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# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## THE COVER

We thank Melissa Gaither for the image of the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) taken 20 May 2010 near Rumsey, McLean County (see Spring 2010 Season, p. 63). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



## WINTER HOME RANGE OF A GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Brian W. Smith

### Introduction

As concerns about the environmental impacts of the use of fossil fuels for energy have become more acute, attempts to develop alternative or “green” energy sources have increased. Wind power is one of the first green energy sources to be more widely exploited to date; however, while wind turbine facilities are generally considered a green energy source, in some situations they have negative environmental impacts. For example, it did not take long after the first wind turbine facilities were constructed for scientists to find out that some wildlife, particularly raptors and bats, were susceptible to collision with the rotating blades (American Bird Conservancy 2010; Baerwald et al. 2008; USGS 2010). In an effort to assess the level of impact to wildlife resulting from the presence of wind turbine facilities, a number of studies were initiated. One such group of studies has involved the utilization of satellite transmitters to track the movements of raptors (e.g., Whitfield and Madders 2006). The main goal of such research is to determine if there are certain movement pathways used by raptors that should be avoided for wind turbine facility construction, or if constructed, if certain mitigation measures could be used to reduce raptor mortalities (e.g., shutdown during peak movement periods and on-site radar to detect high risk events).

Beginning in 2006, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s Powdermill Nature Reserve at Rector, Pennsylvania, in association with the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, initiated a study to examine habitat use and flight characteristics of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) using the Appalachian Region of eastern North America, where numerous wind turbine facilities are planned (Katzner et al., 2009; Miller et al. 2009). The main focus of the research was to locate areas of potential conflict between the eagles and wind power development.

### Methods

The initial phase of the current study resulted in the attachment of satellite telemetry transmitters to eight Golden Eagles from November 2006 to October 2007. Eagles were captured at three locations: a raptor banding station near Central City in central Pennsylvania, a wintering area near Scherr in northeastern West Virginia, and breeding grounds on the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, Canada. Each bird was fitted with a GPS-based satellite transmitter unit that obtained 10–15 locations daily, as well as readings of speed, altitude, and heading. The units were equipped with solar-recharged batteries with an expected life of several years.

One third year (i.e., hatched in 2004) male Golden Eagle was captured and outfitted with a transmitter 25 November 2006 at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch station in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. This individual, hereinafter referred to as GOEA #40, held a territory along the shore of the Ungava Bay in far northern Quebec, Canada, during the breeding seasons of 2007 and 2008 (Fig. 1). He spent the majority of both summers in one general area engaged in behavior consistent with breeding. The researchers lost track of him 28 August 2008 while he was still on the breeding grounds.

During the consecutive winters of 2006–2007 and 2007–2008, GOEA #40 wintered primarily in eastern Kentucky (Fig. 1). The straight-line distance between this bird’s breeding season territory and the core of its winter home range was approximately 1720 mi (2750 km). For the purposes of this paper, the authors obtained one set of coordinates for each day that the bird was in or near Kentucky; this set of coordinates was typically obtained from the satellite at 1600 GMT (1100 EST).



Fig. 1. Migratory Movements of Golden Eagle #40 from 25 November 2006 to 28 August 2008.

## Results

After initial capture in Pennsylvania 25 November 2006, GOEA #40 moved southward down the Appalachian Mountains through central West Virginia. He was first detected in eastern Kentucky 13 December 2006 in eastern Breathitt County. During the remainder of the winter season, he spent time in a relatively small area encompassing eastern Breathitt County and northwestern Knott County, although he visited southern Magoffin County on a few occasions (Figs. 2 and 3). Within the relatively localized region where GOEA #40 spent most of his time, he established a pattern of favoring several areas, although daily movements of 5–10 mi (8–16 km) between nearby locations and occasionally to new sites were not uncommon. Interpretation of coordinate points overlaid on aerial photographs indicates that he typically associated with forested areas or forest edge areas of contour surface mines (Fig. 4). Although he was detected along the margins of some of the larger surface mined areas, no 1100 EST observations were positioned within large expanses of open mine land. Interestingly, between 8 and 9 January 2007, GOEA #40 moved ca. 160 mi (256 km) back east-northeast into central West Virginia where he lingered a few days before gradually moving back west-southwest (Fig. 3). On 21 January 2007 he returned to the core of his winter home range in northern Knott County, where he remained until 3 March. Between 3 and 4 March 2007 he returned to the same central West Virginia area he visited during mid-January, but during 5–8 March he gradually returned to Kentucky via a more northerly route that included southern Ohio (Fig. 3). He was detected again in Kentucky 9 March 2007 in a portion of Magoffin County where he had not been during the winter; he then returned to a frequently visited portion of northern Knott County 10 March. Interestingly, he immediately departed 11 March, this time to migrate northeastward, and by 20 April 2007 he was back in the vicinity of his breeding season territory in far northern Quebec.

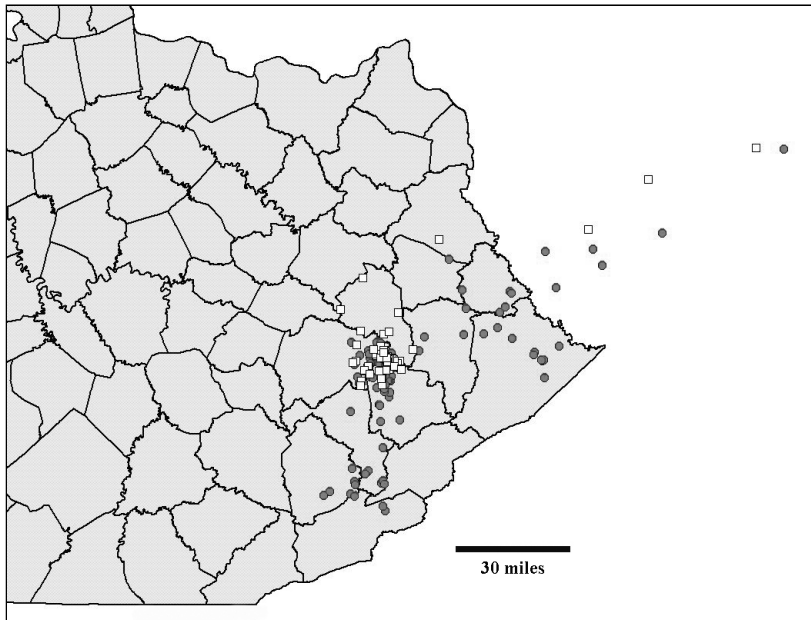


Fig. 2. Combined 2006–2007 (□) and 2007–2008 (○) coordinate data for Golden Eagle #40. Data points represent one location per day (1100 EST) for each season when the bird was in or adjacent to Kentucky. Point data from Trish Miller, Powdermill Nature Reserve. 10 Aug 2010.

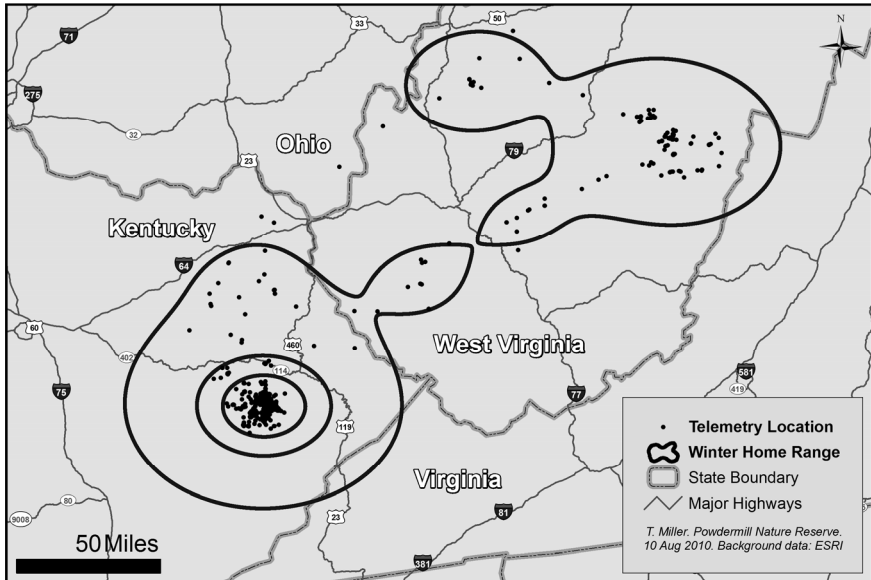


Fig. 3. Winter Home Range of Golden Eagle #40, 2006–2007. Concentric rings represent winter home range as defined by 25% (inner ring), 50% (middle ring), and 95% (outer ring) of the total data points acquired for the season.

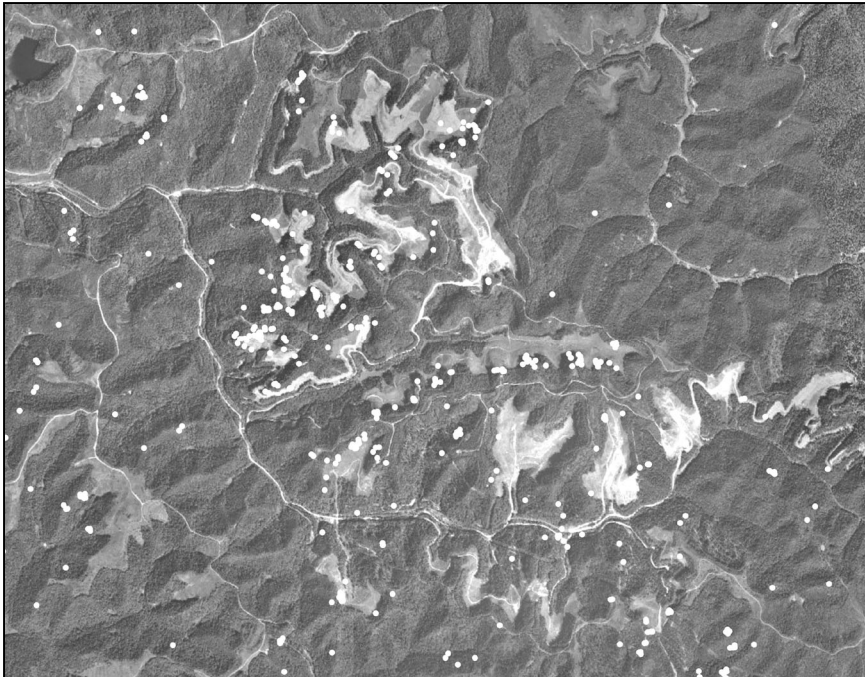


Fig. 4. Representation of GOEA #40's use of habitat surrounding a contour surface mine in eastern Kentucky, winter 2006–2007 and 2007–2008 combined. Each white dot represents a satellite telemetry point. Data from T. Miller: Powdermill Nature Reserve. 10 Aug 2010.

During fall 2007, GOEA #40 began southward migration 17 October, again moving south along the Appalachian Mountains. He arrived in central West Virginia 18 November and in eastern Kentucky (Pike County) 27 November (Figs. 2 and 5). By the following day he was back within the core of his winter 2006–2007 home range; however, after only two days he moved about 35 mi (56 km) south into southern Perry and southeastern Leslie counties. After spending a few days in that area, he returned to the core of his winter range for the remainder of early December. On 18 December 2007, he moved south for a second time, going as far as Pine and Black mountains 22 December, but he returned to his core area 24 December. On 20 January 2008, GOEA #40 visited the same area for a third time for several days before returning to the core area 26 January. Then, on 28 January 2008 he took a relatively long trip of more than 30 mi (48 km) northeast to the Morgan/Lawrence County line but was back into the core area the following day. On 9 February 2008, he embarked on the first of two trips of approximately 40 mi (64 km) east into Pike County, each lasting several days and including time in southern Martin County. During the first week of March, he made one last trip of interest, a two-day trip of approximately 40 mi (64 km) to the south-southwest into southern Leslie County that took him nearly as far to the south as he had been all winter. Upon returning, he lingered in the core winter territory for about another week before initiating northward migration 11 March 2008 (the same date as in 2007) and was back on the breeding season territory 2 April. Interpretation of aerial photographs again indicated that at least when he was at the 1100 EST coordinate location, GOEA #40 was found primarily in forested areas, including some dissected by contour mining, rather than extensive reclaimed surface mines with few trees. This habitat preference was true for the core of his winter range, as well as areas that he regularly visited outside the core area.

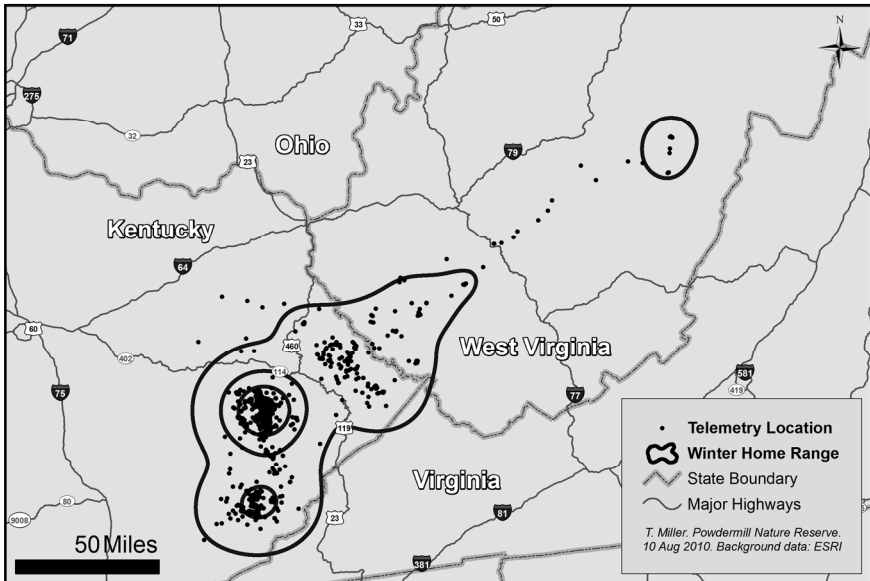


Fig. 5. Winter home range of Golden Eagle #40, winter 2007–2008. Concentric rings represent winter home range as defined by 25% (inner ring), 50% (middle ring), and 95% (outer ring) of the total data points acquired for the season.

In comparison to GOEA #40, the average dates of arrival/departure for the entire class of eight birds involved in the initial phase of the study were determined as follows: the average spring departure date from the wintering territories was 15 March ( $\pm 18$  days), and



the average spring arrival date on the breeding season territories was 9 April ( $\pm 23$  days). At the conclusion of the breeding season, the average date of departure was 21 October ( $\pm 15$  days), and the average date of arrival on the winter territories was 22 November ( $\pm 11$  days). There appeared to be a pattern of “leap-frogging” migratory movements, with the individuals that bred in far northern Quebec wintering farther south than birds breeding on the Gaspé Peninsula (T. Miller, unpubl. data).

Since the initial study group of eight Golden Eagles was fitted with satellite transmitters during 2006–2007, several additional birds have been fitted with similar transmitters including several by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the College of William and Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology, but none have entered Kentucky (T. Miller, pers. comm.; The Center for Conservation Biology 2010).

### Discussion

Little is known of the historical distribution and abundance of Golden Eagle in Kentucky, and the species has never been considered anything but relatively rare and locally distributed. The tendency for these large raptors to utilize forest and forest edge habitats likely makes them relatively difficult to observe. Mengel (1965) considered the species to be “a very rare winter resident or vagrant” as of the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, although he noted the potential for occurrence at any season and that the species may have nested in Kentucky “in early times.” Moreover, his assessment that the species was “probably most numerous in rugged parts of the Cumberland Plateau and about large bodies of water” is likely true today, although the lack of observers in the eastern portion of the state has probably limited the number of reports there.

At least during winter, Golden Eagles forage extensively on carcasses of wild animals, although carcasses of domestic livestock are also scavenged. In recent years, introduction of a population of elk (*Cervus canadensis*) by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and an increase in the White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) population have resulted in an increase in the number of carcasses of these animals that are available to wintering eagles. Perhaps not coincidentally, observations of eagles by KDFWR staff have also increased (C. Logsdon, pers. comm.). Anecdotal observations appear to support evidence revealed by the 2006–2008 satellite transmitter data that wintering Golden Eagles in eastern Kentucky are likely focusing their time in rural, forested areas and along forest edges, especially along the margins of sinuous contour mines, a similar pattern to that observed in east-central West Virginia during the winters of 1999–2001 (B. Smith, pers. obs.).

The patterns of movement of GOEA #40 in eastern Kentucky appear to be similar to the presumed movements of Golden Eagles wintering in other portions of Kentucky and might also help to explain the occasional observation of individuals in other areas. Preliminary telemetry data suggest that the amount of movement within the winter home ranges of Golden Eagles wintering in the Appalachian Mountains may be related to age, weather conditions, and food availability (T. Miller/T. Katzner, pers. comm.). The small population of Golden Eagles that winters in the vicinity of Bernheim Forest in Bullitt and Nelson counties has heretofore been the most frequently observed group of individuals in the state during winter. Members of this population, consisting of several to at least six individuals during some recent winters, can usually be found in a core area of forest in the knobs along Wilson Creek. However, there are times when the birds can be difficult to find, and occasional observations of Golden Eagles are made outside of the core wintering area.

During the past thirty or so years, numbers of Golden Eagles observed at hawk watches in eastern North America have been increasing (Farmer et al. 2008). This increase is thought to be due to several factors: an increase in the breeding population; increases in ungulate populations; and reduced human persecution. Again, anecdotal observations in

combination with results of the 2006–2008 satellite transmitter study indicate that eastern Kentucky likely remains home to a small number of Golden Eagles during the winter that may equal or exceed the number of birds in other portions of the state. Additional information on sightings or targeted surveys would help to better document the number of Golden Eagles wintering in eastern Kentucky, as well as the forest types or habitats birds use at that season.

### Acknowledgments

Publication of this article would not have been possible without the participation of Todd Katzner of the National Aviary and Trish Miller of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve, as each provided data for the article and commented on drafts of the manuscript. Michael Lanzone, Kieran O'Malley, Jeff Cooper, and David Brandes, as well as numerous staff from West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries assisted with field work. We also thank Trish Miller, Geographic Information System Lab Manager for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve, for providing us with the maps used in Figs. 1 through 5. We also acknowledge the many additional cooperators in the Carnegie Museum/National Aviary satellite transmitter study for their contributions. Funding for the transmitter placed on GOEA #40 came from Powdermill Nature Reserve and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and the field season for 2006–2007 was funded by the National Aviary and a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wild Resources Conservation Program grant.

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## SPRING 2010 SEASON

### Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The spring 2010 season's weather was relatively dry and warm overall. Mean temperatures were slightly warmer than normal across the state during March but well above normal during April and May. March was dry across much of Kentucky although driest in the north-central portion of the state (where Louisville and Lexington received only about one quarter of normal precipitation) and near normal in the west. April continued to be dry across most of the state with Louisville coming in closest to normal, but the entire Commonwealth received above-average rainfall during May. Most stations recorded nearly twice the normal rainfall during the month, in large part due to a two-day period of rainfall 1–2 May that was record-setting in some areas, especially the southern and central portions of the state. Up to 10 in (25 cm) of rainfall occurred in Warren County over the two-day period, causing transient lakes there and westward to Trigg County to swell to their highest levels in several years. Area rivers also flooded, resulting in the highest spring reservoir levels in more than a decade.

Rarity highlights included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Pacific Loon, Glossy Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Whimbrel, Great Black-backed Gull, and Western Kingbird. Again this spring, shorebirds were neither particularly diverse nor numerous despite the presence of some good habitat. The presence of lingering boreal finches was minimal.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by 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:** Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, *Madison*; Black Mountain = summit area of Black Mountain, *Harlan*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Calvert City = industrial ponds at Calvert City, *Marshall*; Camp #9 = Camp #9 coal preparation plant, *Union*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*; Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan* (unless otherwise noted); Chaney Lake, *Warren*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Floyds Fork = Floyds Fork Park, se. *Jefferson*; Horseshoe Road = slough next to Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; KY 268 = slough along KY 268 w. of Sauerheber, w. *Henderson*; KY 739 = transient pond along KY 739 se. of Williams Store, *Logan*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village

SRP, *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall* (unless otherwise noted); Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lake No. 9, *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Ledford = agricultural fields at Ledford, Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*; Long Creek Unit, Barren River Lake WMA, *Allen*; Long Point = Long Point Unit, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson*; McElroy Lake, n. of Woodburn, *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *Jefferson*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Open Pond, w. *Fulton*; Panorama Shores, e. *Calloway* on Ky Lake; Riverwalk, Shawnee Park, w. *Jefferson*; Sand Slough, w. *Henderson*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Waitsboro = Waitsboro Recreation Area, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; WKU Farm & WKU Woods = Western Kentucky University Farm & Woods, *Warren*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, *Russell*.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** – 5 were present on a farm pond along Ross Road sw. of Rumsey, *McLean* 20 May (ph. MG; see cover photo); this report will represent a first fully documented record for the state. KBRC review required.

**Tundra Swan** – 48 were still at Horseshoe Road 9 March (CC) with 42 last seen there 11 March (CC).

**Gadwall** – ca. 700 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (with ca. 500 of the total near Open Pond) 24 March (BP, EHu, MM) represented the season's peak count; the latest lingering birds were 1 near Long Point 7 May (BP, EHu, MM) and a pair at McElroy Lake to 23 May (DR et al.).

**American Wigeon** – 3 at Sauerheber 22/28 April (BP, EHu) were the latest to be reported.

**American Black Duck** – 1 at Sauerheber 22 April (BP, EHu) was the latest to be reported.

**Blue-winged Teal** – several birds lingered at McElroy Lake into late May (m. ob.).

**Northern Shoveler** – ca. 250 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 24 March (BP, EHu, MM) represented a modest peak count for the season; 2 males lingered at McElroy Lake to 18 May (DR et al.) with 1 last seen there 20 May (BP, EHu).

**Northern Pintail** – 50 in w. *Henderson* 4 March (CC) and ca. 700 at Lake No. 9 on 5 March (HC) represented the season's peak counts.

**Green-winged Teal** – ca. 600 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (with ca. 400 of the total at Island No. 8 Slough) 24 March (BP, EHu, MM) represented the season's peak count.

**Redhead** – reports of interest included 20 on Lake Cumberland at the SRP, *Russell*, and 98 above Wolf Creek Dam, both 2 March (RD); 25 in w. *Henderson* 4 March (CC) and 25 at Island No. 8 Slough, *Fulton*, 24 March (BP, EHu, MM). Two tardy males were present on a transient pond e. of Woodburn, *Warren*, 12–19 May (DR).

**Ring-necked Duck** – there were three reports of lingering birds: 1 at Sauerheber 2 May (CC); a pair below Barkley Dam 7 May (ME); and a female at McElroy Lake 12 May into June (DR et al.).

**Greater Scaup** – reports of interest included 10 above Wolf Creek Dam 2 March (RD); 36 on Barren 15 March (DR); and a female at McElroy Lake 2 May (DR).

**Lesser Scaup** – modest peak counts included ca. 100 at Waitsboro 25 March (RD) and 90 on Barren 8 April (DR); ca. 20 lingered on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, into early May (m. ob.).

**Surf Scoter** – inconsistent with a recent trend of increasing number of spring reports, there were only three: a pair at Lexington 27 March (LSh *vide* DL); a pair on the Ohio River near South Higginsport, *Bracken*, 1 April (ph. JBr, EHa); and 1 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 2 May (RD).

**White-winged Scoter** – there was only one report: 2 on the Ohio River at Louisville 1–11 March (EHu, TB, BP, et al.).

**Long-tailed Duck** – 1 was present on Lake Barkley above the dam 25 March (BP, EHu, MM) and 27 March (DR).

**Bufflehead** – peak counts during the season included ca. 85 on Barren 28 March (DR, DB) and 50 on the Ohio River near South Higginsport, *Bracken*, 1 April (JBr, EHa).

**Common Goldeneye** – a female on Ky Lake above the dam 6 May (BP et al.) was the latest to be reported.

**Hooded Merganser** – a female again nested outside Elizabethtown, *Hardin*, during April (FC); 5 young were seen in the company of 4 ads. at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 8 May (BY, MY); “several broods” were seen in flooded fields along the levee in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 15 May (BY, MY); up to 5 females/imms. lingered at McElroy Lake to 20 May (BP, EHu) with at least 1 present to the end of the month (DR).

**Red-breasted Merganser** – modest peak counts included 21 on Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, (EHu) and 54 on Barren (DR), both 17 March; 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 26 April (BP et al.) and 1 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 29 April (DR) were the latest to be reported.

**Ruddy Duck** – 1 at Camp #11 on 28 April (BP, EHu) and ca. 10 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 29 April (DR) were the latest to be reported.

**Pacific Loon** – an ad. nearing full alternate plumage was present on Cave Run Lake 23 April (BP, ph. EHu) and 24 April (AN). KBRC review required.

**Common Loon** – reports of interest included ca. 30 on Ky Lake 25 March (BP, EHu, MM); ca. 35 on Barren 28 March (DR, DB); 63 on Cave Run Lake 23 April (BP, EHu); 1 on Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 23 April (DR, JRm); 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 6 May with 1 still there 7 May (BP et al.); and 1 in flight to the ne. over Black Mountain 14 May (EHu, BP).

**Pied-billed Grebe** – a count of 92 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 3 March (EHu) represented the season's peak count. A pair lingered at McElroy Lake through May with a nest located there 30 May (ph. DR); unfortunately the falling lake level caused it to be abandoned soon thereafter.

**Eared Grebe** – 1 was present on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 25 March (BP, ph. EHu, MM).



Eared Grebe, Ky Lake, *Marshall*  
25 March 2010  
Eddie Huber

**Western Grebe** – 1 was reported on Ky Lake off Ky Dam Village 4 May (†KCo, MC). KBRC review required.

**American White Pelican** – peak counts during the season included 500+ at Blood River 12 March (HC); 500+ at Jonathan Creek 20 March (ME); and ca. 130 on Lake No. 9 on 28 April (DR). Other reports of interest included 5 on Barren 28 March (DR, DB); 6 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, n. *Union*, 30 March (CC); 5 still at Kuttawa with 2 below Barkley Dam and at least 10 above Barkley Dam, all 6 May (BP et al.); and 50 still at Lake No. 9 on 18 May (HC, ME).

**pelican sp.** – a pelican thought to be a Brown was seen in flight over Richmond, *Madison*, 21 May (GR).

**Double-crested Cormorant** – at least several dozen nests were active at the Kuttawa heronry by late March (m. ob.); an impressive count of ca. 750 nests was estimated to be present on two islands in Lake Barkley near the mouth of Little River, *Trigg*, 28 May (JBr, KD).

**American Bittern** – there were five reports: 1 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 12 April (BLi); 2 at Sauerheber 17 April (DR, KOS); 1 at the Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 22 April (EHa); 1 at the Boatwright Unit Ballard County Bottoms WMA, *Ballard*, 23 April (SR); and 1 at the Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 4/19 May (MMr).

**Least Bittern** – there were seven reports: 1–3 at the Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 22 April/5 May/18 May (EHa); at least 1 at White City WMA, *Hopkins*, 23 April/6 May/19 May (EHa); 1 heard at Sauerheber and 3 heard at Camp #11, all 28 April (BP, EHu); 1 heard near Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 5 May (BP et al.); several at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 4/17 May (EHa); and 1 at the Ken Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 11 May (EHa).

**Great Egret** – 3 were at the Kuttawa heronry 20 March (BY, MY) with ca. 20 there 25 March (BP, EHu, MM). One in Tygart's Creek near Olive Hill, *Carter*, 7 April (EM) was quite unusual for e. Kentucky.

**Snowy Egret** – singles near Dot, *Logan*, 4 May (FL) and n. of Sauerheber 10 May (BY, MY) were the only ones reported away from w. Kentucky.

**Little Blue Heron** – a total of 52 flying over the Lower Hickman Bottoms in several flocks 15 May (BY, MY) represented the season's peak count. The only one reported away from w. Kentucky was an ad. at Chaney Lake 26 May (DR).

**Cattle Egret** – 1 at Hays Kennedy Park, ne. *Jefferson*, 2 May (PM, CM) and 2 at the Long Creek Unit 18 May (JBy, MBy) were the only one reported away from w. Kentucky. At least 5 nests were seen on an island in Lake Barkley near the mouth of Little River, *Trigg*, 28 May (JBr, KD).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – at least 3 were seen at the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup*, 17/20 March (RS) where a small nesting colony may be present; ca. 30 nests were counted on an island in

Lake Barkley near the mouth of Little River, *Trigg*, 28 May (JBr, KD).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – there were only four reports: an ad. off Outer Loop, s. *Jefferson*, 18 May (MA); 1 at the Louisville landfill 22 May (RA); 2 on the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 23 May (CC); and 1 along the Greenbelt Highway, sw. *Jefferson*, 31 May (CL).

**Glossy Ibis** – 1 was present along Clear Creek n. of Rabbit Ridge, *Hopkins*, 20 May (AK, ph. TJo). KBRC review required.

***Plegadis* sp.** – 1 was seen in flight over Sauerheber 17 April (†DR, DA).

**Osprey** – birds at Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 7 March (BLi); at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 11 March (ER); in LBL, *Trigg*, 14 March (HC); and at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 21 March (AN) were the earliest to be reported. One over Yatesville Lake, *Lawrence*, 12 May (BP, EHu) may have been a local nester, but there were three reports of likely tardy migrants: 1 over Alton, *Anderson*, 19 May (BP); 1 at Barren 20 May (DR); and 2 over DeLong Road, Lexington, 24 May (SM). The nest at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek, Cave Run Lake, *Menifee*, was inundated by floodwaters during early May (EM).

**Mississippi Kite** – a bird was seen carrying nesting material at Long Point 7 May (MM, EHu, BP); 2 birds over St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, 15 May (MS) and 1 at the Dudley Creek boat ramp on the Wolf Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 21 May (RD) were the only ones detected away from known breeding areas. A loose group of 30 at Long Point 15 May (BY, MY) represented the season's high count.

**Bald Eagle** – new nests were initiated at three locales: Split Rock Conservation Park, *Boone* (MJ); East Bend Power Station, *Boone* (KCa, JC, et al.); and Shippingport Island, *Jefferson* (CBc, TB). Also of interest was 1 seen at Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 25 April (DL, KOS).

- Northern Harrier** – 1 on a reclaimed surface mine near Ano, c. *Pulaski*, 8 May (RD) was either a tardy migrant or on territory.
- Broad-winged Hawk** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 2 April (BLi), 1 at the Bee Rock Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 3 April (RD); 4 at Barren 4 April (DR); and 1 at Louisville 5 April (MY) were the earliest to be reported. A dark morph bird was reported at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 13 May (†MY).
- Merlin** – there were two reports: 1 at McElroy Lake with 2 nearby at Buchanon Park, *Warren*, all 15 March (DR), and 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 4 April (BLi).
- Peregrine Falcon** – there were at least six reports of non-territorial birds: 1 along Palestine Church Road, *Calloway*, 27 March (HC); an ad. at Sauerheber 22 April (BP, EHu); an imm. at McElroy Lake 4 May (DR); an ad. at McElroy Lake 5/12 May (DR) with possibly a second bird nearby 12 May (DR); an ad. at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); and an ad. at Shaker Mill 14 May (DR). A pair initiated a nest in downtown Frankfort, *Franklin*, during late April (KH et al.).
- King Rail** – 1 heard at Sauerheber 15 April (BP, EHu) was the only one reported.
- Virginia Rail** – at least 5 were encountered at Sauerheber 17 April (DR, KOS).
- Sora** – peak counts during the season included 10–15 seen/heard at Sauerheber and 15–20 seen/heard at Camp # 11, both 15 April (BP, EHu), and at least 25 at Sauerheber 17 April (DR, KOS).
- Purple Gallinule** – a strong weather system that pushed an abundance of moist air from the Gulf of Mexico region was responsible for the arrival of at least 3 birds during the first week of May as follows: 1 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 3–4 May (ph. CC, EHu); 1 at McElroy Lake 4–8 May (ph. DR et al.); and 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 6–8 May (LM, vt. KCa, JC, DMA, RM). KBRC review required.
- Common Moorhen** – 1/3 at Sinclair 22 April/5 May (EHa) were the only ones reported.
- American Coot** – 1 was still at Pulaski County Park 21 May (RD); 19 were still at McElroy Lake 20 May (BP, EHu) with some birds lingering to the end of the month (DR).
- Sandhill Crane** – 7100 were still w. of Cecilia, *Hardin*, 1 March (EHa) but less than 100 were there 6 March (EHa); ca. 350 were still at Chaney Lake 3 March (DR). One se. of Henderson, *Henderson*, 5 April (AG); 1 in the company of an injured bird at Bon Ayr, nw. *Barren*, 20 May (DR); and 2 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 22 May (DL, ASK) were the latest to be reported.
- Black-bellied Plover** – 1 at Horseshoe Road 15 April (BP, EHu) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 4 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 April (DR); 4 near Open Pond 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); singles at and near McElroy Lake 8–20 May (DR et al.) with 4 there 17 May (DR) and 6 there 18 May (DR); ca. 10 e. of Open Pond 15 May (BY, MY); 13 w. of Sassafras Ridge, *Fulton*, 18 May (HC, ME); 5 at McElroy Lake 21 May (DR); 1 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, n. *Union*, 23 May (CC); 1 at Walton Pond 28 May (DR); and 1 at Chaney Lake 31 May (DR).
- American Golden-Plover** – 3 at Jonathan Creek 9 March (HC) were the earliest to be reported; peak counts included at least 145 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 24 March (BP, EHu, MM); 22 at McElroy Lake 26 March (DR); and at least 1100 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (800–1000 nw. of Miller and 300+ at Open Pond) 18 April (BY, MY) that represented a new state high count. Other reports of interest included 4 at Horseshoe Road 15 April (BP, EHu) and at least 114 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM).
- Semipalmated Plover** – 12 at Sand Slough 15 April (BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported; modest peak counts included 32 at Sand Slough and 80 at Horseshoe Road, both 22 April (BP, EHu); ca. 100 at McElroy Lake 6 May (DR); at least 200 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); 34 at Melco 19 May (BP); and at least 60 at the Long

Creek Unit 21 May (DR). Circa 10 were still at Chaney Lake 31 May (DR).

**Black-necked Stilt** – small numbers were reported in *Fulton*, *Henderson*, *Logan* and *Warren* as follows: 1–4 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 April (DR)–18 May (HC, ME) with a high count of 8 in the area 15 May (BY, MY); 1 at Sauerheber 23 April (CC), 1 at Horseshoe Road 21 May (CC), and 1 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 22 May (CC); 2 at KY 739 on 15 May (ph. FL) that represented a county first; and 2 at McElroy Lake 5–6 May (S&DH, DR) with 5 there 13 May (DR), 3 there 16 May (DR), and 2 there again 28 May (DR) with apparent nesting by at least 2 pair by 30 May (DR).

**American Avocet** – there were two reports: 3 at the Falls of the Ohio 22 April (ph. EHu et al.) and 2 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 20 May (TSt, ph. KN) that tied the late spring departure date.

**Spotted Sandpiper** – singles at Melco 13 April (EHu) and at Fishing Creek 16 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported; a few birds lingered at several scattered locales into the last few days of May (m. ob.).

**Solitary Sandpiper** – singles at Fonthill, *Russell*, 5 April (RD) and at Melco 6 April (EHu) were the earliest to be reported.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – 1 at KY 268 on 9 March (CC) with 19 there 11 March (CC) were the earliest ones reported; peak counts included 38 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 March (HC, ME); at least 95 in w. *Henderson* including 45 at Sand Slough 15 April (BP, EHu); and more than 100 in w. *Henderson* 22 April (BP, EHu). Singles at Chaney Lake 30 May (DR) and at McElroy Lake 31 May (DR) were the latest to be reported.

**Willet** – there were ten reports: 3 at Waitsboro 20 April (ph. RD); 5 at the Falls of the Ohio 24 April (TSt, DSt); 1 near Dot, *Logan*, (ph. FL) and 4 at Isonville, *Elliott* (ph. EM), both 25 April; 2 at the Falls of the Ohio and 7 at Melco, both 26 April (BP et al.); 3 at Camp #9 on 28 April (BP,

EHu); at least 35 at the Falls of the Ohio 30 April (EHu) with 39 (different birds) there 2 May (BP et al.); and 2 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 9 May (RD).



Willetts (4), *Elliott*  
25 April 2010  
Evelyn Morgan

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – peak counts included ca. 300 in w. *Henderson* 22 April (BP, EHu); 220 in w. *Henderson* 28 April (BP, EHu); at least 200 at McElroy Lake 4 May (DR); ca. 200 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); and ca. 500 at McElroy Lake 12 May (DR).

**Upland Sandpiper** – 1 at McElroy Lake 4 May (DR) was the only one reported.

**Whimbrel** – there were two reports: 1 at Lexington 12 April (†DSv) that is a few weeks earlier than any previous spring report; and 3 e. of Open Pond 15 May (†BY, MY). KBRC review required.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – 1 at McElroy Lake 2 May (DR) was the earliest to be reported; very modest peak counts included 152 at Melco 21 May (EHu); ca. 100 at the Long Creek Unit 21 May (DR); ca. 50 at Morgan Pond 28 May (DR); and ca. 60 at Chaney Lake and ca. 50 at McElroy Lake, both 29 May (DR).

**Western Sandpiper** – 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 April (DR) was the only one reported.

**Least Sandpiper** – 13 at Jonathan Creek 9 March (HC) were either continuing from winter or early migrants; otherwise 3 at Chaney Lake 15 March (DR) were the earliest ones reported; ca. 700 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM) and 50–75 at



Melco 19 May (BP) represented the season's peak counts. Three birds were still at Chaney Lake 30 May (DR).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – singles in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 April (DR) and at McElroy Lake 2 May (DR) were the earliest ones reported; modest peak counts included at least 25 at McElroy Lake 6 May (DR) and 50–60 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM). As is the norm, a few birds could still be found during the last few days of May, primarily at the transient lakes in s. *Warren* (m. ob.).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 April (DR) and 1 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM) were the only ones reported.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – a flock at Blood River 8 March (HC); 34 at Jonathan Creek 9 March (HC); 29 at Melco 10 March with 72 there 11 March (EHu); and 2 at KY 268 on 11 March (CC) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts included at least 1030 in w. *Henderson* with 250 at Ellis Park, 330 at Sand Slough, and 300 at Sauerheber 22 April (BP, EHu); at least 400 at McElroy Lake 5 May (DR); and ca. 650 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM).

**Dunlin** – 1 at Chaney Lake 15 March (DR) was exceptionally early; otherwise, 1 at Sauerheber 15 April (BP, EHu); 1 at Melco 17 April (BP, EHu); and 20 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 18 April (BY, MY) were the earliest to be reported. Modest peak counts included 25 at Sauerheber 22 April (BP, EHu) and at least 80 at McElroy Lake 17–18/21 May (DR); other reports of interest included 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 25 April (BY, MY, et al.); 2 in *Trigg* 7 May (BLi); 1 near Mosley Pond, *Logan*, 15 May (MBt); and 3 at the Long Creek Unit 16 May (JBy, MBy). One lingered at Chaney Lake to 31 May (DR).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at McElroy Lake 2–16 May (DR et al.) with 7 there 12 May (DR); 2 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); and 5 at the Long Creek Unit 16 May (JBy, MBy).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – 1 at KY 268 on 22 April (BP, EHu) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 3 at McElroy Lake 6/8 May (DR); 1 at Ledford 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); 1 n. of Rich Pond, *Warren*, 10 May (DR); 19 at McElroy Lake and 2 at Morgan Pond, both 11 May (DR, TD); at least 65 at McElroy Lake 12 May (DR) with ca. 25 there 13/14 May (DR), ca. 70 there 16 May (DR), ca. 30 there 17 May (DR), ca. 60 there 18 May (DR), and 18 there 19 May (TD). A flock of ca. 35 dowitcher sp. was seen near Morgan Pond 11 May (DR, TD).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 21 March (DR) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 2 at Sauerheber 15 April (BP, EHu) with 5 there 17/20/21 April (DR, KOS/CC, DR/CC) and a peak of 6 there 22 April (BP, EHu); 7 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 18 April (BY, MY); ca. 25 at McElroy Lake 3 May (TD); 3 at Melco 26 April (EHu, BP); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 2 May (BP); 15 at McElroy Lake 2 May (DR), both 2 May; 1 at McElroy Lake 6/8/11 May (DR); 3 ne. of Long Point (BP, EHu, MM) and 10 at McElroy Lake (DR), both 7 May; 1 n. of Rich Pond, *Warren*, 10 May (DR); 2 at McElroy Lake 12 May (DR) were the latest to be reported.

**American Woodcock** – 66 birds were banded at Central Ky WMA and the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, during March as part of an ongoing EKU study on habitat use (AN et al.).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – the species put in a fantastic, albeit brief, showing including two new state high counts as follows: 1 at KY 739 on 25/26 April (ph. FL/MBt); a remarkable showing at Sauerheber that began with 24 there 26 April (ph. CC) but was followed by at least 50 there 28 April (CC et al.); 2 at Sand Slough (BP, EHu) and 1 at Long Point (DR), both 28 April; at least 80 at Lake No. 9 on 28 April (DR) with a new state high count of at least 85 there 29 April (DR); 1 at Melco 1 May (EHu); 1 e. of Sauerheber 2 May (CC); 2

at McElroy Lake 3/4 May (AH/ DR); 3 at Chaney Lake 5 May (BP et al.); 1 at McElroy Lake 5–8 May (DR); and 3 at Ledford 7 May (EHu, BP, MM).



Wilson's Phalaropes (5 of ca. 50), *Henderson*  
28 April 2010  
Eddie Huber

**Laughing Gull** – there were four reports: an ad. at the Falls of the Ohio 26 April (BP et al.); 1 or 2 ads. at Calvert City 6 May (BP, EHu, MM); a first-year bird at Ky Dam 7 May (BP, EHu, MM); and an ad. at the Louisville Landfill 12 May (ph. RA).

**Franklin's Gull** – an ad. at Barren 1 May (DR) was the only one reported.

**Bonaparte's Gull** – 1 on Lake Barkley near Eddyville, *Lyon*, 16 May (BY, MY) was quite tardy.

**Herring Gull** – 3 were still present in the vicinity of Ky Dam 7 May (BP, EHu, MM).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – there were three reports: a first-year bird at Ky Dam 18–19 March (DR); an ad. at Blood River 22 March (HC); and a second- or third-year bird on Lake Barkley above the dam 25 March (BP, EHu, MM) with perhaps the same bird (third-year) at Ky Dam Village 27 March (DR).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – the third-year bird that was first seen in early February on Ky Lake above Ky Dam was seen at the same location 18–19 March (DR) and 25 March (BP, EHu, MM); a first-year bird was present on Lake Barkley at Green Turtle Bay, *Lyon*, 25 March (MM, ph. EHu, BP). KBRC review required.

**Least Tern** – 2 at Open Pond 15 May (BY, MY) were the earliest to be reported.

**Caspian Tern** – 1 at Barren 5 April (DR, DB) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 8 at Barren 19 April (DR, DB); 15 at the Falls of the Ohio 22 April (EHu et al.); and 1 at Cave Run Lake 23 April (BP, EHu).

**Black Tern** – there were only three reports: 1 at Open Pond 15 May (BY, MY) and 1 at McElroy Lake 17/19 May (DR/TD).

**Common Tern** – there were only two reports: 9 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 16 May (BY, MY) and 5 over McElroy Lake 18 May (DR).

**Forster's Tern** – 6 at Blood River 4 March (HC) were likely continuing from winter; 15–20 at Calvert City 6 May (BP, EHu, MM) represented a very modest peak count for the season.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were only four reports: 1 at Floyds Fork 4 May (BP et al.); singles (same bird?) at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette*, 12/15 May (LT); 1 at Central Park/Boone County Arboretum, 22 May (JRw); and 1 nw. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 29 May (GD).

**Barn Owl** – there were four reports: a nesting pair at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, during March (AN et al.); 1 heard at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 23 March (AN); an injured female from *Shelby* in early April (DSz *vide* EW); and 1 in *s. Logan* 15 May (FL).



Great Black-backed Gull, *Lyon*  
25 March 2010  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**Short-eared Owl** – 1 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 2 March (AN) was the only one reported.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – 1 at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, 3 March (AN) was the only one reported.

**Chuck-will's-widow** – 1 calling along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 12 April (BLi, PL) was the earliest to be reported.

**Whip-poor-will** – 1 calling in e. *Fayette* 5 April (DSv) was the earliest to be reported.

**Chimney Swift** – 1 over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 1 April (MM) was the earliest to be reported.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – singles at Louisville 24 March (†TJe); at Mt. Vernon, *Rockcastle*, 25 March (†BD); at Louisville (†TY) and at Paducah (†TT) 31 March; at Chalybeate, *Edmonson*, 1 April (†MP); and at Blood River 3 April (HC) were the earliest to be reported.

**hummingbird sp.** – a hummingbird reported at Lone Oak, *McCracken*, 13 March (LSc) could have been either an early Ruby-throated or another species.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – 1 at the Riverwalk 4 May (BP et al.) was relatively tardy.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were two reports, both 13 May: 1 on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, (EHu, BP) and 1 in LBL, *Lyon* (BLi).



Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Pike*  
13 May 2010  
Eddie Huber

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – singles in LBL, *Trigg*, 26 April (BLi) and in *Hart* 28 April (SK, JK) were the earliest to be reported.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – 1 calling “pur-wee” at Surrey Hills Farm 30 May (BP) was the only one reported.

**Alder Flycatcher** – there were only two reports: 1 in *Madison* 4 May (AN) and a bird that was behaving as if territorial on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 13 May (BP, EHu).

**Willow Flycatcher** – 2 birds singing as if territorial at the Starfire Mine, *Perry*, 26 May (BS et al.) would be a county first for nesting.



Least Flycatcher at nest, Black Mt., *Harlan*  
14 May 2010  
Eddie Huber

**Least Flycatcher** – 1 at Lexington 30 April (BA) was the earliest to be reported; birds were heard singing “everywhere” near the summit of Black Mountain with 3 nests observed under construction 14 May (BP, ph. EHu).

**Western Kingbird** – 1 was present near Maynard, *Allen*, 22 April (ph. DR). KBRC review required.

**Eastern Kingbird** – 1 in *Nelson* 13 April (JS) was the earliest to be reported.

**White-eyed Vireo** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 4 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.

**Bell's Vireo** – 1 at the Louisville landfill/Melco 22–31 May (RA) was the only one reported away from known breeding areas.

- Yellow-throated Vireo** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 4 April (AH) was the earliest to be reported.
- Blue-headed Vireo** – 1 at Fishing Creek 23 March (RD) and 1 at Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell*, 24 March (DSt) were the earliest to be reported. Singles at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette*, 17 May (LT) and at Sauerheber 22 May (CC) were especially tardy away from known breeding areas.
- Philadelphia Vireo** – at least 6 in one loose group in LBL, *Lyon*, 6 May (BP et al.) was noteworthy.
- Fish Crow** – at least 2 at Blood River 6 March (HC) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included a flock of 30 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 24 March (BP, EH, MM); 1 over the swamp n. of J.J. Audubon State Park 15 April (BP, EH); and at least 10 over Sauerheber 20 April (DR).
- Common Raven** – 2 at Fishtrap Lake WMA, *Pike*, 27 April (SF) were not near a known breeding site.
- Purple Martin** – 1 at Bowling Green 9 March (TD) was the earliest to be reported.
- Tree Swallow** – 1 n. of J.J. Audubon State Park 10 March (CC) was the earliest to be reported during the period.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – at least 1 at Ky Dam 18/19 March (DR) and at least 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 21 March (DR) were the earliest to be reported.
- Barn Swallow** – 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 21 March (DR) was the earliest to be reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – a few lingering winter birds or migrants appeared at scattered locales into late March; 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, to 15 April (RD) and 1 at Berea Forest 18 April (SM, RB) were the latest to be reported.
- House Wren** – 1 at Texas, *Washington*, 8 April (RD); 1 at Sauerheber 9 April (CC) and 1 at Glasgow 13 April (LC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Winter Wren** – 1 singing in the Clifty Wilderness, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 19 April (TW) was the latest to be reported.
- Marsh Wren** – there were only four reports: singles at Sauerheber 17 April (DR, KOS) and 2 May (CC); 1 heard at Camp #11 on 28 April (BP, EH); and 1 heard near Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 5 May (BP et al.).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – 1 at Hematite Lake, LBL, *Lyon*, 31 March (HC, ME) was the earliest to be reported.
- Veery** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 30 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.
- Wood Thrush** – birds heard in *Hart* 18 April (SK); in *Owen* (AN) and at Fishing Creek (RD), both 20 April; and at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 21 April (KCo) were the earliest to be reported.
- Gray Catbird** – the wintering bird in *Jessamine* lingered through March (DW); 1 along Woolper Creek, *Boone*, 13 April (PK) was relatively early.
- American Pipit** – several at Ledford 7 May (BP, EH, MM) and 2 at Meng Pond, *Warren*, 17 May (DR) were the latest ones reported.
- Cedar Waxwing** – after a near complete absence in the state during late winter/early spring, flocks sprung onto the scene during the first week of May and remained numerous into the third week of the month.
- Blue-winged Warbler** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 7 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.
- Golden-winged Warbler** – very scarce this spring with only two reports away from nesting areas: 1 at the Riverwalk (BP et al.) and 1 s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen* (JBy, MBy), both 4 May; also 2 territorial birds were detected on Log Mt. nw. of Garmeada, *Bell*, 25 May (LP).
- Tennessee Warbler** – 1 heard at Lexington (BA) and 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, (BLi), both 23 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 28 April (KK) and 1 at Floyds Fork 4 May (BP et al.) were the only ones reported.

- Northern Parula** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 3 April (BLi) and 1 along Mt. Tussell Road, *Adair*, 5 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** – a nest was found under construction at the summit of Black Mountain 14 May (BP, EHu); a male singing as if territorial was present ne. of Greeley, ne. *Lee*, 31 May (BP).
- Magnolia Warbler** – 1 at Draut Park, *Jefferson*, 31 May (MY) was the latest to be reported.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** – there were a few reports away from e. Kentucky: 1 at Berea Forest 9/12/15 May (SM, RB/AU/DL, ASK); a female in LBL, *Lyon*, 10 May (BY, MY) that was extremely rare during spring for so far west; 1 at Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison/Jackson*, 12 May (AU); and 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 13 May (DL).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** – a tally of 44 birds at Bee Rock Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 3 April (RD) was rather impressive.
- Blackburnian Warbler** – the species has become much more numerous on Black Mountain during the last decade with at least 30–35 seen/heard 14 May (BP, EHu).
- Yellow-throated Warbler** – 1 at Jonathan Creek 27 March (ME) was the earliest to be reported.
- Prairie Warbler** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 7 April (BLi) and 1 at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, 8 April (AN) were the earliest ones reported.
- Palm Warbler** – 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 17 April (FL) was the earliest to be reported; 1 at the Louisville landfill 13 May (RA) was relatively tardy.
- Prothonotary Warbler** – singles at Hematite Lake, LBL, *Lyon*, 6 April (AM) and at Floyds Fork 11 April (CBo, JBo) were the earliest ones reported.
- Worm-eating Warbler** – 1 below Nolin Lake Dam, *Edmonson*, 12 April (TD) was the earliest to be reported.
- Swainson's Warbler** – 1 near Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell*, 10 April (TW) established a new early arrival date for the state; 1 at the Pumphrey Tract of Buck Creek Nature Preserve, *Pulaski*, 6 May (RD) was in a new area.
- Ovenbird** – at least 1 at Bernheim Forest (EHu) and birds at two locales in the Red River Gorge vicinity, *Powell*, 12 April (MC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Northern Waterthrush** – 1 below Nolin River Dam, *Edmonson*, 12 April (TD) and 1 near Ky Dam Village 17 April (BY, MY) were quite early.
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – 1 at Blood River 18 March (HC) was the earliest to be reported.
- Connecticut Warbler** – there were only four reports: 1 at Floyds Fork 12 May (AM); 1 heard at Surrey Hills Farm 16 May (BP); 1 off Fernbush Lane, *Jefferson*, 22 May (MA); and 1 heard at WKU Woods, *Warren*, 23 May (DR).
- Mourning Warbler** – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Berea Forest 4 May (AN); 2 at Yatesville Lake, *Lawrence*, 12 May (EHu, BP); 1 at Floyds Fork (AM) and 1 at WKU Woods (DR), both 12 May; and 1 at WKU Woods 19 May (DR) with 2 there 20 May (DR).
- Common Yellowthroat** – singles at Texas, *Washington*, (RD) and at Central Ky WMA, *Madison* (AN), both 8 April, were the earliest ones reported.
- Hooded Warbler** – 1 at Natural Bridge SRP 11 April (MC) was the earliest to be reported.
- Wilson's Warbler** – singles at the Riverwalk (BP et al.) and near Thruston, *Davies* (MT), both 4 May, were the earliest ones reported.
- Canada Warbler** – 1 at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 2 May (KCo) was the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** – 1 at Wandering Woods, Mammoth Cave, *Barren*, 20 April (TD) was the earliest to be reported.

- Bachman's Sparrow** – 16 territorial males were tallied at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, as part of an ongoing University of Tennessee study there (EHo, *fide* DMO).
- American Tree Sparrow** – 1 w. of Bridgeport, *Franklin*, 4 April (JBr) was the latest to be reported.
- Vesper Sparrow** – reports of interest included ca. 15 in *Barren* 8 April (DR); 1 at the Louisville landfill 8 May (RA); and an extremely tardy migrant in LBL, *Lyon*, 16 May (†BY, MY).
- Lark Sparrow** – it was another good spring for the species with several reports, all being included: 1 along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 15 April (BP, EHu) with at least 6 there 2 May (CC) and at least 1 there 10 May (BY, MY); 1 at Sauerheber 17 April (DR, KOS); 1 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, n. *Union*, 20 April (DR, CC); 1 in the Sharpe-Elva area of Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 26 April (BH, HC, et al.); 1 near KY 268 on 28 April (BP, EHu); 1 at McElroy Lake 5 May (BP et al.); 2 at Keysburg, *Logan*, 11 May (DR, TD) with 1 at the same locale 19 May (FL); and 1 along McElwain Road, *Warren*, 31 May (DR) and at least 11 birds seen at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 8–27 May (EHo *fide* DMO).
- Savannah Sparrow** – 5 or 6 territorial birds were singing along and near Chinn Lane, *Mercer*, 19 May (BP).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – at least 4 se. of Owenton, *Owen*, 20 April (AN) were in a previously unreported locale.
- Fox Sparrow** – 1 at Briarwood, *Jefferson*, 22 April (JBe, PB) was exceptionally tardy.
- Dark-eyed Junco** – 1 at the Riverwalk 23 April (AM, WP) was the latest to be reported.
- Scarlet Tanager** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 12 April (BLi, PL) was the earliest to be reported.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – a female at E.P. Tom Sawyer Park, *Jefferson*, 10 April (CBo, BBC) was the earliest to be reported; single birds appeared at a few scattered locales beginning 23 April (m. ob.). At least 27 at the Riverwalk 4 May (CBc, TB) represented the high count for the season; with natural food supplies appearing to be in relatively good supply, the species was not as numerous at feeding stations this spring as during the past few spring seasons.
- Blue Grosbeak** – several on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 13 May (BP, EHu) were likely on territory. Although the species has likely been present this far e. in the state for some years, they have seldom been reported in the e. tier of counties.
- Indigo Bunting** – the wintering bird present outside of Cadiz, *Trigg*, lingered into early spring and was last noted 22 April (WG).
- Dickcissel** – a few in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 19 April (BY, MY) were the earliest to be reported; 1 on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 13 May (BP, EHu) was likely on territory.
- Bobolink** – at least 6 in *Barren* 26 April (DR); 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 27 April (FL) and a small flock nw. of Coraville, e. *Henderson* 29 April (AG) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included a loose group of birds on territory along Chinn Lane, *Mercer*, 17+ May (BLE, BP, et al.); a flock of ca. 20 s. of Grayson, *Carter*, 4 May (EM); “easily 500, mostly females” in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 15 May (BY, MY) with at least 300 seen in the same area 18 May (HC, ME); and 4 at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, 30 May (DSv, MF) that were likely on territory.
- Western Meadowlark** – 1 s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 March (†JBy, MBy) represented a county first.
- Rusty Blackbird** – 1 at Ellis Park, *Henderson*, 22 April (EHu, BP) was the latest to be reported.
- Brewer's Blackbird** – 8 were last seen at the wintering area along Royal-Oak Grove Road e. of Fragrant, e. *Grayson*, 6 March (SK, JK); also reported were 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 24 March (BP, EHu, MM); at least 35 along Smokey

Road, *Ballard*, 25 March (BP, EHu, MM); and 4 at Tracy, *Barren*, 5 April (DR, DB).

**Orchard Oriole** – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 11 April (BLi, PL) was the earliest to be reported other than the wintering bird noted in the Addendum below.

**Purple Finch** – a few birds lingered into late March with a slight peak in numbers (likely migrants) noted during the first

week of April (m. ob.); 1 in nw. *Hart* 8 May (JBt) was the latest to be reported.

**Pine Siskin** – 1 at a feeder sw. of Hubble, n. *Lincoln*, 23 April (ph. JE) was the only one reported.

**Addendum to Winter 2009–2010 Season:**

**Orchard Oriole** – an adult male was reported in a yard at Richmond, *Madison*, 27 January into March (†CS, GS).

**Observers:** Ben Albritton (BA), Ryan Ankeny (RA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), David Ayer (DA), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Mathan Beachy (MBy), Colleen Craven-Becker (CBc), Tom Becker (TB), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MBt), Carl Bochmann (CBo), JoAnn Bochmann (JBo), John Brittain (JBt), David Brown (DB), John Brunjes (JBr), Rhonda Bryant (RB), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Joe Caminiti (JC), Fred Carroll (FC), Hap Chambers (HC), Mike Clarke (MC), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Michael Cohen (MC), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Becky Daugherty (BD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Kerri Dikun (KD), Gary Dorman (GD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Jackie Elmore (JE), Mike Flynn (MF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Melissa Gaither (MG), Alan Gehret (AG), Willard Gray (WG), Steve & Debbie Hamilton (S&DH), Erin Harper (EHa), Barry Hart (BH), Kate Heyden (KH), Emily Hockman (EHo), Eddie Huber (EHu), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Mark Jacobs (MJ), Tabatha Jennings (TJe), Tim Johnson (TJo), Kay Kavanagh (KK), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Paul Krusling (PK), Amy Krzton-Presson (AK), David Lang (DL), Celia Lawrence (CL), Ben Leffew (BLe), Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Paula Lisowsky (PL), Frank Lyne (FL), Scott Marsh (SM), Don Martin (DMA), Robbie Martin (RM), Carol McAllister (CM), Paul McAllister (PM), Lee McNeely (LM), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), Mark Monroe (MM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Mike Morton (MMr), Daniel Moss (DMo), multiple observers (m. ob.), Kim Neal (KN), Andy Newman (AN), Michael Page (MP), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Laura Patton (LP), William Pike (WP), Ed Ray (ER), Scott Record (SR), Gary Ritchison (GR), David Roemer (DR), Joan Roemer (JRm), Jeff Rowe (JRw), Luann Schoo (LSc), Claire Schuster (CS), Guenter Schuster (GS), Rick Seelhorst (RS), Lou Shain (LSh), Tom Sklodoski (TSk), Brian Smith (BS), Matt Stickel (MS), Tim Stovall (TSt), Del Striegel (DSt), Dave Svetich (DSv), John Swindells (JS), Diana Szuba (DSz), Laurie Thomas (LT), Marilee Thompson (MT), Tami Tyra (TT), Alyssa Underwood (AU), Todd Weinkam (TW), Doris Westerman (DW), Eileen Wicker (EW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Tara Young (TY).

—8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 (brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov) (Palmer-Ball) and P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY, 41005 (lkmc9@aim.com) (McNeely).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at ([scott.marsh@insightbb.com](mailto:scott.marsh@insightbb.com)).

**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](mailto:secy@kybirdrecords.org). Hard copy documentation should be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243.

**Visit the K.O.S. 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>.





Glossy Ibis, *Hopkins*  
10 May 2010  
Tim Johnson



Western Kingbird, *Allen*  
22 April 2010  
David Roemer



Pacific Loon (w/ Common Loons), Cave Run Lake  
23 April 2010  
Eddie Huber



Purple Gallinule, McElroy Lake, *Warren*  
5 May 2010  
David Roemer



Purple Gallinule, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*  
3 May 2010  
Charlie Crawford



Purple Gallinule, Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*  
7 May 2010  
Kathy Caminiti