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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Tom Uhlman for the image of the male White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) taken 13 March 2008 at St. Anne's Convent, Campbell County (see Winter Season 2008-2009). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



WINTER SEASON 2008-2009

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The winter 2008-2009 was characterized by relatively normal temperature and precipitation, with only a few bouts of unusual weather. Temperature was near normal during December and slightly warmer than normal during February. The month of January, however, was colder than normal, when the season's lowest readings of -3°F, -1°F, -1°F, and 3°F were recorded at Lexington, Louisville, Paducah, and Bowling Green, respectively, on the morning of the 16th. Precipitation was near normal to slightly higher than normal during December, but near normal to slightly below normal during January and February, respectively. There was little snowfall during the period, although a significant winter storm occurred 27-28 January, leaving much of western and central Kentucky covered with several inches of ice, sleet and snow. The devastation to forested areas from the Jackson Purchase northeastwards through the Shawnee Hills and into the northwestern Bluegrass was remarkable, and it will have long-lasting repercussions on the birdlife in these areas. Following the storm a brief period of extremely cold weather exacerbated its effect on winter birdlife; during this period there were several reports of dead Great Blue Herons, raptors, and songbirds.

Rarity highlights included Red-throated Loon, Brown Pelican, Iceland and Great Black-backed gulls, Snowy Owl, and Common Redpoll. Most natural and ornamental food crops were in good supply in most regions, so it was a good winter for berry, cone seed, and mast eaters. The presence of irruptive boreal species was the best in many years, highlighted by the first pronounced flight of White-winged Crossbills into the state since 1982.

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; CBC = Christmas Bird Count. **Place names:** Ballard = Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, *Ky Lake, Calloway*; Cave Run = Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*; Chaney Lake, *Warren*; Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*; Cooley’s Pond, *Wayne*; East Bend = East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Freeman Lake, *Hardin*; Gibraltar = Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*; Griffin Park, *Warren*; Honker Lake = Honker Lake, *LBL, Lyon/Trigg*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, *Kentucky Lake, Marshall*; Ken Hopewell = Ken Hopewell Unit, *Peabody WMA, Ohio*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall* (unless otherwise noted); Lake Barkley = Lake Barkley, *Livingston/Lyon/Trigg*; Lake Herndon, *Logan*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Trigg* (unless otherwise noted); Long Point = Long Point Unit, *Reelfoot NWR, Fulton*; McElroy = McElroy Lake, *Warren*; Morehead, *Rowan*; Petersburg = gravel pit at Petersburg, *Boone*; Rabbit Hash = Ohio River at Rabbit Hash, *Boone*; Reformatory Lake = Reformatory Lake near Buckner, *Oldham*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA,

Muhlenberg; Spindletop = University of Kentucky Spindletop Agricultural Research Farm, *Fayette*; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*; upper Ohio River = Ohio River from South Portsmouth, *Greenup*, to the mouth of the Licking River, *Campbell/Kenton*; Uniontown Dam = Uniontown Dam on the Ohio River, *Union*; Walton Pond, *Warren*; Wildcat Creek = Wildcat Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Calloway*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – peak counts occurred at traditional locales as follows: “thousands” over Long Point 21 December (DR); ca. 1000 at Ballard 22 December (BP, EH, HC, ME, SR); and ca. 1000 at Sauerheber 10 February (CC). Reports of interest away from w. Kentucky included 1 at East Bend 27 December (JCm, LM); 1 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 28 December (MBe) with 8 there 8 February (MBe); 20 at the Reformatory Lake 2 January (JBe, PB) with 10-12 there 15 January (BP) and 10 there 20 January (DL); 1 at Freeman Lake 16 January (DR) with 4 there 7 February (SK); 1-6 at Griffin Park during the latter half of January and February (DR); 10 at Petersburg 19 January (LM) with 5 still there 24 January (LM); 2 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 24 January (RD); 2 at the Campbellsville City Lake, *Taylor*, 26 January (RD); 1 at Spindletop 1 February (IS); 3 at Walton Pond 2 February (DR); ca. 100 at Island Lake, Ken Hopewell, 7 February (BY, KOS); up to 24 at McElroy during mid-February (DR); and 3 at Dranes Lakes, w. *Hardin*, 26 February (BP, EH).

Cackling Goose – with observers keenly watching for these geese, there were more reports than during any previous winter, all being included: 3 at Spindletop 14 December (ph. RO) with at least 3 there 10 January (JSw); 1 at Ballard 22 December (BP); 9 at the marina at Worthington, *Greenup*, 29 December (JSe, RS) that represents the farthest east the species has been reported in the state; 7 at East Bend 27 December (JCm, LM) with 4 there 18 January (LM, JCm, KCa) and 1 there 31 January (LM, JCm, KCa); 1 at Ky Dam 1 January (DR); at least 2 at the Reformatory Lake 1/2 January (BW, JBe, PB) with at least 40-50 there 15 January (BP), 6 there 20 January (DL), ca. 40 there 23 January (BW), and 2 there 31 January (BY, MY); 2 at Griffin Park 15 January,

with 6 there 18 January and 17 there 5 February (DR); 4 at Freeman Lake 16 January (DR) with “a few” there 18 January (RHy); 1 at Clermont, *Bullitt*, 17 January (BP, BBC); 2 on Lake Herndon 18 January (MBe); 1 at Clifty Pond 19 January (ph. RD); 1 at Petersburg 1 February (LM); up to 14 at McElroy 9-17 February (DR); up to 20 at Walton Pond 11-20 February (DR); 10 (including 1 with a white patch on the forehead and larger than normal white throat patch, suggesting possible hybridization with Barnacle Goose [ph. BP, EH]) at Dranes Lakes, w. *Hardin*, 26 February (BP, EH); and 2 on a pond s. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 28 February (BL).

Ross’s Goose – there were a number of reports, all being included: 4 at Barren 4 December (ph. DR); 1 at East Bend 6 December (KCa, JCm) & 18 January (LM, JCm, KCa); 1 off and on at Spindletop 9 December (ph. JPu)–5 February (ph. JPu, RO, IS, JSw, et al.); 3 at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH); 1 at the Ghent Power Plant, *Carroll*, 20 December (JCm, KCa); at least 30 at Long Point 21 December (DR); 1 just e. of Danville, *Boyle*, 29-30 December (ph. N&GE et al.); 1 at Freeman Lake 30 December (SK) and 22 January (RHy); 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 1 January (DR, TD); 2 at the Reformatory Lake 1-14 January (BW, EH, et al.) with 4 there 15 January (BP) and 1 still there 20 January (DL) and 23 January (BS), and 2 there again 23 February (P&CM); 4 at the State Game Farm Lake, *Franklin*, 15 January (GS, ph. JBr); 2 at Lake Herndon 18 January (MBe); 1 on the upper Ohio River 21 January (JBr); an imm. at the Campbellsville City Lake, *Taylor*, 26 January (ph. RD); 1 at Griffin Park 29 January–26 February (DR); 1 at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, 16 February (ph. LH, LM); and 1 on a pond s. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 28 February (BL).

Snow Goose – peak counts included a few thousand at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH); “thousands” over Long Point 21 December (DR); and “tens of thousands” at Sauerheber 2 January (CC) with “thousands” present there during most of February (m. ob.). Two at Grayson Lake, *Elliott*, 7 February (EM) were relatively far east.

Mute Swan – as is the norm, small numbers were present during the winter season at scattered locales, but mostly the n.-cen. portion of the state; the now traditional wintering flock at Bernheim Forest numbered as high as 14 during December and remained until cold weather forced them off the main lake (m. ob.). Elsewhere, 1-9 were reported on Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski* (RD); on the Ohio River, *Greenup* (JBr); at Petersburg (LM); on the Reformatory Lake (m. ob.); in *Bourbon* (SMr); at the Falls of the Ohio (BP); at Rabbit Hash (LM, Jcm, KCa); on Taylorsville Lake, *Spencer* (EH); on Goose Lake, Sinclair (BP, KH); on Cave Run (JBr, BP, EH); on the upper Ohio River (JBr); on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln* (RD); and above Markland Dam, *Gallatin* (DL).

Tundra Swan – there were a number of reports, all being included: 4 swans on Cave Run 2 December (JBr) and 25 there 22 December (JBr) were likely Tundras; 2 imms. at Blood River 13 December–3 January (ph. HC); 7 on the Ohio River upstream of Warsaw, *Gallatin*, 20 December (LM, EG); 2 on the Ohio River, *Greenup*, 22 December (JBr); 61 counted at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH) with as many as ca. 70 counted there 7 January (BR, *fide* CM), 67 counted there 16 January (CC), and 4 last seen there 26 February (CC); 8 at Cave Run 25 December (BP, AC); an imm. at Bernheim Forest 30 December (ph. EH) with perhaps the same bird near Boston, *Nelson*, 17 January (ph. BP, BBC); 4 at Rabbit Hash 18 January (LM, Jcm, KCa); 3 on Lake Herndon 23-26 January (MBe); and 1 on Walton Pond 5 February to March (DR).

Wood Duck – 32 on the Louisville CBC 14 December (*fide* PB) and at least 110 at

Walton Pond 20 February (DR, FLY, AL) were notable winter season counts.

Gadwall – peak counts of interest included ca. 400 on Cave Run 2 December (JBr) with 280 still there 25 December (BP, AC); at least 100 at the Falls of the Ohio 8 December (DSt, MA); 1000-1500 at Honker Lake 11 December (DR); ca. 400 on the upper Ohio River 22 December (JBr); and 100-120 at the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BP).

Blue-winged Teal – 2 males on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa Landing, *Lyon*, 14 December (†MSc et al.) were extremely tardy.

Mallard – up to ca. 1000 were at McElroy during the first week of February (DR).

Mallard x Northern Pintail – a male was present at Freeman Lake 25 February (RHy) and 26 February (BP, EH).

American Black Duck – peak counts included at least 50 on the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BP); ca. 50 on Freeman Lake 18 January (RHy); 1200+ on the upper Ohio River 21 January (JBr); 120-125 on Cave Run 23 January (BP, EH); and 110 on South Lake, Ken Hopewell, 25 January (BP, EH).

Northern Pintail – peak counts included ca. 30 at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH); 22 on Cooley's Pond 7 January (RD, BP); 26 at Pulaski County Park 8 January (RD); 15-20 on the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BP); 50 on Cave Run and 60 on the upper Ohio River, both 21 January (JBr); 108 on South Lake, Ken Hopewell, 25 January (BP, EH); ca. 175 on McElroy 2 February with 200 there 8 February (DR); and ca. 80 at Blood River 6/8 February (HC).

Redhead – reports of interest included 47 on Clifty Pond 11 December (RD); 31 on a pond at Lexington 12 January (JSw); 20 on the Reformatory Lake 20 January (DL); and at least 20 on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam, *Bracken*, 16 February (LM).

Canvasback – peak counts of interest included at least 50 on Goose Lake, Sinclair, 3 January (MBe, BP, et al.), 240 on

the Ohio River above Smithland Dam, *Livingston*, 1 January (DR, TD); 50 above Uniontown Dam 7/16 January (CC); aerial survey totals of 760 and 2738 on the upper Ohio River 21 January and 5 February, respectively, with an additional 235 on the Ohio River from Ashland, *Boyd*, to South Portsmouth, *Greenup*, 5 February (JBr); 25 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, 19-20 January (FR); 25 at Rabbit Hash (LM) and ca. 200 on the Paradise Power Plant settling pond, *Muhlenberg* (DR), both 31 January; ca. 30 on a transient pond near South Union, *Logan*, 7 February (MBE); ca. 110 on McElroy 9 February (DR); and 30 on Cave Run 14 February (JW, ASK, *vide DL*).

Greater Scaup – this species continues to increase in occurrence across the state; although peak counts were unimpressive, distribution was widespread with the following reports of interest: 1 on Cooley's Pond 12 December (RD) with at least 2 there 7 January (RD, BP); ca. 30 on Barren 4 December, with 24 there 18 December (DR); 1 at East Bend 27 December (LM et al.); 1 on Lake Herndon 28 December (MBE); at least 35 on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 January (BP) with ca. 20 still there 22 February (BP, EH); 1 at Rabbit Hash 18 January (LM); 1 on Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 24 January (RD); and 1 on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincaln*, 31 January (RD).

Lesser Scaup – peak counts of interest included ca. 350 on Barren 4 December (DR) and most of at least 120 on the Ohio River at Louisville, 8 February (MA).

Surf Scoter – there were four reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 6 December (MA) and 7 December (BY, MY); a pair at Rabbit Hash 6 December (KC, JCM); 1 on Clifty Pond 11 December (ph. RD); and a female/imm. above Barkley Dam 1 January (JRw, DR, et al.).

Black Scoter – there were three reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 7 December (EH) with possibly the same bird at the Falls of the Ohio 8 December

(DSt), and a female/imm. on Ky Lake above the dam 19 January (DR, TD).

White-winged Scoter – it was a good season with five reports: a flock of 10 on the Ohio River near South Portsmouth, *Greenup*, 2 December (JBr); 1 on Campbellsville City Lake, *Taylor*, 22 December (ph. ML) with 2 there 1 January (BP et al.); an adult male on the Ohio River at Louisville 26 January (BW, DSt) with a female/imm. joining it 14 February (BY, MY) and both lingering into March (m. ob.); and 1 above Uniontown Dam 12 February (CC).

Long-tailed Duck – there were a few reports, all being included: a female/imm. on Ky Lake above the dam 4 December (BP) with a male there 7 December (TD), and a female/imm. there again 14 December (HC et al.); 2 on Cave Run 6/21 January (JBr); and 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 22 January (DR) with 4 (a male and 3 female/imm.) there 8 February (BY, MY, MSt, BP).

Common Merganser – as is the norm, small numbers were present through the season with most widespread presence occurring during the latter half of January. Reports of interest included 1 above Uniontown Dam 7 January (CC) with 12 there 16 January (CC); 8 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, 18 January with 11 there 19 January (FR); and ca. 15 on Cave Run 5 February (JBr).

Red-breasted Merganser – as is the norm, the species was scarce through most of the season; peak counts included at least 130 on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 December (EH) and at least 150 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 8 February (BY, MY, MSt, BP).

Hooded Merganser – peak counts included at least 750 on Honker Lake 4 December (DR); 200+ at the Lexington Reservoir on an unspecified date during the winter season (JW); 78 on a pond at Prospect, *Oldham*, 11 January (WA); and 107 on Cave Run 5 February (JBr).

Ruddy Duck – 300 on Molloy Bay, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 14 December (DSa et al,

fide AY) represented the season's peak count.

Wild Turkey – at least 326 were counted in a flock along Rockport-Paradise Road, *Muhlenberg*, 3 January (BP, AC).

Ruffed Grouse – a tally of 8 on a hillside at Grayson Lake WMA, *Elliott*, 24 December (SF et al.) was impressive.

Red-throated Loon – there was one report: an adult at South Lake, Ken Hopewell, 22 January (ph. BP, KH).



Red-throated Loon, *Ohio*
22 January 2009
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Pied-billed Grebe – peak counts included 140 at Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, 11 December (BP, EH) and 35 at Waitsboro 18 January (RD).

Red-necked Grebe – there was one report: 1 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 17 December (ph. EH, BP)–20 December (BY,



Red-necked Grebe, *Taylor*
17 December 2008
Eddie Huber

MY). KBRC review required.

Horned Grebe – peak season counts included at least 280 on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 December (EH); 61 on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 17 December (RD) with 115 there 9 January (RD); at least 100 still on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 21 December (BP, EH); ca 20 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 1 January (BP et al.); at least 111 counted on Ky Lake at Birmingham Point, *Marshall*, 12 January (HC, ME); 25-30 on Cave Run 23 January (BP, EH); and at least 200 on Ky Lake above the dam 8 February (BY, MY, MSt, BP).

Eared Grebe – there was one report: 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 8 February (ph. BY, MY, MSt, BP).

Brown Pelican – a sub-adult bird was present at Ky Dam 10–22 December (ph. HC, ME, et al.). KBRC review required.



Brown Pelican, Kentucky Dam
10 December 2008
Hap Chambers

American White Pelican – ca. 30-40 birds were present on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, from mid-January through February (m. ob.); also reported were 110 at the harbor at Hickman, *Fulton*, 17 January (HC, ME); 10 over Smithland Dam, *Livingston*, 22 January (DR); and 24 at Blood River 6/8 February (HC).

Double-crested Cormorant – 14 at the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup*, 9 December (RS) represented a relatively high winter count for the ne. part of the state.

Great Egret – a very tardy individual was seen along the Ohio River upstream from Meldahl Dam, *Bracken*, 2 December (JBr).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – as is the norm, a few birds wintered at St. Matthews, *Jefferson* (BW).

Black Vulture – at least 400 at Clermont, *Bullitt*, 28 December (BP, AC) represented the season's peak count.

Osprey – a bird at Honker Lake 28 February (BL) tied the early arrival date for the state.

Bald Eagle – peak counts of interest included 5 at First Creek Lake, Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson*, 18 December (BF, DR, EF); 43 counted coming in to roost at Big Turner Lake, Ballard, 22 December (BP, EH); 19 counted around Cave Run 9 January (EM et al.); 12 below Ky Dam 19 January (DR, TD); and 5 on the Ohio River between Belleview and Petersburg, *Boone*, 7 February (LM).

Red-tailed Hawk – reports of western forms of interest included an adult dark morph *B. j. calurus* at Belleview, *Boone*, seen a few times 27 December–18 January (LM); a darkish morph *B. j. harlani* in se. *Muhlenberg* 7 February (BY, KOS); and a light morph *B. j. harlani* for the 8th consecutive winter at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 10 February (DR).

Rough-legged Hawk – again this winter, there were not many reports; generally 1–2 were present on the larger units of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg/Ohio*, and at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, throughout the period (m. ob.). Other reports of interest included 1 at Long Point 21 December (DR); 1 at East Bend 18 January (LM, JcM, KcA); 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 28 January (DR); 1 in sw. *Oldham* 31 January (BY, MY); and 1 at Spindletop during the first week of February (ph. IS et al.).

Golden Eagle – there were at least eight reports, all being included: a juv. over Point Park, Carrollton, *Carroll*, 7 December (BP); a juv. over Ky Dam 11 December (BP, EH); 1 at Fulton Bay, LBL, *Lyon*, 14

December (DSa); a sub-adult in ne. *Crittenden* 19 December (ph. SMb); an adult or near adult at Bernheim Forest 28 December (m. ob.); a juv. at First Creek Lake, Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson*, 1 January (SK, JkT); a juv. and an ad. at Bernheim Forest 17 January (BP, BBC), an imm. at Cave Run 14 February (JW, ASK, *fide* †DL); and a sub-adult at McElroy 21 February (ph. DR et al.).



Golden Eagle, *Crittenden*
19 December 2008
Sam Mabe (automated trail-cam photo)

Merlin – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Louisville 8 December (MY); 1 at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, and 1 at the Riverqueen Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, both 11 December (BP, EH); 1 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 17 December (DR, VB) and 11 February (DR); a female in n. *Anderson* 19 December (TA); 2 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, 1 January (JPu); 1 at Walton Pond 13 January (DR); 1 at Sinclair 31 January (DR) and 1 February (BY, MY); 1 at Ken Hopewell 31 January (DR), 7 February (MY), and 15 February (BS et al.); and a male sw. of Ashland, *Boyd*, 25 February (SS).

Peregrine Falcon – in addition to occasional observations of local territorial birds, there were several reports of interest, all being included: 1 at the TVA Shawnee Power Plant, *McCracken*, 1 December (SR); single birds perched on both the Ky Lake and Lake Barkley US 68 bridges several times during the winter

(m. ob.); an ad. at Ky Dam 25 January (BP, EH); 1 in downtown Lexington several times during the period (DP *vide* JPu); and 1 at Jonathan Creek 7 February (HC).

Virginia Rail – the only report was for 3 heard at Gibraltar 3 January (BP, AC).

Sandhill Crane – small flocks continued to move southward through the CBC period, and flocks were first noted moving northward 31 January over *Hart* (SK) and *Warren* (JM); spring migration appeared to peak during the latter two weeks of February. Peak counts included ca. 4500 between Cecilia and Franklin Crossroads, w. *Hardin*, 22 February (BP, EH) with ca. 4000 still there 24 February (BP), ca. 900 near the Narrows near Barren, *Barren*, 31 December (DR) with ca. 1000 there during January (DR et al.), and at least 400 at McElroy 20 February (DR, FLY, AL). The easternmost report was for 40 over *Rowan* 7 December (SF); westernmost reports included flocks heard over *Logan* 16 December and 5 January (FLY, AL), 13 at Honker Lake 14 December (JPo et al.), 23 s. of KY 272, *Christian/Trigg*, 27 December (BL), 3 at Blood River 6 February (HC), and 92 over w. *Henderson* 15 February (BP, KH).

Black-bellied Plover – a flock continued at Jonathan Creek into December, with 7 still there 2 December (ME); 5 still there 12 December (HC, BH) and 4 last seen there 14 December (HC et al.). These observations represented new late departure dates for the state.

Lesser Yellowlegs – 1 at Chaney Lake 20 February (DR) and 7 at Sauerheber 26 February (CC) were the earliest to be reported.

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at Dewey Lake near Three Springs, *Warren*, 17 December (†BF) represented a first winter record for the state.

Least Sandpiper – as is the norm, small flocks lingered into or through winter at Jonathan Creek and Blood River (HC et al.) with 55 at Jonathan Creek 10 December (HC, ME), 32 there 14 December

(HC), 26 there 3 January (HC), and 7 there 23 February (ME); 9 at Blood River 16 January (HC, BH); and 1 at Wildcat Creek 12 February (HC, ME). There were two reports of birds elsewhere: 4 on the Peters Creek embayment of Barren, *Barren*, 30 December (WM, AH) and 2 at Chaney Lake 20 February (DR).

Western Sandpiper – a few birds lingered into December at Jonathan Creek with 5 last seen there 12/14 December (HC et al.).

Dunlin – 5 at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH) were the latest to be reported.

American Woodcock – 1 at Spindletop 1 February (†BJ), several calling at Sinclair 7 February (BY, MY), 1 calling near Ragland, *McCracken*, 8 February (SR), and 4 at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, 9 February (AN) were the earliest to be reported.

Laughing Gull – there was an unusual flurry of reports during December, all reports being included: an adult at Ky Dam 21 December (BP, EH) with single adults both there and at Barkley Dam 28 December (DR et al.); an adult near the Ohio River at Maceo, *Daviess*, 29 December (DA); and 2 adults at Ky Dam 1 January (DR et al.) and 12 January (HC, ME).

Bonaparte's Gull – peak counts of interest included ca. 3000 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 14 December (HC) and ca. 4000-5000 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, during mid-January (BL et al.).

Ring-billed Gull – again this winter, several patagial-tagged birds from the Chicago area, Lake Michigan study were noted at favored gull locations including the Ohio River at Louisville and Ky Dam (m. ob.); peak counts of interest included ca. 1000 in the vicinity of the Falls of the Ohio 6 December (MA, BY, MY, et al.); 1500-2000 at Cave Run 23 January (BP, EH); as many as 8000-10,000 in the vicinity of Ky & Barkley dams during mid-January (BL et al.); and at least 300 at McElroy 1 February (DR).

Herring Gull – peak counts included at least 10 at Cave Run 23 January (BP, EH)

and ca. 200-250 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 25-26 January (BP, EH).

Iceland Gull – a first-year bird was present at Ky Dam 26 January (ph./† BP, ph. EH) and 31 January (†JPe, SP). KBRC review required.



Iceland Gull, Kentucky Dam
26 January 2009
Eddie Huber

Iceland Gull x Thayer's Gull – a first-year bird that exhibited intergrade characters between the two species was present at Ky Dam 26 January (BP, EH).

Thayer's Gull – there were several reports, all being included: an adult on Ky Lake at Little Bear Creek, *Marshall*, 7 December (TD); a first-year bird (not certain if the same individual) at Ky Dam 14 December (DR, TD), 21 December (BP), 1 January (DR, TD), 19 January (DR, TD), and 8 February (BP, MSt); an adult at Ky Dam 28 December (DR et al.), 22 January (DR), and 26 January (BP, EH); a first-year bird at Barkley Dam 28 December (BL); an adult at Jonathan Creek 3 January (HC); an adult at Barkley Dam 12 January (HC, ME); and a second-year bird at Ky Dam 8 February (BP, MSt).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – birds of different ages classes (first-year, second-year, adult) probably representing at least a half-dozen individuals were reported through the season in the vicinity of Ky & Barkley dams with up to 3 individuals seen on a few different occasions, mostly during January (m. ob.). Also reported was a first-year bird at the Falls of the Ohio 30 January (†EH et al.).

Great Black-backed Gull – a first-year bird was present in the vicinity of Ky Dam 29

January–8 February (ph. DR et al.). KBRC review required.



Great Black-backed Gull, Kentucky Dam
29 January 2009
David Roemer

Glaucous Gull – there were a few reports (all of first-year birds), most probably involving the same few individuals in the vicinity of Ky & Barkley dams: 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 6 December (MA, ph. BY, et al.); 2 at Ky Dam 28 December (DR et al.); singles at both Ky & Barkley dams 1 January (DR et al.) and 12 January (HC, ME); at least 2 in the vicinity of Ky & Barkley dams 19 January (DR, TD); 3 at Ky Dam 22 January (DR)–31 January (JPe, SP) with 1 still there 29 January (DR) and 2 still there 8 February (BY, MY, MSt, BP).



Glaucous Gulls, Kentucky Dam
28 December 2008
David Roemer

Forster's Tern – 29 were still at Jonathan Creek 12 December (HC, BH) with 2 still there 14 December (HC). Two had returned to Blood River 8 February (HC) with 8 at Wildcat Creek 12 February (HC,

ME) and 11 at Blood River and 1 at Jonathan Creek, both 13 February (HC, BH, ME).

Barn Owl – there were two reports: 1 at Ballard 22 December (HC, ME, et al.); and 1 in e. *Calloway* 27 December (HC).

Snowy Owl – 1 was present s. of Smith Mills, w. *Henderson*, 7 December (vt. BB). KBRC review required.



Snowy Owl, *Henderson*
Video clip
7 December 2008
Bob Bolds

Northern Saw-whet Owl – there were two reports: 1 calling at Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 12 February (RD, JD), and 1 seen at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, 14 February (AN, JBr).

Short-eared Owl – there were only a few reports, all being included: 7 total on various reclaimed mines in s. *Ohio* and se. *Muhlenberg* on the Paradise CBC 3 January (MSt, EH, BP, AC); 1 at Spindletop 1 February (DSv)–8 February (IS, TH), and 1 on a reclaimed mine e. of Zion, *Henderson*, 22 February (AG).

Common Nighthawk – 1 seen and heard at Mt. Sterling, *Montgomery*, 26 February (†BN) represented a new arrival date by three weeks.

Red-headed Woodpecker – the species was locally distributed this winter, in part due to the scarcity of red oak acorns in areas affected by the spring 2007 freeze.

shrike sp. – a shrike of unconfirmed ID was observed along U.S. 23 at Limeville, *Greenup*, 9 February (RS).

Horned Lark – peak numbers were present subsequent to the late January ice storm with the following peak counts of interest: up to ca. 350 at Surrey Hills Farm 28 January (BP); at least 500 along Gastineau Rd., *Pulaski*, at least 300 along KY 914 n. of Oak Hill Rd., *Pulaski*, ca. 200 at Font-hill, *Russell*, and ca. 2000 along Hovious Ridge Road, *Adair*, all 29 January (RD, SD); ca. 2000 along Anna Brown Rd., near Monticello, *Wayne*, 30 January (RD, SD); and ca. 200 along William Whitley Rd., *Lincoln*, 31 January (RD).

Fish Crow – 2 seen and heard calling at Wildcat Creek 27 December (RHd) represent a first December record for the state.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – the species was present in below-average numbers with only 1–4 found on only nine CBCs; 3 at Sky Bridge, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, and 6–8, possibly as many as 12–15, at Rock Bridge, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, both 21 January (BP) may have been members of the permanent resident population in that area.

House Wren – none were found on CBCs this winter; 1 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, 16 February (BL) was the only one reported.

Sedge Wren – there were two reports: 1 along Bethel Church Road near West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 22 December (†BP, EH); and 1 at Gibraltar 3 January (†BP, AC).

Marsh Wren – there were three reports: 1 at Mitchell Lake, Ballard, 22 December (BP, EH, SR, HC); 1 heard at Ken Hopewell 2 January (BP); and 3 heard at Gibraltar 3 January (BP, AC).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – it was a good winter for the species with 1–19 reported on 21 CBCs; high numbers were present probably in response to the good berry crop.

Hermit Thrush – 1–10 were reported on 21 CBCs was well above average; a count of at least 11 in Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 21 January (BP) was relatively impressive.

American Robin – the species remained rather numerous in most areas throughout

the winter with a good supply of berries present. The peak count was ca. 5000 on the *Hart* CBC 22 December (SK et al.).

Cedar Waxwing – numbers were above average through the CBC season with 6-1200 reported on 28 CBCs.

Nashville Warbler – 1 along Ryle Road near Big Bone, s. *Boone*, 27 December (†LM et al.) represented a second winter record for the state.

Pine Warbler – there were several reports prior to the return of a few birds during mid-February, all being included: 1 at Ken Hopewell 2 January (BP, AC); 2 in e. *Muhlenberg* 3 January (BP, AC); singles on the *Russell* and *Wayne* CBCs, 17 December and 18 December, respectively (*fide* RD); and 1 at feeders at Cave City, *Barren*, for about a month prior to 19 January (JG).

Palm Warbler – there were not many reports: 1-3 on six CBCs in *Bullitt* (MA), *Oldham* (JKr), *Larue* (DR), *Logan* (DR), *Pulaski* (GC, T&LM, JKs, RD), and *Warren* (WM, AH, *fide* BF). Also reported were up to 6 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, during late December and early January (JPu); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 30 December (RD); 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 8 January (FLY); and 2 near Bailey's Point, *Barren*, *Allen*, 15 January (DR).

American Tree Sparrow – peak numbers turned up following the late January ice storm with small numbers reported at many feeding stations across much of the western two-thirds of the state; peak counts included ca. 50 at Cedar Creek, *Adair*, 29 January (RD, SD); a flock of at least 25 at Sinclair 1 February (BY, MY); and at least 63 at a feeding station at Surrey Hills Farm 3 February (BP) with at least 20 still there 21 February (BP).

Chipping Sparrow – the species was well-represented on CBCs, with 1-48 tallied on 14 counts. Up to at least 20 again wintered at Shaker Mill, *Warren*, (DR, JRm) and 1 wintered along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg* (BL, PL). Additional reports demonstrating how frequently the species is now encountered during winter follow:

1 at Cub Run, *Hart*, during December (JKt, *fide* SK); ca. 15 w. of Bernstadt, *Laurel*, 10 December (RD); 1 in s. *Jefferson* 29 December (MA); 1 at the Reformatory Lake 1 January (BW), 3 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, 3 January (JPu); "a few" at Lucas, *Barren*, 15 January (DR); 8 at Hickman, *Fulton*, 17 January (HC, ME); an unspecified number present near West Liberty, *Morgan*, during mid-January (DH); 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 28 January (BY, MY); 1-2 nw. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, during the last week of January (WG); 3 at the Frankfort Cemetery, *Franklin*, 7 February (BP, AC); and 1 near Sheperdsville, *Bullitt*, 22 February (MA).

Le Conte's Sparrow – there were two reports: 4 at Long Point 20 December (BP, EH, AW, NM, et al.) and 1 at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 22 December (BP, EH).

Fox Sparrow – a tally of 15 along the dewatered Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 2 December (RD) was relatively impressive.

Lincoln's Sparrow – there were three reports (all on CBCs) of this extremely rare winter bird: 1 along Hanson Road near Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 17 December (†BP, EH); 1 along KY 358 ca. 1.5 mi. ese. of Ragland, *McCracken*, 22 December (†BP, EH); and 1 e. of Dabney, *Pulaski*, 1 January (†SMr).

Lapland Longspur – small numbers were present at traditional wintering locales during the early part of the winter, although there were a number of reports of interest, especially subsequent to the late January ice storm: at least 750, and probably 1000, in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 20 December (BP, EH) with at least 4000—representing a new state high count—there 22 December (DR); ca. 30 at Spindletop 17 January (JPu); 1 at East Bend 18 January (LM); 1 in *Rowan* 28 January (SF); 12-15 at Surrey Hills Farm 28 January (BP et al.); ca. 150 in s. *Warren* 28 January (DR); at least 500 along Gastineau Road, *Pulaski*, at least 200 along KY 914 n. of Oak Hill Rd.,

Pulaski, at least 38 at Fonthill, *Russell*, and at least 5 along Hovious Ridge Rd., *Adair*, all 29 January (RD, SD); 1 along KY 504 between Gimlet and Ibex, *Elliott*, 29 January (EM); ca. 500 along KY 914 n. of Oak Hill Rd., *Pulaski*, ca. 1000 along Anna Brown Rd. ne. of Monticello, *Wayne*, and 4 along Frazer Rd., *Wayne*, all 30 January (RD, SD); ca. 150 along Gastineau Rd., *Pulaski*, and ca. 100 along William Whitley Rd., *Lincoln*, both 31 January (RD, SD); ca. 10 at Spindletop 4-7 February (JSw et al.); at least 200 along KY 914 n. of Oak Hill Rd., *Pulaski*, 4 February (RD); and 1 at the Louisville landfill, s. *Jefferson*, 4 February (RAN).

Snow Bunting – the 27-28 January ice storm brought in good numbers to the state; all reports are included: 51 counted at Surrey Hills Farm 28 January (BP et al.), with ca 10 there 29 January, and 8 there 30-31 January (BP et al.); 39 along CCC Trail e. of Morehead, *Rowan*, 28 January (SF); ca. 10 w. of Bridgeport, *Franklin*, 29 January (JBr); at least 1 along Gastineau Road, *Pulaski*, 29 January (RD, SD); 2 at Fonthill, *Russell*, 29 January (ph. RD, SD); 3 along Hovious Ridge Road, *Adair*, 29 January (ph. RD, SD); 23 along KY 504 between Gimlet and Ibex, *Elliott*, 28 January with 2 still there 29 January (EM); 30-40 below Barkley Dam and several mixed-species flocks containing this species observed at Ky Dam, both 29 January (DR); 3 along KY 914 n. of Oak Hill Rd., *Pulaski*, 30 January (RD, SD); 1 along Anna Brown Rd. ne. of Monticello, *Wayne*, 30 January (RD, SD); 15-20 at Little Mount, *Spencer*, 30 January (MTo); ca. 20 at the Louisville landfill, s. *Jefferson*, 30 January (RAN); at least 7 at Spindletop 30 January (DL) with ca. 12 there 31 January (JSw, JPu), at least 20-30 there 4 February (JSw), ca. 70 there 5 February (RO) and 6 February (BP) and ca. 10 still there 7 February (BP, JBr, TE); at least 5 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson*, and at least 1 at the Reformatory Lake, both 31 January (BY, MY); 3 along William Whitley Rd., *Lincoln*, 31 January (RD); 2 at Petersburg 31 January (LM); 1 at Belleview, *Boone*, 1

February (LM); and at least 25 se. of Midway, *Woodford*, 5 February (ph. MBi).



Snow Buntings, *Fayette*
31 January 2009
Joe Pulliam

Dickcissel – there was one report of this very rare winter bird: 1 at feeders in a yard along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 16-17 January (PL, ph. BL).

Western Meadowlark – there were two reports: at least 1 seen/heard calling near Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 20 December (BP, EH) and 3 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 22 December (DR).

Brewer's Blackbird – there were five reports: a male near Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 20 December (BP, EH); a female in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, (DR) and 2 se. of Oscar, *Ballard*, (SR), both 22 December; 2 along Dodd Rd., s. *Callo-way*, 27 December (HC); and a female at Walton Pond 20 February (DR, FLy, AL).

Rusty Blackbird – reports of interest included at least 100 at Sauerheber 19 December (BP, EH); 28 at Hundred Acre Pond, *Hart*, 22 December (SK et al.); 1 near East Bend 31 January (LM, KCa, JCM); 35-40 at Chaney Lake 2 February (DR); several hundred on the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 7 February (CC); ca. 120 at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 15 February (BP, KH); and ca. 50 at Walton Pond 15 February (DR).

Purple Finch – it was an above-average year for the species with 1-74 reported on

23 CBCs; peak counts included 40+ in LBL, *Lyon*, 13 December (BL); a flock of 20 in ne. *Gallatin*, 20 December (LM); 40 on the Otter Creek Park CBC 26 December (m. ob.); 74 on the Bernheim Forest CBC 28 December (m. ob.); and 41 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 22 February (BL, PL).

White-winged Crossbill – certainly one of the highlights of the season was an irruption of this species into the n.-cen. part of the state, the first such movement since 1982. Circa 12 birds were the first to be reported in a yard at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 4 February (SH). Subsequent reports originated from several additional locations as follows: at least 20 at St. Anne's Convent, Melbourne, *Campbell*, 5 February (ph. FR) with at least 10 there 6 February (FR, VR) and 1 there 7 February (FR); 3-4 at the Lexington Cemetery 5 February (DL) with 25-30 there 6 February (ph. BP et al.), 35-40 there 7 February (BP, ph. JBr, et al.), ca. 25 there 8 February (SK, JKt), at least 10 there 9 February (ph. EH), at least 15 there 10 February (EM, BP, et al.), ca. 12 there 12 February (DSv), ca. 25 there 13 February (DSt), ca. 15-20 there 14 February (TH), and 4 last observed there 15 February (BJ, LH); 14 at Sky Bridge, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 8 February (AN); a female at Highland Cemetery, Ft. Wright, *Kenton*, 8/14 February (DM); and at least 25 at Evergreen Cemetery, Southgate, *Campbell*, 23 February (DM). Reports of birds lingering into March will be included in the Spring Season report.

Common Redpoll – 2 were observed in a yard at Florence, *Boone*, 25 January (†FLe). KBRC review required.

Pine Siskin – small to moderate numbers continued through the CBC season with 1-257 tallied on 13 counts; there were definitely more birds in the eastern portion of the state, with the following peak counts reported across the state: at least 50 e. of Bernstadt, *Laurel*, 10 December (RD); 25-30 in *Trigg* 18 December (KB); at least 110 in the Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 21 January (BP); ca. 50 at the Lex-

ington Cemetery 6-7 February (m. ob.); 3 flocks of 50-75 in the Red River Gorge, *Powell/Wolfe*, 13 February (BP); ca. 60 at Morehead 15 January (SF); ca. 150 at South Williamson, *Pike*, during mid-January with 200-300 there during the last week of January (JCr); 80 se. of Morehead during last week of January (SF); up to 110 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 12 January with ca. 200 there 30 January (RD); "hundreds" near Big Gimlet, *Elliott*, around 1 February with 100+ still there 7 February (EM); ca. 24 at Panorama Shores, *Callo-way*, during early February (KCo); ca. 125 at Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell* (AN), and 30 at St. Anne's Convent, Melbourne, *Campbell* (FR et al.), both 8 February; up to 54 at Cub Run, *Hart*, 9/24 February (JKt); at least 50 near Yahoo Falls, *McCreary*, 10 February (RD); 42 at Cumberland Falls SRP, *McCreary* (RD), and 51 at Berea, *Madison* (PH), both 12 February (RD), and at least 35 at Paintsville, *Johnson*, 22 February (SMr). Elsewhere, 1-25 birds were reported in *Boyd* (SS), *Daviess* (MTh), *Fayette* (JBa, IS, et al.), *Fulton* (BP), *Greenup* (RS), *Jefferson* (m. ob.); *Kenton* (DM), *Larue* (DR), *Lincoln* (JE), *Lyon* (DR), *Magoffin* (DH), *McCracken* (SR), *Menifee* (RAd), *Nelson* (PG), *Pulaski* (CN), *Scott* (DL), *Trigg* (BL, PL), and *Warren* (DR).



White-winged Crossbill, *Fayette*
6 February 2009
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Observers: Rita Adkins (RAd), Win Ahrens (WA), Terry Anderson (TA), Ryan Ankeny (RAn), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), David Ayer (DA), Jannine Baker (JBa), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MBE), Matthew Binns (MBi), Bob Boldts (BB), Karon Broadbent (KB), Valerie Brown (VB), John Brunjes (JBr), Joe Caminiti (JcM), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Joan Carr (JCr); Hap Chambers (HC), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Amy Covert (AC), Granville Cox (GC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Julie Denton (JD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Steve Denton (SD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Neil & Ginny Eklund (N&GE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Terri Estes (TE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Elizabeth Ferrell (EF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Julie Gee (JG); Alan Gehret (AG), Paula Geihs (PG), Willard Gray (WG), Ed Groneman (EG), Paul Hager (PH), Barry Hart (BH), Lana Hays (LH), Robert Head (RHd), Richard Healy (RHy), Doug Hennig (DH), Kate Heyden (KH), Tanner Hoogerheide (TH), Eddie Huber (EH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Sarah Hume (SH), Bonnie Jacobs (BJ), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), James Kiser (JKs), Janet Kistler (JKt), Steve Kistler (SK), John Krull (JKr), David Lang (DL), Frank Lewandowski (FLe); Bill Lisowsky (BL), Paula Lisowsky (PL), Mikey Lutmerding (ML); Allison Lyne (AL), Frank Lyne (FLy), Sam Mabe (SMb); John Mardis (JM); Scott Marsh (SMr); Don Martin (DM), Wayne Mason (WM), Paul & Carol McAllister (P&CM), Lee McNeely (LM); Tom & Lynda Mills (T&LM), Connie Neeley (CN), Nancy Moore (NM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Connie Morton (CM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Andy Newman (AN), Barry Nichols (BN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Jim Peters (JPe), Sasha Peters (SP), John Pollpeter (JPo), Doreen Pulliam (DP), Joe Pulliam (JPu), Scott Record (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Veronica Renfrow (VR), Barry Richmond (BR), David Roemer (DR), Joan Roemer (JRm), Jeff Rowe (JRw), Darrin Samborski (DSa), Mary Schmidt (MSc); Jim Seelhorst (JS), Rick Seelhorst (RS), Brian Smith (BS), Gary Sprandel (GS), Ian Stewart (IS), Matt Stickel (MSt), Del Striegel (DSt), David Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Steve Sweeney (SS), Marilee Thompson (MTh), Mike Tobbe (MTo), Alan Whited (AW), Jim Williams (JW), Barbara Woerner (BW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Aviva Yasgur (AY).

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2009 MEETING

April 24-26, Mammoth Cave National Park, Cave City, KY

Gary Sprandel and John Brunjes

The spring 2009 meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Mammoth Cave National Park outside of Cave City, in Edmonson County. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. CDT Friday evening by President Win Ahrens, who welcomed members and guests.

The first speaker of the evening was Jason Courter, a graduate student at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). His research on "Responses of Tufted Titmouse to Different Size Raptors" was sponsored in part by the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund. Jason reported that Tufted Titmouse calls rally Carolina Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches to mob potential predators. Additionally, Jason's research asked the question "Do titmouse alarm calls contain specific information about predators?" He concluded that smaller raptors were mobbed for the longest time and that the titmice have more "dee" scolding calls for smaller predators.

Andy Newman, a graduate student at EKU, presented on the life history and population status of the American Woodcock. Andy stated that there has been a 1.2% annual population decline during the last few decades based on continental Singing Ground

Surveys. In Kentucky, woodcock spring migration starts during February and peaks the first week of March while their fall migration occurs from late October to early November. An unknown number of woodcock also nest in Kentucky. Andy's research involves spotlight-catching woodcock with nets and looking at habitat use during spring migration. He will analyze the capture locations to look for trends in habitat use that will allow for more targeted management of the species while in Kentucky.

Ted Floyd, editor of the American Bird Association's *Birding* magazine gave the final presentation of the night. His presentation was on Advanced Warbler Identification. He encouraged the members in attendance to focus on three fundamental strategies for identifying warblers. First, ask yourself what is the size and shape of the bird? Second, what is the behavior and demeanor of the bird? Finally, you should make note of the context of the observation such as the date, weather and habitat. Many members were encouraged when Ted told of the lessons learned from his own misidentifications. Ted challenged Kentucky birders to look for the "*palmarum*" subspecies of Palm Warbler. He also encouraged everyone to look more carefully at Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers to see hybrids of these species. The Friday meeting adjourned at 9:00 CDT to cookies and soft drinks.

The Saturday morning field trips were held in warm and sunny, spring weather. Mammoth Cave National Park was the focus of the three field trips. Ted Floyd led an organized afternoon trip that focused on warbler identification. Mr. Floyd focused on key factors to help participants identify warblers both visually and by calls. It was an excellent learning opportunity for all with such an experienced birder providing insight.

The K.O.S. board meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. CST. With numerous issues before the board, the meeting lasted until 4:00 p.m. CST. The Kentucky Bird Records Committee met following the board meeting.

The Saturday evening meeting was called to order by President Win Ahrens at 7:10 p.m. CDT. Win thanked retiring editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*, Blaine Ferrell, for his 25 years of service as editor of the Society's quarterly journal. After a round of enthusiastic applause for Dr. Ferrell, he compiled a list of 93 species encountered by the meeting's 83 registrants on Saturday.

Win Ahrens introduced the Saturday evening speaker, Ted Floyd. Mr. Floyd gave a thought provoking presentation on "Frontiers of Birding". Ted stated the common core value that unites all birders is a desire to learn more about birds. After a short history of stereotypes of birders (Jane Hathaway to Gonzo birders) he discussed current advances in birding. He felt that the two most important advances in birding were the widespread use of digital photography and the use of eBird (<http://ebird.org/>) as a multi-user means of pooling data. He showed how eBird could be used to analyze wintering Swamp Sparrow distribution. Some other current trends in birding discussed were an emphasis on ethics (<http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>) and a movement toward "green" birding. For future trends, Ted suggested assessing the perspectives of younger birders. He stated that in the future, birders will focus on details of bird behavior, such as "tertiary flight calls of Robins" or "mid-summer nocturnal movements of Chipping Sparrows." Although he may not have convinced members that the ABA logo should be an American Robin, his presentation prompted lively discussion.

After announcing the Sunday morning field trips and encouraging everyone to enjoy social time over drinks and cookies, Win Ahrens pronounced the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. CDT. With Sunday morning field trip additions, the bird list stood at 102 species by the end of the weekend.

Attendance at the Spring 2009 Meeting

Alexandria:	Mary Beth & Ron Lusby
Berea:	Jason Courter
Bowling Green:	Tom Durbin, Blaine Ferrell
Burlington:	Lee McNeely, Donna O'Daniel
Cadiz:	Willard Gray
Campbellsville:	Andrea O'Bryan
Carlisle:	Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver
Cox's Creek:	Dona Coates
Cynthiana:	Jimmy & Julie Edwards
Danville:	Ginny & Neil Eklund
Eddyville:	Betty & Ken Leggett
Elizabethtown:	Janet Gebler
Erlanger:	Ed & Tammy Groneman
Frankfort:	Gary Sprandel, Shawchyi Vorisek
Franklin:	Anthony & Shannon Trimboli
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger
Independence:	Donnie & Robbie Martin
Lawrenceburg:	Terry Anderson
Lexington:	Rhonda Bryant, Phyllis Deal, Scott Marsh, Jackie Van Willigen
London:	Granville Cox
Louisville:	Bonnie Avery, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Carl & JoAnn Bochmann, Christina & Jeremy Clark, Marge Constan, Steve Deetsch, Bonnie & Robert Dever, Gerald Heath, Eddie Huber, Carol & Paul McAllister, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Ben & Mary Yandell
Madisonville:	Ann & Marian Morgan
Morehead:	Fred, Joanna, & Katie Busroe, Stephen Wilson
Morgantown:	Carroll & Doris Tichenor
Mount Sterling:	Gerald Robe
Munfordville:	Janet & Steve Kistler
Murray:	Hap Chambers, Kathy Cohen
Nicholasville:	Bruce Cryder
Owensboro:	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Richmond:	Brenda & Pete Thompson
Sandy Hook:	Evelyn Morgan
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Somerset:	Gay Hodges, Connie Neeley
Carmel, IN:	Lou Anne Barriger
Floyds Knobs, IN:	Tom Becker, Colleen Craven-Becker
Greenville, IN:	Jane Fender
Indianapolis, IN:	Larry Peavler
Lafayette, CO:	Ted Floyd
Denton, TX:	Del Joslyn

Birds Observed at the Spring 2009 K.O.S. Meeting

The following bird species were observed in the vicinity of Mammoth Cave National Park: Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy

Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow. The total species observed during weekend was 102.

FIELD NOTE

Hooded Oriole in McCracken County

I am a recent immigrant to western Kentucky, having relocated to western McCracken County in July 2008 after growing up in southwestern Ohio. I bought a house with a small lot just northeast of the community of Kevil, hoping to have as bird friendly a yard as I left behind. During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend of 2008, my wife and I returned home on Saturday afternoon after visiting our families in Cincinnati. As I was literally carrying the suitcases into the house, I looked out the kitchen window to see an orange-and-black colored, medium-sized songbird perched on our pool fence about 20 ft (6 m) from where I was standing. In disbelief, I asked my wife to confirm what I saw. She did; there was an oriole in our back yard on the unlikely date of 29 November 2008. Because I left my binoculars and camera in the car, my initial identification was of a Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) due to the orange color and noticeable white wing patch. My wife left me to keep an eye on the bird while she retrieved my camera. During this time, the bird flew from the fence to my platform feeder and then to a cherry tree. After changing lens on the camera, I was able to snap one photo of the bird with my 300 mm lens from about 100 ft (31 m) away. The bird then disappeared from the yard.

Recognizing that an oriole in Kentucky during November is rare and initially believing the individual was likely a Bullock's Oriole, I posted the observation on the "BIRDKY" listserv. During review of my single photo by several Kentucky Ornithological Society members and myself, however, it became apparent that the bird was probably a Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), a species that had not been previously reported in the state. The photograph and a completed K.O.S. Rare Bird Report Form were submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee soon after the observation. A cropped and enlarged version of the photograph was published on the front cover of the February 2009 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* (Vol. 85 [1]: 1), but due to an editorial oversight was on pp. 2 and 20 of that issue erroneously attributed to Ballard County. The photograph highlights the following field marks that appear to confirm the identification of the bird as a male Hooded Oriole: an orange head with black chin and bib, two white wing bars, orange rump, dark mantle, and light gray/black bill that was slightly curved downward. Also, no orange was visible in the tail in either the photo or when I saw the bird in flight.

The only down side to this observation was that the oriole never returned. I received many calls from various individuals asking if they could come search for the bird. Several local birders came but none were able to find it and confirm my sighting.

—Jeff Rowe, 4180 Woodland Hill Drive, Kevil, KY, 42053.

Editor's Note: Hooded Oriole is known to be an extremely rare vagrant into the eastern United States and Canada, with many fewer records than most other western North American songbirds that regularly stray eastward. The Birds of North America (Pleasants, B.Y., and D.J. Albano. 2001. Hooded Oriole (Icterus cucullatus), No. 568. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.) lists only one record from east of the Mississippi River, that from Long Point, Ontario. A summary of Midcontinent Rare Bird Records compiled by Bob Domagalski (unpubl., late 2007 version) lists five records in Iowa (1), Michigan (1), Ontario (2), and Wisconsin (1); all but the 1992 record from Ontario occurring since 2003 and all but the Wisconsin record (mid-December) coming from mid-May. Interestingly, two different Hooded Orioles were reported from Baldwin County, Alabama, during the winter 2008-2009, an adult male in Barnwell 27 January-late March 2009 and an imm. male in Lillian 24 January-mid-February 2009 (Steve McConnell, pers. comm.).

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 with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, please visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/monroe.htm>) or contact either Shawchyi Vorisek, Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (shawchyi.vorisek@ky.gov), or Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Dean's Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, 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, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/annestamm.htm>) or contact Mark Bennett by mail at 113 Iroquois Circle, Russellville, KY, 42276, or via email at (benn5609@bellsouth.net).

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, Ben Yandell, via e-mail at secy@kybirdrecords.org. Hard copy documentation should be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lynington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243

Visit the K.O.S. Website

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



Winter 2008-2009 Season Photographs

Above: White-winged Crossbills (15 of 35-40)
Lexington Cemetery, 7 February 2009
Photo by John Brunjes

Right: Brown Pelican, Kentucky Dam
13 December 2008
Photo by Ben Yandell

Below: Dickcissel, Trigg Co., 17 January 2009
Photo by Bill Lisowsky

