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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

The photograph of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was taken 29 March 2011 at Surrey Hills Farm in northeastern Jefferson County by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (see p. 86). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



KENTUCKY'S MIDWINTER EAGLE SURVEY, 50 YEARS LATER

Kate Heyden and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Background

Kentucky's population of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is highest during the winter months when resident nesting pairs are joined by birds from the northern states and Canada. These migrant birds migrate south in search of open water for hunting and fishing. During late winter 1961, members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS) assisted in conducting the first organized effort to survey the wintering population of Bald Eagles in Kentucky (Wilson and Stamm 1961, Stamm 1962). The initial survey was considered the *Cooperative Bald Eagle Investigation for the Mississippi River Winter Study* and was sanctioned by the National Audubon Society and coordinated by Alexander Sprunt, IV, who was research chairman of the Continental Bald Eagle Project. At that time the effects of the accumulation of residues from pesticides like DDT in the ecosystem had resulted in a precipitous decline in many fish-eating birds, including the Bald Eagle, and there was great concern among wildlife conservationists that some manner of monitoring their population needed to be initiated. During the 1961 effort (undertaken 19 February), individuals in twelve mid-western states participated in the survey, accounting for 621 Bald Eagles. In Kentucky, five birds were found on two survey routes (three at Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge [now part of Land Between the Lakes] and two on the Ohio River at Rock Haven, Meade County) (Stamm 1962).

Over the decades, the winter Bald Eagle survey evolved greatly. In 1979 it was expanded by the National Wildlife Federation Raptor Information Center to include all the lower 48 states (Stamm and Durell 1980). The Kentucky effort was coordinated by Anne Stamm for nearly 20 years, but in 1980 James Durell with the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) began assisting in overseeing the effort. During the early 1980s, the coordination and compilation of the survey was cooperatively overseen by a partnership between KOS volunteers and KDFWR staff. In 1985, Anne Stamm retired from assisting with compilation of the annual survey.

Since 1986, KDFWR has overseen the effort entirely as the state's coordinating agency for what has become known as the Midwinter Eagle Survey (MES), now coordinated at the national level by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The MES takes place nationwide during the first two weeks of January each year. During the survey, participants count eagles along standard survey routes by airplane, boat or ground. Some of the larger survey routes are split between multiple cooperators who cover a portion of the target area. Results of the winter eagle count in Kentucky were published in the KOS's quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, from 1961 to 1998. Since that time, KDFWR has compiled an annual unpublished report and submitted data to the USACE for the national analysis. The national survey has been important for documenting the comeback of the species and has served as the primary means for assessing winter populations of Bald Eagles in the United States. The nationwide MES also has continued to be a measure for monitoring the population after the species was removed from the federal endangered list in 2007.



Tom Fusco photo

The USACE conducts national MES trends analyses at designated yearly intervals. An analysis will soon be completed which will include the 2006-2010 survey data summarized by region and state. Results will be available on the internet at the following website link: <http://ocid.nacse.org/nbii/eagles>. Routes designated as “national” routes will be included in the national trends analysis. In order for a route to be included in the national trends analysis, it must have been surveyed for at least four years using the same method, and at least four eagles must have been sighted during one of those years. “State” routes are generally newer routes which have the potential to be included in future national trend analyses if they are consistently surveyed for additional years.

Results of Winter Surveys in Kentucky, 1961-2010

From the total of five Bald Eagles found in the state during the initial survey in 1961, the number of individuals tallied on winter counts has gradually increased (Table 1; Fig. 1). The average number of eagles per survey during the 1960s was 29 with a peak of 49 in 1966. By 1970, 70 Bald Eagles were counted on the survey, and the average number counted per year during the 1970s jumped to 59 with a peak of 90 in 1979. More than 100 eagles were first counted in 1981, and 200 were first tallied in the state in 1984 with an average per survey during the 1980s of 162. During the 1990s, the average number of eagles per year jumped to 225 with a peak of 360 tallied in 1999. Finally, most surveys during the 2000s have continued to yield the highest totals ever recorded for the state; more than 150 birds have been counted each year with an average of 289 and a record count of 410 in 2010. Although the general trend has been for increased numbers, the increase has somewhat leveled off in recent years.

The percentage of immature Bald Eagles counted on the MES also has steadily increased over time. This is likely due to an increase in successful reproduction in Kentucky and throughout eastern North America. Kentucky's first successful post-DDT era Bald Eagle nest occurred in 1989. Since then, the number of young fledged each year has increased steadily to 81 in 2011 (Heyden 2011).

The number of routes or areas covered during the effort has varied over time, starting with two the first year, peaking at 44 in 1993 and leveling off at around 20 in the past decade. The large number of survey routes conducted during the mid-1990s represented a peak in overall effort, but many of those routes typically yielded no or very few Bald Eagles. Beginning with the 2000 MES, the number of routes monitored nationally for trend analysis was reduced to focus only on those routes that monitor significant populations of eagles. Since then, routes have been discontinued if they do not provide noteworthy counts of eagles or if cooperators have failed to survey them consistently. Ballard Wildlife Management Area and Land Between the Lakes have been monitored the longest since they were first surveyed in the mid-1960s.

Over the years, many volunteers and staff of various state and federal agencies have conducted the surveys; in 1989, for example, 115 individuals participated in the survey (Yancy, Durell, and Andrews 1989). Cooperating agencies have included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Kentucky Department of Parks, and the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. Non-governmental participants have included the Kentucky Ornithological Society, local chapters of the National Audubon Society, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, and the Owensboro Area Museum.

Year-to-year variation in eagle counts is mostly attributed to the severity of the weather. Milder weather results in lower counts; severe cold results in larger numbers. For example, harsh winter weather in early 2010 in Kentucky and further north likely led to the highest count of wintering eagles in Kentucky's history. Extreme weather conditions during

Table 1. Total Number of Bald Eagles Counted on Winter Surveys in Kentucky, 1961-2011.

Year	Date(s)	Total Bald Eagles	No. of surveys
1961	19 Feb	5	2
1962	11 Feb	18	4
1963	17 Feb	14	5
1964	16 Feb	22	5
1965	13/14 Feb	37	11
1966	19/20 Feb	49	10
1967	18/19 Feb	44	7
1968	17/18 Feb	42	9
1969	15/18 Feb	29	4
1970	21 Feb	70	8
1971	20 Feb	71	14
1972	19 Feb	56	12
1973	17 Feb	44	15
1974	16 Feb	45	14
1975	8 Feb	48	16
1976	14 Feb	40	16
1977	5 Feb	41	13
1978	11 Feb	81	14
1979	20 Jan	90	12
1980	2-20 Jan	78	22
1981	5-19 Jan	105	25
1982	2-16 Jan	139	23
1983	2-16 Jan	135	27
1984	2-16 Jan	221	16
1985	2-16 Jan	143	12
1986	2-16 Jan	234	14
1987	2-16 Jan	195	15
1988	1-15 Jan	166	13
1989	5-19 Jan	207	20
1990	4-18 Jan	301	23
1991	3-17 Jan	167	18
1992	2-15 Jan	239	38
1993	1-15 Jan	261	44
1994	1-15 Jan	274	38
1995	4-18 Jan	112	36
1996	3-17 Jan	258	35
1997	1-15 Jan	271	31
1998	2-16 Jan	162	35
1999	1-17 Jan	360	29
2000	1-15 Jan	228	18
2001	3-17 Jan	298	22
2002	2-16 Jan	324	22
2003	1-15 Jan	162	20
2004	1-15 Jan	192	21
2005	1-15 Jan	211	21
2006	4-18 Jan	140	20
2007	3-17 Jan	194	18
2008	2-16 Jan	358	20
2009	31 Dec-14 Jan	371	20
2010	30 Dec-13 Jan	410	20
2011	29 Dec-12 Jan	192	20

the 2010 survey period caused many of Kentucky's smaller creeks, rivers and reservoirs to freeze over. Lack of food resources at smaller water bodies probably caused a push of wintering eagles to larger water bodies in the state where open surface water remained, and where there are established MES survey routes. This resulted in some remarkably high counts for some of Kentucky's larger lakes and rivers; the eagle count at Land Between the Lakes [215] was higher than any in the history of Kentucky MES and accounted for over half of the eagles counted statewide. Patterns of waterfowl use and changes in prey abundance/conditions may also affect eagle counts (Grubb 2003).

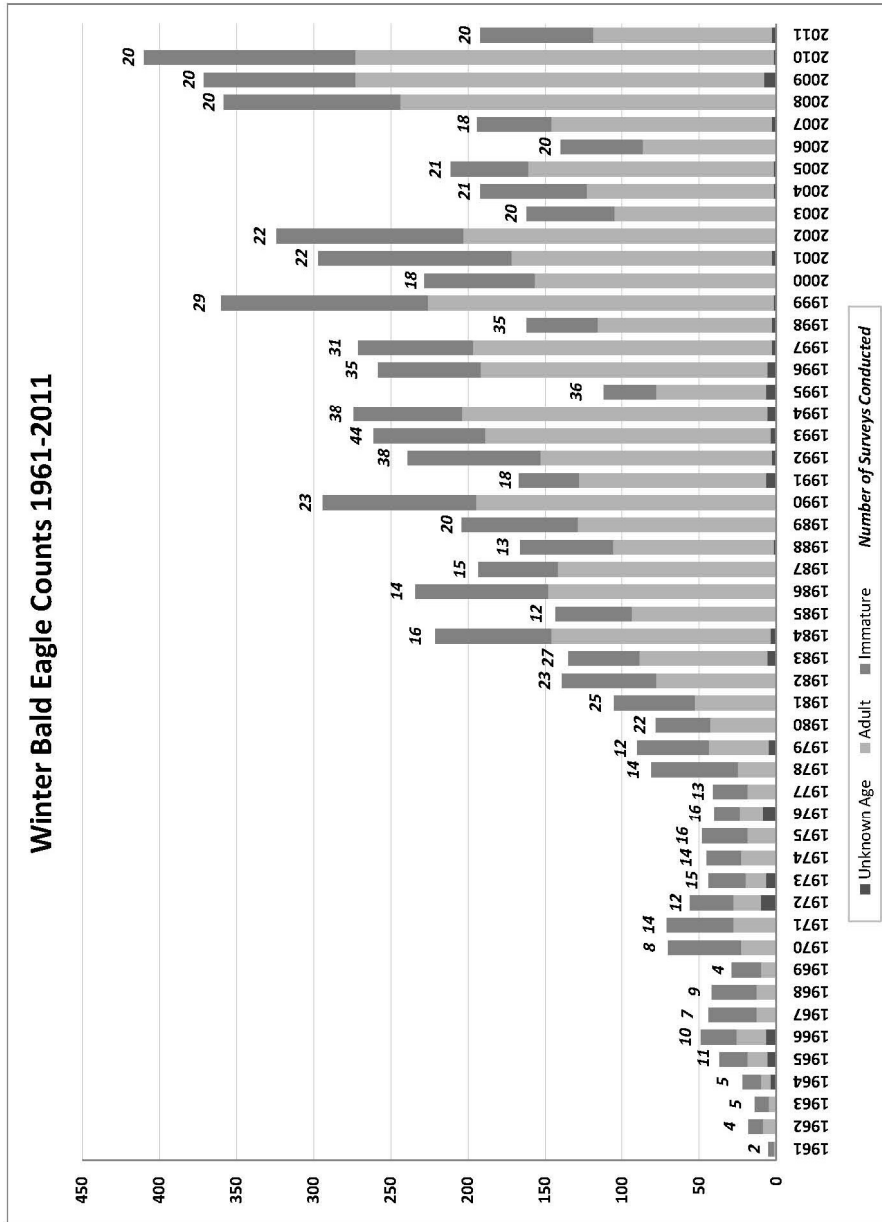


Fig. 1. Total number of Bald Eagles recorded during winter eagle surveys, 1961-2011. The number of survey routes completed is shown above each yearly column.

MES results should be interpreted with caution due to some biases and problems inherent to a large-scale, long-term monitoring program. Although coordinators and cooperators have strived for consistent data collection, survey effort (number of routes), survey routes, survey technique and observers have gradually changed over the years. These changes may introduce some bias or variation in counts, though they likely do not overshadow the overall trend shown by the data. Data compilation methods have also changed to promote more consistency in year-to-year data collection. Prior to 2008, "additional observations" during the survey window of eagles away from survey routes (usually totaling less than 5) were also included in counts. Due to high numbers of wintering eagles in recent years and the variation of these data, only standardized survey route data are now included in totals. The MES has no doubt evolved over the years due to funding availability and the need to improve survey methods. Nevertheless, we assume that winter counts are a reasonable index to eagle abundance at the areas surveyed.

The 2011 Survey in Kentucky

The 2011 MES survey was conducted from 29 December 2010 to 12 January 2011. The Kentucky survey was completed through the efforts of 50 participants representing several state and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and many volunteers. A total of 192 Bald Eagles were tallied on 16 national and four state routes (Table 2). This total is only about one-half of the number of eagles tallied during the 2010 survey. Weather conditions in early 2011 across the Great Lakes region and in Kentucky likely led to a lower count of wintering eagles in the Commonwealth in comparison to counts in recent years. Many participants recorded mild weather conditions during the survey with less ice than normal in 2011. Counts are conducted at larger water bodies which generally have greater congregations of eagles during winters with periods of extreme cold when smaller water bodies freeze over. However, if smaller water bodies in Kentucky and further north are not frozen, eagles may not need to move as far south or congregate at larger lakes and rivers since there are many places where food is available. This may have resulted in some lower counts for some of Kentucky's larger lakes and rivers. For example, the eagle count at Land Between the Lakes (37) was lower than it has been in the last decade, and this route usually accounts for a large portion of the statewide tally.

Six selected routes were revised in 2011 to better avoid possible double-counting in the future. Overlapping portions of these routes which were conducted by different cooperators were eliminated before the 2011 survey in order to provide five years of consistent survey data before the next national analysis.

Acknowledgements

Kentucky's winter eagle surveys could not have been conducted without the contributions of numerous state and federal agencies, several non-governmental organizations, and many volunteers. The following individuals have assisted in the coordination of the state's winter eagle surveys and compilation of survey results: Theresa Anderson (1994–1995); Lynda Andrews (1986–1989), Laura Burford (1995–2007), Mark Cramer (1987), James Durell (1980–1997), Kate Heyden (2008–2011), Anne Stamm (1961–1985), Shawchyi Vorisek (2005–2007), and David Yancy (1988–1994).

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Table 2. Kentucky Midwinter Eagle Survey Summary, 2011. Totals by route represent the number of eagles recorded during the official survey period (December 29, 2010 – January 12, 2011) with probable double counts excluded. AD = Adult, IMM = Immature, UNK = Unknown Age.

National Survey Routes	Number of Bald Eagles			
	AD	IMM	UNK	TOTAL
Ballard WMA	3	29	1	33
Barren River Lake	5	0	0	5
Bernheim Forest	1	1	0	2
Cave Run Lake**	2	1	0	3
Dale Hollow Lake (KY)	11	12	0	23
Green River Lake	4	2	0	6
Land Between the Lakes	27	10	0	37
Lake Cumberland**	8	3	2	13
Laurel River Lake	6	1	0	7
Mississippi River**	19	3	0	22
Ohio: Wickliffe-Carrsville	11	3	0	14
Ohio: Carrsville-Henderson	4	2	0	6
Ohio: Henderson-Brandenburg**	1	1	0	2
Ohio: Brandenburg-Louisville	0	0	0	0
Reelfoot Lake NWR (KY)**	2	2	0	4
Taylorville Lake	5	3	0	8
TOTAL – National Routes	109	73	3	185
State Survey Routes				
	AD	IMM	UNK	TOTAL
Ohio: Covington to Ashland	3	0	0	3
Rough River Lake	4	0	0	4
Grayson Lake**	0	0	0	0
Ohio: Louisville to Covington	0	0	0	0
TOTAL – State Routes	7	0	0	7
TOTAL – All routes 2011				
	AD	IMM	UNK	TOTAL
TOTAL – All routes 2011	116	73	3	192

**Route was revised before 2011 survey to avoid double-counting

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SPRING SEASON 2011

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Weather conditions during the spring 2011 were overall warmer and wetter than normal. March began only slightly warmer than normal across most of the state, but April was quite a bit warmer than normal statewide with 90°F. reached at Louisville 10 April. May temperatures varied from normal to slightly above normal statewide. The real story of the spring season, however, was the rainfall. March began near normal across the state, but precipitation was well above normal during April, when Louisville (14 in [35.6 cm]), Lexington (12.7 in [32.3 cm]) and Paducah (15.9 in [40.4 cm]) all established new record rainfall totals for the month. During May, precipitation returned to near normal across south-central Kentucky, but remained higher than normal across the remainder of the state including at Paducah, where about two times the normal rainfall was recorded. Excessive rainfall also occurred across much of the remainder of the eastern and central United States during April, resulting in unprecedented flooding along the state's major river floodplains; consequently, reservoir levels were also exceptionally high from late April to the end of May. Reports of rarities included a flock of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis (two reports), Yellow Rail, Marbled Godwit (two reports), Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and a state-first Gray Kingbird.

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”; “ba.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; “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; “^o” next to an observer's initials indicates that no details were submitted for a report requiring KBRC review; ad(s). = adults(s); imm(s). = immature(s); juv(s). = juvenile(s); yg. = young. Place names: Anchorage Trail, e. *Jefferson*; Barkley Dam, *Livingston/Lyon*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; Berea, *Madison*; Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, *Madison*; Bernheim Forest = Bernheim Forest Arboretum and Research Forest, *Bullitt* (unless otherwise notes); Blood River = Blood River embayment, *Ky Lake*, *Calloway*; Buttonsberry = Cypress Creek bottoms at KY 85 just w. of Buttonsberry, *McLean*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*; Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*; Chaney Lake, s. *Warren*; Cherokee Park, *Louisville*, *Jefferson*; Clarks River = Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, *Marshall*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Douglass Hills, e. *Jefferson*; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*; KY 739 = transient pond along KY 739, sw. *Logan*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake Reba, *Madison*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; LBL Nature Station, *Lyon/Trigg*; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson* (unless otherwise noted); McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *Jefferson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, I; Morgan Pond, s. *Christian*; Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison*; Rumsey, *McLean*; Sacramento, *McLean*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Sonora, *Hardin*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Vandetta, ne. *Hopkins*; Waitsboro =

Lake Cumberland at the Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*; Walton Pond, w. of Woodburn, s. *Warren*; WKU Farm = Western Kentucky University Farm, *Warren*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – 10 were present along Ross Road, sw. of Rumsey 14-16 May (ph. MG, JG, et al.). KBRC review required.

Ross's Goose – there were four reports: 2 at McElroy Lake 2-6 March (DR); 3 along Pleasant Run at Hall's Store Road, *Logan*, 8-9 March (ph. DTy); 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 2 April (DR); and 1 continuing from winter at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, to 4 May (RH, BP, et al.).

Mute Swan – there were three reports: 1 likely continuing from winter was present along Ironworks Pike, *Fayette*, 5 March (SM); 3 at Lake Reba 3-28 March (TBo, ANn et al.); and 2 continuing from winter were last seen at the Reformatory Lake, *Oldham*, 7 April (MCa).

Tundra Swan – there were two reports: an imm. at McElroy Lake 3-12 March and then at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 12-18 March (DR); and 2 lingering at Sauerheber to 9 April (CC).

Wood Duck – a female, likely a victim of egg dumping, was seen with 22 small yg. at Woolper Creek, *Boone*, 7 May (LM).

Gadwall – 3 at McElroy Lake 29 April (BP, EHu, CBs) with 1 last seen there 30 April (BP, KOS); and 3 along KY 138 w. of Rumsey 15 May (BP, EHu) were the latest to be reported.

American Wigeon – 2 at Sauerheber 14 April (CC) were the latest to be reported.

American Black Duck – 1 at Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu) was the latest to be reported.

Blue-winged Teal – modest peak counts at various locales included ca. 200 at and near Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu); 150-200 at McElroy Lake 5 April (BP, EHu) with 125-150 there 20 April (BP, EHu); 120 at Melco 9 April (MA); 400-500 in w. *Henderson* 12 April (BP, EHu); and ca. 30 at KY 739 on 23 April (MBt). A few lingered on transient ponds in *Christian*, *Hardin*, and *Warren* into mid-

May but no evidence of nesting was detected by the end of the month (m. ob.). Other late reports included a pair at Minor Clark 4 May (BWu); 1 at KY 739 on 20 May (FL); 1 at Melco to 22 May (EHu); a few in flooded areas w. of Rumsey 20 May (BP, EHu, MM) with 15-20 along Cypress Creek s. of McElwain Road, *McLean*, a pair at Buttonsberry, and 3 along Cypress Creek e. of Sacramento, all 24 May (BP, EHu); and a male still at Sauerheber 30 May (CC).

Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler – a male with characters indicating it was a hybrid between these two species was present at Chaney Lake 5 April (†BP, EHu).

Northern Shoveler – relatively modest peak counts included ca. 200 at and near Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu) and at least 200 at McElroy Lake 5 April (BP, EHu) with 320 there 6 April (DR) and ca. 50 still there 29/30 April (BP, KOS). Lingered birds included 5 at Morgan Pond 16 May (EHu, BP); 1 along Pond Drain ne. of Poplar Grove, *McLean*, and 3 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta, all 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); 3 along KY 81 s. of Rumsey and 4 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 23 May (BP, EHu); and 4 last seen along Cypress Creek s. of McElwain Road, *McLean*, 24 May (BP, EHu).

Green-winged Teal – 60 in w. *Henderson* 22 March (CC) and at least 50 in w. *Henderson* 12 April (BP, EHu) represented modest peak counts for the season. Two lingered at McElroy Lake to 24 April (BP, EHu).

Canvasback – a female at Camp #11 on 31 March (BP, EHu) was the latest to be reported.

Redhead – peak counts for various locales included ca. 140 on Barren 8 March (DR); ca. 300 on McElroy Lake 12 March (DR); 20 at Melco 18 March (BP); 39 at Waitsboro 16 March (RDn); and 4 on Chaney Lake 5 April (BP, EHu). One on Cooley's

Pond, *Wayne*, 26 April (RDn); a pair on Barren 29 April (BP, EHu); and 1 on McElroy Lake 3 May (TD) were the latest to be reported.

Ring-necked Duck – lingering birds included a male at Minor Clark 4 May (BWu); 1 still at Kuttawa 16 May (EHu, BP); and a pair at KY 739 from 20 May into June (FL et al.).

Greater Scaup – reports of interest included 7 at Melco 15 March (EHu); 12 at Waitsboro 8 April (RDn); 2 on a slough along KY 268, w. *Henderson*, 12 April (EHu, BP); small numbers at McElroy Lake during March and early April (m. ob.) with 4 there 16 April (BP, EHu) and at least 2 still there 24 April (BP, EHu).

Lesser Scaup – modest peak counts included 220 on Cave Run Lake above the dam, *Bath/Rowan*, 13 March (DP); ca. 200 on Barren 26 March (DR); and ca. 150 on McElroy Lake 28 March (BP, EHu). Lingering birds included a female at Minor Clark 4 May (BWu); 4 still at Kuttawa 16 May (EHu, BP); and 1 on McElroy Lake 24 May (TD).

Surf Scoter – an ad. male on the Ohio River below the Falls of the Ohio 12 March (T&CBe) was the only one reported.

White-winged Scoter – there were five reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 14-15 March (EHu); 8 on Ky Lake, *Lyon*, 29 March (HC, DR); 2 on Lake Barkley above the dam and 1 on Ky Lake at Sherwood Shores, *Marshall*, both 1 April (BP, EHu); and 2 on McElroy Lake 1 May (TD, BP, KOS) that represented a new late departure date for the state.

Long-tailed Duck – 1 on the Ohio River at Brent, *Campbell*, 28 March (FR) was the only one reported.

Bufflehead – reports of interest included 26 on the Ohio River at Louisville 20 March (T&CBe); 9 at Minor Clark 16 April (DL, ASK) with a female there to 4 May (BWu); and 1 on Chaney Lake 20 April (BP, EHu) with perhaps the same bird on McElroy Lake to 29 April (BP, EHu).

Common Goldeneye – 1 on Lake Barkley above the dam 4 May (HC, RDv, BD) and

3 on Ky Lake above the dam 5 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM) with 2 still there 6 May (BP et al.) and 16 May (BP, EHu) were the latest to be reported.

Hooded Merganser – a female with a brood of yg. at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 5 May (BLi) represented a first confirmed breeding record for LBL and the county.

Red-breasted Merganser – reports of interest included 37 on Cave Run Lake 18 March (BWu); 22 at Waitsboro 24 March (RDn); 11 on Lake Reba 25 March (MBu); 8 at Minor Clark 20/29 April (BWu) with 2 still there 4 May (BWu) and 1 still there 8 May (DL, BLA); and 4 on McElroy Lake 22 April (TD).

Ruddy Duck – 217 counted on Lake Barkley above the dam 1 April (BP, EHu) represented a modest peak count for the season. Tardy birds included a female along White Hall Road, *Madison*, 4 May (ANn); a male on Lake Reba to 15 May (ANn); 1 on Morgan Pond 16 May (EHu, BP); and 3 on McElroy Lake 24 May (TD).

Pacific Loon – 1 was observed on Vickers Bay, Ky Lake, *Lyon*, 2 April (†HC, ANY, TT). KBRC review required.

Common Loon – at least 100 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 1 April (BP, EHu) represented the peak count for the season; other reports of interest included 8 on McElroy Lake 4 April (DR) with 2 there 24/25 April (TD et al.) and singles there 3/11 May (TD); 4 on Ky Lake above the dam 5 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 14 May (S&BHR *fide* HC); 1 on Flemingsburg Lake, *Fleming*, 15 May (ph. KS); 2 on McElroy Lake 24 May (TD); 1 at Sinclair 24 May (ETn); and 1 at Petersburg, *Boone*, that lingered to 29 May (LM).

Pied-billed Grebe – lingering and potentially breeding birds included a few birds on transient ponds in w. *Hardin* 4 May (BP et al.); 2 at KY 739 to 5 May (MBt); 1 in a flooded field near Hundred Acre Pond, *Hart*, 14 May (SK, JK, et al.); a few on flooded areas in n. *McLean* 15 May

(BP, EHu); 3 on Morgan Pond 16 May (BP, EHu); and 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 May (HC).

Horned Grebe – reports of interest included 7 at the State Game Farm, *Franklin*, 10 March (GS) and 1 on Lake Reba 24 April (ANn).

Red-necked Grebe – there were two reports: the bird on Lake Reba continued to 13 April (ANn et al.) and 1 was observed on Lake Cumberland from Rowena Road and above the dam, *Russell*, 12 March (ph. RDn). KBRC review required.

Eared Grebe – 3 were on McElroy Lake 24-25 April (DR, TD, †BP, EHu).

Double-crested Cormorant – at least 1000 were in the vicinity of Barkley Dam 1 April (BP, EHu); other reports of interest included 75-100 at Lake Reba 13 April (BP, EHu, ANn) with 2 still there 22 May (ANn); 40 at McElroy Lake 25 April (TD, DR); 4 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 20 May (ANn); and a few seen at scattered locales in n. *McLean* and ne. *Hopkins* 20/23-24 May (BP, EHu, MM).

American White Pelican – there was an unprecedented number of birds e. of their normal haunts with all reports included: a flock of ca. 300 flying n. at Earlington, *Hopkins*, 9 March (ER) were well e. for that many; at least 35 over Highland Church Road se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 March (†MBy et al.); 7 on the Ohio River opposite Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 13 March (SC); at least 20 over *Warren* 14 March (DR); 15 on the Ohio River at Louisville 21/22 March (MPv/ph. KB); 80 on McElroy Lake 26 March (DR, TD) with 4 there 9 April (MBy et al.) and 1 there 23 April (TD, ph. CSI, DR). In w. Kentucky, ca. 400 were around Ky Dam and 200 were below Barkley Dam, both 15 March (HC et al.) with 50-75 still below Ky Dam 5-6 May (BP, EHu, MM, JD) and ca. 30 still there 16 May (BP, EHu) with at least 8 still at Barkley Dam 16 May (BP, EHu).

American Bittern – there were five reports: 1 at the end of Figett Bend Road, *Hart*, 1 April (JSo); 1 at the Cape Hills Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 7 April (CC);

1 at a pond near the LBL Nature Station, *Trigg*, 9 April (DW *fide* JPo); 1 off National Turnpike, *Jefferson*, 9/10 April (MA/MA, DSe); and 1 at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 20 April (EHa).

Least Bittern – 1 at Sauerheber 12 April (BP, EHu) was early; also reported were 4 at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 20 April (EHa); 2 at Sinclair 21 April with 1 there 18 May (EHa); 1 at Melco 23 April (EHu); 1 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 4 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); and 1 at South Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 9 May (SF).

Great Blue Heron – a single nest was located at Fishtrap Lake, *Pike*, 31 March (SF); a new nesting colony of ca. 23 nests was observed along the Licking River near Visalia, *Kenton*, 17 April (LM, SR).

Great Egret – 1 off Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 26 March (ANn) was early for the n.-cen. part of the state; at least 30 were already present in the heronry at Kuttawa by 1 April (BP, EHu); other reports of interest included 4 on transient ponds in w. *Hardin* 4 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); at least 30 below Barkley Dam along US 62, *Lyon*, 16 May (BP, EHu); ca. 20 in flooded areas between Rumsey and Sacramento 23-24 May (BP, EHu); and 243 counted in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 May (HC).

Snowy Egret – reports of interest included 1 at Sauerheber 14 April (ph. CC); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 20 April (RDn); 1 near Woodburn, *Warren*, 2 May (TD); 28 below Barkley Dam along US 62, *Lyon*, 16 May (BP, EHu); 4 in flooded areas between Rumsey and Sacramento 24 May (BP, EHu); 1 over Sauerheber 30 May (CC); and 21 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 May (HC).

Little Blue Heron – 1 was seen at the heronry at Kuttawa 1 April (BP, EHu); reports of interest included 1 at Chaney Lake 5 April (EHu, BP); 1 at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 20 April (RDn); 1 e. of Flaherty, *Meade*, 23 April (RPa); up to 13 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 3 May (BLi); 1 on the slough adjacent to Audubon SP, *Henderson*, 16 May (KM);

at least 55 in flooded areas between Rumsey and Sacramento 23-24 May (BP, EHu); 2 at Chaney Lake 24 May (TD); 2 over Sauerheber 30 May (CC); and 86 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 May (HC).

Cattle Egret – at least 1 was seen at the heronry at Kuttawa 1 April (BP, EHu); reports of interest included 6 e. of Flaherty, *Meade*, 23 April (RPa); 5 at Sinclair 21 April (EHa); 2 at the WKU Farm 24 April (BP, EHu); 1 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 24 April (LM); 1 at Henderson, *Henderson*, 28 April (CC); 1 at McElroy Lake 3/13/26 May (TD/TD/TD, DR); 1 w. of Cecilia, *Hardin*, 4 May (BP et al.); “a few” outside of Owensboro, *Daviess*, during the first week of May (MPk); a few flocks totaling 44 birds along the margins of flooded areas between Rumsey and Vandetta 15 May (BP, EHu) with at least 75 in the same area 20 May (BP, EHu, MM) and 150+ in the same area 23-24 May (BP, EHu).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – reports of interest included 2 at the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup*, 23 March (RS); 2 e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 5 May (BP et al.); and 1 along Cypress Creek e. of Sacramento 24 May (EHu, BP).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 6 including 2 pairs nest building were seen at the Jenny Hole/Highland Creek Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 13 April (ph. CC); at least 12 were noted in flooded backwaters of Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 5 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); none attempted to nest along Woodbine Road, Lexington, again this year; an active nest was located off Tates Creek Pike, Lexington, in early May but was later found abandoned (JW).

White-faced Ibis – there were two reports: 2 just w. of Sauerheber 17 May (†JMr), and 1 at McElroy Lake 26-27 May (†TD, DR). KBRC review required.

Black Vulture – ca. 120 at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 12 March (RDn) was a relatively large group for early spring.

Osprey – 1 at the US 68 bridge over Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 2 March (BLi), 1 at Hon-

ker Lake, LBL, *Lyon*, 3 March (AMe, BG, *vide* JPo), 2 at Ky Dam 8 March (HC, AY, et al.), 1 at Cave Run Lake 13 March (DP), and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 20 March (T&CBe) were the earliest to be reported; 3 including a possible pair were seen along Cypress Creek s. of Rumsey 20 May (MM, EHu, BP) with 1 seen in the same vicinity 23 May (BP, EHu). A pair was again nesting at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 20 May (ANn). A pair was seen nest building on the se. side of Lexington, 22 April (DSv) but they abandoned attempts again this year (like last year) and apparently moved on.

Mississippi Kite – 1 in w. *Fulton* 28 April (HC) was the earliest to be reported; there were four reports of vagrant birds away from known nesting areas: 1 at Dawson Springs, *Hopkins*, 21 May (ER); 1 at the Brown’s Ford Boat Ramp, Barren, *Allen*, 7 May (†JBy); 5 along Pinchgut Creek, 0.5 mi n. of KY 1333, *Allen*, 25 May (†JBy, †DB) with 1-3 lingering there to 30 May (JBy, MBy, et al.); and an ad. at the Flat Rock Church off US 27, *McCreary*, 30 May (RDn).



Yellow-crowned Night Herons at nest
Union, 13 April 2011
Charlie Crawford

Bald Eagle – 6 different individuals seen at McElroy Lake during the day 6 April (DR) was noteworthy; newly discovered nests for 2011 included one at Mammoth Cave (BLe) and 3 along the Ohio River, *McCracken* (KH).

- Northern Harrier** – singles at East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*, 8 May (LM) and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 May (MBy) were tardy; a female-type seen over Cypress Creek nw. of Buttonsberry, *McLean*, 24 May (BP, EHu) may have been near a nesting area.
- Broad-winged Hawk** – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 23 March (AY) was the earliest to be reported; 2, likely tardy migrants, were seen over Pond Drain, *McLean*, 20 May (MM, EHu, BP).
- Golden Eagle** – an imm. was seen over Barren River Lake dam, *Barren*, 1 April (DR).
- Merlin** – there were nine reports: 1 at McElroy Lake 3/5 March (DR); 1 at E.P. Sawyer Park, *Jefferson*, 23 March (CBo, BBC); 1 along Zibb Lane, Louisville, 2 April (MA, DSe); 1 at the Reformatory Lake, *Oldham*, 5 April (MCa); 1 along Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 6 April (ANn); 1 along Trammel Creek at the end of Stone Road, *Allen*, 13 April (JBy); 1 at Minor Clark, 16 April (DL, ASK); and 1 at McElroy Lake 25 April (TD, DR).
- Peregrine Falcon** – there were nine reports of birds away from traditional breeding territories: 1 along KY 88 e. of Cub Run, *Hart*, 4 March (SK); 1 along White Hall Road, *Madison*, 23 March (ANn); 1 at Lees Ford Marina, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 31 March (RDn, GH, AMo); 1 at McElroy Lake 16 April (BP, EHu, TD); 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 19 April (HC, ME); singles at McElroy Lake 26 April & 1 May (TD); 1 along the Barren River at Celsor Road Ford, *Allen*, 17 May (MBy, JBy); and 1 at Buttonsberry 24 May (BP, EHu, JBa).
- Yellow Rail** – 1 was present at Surrey Hills Farm 29 March (ph. BP et al.). KBRC review required.
- Virginia Rail** – there were only three reports: 1 at Sauerheber 12 April (BP); 1 at Melco 24-26 April (MA, EHu, BP); and 2 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 4 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM).
- Sora** – reports of interest included at least 35 at Sauerheber 12 April (BP, EHu, CC); 4 at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 20 April (EHa); 7 at Sinclair 21 April (EHa); 1 at Melco 24-26 April (MA, EHu, BP); 1 ne. of Farristown, *Madison*, 28 April (ANn); at least 4-5 e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 4 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); 1 at Minor Clark 8 May (DL, BLA); and 2 at White City WMA, *Hopkins*, 19 May (EHa).
- Common Gallinule** – 1 at Buttonsberry 24 May (BP, EHu) was the only one reported.
- American Coot** – peak counts at various locales included probably in excess of 2000 at McElroy Lake 24 March (TD); 320 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 5 April (RDn); ca. 4000 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 7 April (DR); and 225 at Lake Reba 8 April (ANn). Lingering birds included ca. 30 at KY 739 on 14 May (MBt) with “many” still there 20 May (FL); at least 50 along KY 138 w. of Rumsey 15 May (BP, EHu); ca. 40 on Morgan Pond and at least 5 on Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*, both 16 May (BP, EHu); a few scattered in flooded areas w. of Rumsey 20 May (BP, EHu, MM) with 15-20 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); 1 at Long Point 20 May (HC, ME); 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 20 May (ANn); 3 at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (BP, EHu, et al.); and 1 at Melco into early June (EHu et al.).
- Sandhill Crane** – a few flocks continued to move n. during the first week or so of March highlighted by flocks of ca. 135 over Windhover Farm, *Oldham*, 11 March (MCa) and ca. 250 over Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, and 50 over the Falls of the Ohio, both 12 March (T&CBe). One over McElroy Lake 1 April (DR); 1 at Pulaski County Park 7 May (RDn); and 2 at McElroy Lake 11 May (TD) were the latest to be reported.
- Black-bellied Plover** – all reports are included: 1 at McElroy Lake 6/11 May (BP, JD/TD) with 10 there 14 May (TD); 2 at Melco 12 May (BP, EHu); 1 at KY 739 on 20-26 May (FL); 1-51 at eight locales totaling at least 137 individuals in flooded bottoms between Rumsey and Van-

detta 20 May, the total representing a new one-day state high count, and groups of 51 and 33 being observed along Narge Creek n. of KY 254, *Hopkins*, and along Pond Drain e. of Patterson Road, *McLean*, respectively (BP, EHu, MM); at least 42 at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (BP, EHu, et al.); with 14 & 9 at additional locales in ne. *Hopkins* 23 May (BP, EHu) and 21 along KY 85 w. of the Pond River, *Hopkins*, 24 May (BP, EHu, JBa).

American Golden-Plover – 2 at McElroy Lake 11 March (DR) were the earliest to be reported; impressive numbers built there with 19 on 27 March (DR), at least 135 on 28 March (DR), and especially impressive tallies of 350 on 30 March (TD) & 2 April (DR) followed by ca. 150 on 5 April (DR) and 80-100 on 6 April (DR) then small numbers (less than 10) on most visits into early May (m. ob.) with 7 on 6 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM) followed only by a tardy bird there 24 May (TD). Reports of interest from other locales included 8 at Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu, CC); 1 at Long Point 20 May (HC, ME) and another tardy bird at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (BP, EHu, JBa).

Semipalmated Plover – 1 at Clarks River 10 April (SK, JK), 2 near Open Pond, *Fulton*, 16 April (BY, MY), and 1 at McElroy Lake 16 April (BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 25-30+ at McElroy Lake by 20 April (BP, EHu); at least 100 w. of Sonora 12 May (BP, EHu, RH) with at least 130 there 16 May (BP, EHu); 14 along J.C. Jones Road, *Hart*, 14 May (SK, JK) with 9 there 29 May (SK, JK); 2 at the Banklick Creek Wetlands, Ft. Wright, *Kenton*, 22 May (DMA); 3-50 at a dozen locales totaling at least 250 individuals in flooded bottoms between Rumsey and Vandetta 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); at least 1060 in n. *McLean* including at least 750 at Buttonsberry and 300 along J.I. West Road w. of Pond Drain, *McLean*, 23 May (BP, EHu); and 1100-1300 in n. *McLean* including 800-1000 at Buttonsberry, 200 along J.I. West Road w. of Pond Drain, and 100 along McElwain Road w. of KY 81, all 24 May (BP, EHu, et al.) the latter

representing a new state one-day high count.

Black-necked Stilt – birds were reported in four locales: 1-3 at McElroy Lake 4 April–11 May (TD, DR, et al.); 11 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 16 April (BY, MY, HC) with 4 there 19 April–20 May (HC, ME, RL) and 6 there 31 May (HC); 2 at Morgan Pond 11 May (BWi, SW); and 3 along Cypress Creek e. of Sacramento 20 May (MM, ph. EHu, ph. BP) that represented a county first, although a few days later, a pair was present at Buttonsberry and at least 13 including a few pairs engaged in courtship activity were present along McElwain Road w. of KY 81, *McLean*, all 24 May (ph. BP, EHu).

American Avocet – there were two reports: 9 at McElroy Lake 12 April (TD) and 24 there 23 April (ph. CSI, DR, TD).



American Avocet, *Warren*
23 April 2011
Chris Sloan

Spotted Sandpiper – tardy birds (potentially nesting?) were reported as follows: 2 (likely pair) at the Banklick Creek Wetlands, Ft. Wright, *Kenton*, 22 May into early June (DMA); a few birds scattered in n. *McLean* and ne. *Hopkins* 23-24 May (BP, EHu); 2 at Fort Boonesborough SP, *Madison*, 26 May (ANn); and 2-3 still at Melco 29 May (BP).

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at Melco 22 March (EHu) and 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 29 March (FL) were the earliest to be reported.

Greater Yellowlegs – ca. 75 in w. *Henderson* 12 April (BP, EHu) represented a

modest peak count for the season; 1 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu) was the latest to be reported.

Willet – there were 15 reports, all being included: 5 at McElroy Lake 20 April (BP, EHu, TD, DR); 20 at Walton Pond 24 April (BP, EHu); ca. 25 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 24 April (RL); 1 at McElroy Lake and 31 at Chaney Lake, both 25 April (TD, DR); at least 42 at Melco 25 April (EHu, MA); 3 at McElroy Lake and singles at Chaney Lake and at Walton Pond, all 26 April (TD); 2 at Long Point 28 April (HC); 1 at McElroy Lake 2 May (TD); 56 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson*, 2 May (JBe, PB, BP); 1 at Ky Dam 5 May (BP, JD, HC); 1 along West Old State Road, *Allen*, 6 May (AB, JBk); and 9 at Ky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 16 May (EHu, BP).

Lesser Yellowlegs – 2 along J. Dance Road, *Henderson*, 1 March (CC) and 1 at McElroy Lake 8 March (DR) were the earliest to be reported; modest peak counts at various locales included ca. 75 in w. *Henderson* 12 April (BP, EHu); 112 at Long Point 16 April (HC) with 53 there 28 April (HC); at least 50 at KY 739 on 19/23 April (MBt, FL/MBt); 24 at Melco 20 April (EHu, BP) with 20-25 there 22 April (EHu, BP); at least 225 at McElroy Lake 20 April (BP, EHu); 49 at a transient pond along KY 664 e. of Schochoh, *Logan*, 8 May (ST, DTy); ca. 20 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 8 May (JBe, PB, et al.); at least 100 w. of Sonora 12 May (BP, EHu, RH) with at least 70 there 16 May (BP, EHu); and at least 50 in n. *McLean* 24 May (BP, EHu).

Upland Sandpiper – there were five reports: 2 at McElroy Lake 6 April (DR); singles at McElroy Lake 24 April (BP, EHu, TD, DR) and 1 May (DR, BP, KOS); 3 off Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 26 April (ANn); and 1 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 23 May (ph. BP, EHu) that was quite tardy.

Marbled Godwit – there were two reports: 3 at McElroy Lake 11 April (EHu, †BP) and 1 at the WKU Farm 16 April (ph. BP, ph. EHu). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – there were seven reports: 4 along J.I. West Road w. of Pond Drain, *McLean*, 15 May (BP, EHu); 4 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 20 May (MM, EHu, BP); 6 at Buttonsberry and 8 along KY 254 n. of Elk Creek, *Hopkins*, 23 May (BP, EHu); 8 at Buttonsberry and 11 along KY 85 w. of Pond River, *Hopkins*, all 24 May (BP, EHu, JBa); and 4 at McElroy Lake 24 May (TD).

Sanderling – there were five reports: 8 along Pond Drain ne. of Poplar Grove, *McLean*, 15 May (BP, ph. EHu); at least 2 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 20 May (BP, MM, EHu); at least 3 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu); and at least 10 at Buttonsberry and 5 along KY 85 w. of Pond River, *Hopkins*, all 24 May (BP, EHu, JBa).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 1 at McElroy Lake 24 April (BP, EHu, TD) was the earliest to be reported. Peak counts at various locales included at least 35 w. of Sonora 16 May (BP, EHu); at least 175 in flooded bottoms between Rumsey and Vandetta 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); 168 at Melco 22 May (EHu); 5 at the Banklick Creek Wetlands, Ft. Wright, *Kenton*, 22 May (DMa); 2000-2500 at Buttonsberry and at least 760 along J.I. West Road w. of Pond Drain, *McLean*, both 23 May (BP, EHu); and 2400-2600 at Buttonsberry, ca. 300 along J.I. West Road w. of Pond Drain, *McLean*, and ca. 300 along McElwain Road w. of KY 81, *McLean*, all 24 May (BP, EHu), the total of 3000-3200 representing a new one-day state high count. Other reports of interest included 9 along J.C. Jones Road, *Hart*, 14 May (SK, JK) with 51 there 29 May (SK, JK); 48 just w. of Sauerheber 30 May (JMr); and 24 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 May (ph. HC), one of which was color-banded, having been captured in Suriname, South America, sometime during 2009-2011 by the New Jersey Audubon Society (*vide* DMi).

Western Sandpiper – there were four reports: 19 at McElroy Lake 16 April (TD, BP, EHu) tied the state high count for spring; 2 at McElroy Lake 19 April (TD);

3 at Melco 22 April (EHu, †BP) represented a first for *Jefferson* during spring; and 1 at McElroy Lake 1 May (TD, BP, KOS).

Least Sandpiper – 2 at McElroy Lake 12 March (DR) were quite early; very modest peak counts included at least 50 at McElroy Lake 24 April (BP, EHu, et al.), 60-70 there 26 April (TD), and ca. 75 there 6 May (BP et al.); ca. 30 at KY 739 on 22 April (FL); ca. 75 w. of Sonora 16 May (BP, EHu); at least 100 total from several locales between Rumsey and Vandetta 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); and 30-35 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu).

White-rumped Sandpiper – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at McElroy Lake 6 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); 1 at KY 739 on 20 May (FL); 5 at scattered locales in n. *McLean* 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); 12 at Melco 22 May (EHu, BP, T&CBe); 35-40 at Buttonsberry and at least 25 along J.I. West Road s. of Pond Drain, *McLean*, all 23 May (BP, EHu); and at least 50 at Buttonsberry and 10 along McElwain Road w. of KY 81, *McLean*, all 24 May (BP, EHu).

Pectoral Sandpiper – 2 at McElroy Lake 8 March (DR) were the earliest to be reported; modest peak counts included at least 300 at and near Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu, CC); at least 65 at McElroy Lake 5 April (BP, EHu) with ca. 50 there 11/20 April (BP, EHu); 35 at Chaney Lake 20 April (BP, EHu); and 20-25 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu) with 15-20 still there 24 May (BP, EHu, et al.).

Dunlin – 3 at McElroy Lake 22 March (DR) were quite early; 2-7 were then present there 5 April-11 May (TD, DR, BP, EHu, KOS) with a peak count of 70 there 24 May (TD). Other reports of interest included 1-2 at KY 739 on several dates 6 April-26 May (FL, MBt); 16 at a transient pond along KY 664 e. of Schochoh, *Logan*, 8 May (ST, DTy); 5 w. of Sonora 12 May (BP, EHu, RH) with 3 there 16 May (BP, EHu); 4 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 20 May (HC, ME); 1-512 at six locales totaling at least 1020 individuals in flooded bottoms between Rumsey and

Vandetta 20 May with the total representing a new one-day state high count and the group of at least 512 being observed along Narge Creek n. of KY 254, *Hopkins* (BP, EHu, MM); and at least 700 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu) with at least 800 counted there 24 May (BP, EHu, et al.) and small numbers scattered about additional locales in n. *McLean* and ne. *Hopkins* 23-24 May (BP, EHu).

Stilt Sandpiper – there were only three reports: 1 at Long Point 16 April (HC); 1 at McElroy Lake 2 May (TD); and at least 20 at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (BP, EHu, et al.).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – 1 at Buttonsberry 23 May (ph. BP, ph. EHu) with 2 there 24 May (†BP, EHu) represented the first confirmed spring reports for the state. Under KBRC review.

Short-billed Dowitcher – 1 at McElroy Lake 16 April (BP, EHu) was the earliest to be reported; reports of interest (including local peak counts) included ca. 40 at McElroy Lake 1/13 May (TD, BP, KOS/TD); with 11 there 3 May (TD) and 14 there 6 May (BP, JD, EHu, MM); 2 at a transient pond along KY 664 e. of Schochoh, *Logan*, 8 May (ST, DTy); 3 w. of Cecilia, *Hardin*, 12 May (BP, EHu, RH); 7 w. of Sonora 12/16 May (BP, EHu, RH/BP, EHu); 13 along KY 281 ne. of Vandetta 15 May (BP, EHu); 9 total in flooded areas between Rumsey and Vandetta 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); and 1 at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (EHu, BP).

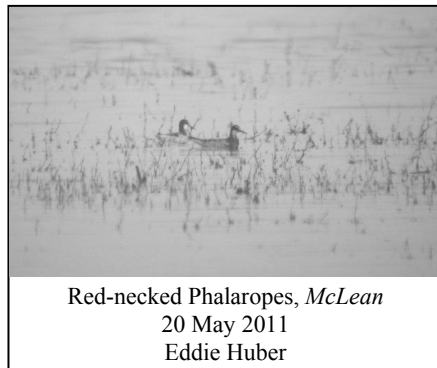
Long-billed Dowitcher – there were at least ten reports: 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 16 April (BY, MY) with 3 there 19 April (HC, ME); 1 at McElroy Lake 19/20 April (TD/BP, EHu); 10 at KY 739 on 19 April (MBt, ph. FL) with 14 there 23 April (MBt); 16 at McElroy Lake 23 April (TD, CSI, DR) with an impressive tally of 74 there 25 April (TD, DR), but only 5 there 1 May (TD, BP, KOS); 1 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson*, 1 May (JBe, PB, BP); and 5 at Walton Pond 6 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM).

Wilson's Snipe – modest peak counts included ca. 50 at Sauerheber 31 March

(BP, EHu, CC); 125 in w. *Fulton* 1 April (HC); and at least 50 at *Melco* 3 April (EHu). Singles at KY 739 on 2 May (FL) and heard calling e. of *Drakesboro*, *Muhlenberg*, 4 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM) were the latest to be reported.

Wilson's Phalarope – there were several reports, all from *McElroy Lake*, as follows: 3 first seen there 26 April (TD); 6 there 27 April (TD); 5 there 29 April (BP, EHu, CBs); 3 there 30 April (BP, KOS); 2 there 1 May (TD, BP, KOS); 4 there 2 May (TD); and 1 last reported there 6 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM).

Red-necked Phalarope – there were two reports: 2 along *Pond Drain* e. of *Poplar Grove*, *McLean*, 20 May (MM, ph. BP, ph. EHu) and 1 at *Buttonsberry* 23-24 May (BP, EHu). KBRC review required.



Red-necked Phalaropes, *McLean*
20 May 2011
Eddie Huber

Bonaparte's Gull – reports of interest included ca. 100 at *McElroy Lake* 28 March (BP, EHu); at least 160 at *Calvert City*, *Marshall*, 1 April (BP, EHu); and 4 at *Ky Dam* 5 May (BP, EHu, MM, JD, HC).

Laughing Gull – an ad. at *McElroy Lake* 20 April (TD, DR, BP, EHu) was the only one reported.

Franklin's Gull – 2 at *McElroy Lake* 23 April (TD, ph. CSI, DR) and 1 there 3 May (TD) were the only ones reported.

Ring-billed Gull – at least 150 were still at *Ky Dam* 5 May (BP et al.).

Herring Gull – reports of interest included 3 at *McElroy Lake* 31 March (DR); only 35-40 still at *Ky Dam* by 1 April (BP, EHu); and singles at *McElroy Lake* 13

May (TD) and along *Cypress Creek* s. of *McElwain Road*, *McLean*, 24 May (BP, EHu).



Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Warren*
28 March 2011
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – a first-year bird at *McElroy Lake* 27-31 March (DR, TD, ph. BP, EHu) represented a first for *Warren*. Elsewhere, an adult was on the *Ohio River* at *Louisville* 27 March (ph. EHu et al.); and a few lingered on *Ky Lake* at or near *Ky Dam* into late March (DR, HC) with a first-year bird at *Kuttawa* 1 April (BP, EHu) being the latest to be reported.

Glaucous Gull – 2 first-year birds were still on *Ky Lake* at or near *Ky Dam* 29 March (DR, HC).



Franklin's Gull, *Warren*
23 April 2011
Chris Sloan

- Least Tern** – there were two reports of birds away from known breeding areas: at least 4 on a borrow pit on the n. side of US 60 ne. of Owensboro, *Daviess*, 20/23 May (MM, BP, EHu/BP, EHu) and 1 heard at Buttonsberry 24 May (BP).
- Caspian Tern** – 2 at Kuttawa and 5 on Lake Barkley at Green Turtle Bay, *Lyon*, all 1 April (BP, EHu) and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 2 April (ANn) were the earliest to be reported. Reports of interest included 2 at McElroy Lake 23 April (TD, CSI, DR); 4 at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, 23 April (JR); and 2 at Minor Clark 22 May (GR).
- Black Tern** – 1 at McElroy Lake 2 May (TD) was the earliest to be reported; reports of interest including peak counts included 42 along KY 281 sw. of Jewel City, *Hopkins*, 15 May (BP, EHu) with 9 there 23 May (BP, EHu); 4 at Morgan Pond 16 May (EHu, BP); 2 at Melco 22 May (EHu); 1 at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP, EHu); 24 at McElroy Lake 24 May (TD); 21 along Cypress Creek e. of Sacramento 24 May (BP, EHu); and 35-45 at McElroy Lake 26 May (DR).
- Common Tern** – at least 1 at Ky Dam 5 May (BP) and 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 16 May (BP) were the only ones reported.
- Forster's Tern** – reports of interest included 1 at McElroy Lake 8 April (TD); at least 170 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 5 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM, HC); 1 at Buttonsberry 23-24 May (BP, EHu, et al.); and 1 on the Ohio River at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 30 May (EG).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** – 1 at Waddy, *Shelby*, 28 March (TA) was a local first.
- White-winged Dove** – 1 was at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 22 May (†KCo, MCo). KBRC review required.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – singles at the Lexington Cemetery 30 April (DL, ASK), at Berea Forest 1 May (ANn) and at Ansel, *Pulaski*, 2 May (RDn) were the earliest to be reported.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were six reports: 1 at Taylorsville Lake, *Spencer*, 30 April (BWo); 1 at Big Bone Lick SP, *Boone*, 8 May (TY); 2 at Adair WMA, *Boone*, 10 May (TY); 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 15 May (DB, MBr, SBr, *fide* MBy); 1 heard at the Lexington Cemetery 21 May (DSv *fide* DL); and 1 w. of Kessinger, *Hart*, 27 May (SK).
- Barn Owl** – 1 was present at Camp #11 during the winter 2010-2011 (TE *fide* BP); also reported were singles at Central Ky WMA, *Madison*, 11/18 March (ANn); se. of Millerstown, *Hart*, during late March (JBn *fide* SK); at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 2 May (DL); and heard at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 20 May (ANn).
- Short-eared Owl** – there were five reports: 10 near Merry Oaks, *Barren*, 13 March (LC) with 3 there 20 March (LC, CG) that were continuing at that locale from winter; 1 along New Buck Creek Road w. of Petroleum, *Allen*, 19 March (JBy, AB, TBr, JMa); 1 over Douglass Hills 20 March (MY) with another or the same bird at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 20 March (BWo); and 3 at the University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, 7 April (BLf).
- Common Nighthawk** – 1 over Louisville 21 April (RL) was the earliest to be reported.
- Chuck-will's-widow** – 1 ca. 6 mi. ese. of Morehead, *Rowan*, 19 April (SF); 2 at Owsley Fork Lake 4-22 May (ANn et al.); and 2 at Berea Forest 6/13 May (ANn) were all relatively far east. One at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 2 May (DL) was a local first.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – a male at Calvert City, *Marshall*, 25 March (ph. TS); a female at Almo, *Calloway*, 4 April (JF), and 1 at the LBL Nature Station 6 April (AY) were the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – singles sw. of Rabbit Hash, *Boone* (MM, EHu), and at Berea (RF, RB), both 27 April), and 1 at Mammoth Cave 7 May (SK) were the latest to be reported.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were five reports: 1 at Carter Caves SRP, *Carter*, 7 May (JSw *fide* DL); 1 at Beargrass Creek

- SNP, *Jefferson*, 8 May (BWo); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 11 May (JBe, PB, BBC); 1 at Jefferson Memorial Forest 13 May (BWo); and 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 21 May (JSw *fide* DL).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 23 April (JBy, MBy) and in *Calloway* 26 April (HC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – 1 at Berea Forest 13 May (ANn) was the only one reported.
- Alder Flycatcher** – there were seven reports: 1 off Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 11 May (ANn); 1 at Adair WMA, *Boone*, 12 May (TY); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP); 1 heard calling n. of Poplar Grove, *McLean*, 15 May (BP); 1 at the Louisville landfill 17 May (RA); 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 19 May (BLi), and 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 22 May (BP).
- Willow Flycatcher** – 1 along Bliss Road, *Adair*, 8 May (DC) and 4-5 off Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 11/22 May (ANn) were local firsts and likely on territory.
- Least Flycatcher** – singles on the Anchorage Trail (JBe, PB, CBs) and at Adair WMA, *Boone* (TY), both 28 April, were the earliest to be reported. Two at Erlanger, *Kenton*, 21-22 May (EG) were the latest to be reported.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** – a few in LBL, *Lyon/Trigg*, 9 April (SK, JK, JPo, CSz) were the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Kingbird** – singles at Burnside Island SP, *Pulaski* (RDn), near Chapel Hill, *Allen* (W&HG *fide* MBy), and in LBL, *Lyon* (*fide* JPo), all 9 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Gray Kingbird** – 1 sw. of Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 24/26 April (†LM, ph. JcT) will represent a first state record if accepted. KBRC review required.
- White-eyed Vireo** – 1 along Clifty Creek, *Pulaski*, 7 April (RDn) was the earliest to be reported.
- Bell's Vireo** – there were three reports away from know breeding areas: 1 at the Louisville landfill again this year 18-23 May (ph. RA); 1 singing along Ross Road sw. of Rumsey 20 May (MM, EHu, BP); and 1 just w. of Sauerheber 22/30 May (JMr).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – singles in *Ohio* (DR) and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen* (MBy), both 7 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Blue-headed Vireo** – singles at the Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 17 March (RDn) and at Ft. Boonesborough SP, *Madison*, 18 March (ANn) were the earliest to be reported; 2 in *Calloway* 14 May (BH *fide* HC) and 1 along Ferndale Road, Louisville, 19 May (MA) were relatively tardy.
- Warbling Vireo** – 2 at the LBL Nature Station 8 April (*fide* JPo) were the earliest to be reported.
- Philadelphia Vireo** – 1 at Berea Forest 4 May (ANn) was the earliest to be reported; 3 at Germantown, *Jefferson*, 7 May (MA) represented the only report of more than one.
- Red-eyed Vireo** – 3 at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski* (RDn), 2 in DBNF, *Bath* (BWu), and 2 at the LBL Nature Station (*fide* JPo), all 9 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Fish Crow** – 2 seen and heard sw. of Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 27 April (BP, EHu, MM) represented a first for n. Kentucky.
- Common Raven** – there were only two reports: 1 on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 17 March (SF) and 1 at Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 18 April (SF).
- Tree Swallow** – ca. 450 at Lake Reba 26-27 March (ANn) and ca. 300 at the Fishing Creek Recreation Area, *Pulaski*, 5 April (RDn) represented the peak counts for the season.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – 5 at Ky Dam 15 March (HC et al.), 1 at Cub Run, *Hart*, 17 March (JK), and 1 at Burnside Island SP, *Pulaski*, 18 March (GH) were the earliest to be reported.
- Bank Swallow** – 1 at Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*, 24 March (RDn) and 2 at Bernheim Forest 25/26 March (BWo, DSe/MA, BBC) were extraordinarily early.

- Cliff Swallow** – 1 at Ky Dam 15 March (HC et al.) was the earliest to be reported.
- Barn Swallow** – 1 along Sydney Lamb Road, *Allen*, 13 March (JBy) was the earliest to be reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – a few birds continued to linger from winter into mid-April; a noticeable flurry of reports of migrants occurred during late April and early May including 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 25 April (RDn); 1 near Fisherville, se. *Jefferson*, 26 April with a different bird there 28 April (EHu, JH); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 30 April (DL, ASK); 1 heard along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 5 May (BP, EHu, JD, MM); 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 5 May (JBe, BP, et al.); and 1 on the Anchorage Trail 11 May (JBe, PB, BBC). One singing along the Rock Bridge Trail, *Wolfe*, 9 May (BP) was likely one of the local breeders.
- Brown Creeper** – 1 near the Grayson Lake Dam, *Carter*, 24 April (†VS) was relatively late.
- Bewick's Wren** – a singing male just w. of Burlington, *Boone*, 4 May (LM) was exceptional and represented the first well-documented report in the state in two years.
- House Wren** – 1 at Sauerheber 23 March (CC) was either very early or continuing from winter; next earliest were singles at Douglass Hills 2 April (MY, BY) and at Owsley Fork Lake 16 April (ANn).
- Marsh Wren** – there were only three reports: 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 17-19 March (MBy, et al.); 1 at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 20 April (EHa); and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 21 April (BP).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 22 March (MBy), and 1 at Sauerheber (CC) and 2 in LBL, *Lyon* (AY), both 23 March, were the earliest to be reported.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 1 at Bernheim Forest 24 April (SD) was the latest to be reported.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 21 May (DL, ASK) was extremely tardy.
- Veery** – 1 at Cherokee Park 24 April (CBs) was the earliest to be reported.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush** – 1 at Cherokee Park 25 April (RL) was the earliest to be reported.
- Swainson's Thrush** – 1 at Douglass Hills 11 April (MY, BY) was quite early. Four banded at Clarks River 21 May (HC) and 2 in LBL, *Lyon*, 27 May (AY, JPo) were relatively late.
- Wood Thrush** – 1 at Kenlake SRP, *Marshall*, 9 April (SK, JK), and several at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, (RPe), all 10 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Varied Thrush** – the bird nw. of Sharpe, w. *Marshall*, was last seen 14 March (LH).
- Gray Catbird** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 28 March (†DB) was exceptionally early.
- American Pipit** – singles at Melco 10 May (EHu) and heard overhead at Surrey Hills Farm 12 May (BP) were the latest to be reported.
- Cedar Waxwing** – the species was nearly absent during March and the first three weeks of April, but returned on the scene during the last week of April and was abundant through the third week of May.
- Blue-winged Warbler** – singles at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, 7 April (BWo), se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) and at Adair WMA, *Boone*, 12 April (LM) were the earliest to be reported.
- Golden-winged Warbler** – there were only seven reports: 2-3 in LBL, *Lyon*, 5 May (BP et al.); 1 e. of Indian Knob Road, DBNF, *McCreary*, 5 May (JMt, GS et al.); 1 in LBL, *Lyon* 6 May (BP et al.); 2 heard in LBL, *Lyon/Trigg*, 6 May (BLi); 1 at Boone Cliffs SNP, *Boone*, 7 May (BWu, GW); 1 at Mammoth Cave 7 May (SK); and 1 at the head of the Barren Fork trailhead, DBNF, *McCreary*, 18 May (EM, JMt, et al.) that was likely on territory.

- Tennessee Warbler** – singles at Jefferson Memorial Forest (MR) and in LBL, *Lyon* (*fide* JPo), both 16 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** – there were nine reports: 1 at Camp Catalpa, *Madison*, 20 March (†ANn) that was either continuing from winter or extremely early; 1 along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 12 April (BP, EHu); 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 April (MBy, JBy); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 21 April (BP); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 22 April (SHt); 1 at Melco 24 April (MA); 1 ne. of Lyndon, *Jefferson*, 26 April (JBe, PB); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 28 April (JBe, PB, CBs); and 1 at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 8 May (BF *fide* BWo)
- Nashville Warbler** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 April (MBy, JBy) was the earliest to be reported.
- Northern Parula** – 1 at Cherokee Park 28 March (MW) was the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow Warbler** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 4 April (MBy) and at Central KY WMA, *Madison*, 9 April (ANn, MBu) were the earliest to be reported.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** – 1 at Bernheim Forest 13 April (BF, BWo) tied the early date for the state; otherwise, singles at the UK Arboretum, Lexington, 24 April (SHt) and near Douglass Hills 25 April (MM) were the earliest to be reported.
- Magnolia Warbler** – 1 at Almo, *Calloway*, 25 April (CSz) was the earliest to be reported.
- Cape May Warbler** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 21 April (SHt) was the earliest to be reported.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** – there were six reports of migrants: 2 at Minor Clark 29 April (BWu); 1 at McConnell Springs, Lexington, 2-3 May (LT); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 4 May (DL, ASK); 1 at Ft. Boonesborough SP, *Madison*, 5 May (ANn); 1 at Boone Cliffs SNP, *Boone*, 7 May (BWu, GW); and a male in LBL, *Lyon*, 16 May (ph. BP, EHu) that was rare for w. Kentucky.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** – singles ne. of Poplar Grove, *McLean*, 15 May (BP) and off Ferndale Road, Louisville, 19 May (MA) were the latest to be reported.
- Black-throated Green Warbler** – 1 at Cherokee Park 29 March (RL) was the earliest to be reported; 1 at Sauerheber 30 May (CC) was tardy.
- Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 22 April (SHt) with 2 there and another at the UK Arboretum, Lexington, all 24 April (SHt) were the earliest to be reported.
- Pine Warbler** – a singing male along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 12 April (BP, EHu) was out of place in deciduous forest along the Ohio River floodplain.
- Prairie Warbler** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 7 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.
- Palm Warbler** – singles off Minors Lane, Louisville 2 April (MA, DSe) and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) could have been either continuing from winter or early; 1 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 25 May (ph. JSw) was extremely tardy.
- Bay-breasted Warbler** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 26 April (RDn) was the earliest to be reported.
- Blackpoll Warbler** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 14 April (†MBy et al.) established a new early arrival date for the state; 1 at Mammoth Cave 17 April (JBe, PB, CBs) tied the previous early state date.
- Cerulean Warbler** – singles at Mammoth Cave (JBe, PB) and near the S-Tree Campground, DBNF, *Jackson* (E&MTI), both 10 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Black-and-white Warbler** – “several” in LBL, *Lyon*, 23 March (AY) were the earliest to be reported.
- American Redstart** – 1 at South Williamson, *Pike*, 22 April (JCr) was the earliest to be reported.
- Prothonotary Warbler** – 1 along Noah Lane, w. of Scottsville, *Allen*, 5 April

(JHo *fide* JBy) and 5 at Blood River (HC) and 3 in LBL, *Lyon* (*fide* JPo), all 9 April, were the earliest to be reported.

Worm-eating Warbler – singles at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 9 April (RDn), and at Mammoth Cave (JBe, PB) and near the S-Tree Campground, DBNF, *Jackson* (E&MTa), both 10 April, were the earliest to be reported.

Swainson's Warbler – reports away from traditional breeding areas included: 1 at Camp Catalpa, *Madison*, 6 May (ANn) that was certainly a migrant; 1 singing at Blood River 20 May (HC) that was a local first; and 1 at Yahoo Falls, *McCreary*, and 2 n. off Old Cowhorn Rd. and FR 651, w. *McCreary*, all 31 May (RDn).

Ovenbird – 1 at Bee Rock Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 13 April (RDn) was the earliest to be reported.

Northern Waterthrush – singles along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson* (BP, EHu), and below Hematite Dam, LBL, *Trigg* (AY, JPo), both 12 April, were early; otherwise 1 at Cherokee Park 21 April (JBe, PB, CBs) was the earliest to be reported.

Louisiana Waterthrush – 1 nw. of Riders Mill, *Hart*, 12 March (BA) represented a new early arrival date for the state; next earliest were singles on Red Hill Road, *Allen* 19 March (JBy) and along Otter Creek, Ft. Knox, *Meade*, 21 March (DSr).

Connecticut Warbler – there were only four reports: 1 at McConnell Springs, Lexington, 11 May (†LT); 1 heard off Ferndale Road, Louisville 14 May (MA); 1 heard at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 18 May (BLi); and 1 at Cherokee Park 21 May (BWo).

Mourning Warbler – there were only five reports: 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 6 May (MM, JD, EHu, BP); 1 at Berea Forest 8 May (RF, RB); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP); 1 in *Pulaski* 14 May (LO *fide* RDn); and 1 at Owsley Fork Lake 15 May (ANn).

Common Yellowthroat – 1 at Blood River 9 April (HC) was the earliest to be reported.

Hooded Warbler – 1 in LBL, *Lyon* (*fide* JPo) and 4 at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski* (RDn), both 9 April, were the earliest to be reported.

Wilson's Warbler – 1 on the Anchorage Trail 8 May (JBe, PB, et al.) was the earliest to be reported; 1 was banded at Clarks River 25 May (HC).

Yellow-breasted Chat – 1 heard se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 20 April (JBy) was the earliest to be reported.

American Tree Sparrow – 1 lingered at Surrey Hills Farm to 7 April (BP).

Clay-colored Sparrow – 1 was present at Shippingport Island, *Jefferson*, 8 May (ph. KB). KBRC review required.

Vesper Sparrow – as is the norm, small numbers were reported during late March and early April, primarily in open farmland (m. ob.); latest reports were of 1 along Homer-Murray Road, *Warren*, 20 April (BP, EHu); 2 near Owsley Fork Lake 22 April (ANn); and a bird heard singing next to the Hill Crest Cemetery s. of Plumville, e. *Mason*, 14 May (†KS) that was either a tardy migrant or possibly on territory.

Lark Sparrow – there were several reports, all being included: 2 at the end of Figett Bend Road, *Hart*, 2 April (†JSo); 1 along West Old State Road, *Allen*, 13 April (JBk); 1 at the WKU Farm 16 April (EHu, ph. BP); 1 along Mt. Zion Loop Road, *Pulaski*, 16 April (RDn); 2 along Bogle Road, s. *Warren*, 25 April (TD, DR); 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 29 April (FL); 1 along Vance Road, *Warren*, 29 April (BP, EHu, CBs) with 2 gathering nesting material there 30 April (BP, KOS); 2 at the Cedar Grove Industrial Park, Shepherdsville, *Bullitt*, 1 May (ph. RA); and 1 along Pond Drain Road, ne of Poplar Grove, *McLean*, 15 May (BP, EHu).

Savannah Sparrow – scattered presumed migrants were still observed in n. *McLean* and ne. *Hopkins* 20 May (BP, EHu, MM); 2 (possibly on territory) were still at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 31 May (JSw).

Grasshopper Sparrow – 1 along Clifty Creek, *Pulaski*, 7 April (RDn), 1 at Surrey

- Hills Farm 8 April (BP), and at least 11 s. of Richmond, *Madison*, 10 April (ANn) were the earliest to be reported.
- Henslow's Sparrow** – 1 singing below Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, 5 May (BP et al.) was a local first.
- Fox Sparrow** – 1 near Fisherville, se. *Jefferson* 2 April (EHu) and 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 4 April (BP) were the latest to be reported.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** – singles on the Anchorage Trail (JBe, PB) and at Lake Reba (ANn), both 26 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- White-throated Sparrow** – 1 at Glasgow, *Barren*, 18 May (LC) was the latest to be reported.
- White-crowned Sparrow** – 1 at the LBL Nature Station 22 May (AMe *fide* JPo) was the latest to be reported.
- Dark-eyed Junco** – singles at the Cape Hills Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson* (CC), and near Crittenden, *Grant* (ph. VT), both 25 April; 1 at Cherokee Park 26 April (BWo); 1 at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, 29 April (MS), and 1 at Lexington 4 May (G&CT) were the latest to be reported.
- Summer Tanager** – 2 in LBL, *Lyon/Trigg* 14 April (JPo, AY) were the earliest to be reported.
- Scarlet Tanager** – singles at Blood River (HC) and in LBL, *Trigg* (AY *fide* JPo), both 9 April, were the earliest to be reported.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – an unspecified number near Morgantown, *Butler* (DTi), and 1 near Fisherville, se. *Jefferson* (EHu, JHu), both 22 April, were the earliest to be reported. There were two reports of nesting: an active nest at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, during early May (KCa, JcT) and a pair building a nest at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 14 May (EG).
- Blue Grosbeak** – singles along Trammel Creek, *Allen*, 13 April (JBy) and in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 19 April (HC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Indigo Bunting** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 10 April (JBe, PB) was the earliest to be reported.
- Dickcissel** – 2 at McElroy Lake 24 April (BP) were the earliest to be reported.
- Bobolink** – 1 at the WKU Farm 20 April (BP, EHu); 5 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 23 April (RL); and 8 at McElroy Lake 24 April (BP) were the earliest to be reported. Reports of interest included 6 s. of Duncannon Road, *Madison*, 1 May (ANn) with at least 1 still there 11 May (ANn); 8 along White Hall Road, *Madison*, 5 May (ANn); 8 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 7 May (LM); 2 males along US 460 w. of Paris, *Bourbon*, 7 May (MH) could have been on territory; and at least 6 males and a female along KY 57 near Stoner Creek, *Bourbon*, 6 May (B&CM) that were likely on territory.
- Western Meadowlark** – 1 was reported at McElroy Lake 1 April (DR).
- Rusty Blackbird** – a few birds continued to linger from winter season at scattered locales (m. ob.); reports of interest included 25 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 20 March (ANn); 1 at Ashland, *Boyd*, 1 April (SS); ca. 30 along Cypress Creek sw. of Ky Dam, *Marshall*, 1 April (BP, EHu); and ca. 30-40 still at Sauerheber 31 March (BP, EHu) with ca. 40 there 7 April (DR); and at least 10 still there 12 April (BP, EHu) and an unspecified number last reported there 26 April (CC).
- Brewer's Blackbird** – there were several reports, all being included: 2 at McElroy Lake 12 March (DR) with 4 there 25 March (DR), 21 there 30 March (DR), and 10 there and a few others scattered about s. *Warren* 31 March (DR); 16 at Camp #9, *Union*, and probably more than 100 total in groups of 2-30 or so at the blackbird roost at Camp #11, both 31 March (BP, EHu); 14 at McElroy Lake 1 April (DR) with 15 there 2 April (DR); and 1 at Chaney Lake and at least 40 at Walton Pond, both 5 April (BP, EHu).
- Baltimore Oriole** – singles at Jefferson Memorial Forest 16 April (BWo, BBC)

and in LBL, *Trigg*, 17 April (MS et al.) were the earliest to be reported.

Purple Finch – generally small numbers continued from winter into mid-March with a slight increase in numbers likely due to the presence of migrants during the first half of April (m. ob.); reports of interest (including lingering birds) included 7 still present near Gimlet, *Elliott*, 14 April (EM); 25 at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 9 April (RDn); 4 at Burlington, *Boone*, 10 April (LM); several at Carter Caves SRP, *Carter*, 16-17 April (EM, KSNH); 4 still w. of Kessinger, *Hart*, 25 April (SK); 1 at Berea 4-5 May (PH); 2 at another location at Berea 9 May with 1 still there 10 May (RF, RB); and 1 s. of Stanford, *Lincoln*, 14 May (JE).

Pine Siskin – birds continued from winter at a few locales with highlights being 50-60 still near Gimlet, *Elliott*, 27 March (EM) and at least 50 still at Jefferson Memorial

Forest 16 April (BWo, BBC). A noticeable flurry of migrants arrived at new locales during late March and early April including 4 at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 9 April (RDn) and a few at Carter Caves SRP, *Carter*, 16-17 April (EM et al.). A few then continued to show up sporadically and lingered into late April and early May as follows: 1 at Florence, *Boone*, 28 April (JR); 1 or 2 still outside Stanford, *Lincoln*, 1 May (JE); 4 at Lexington 1 May (JPu); 4 near Fishersville, se. *Jefferson*, 1 May (JHu, EHu); 1 at Glasgow, *Barren*, 2 May (LC); 9 at Cub Run, *Hart*, 6 May (SK); 4 still near Gimlet, *Elliott*, 8 May (EM); up to 7 during the first week of May at Berea with 1 there to 10 May (RF, RB); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 10 May (RDn); 1 at Glasgow, *Barren*, 19 May (LC); 1 heard calling overhead at Buttonsberry 23 May (BP); and 1 at Lexington 28 May (JPu).

Addenda to Winter 2010-2011 Report – the following observations were inadvertently omitted: 3 Long-tailed Ducks on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 February (MBy); single Purple Martins at two locales se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 27 February (MBy, JBy); up to 30 Chipping Sparrows present s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, through the season (MBy); 2 Palm Warblers present s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18/24 December (MBy) with 1 present through 28 January (MBy); and ca. 45 Fox Sparrows s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 26 December (MBy).

Observers: Terry Anderson (TA), Ryan Ankeny (RA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Bonnie Avery (BA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Tom & Colleen Becker (T&CBe), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MBt), Carol Besse (CBs), Carl Bochmann (CBo), Karen Bonsell (KB), Than Boves (TBo), John Brittain (JBn), Abraham Brubaker (AB), Daniel Brubaker (DB), John Brubaker (JBk), Matthew Brubaker (MBr), Stephen Brubaker (SBr), Timothy Brubaker (TBr), Marissa Buschow (MBu), Michael Callan (MCa), Joe Caminiti (JCt), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Joan Carr (JCr), Hap Chambers (HC), Suzanne Clingman (SC), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Michael Cohen (MCo), Derek Coomer (DC), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Roseanna Denton (RDn), Bonnie Dever (BD), Robert Dever (RDv), Scott Dickman (SD), Jon Dunn (JD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Jackie Elmore (JE), Tim Ervin (TE), Jan Flynn (JF), Robert Foster (RF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Bill Friel (BF), John Gaither (JG), Melissa Gaither (MG), Brooke Gilley (BG), Wilbur & Herman Gingerich (W&HG), Carla Glass (CG), Ed Groneman (EG), Paul Hager (PH), Erin Harper (EHa), Susan & Bill Hart (S&BHR), Stratton Hatfield (SHt), Bob Head (BH), Richard Healy (RH), Larry Heavrin (LH), Kate Heyden (KH), Martina Hines (MH), Gay Hodges (GH), Joseph Hoover (JHo), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Kentucky Society of Natural History (KSNH), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Rob Lane (RL), Betsy Lang (BLa), David Lang (DL), Brice Leech (BLE), Ben Leffew (BLf), Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Frank Lyne (FL), Scott Marsh (SM), Don Martin (DMa), Jerome Martin (JMa), Lee McNeely (LM), John Meredig (JMr), Andrea Merimee (AMe), Joe Metzmeier (JMt), Keith

Michalski (KM), Bill & Cindy Mitchell (B&CM); David Mizrahi (DMi), Mark Monroe (MM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Arlene Morton (AMo), multiple observers (m. ob.), Anne Newberry (ANy), Andy Newman (ANn), Laura Obiso (LO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Ross Parker (RPa), David Patick (DP), Robert Peak (RPe), Micah Perkins (MPk); Michael Peveler (MPv), John Pollpeter (JPo), Joe Pulliam (JPu), Ed Ray (ER), Frank Renfrow (FR), Susan Rice (SR), Mike Riggs (MR), Gerald Robe (GR), David Roemer (DR), Jeff Rowe (JR), Vicki Sandage (VS), Mary Schmidt (MS), Kurt Schwarz (KS), Rick Seelhorst (SR), Chris Sloan (CSl), Tammie Smith (TS), Jeff Sole (JSo), Gary Sprandel (GS), Dave Stewart (DSe), Del Striegel (DSr), Dave Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Steve Sweeney (SS), Carrie Szwed (CSz), Ed & Michelle Talbott (E&MTI); Evan Tanner (ETn), Laurie Thomas (LT), Teresa Thomas (TT), Doris Tichenor (DTi), Gretchen & Charles Tremoulet (G&CT), Van Truan (VT), Debby Tyson (DTy), Steve Tyson (ST), Major Waltman (MW), Sandra Watson (SW), Dea Westfall (DW), Jim Williams (JW), Barbara Wilson (BWi), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Brian Wulker (BWu), Gale Wulker (GW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Aviva Yasgur (AY); Travis Young (TY).

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BOOK REVIEW

Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors. Jerry Ligouri. 2011. Princeton University Press. 190 pp. + bibliography and index. \$19.95 (paper), \$49.50 (hard)

As any birder who has spent much time in the field can attest, hawks are truly one of the hardest groups of birds to identify with a high level of confidence. The fact that they are wary, seldom allowing close approach, and that juvenile plumages of many species are quite similar, makes the challenges provided by this group among the most difficult in North America.

The appearance during the past few of decades of a number of field guides devoted to raptor identification has helped with this dilemma. Each has contributed a slightly different approach. Jerry Ligouri's *Hawks at a Distance* becomes the most recent in this series of efforts to help solve the many riddles in hawk identification. It focuses attention on identifying hawks where they are most often seen, in the air, by utilizing the perspective of those who count raptors at migratory lookouts. Like several authors of more recent "raptor" guides, the two species of vulture are included.

More than 550 color photographs are utilized to depict 29 species in a variety of typically encountered angles (straight on, overhead, profile, upper side, lower side), behaviors (streaming, soaring, flapping, etc.), and conditions (both backlit and well lit). In addition, a separate section of black-and-white images, a few dozen for each species arranged in a mosaic of representative silhouettes in which birds are encountered while in the air, provides yet another opportunity for becoming more familiar with appearance of each species at a distance.

I found the collections of photos and black-and-white images to be the most useful attributes of the book. The text (including photo captions) contained relatively typical information found elsewhere, although identification points noted in the captions typically matched up well with characters that could actually be seen in the photos (something that is not always the case in other references where captions sometimes describe features of a bird that are not well shown by the referenced photo). I did find myself wanting to see some photographs in greater detail, and I believe that *Hawks at a Distance* will be most useful when used in combination with reference guides that include images with greater detail.

Ligouri's writing style is easy to read, and with his terminology summarized in the introductory material, most who utilize this book will not get lost in a tangled web of hard-

to-understand ornithological jargon. *Hawks at a Distance* is definitely a must-get for anyone serious about attempting to improve their hawk identification skills.

—the Editor

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, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or by email at (scott.marsh@insightbb.com).

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



American Avocets, McElroy Lake, 23 April 2011
Chris Sloan



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, *McLean*
14 May 2011
Melissa Gaither



Yellow Rail, *Jefferson*
29 March 2011
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Marbled Godwit, *Warren*
16 April 2011
Eddie Huber



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *McLean*
23 May 2011
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Clay-colored Sparrow, *Jefferson*
8 May 2011
Karen Bonsell