 at Jonathan Creek on 29 March (HC, ME); 6 at Cooley's on 29 March (RD); and 2 at Open Pond on 9 May (BY).

Semipalmated Plover - earliest reports were single birds at Paradise on 12 April (MV) and Swallow Spring, *Christian*, on 16 April (BPB); peak count was 75+ at Obion on 29 April (BPB, MM).

Black-necked Stilt - this spring's reports were limited to traditional areas for migrants and occasional nesters in west *Fulton*, with 2 present on 6 May (RD, JD) and 5 present on 31 May (HC, ME).

American Avocet - quite impressive was a flock of 40 in west *Caldwell* on 1 May (J&PN); this represents the largest number ever to be reported in the state.

Greater Yellowlegs - first arrivals were noted at Jonathan Creek on 8 March (HC) and in west *Fulton* on 9 March (HC); peak count was 68 at scattered locations in *Henderson* on 19 April (BPB).

Lesser Yellowlegs - first arrivals were noted at Jonathan Creek on 8 March (HC) and in west *Fulton* on 9 March (HC); peak counts were 225 in *Henderson* on 19 April (BPB) and 200+ at Obion on 29 April (BPB, MM).

Willet - well represented this spring with a number of reports as follows: 6 below Barkley Dam on 25 April (BL); 43 at Kuttawa on 28 April (BPB, MM); 36 at the same location on 30 April (BPB, MM, DR, RDv); 1 at LkBarkley near the dam on 30 April (BPB, MM); 1 at KyDam Village beach on 1 May (BPB, MM); 1 below Newburgh on 5 May (BPB, MM); 28 at KyDam Village beach on 7 May (BPB, JD); and 24 at Kuttawa on 7 May (BPB, JD).

Spotted Sandpiper - first reported on the Ohio R. at Dayton, *Campbell*, on the relatively early date of 31 March (FR).

Upland Sandpiper - only reports were single birds in north *Barren* on 14 April (MSn) and south *Warren* on 24 April (DR).

Marbled Godwit – 1 was at Minor Clark on 26 April (ph. LK); 2 were observed flying north over LkBarkley above the dam on 28 April (*BPB, MM). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – 2 at Kuttawa on 7 May (BPB, JD); 1 at Paradise on 18 May (MV).

Sanderling – only report for the spring was a freshly-molted bird at the KyDam Village beach on 7 May (BPB, JD).

Least Sandpiper – 1 was relatively early at McElroy on 7 March (BPB, AC); early migrants or wintering birds were noted at Jonathan Creek on 8 March (HC).

White-rumped Sandpiper – first reported (1 bird) at Obion on 30 April (BPB, MM).

Pectoral Sandpiper – early birds returned by the first few days of March including 1 in south *Ohio* on 1 March (BPB, MW, RL), 27 at Jonathan Creek on 2 March (HC, RL, MW), and 41 at McElroy on 3 March (DR); early peak counts occurred soon thereafter and included 110+ at McElroy on 4 March (DR); 52 at Cooley's on 12 March (RD); 98 at Jonathan Creek on 14 March (BY); 800 at Sauerheber on 15 March (HC, RD, RDv); 1,400 at the same location on 16 March (BY); 156 in west *Fulton* on 16 March (HC, RD); 60 at Cooley's on 21 March (RD); 300 at McElroy on 23 March (TD); "hundreds" in west *Fulton* on 6 April (HC, RD); and 200+ at Obion on 16 April (BPB).

Dunlin – 1 at McElroy on 3/5 March was exceptionally early for a presumed non-overwintering individual (DR); 2 at Mt. Zion on 11 April (RD); 1 at Morgan's Pond, *Christian*, on 16 April (BPB); 1 at Obion on 30 April (BPB, MM); 1 in west *Fulton* on 12 May (LA); 1 at Paradise on 18 May (MV); 2 in *Trigg* on 26 May (BL); peak count was an unimpressive 28 in west *Fulton* on 24 May (HC).

Stilt Sandpiper – 1 at Obion on 16 April (BPB); species was reported at Petros Pond on 17 May (TD).

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1 (calls heard) at Obion on 16 April (BPB); 1 (calls heard) at Obion on 29 April (BPB, MM); 4 at Long Point (ID'd by plumage) on 29 April (BPB, MM); 1 (calls heard) at Sauerheber on 5 May (BPB, MM).

Wilson's Phalarope – 2 males were at Sauerheber on 5 May (BPB, MM) and a female was there on 9 May (BY).

Laughing Gull – a first-year bird was on LkBarkley near the dam on 16 April (ph. BPB); an adult was below Barkley Dam on 25 April (BL); an adult was at East Bend on 10 May (LM, JC).

Franklin's Gull – 1 flew by Kuttawa on 16 April (BPB); at least 2 on KyLake above the dam on 28 April (BPB, MM); 4 flew by Newburgh on 5 May (BPB, MM); 3 on KyLake above the dam on 8 May (BPB, JD).

Bonaparte's Gull – latest observations (all first-year birds) included 2 below Newburgh on 5 May (BPB, MM); 1 on LkBarkley above the dam on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM); and 3 at KyDam Village marina on 7 May (BPB, JD) with 1 still there on 8 May (BPB, JD).



Marbled Godwit, Rowan County
26 April 2003. Lew Korman



Laughing Gull, Lyon Co, 16 April 2003
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

- Ring-billed Gull** – late peak counts included 170 at Newport and 250 at Watertown Yacht Club, *Campbell*, on 1 March (FR); 250 at Meldahl on 3 March (FR); 250+ lingered in the vicinity of KyDam to at least 7 May (BPB, JD). A partially albinistic bird was observed on the Ohio R. at Newport on 8 April (* FR); a relatively late and somewhat wayward migrant was found at the *McCreary* airport on 29 May (LMs, *vide* SS).
- California Gull** – a second-year bird was closely studied at the KyDam Village marina on 7 May (* BPB, * JD). KBRC review required.
- Herring Gull** – at least 15 were still in the vicinity of KyDam as of 8 May (BPB, JD).
- Thayer's Gull** – an adult was at Barkley Dam on 2 March (HC, *et al.*).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – an adult was observed at Kuttawa 14/29 March (BY); 2 adults were observed on KyLake, south *Marshall*, on 29 March (HC, ME).
- Caspian Tern** – first reported was a bird on LkBarkley near the dam on 29 March (BY) that established a new early arrival date for the state by one day; a few birds lingered into late May with the latest report being 1 at Paradise on 26 May (MV).
- Common Tern** – first observed (1 to 2 birds) on KyLake above the dam on 30 April (BPB, MM, DR, RDv); an impressive flock of 60+ birds at Newburgh on 5 May (BPB, MM); 15 on the Ohio R., *Campbell*, on 12 May (FR); 1 still at Barkley Dam on 26 May (HC, RL, MW).
- Forster's Tern** – small numbers returned to KyLake by the first week of March (HC) with 25 at Jonathan Creek on 8 March (HC); also reported was 1 at Minor Clark on 12 April (SM) and 3 on the Ohio R., *Campbell*, on 12 May (FR).
- Black Tern** – first observed were single birds on the Ohio R. at Newport on 5 May (FR) and on KyLake above the dam on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM); 1 was at Camp #11 on 20 May (BPB); peak count was a dismal 4 on the Ohio R., *Campbell*, on 12 May (FR).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** – 2 birds were reported for the first time in *Union*, northeast of Morganfield, on 13 March (CC).
- White-winged Dove** – 1 was at Hickman, *Fulton*, on 6 May (ph. BPB, MM, LM) and 7 May (NM, ph. MT). KBRC review required.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** – 1 at Mt. Zion on 2 May (RD); 1 at Kuttawa Rec. Area, *Lyon*, on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM); 1 at Bowling Green on 12 May (JE); 1 at Long Point on 11 May (JW); 2 at Miller, *Fulton*, on 13 May (KL, *et al.*); species reported near South Williamson, *Pike*, on 28 May (JCr).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – first reported on 25 April in LBL, *Trigg* (BL).
- Barn Owl** – 1 to 2 birds continued in rural east *Calloway* through the period (HC, JTE); another was reported second-hand from south *Logan* in late April (*vide* FL); as was another from Vernon, *Monroe* in early-May (TC, *vide* SS).
- Short-eared Owl** – last observed were 2 at Ken Hopewell on 29 March (MV) and 1 at Sinclair on 12 April (MV).
- Common Nighthawk** – extraordinarily early was one seen and heard at Lexington on 18 March (SM, RB).
- Whip-poor-will** – earliest reports were calling birds west of Munfordville, *Hart*, on 24 March (SK) and a bird in southwest *Jefferson* on 27 March (CL).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – earliest reports were single birds at Murray on 7 April (KC) and 8 April (ME).



White-winged Dove, Fulton Co.,
6 May 2003
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

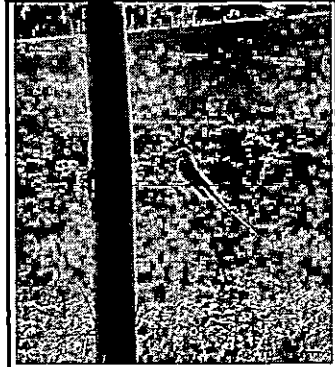
Red-headed Woodpecker – large numbers were still at Ballard WMA on 21 March (BPB); good numbers were also at Cypress Creek on 22 March (BPB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – only reports were single birds in LBL, *Lyon*, on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM) and 9 May (BY).

Alder Flycatcher – only reports were at least 3 at Ken Hopewell on 16 May (MV) and 1 at Paradise on 18 May (MV).

Least Flycatcher – birds of the probable nesting population at Black Mt. were present by 11 May (BY); a relatively late migrant was reported from Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, on 28 May (SM).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – it was the second banner year in a row for the species; a bird in rural north-east *Bourbon* on 27 April (ph. G&NE) turned out to be 1 of a pair that apparently have been nesting at the location since 1999 (*vide* SW); one or both birds continued at this site through the end of May (m. ob.); 1 was observed several miles west of the 2002 *Livingston* nest site on 1 May (J&PN); 1 was near Long Point on 11 May (ph. JW); 1 was at Sinclair on 21 May (ph. MV); 1 was observed sporadically 21 April (J&PN) and 25 April (BL) – 7 May (BPB, JD) below Barkley Dam but apparently disappeared; what must represent last year's pair was present along KY 453 north of Grand Rivers, *Livingston*, 27 April (HC), but despite their presence there through the end of the period, no firm evidence of nesting was observed. KBRC review required.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Bourbon Co., 27 April 2003
Ginny and Neil Eklund

Loggerhead Shrike – a probable resident bird near the northern limit of the species' range was reported from *Boone* on 10 May (*vide* LM).

Bell's Vireo – the species returned to Sinclair by 30 April (BPB, MM); a singing bird had returned to an apparent territory (present at same place in 2002) in south *Livingston* by 7 May (BPB, JD); 1 was at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, on 13 May (SR).

Blue-headed Vireo – earliest arrivals included 1 at Little Lick on 18 March, which set a new early date for the state by three days (RD); 2 near Rock Bridge on 22 March (FR); 4 at Yahoo Falls, DBNF, *McCreary*, on 22 March (RD); and 1 at Bowling Green on 26 March (JE).

Warbling Vireo – first reported in south *Jefferson* on 12 April (DP) and at Rough River State Resort Park, *Grayson*, on 15 April (JP).

Philadelphia Vireo – first reported (heard and seen) at Murray on the extraordinarily early date of 23 April (KC); good numbers appeared at LBL after the first week of May with at least 6 observed on 8 May (BPB, JD).

Fish Crow – small numbers were observed in west *Fulton* from 16 March (HC, RD) through the period; the species was first observed at Jonathan Creek on 22 March (ME); 1 was heard at Blood River on 30 March and the species was thought to be more common around KyLake in general this year (HC).

Common Raven – 1 was observed flying over Black Mt. on 10 May (BPB, JD).

Purple Martin – first arrivals were reported from Murray on 10 March (HC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – earliest reports included a new early arrival date for Kentucky by one day with 2 birds at KyDam Village beach on 14 March (vt. BY); also relatively early were 2 at Cooley's on 21 March (RD) and 2 at the mouth of Craig's

Creek, *Gallatin*, on 22 March (LM, KOS).

Bank Swallow – first reported at A.J. Jolly on 22 April (FR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – at least 2 pairs of birds were at the traditional Rock Bridge breeding area with courtship noted on 22 March (FR) and an active nest cavity observed on 22 May (FR).

Bewick's Wren – 1 was singing at the 2002 *Scott* nesting location on 1 April and for about a week thereafter and again in early May, but apparently no nesting occurred (LBd); the only additional report for the period was a bird at the KyDam Village marina on 8 May (BPB, JD).

Sedge Wren – only reports were single birds in the Lower Hickman Bottoms on 29 April (BPB, MM) and in east *Jefferson* on 4 May (BPB, MM).

Marsh Wren – only report was 1 at Camp #11 on 5 May (BPB, MM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1 was still at LBL, *Lyon*, on 8 May (BPB, JD); last reported on 12 May at Lost River (JE).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – first reported on 22 March in LBL (ME).

Gray Catbird – an exceptionally early spring arrival or lingering overwintering bird was reported from *Boyle* on 23 March (MH).

American Pipit – relatively late was a flock of 30 in *Fayette* on 10 May (JWs).

Cedar Waxwing – hard to come by early in the season, waxwings began to appear in numbers during the first week of May and staged an impressive flight in mid-May with many birds likely lingering to nest (m. ob.); peak count was 400-500 at Frankfort on 23 May (DW).

Blue-winged Warbler – first reported at LBL, *Trigg*, on 13 April (BL) and at Bowling Green on 16 April (JE).

Golden-winged Warbler – first reported on Indian Knob Road, *McCreary* – where nesting is suspected – on 20 April (RD); observed in LBL 29 April (BPB, MM) – 9 May (BL) with more than one bird on several dates (BL); also reported from Lost River on 4 May (JE). Work sponsored by the University of Kentucky, KDFWR and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology yielded an abundance of information on the species in southeastern Kentucky. One was first observed at Flatwoods, *Pike*, on 28 April (SF, LP), and 16 individuals, with most probably on territory were detected 10 May – 15 June, mostly in *Bell*, *Harlan* and *Pike*, but with single individuals detected in *McCreary* and *Whitley* (LP, JL).

Brewster's Warbler – 1 was observed in LBL, *Trigg*, on 9 May (BL); the above-noted survey work for Golden-winged's in southeastern Kentucky yielded observations of single birds in *Bell* on 10 May and *Harlan* on 22 May (LP).

Tennessee Warbler – amazingly abundant (probably 100-150+ seen/heard) in LBL, *Lyon* on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM).

Northern Parula – first reported at LkBarkley, *Lyon*, on 29 March (BY), one day later than the previous early arrival date.

Cape May Warbler – probably 25+ were seen/heard in LBL, *Lyon*, on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – single migrants were reported from Lexington in early May (BJ); *Boone* on 10 May (*vide* LM); and Louisville on May 18 (JE); local nesting birds were "everywhere" at Black Mt. on 11 May (BY).

Black-throated Green Warbler – earliest reports included 2 near Rock Bridge on 22 March (FR); 2 at Yahoo Falls, DBNF, *McCreary*, on 22 March (RD); 2 at Natural Arch, DBNF, *McCreary*, on 23 March (RD); and 1 at Louisville on 30 March (J&PB).

Blackpoll Warbler – first reported in LBL, *Trigg*, on 25 April (BL); amazingly abundant (probably 50-75+ seen/heard) in LBL, *Lyon*, on 6 May (BPB, MM, LM).

- Cerulean Warbler** – earliest report was 1 at Mammoth Cave on 18 April (J&PB).
- Black-and-white Warbler** – a new record early spring date was established by a bird near Rock Bridge on 22 March (FR).
- Prothonotary Warbler** – earliest arrivals included 2 at L. Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, on 14 April (RD) and LBL, *Trigg*, on 14 April (BL).
- Swainson's Warbler** – a few were reported at traditional breeding areas as early as 3 May in east *Calloway* (*fide* HC); 16 May at Big South Fork (SS); 17 May at Little Lick (RD, *et al.*); and 22 May near Rock Bridge (FR).
- Northern Waterthrush** – earliest report was 1 at A.J. Jolly on 22 April (FR).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – earliest report was 1 along the Fishing Creek embayment of L. Cumberland, *Pulaski*, on 21 March (RD).
- Kentucky Warbler** – earliest report was 1 heard at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, *Whitley*, on 5 April (MV).
- Connecticut Warbler** – single birds were reported in southwest *Jefferson* on 10 May (CL); at Bowling Green on 11 May (JE); and in east *Jefferson* on 15 May (BPB).
- Hooded Warbler** – earliest report was 1 at Little Lick on 14 April (RD).
- Wilson's Warbler** – first reported on the relatively early date of 30 April in LBL, *Lyon* (BPB, MM).
- Canada Warbler** – two pairs were observed at the summit of Black Mt. on 10 May including a female already gathering nest material (BPB, JD).
- Summer Tanager** – first reported in LBL, *Trigg*, on 15 April (BL) and at Russellville on 16 April (MB).
- Scarlet Tanager** – first reported in east *Calloway* on 8 April (BH, *fide* HC).
- Chipping Sparrows** – at least 7 birds that wintered in eastern *Jefferson* were still present on 2 March and lingered into mid-March when spring migrants began to arrive (BPB).
- Vesper Sparrow** – peak count was 8 at Cooley's on 21 March (RD); last reported at England-Idlewild Park, *Boone*, on 19 April (LM).
- Lark Sparrow** – only report for the season was 1 in west *Fulton* on 11 May (JW).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – especially numerous on Sinclair this spring with 25+ heard on 30 April (BPB, MM); also recorded at Beech Grove Ridge, *Pulaski*, (3 birds) on 10 May (RD) and near Ano, *Pulaski*, (3 birds) on 17 May (RD, *et al.*).
- LeConte's Sparrow** – 1 at Sinclair on 1 March likely wintered (BPB, RL, MW); on 21 March 1 was still at the location on West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, where at least 2 were observed on the CBC indicating that the species apparently overwintered there (BPB); 1 was reported from east *Calloway* on 8 April (BH, *fide* HC).
- White-throated Sparrow** – last reported at Bowling Green on 12 May (JE).
- Lapland Longspur** – “many” were still at McElroy on 3 March (DR).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – an exceptionally early bird was reported from Caneyville Reservoir, *Grayson*, on 24 March (JP); few were reported at feeders during the first ten days of May (m. ob.); 1 lingered at a feeder near Cadiz, *Trigg*, until 16 May (BL).
- Painted Bunting** – a male was found at Miller, west *Fulton*, on 30 April and remained on territory to the end of period (ph. BPB, ph. MM, *et al.*). KBRC review required.
- Bobolink** – migrant flocks were noted from a variety of locations across central and western Kentucky



Painted Bunting, Fulton Co., 1 May 2003
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

during normal flight period (m. ob.); first reported in *Bourbon* on 27 April (BPB, RC, AC); also reported from Vernon, *Monroe*, on 3 May (BS, TC); and at the *McCreary* airport on 28 May (SS).

Western Meadowlark – 4 were reported from near Open Pond on 9 March (JW, *side* HC); 1 was reported from west *Fulton* on 12 May (LA).

Brewer's Blackbird – 2 were at McElroy on 1 March (JE); 4 were at Walton's Pond, *Warren*, on 4 March (DR); 1 was near Open Pond on 9 March (JW, *side* HC); ca. 12 were in northwest *Ballard* on 21 March (BPB).

Baltimore Oriole – first reported on 19 April at Murray (KC).

Purple Finch – hardly detected during the entire period; a male was observed at Bee Rock Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, on 20 March (RD); a male was observed at Short Creek, *Grayson*, on 5 April (JP); a pair was observed at a feeding station in Florence, *Boone*, on 30 April (GC).

Contributors: Leif Anderson (LA); Mathew Arnold (MA); Jane and Pat Bell (J&PB); Mark Bennett (MB); Joan Brown (JBr); Lori Brumbaugh (LB); Rhonda Bryant (RB); Laura Burford (LBd); Joe Caminiti (JC); Kathy Caminiti (KCa); Terry Campbell (TC); Granville Carey (GC); Joan Carr (JCr); Richard Cassell (RC); Hap Chambers (HC); Elizabeth Ciuzio (EC); Chris Clingman (CCn); Katherine Cohen (KC); Amy Covert (AC); Charlie Crawford (CC); Julie Denton (JD); Roseanna Denton (RD); Robert Dever (RDv); Lester Doyle (LD); Jon Dunn (JD); Tom Durbin (TD); Melissa Easley (ME); Ginny and Neil Eklund (G&NE); Jackie Elmore (JE); Joe Tom Erwin (JTE); Scott Freidhof (SF); Paul Hager (PH); Michael Hamm (MH); Lana Hays (LH); Bob Head (BH); Bonnie Jacobs (BJ); Ned Keller (NK); Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS); Steve Kistler (SK); Lew Komman (LK); Jeff Larkin (JL); Celia Lawrence (CL); Ken Leggett (KL); Bill Lisowsky (BL); Roly Lloyd (RL); Frank Lyne (FL); Jon Mann (JM); many observers (m. ob.); Scott Marsh (SM); Kathy McDonald (KM); Lee McNeely (LM); Rick Mehlbauer (RM); Lynda Mills (LMs); Mark Monroe (MM); Nancy Moore (NM); Ann Morgan (AM); Donald Morse, Jr. (DM); Mike Morton (MMn); John and Phyllis Niemi (J&PN); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB); Don Parker (DP); Laura Patton (LP); Joyce Porter (JP); Ed Ray (ER); Scott Record (SR); Frank Renfrow (FR); Gerald Robe (GR); David Roemer (DR); Barbara Stedman (BS); Steve Stedman (SS); Ian Stewart (IS); Matt Stickel (MS); Mitchell Sturgeon (MSn); Mike Todd (MT); Shawchyi Vorisek (SV); Mark Vukovich (MV); Mary Walter (MW); Steve Watkins (SW); Danny Watson (DW); Eileen Wicker (EW); Jim Williams (JWs); Jeff Wilson (JW); Ben Yandell (BY). – 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 (brainard.palmer-ball@mail.state.ky.us) (Palmer-Ball) and P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY, 41005 (lkmc9@netscape.net) (McNeely).

FIELD NOTE

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER AT BOWLING GREEN

On the morning of October 15, 2000, while Diane Elmore and I were birding at the Western Kentucky University woods on Bennett Road, in southern Warren County, we were somewhat surprised to find a *Myiarchus*-type flycatcher. We originally thought it might be a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), however I realized the tim-

ing of this sighting was late so we scrutinized the bird very closely. With my field guide in my truck, I could only remember that the undertail pattern played a role in the separation of *Myiarchus* flycatchers. I asked Diane to look at the bird closely especially the undertail. Standing and viewing from as close as 40 to 50 feet underneath the bird, with bright morning sunlight we could easily see the pattern with our binoculars. Both Diane and I agreed on the pattern of the underside of the tail: rufous coloring on the inner webs and a dark tip. This pattern, along with a rather pale face and throat with little contrast between the neck and yellowish belly had us thinking this was not a Great Crested. The bill and feet were black. The top of the head and back was brownish. The top of the tail appeared to be brown but showed some rufous as the bird foraged for food. There was a hint of rufous on the edge of the primaries. It had two wing bars.

During the observation the flycatcher did not vocalize, and while we watched it appeared to glean insects off branches and at least once flew out to catch an insect from its perch. The bird spent much of the time sitting in a bare dead pine tree allowing Diane and me a close observation. After about five minutes of viewing, we returned to my truck to look in my National Geographic field guide. Turning to the *Myiarchus* flycatchers page, Diane and I both agreed the bird we observed was an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). The binoculars used in this observation were Minox 10x42 and 8x32. The flycatcher was still present when we left the area to notify others of its presence, but unfortunately it could not be relocated later that day or on subsequent visits.

This represents the first Kentucky record for Ash-throated Flycatcher. The species exhibits a pattern of fall vagrancy in the eastern United States, typically showing up in several locations on an annual basis. Tennessee has had two records, both in December (C. Sloan, *pers. comm.*). — JACKIE B. ELMORE, 140 Crockett Dr., Bowling Green, KY, 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

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.

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

The K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Research Grant Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky up to \$500. For guidelines on how to apply, please contact Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Deans Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101 (blaine.ferrell@wku.edu).

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.

Visit the K.O.S. Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society and interesting happenings, visit the K.O.S. Website, www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm, maintained by webmaster Gary Ritchison.