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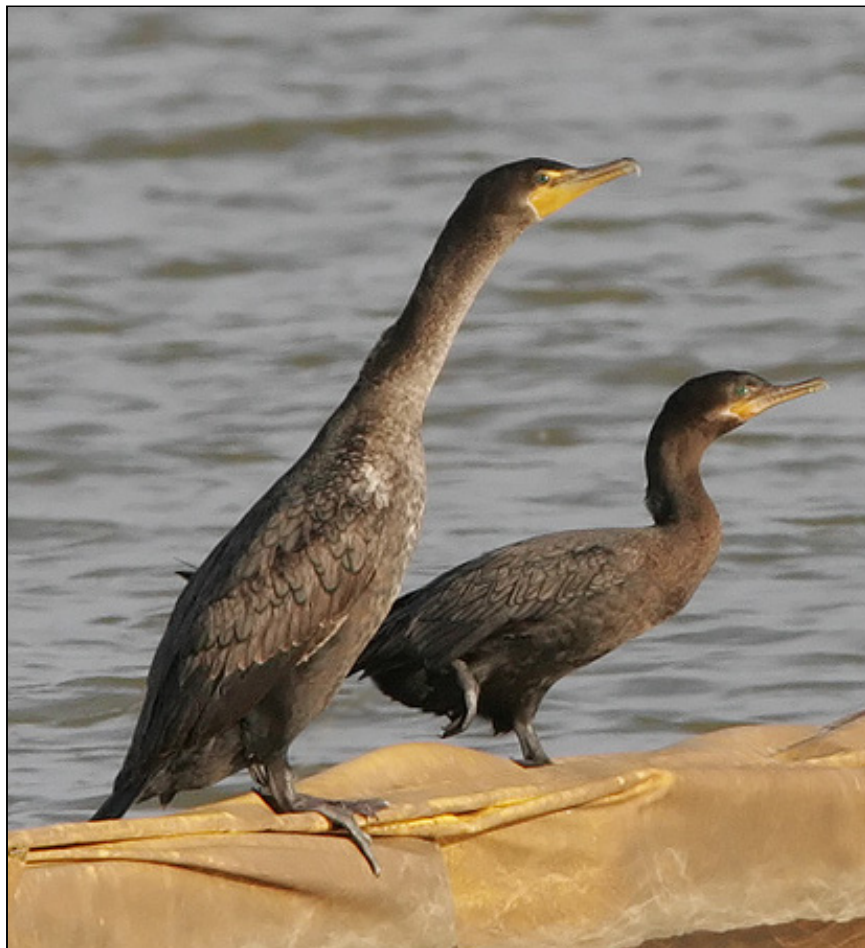
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank David Roemer for the image of the Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*) in the company of a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*) taken 28 February 2007 in Muhlenberg County (see Field Note, pp. 86-87). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



POPULATION HEALTH AND DYNAMICS IN KENTUCKY'S LANDBIRDS: THE MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (MAPS) PROGRAM

Adam D. Smith and Shawchyi Vorisek

Prompted by documented population declines in many of our migratory songbirds in the latter half of the 20th century, the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) and many collaborators initiated a program to assess and monitor the vital rates (i.e., productivity and survivorship) and population dynamics of North American landbirds. This program, dubbed the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program, or MAPS, relies on the cooperative efforts of public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to operate a continent-wide network of constant-effort mist netting and banding stations during the breeding season (DeSante et al. 1995). From its humble beginnings in 1989 with 16 stations, the MAPS network has expanded to 471 stations in 2007, with stations located throughout the North American continent.

The MAPS program is designed to address monitoring, research, and management goals; MAPS data are used to describe temporal and spatial patterns in the vital rates of target species, and to relate these patterns to population trends, ecological and habitat characteristics, and weather. Subsequently, this information is used to identify the causes of population declines, to devise and to evaluate management actions and conservation strategies to address population declines, and, ultimately, to promote and to maintain healthy landbird populations. Additionally, some MAPS stations, including the station at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in Kentucky, are collaborating with the IBP and UCLA in a proactive effort to detect a highly pathogenic strain (H5N1) of avian influenza in North American landbirds; this strain, which likely originated from domestic poultry in Asia, has yet to reach the North American continent.

MAPS Station Operation

MAPS stations use a standardized constant-effort mist-netting protocol. Each station consists of 10 nets at permanent locations (i.e., same placement every year) situated uniformly in the interior of a 50.0 acre (20.2 ha) study area (DeSante et al. 2001). Each of the 10 mist nets is 8.1 ft (2.5 m) tall by 39.0 ft (12.0 m) long. Typically, the array of nets is operated for six hours, beginning at sunrise, during one day in each of six to ten consecutive 10-day periods. The MAPS season begins between 1 May and 10 June, depending on the latitude and elevation of the station, and operation continues through each of the ten-day periods ending 8 August. Captured birds (Figure 1) are identified, fitted with a uniquely numbered aluminum band provided by the U.S. Geological Survey and, when possible, aged and sexed according to a standard reference (i.e., Pyle 1997).



Figure 1. An adult female American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) captured in a mist net. Photo by Adam Smith.

The MAPS Program in Kentucky

Kentucky is home to nine of the 471 MAPS stations currently operating in North America. Individual stations have been in operation at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in Marshall County and Natural Bridge State Park Nature Preserve in Powell County since 2003 and at Mammoth Cave National Park in Hart County since 2004. These stations are operated cooperatively by site personnel, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and volunteers. Additionally, the IBP operates six MAPS stations on the Fort Knox Military Reservation in Hardin, Bullitt, and Meade counties; these stations opened in 1994. Because the IBP administers and operates the MAPS stations at Fort Knox, we provide only general information about MAPS banding at Fort Knox. MAPS stations were also operated on a trial basis at Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve in Garrard County in 1997 and at Pilot Knob State Nature Preserve in Powell County from 1998–2001.

Kentucky's MAPS season extends through eight 10-day periods beginning 21 May and ending 8 August. Although MAPS stations are intended to monitor breeding bird populations, a few late spring migrants typically are captured during the first session in late May. The number of birds captured varies throughout the two and a half month season, as well as among stations (Figure 2). Typically, however, Kentucky's MAPS stations experience an increase in bird captures at the end of June and beginning of July associated with a new cohort of individuals (i.e., fledglings) joining the population. Interestingly, the MAPS station at Clarks River captures relatively more birds during the last week of May and first week of June. This phenomenon at Clarks River is seemingly unrelated to an increased presence of late spring migrants, but appears partly due to the capture of a large proportion of the seasonal total of several species early in the season (e.g., Acadian Flycatcher [*Empidonax vireescens*], Carolina Chickadee [*Poecile carolinensis*], Indigo Bunting [*Passerina cyanea*], and Ruby-throated Hummingbird [*Archilochus colubris*]).

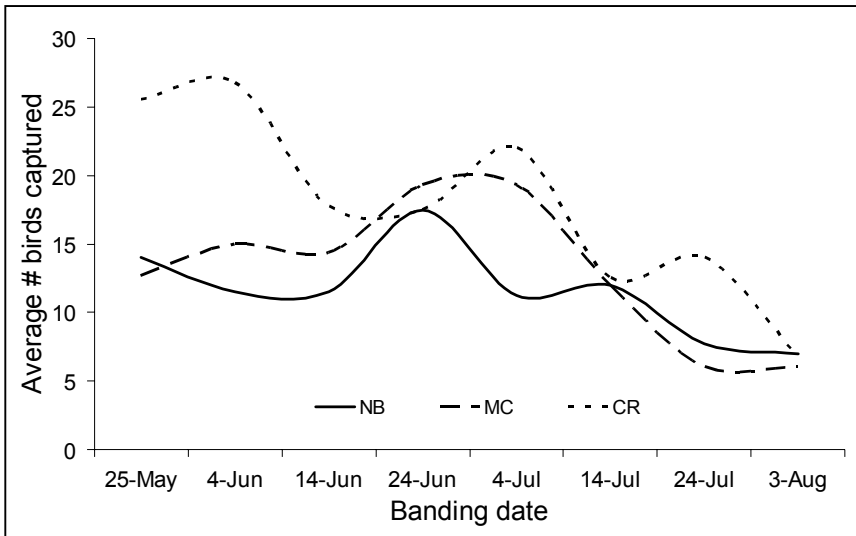


Figure 2. Average number of individual birds captured during each of eight 10-day MAPS periods at Natural Bridge State Park Nature Preserve (NB), Mammoth Cave National Park (MC), and Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge (CR) from 2003 to 2006. Trend lines are smoothed to clarify general trends.

The number of birds captured can vary dramatically among years and stations depending on a variety of factors that the IBP is only now beginning to explore (Saracco and DeSante 2007). On average, however, Kentucky's MAPS stations capture between 90 and 140 birds representing 10 to 29 species annually (Table 1). Several species designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Kentucky (KDFWR 2005) are well represented at no less than a single MAPS station, including Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) and Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). In a given year, 12% to 30% of birds captured are individuals banded previously in the current year or in prior years; such encounters are termed "recaptures." Recaptures comprise a vital component of the MAPS program, as estimates of survivorship derive largely from the capture histories of individual birds. Productivity estimates stem from the proportion of young birds captured relative to adult birds of the same species.

The most commonly captured species are indicative of the habitat monitored at a given station (Table 2). The Clarks River site is situated within a bottomland hardwood corridor along Dunn Slough, a major tributary of the East Fork of the Clarks River; additionally, two small old fields occur within the otherwise mature forest where the banding station is located. MAPS banding at Mammoth Cave occurs in a bottomland hardwood corridor along the Green River. The river, an old clearing, and a small parking area result in the presence of edge habitat in close proximity to the station. The Natural Bridge MAPS station possesses the least diverse habitat of the three, occurring within a ravine of predominantly mixed mesophytic forest along Lower Hoods Branch. Additionally, the list of captured species reveals a bias inherent in many studies using mist nets; specifically, birds that spend more time nearer the ground (i.e., on the ground or within the shrub layer) are sampled much more frequently than mid-story and canopy-dwelling birds.

Looking forward

Recently, the IBP compared population trends in 37 species of wood warblers estimated from the MAPS program with those estimated from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (Saracco and DeSante 2007); trend estimates exhibited a strong positive correlation. Subsequently, the IBP examined trends in productivity and adult survivorship as they relate to population trends. Preliminary analyses suggest a relationship between adult survivorship and population trends (Saracco and DeSante 2007). Future work will explore differences in productivity and survivorship among regions and populations, as well as identify regional trends in productivity and survivorship. Furthermore, the IBP is pursuing a targeted expansion (by up to 70%) in the MAPS program to improve coverage of under-represented habitats and species.

Table 1. Number of birds captured and species diversity at MAPS stations in Kentucky from 2003 to 2006. Data from the Fort Knox Military Reservation are averages from the six MAPS stations on the reservation.

Site	Total captures (# species)			
	2003	2004	2005	2006
Clarks River NWR	115 (23)	182 (25)	133 (23)	141 (29)
Natural Bridge SPNP	84 (11)	76 (10)	96 (17)	113 (13)
Mammoth Cave NP	-	86 (19)	108 (18)	129 (17)
Fort Knox Military Reservation	-	90 (19)	97 (21)	116 (25)

Table 2. Species most commonly captured at three MAPS stations in Kentucky from 2003 to 2006. Species at each station are ordered with regard to the frequency of capture; only those species captured at least four times per year, on average, are listed.

Clarks River NWR	Natural Bridge SPNP	Mammoth Cave NP
Acadian Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax vireescens</i>)	Hooded Warbler (<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>)	Kentucky Warbler (<i>Oporornis formosus</i>)
Kentucky Warbler	Louisiana Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>)	Worm-eating Warbler (<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (<i>Archilochus colubris</i>)	Worm-eating Warbler	Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)
Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>)	Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)
Carolina Wren	Acadian Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Indigo Bunting (<i>Passerina cyanea</i>)	Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	Indigo Bunting
Tufted Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>)	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<i>Poliottila caerulea</i>)	Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides pubescens</i>)
Downy Woodpecker		
Louisiana Waterthrush		

Acknowledgments

We greatly appreciate the effort of our fellow MAPS cooperators in Kentucky, past and present: Hap Chambers and personnel at the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge including Rick Huffines (former refuge manager), Michael Johnson (current refuge manager), and Andy Eller; Bill Moore, Brice Leech, and Larry Johnson at Mammoth Cave National Park; and Dave Skinner, Zeb Weese, Gena Davenport, and Noelle Theres at Natural Bridge State Park Nature Preserve. Furthermore, we thank Danielle Kaschube and Phil Nott of the IBP for providing banding data from Fort Knox.

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Project SOS: Save our *Sialia*
Project Overview and 2006 Nesting Season Results

Bob Peak and Judy Peak

In 1990, the authors initiated a nest box project to maintain a core population of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) in western Kentucky. We named the effort Project SOS (Save Our *Sialia*) and formulated a mission of attempting to offset losses in the bluebird population caused by nest cavity competition and severe weather, particularly winter seasons with exceptionally harsh conditions comparable to those of 1977-1978 and 1978-1979. Furthermore, as a secondary part of the mission, Project SOS nest boxes are typically situated so that they provide some degree of recreational wildlife viewing and nature education opportunities.

This report summarizes the results of Project SOS efforts conducted during the 2006 nesting season in the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, as well as additional efforts at Lake Barkley State Resort Park and John James Audubon State Park. It also provides some summary data for previous years' efforts.

Description of Locations

The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) is a 170,000-acre (68,800-ha) parcel of public land that was dedicated in 1963. It is located in Lyon and Trigg counties, Kentucky, and Stewart County, Tennessee, and consists of a 40-mile (64-km) long isthmus that was formed when the Tennessee River and Cumberland River were impounded, creating Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley, respectively. The government project was intended to demonstrate how an area with limited timber, agricultural, and industrial resources could be converted into a recreation asset that would stimulate economic growth in the region. Today LBL is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service and, as the focal point of a \$600 million tourism industry, is one of the most visited attractions in Kentucky and Tennessee. With 300 mi (480 km) of undeveloped shoreline, LBL offers a multitude of recreational opportunities and provides unique experiences in the areas of environmental education and historic interpretation to an average of two million visitors each year. Bluebird nest boxes are located along bluebird trails (a series of bluebird boxes placed along a prescribed route) in 17 different areas of LBL (Table 1). Visitors to LBL can view nearly all of the boxes.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park is the largest park in the Kentucky State Park system, consisting of 3700 acres (1500 ha). It is located on the Little River embayment on the eastern side of Lake Barkley in Trigg County approximately 5 mi (8 km) east of LBL. The park is primarily forested and has a variety of openings and edge habitats. Nearly all of the bluebird nest boxes located there can be observed from the roads in the park.

John James Audubon State Park is composed of 692 acres (280 ha), with 325 acres (132 ha) designated as a Kentucky state nature preserve; it is located at Henderson in Henderson County. The Audubon Museum in the park houses many of John James Audubon's original watercolors, oils, engravings, and personal memorabilia. The park's nest boxes are located in areas where park visitors can easily observe them. Most importantly, the nest boxes are close to the park's roads, so physically challenged people can view the birds from the comfort and convenience of a vehicle.

The bluebird trails at LBL and Lake Barkley State Resort Park are registered as a part of the Transcontinental Bluebird Trail and the Trans-Kentucky Bluebird Trail. The trans-continental trail, developed by the North American Bluebird Society, is a network of bluebird trails stretching across the United States and Canada that provides thousands of nest boxes for bluebirds and other cavity-nesting species. The Trans-Kentucky trail was developed by the Kentucky Bluebird Society; this organization's goal is eventually to have a registered bluebird trail in every county of the state.

Table 1. Location of LBL bluebird trails and number of Eastern Bluebirds fledged in 2006.

Trail Location	# Boxes	# Fledglings
North Information Center	5	26
Hillman Ferry Campground	7	53
Nature Station	35	255
Camp Energy	7	59
Elk-Bison Prairie	10	67
Golden Pond Visitor Center	15	69
Administration Office	5	25
Hunter's Check Station	3	31
Central Maintenance	10	52
Colson Overlook	1	12
Rushing Creek Campground	8	61
The Homeplace-1850	4	14
South Bison Range	23	149
South Maintenance Area	7	42
Brandon Spring Group Camp	9	77
South Information Center	6	51
Piney Campground	10	49
Total	165	1092

Summary of LBL Data

Including travel time to LBL, speaking engagements, preparatory work, and nest box monitoring work in the field, we spent over 200 hours working on Project SOS and drove approximately 1,200 mi (1920 km) to monitor, to repair, or to relocate bluebird nest boxes at LBL in 2006. During the 2006 nesting season, 1297 Eastern Bluebird eggs were laid in the 165 bluebird nest boxes at LBL, with 1092 bluebirds fledging, for an 84.2% fledging success rate. (Note: Young are considered to have successfully fledged if there is positive evidence of fledging (e.g. pin feather sheath sheds, compressed nests, undisposed fecal sacs, etc.) at the time of nest monitoring, and no evidence of predation [e.g. broken eggs, nest material in disarray, mud or scratch marks on the exterior of the box, loose nestling feathers] is detected.) Adult bluebirds made 316 nesting attempts in the boxes. (Note: An "attempt" is defined as a bird building a nest and laying at least one egg). There were 159 unhatched bluebird eggs and 46 dead bluebird nestlings discovered in the boxes. Evidence (i.e., feathers, eggshells, nests in disarray, etc.) existed that additional adult birds and eggs may have been the victims of predation by Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), but exact numbers could not be determined.

From nest construction to the fledging of the young birds, the Eastern Bluebird's reproductive cycle covers approximately one month. Therefore, nest boxes must be monitored on a monthly basis to determine the outcome of each nesting attempt accurately. In 2006 we monitored the boxes on the following dates: 25-26 March, 14-15 April, 19-20 May, 13-14 June, 10-11 July, 8-9 August, and 2 September. We often observe the first clutches of eggs by the last week of March, and in a few instances, have encountered late clutches in late August and early September. Although unconfirmed, we believe it is possible that some females may nest three times in a given season.

Eastern Bluebird eggs are normally the light blue color that is characteristic of thrushes. However, clutches of white eggs occasionally occur, and white eggs account for roughly 5 percent of all eggs (Toops 1994). White bluebird eggs ($n=37$ [2.85% of the total]) were found in nests at the following LBL trails: Nature Station, Camp Energy, South Maintenance Area, Rushing Creek Campground, and the South Bison Range. Twenty-five of the white eggs produced birds that eventually fledged. There is no certainty that bluebirds

fledged from a clutch of white eggs will produce white eggs when they become sexually mature. Additionally, there is usually no mixture of white and blue eggs in a bluebird clutch. In 17 nesting seasons and inspections of many hundreds of bluebird clutches, the authors have never observed a mixture of egg colors in a bluebird nest. On the rare occasion that one white egg is found among a clutch of blue eggs, or vice versa, a second female probably "dumped" the anomalous egg at an opportune moment.

The LBL nest boxes also yielded 38 Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) fledglings, 13 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) fledglings, and 15 Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) fledglings during 2006. The Prothonotary Warbler, a neotropical migrant, is the only cavity-nesting warbler in the eastern United States, and its populations have been declining in recent years (U.S. Geological Survey 2007).

The number of bluebirds fledged in 2006 was the second-highest total in the 17 years that we have managed the LBL bluebird trails (Table 2). Based on the ratio of bluebirds fledged per nest box, the 2006 nesting season ranked as the third-best year, with a ratio of 6.62 fledglings per box. During the 17-year duration of Project SOS, 1049 additional juvenile birds, representing six species (Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch [*Sitta carolinensis*], Carolina Wren [*Thryothorus ludovicianus*], and Prothonotary Warbler) have fledged from the LBL bluebird nest boxes. Also of interest from the 2005 nesting season was a Tufted Titmouse clutch involving nine eggs. The clutch was located in a nest box at Piney Campground on the south end of LBL, Stewart County, Tennessee. Grubb and Pravosudov (1994) give clutch size for Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) as 3-9, most commonly 5-6, so the LBL clutch was at the maximum limit for the species.

Table 2. Total fledglings recorded in previous years at LBL.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
# Boxes	108	153	159	155	159	157	156	162
# Fledglings	544	720	727	820	898	872	754	599
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
# Boxes	149	152	153	154	158	161	164	164
# Fledglings	774	719	871	964	1086	978	1129	976

During the 2002 and 2003 nesting seasons, we participated in an Eastern Bluebird banding study at LBL under the direction of Dr. David Pitts, a University of Tennessee-Martin biologist and master bird bander. Due to relatively few banding recoveries and other limiting factors, Dr. Pitts decided to discontinue the banding study in 2004. However, we continue to record sightings and recoveries of banded bluebirds. On 14 April 2006, a banded female bluebird (metal band #1871-33289) was discovered in nest box #2 at the Golden Pond Visitor Center trail; she was incubating a clutch of five eggs, and all of the hatchlings eventually fledged. This bluebird had been banded 26 April 2003 in nest box #5, in the Central Maintenance Area. This natal nest box is less than one mi (0.6 km) from the recovery nest box. Another banded female bluebird (metal band #1871-33203 & faded orange plastic band) was found in nest box #19 at the South Bison Range 13 June 2006; she was incubating a clutch of five eggs, and all of the hatchlings subsequently fledged. This individual was banded 19 April 2003 in nest box #23 at the South Bison Range. Interestingly, the two nest boxes are approximately 0.5 mi (0.3 km) apart and are located on the same fence. Each recovery demonstrates that Eastern Bluebirds may possibly exhibit some degree of site fidelity, i.e., returning to the general vicinity of a natal nest box. To date, we have recovered or observed 11 banded Eastern Bluebirds (7 females, 4 males) at LBL, and the females have selected nest boxes that are in relatively close proximity to their natal nest boxes.

While monitoring the bluebird nest boxes in 2006, we found that some of the boxes were used at various times by ants, wasps, and a variety of other insects. We also found four bats (species unknown) in nest box #7 at the entrance to the Golden Pond Visitor Center 2 September 2006.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park

As an additional part of Project SOS, we continued maintenance of a 41-box bluebird trail at nearby Lake Barkley State Resort Park. In 2006, there were 421 bluebird eggs laid in these boxes, with 350 birds fledging, for an 83.1% fledging success rate. The ratio of bluebirds fledged per nest box at this location was 8.54. Twenty (4.75%) of the bluebird eggs along this trail were white, and 13 of hatchlings from these eggs fledged successfully. We also found 19 dead bluebird nestlings in the boxes. There were 97 nesting attempts by bluebirds at this site, and, for the fourth year in a row, raccoon predation had a less serious impact on the fledging success of the birds than in previous years (Table 3). This reduced predation by raccoons may have been attributable to the fact that at the conclusion of the 2002 nesting season, we partially covered the nest box posts with aluminum sheet metal. During the 2004 nesting season, we added additional sheet metal to nest box posts where raccoon predation was evident and installed taller posts in the most troublesome locations. The dramatic improvement in fledging success seems to indicate that the sheet metal and taller posts are serving as an effective deterrent. In 2006, the trail also yielded six Carolina Chickadee fledglings. Since 1990, in addition to bluebirds, the nest boxes along this bluebird trail have yielded 224 fledglings, representing five species (Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Prothonotary Warbler, Carolina Wren, and Tree Swallow).

Table 3. Total fledglings in previous years at Lake Barkley State Resort Park.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
# Boxes	10	11	27	30	31	29	29	28
# Fledglings	23	27	91	97	85	87	67	99

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
# Boxes	28	29	29	36	37	37	41	41
# Fledglings	93	118	128	116	148	302	296	316

John James Audubon State Park

As a further extension of Project SOS, we established a 12-box bluebird trail at John James Audubon State Park in 2005. During the 2006 nesting season, these nest boxes resulted in 11 bluebird nesting attempts that produced 56 eggs, 37 hatchlings, 5 unhatched eggs, and 14 dead hatchlings. The 2006 fledging success rate was only 66%. The boxes also harbored three Carolina Chickadee nesting attempts that resulted in three hatchlings. Regrettably, there were five nesting failures, consisting of three clutches of bluebirds and two clutches of chickadees. Raccoons and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were the cause of the failures, but such failures are common occurrences in the avian world, and these events underscore the fragility of songbird reproduction. To alleviate the problem, we intend to add sheet metal to nest box posts where raccoon predation was evident. If bluebirds exhibit some degree of nest box fidelity, it is hopeful that surviving adult bluebirds will return to this trail next spring and continue boosting the local population.

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We wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Land Between the Lakes Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service. The latter provided a vehicle for the fieldwork at LBL. We also wish to thank Phil Hazle, the Jailer for Calloway County, Kentucky, who provided replacement nest boxes through a special training program he has

developed for the jail inmates. The nesting data in this report will be shared with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, John James Audubon State Park, the Land Between the Lakes Association, the North American Bluebird Society, the Kentucky Bluebird Society, and other governmental or ornithological organizations.

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Spring Season 2007

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The spring 2007 season was one of extreme temperature variation. Following a colder-than-average period in February, temperatures in March averaged above normal, largely due to a period of near record-high temperatures during the latter two weeks that made the month the fifth warmest March on record at Louisville. However, temperatures abruptly “went south” in early April, and a nearly two-week period of near record-cold temperatures from 4-15 April set spring back significantly. Emerging vegetation was significantly burned back, and it took several weeks for deciduous trees and shrubs to begin to recover. As a result, returning summer residents and migrants were confronted with very unusual conditions. Temperatures during May subsequently returned to above-normal. Precipitation was below-average for the three-month period, with March and May being the driest months; southern portions of the state suffered from lack of rainfall more than the northern portions. The loss of early season food due to the April freeze was at least partly responsible for an unprecedented showing of several species at feeding stations; included in the trend were primarily Cardinalids like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings. Rarity highlights included two Western grebes, three Anhingas, multiple reports of Glossy Ibis, Yellow Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Little Gull, Iceland Gull, Painted Bunting, and continuing Spotted Towhee and Scott's Oriole.

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; **Place names:** A.J. Jolly = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell; Ballard = Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston; Barren = Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren; Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, Madison; Black Mt. = Black Mt., Harlan; Blackacre = Blackacre SNP, Jefferson; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Kentucky Lake, Calloway; Boatwright = Boatwright WMA, Ballard; Camp #9 = Peabody Camp #9 coal preparation plant, Union; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, Union; Caperton = Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve,

Jefferson; Chaney Lake = Chaney Lake, *Warren*; Cherokee Park = Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Drakesboro = Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*; Ellis Park = Ellis Park Race Track, *Henderson*; Falls of the Ohio = Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Floyds Fork = Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*; Gibraltar = Gibraltar Mine site, *Muhlenberg*; Green Turtle Bay = Lake Barkley from Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston/Lyon*; Hardy Slough = Hardy Slough, Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Hickman = Hickman, *Fulton*; Homestead = Homestead Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; Honey Cypress Slough = Honey Cypress Slough, Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Horse Pond Slough = Horse Pond Slough along West Franklin Road, *Henderson*; Horseshoe Road = slough next to Horseshoe Road, *Henderson*; J.J. Audubon = J.J. Audubon State Park, *Henderson*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall/Lyon/Calloway/Trigg*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake Barkley = Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lake No. 9 = Lake No. 9, *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Long Point = Long Point Unit, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms = Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *Jefferson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Mitchell Lake = Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Mt. Zion = Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; Obion = Obion WMA, *Fulton*; Open Pond = Open Pond, *Fulton*; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant impoundments, *Muhlenberg*; Petersburg = Petersburg, *Boone*; Pleasant Hill Church Road = Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*; Richmond = Richmond, *Madison*; Sandy Slough = Sandy Slough at West Franklin Road, *Henderson*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Shaker Mill = Shaker Mill, *Warren*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; Swan Lake = Swan Lake Unit Boatwright WMA, *Ballard*; at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road = slough along Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road near Mt. Vernon, Indiana, *Union*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – latest reports were of 2 at Mitchell Lake 21 March (BP) and 1 with a broken wing at Sauerheber 21 April (DR, KOS).

Snow Goose – latest reports were of 11 at Mitchell Lake 3 May (BP) and an immature at Griffin Park, *Warren*, 24 May (DR).

Ross's Goose – latest report was of at least 8 at Mitchell Lake 21 March (BP).

Gadwall – peak counts of interest included ca. 125 along KY 252, *Allen*, 22 March (DR); ca. 180 at Blood River 26 March (BH); a few hundred in w. *Henderson* 9 April (DR); and 75 near Obion 26 April (BP). Latest reports were of 2 at Horseshoe Road 6 May (DR, CC); a few at Lake No. 9 on 7 May (DR); a pair at Ky Dam 8 May (BP, AS); and a female at Paradise 11 May (BY, MY).

American Wigeon – latest report was of a pair at Mitchell Lake 8 May (BP, AS).

American Black Duck – latest report was of 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 11 May (BP).

Blue-winged Teal – peak counts of interest included “hundreds” in w. *Henderson* 9 April (DR) and 200–250 at Obion 26 April (BP); latest reports of possible breeding birds included 3 at Camp #11 on 12 May (BP); 2 males at Horseshoe Road and 1 male at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road, both 23 May (BP); 2 at Lake No. 9 on 23 May (DR); and 3 males and a female at Island No. 8 Slough, *Fulton*, 24 May (BP).

Northern Shoveler – peak counts were of 250+ at Ballard 21 March (BP); a few hundred at Ky Dam 28 March (DR); and ca. 335 in w. *Henderson* 10 April (BP). Latest report was of a male at Swan Lake 23 May (BP).

Green-winged Teal – peak count was of ca. 450 in w. *Henderson* 10 April (BP); latest reports were of single males in the Lower

Hickman Bottoms and at Swan Lake, both 17 May (BP).

Canvasback – a late season count of more than 100 on Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*, 19 April (JBs) was notable.

Redhead – peak count was of 50 at A.J. Jolly 8 March (FR); latest reports were of 11 at Taylorsville Lake, *Anderson*, 19 April (BW) and a male that lingered at Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*, to the end of May (RD).

Ring-necked Duck – a notable count of 170 was made at A.J. Jolly 8 March (FR); a male was still at Lake No. 9 on 24 May (BP).

Greater Scaup – reports of interest included 8 at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 21 March (DR); 2 females on Lake Cumberland above the dam, *Russell*, 13 April (RD); 15-20 on Barren 14 April (DR); and a female still on Ky Lake above the dam 2 May (BP et al.).

Lesser Scaup – latest reports of possibly injured birds were of 23 on Lake Barkley above the dam 22 May (DR) and 7 at Kuttawa 23 May (BP).

Surf Scoter – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 at Paradise 1 March (RD)–3 March (BY, MY); 10+ on Ky Lake above the dam 30 March (DR); at least 9 at the same location 31 March (BY, MY, BP); and a male at South Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 21 April (ph.RS).

White-winged Scoter – 1 was still present on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 March (DA).

Bufflehead – a male lingered at the Ky Dam Village beach area into the last week of May (m. ob.).

Common Goldeneye – latest reports included a female at Ky Dam Village marina 24 April (BP); an immature male at Ky Dam 8 May (BP, AS); and a male, most certainly injured, that lingered on Lake No. 9 to at least 24 May (BP).

Hooded Merganser – females with young were observed as follows: at Homestead 8 May (DR); at Split Rock Conservation Park, *Boone*, 12 May (LM); at Caperton

(2 broods) 13 May (MS); at both Horse Pond Slough and the slough along KY 268 nw. of Sauerheber, *Henderson*, both 30 May (BP); and at Honey Cypress Slough 31 May (CC).

Red-breasted Merganser – peak count was of 200-300 on Lake Barkley above the dam 4 March (BY, MY); latest reports were of single females at Lake No. 9 on 8 May (DR); at East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*, 12 May (LM); and on the Ohio River at Louisville 16 May (BP).

Ruddy Duck – peak counts were of 250-300 on Lake Barkley above the dam 28 March (DR) and ca. 350 on Lake Barkley at the Silo Overlook, *Lyon/Trigg*, 30 March (DR); latest report was of 1 on Lake Barkley above the dam 3 May (BP).

Red-throated Loon – the only report was of 1 on Ky Lake at the mouth of Little Bear Creek, *Marshall*, 30 March (DR).

Common Loon – notable peak counts included 20 at Paradise 20 March (DR); at least 15 at Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, 21 March (BP); 100+ scattered on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 29 March (BP, EH); 275+ total on Ky Lake/Lake Barkley 30 March (DR); ca. 25 on Barren 14 April (DR); and 52 at Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*, 15 April (MWr, MG). Other reports of interest included 6 on Barren (DR) and 17 on Ky Lake above the dam, 1 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, and 1 at Paradise (BY, MY), all 11 May; 1 at Camp #9 on 12 May (BP); 1 on Shanty Hollow Lake, *Warren*, 15 May (DR); 1 at Petersburg 20 May (LM); and 2 above Ky Dam 17 May (BP) with 1 still there 23 May (BP).

Pied-billed Grebe – late spring reports of possible breeders included 1 at Caperton 4 May (BY) and 6 May (BP et al.); a few at Camp #11 into mid-May (BP); 1 at Lake No. 9 on 7/23 May (DR); and 1 at Horseshoe Road 30 May (BP).

Horned Grebe – latest report was of 2 at Camp #9 on 3 May (BP).

Eared Grebe – there were three reports, all being included: 1 was still at Paradise 10 March (BY, KOS); 1 near Ky Dam Village beach 21 March (*BP, KH); and 1

PHOTO SALON OF SPRING 2007 WATERBIRDS



Glossy Ibis, *Fulton*
3 May 2007
Photo by David Roemer



Piping Plover, *Jefferson*
27 April 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



American Avocets (most of 9), *Marshall*
24 April 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Black-necked Stilt, *Ballard*
30 April 2007
Photo by Scott Record



Glossy Ibis, *Henderson*
21 April 2007
Photo by David Roemer

PHOTO SALON OF SPRING 2007 WATERBIRDS



Hudsonian Godwit (1 of 2), *Henderson*
25 April 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Marbled Godwits (some of 37), *Marshall*
19 April 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Sanderling (1 of 10), *Marshall*
16 May 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitchers (2),
and Wilson's Phalarope, *Union*, 25 April 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Red-necked Phalarope, *Henderson*, 23 May 2007
Photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

on Lake Barkley near Energy Lake, *Trigg*, 30 March (DR).

Western Grebe – 2 were present on Ky Lake above the dam 28 March–18 April (vt.DR et al.). KBRC review required.



Western Grebes (2), Ky Lake, *Marshall*
28 March 2007
Video clip by David Roemer

American White Pelican – reports of interest included no less than 600 at Blood River 9 March (HC); 300 on Lake Barkley 30 March (DR); 4 on the Lexington Reservoir 25 March (JW); 1 at Paradise 18-19 April (BP); 16 still on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 12 May (*vide* HC); and 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 25 May (LD).

Double-crested Cormorant – peak counts included “thousands” moving northward on Lake Barkley 28 March with 15,000 (a new state high count) on Lake Barkley off the Silo Overlook, *Lyon/Trigg*, and an additional 1000 at Kuttawa 30 March (DR); with 1500+ still on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 13 April (BP). Two on the Casey Creek embayment of Green River Lake, *Adair*, 26 May (RD) were relatively late. Birds were reported nesting on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 13 May (HC).

Anhinga – 3 males were seen soaring over Obion 7 May (ph.DR). This represents an early arrival date for the state and the first of more than 1 individual since 1950. KBRC review required.

American Bittern – there

were several reports, all being included: singles heard at Sauerheber 9 April (DR) and 10 April (BP); 2 at Sinclair 18 April (BP); 1 heard in se. *Hopkins* 19 April (BP); 1 at Boatwright 20 April (SRe); 3 at Sauerheber 21 April (DR, KOS) with 1 there 22 April (CC); and 1 at Homestead 17 May (DR).

Least Bittern – there were several reports, all being included: 1 heard e. of Drakesboro 29 April (BP, AC) and 11 May (BY, MY); 1 heard at Hardy Slough 6 May (BY, MY); 2 heard at Camp #11 on 12 May (BP); 1 seen at Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 19 May (CC); and 1 heard near the n. end of Lake No. 9 on 24 May (BP).

Great Blue Heron – new nesting colonies were reported from Grayson Lake WMA, *Elliott*, (SF); Ky Lake, *Calloway* (HC); and at the Mill Creek power plant, sw. *Jefferson* (DC).

Great Egret – early reports of interest included 1 at Sauerheber 15 March (CC); 1 at England-Idlewild Park, *Boone*, 24 March (LM) and 2 at A.J. Jolly 30 March (FR). Four pairs were present with Great Blue Herons at a new nesting colony at Sinclair 28-29 April/9 May (DR, KOS). Peak counts included ca. 100 at Obion 23 May (DR) and 60+ at Hardy Slough 28 May (CC). Also of interest were 2 in *Elliott* 25 April (EM).



Anhingas (3 males), *Fulton*
7 May 2007
Photo by David Roemer

Snowy Egret – reports of interest included 1 at Drakesboro 27 April (DR, JR) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 30 May (BP).

Little Blue Heron – reports of interest included 5 in s. *Ohio* 27 April (DR, JR); 1 at Homestead 8 May (DR); and 1 at Marydale, *Boone*, 18-19 May (LH).

Cattle Egret – earliest report was of 3 on Lake Barkley above the dam 31 March (BP, BY, MY); 1 at Petersburg 7 April (LM) was notable for n. Kentucky.

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 85 at the Falls of the Ohio 30 May (BP) was a relatively impressive count for recent years.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – there were a few reports, all being included: 1-2 at Boatwright 19-20 April (SRe); 1 at a nest along Woodbine Drive, Lexington, in mid-May (PD, *fide* JW); and 1-3 along the Greenbelt Highway, sw. *Jefferson*, during the last two weeks of May (CL et al.).

Glossy Ibis – there was an impressive flurry of reports, all being included: 2 unconfirmed *Plegadis* sp. at Sauerheber 18 April (MM) with 1 being subsequently confirmed to be an adult Glossy 21 April (ph.DR, KOS) and again 25 April (BP); an adult at Long Point 3 May (ph.DR); and 1 at Sauerheber 6 May (ph.DR, CC) that was different than the individual observed 21/25 April (DR, CC). An unidentified ibis was noted flying over Cypress Creek, *Muhlenberg*, 24 March (WR). KBRC review required.

Black Vulture – active nests were located at Kentucky River WMA, *Henry*, with 2 eggs 27 March and 2 young 15 May (BP et al.), and at East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*, with 2 small young 12 May (LM).

Osprey – returning nesting birds were widespread on Lake Barkley by the second week of March (m. ob.); other early birds were observed at Paradise 10 March (BY, KOS); Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 14 March (RD); and Minor Clark 18 March (LH). A new nest was located on the Tennessee River immediately below Ky Dam, *Livingston*, in mid-April (BP); another

was unsuccessful at Shippingport Island, *Jefferson*, in late May (BV et al.).

Mississippi Kite – 2 near Obion 26 April (BP) represented a new early arrival date; outside of known breeding areas, a sub-adult in *Butler* 9 May (ph.DR) was of interest.

Bald Eagle – several new nests were located this spring as follows: on the Blood River embayment of Ky Lake, *Calloway* (HC et al.); on French Island No. 2 on the Ohio River, *Daviess* (B&BVa et al.); along the Mississippi River w. of Hickman, *Fulton*, (SV, AS); below Barkley Dam, *Lyon* (BP); at Taylorsville Lake, *Spencer* (LF, KR); on the Little River embayment of Lake Barkley, *Trigg* (PFn et al.); and along the Ohio River near Bedford, *Trimble* (RBe); a count of 14 (all but one being sub-adults) in view at one time at Obion 26 April (BP) was notable.

Northern Harrier – a late-season count of 15-20 over a recently burned area at Sinclair (BY, KOS) was notable; latest reports away from known nesting areas were 1 at Open Pond 20 May (HC) and a male in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 23 May (DR), probably different birds.

Sharp-shinned Hawk – a female banded in Michigan 30 April 2005 was recovered along Tates Creek Road, Lexington, in mid-April (AS, SV).

Red-tailed Hawk – there were a number of reports of western forms, especially during the March migratory period for the species (DR, BP, AS); an adult light morph *B. j. calurus* s. of Catesville, *Webster*, 8 March (AS) was a county-first for western forms. A Red-tailed Hawk banded at French River, Minnesota, in October 1991 as a hatch-year bird was recovered along Billy Drake Road, *Muhlenberg*, 13 March 2007, making it more than 15 years old (SRo, *fide* AS).

Rough-legged Hawk – latest reports were of 2 at Sinclair 10 March (BY, KOS); and 1 at Gibraltar and 3 at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, both 16 March (BP, AS, SV).

Golden Eagle – the only reports were of a juvenile at Berea Forest 11 March (SM, RBr) and a juvenile at Homestead 8 April (ph.DR).

Merlin – there were only a few reports, all being included: 1 at Sinclair of the prairie race (*F. c. richardsonii*) 20 March (ph. DR); 1 at Homestead 8 April (DR); and 1 at Open Pond 5 May (BY, MY).

Peregrine Falcon – as of mid-May, 8 of 9 known nesting pairs along the Ohio River had active nests (SV, AS, BV); there were a number of reports of birds other than local nesters, all being included: 1 along KY 268, *Henderson*, 18 March (CC); an adult at Hardy Slough 27 March (DR); 1 at Sauerheber 1 April (CC); 1 at Obion and 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, both 14 April (BP); 1 near Obion 18 April (DR); 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 20 April (HC); 1 over Sandy Slough 21 April (DR, KOS); 1 near Horseshoe Road 25 April (BP); 1 near Obion 26 April (BP); singles at Obion and at Long Point, both 3 May (DR); 1 at Melco 4 May (EH); and 1 at Swan Lake 5 May (BY, MY).

Yellow Rail – at least 1 and possibly 2 were observed during a prescribed burn of a native grass planting in ne. *Crittenden* 23 March (*BM). KBRC review required.

King Rail – the only report was of 1 heard at Hardy Slough 10 April (BP).

Virginia Rail – there were several reports, all being included: 1 heard e. of Drakesboro and 2 heard at Gibraltar, both 10 March (BY, KOS); 2 heard at Gibraltar 31 March (BP, BY, MY); 7 at Sauerheber 21 April (DR, MWa, KOS); 2 acting territorial e. of Drakesboro 29 April (BP, AC); 1 at Hardy Slough 30 April (DR); and 1 at Pumphrey Farm, *Pulaski*, 4 May (RD, GH).

Sora – earliest report was of 1 at Sauerheber 27 March (DR); peak count of at least 65 at Sauerheber 21 April (DR, KOS) established a new state high count.

Common Moorhen – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 at Hardy Slough 21 April (DR, KOS) and 28 April (MS); 1 heard at Pond Creek Marsh,

Sauerheber, 6 May (DR, CC); and 2 at Camp #11 on 12 May (BP).

American Coot – peak count was of 10,000+ on Lake Barkley 30 March (DR); late reports of interest included ca. 75 still at Camp #11 on 12 May (BP); 2 at Split Rock Conservation Park, *Boone*, 12 May (LM); 60 still on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 12 May (*fide* HC); 1 at Melco 16 May (BP); 10-12 still on Lake No. 9 on 24 May (BP); and 7 at Camp #9 on 30 May (BP).

Sandhill Crane – northbound flocks were conspicuous during the first week of March, but declined significantly thereafter; ca. 700-1000 were still in w. *Hardin* 4 March (N&GE); latest report was of 1 over Sinclair 29 April (DR, KOS).

Black-bellied Plover – earliest reports were of 3 near Obion 26 April (BP) and 1 heard at Sandy Slough 30 April (DR); peak count was of 15 at Camp #9 on 16 May (BP); latest reports were of 2 on the Mississippi River at Island No. 1, *Carlisle*, 24 May (BP) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 31 May (CC).

American Golden-Plover – earliest report was of 1 at Chaney Lake 3 March (DR) that tied the state's early arrival date; peak count was of ca. 80 along Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 27 March (DR); latest report was of 1 near Open Pond 10 May (BY, MY). Other reports of interest included 7 in *Henderson* 21 March (DR); 2 at Melco 4 April (BP); 1 at Minor Clark 23 April (MWr); 2 near Ellis Park 25 April (BP); 7 at Open Pond 26 April (BP); and 6 near Monkey's Eyebrow, *Ballard*, 3 May (SRe).

Semipalmated Plover – earliest reports were of singles at Fishing Creek 18 April (RD) and at Horseshoe Road 19 April (BP). Notable peak counts included 86 near Long Point 2 May (MT); 200+ at Horseshoe Road 7 May (BP, AS); 100+ at Swan Lake 9 May (SRe); 40 at Fishing Creek 12 May (RD); 110 at Melco 15 May (BP) which established a new high count for the Louisville area; 275+ at Horseshoe Road 17 May (BP); and 44 total at Fishing Creek and Pulaski County Park, 18 May (DR). Latest reports were of

2 at Fishing Creek 27 May (RD) and 30+ at Horseshoe Road 30 May (BP).

Piping Plover – there were two reports: 1 at Melco 27 April (LM, ph.BP, et al.) and 1 at Camp #9 on 7 May (ph.BP).

Black-necked Stilt – there were several reports, all being included: 2 near Obion 18 April (DR); 3-4 at Hardy Slough 30 April (DR); 4 at Cook Slough, Ballard, 30 April (ph.SRE); 2 pair at Swan Lake 3 May (ph. BP); a pair at Open Pond 10 May (vt.BY, MY); and a female at Camp #9 on 23 May (ph.BP).

American Avocet – there were two reports: 9 at the Ky Dam Village beach 24 April (KA, ph.BP) and 1 at Green Turtle Bay 3 May (ph.BP).

Spotted Sandpiper – latest reports were of 1 at Fishing Creek 24 May (RD); singles at several sites in *Henderson/Union* (BP) and 3 at Lake No. 9 (DR), all 23 May; 1 calling as if territorial at Horseshoe Road 30 May (BP); and 1 on the Ohio River along Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 31 May (CC).

Solitary Sandpiper – earliest report was of 1 at Jonathan Creek 26 March (BH); peak count was of at least 90 at Mitchell Lake 3 May (BP).

Greater Yellowlegs – earliest reports were of 2 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 3 March (BY, MY) and 1 at Blood River 7 March (HC, ME); peak counts included ca. 250 at Muddy Slough, Sauerheber, 9 April (DR) and ca. 150 at Obion 14 April (BP) with 200+ there 18 April (DR). Latest reports were of singles at Horseshoe Road (BP) and Lake No. 9 (DR), both 23 May.

Willet – there were a number of reports, all being included: 18 at Kuttawa and 2 at Camp #9, both 24 April (BP); 4 at Kuttawa 25 April (BP); 1 near Long Point and 53 at Kuttawa 26 April (BP); 6 at Camp #9 (BP) and 60+ at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, (RH), both 1 May; 2 at Ky Dam Village beach 2 May (BP et al.); 1 heard over Mitchell Lake 3 May (BP); 3 at Paradise 4 May (BY, MY); 5 at Ky Dam Village beach 7 May (SRE, DR); 1 at Melco 6-13

May (BP, EH, et al.); and 14 at the Ky Dam Village beach 10 May (KC) with 38 there 10 May (BY, MY) and 1 there 15 May (HC).

Lesser Yellowlegs – earliest report was of 1 at Chaney Lake 3 March (DR); notable peak counts included ca. 250 at Obion 14 April (BP); ca. 300+ at and near Obion 18 April (DR) with 300+ at Obion 26 April (BP); and 125 at Ballard 3 May (BP).

Upland Sandpiper – there were only two reports: 1 near Chaney Lake 18 April (ph. BP) and 1 e. of Murray, *Calloway*, 9 May (KC).

Hudsonian Godwit – 2 females were present at Horse Pond Slough 25 April (ph. BP). KBRC review required.

Marbled Godwit – 37 including 1 that had been banded in coastal Georgia were at Ky Dam Village beach 19 April (ph.BP). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 12 May (MA); and 1 at Paradise, 1 at Camp #9, and 6 at Kuttawa, all 16 May (BP).

Sanderling – there were a few reports, all being included: 4 at Camp #9 on 15 May (BP), and 5 at Kuttawa and 10 at Ky Dam, both 16 May (ph.BP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – earliest report was of 1 at Paradise 27 April (DR, JR). Notable peak counts included 100-125 at Melco 16 May (BP); 325 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms and ca. 200 n. of Hickman, both 17 May (BP); 125-150+ at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road, 250+ at Horseshoe Road and 650+ at Sandy Slough, all 23 May (BP); ca. 120 at Lake No. 9 on 23 May (DR); 62 at Fishing Creek 27 May (RD); and “hundreds” at Horseshoe Road 31 May (CC). One was also still at Fishing Creek 31 May (RD).

Western Sandpiper – 1 at Jonathan Creek 15 March (BH) was either an overwintering bird or early migrant; additional reports of spring migrants were of 8 at Paradise 28 April with 4 still there 29 April (DR, KOS); 1 at Sandy Slough 28 April

(MS); and 1 at Swan Lake 3 May (BP) and 4 May (SRe).

Least Sandpiper – peak counts were relatively unimpressive and included 72+ at Melco 10 May (EH); 109 at Fishing Creek 12 May (RD); and 75 n. of Hickman 17 May (BP). Latest report was of 3 at Fishing Creek 24 May (RD).

White-rumped Sandpiper – earliest report was of 1 near Horseshoe Road 19 April (BP) that established a new early arrival date for the state. Peak counts included at least 10 at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 16 May (BP), and 25-30+ just e. of Open Pond and 40-45+ n. of Hickman, both 17 May (BP). Latest reports were of 4 at Horseshoe Road and 2 at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road, both 30 May (BP). Other reports of interest included 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 11/16 May (BP); 1 at Meng's Pond, *Warren*, 12 May (DR); 2-3 at Melco 15-18 May (BP, EH, et al.); and 3 at Fishing Creek 19 May (RD).

Baird's Sandpiper – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 near Horseshoe Road 19 April (BP); 1 at Sandy Slough 30 April (ph.DR); and singles in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (HC, ME) and near Ellis Park (BP), both 1 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper – early reports included 3 at Sauerheber 4 March (BY, MY); 1 at Fishing Creek 5 March (RD) and 44 at Chaney Lake 7 March (DR); peak counts included ca. 350 along Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 27 March (DR); ca. 200 at Obion 14 April (BP) with 200 at and near Obion 18 April (DR); 500+ near Horseshoe Road 19 April (BP); ca. 200 at Swan Lake 3 May (BP); and ca. 500 at Obion 3 May (DR).

Dunlin – earliest reports were of 1 along Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road 27 March (DR); 1 in w. *Henderson* 10 April (BP); and 2 at Melco 11 April (EH). Peak counts were relatively unimpressive and included 10 at Sauerheber 28 April (MS); ca. 20 at Horseshoe Road 6 May (DR); 10 at Minor Clark 16 May (MWr); 25-30 at Paradise 16 May (BP); 37 n. of Hickman 17 May (BP); 17 at Sandy Slough 17 May (BP); and 35 at Horseshoe Road 19 May

(CC). Latest report was of 10 at Horseshoe Road 31 May (CC). Other reports of interest included 1 at Minor Clark 13 April (MWr); 8 at Melco 26 April (EH, MWa); 1 at Fishing Creek 12 May (RD) and 18 May (DR); 5 at the Falls of the Ohio and 1 at Melco, both 16 May (BP); and 1 at Pulaski County Park 18 May (DR).

Stilt Sandpiper – earliest reports were of 1 at Hardy Slough 30 April (DR) and singles in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (HC, ME) and at Ballard (BP), both 1 May. Peak counts were of 19 at Paradise and 7 at Uniontown–Mt. Vernon Road, both 16 May (BP); the farthest e. reports were of 1-2 at Melco 15-18 May (BP, EH, et al.).

Short-billed Dowitcher – earliest reports were of 1 seen/heard at Camp #9 on 24 April (BP); 3 at Willow Pond, *Fulton*, 26 April (BP); and 1 near Long Point 27 April (MT). Peak counts were of 15 at Open Pond 10 May (BY, MY); 21 at Fishing Creek 12 May (RD); 12 at Horseshoe Road 15 May (BP); and 19 at Minor Clark 16 May (MWr).

Long-billed Dowitcher – earliest report was of 3 at Obion 14 April (BP). Peak counts were of 19 at Sauerheber 25 April (BP); 22 at Camp #9 on 1 May (BP); 15 at Mitchell Lake 1 May (BP); and ca. 10 at Lake No. 9 on 3 May (DR). Other notable reports included 1 at Melco 22 April (BP et al.) and 1 at Meng's Pond, *Warren*, 2 May (DR). Also, most of 52 dowitcher sp. at Sauerheber 28 April (CC, *MS) and at least 1 in a group of dowitchers at South Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 7 May (*RS) were likely Long-billed.

Wilson's Snipe – peak count was of 150 total in w. *Henderson* with a flock of ca. 130 along KY 136 on 21 March (DR); latest report was of 1 at Honey Cypress Slough 6 May (DR, CC).

Wilson's Phalarope – there were a few reports, all being included: 2 at Horse Pond Slough, 3 at Sauerheber, and 1 at Camp #9, all 25 April (BP); and 2 at Obion and 1 at Open Pond, both 26 April (BP).

Red-necked Phalarope – a probable male was at Horseshoe Road 23 May (ph.BP). KBRC review required.

Laughing Gull – there were several reports, all being included: 3 at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (MS); 1 at Ky Dam 7 May (SRe, DR) with 3 there 8 May (DR); an adult over Homestead 9 May (DR); and an adult at Green Turtle Bay 11/16/18 May (BP).

Franklin's Gull – the only report was of an adult on Lake Barkley above the dam 31 March (BP, BY, MY).

Little Gull – an adult was observed on Lake Barkley above the dam 31 March (BY, MY, *BP) to 13 April (BP). KBRC review required.

Bonaparte's Gull – peak counts of interest included ca. 1500 still on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 30 March (DR) and 200+ at Barren 14 April (DR); latest reports included 9 at Ky Dam Village 3 May (BP) with 1 first-year bird there to 10 May (KC).

Ring-billed Gull – as usual, small numbers lingered in the vicinity of Ky Dam and on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, into late May (m. ob.); 4 were still at the Falls of the Ohio 30 May (BP).

Herring Gull – notable late-season peak counts included nearly 300 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 28 March (DR) and 10-15 at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (MS); latest reports included 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 12 May (MA); 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 12 May (*vide* HC); 1 below Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, *Livingston*, 1 or 2 at Green Turtle Bay, and 2 at Ky Dam, both 18 May (BP); and 1 below Newburgh Dam on the Ohio River, *Henderson*, and 1 at Ky Dam, both 23 May (BP).

Thayer's Gull – the only reports were of a first-year bird at Ky Dam 28 March (ph. DR) and 31 March (*BP, BY, MY).

Iceland Gull – a first- or second-year bird was present at Kuttawa 28 March (vt.DR). KBRC review required.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – the only reports were of an adult at Wildcat Creek embayment, Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 26 March (BH); an adult on Lake Barkley near Energy Lake, *Trigg*, 30 March (ph. DR); and a first-year bird at Kuttawa 26 April (*BP).

Caspian Tern – earliest reports were of 2 on Lake Barkley 28 March (DR) and 2 at Minor Clark 13 April (MWR); peak counts were unimpressive and included 11 at the Falls of the Ohio 11 May (BP); latest report was of 2 at Ky Dam 22 May (DR).

Black Tern – the only report was of 2 above Ky Dam 17 May (BP).

Common Tern – there were only a few reports, all being included: 1 at Barren 11 May (DR); at least 2 of about 20 *Sterna* terns above Ky Dam 12 May (BP); 1 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 15 May (HC); and at least 2 and maybe most or all of 25 *Sterna* terns above Ky Dam 17 May (BP).

Forster's Tern – latest report was of 7 first-year birds at Green Turtle Bay 23 May (BP).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – 1 on KY 90 in *Monroe* just east of the *Barren* line 25 April (BST) provided a county-first.



Iceland Gull, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*
28 March 2007

Video clip by David Roemer

- Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 heard at Richmond 21 April (TH); 1 at Swan Lake 5 May (BY, MY); 1 at Blackacre 6 May (EH, BBC); 1 at Floyds Fork (AL, *vide* BW) and 1 at Barren River Lake SRP, *Barren* (SSt et al.), both 7 May; 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 8 May (MS); 1 along Sinking Creek, *Laurel*, 10 May (BP); 1 at Cherokee Park 13 May (BW, BBC); 1 that hit a window in e. *Fayette* 23 May (DS); and 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road 25 May (BL, PL).
- Barn Owl** – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 near Science Hill, *Pulaski*, 16 March (RD); 1 at last year's nest site just se. of New Castle, *Henry*, 4 April (BP); a family of 5 young at Dalesburg, *Fleming*, 1 May (SF); and 4 including young in e. *Calloway* 12 May (HC).
- Long-eared Owl** – 3 lingered at the Riverqueen Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, to 20 March (BP); 4 were noted in a yard in ne. *Boyle* in early March, with 4 lingering there to 21 March and 1 last observed there 23 March (KS).
- Short-eared Owl** – latest reports were of at least 8 at the Ken Hopewell Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 6 March (EW) and 7 at Sinclair during the second week of March (PFr).
- Whip-poor-will** – earliest reports were of birds heard in *Hart* 29 March (SK) and *Elliott* 30 March (EM).
- Chimney Swift** – earliest report was of 1 at Shaker Mill 6 April (DR).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – earliest reports were of birds in *Hart* (SK) and at Glasgow, *Barren*, (LC), both 7 April.
- Rufous Hummingbird** – the female that overwintered at Louisville was last observed 18 March (MC).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – latest report was of 1 at Floyds Fork 7 May (AL, *vide* BW).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Blackacre (EH, BBC) and 2 at Cherokee Park (MWa), both 6 May; 2 in *Fulton* 7 May (DR); 1 at Ballard 8 May (BP, AS); 2 at LBL, *Lyon*, 11 May (BY, MY); and 1 at Caperton 12 May (BY, MY).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were only a few reports, all being included: 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 8 May (MS); 1 along Sinking Creek, *Laurel*, 10 May (BP); 1 at Berea Forest 11 May (TH); and 7 in *Calloway* 12 May (*vide* HC).
- Alder Flycatcher** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 seen/heard at Swan Lake 3 May (BP); 1 heard at Honey Cypress Slough 6 May (DR, CC); 3+ at Dry Creek Unit, Barren River Lake WMA, *Barren*, 11 May (DR); 1 at Homestead (DR), 2 heard at Boatwright (BP, AC), 1 in *Calloway* (*vide* HC), and 2 at Caperton (BY, MY), all 12 May; 1 at Caperton 21 May (MS); and 2 at Lake No. 9 on 23 May (DR).
- Willow Flycatcher** – earliest reports were of 1 heard at Blood River 1 May (HC) that established a new early arrival date for the state; and 1 at Melco 4 May (BP).
- Least Flycatcher** – earliest report was of 1 at Sinclair 28 April (DR, KOS); latest report away from se. Kentucky was of 1 at Middletown, *Jefferson*, 26 May (BY); breeding birds were reported from the summit of Black Mt. 13 May (BY, MY) and 21 May (DR).
- Eastern Kingbird** – earliest report was of 1 in *Warren* 9 April (DR); loose foraging flocks of 45 (DR) and 27 (BY, MY) were reported in w. *Henderson* 6 May.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – earliest report was of 1 below Barkley Dam 2 April (PN, DR); birds continued both there and along KY 453, *Livingston*, in April and May, but nesting was not noted at either location.
- White-eyed Vireo** – earliest reports were of 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 30 March (DR) and 2 at LBL, *Lyon*, 31 March (BY, MY, BP), both of which were earlier than the previous early arrival date for the state of 1 April.
- Bell's Vireo** – earliest report was of 2 at Sinclair 28 April (DR, KOS); 1 in *Cal-*

loway 12 May (*fide* HC) was away from known breeding areas..

Yellow-throated Vireo – earliest reports were of singles at LBL, *Trigg*, 30 March (DR) and at Blood River 2 April (ME), both of which were earlier than the previous early arrival date for the state of 3 April.

Blue-headed Vireo – earliest report was of 1 heard at Paintsville Lake WMA, *Johnson*, 22 March (SF).

Philadelphia Vireo – earliest report was of 1 at Mammoth Cave 27 April (SK).

Red-eyed Vireo – earliest report was of 1 at Berea Forest 31 March (SM, RBr) that established a new early arrival date for the state.

Fish Crow – earliest report was of 1 at Blood River 7 March (HC, ME); the species was noted at the margins of its nesting range in *Henderson/Union* and at Ky Dam several times (m. ob.).

Common Raven – the only reports were of 1 heard near Paintsville Lake Dam, *Johnson*, 22 March (SF); 1 at Black Mt. 13 May (BY, MY); and 2 at Black Mt. 21 May (DR).

Purple Martin – the April cold snap was challenging for the species, at least in ne. Kentucky, where one colony was kept alive on crickets (SSw).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – earliest report was of 2 se. of Corbin, *Knox*, 21 March (CB).

Bank Swallow – earliest report was of 1 at Paradise 8 April (DR).

Cliff Swallow – earliest report was of at least 6 at Barkley Dam 21 March (BP).

Barn Swallow – earliest reports were for singles in nw. *Muhlenberg* 20 March (BP) and at Barren 22 March (DR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – following a poor winter showing, predictably there were only a few reports during the spring season, and probably only one of a migrant: 2 were still in sw. *Ohio* 10 March (BY, KOS); 1 was seen at the traditional *Wolfe* breeding location 24 March (FR, VR);

and 1 at Berea Forest 28 April (TH, ASK).

Bewick's Wren – 1 was seen/heard along KY 607 nw. of Beechwood, *Owen*, 28 May (LM).

Marsh Wren – there were several reports, all being included: 1 singing e. of Drakesboro 10 March (BY, KOS) was probably a wintering individual; 1 at Camp #11 on 19 April (BP); 1 at Paradise 23 April (DR) and 28 April (DR, KOS); 1 near Long Point 2 May (MT); 1 at Ballard (BP) and 1 at Long Point (DR), both 3 May; and 1 at Hardy Slough 6 May (BY, MY).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – latest reports came from *Calloway* (*fide* HC) and *Jefferson* (*fide* BY), both 12 May.

Eastern Bluebird – very few were noted in open farmland of the Bluegrass region in mid-April, suggesting some mortality during past February's cold snap (m. ob.); in addition there were a few reports of dead bluebirds being found in nest boxes (m. ob.) and simply out on the open ground (JL) in the same area.

Veery – earliest report was of 1 in *Trigg* 30 April (BL); a bird in *Fulton* 23 May (DR) was relatively late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – latest report was of 1 at Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell*, 24 May (AS).

Hermit Thrush – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 6 May (BP et al.) was rather late.

Wood Thrush – earliest report was of 1 near Fisherville, *Jefferson*, 13 April (EH, JHu).

American Pipit – latest reports were of singles at Ballard 9 May (SRe) and Melco 15 May (BP).

Blue-winged Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 2 April (BL) that established a new early arrival date for the state.

Golden-winged Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: a male at J.J. Audubon 25 April (BP); 3 along Pleasant Hill Church Road 29 April (BL); 6 at LBL, *Lyon*, 2 May (BP et al.); 1 at Carter

Caves SRP, *Carter*, 5 May (JV, ASK); 1 at Cherokee Park 6 May (MWa); 2 at Richmond 7 May (TH); 2 at LBL, *Lyon*, 8 May (BP, AS); and 2 in *Calloway* 12 May (*fide* HC).

Orange-crowned Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: at least 2 at Mt. Zion 20 April (RD); 1 at J.J. Audubon 25 April (BP); 1 at Long Point 26 April (BP); 1 in *Hart* 29 April (SK, JK); 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 3 May (BL); 1 at Caperton 4 May (BY, MY); and 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 8 May (MS).

Nashville Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, 9 April (JBe, PB) that tied the early arrival date for the state.

Northern Parula – earliest reports were of birds at Shaker Mill (DR) and in nw. *Hart* (RH), both 26 March.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – earliest report was of 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road 22 April (BL).

Magnolia Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 30 April (BL); latest reports were of singles at Mt. Zion 26 May (RD) and Middletown, *Jefferson*, 27 May (BY).

Cape May Warbler – it was an excellent spring for the species, with numerous reports and several comments concerning overall abundance. An especially remarkable concentration of no less than 30 and possibly as many as 50 birds foraged in a single large spruce tree at the Ky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources headquarters in Frankfort, *Franklin*, during the first week of May (AS, BSm, SV, et al.).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – reports of interest included a female at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, 20 April (HC, JHo); 1 at Mammoth Cave 27 April (SK); a male at Cherokee Park 5 May (MA); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 5/6 May (SM); a male at Barren River Lake SRP, *Barren*, 7 May (SSSt et al.); 1 at the UK Arboretum, Lexington, 8 May (RBU et al.); a male at Berea Forest 10 May (TH); and a male along Sinking Creek, *Laurel*, 10 May (BP).

Blackburnian Warbler – latest report was of 1 at the Laketon boat ramp, *Carlisle*, 24 May (BP).

Prairie Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 4 April (BL).

Bay-breasted Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 26 April (RD).

Blackpoll Warbler – earliest report was of 1 at J.J. Audubon 25 April (BP).

Swainson's Warbler – reports away from known breeding locations included 2 along Sinking Creek, *Laurel*, 10 May (BP) and 1 singing in s. *Boyle* 21/23 May (MH).

Louisiana Waterthrush – earliest reports were of 1 at Mt. Zion 14 March (RD), that represented a new early arrival date for the state, and 3 in *Trigg* 22 March (BL).

Connecticut Warbler – the only reports were of 1 seen/heard at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 11 May (BP) and 2 at Shanty Hollow Lake, *Warren*, 15 May (DR).

Mourning Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: singles at Shawnee Park, *Jefferson*, (JBe, PB, BBC) and at LBL, *Lyon*, (BP, AS), both 8 May; 1 at Frankfort 10 May (GS); 1 at Mark, *Pulaski* (CN), and 1 at West Kentucky WMA, *McCracken* (SR), both 11 May; singles at Homestead and Shaker Mill (DR) and 1 at Floyds Fork (BW), all 12 May; 1 at Raven Run Nature Preserve, *Fayette*, 15 May (TH); 1 at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, 16 May (ZC); 1 at Pulaski County Park 12 May (AM) and 18 May (DR); and 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 19 May (LM).

Wilson's Warbler – earliest reports were of singles at Cherokee Park (MA) and Veterans Park, Lexington (BA), both 5 May.

Spotted Towhee – the wintering male near Canmer, *Hart*, was last observed 15 April (CF).

American Tree Sparrow – 60-70 were still in *Henderson* 4 March (DR).

Chipping Sparrow – 2 near Centerview, *Breckinridge*, 3 March (BP, AC, et al.) may have been wintering birds.

- Vesper Sparrow** – earliest report was of 2 in *Henderson* 4 March (DR); peak count was of ca. 12 in *Henderson* 21 March (DR); latest report was of 1 along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 21 April/6 May (DR).
- Lark Sparrow** – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 at Long Point 14 April (BP); 1 along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 21 April (BP, MS, et al.) with 2 mating at the same location 6 May (BY, MY); and 1 at Swan Lake 8 May (BP, AS).
- Savannah Sparrow** – latest reports were of 3 at Horseshoe Road (BP) and 1 in *Fulton* (DR), both 23 May.
- Henslow's Sparrow** – reports of interest included 1 to 2 birds along Charles Turner Road, *Barren*, 6-9 May (SSt et al.) that would represent a county-first if breeding; and 1 singing just w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 27 May (GD).
- White-throated Sparrow** – 1 was still at a feeding station at Richmond 31 May (TH).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – it was an unprecedented spring for the species at feeding stations across the state; earliest reports were from *Calloway* (KC), *Hart* (B&BLt), and *Morgan* (DH), all 22 April; some impressive peak counts at feeding stations in early May included 50 at Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge, *Boyle* (JBy); at least 50 near Hartford, *Ohio* (B&BLt); and 30-40 at Central City, *Muhlenberg* (SN); latest reports away from known breeding areas included 1 at Mt. Zion 20 May (RD); 1 at *Henderson*, *Henderson*, 31 May (CC); and a pair through the end of May in *Kenton* (MB, *fide* LM).
- Blue Grosbeak** – this species, like the previous one, also put in an above-normal showing at feeding stations during early May (m. ob.).
- Painted Bunting** – a male and female were reported in a yard near Bethlehem, e.-cen. *Henry*, 12 May (*ML, EL). KBRC review required.
- Bobolink** – earliest report was of 1 heard at Sandy Slough 21 April (DR, KOS); migrants were not especially numerous this spring (m. ob.); 37 at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, 4 May (IS) was the largest number reported away from far w. Kentucky. At least 8 territorial males were reported from just w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, during the latter half of May (KD, GD, et al.); a female was unintentionally flushed from a nest containing 5 eggs there 28 May (GD).
- Rusty Blackbird** – reports of interest included 15 at Petersburg 3 March (LM) and ca. 100 at Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 9 April (DR).
- Brewer's Blackbird** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 1 March (DR); 4 along Smokey Road, *Ballard*, (BP) and 1 along KY 268, *Henderson*, (DR), both 21 March; 1 below Barkley Dam 29 March (BP, EH); 3 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 1 April (DR); 3 in *Henderson* 18 April (DR); and 3 at Sandy Slough 21 April (DR, KOS).
- Baltimore Oriole** – earliest reports were of singles at Caperton (BY, MY) and Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, (KC), both 22 April.
- Scott's Oriole** – the female n. of Frankfort, *Franklin*, lingered to 23 April (F&DS et al.).
- Purple Finch** – following a dismal winter for the species, a few migrants were reported at scattered locales from mid-March through mid-April (m. ob.).
- Pine Siskin** – the only reports were of 1 at Mark, *Pulaski*, 22-25 April (CN, *fide* RD) and 1 at Black Mt. 21 May (DR).

Observers: Ben Albritton (BA); Ken Allen (KA); Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK); Michael Autin (MA); David Ayer (DA); Mary Ann Barnett (MB); Beckham Bird Club (BBC); Jane Bell (JBe); Pat Bell (PB); Ron Bethany (RBe); Clay Black (CB); Jane Brantley (JBy); John Brunjes (JBs); Rhonda Bryant (RBR); Roberta Burnes (RBU); Hap Chambers (HC); Doug Chin (DC); Mary Cleary (MC); Kathy Cohen (KC); Amy Covert

(AC); Linda Craiger (LC); Charlie Crawford (CC); Zach Czirr (ZC); Luckett Davidson (LD); Phyllis Deal (PD); Roseanna Denton (RD); Gary Dorman (GD); Kurt Dorman (KD); Melissa Easley (ME); Neil & Ginny Eklund (N&GE); Pixie Fontechia (PFn); Preston Forsythe (PFr); Lisa Freeman (LF); Scott Freidhof (SF); Carol Friedman (CF); Michael Greene (MG); Michael Hamm (MH); Barry Hart (BH); Keith Hawkins (KH); Lana Hays (LH); Richard Healy (RH); Doug Hennig (DH); Gay Hodges (GH); Tim Houghton (TH); Jenny Howard (JHo); Eddie Huber (EH); Jennifer Huber (JHu); Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS); Janet Kistler (JK); Steve Kistler (SK); Eugene Lacefield (EL); Joe Lacefield (JL); Celia Lawrence (CL); Aurilla Lesley (AL); Bill & Brenda Little (B&BLt); Bill Lisowsky (BL); Paula Lisowsky (PL); Margaret Lowe (ML); Bill Mahan (BM); Scott Marsh (SM); Lee McNeely (LM); Evelyn Morgan (EM); Arlene Morton (AM); Mike Morton (MM); multiple observers (m. ob.); Susan Neace (SN); Connie Neeley (CN); Phyllis Niemi (PN); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP); Scott Record (SRe); Frank Renfrow (FR); Veronica Renfrow (VR); Keith Richardson (KR); David Roemer (DR); Joan Roemer (JR); Stony Rolley (SRo); Wayne Rosso (WR); Rick Seelhorst (RS); Kirtley Settles (KS); Fran and David Slezak (F&DS); Adam Smith (AS); Brian Smith (BSm); Gary Sprandel (GS); Barbara Stedman (BSt); Stephen Stedman (SSt); Ian Stewart (IS); Matt Stickel (MS); David Svetich (DS); Steve Sweeney (SSw); Mike Todd (MT); Jackie Van Willigen (JV); Bob & Barb Varble (B&BVa); Budd Veverka (BV); Shawchyi Vorisek (SV); Major Waltman (MWa); Eric Williams (EW); Jim Williams (JW); Barbara Woerner (BW); Mike Wright (MWr); Ben Yandell (BY); Mary Yandell (MY).

FIELD NOTE

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT IN MUHLENBERG COUNTY

On 28 February 2007, I was scanning for waterbirds at the TVA Paradise Power Plant ash ponds, Muhlenberg County, when I noticed a group of four cormorants loafing on an extended float in the largest pond. Although only Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is expected to occur in Kentucky, especially in late winter, I noted that one of the birds was significantly smaller than the others. I moved to obtain better lighting on the birds and then slowly moved closer to see greater detail. Over the course of about 30 minutes of study, I was able to confirm that the smaller bird was a Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*).

The Neotropic Cormorant was judged to be two-thirds to three-quarters of the overall size of the nearby Double-crested. It was blackish overall with some glossy appearance to the centers of the back feathers, scapulars, and wing coverts creating a scaly appearance; the underparts were a sooty blackish-brown, with the brownest tone most noticeable on the breast area. The head was more rounded in profile than the heads of the Double-crested standing next to it, with a steeper forehead (Front Cover; Figure 2, p. 88). The eye color was turquoise green. The bill was pale grayish with a yellowish base to the lower mandible; the bill appeared somewhat slimmer than those of the Double-crested, and it was significantly shorter in proportion to their bills. The loreal area was dingy, being a grayish or grayish-brown color. The amount of exposed yellowish-orange skin in the gular area was noticeably reduced in the Neotropic Cormorant as compared to the amount exposed on the Double-crested. The smaller extent of the exposed gular skin was primarily due to the basal margin of the gular area being angled forward beneath the lower mandible (the basal gular margin of Double-crested Cormorants is relatively perpendicular to the orientation of the bill, making for a greater amount of exposed skin) (Front Cover). Because the bird was in basic plumage (and perhaps not fully adult based on the brownish tones visible in the plumage), the conspicuous line of white feathering around the margin of the gular area present on adults during the breeding season was absent. The tail of the Neotropic Cormorant was proportionately longer than those of the Double-crested, and the margin of the tail tip was irregular due to molt of rectrices.

After loafing for some time, all four birds entered the water and began foraging in typical cormorant fashion, diving beneath the surface of the water for fish. I called David Roemer to notify him of the bird's presence, and he was able to obtain some excellent photographs of the bird in side-by-side comparison with one of the Double-cresteds later in the afternoon (Front Cover). I returned before David departed, and a little before sunset we both watched the birds lift off the lake (Figure 1, p. 88) and fly north until they were specks on the horizon, apparently departing on migration. In subsequent days the bird was not relocated.

This is the second record of Neotropical Cormorant for Kentucky. The first was documented by David Roemer from Lake Barkley, Trigg County, 27 September 1998 (McNeely 2006). The species is a regular vagrant into the Great Plains and Mississippi Valley with nearly 40 records from that area as of 2002 (Domagalski 2006). Most reports have come during the summer months, but there is an early January record from southern Illinois, so the late February date of this bird in our region is not unprecedented. This record does, however, appear to represent the farthest east a Neotropical Cormorant has occurred in the central United States.

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- Domagalski, Robert. 2006. Mid Continent Rare Bird Records. Unpublished summary.
McNeely, L. 2006. Eleventh report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler* 82:51-52.
—Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, please contact Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Dean's Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101 (blaine.ferrell@wku.edu).

K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Mark Bennett by mail at 113 Iroquois Circle, Russellville, KY, 42276, or via email at (benn5609@bellsouth.net).

Visit the KOS Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website maintained by Dr. Gary Ritchison at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is charged with determining the validity of records of rare and out-of-season birds in Kentucky. Sightings of such birds should be documented with information supporting the identification promptly submitted to the KBRC. Photographic evidence is desirable but not essential. Electronic documentation is preferred and should be submitted to KBRC Secretary, Mark Bennett, via e-mail at benn5609@bellsouth.net. Hard copy documentation should be mailed to Mark Bennett, KBRC Secretary, 113 Iroquois Circle, Russellville, KY 42276.



Figures 1 (above) & 2 (below). Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilienis*) with Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*) 28 February 2007
Paradise Power Plant ash ponds, Muhlenberg County (see Field Note, pp. 86-87)
Photos by David Roemer (above) and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (below)

