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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 80

NOVEMBER 2004



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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Tom Fusco for the cover photograph of an incubating Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) taken on an island in Lake Barkley, Lyon County, in early June 2004.

SUMMER SEASON 2004

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

June and July 2004 were characterized by slightly higher-than-normal rainfall and well-below-average temperature. In fact, July temperatures may have been the coolest on record with multiple frontal passages reinforcing the mild weather. The stormy weather of May persisted into the first part of June, but July was nearly devoid of severe weather events (the exception being an especially severe outbreak in north-central Kentucky 13 July). Mississippi and Ohio river levels dropped gradually over the period, allowing for successful nesting of Least Terns on the former.

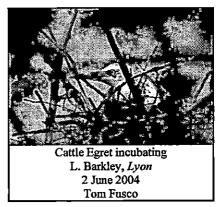
The most exciting rarity from the season was a potential first state record for Black Skimmer. Other unusual observations included lingering Purple Finches and a juvenile Red Crossbill. Black-necked Stilt and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher continued their recent trends of nesting in the western part of the state, and an Anhinga at a heronry in Fulton County may be a promising sign of future nesting. Again this summer, West Nile Virus incidence appeared to be much less prevalent than in 2002.

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 by 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*. Note that on September 18, 2004, the KBRC voted to remove Black-necked Stilt and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher from the review list.

Abbreviations - Miscellaneous: 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; ad. = adult; imm. = immature; juv. = juvenile; yg. = young; KDFWR = Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; WMA = Wildlife Management Area. Place names: Ano = reclaimed surface mines near Ano, Pulaski; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston; Calvert City = Calvert City, Marshall; Camp #9 = Peabody Camp #9 coal facility, Union; Camp #11 = Peabody Camp #11 mine, Union; Chaney Lake = Chaney Lake State Nature Preserve, Warren; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, Pulaski; Homestead = Homestead Unit Peabody. WMA, Ohio; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway (unless otherwise noted): Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, Lyon; Lake Barkley = Lake Barkley, Livingston/Lvon/Trigg; Lake No. 9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson (unless otherwise noted); Mitchell Lake = Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, Ballard; Open Pond = Open Pond, Fulton; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant impoundments, Muhlenberg; Petros Pond = Petros Pond, Warren; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Smithland Dam = Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, Livingston; Surrey Hills Farm = Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson; Walton's Pond = Walton's Pond, Warren.

- Snow Goose an apparently resident blue morph bird was observed at Overbrook Farm, *Fayette*, in early July (WS fide RC).
- Blue-winged Teal 2 females with broods were present at Chaney Lake 20 June (DR, CH); 2 were observed at Open Pond 27 June (KL, BLg); a female was also observed at Petros Pond 28 July (DR).
- Gadwall a male, probably injured, was observed at Kuttawa 3 June (BP, EC et al.).
- Ring-necked Duck an injured male was at Kuttawa 3 June (BP, EC et al.); an apparently summering (injured?) male was observed at Homestead 20 July (DR) and 31 July (RD, HC).
- Greater Scaup 2 females, likely injured, were on Lake Barkley above the dam 3 June (BP, EC et al.).
- Lesser Scaup at least 8 birds, some certainly injured, were present both at Kuttawa and on Lake Barkley above the dam 3 June (BP, EC et al.) with at least 6 still at the latter 18 June (BP).
- **Bufflehead** a male and a female, possibly injured, were on Lake Barkley above the dam 3 June (BP, EC et al.).
- Hooded Merganser 1 was observed at Chaney Lake 20 June (DR, CH); 1 was observed above Ky Dam 18 June (BP).
- Common Loon 2 to 3 birds continued above Ky Dam into June, with 3 there 3 June (BP); 2 there 4 June (HC) and 18 June (BP); and 1 molting out of alternate plumage there 9 July (BP). Also reported were singles in basic plumage at Kuttawa 3 June (BP, EC et al.); at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 7 July (ph.E&JH); and on Otter Creek, *Meade*, from early July into August (ph.BLw).
- Pied-billed Grebe the species was last observed at Chaney Lake 4 June (DR).
- American White Pelican 53 were at Obion WMA, *Fulton*, 5 July (HC); 18 were over Fords Bay, Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 20 July (ME).

- Double-crested Cormorant again this summer, a few birds lingered into or through the season at several localities including 12 at Calvert City and ca. 30 at Kuttawa 3 June (BP, EC et al.); 5 still at Calvert City and ca. 20 still at Kuttawa 18 June (BP) with ca. 6 remaining at Calvert City through July (BP); and several at Paradise in late July (DR). The Ky Lake, *Calloway*, nesting colony was again active this summer with at least 20 nests present 21 June (HC).
- Anhinga promising as a possible indication of future nesting was a female at a heronry near the confluence of Bayou de Chien and Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton, 8 June (*BP, EC). KBRC review required.
- Least Bittern 1 was observed at Paradise 29 July (DR, NR).
- Great Blue Heron several new nesting sites were reported this season; a nest along the golf course at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, *Bell*, had to be the most out-of-place (SM). Full details appear elsewhere in this issue.



Great Egret - 2 birds were at Chaney Lake 4 June (DR). A statewide heronry survey yielded confirmed breeding of birds at 7 distinct sites in *Carlisle*, *Ful*ton (2), *Hickman* (2), *Lyon*, and *Mar*shall, including at least 115 active nests at Long Point at the former site of "Kentucky Cranetown" (BP, EC, PB). As usual, post-breeding birds began showing up in early July with 2 at South

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Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 8 July (SM) and 2 at Casey Creek embayment of Green River Lake, *Adair*, 10 July (RD); as usual, numbers of post-breeding birds were highest in the w. part of the state and included up to ca. 150 on a slough near Sauerheber 13/21 July (NR); 200 in w. *Fulton* 22 July (HC, ME) and 300 at Mitchell Lake 23 July (SR).

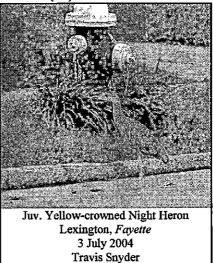


Little Blue Heron incubating Lake Barkley, *Lyon* 3 June 2004 Tom Fusco

- Little Blue Heron an undetermined number of nesting pairs were present at Kuttawa in early June (ph.TF; BP, EC et al.); a somewhat unusual record was the observation of 2 juvs. at Fishing Creek 28 July through the end of the month (RD).
- Snowy Egret a wandering bird was present at Petros Pond 2 June (DR, NR); the presence of a few birds at the heronry at Kuttawa 3 June indicated nesting was likely occurring again (ph.TF, BP, EC et al.).
- Cattle Egret active nests were again present at Kuttawa and on 1 of 2 islands on Lake Barkley above the dam, in early June (ph.TF, BP, EC et al.).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron again this summer, a few birds were present at Paradise (m. ob.) but no nests were located; active nests were again present at Kuttawa and on 2 islands on Lake

Barkley above the dam 3 June (ph.TF, BP, EC et al.).

- Yellow-crowned Night Heron a juv. was observed at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 14 July (CC); 2 nests over Woodbine Drive, Lexington, were successful in fledging 4 and 5 yg. in early July (ph.TS, JWm).
- Osprey out-of-place for the early dates in presumed non-breeding areas were 1 at Open Pond 5 July (HC) and a juv. at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 22 July (DR). Six nests were observed on Ky Lake 21 June (HC). New nesting areas were located along the Ohio River, w. *McCracken*, in April (KT) and on the lower Tennessee River below Ky Dam, *Livingston*, 3 June (BP).



Mississippi Kite – 2 birds (1 a first-year) were observed at the Sinclair Unit of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 8 July (BP); also, the same nest site at Long Point was active again this year with ads. present 13 June (HC, ME) and at least 1 chick observed in the nest 6 July (HC). Also reported in seemingly traditional summering areas were 3 or 4 near Kaler Bottoms WMA, *Graves*, 21 July (GL) and 1 over the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 14 July (CC). A first-year bird between Danville and Per-

ryville, *Boyle*, 9 June (BK) represents a first for the Inner Bluegrass region.

- Bald Eagle quite unusual was an ad. at South Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 8 July (SF).
- Northern Harrier nesting birds were reported on the Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg/Ohio*, on several occasions during the season (m. ob.).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk a family group including juvs. was observed at Homestead 20 July (DR).
- Peregrine Falcon -pairs again nested at 5 locations along the Ohio River in Jefferson, Trimble (2), Carroll and Greenup, with successful fledging of 1-4 yg. in all locations except one of the Trimble sites (TC, SV); 2 of the Louisville family group were observed at the Falls of the Ohio 25 July (GD).
- Common Moorhen 1 was observed at Sauerheber 23 June (CC); with 2 ads. and 4 chicks there 2 July (CC); 3 ads. and 4 yg. there 14 July (CC); and 1 ad. and 3 yg. there 28 July (CC).
- American Coot at least a dozen birds lingered at Camp #11 into June (BP) with several observed there 9 July (BP, TE).
- American Golden-Plover a probable early fall migrant in basic plumage was observed near Open Pond 5 July (ph. JWs).
- Semipalmated Plover latest spring reports were for 7 at Walton's Pond 2 June (DR, NR) and 1 there 4 June (DR). First fall report was for 1 at Mitchell Lake 29 July (SR).
- Killdeer peak counts included 170+ at Camp #9 on 9 July (BP) and 500+ at Mitchell Lake 27 July (NR).
- Black-necked Stilt unprecedented numbers appeared in w. Fulton in early July, with up to 67 counted (49 at Open Pond alone) and 4 nests observed 5 July (JWs, HC). By 10 July, water was receding and the count of birds was only 7; 1 additional nest was observed in w. Fulton 18 July (JWs). Although chicks hatched from at least one nest 22 July (HC, ME),

it is unknown if any yg. were successfully raised to fledging. Extralimital observations were limited to a male at Chaney Lake 2 June (DR, NR) and 2 at Mitchell Lake 1 July (CW).

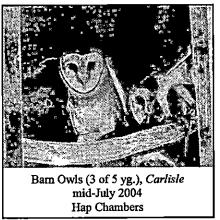
- Greater Yellowlegs an early peak fall count was 14 at Mitchell Lake 29 July (DR).
- Lesser Yellowlegs first fall reports included 2 at Open Pond 26 June (HC) and 13 there by 5 July (HC).
- Solitary Sandpiper first fall report was for 1 near Sauerheber 13 July (NR).
- Spotted Sandpiper latest spring report was for 1 at Paradise 8 June (DR). Birds reappeared in early July with 1 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, 12 July (FR).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper latest spring reports were for 34 at Walton's Pond and ca. 20 at Chaney Lake, both 4 June (DR). Earliest fall reports were for 3 at Cooley's Pond, Wayne, 22 July (RD) and 5 at Long Pond, Swan Lake WMA, Ballard, 23 July (GL).
- Least Sandpiper first fall reports were for 3 at Open Pond 26 June (HC) and 5 July (JWs), 1 at Paradise 8 July (BP), and 3 at Camp #11 on 9 July (BP, TE).
- White-rumped Sandpiper latest spring reports were for 23 at Walton's Pond 2 June (DR, NR), 1 there 4 June (DR), and 4 at Paradise 8 June (DR).
- Pectoral Sandpiper first fall report was for 1 at Open Pond 26 June (HC). Peak early season count was 340+ at Mitchell Lake 27 July (NR).
- Stilt Sandpiper first fall reports were for 6 at Mitchell Lake 23 July (GL) and 2 at Lake No. 9 on 25 July (KL, BLg).
- Short-billed Dowitcher first fall reports were for 4 at Lake No. 9 on 25 July (KL, BLg); 8 in w. *Fulton* 29 July (HC, ME); and 1 at Mitchell Lake 29 July (DR, NR).
- Laughing Gull an ad. was observed at the Ky Dam Village marina 6 June (HC, CP).

Ring-billed Gull – 6 were still at Ky Dam Village marina 3 June (BP) with 15 there 18 June (BP); an impressive count of 290 (most ads.) had returned to Ky Dam Village marina by 9 July (BP) with 450 including a juv. there by 26 July (DR); also reported were ca. 20 below Smithland Dam 9 July (BP) and 30-40 both below Smithland Dam and at Barkley Dam 26 July (DR).

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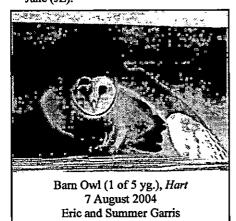
- Caspian Tern 8 birds were still at Ky Dam 6 June (HC, CP).
- Forster's Tern 2 first-year birds were still at Calvert City 3 June (BP, EC) with 1 still there 18 June (BP).
- Common Tern quite unusual was the observation of 7 ads. at Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*, 29 June (DR).
- Least Tern it was a mixed season for the species. Populations on the lower Ohio River again endured near or complete failure of nesting attempts due to a lack of optimal sites. At least 26 nests were initiated at the Calvert City industrial pond site as of 18 June (BP), but a predator had destroyed all nests by 9 July (BP) and the colony did not reestablish (BP, EC), Eighteen nests were initiated on bars below Smithland Dam 29 July (LC), but a subsequent rise in the river inundated them. On the Mississippi River the story was much better - a 22 July survey detected nesting at the 3 traditional sites: Island No. 1, Carlisle (125 birds); Middle Bar, Hickman (420 birds); and Kentucky Bend, Fulton (141 birds) (KJ, JR). During the latter part of July, at least 6 birds were observed foraging on the Ohio River and associated sandbar, nw. Hancock, upstream from Grandview, Indiana, where nesting is occurring on a power plant basin (DA). Also reported were 4 on a water treatment pond on the e. side of Paducah, McCracken, 8 June, where they have been reported in recent years (HC); 5 on buoys above Ky Dam 3 June (BP); and 2 at Camp #9 on 9 July (BP).
- Black Tern first fall report was for 1 in w. Fulton 5 July (JWs). A noticeable early season movement occurred in late

- July with 14 at Fishing Creek 30 July (RD); "about the same number" over Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 30 July (ER); 15-20 at Mary Ross Lake, *Shelby*, 31 July (TB fide HB); and 4 at Paradise 31 July (RD, HC).
- Black Skimmer what will become a first state record if accepted was an ad. bird observed loafing and flying around a sandbar along the w. margin of Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*, 22 July (*JR, KJ). KBRC review required.
- **Eurasian Collared-Dove** no significant expansion was documented this breeding season.
- Black-billed Cuckoo only report for the period was 1 in n. *Livingston* 18 June (BP).



Barn Owl – it was a banner season for reports of this secretive and poorly known species; unfortunately, however, most were reported by wildlife rehabilitators who cared for 5 broods that were disrupted by a variety of natural and human created events. Broods of displaced yg. were reported as follows: ca. 1 mi nw. of Massac, sw. McCracken, in mid-May (SL, fide EW); Eminence, Henry, 28 May (FM, fide EW); Central Ky WMA, Madison, in early June (MS, fide EW); s. of Gold City, Simpson, in early June (RB, fide EW); ca. 2.5 miles nw. of Cropper, Shelby, in early July (JH, fide EW); and ca. 1 mile ne. of Cunningham, Carlisle, in mid-July (ph.HC). Also, a

family group of up to 2 ads. and 5 yg. was observed in a building at the General Electric plant, s. *Jefferson*, 29 June into mid-August (DPr); a family of 5 yg. fledged from an attic ca. 1.0 mi SE of Hammonville, *Hart*, in early August (ph. E&SG), and a family of 5 yg. fledged from a silo ca. 4 miles n. of Lebanon, *Marion*, in late August (DMa, DJ). Finally, a bird was observed being consumed by a Great Horned Owl along the Salt River w. of McAfee, *Mercer*, 10 June (JL).



- Chuck-will's-widow unusual for the ne. part of the state was a late report of a bird singing for ca. a week "about the third week of May" at West Liberty, *Morgan* (ME).
- Red-headed Woodpecker a count of 7 in the former Red-cockaded Woodpecker management areas along KY 90 e. of Cumberland Falls, *Whitley* (FR), was indicative of the habitat changes that have occurred there, especially subsequent to the southern pine beetle infestation that occurred several years ago.
- **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 1 was relatively late at Mammoth Cave 5 June (J&PB et al.).
- Willow Flycatcher birds were observed in a few locations where reports are not regular including Creelsboro, *Russell*, 22 July (RD) and Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 29 July (DR).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher the pair near Grand Rivers in s. Livingston nested successfully with incubation underway in early June (m. ob.) and 4 yg. observed near the nest 18 June (BP); 1 was observed below Barkley Dam 3 June (BP, EC) but no later reports originated from that location and nesting likely did not occur there.
- Bell's Vireo a bird singing at Mayfield, Graves, 21 July represents a new county summer record (GL).
- Blue-headed Vireo 2 were reported from the S Tree area, DBNF, *Jackson*, 10 June (RD); and the species was reported at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, *Pike*, in mid-June (DPt).
- Tree Swallow relatively late was a family of yg. that fledged near Dot, *Logan*, 17 July (FL).
- Bank Swallow a nesting colony was again active this year on the Ohio River at Lewis County WMA 8 July (SF); several colonies continue at the gravel pits at Petersburg, *Boone* (LM).
- Cliff Swallow quite impressive was a post-breeding gathering of ca. 3000 birds observed in w. *Fulton* 18 July (JWs).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 birds were observed at the traditional nesting area in the Rock Bridge area of DBNF, *Wolfe*, 26 June (FR).
- Sedge Wren 2 were heard in n. *Taylor* 6 June (BP); a few birds showed up at Surrey Hills Farm beginning 20 July (BP).
- Swainson's Thrush latest migrants were 3 at Mammoth Cave 1 June (MM) and 1 in LBL, Lyon, 3 June (BP).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush a late migrant was still in LBL, Lyon, 3 June (BP).
- European Starling a potential first report for Kentucky was a non-cavity, globe-shaped nest situated in the dense interior cover of a red cedar tree in *Shelby* during June (ph.HB).
- Golden-winged Warbler a University of Kentucky graduate project following up

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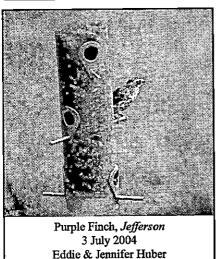
last year's KDFWR/Cornell sponsored atlas project resulted in the study of 36 territorial males (23 in *Bell*, 2 in *Harlan*, 11 in *Whitley*) and the discovery of 7 active nests (1 each in *Bell* and *Whitley*, 5 in *Bell*) (LP et al). The nests are the first ever reported from the state. Full details will be published in a future article.

- Brewster's Warbler the same University of Kentucky graduate project located 8 territorial males (4 in *Bell*, 4 in *Whitley*) (LP et al.).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler quite unusual was a bird in basic plumage at Mammoth Cave 21 July (SK).
- Yellow-throated Warbler relatively impressive was a count of 29 birds along the Rockcastle River downriver of Bee Rock, *Laurel/Pulaski*, 26 June (RD).
- Cerulean Warbler surveys for the species in LBL during May and early June were successful in finding a pitifully small number of territorial males (4) in the Kentucky portion (MB, BP, VR); 14 birds (down from as many as 34 in 1996 and 23 as recently as 2002) were recorded on a survey at Wolf Knob, DBNF, *McCreary/Whitley*, 5 June (SS). Indicative of the early migratory period for this species was a bird in a yard in s. *Warren* 28 July (JE).
- Worm-eating Warbler a nest containing yg. was found at Boone County Cliffs State Nature Preserve, *Boone*, 5 July (LM).
- Prothonotary Warbler a bird along Pigeon Roost Creek, just w. of McKee, *Jackson*, was e. of the species' normal range.
- American Redstart a relatively late migrant was in a yard near St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, 1 June (BW).
- Swainson's Warbler birds were heard at traditional breeding areas in DBNF including an impressive count of 6 at Little Lick, DBNF, Pulaski, 19 June (RD, TFo); near the mouth of Cogur Fork, DBNF, McCreary, 11 June (JK); at

Yahoo Falls, Big South Fork National Recreation Area, *McCreary*, 14 June (SS); and 1 near Bee Rock, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 3 July (RD); also reported were single singing males in DBNF ca. a mile s. of Yahoo Falls, *McCreary*, 9 June (JK, MVu) and at Natural Arch, DBNF, *Mc-Creary*, 11 July (RD).

- **Connecticut Warbler** a relatively late spring migrant was seen and heard at Surrey Hills Farm 1 June (BP).
- Hooded Warbler relatively impressive was a trail count of 44 birds near Bee Rock, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 3 July (RD).
- Bachman's Sparrow a total of 14 territorial males and 2 confirmed breeding pairs (1 pair carrying food and 1 active nest) was accounted for at Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, during June (DMo). Four yg. fledged from the nest 15 June (DMo).
- Lark Sparrow a total of 5 territorial males, 2 probable breeding pairs, and 1 non-singing bird were found on Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, during June (DMo); 2 birds were reported from a somewhat traditional nesting area in w. *Boyle* 11 July (fide BK).
- Grasshopper Sparrow a count of 25 at Ano 17 July was impressive (RD).
- Henslow's Sparrow this species continues to be found in new areas, especially in the w. part of the state: reports of birds in new locations for probable breeding included up to 5 singing at Blizzard Ponds, Clarks River NWR, *McCracken*, in early June (AW, HC) and 1 singing in ne. *Graves* 21 July (GL). Also reported were birds at Green River Lake State Park, *Taylor*, in mid-June (BG), w. of Danville, *Boyle*, 2 July (DW, DPe); and 22 including ads. carrying food and at least 2 juvs. at Ano 17 July (RD).
- White-throated Sparrow a singing male lingered in a yard near St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, to 8 June (tape recording/ph. BW).
- **Dickcissel** a singing bird at Burlington, *Boone*, 3 July was noteworthy for the n.central part of the state (LM).

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Bobolink – territorial birds were observed just s. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, in May, and confirmed nesting was observed nne. of Parksville, *Boyle*, in June and early July (DW, DPe).

- Yellow-headed Blackbird quite unusual was a male observed in the company of numerous nesting Red-winged Blackbirds in a hayfield at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 3 June (DW, DPe). KBRC review required.
- Purple Finch unprecedented was the presence of 1-2 birds (what appeared to be a female and a first-year male) that lingered through June near Fisherville, se. *Jefferson* (E&JH) with 1 last observed there 3 July (ph.E&JH). At least one bird had conjunctivitis, which likely contributed to their presence so late in the season.
- Red Crossbill a juv. bird was picked up dead in a yard in Fort Mitchell, *Kenton*, 14 July for an extremely unusual summer report (CB fide MVi). It is unknown if the bird was of local origin, but suitable breeding habitat is apparently present in the form of several groves of large conifers in at least one nearby cemetery (fide FR).

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2004

2004 SURVEY OF KENTUCKY HERONRIES

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Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Elizabeth Ciuzio

In 2004 the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) coordinated a survey of Kentucky's known heronries. The majority of sites were surveyed by helicopter overflights 6-8 April 2004 and 8-9 June 2004, and the most current information for others was gathered by ground or boat surveys.

The 2004 survey was conducted similarly to surveys undertaken in 1994 (Palmer-Ball and Wethington, *Kentucky Warbler* 70:77-83, 1994) and 1999 (Palmer-Ball and Thomas, *Kentucky Warbler* 75:62-71, 1999). During aerial surveys, nesting colonies were circled several times, and the number of active nests was estimated by noting the presence of incubating adults, young, or white-wash beneath nests. In addition, colonies were scanned for species other than Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), which typically comprise a majority of nesting birds. Unlike surveys in 1994 and 1999, during 2004 some helicopter overflights were conducted in early April, which allowed for more accurate counts of the number of active nests because leaf emergence had just begun. During these early flights, some late-arriving species such as Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) may have been under-represented or missed, but the most crucial sites for rare species were overflown again in early June.

Results of the 2004 survey are presented in Table 1; colony sites are arranged alphabetically by county. Colony sites active as recently as 1999 but inactive in 2004 are included in Table 1; however, the following sites, found to be inactive in 1999 but checked again in 2004 and found to remain inactive, are not included in Table 1: Ballard Co. – Flat Lake and Minor Lake; Butler Co. – Roundabout Swamp; Crittenden/Livingston cos. – Claylick Creek near mouth; Crittenden/Lyon cos. – Livingston Creek above mouth; Fulton Co. – Little Bayou de Chien wetland; Marshall Co. – Clear Pond; McCracken Co. – Ohio River floodplain east of I-24 and West Kentucky WMA; and Ohio Co. – Bens Lick. The folowing sites surveyed in 1994 and/or 1999 were not resurveyed in 2004 because of suspected or known inactivity: Bullitt Co. – Pearl Pond (Ft. Knox); Daviess Co. – Green River upstream of Audubon Parkway; Jefferson Co. – Shippingport Island; and Marshall Co. – Jonathan Creek and Malcolm Creek.

The 2004 total of approximately 5240 nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons represented an increase of more than two-fold over the 1999 total of 2235 pairs and nearly a three-fold increase over the 1994 total of 1750 pairs. Of the 48 active Great Blue Heron nesting colony sites surveyed in 1999, 38 remained active (although a few had moved slightly); most birds that formerly inhabited the 10 sites found to be abandoned probably moved to new sites (some known or surmised, and some as yet undiscovered). Of 38 sites remaining active, 21 increased in numbers, 10 decreased in numbers, and 7 remained fairly stable since 1999. Part of this remarkable increase was certainly attributable to better surveys at a few of the larger sites. These included colonies on Bear Creek, Marshall Co. (count of 1300 compared to 200+ in 1999 and previous high of 697 in 1993); at Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, Union Co. (960 compared to 250+ in 1999 and previous high count of 430 in 1986); and on Muddy Fork of Little River, Trigg Co. (250 compared to 75-80 in 1999). The collective increases at these three sites made up nearly two-thirds of the overall increase. While the number of birds at these sites certainly increased in the last five years, the 2004 surveys probably also provided more accurate counts than were obtained in 1999 when all were made in June after leaf development was complete.

Nesting Great Blues also continued to colonize new areas at a remarkable pace. The species was found nesting at no less than 85 distinct sites in 2004 compared to 48 sites in 1999 and 24 sites in 1994. Some of this increase can obviously be attributed to discovery of

Table I. Summary of K	y of Mentucky Heronries, 2004				
County	Site	Date	Species	No. Active Nests	Remarks
Bailard	Axe Lake	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	20±	Colony has inexplicably declined from peak count of 250+ in early 1990s and 200 as recently as 1999; nests are now scattered in small groups rather than clustered.
	2	Ð	GREG	1	Last observed in 1993 with 2+ nests.
Ballard	Buck Lake	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	3	First known nests since 1991; nests are widely scattered rather than clustered; also present were 30± inactive nests scattered about area.
Ballard	Mayfield Creck	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	128	New high count for this colony; up from 100 in 1999.
	-	2	GREG	1	Last observed in 1999 with 10 nests.
Barren	Barren River Lake, Mason's Istand/ Narrows Ridge	6/09/2004	GBHE	I	At least 2 active nests last observed in 2000 at Narrows Ridge; down from 12± nests in 1999 on Mason's Isl.
Bath	Slate Creek	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	15	New colony site (R. Pritchert, D. Livingston).
Bath/Fleming	Licking River below Sherbume	8/25/2004	GBHE	01	First reported in 2003 with 8 nests (fide L. Komman).
Bell	Pine Mountain State Park golf course	6/27/2004	GBHE	-	New site (S. Marsh).
Boone	East Bend Power Plant	5/08/2004	GBHE	4	First reported in 2002 with 1 nest (L. McNeely).
Butler/Muhlenberg	Mud River (#1)	4/06/2004	GBHE	35	Colony site has relocated slightly; up from 2 in 1999.
Butler/Muhlenberg	Mud River (#2)	4/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE	15	New colony site (KSNPC); may involve some birds from nearby Hooper Creek wetland (see Muhlenberg Co.). Down from 30 nests in 1999 at latter site.
Caldwell	Blakely Bend Slough	4/10/2004	GBHE	9	Up from 5 nests in 1990 but down from peak of 30 nests in 1994.
Caldwell/Hopkins	Tradewater River SE of Dawson Springs (below McKnight Ford)	4/9/2004	GBHE	84	Up from 49 nests in 1999.
Caldwelt/Hopkins	Fradewater River below mouth of Flynn Fork	3/24/2004 GBHE	GBHE	15-20	Colony site has moved ca. 2 miles downstream since 2001; down from 24 in 1999 at former site.

Table 1. Summary of Kentucky Heronries, 2004

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Up from 75 nests in 1999.	Down from 150 nests in 1999, but up from 75 nests in 2001.	Species last reported at this site in 1949!	First reported in 2001 with 15 nests (KDFWR/ KSNPC).	First reported in 2003 with 5-10 nests (C. Grasch).	First reported in 2002 with similar number of nests (B. Gray).	New colony site (E. Ray).	Abandoned; last observed in 1999 with 15-20 nests.	Up from 75 nests in 1999.	Numbers remain relatively stable at this traditional site; up from 75 nests in 1999 but below peak of 150-200 in early 1990s.	Down from 20+ nests in 1999.	Up from 20 nests in 1999; has remained stable since 2000.	Later abandoned on 6/08/2004 (see below); down from 30-35 nests in 1999 and peak of 50 nests in 2002.	Later abandoned on 6/08/2004, perhaps in favor of Reelfoot NWR site? Species first reported in 2000 with 35+ nests; down from peak of 50± nests in 2002.	New colony site (KDFWR); also present were 40 inactive nests.	First reported in 2002 with 30 nests (KSNPC/ KDFWR).	Abandoned; last reported in 1999 with 20 nests.	First confirmed activity at site since 1963!	4 Is
80	100	3	40	11	6	5]	180	120	15	100±	23	15	-	70		35-40	115
GBHE	GBHE	GREG	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	GREG	GBHE	GBHE	GBHE	CBHE	GREG
6/09/2004 GBHE	6/08/2004	=	4/08/2004	6/16/2004	6/14/2004	4/10/2004	4/08/2004	4/08/2004	4/08/2004 GBHE	6/06/2004	4/29/2004	4/08/2004	=	4/08/2004 GBHE	4/08/2004	4/08/2004	6/08/2004	2
Blood River	Fish Lake	Ŧ	Lower Mayfield Creek	Eagle Creek near Sanders (2 nearby sites)	Green River below Liberty	Clifty Creek above Lake Beshear	Piney Creek	Livingston Creek above Skinframe Creek	Tradewater River W of Providence	Cumberland River below Burkesville	Kentucky River, Steamboat Hollow	Bayou de Chien at Little Bayou de Chien	2	Fish Pond	Mississippi River WNW of Open Pond	Obion WMA, Schaaf Tract	Reelfoot NWR, Long Point Unit	2
Calloway	Cartisle		Carlisle.	Carroll/Owen	Casey	Christian	Crittenden	Crittenden/Lyon	Crittenden/Webster	Cumberland	Franklin	Fulton		Fulton	Fulton	Fulton	Fulton	

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County	Site	Date	Species	No. Active Nests	Remarks
Graves	Kaler Bottoms WMA	6/08/2004	GBHE	5	Down from 10 nests in 1999 and down from peak of 50 nests in 1994.
Graves	Obion Creek, ENE of Baltimore	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	11	First reported in 2000 with 25 nests (KSNPC/ KDFWR); up from 2 nests in 2001.
	E	2	GREG	I	Four nests were present in 2000.
Graves	Terrapin Creek near state line	6/09/2004 GBHE	GBHE	7	First reported in 2000 with 12 nests (KSNPC/ KDFWR).
Graves	West Fork Clarks River, N of Kaler Bottoms WMA	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	1	Abandoned: last reported in 1999 with 10 nests.
Grayson/Ohio	Rough River	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	40+	Up from 35 nests in 1998 and 27 nests in 2002.
Green	Green River below Greensburg	8/11/2004 GBHE	GBHE	6	Down from peak count of 10-12 nests in 1998, but back up from 3 nests in 2000.
Green	Little Barren River above Greasy Creek	5/21/2004	GBHE	2	First reported in 2003 with less than 10 birds present (B. Gray).
Greenup	Pond Run near mouth	Not checked	BCNH	529	Last reported in 1993 with 15-20 nests and in 1999 when adults were present in area but no nests found.
Hardin	Nolin River SW of White Mills	4/08/2004	GBHE	30	First reported in 2000 with 12-15 nests (KDFWR/ KSNPC).
Henderson	J.J. Audubon State Park wetland	4/21/2004	GBHE	184	Up from 70 in 1999 and 160 in 2003.
	F	=	GREG	I	Four nests were present in 2000.
Hickman	Middle Bar	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	75	Down from 100-150 nests in 1994 but stable since 1999.
	=	:	GREG	7	Down from 10 nests in 1994 and 4 nests in 2002.
Hickman	Murphy's Pond	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	15	Numbers have varied greatly at this site over the years, down from 25 in 1999 but no nests were present in 2001.

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Hickman	Obion Creek between US 51 and KY 307 4/08/2004 GBHE	4/08/2004	GBHE	50	Up from 42 in 1999, but there has been much shifting in # of birds and nesting locales along Obion Creek in this area (see following 3 site accounts).
	÷	=	GREG	9	First report of this species at this site.
Hickman	Obion Creek NE (upstream) of KY 58	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	011	New colony site (KDFWR); apparently relocation site for some of the other Obion Creek birds that were formerly at other sites.
Hickman	Obion Creek SW of KY 58	4/08/2004	GBHE	s	Down from 5-10 nests in 1999.
Hickman	Obion Creek NE of KY 123	4/08/2004	GBHE	50	Down from 100 nests in 1994 but up from 15-20 nests in 2001 and same as in 1999.
Hopkins	Barle Creek near Cardwell Cemetery	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	12	New colony site (KDFWR).
Hopkins	Flat Creek, White City WMA	4/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE	}	Abandoned; peak count was 45-50 nests in 1999; last observed in 2001 with 12 nests. Likely have relocated as a result of establishment of Bald Eagle at the site.
Jefferson	Floyds Fork	4/05/2004	GBHE	Ś	New colony site (J.&H. Kielkopf).
Jefferson	Harrods Creek near Prospect	4/10/2004	GBHE	35	First reported in 2002 with less than 10 nests (H. Head).
Jefferson	Louisville Zoo	2004	BCNH		This colony has been eliminated from the zoo grounds by USDA (fide R. Hensel). Last reported in 1999 with 10 nests.
Jefferson	Preston Highway vicinity	3/27/2004 BCNH	BCNH	125±	Birds are distributed widely in several locations with degree of success later in season unknown.
		Not checked	GREG	111	Site was not revisited after 3/27/2004; one nest was present at fhis site in 2003.
Laurel	Laurel River at mouth	4/15/2004	GBHE	4	This is likely the current colony site for birds that have nested at several different locations on Laurel River Lake since the early 1990s; down from peak of 17 nests at Craig Creek embayment in 1992 but up from 2 nests there in 1999 (fide S. Kickert).
Lawrence	Yatesville Lake	4/01/2004	GBHE	I	A single nest was present at this location in 1997 (R. Mauro).
Lincoln	Dix River near Hubble	6/10/2004	GBHE	27	First reported in 2003 with 15 nests (B. Gray).

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County	Site	Date	Species	No. Active Nests	Remarks
Livingston	Bissell Bluff	6/08/2004	GBHE	60	First reported in 2002 with 70 nests (KSNPC).
Livingston	Ferguson Creek	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	27	Down from 60 in 1998.
Livingston	Sugarcamp Creek	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	75	All nests are again at one main site along the creek; number of active nests has remained relatively stable since 1999.
Lyon	Lake Barkley nr. Kuttawa	6/03/2004 BCNH	BCNH	50±	Estimate of nests is very rough; number of nests definitely seems down from 100+ in 1999.
		z	CAEA	1400±	Up dramatically since last estimate of 300+ in 2001.
			GREG	÷	Species first observed in 2000 with at least 2 nests, nests not observed this year, but adults were present.
_		2	LBHE	10-12+	Estimate of number of nests is very rough; seems comparable to previous years.
		z	SNEG	+	Nests not observed this year, but adults were present.
Lyon	Lake Barkley S of dam (two islands)	6/03/2004	BCNH	21	Down from 140 nests in 2002.
	F	2	CAEA	25	Down from 85 nests in 2002; also now only on 1 of the 2 islands.
Madison	Bluegrass Army Depot	4/10/2004 GBHE	GBHE	83	Up from 13 nests in 1999.
Marshall	Bear Creek, Cap Spring Branch	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	1300	New high count for this traditional site; up from previous high count of 697 nests in 1993.
	=	-=	GREG	ł	One nest was present in 1993 (TVA).
Marshall	Cypress Creek Swamp	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	35	Up from being abandoned in 1999 but down from peak of 50 nests in 1996.
	-	z	GREG	ę	First report of this species at this site.
Marshall	Tennessee River floodplain near Little Cypress	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	1	Fourteen inactive nests present; last reported in 2001 with 10 nests; peak count was 65 nests in 1994.

Mason	Licking River near Lewisburg	5/21/2004 GBHE	GBHE	47	New colony site (KSNPC).
McCracken	Metropolis Lake	6/08/2004	GBHE	20	Up from 3 nests in 1999
McLean	Green River N of Ashbyburg	4/07/2004	GBHE	50-60	Up from 25 nests in 1999.
Menifee	Beaver Creek wetlands, Cave Run Lake watershed	6(09/2004	GBHE	×	First reported 2003 with 4 nests (W. Mattox).
Monroe	Cumberland River in Turkey Neck Bend	Not checked	GBHE	222	Colony contained 6+ nests in 1999.
Muhlenberg	Cypress Creek	4/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	100	Up from 20 nests in 1999 and 50 nests in 2002.
Muhlenberg	Elk Pond Creek	4/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE		Colony again abandoned; last active in 1999 with 1 nest; peak count was 100+ nests in 1990.
Muhlenberg	Green River near Davenport Landing	4/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE	1	Abandoned; last reported in 2000 with 30 nests.
Muhlenberg	Hooper Creek wetland	4/06/2004	GBHE		Abandoned (but see Mud River #2, Butler/Muhlenberg Co.); peak count was 30+ nests in 1999.
Muhlenberg	Sinctair WMA	5/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE	2	First reported in 2001 with 4 nests (M. Bennett).
Nicholas/Robertson	Licking River below Blue Licks	7/18/2004 GBHE	GBHE	4	New colony site (S. Marsh).
Ohio	Bull Run	4/06/2004	GBHE		Abandoned; last reported in 1999 with 8 nests.
Oldham	Floyds Fork near Shelby Co. line	5/26/2004	GBHE	12	First reported in 2001 with 6 nests (K. Prather).
Oldham	Floyds Fork at mouth of Gathright Branch	6/06/2004	GBHE	12	New colony site (M. Swinney).
Pulaski	Lake Cumberland, Lees Ford Dock	3/16/2004	GBHE	18	Down from peak of 43 nests in 1999 and 35 nests in 2003.
Pulaski	Lake Cumberland, White Oak Creek	3/05/2004	GBHE	60+	Up from 15-20 nests in 1999.
Rockcastle	Lake Linville	4/02/2004	GBHE	11	Up from 6 nests in 1999.
Russell	Lake Cumberland, Lowgap Island	6/03/2004	GBHE	ş	Down from peak of 50± nests in 1998.

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County	Site	Date	Species	No. Active Nests	Remarks
Scott	North Fork Elkhorn Creek	11/23/2004 GBHE	GBHE	35	First reported in 2000 with 8 nests (K. Prather); total of more than 50 nests present when checked, but at least 35 looked to have been active in 2004.
Shelby	Guist Creek	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	45	Up from 35-40 nests in 1999, but down from 50 nests in 2001.
Spencer	Salt River below Simpson Creek	6/15/2004	GBHE	15-20	First reported in 2003 with 10-15 nests (KSNPC).
Trigg	Muddy Fork of Little River	4/08/2004	GBHE	250	Up from 75-80 nests in 1999.
Trimble	Little Kentucky River	4/04/2004	GBHE	110	Up from 78 nests in 1999 and 81 nests in 2003.
Union	Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs 4/28/2004 GBHE WMA (Uniontown)	4/28/2004	GBHE	960	New high count for this traditional site; up from previous high count of 430 nests in 1986.
	Ξ	4/28/2004 GREG	GREG	ł	Last observed in 2002 with 2 nests; peak count was 3 nests in 1999.
Warren	Gasper River above Clear Fork Creek	5/03/2004 GBHE	CBHE	15	First reported in 1998 with 12+ (G. Johnson, fide D. Roemer); down from 20 nests in 1999.
Warren	Lower Gasper River above mouth	6/09/2004 GBHE	GBHE	11	New colony site; first reported earlier in 2004 (nests used in 2003) (G. Johnson, fide D. Roemer).
Warren	Shanty Hollow Lake	5/06/2004 GBHE	GBHE	÷	New colony site; no nests observed, but adults observed carrying sticks and young heard (D. Roemer).
Webster	Knoblick Creek above Deer Creek	6/08/2004 GBHE	GBHE	45	Down from 50-60 nests in 1999.
Woodford	Kentucky River near Brushy Run	6/11/2004 GBHE	GBHE	-	New colony site (KDFWR).
Key:BCNH = Black-crowned Great Egret (Ardeu alba)	ctowned Night-Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax); CAEG = Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ihis); GBHE = 2a alba); LBHE = Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea); SNEG = Snowy Egret (Egretta thula)	x); CAEG = 1 caerulea); {	Cattle Eg	ret (Bubulcu Snowy Egret	Night-Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax); CAEG = Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ihis); GBHE = Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias); GREG = , LBHE = Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea); SNEG = Snowy Egret (Egretta thula).

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previously unknown sites that have been present for some time, but many of the sites discovered since 1999 were known to be newly established. Only one site surveyed but inactive in 1999 was found to be recolonized (Buck Lake Swamp, Ballard Co.); 18 sites discovered since 1999 were surveyed and found to be active; and 14 new sites were reported in 2004. In addition, surveys were conducted at a few sites for which specific information was lacking in 1999. Only one site considered active in 1999, Cumberland River at Turkey Neck Bend, Monroe Co., was not surveyed in 2004. This colony was reported by a local fishing guide in the late 1990s, but we were unable to locate it in 1999, and its status remains uncertain.

In addition to the extraordinary increase in Great Blue Herons, another significant discovery of the 2004 survey was the reestablishment of "Kentucky Cranetown" on the northern end of Reelfoot Lake on the Long Point Unit of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge. This site had not been confirmed to be active since 1963, but it contained a sizable number of Great Egret and Great Blue Heron nests 8 June 2004. Also of interest was a female Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) observed at the heronry near the confluence of Bayou de Chien and Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton County. This individual was observed perched in a tree within the heronry and subsequently flew to the water beneath. Strangely, this colony was active when surveyed 8 April 2004 (see Table 1), but other than the Anhinga, the only bird at the site 8 June 2004 was a lone Great Egret perched near, but not on, one of the empty nests. It was suspected that birds at this colony abandoned it early in the season in favor of Kentucky Cranetown.

Thanks in large part to the reestablishment of the colony at Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, numbers of Great Egrets continued to increase ($146\pm$ pairs compared to 15 in 1999 and 25+ in 1994). Overall, however, the number of colony sites hosting this species remained about the same as during the mid- to late 1990s and a considerable amount of shifting in sites seemed to continue. Great Egrets were found nesting at seven sites in 2004, but they were not present at two sites where they were observed in 1999 (Mayfield Creek above KY 121, Ballard Co., and Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, Union Co.) and at one site they used in the early 2000s (Obion Creek ENE of Baltimore, Graves Co.). The species was found for the first time – at least in recent years – at four sites (Fish Lake, Carlisle Co.; Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton Co.; Obion Creek between US 51 and KY 307, Hickman Co.; and Cypress Creek Swamp, Marshall Co.) and small numbers were observed again at three sites that have been consistently utilized in recent years (Bayou de Chien at Little Bayou de Chien, Fulton Co.; Middle Bar, Hickman Co., and Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, Lyon Co.).

The number of nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) seemed to decrease; numbers of birds on Lake Barkley definitely declined, and the Louisville nesting colony suffered greatly from efforts to remove it from residential areas near the Louisville Zoo, where night-herons were evicted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture because of their predation on animals within the zoo collection. It is unclear why the Lake Barkley population decreased despite abundant foraging habitat, and it may be that the birds simply utilized a new but undiscovered nesting site. The fate of the Louisville population looks grim if the birds are unable to find an area to nest where they do not cause conflicts with humans.

The state's most diverse heronry continued to exist on an island in northern Lake Barkley, near Kuttawa, Lyon County. Since its initial colonization by Black-crowned Night-Herons, Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), and Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) in the mid- to late 1990s, a few Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) have begun utilizing the site (Palmer-Ball, *Kentucky Warbler* 78:72-73). Because of the extraordinarily intense use of this small island, the only way to attempt to make an accurate count of nests without causing a great disturbance was to visit the island after nesting was complete and make a tally of the nests that appeared to have been used during the previous breeding season. The total count of nests was 1475, of which at least 1400 were considered to be Cattle Egret nests, based on estimates of birds present during the breeding season.

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TENTH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

This report is the tenth from the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (hereinafter KBRC), and covers actions completed from October 2002 through December 2003. Members serving on the committee during this period were Mark Bennett, Jackie Elmore, Lee McNeely, Darrin O'Brien, and David Roemer. The stated purpose of the KBRC is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, maintain the documentation of these records, and publish a summary of the committee's deliberations.

During this period there was one round of circulation through the KBRC consisting of 18 individual records. Fourteen of these records were finalized, while four remain unresolved at this point.

The KBRC met 18 September 2004 and voted to remove the Black-necked Stilt and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher from the KBRC Review List.

Accepted Records:

Gavia pacifica PACIFIC LOON [#01-12]; November 15, 2000; Kentucky Lake, Marshall/Livingston counties (DR).

- Mycteria americana WOOD STORK [#00-08]; September 20, 2000; McCracken County (FB) [5 birds].
- Laterallus jamaicensis BLACK RAIL [#02-11]; April 24, 2001; Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg County (DR) [single observer sight record].
- Limosa haemastica HUDSONIAN GODWIT [#03-03]; October 31, 2002; Falls of the Onio, Jefferson County (DR) [videotaped, fourth Kentucky record].
- Philomachus pugnax RUFF [#02-01]; September 7-8, 2001; Mississippi River, Carlisle County (BPB, RD) [photographed].
- Sterna fuscata SOOTY TERN [#03-01]; October 4, 2002; above Kentucky Dam, Marshall County (DR) [2 birds videotaped, first Kentucky record].
- Sterna fuscata SOOTY TERN [#02-10]; October 4, 2002; Ohio River, McCracken County (FB) [second Kentucky record].
- Brachyramphus perdix LONG-BILLED MURRELET [#03-02]; October 29-30, 2002; Ohio River at Louisville, Jefferson County (DR) [videotaped, first Kentucky record].
- Zenaida asiatica WHITE-WINGED DOVE [#02-04]; April 14-18, 2002; Murray, Calloway County (CM, DR) [photographed, first documented Kentucky record].
- Zenaida asiatica WHITE-WINGED DOVE [#02-05]; April 17-20, 2002; Aurora, Marshall County, (CM, SW) [photographed, second Kentucky record].
- Columbina inca INCA DOVE [#02-03]; February 9-11, 2002; Hickman, Fulton County (BY, JY, DR) [photographed, second Kentucky record].
- Columbina passerina COMMON GROUND-DOVE [#02-08]; November 23-24, 2002; Lake #9, Fulton County (HC, RD, DR, JW) [photographed, first Kentucky record].
- Spizella pallida CLAY-COLORED SPARROW [#02-07]; April 29, 2002; Burlington, Boone County (LM).
- Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD [#02-07]; April 24-27, 2002; Lexington, Fayette County (MT) [photographed].

Observers: Frank Bennett (FB), Happy Chambers (HC), Roseanna Denton (RD), Lee McNeely (LM), Carl Mowery (CM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), David Roemer (DR), Mary Tyler (MT), Steve White (SW), Jeff Wilson (JW), Ben Yandell (BY), and Jenny Yandell (JY).

The current official Kentucky list now stands at 363 species (12 of which are by sight only), with Sooty Tern, Long-billed Murrelet, White-winged Dove, and Common Ground-Dove added since the last report. Black Rail will be added to the hypothetical list.

Submitted by Lee McNeely, Chair of the KBRC P.O. Box 463 Burlington, Kentucky 41005

The Kentucky Ornithological Society Fall 2004 Meeting September 17-19, 2004 Pine Mountain State Resort Park

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held September 17-19 at Pine Mountain State Resort Park. This historic meeting was co-sponsored by KOS and the Bristol Bird Club of Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia. President Hap Chambers called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. EDT on Friday evening.

Hap introduced Phyllis Niemi, who entertained the group with a challenging bird trivia contest. In honor of the meeting's featured speaker, Brian K Wheeler, author of *Raptors of North America*, Phyllis's quiz had a "birds of prey" theme. Lee McNeely of KOS was the winner of the trivia challenge.

Following Phyllis's trivia challenge, Hap Chambers introduced the members of the Bristol Bird Club. Wallace Coffey from the BBC announced that copies of the BBC's book, *Birds of the Virginia Cumberland*, were available for purchase at the meeting. Also present at the meeting was James Brooks, whose humorous nature novel *Comeback of the Bears* was also available for purchase.

Hap then turned the meeting over to Vice President Mark Bennett, who made everyone aware of the list of future KOS meetings that was published on the meeting program. After his introductory comments, Mark introduced Shawchyi Vorisek of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, who gave an informative presentation on the status of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons in the state of Kentucky. Shawchyi asked the meeting attendees for help with monitoring eagle and falcon populations by reporting new nesting locations, conducting observations at known breeding sites, and reporting sightings during the breeding season.

Following Shawchyi's presentation, Mark introduced Laura Patton and Patricia Hartman, graduate students under Dr. David S. Maehr at the University of Kentucky. They each presented information on their graduate research. Laura's presentation was entitled "Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler Use of Reclaimed Mine Lands in Eastern Kentucky", and Patricia's presentation was entitled "The Natural History of Cerulean Warblers in Kentucky". These research programs were partially funded by the KOS Burt Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund.

The next speaker of the evening was Brenda Little of the Kentucky Audubon Council, who presented information on the Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas program. Important Bird Areas, or "IBAs" are areas that have been identified as significant for the support of bird species. This program was begun in Europe in the 1970s, and is now being conducted in the United States. Information about the IBA program is available at the Kentucky Audubon Council's web site at www.kentuckyaudubon.org.

Mark concluded the meeting with announcements concerning the field trips scheduled for Saturday morning, and a poll to see how many attendees were attending their first KOS meeting. Eight first-time attendees were identified. After a few closing comments by Hap Chambers, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Snacks and sodas were served at the social following the meeting.

Friday's rainy weather gave way to beautiful, sunny skies and cool temperatures on Saturday. There were two field trips on Saturday: a hawk watch at the Pinnacle Overlook at Cumberland Gap National Park led by David Roemer and Brian Wheeler, and a walk around Pine Mountain State Park's trails led by Lee McNeely and Gerald Robe. The hawk watch yielded approximately 700 Broad-winged Hawks, as well as several other species of migrating raptors. Many species of migratory songbirds were observed on the Pine Mountain State Park bird walk.

The KOS Board meeting was held at 2:30 p.m., and a meeting of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee followed the Board meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Hap Chambers called the Saturday night general meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.. She introduced Wallace Coffey of the Bristol Bird Club, who thanked Hap for inviting the BBC to co-sponsor the Fall meeting, and then introduced the evening's featured speaker, Brian Wheeler. Brian Wheeler's presentation, titled "Raptors: a Photographic Quest" featured slides taken by the author for his book, *Raptors of North America*. After explaining his field methods and giving the attendees a personal history of how he got into the field of raptor photography, Brian showed slides of raptors and other birds, reptiles and mammals taken in Wyoming, western Colorado, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Washington, Arizona, New Jersey, and Mexico. His presentation featured a great deal of information on raptor behavior and identification. At the conclusion of his presentation, Brian announced that he was working on publishing illustrated field guides to raptors of the eastern and western United States. Following Brian's presentation, Blaine Ferrell conducted a tally of all the bird species observed so far during the meeting.

Next, Hap Chambers initiated the business portion of the general meeting. She introduced Elizabeth Ciuzio, who informed the membership about an educational program called "Flying WILD" that promotes nature education by encouraging middle school students to put on birding festivals. Beth asked for volunteers to help with the program and discussed the possibility of a training workshop to be held at the Spring, 2005 KOS meeting.

Win Ahrens presented the slate of KOS officer nominees for 2005. Several officers were returning to their positions for a second term, but Elizabeth Ciuzio and Mary Walter were new nominees for councilorship. All nominations were unanimously accepted by the KOS membership.

The meeting concluded with several announcements, including the field trips scheduled for Sunday morning, future meeting locations, and a half-price sale for books and journals being sold by KOS. The Saturday night meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Sunday was another beautiful day. Lee McNeely led a field trip to the Cumberland Gap Pinnacle Overlook area, and Gerald Robe led a bird walk around Pine Mountain State Park. Both trips yielded several species that were not on the list from Saturday.

Submitted by Gerald Robe, Recording Secretary

Attendance at the KOS Fall Meeting

Blountville, TN:	Carol Cross and Rack Cross
Bowling Green:	Blaine Ferrell, Joan Roemer, and David Roemer
Bristol, TN:	Wallace Coffey and Chris O'Bryan
Burlington:	Kathy Caminiti, Joe Caminiti, Lee McNeely, and Lynda McNeely
Corydon, IN:	Mary Walter
Crossville, TN:	Nora Beck
Eddyville:	John Niemi and Phyllis Niemi
Falls of Rough:	Joyce Porter and Doralee St. Clair
Frankfort:	Elizabeth Ciuzio, Amy Covert, Louis Dallaire, Amy Marr, Brian
	Smith, and Shawchyi Vorisek
Hartford:	Brenda Bailey Little and G. William Little
Jonesborough, TN:	
Kingsport, TN	Mary Jane Erwin, Bill Grisby, and Judy Roach
Knoxville, TN:	Dave Mooney and Laura Mooney
Lexington:	Rhonda Bryant, Phyllis Deal, Patricia Hartman, Scott Marsh, and Jim
	Williams
Louisville:	Richard Cassell, Robert Dever, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
Morehead:	Fred Busroe and Joanna Busroe
Mt. Sterling:	Gerald Robe
Murray:	Hap Chambers and Melissa Easley
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Richmond:	Nicole Ranalli and Brian Scofield
Rosedale, VA:	Diana Worley and Doug Worley
Russellville:	Mark Bennett
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Somerset:	Carolyn Gay Hodges
Taylor Mill:	Gary O'Hair

Bird Species Observed at the KOS Fall Meeting Pine Mountain State Resort Park and Cumberland Gap National Park

The following bird species were observed during the weekend of September 17-19: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Redshouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Redbellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnutsided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape-May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellowthroated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-andwhite Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The species total was 83.

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Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The names of participants in the Mid-winter Bird Counts, attendees to Spring and Fall Society Meetings, and contributors to the Seasonal Reports have not been included in this index. The names of bird species recorded on Mid-winter Bird Counts, at Spring and Fall Society Meetings, and in the Seasonal Reports also have not been listed. Species included in lengthy tables typically do not appear as well.

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