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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Eddie Huber for the image of the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) taken 5 April 2012 near Sharkey, Rowan County (see p. 77). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



**NESTING HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT BLUE HERON
(*ARDEA HERODIAS*) COLONIES ON THE INTERIOR PLATEAU
OF KENTUCKY**

Anna Bisig Clark, Charles L. Elliott, and David Brown

Identifying habitat conditions needed for successful nesting is an essential part of protecting habitat to maintain healthy populations of birds. Managing colonially nesting wading bird populations is often hampered by the lack of reliable information on colony sizes and population status (Dodd and Murphy 1995). Colonial nesting birds, such as Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), establish breeding territories that are spatially packed within a centralized colony site (called a "heronry") from which they repeatedly depart in search of food. Disturbance and a decline in resources can reduce populations of Great Blue Herons (Kirsch et al. 2008). Because of the reproductive importance of heronries, attempts have been made to describe the biotic and abiotic factors that influence the location and success of Great Blue Heron colony sites.

Great Blue Heron nest colonies are found in a variety of places, but consistently successful colonies are near water (Short and Cooper 1985). Nests of Great Blue Herons have been found in Kentucky in a variety of deciduous trees (Palmer-Ball 1996). Nests are bulky platforms constructed by both parents, usually of sticks and branches, and then lined with small twigs and leaves. Multiple nests with little to no cover may exist high up in one tree (Short and Cooper 1985). There were no known reported nesting colonies in Kentucky east of Ohio County before 1991 (Palmer-Ball 1996). In Kentucky, eggs are typically laid by the end of March and hatch about a month later (Palmer-Ball 1996). Young will stay at the nest for about two months and fledge sometime during June (Palmer-Ball 1996). The colonies are generally empty by July or August (Palmer-Ball 1996). Great Blue Herons are asynchronous egg layers (Vineyard 1981).

In Colorado (Skagen et al. 2001), a heron nesting site was monitored to evaluate how anthropogenic influences might add to the rate of nest failure caused by normal environmental factors and species interactions. The number of active heron nests declined during the study, but evidence that these declines were due solely to human disturbance was equivocal (Skagen et al. 2001). Great Blue Heron colonies (n=18) were monitored throughout Oklahoma by Corley-Martinez (1995). He reported landscape features varied and individual colonies appeared tolerant to local landscape alterations and some types of human disturbance. In the Chesapeake Bay region, *A. herodias* colony sites were situated farther from man-made structures when compared with randomly located sites in available habitat (Watts and Bradshaw 1994). In California, landscape associations related to heron and egret colony site selection and the productivity of successful Great Blue Heron and Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) nests were evaluated (Kelly et al. 2008). A Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to evaluate landscape influences within 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10 km of colony sites. Results suggested that increasing the extent of wetland feeding areas for herons and egrets might improve reproductive performance in colony sites up to 10 km away, increase foraging by herons and egrets in created or restored wetlands within 3-10 km of colony sites, and enhance nest abundance at colony sites within 1 km of restoration sites (Kelly et al. 2008).

An assessment of habitat use by breeding Great Blue Herons on the Upper Mississippi River examined the hypothesis that the evenly spaced nature of colonies was due to landscape features of terrestrial and aquatic areas (Kirsch et al. 2008), but colony areas did not differ from areas without colonies in any of the habitat features measured. In Tennessee, Great Blue Heron nesting sites have been studied because of habitation in the "critically impaired globally important" Overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*)/River birch (*Betula nigra*)/Resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) forest community type (Carver et al. 1998). Over the course of a study by Carver et al. (1998), the numbers of active heron nests were

found to increase, illustrating that changes in the population size of a colony can occur rapidly.

Within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Great Blue Heron was found nesting at 85 sites in 2004 compared to 48 sites in 1999 and 24 sites in 1994 (Palmer-Ball and Ciuizio 2004). This dramatic increase is partially attributed to the discovery of previously unknown sites. Some other species that use the nesting habitat of Great Blue Herons, such as the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), are considered species of special concern (state threatened or endangered) in Kentucky (KSNPC 2010). Although the importance of managing and preserving colonially nesting bird colony sites has been recognized (Dodd and Murphy 1995), there have been no published studies that document the nest site or landscape features associated with Great Blue Heron colonies in Kentucky. The objective of this study was to characterize the nest sites and surrounding landscape associated with productive Great Blue Heron colonies in central Kentucky.

Methods

Great Blue Heron colony locations were obtained from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. Ten active Great Blue Heron colonies were selected as study sites: Rockcastle County (one colony on Lake Linville), Scott County (two colonies, one along South Elkhorn Creek and one along North Elkhorn Creek outside of Georgetown, KY), Bath/Fleming county line (one colony along the Licking River outside the town of Sherburne, KY), Pulaski County (two colonies, one on an island in the Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland and one along White Oak Creek, a tributary to Lake Cumberland), Bourbon County (one colony along Hinkston Creek), Madison County (one colony along Muddy Creek on the Blue Grass Army Depot), Mason County (one colony along the North Fork of the Licking River), and Lincoln County (one colony on the Dix River).

Heron colony sites were examined at two spatial scales. At the fine scale, data were collected at each colony and at a randomly selected control site within 1000 m of the corresponding colony site. At a more coarse scale, land use within a 1 km, 5 km and 10 km radius around the colony, as well as at a random control site, was assessed.

All ten Great Blue Heron colony sites examined in this study were located in the Interior Plateau ecoregion (Woods et al. 2002). The most common forest type in the Interior Plateau is oak-hickory forest, although there are some mixed stands of Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and hardwoods on rockier soils (Drummond 2010). Bluestem prairie is the most common natural grassland (Drummond 2010). Colonies were assessed while they were still active to ensure that each nest examined was used by the birds in 2009. Because colonies were approached by foot or kayak (Carver et al. 1998), disturbance to the colony appeared to be minimal; although some defensive acts such as fledging and vomiting were observed.

Information related to active Great Blue Heron nest sites was gathered during June and July 2009. Sampling was completed as quickly as possible during a single visit to each site in order to minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Colonies were not visited during March and early April when there was a possibility that eggs were being incubated, or when fledglings were so young that there was a possibility of nest abandonment. The following parameters were determined for each active nest tree: (1) tree species, (2) Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), (3) tree height [determined by clinometer], (4) tree condition [live or dead], (5) number of nests in tree, (6) height above ground of each nest, (7) distances between nest trees, (8) type of support underneath the nest [light, moderate, or heavy limb; Carver et al. 1998], (9) estimated distance of nest from bole of tree, (10) orientation of nest with regard to the bole of the tree, (11) if multiple nests/tree were found, the vertical and/or horizontal distance between nests within a single nest tree was estimated, and (12) the average distance to water from the nearest nest tree and farthest nest tree in each colony. All tree locations were determined using a global positioning system (GPS).

Control plots (where no Great Blue Heron nests were located, but representing potential nesting habitat) were established near each colony site and sampled after herons left the colony, typically between August and September 2009. The size and location of a control plot was determined using the following procedure: (a) the amount of the area encompassed by a nesting colony was determined (using GIS) by calculating the mapped area within a polygon created by connecting all active nest trees within a colony to produce a minimum convex polygon that was the same shape and size of the control plot; (b) to determine how far away from a nesting colony a control plot would be located, a random distance was determined using an online random number generator (selected random number would delineate the number of meters the control plot would be located from the nesting colony); (c) a coin was flipped to determine a random direction to follow along the lake or stream bank; (d) a coin was flipped again to determine on which side of the stream/river the control plot would be placed; (e) once the site of the control plot was determined, the plot was oriented with the long axis of the plot parallel to the stream/river/lake bank; (f) within each control plot a number of points (the number of points corresponded to the number of nest trees in the nesting colony) was designed by first determining the GPS coordinates of the control plot and then setting the parameters of a random number generator to a maximum and minimum latitude and longitude to create points for control plots. The species, height and DBH of the tree located closest to each random point (control tree) were determined.

A paired t-test was used to determine if there was a significant difference between colonies and available nesting control sites for tree DBH. Because the data were not normally distributed, a Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test was used to test if there was a significant difference between used nest tree heights and unused control tree heights. A chi-square test was used to determine if there was a significant difference in nest tree species among all used trees in colonies. The chi-square test was also used to determine if there was a significant difference among active nests in type of nest support (light, moderate, heavy; Carver et al. 1998), and nest orientation (with regard to the bole of the tree) for four categories; 1-90°, 91-180°, 181-270° and 271-360°. The mean distance (1) from the nest to the bole of the tree, (2) from a nest to the next nearest nest, (3) to the nearest water body, and (4) to the nearest anthropogenic structure (road, building; Watts and Bradshaw 1994) was determined.

To characterize each heron colony study site in relation to aquatic habitat (Custer and Galli 2002) and human activity (Watts and Bradshaw 1994), the following distances were determined (measured from the nest tree in the colony that was closest to water): (a) distance to nearest stream/river and lake, and (b) distance to nearest human-related activity/feature (e.g., road, building, dock/boat ramp, etc.). Land use in areas within a radius of 1, 5, and 10 km of each nesting colony was determined. The percent of area encompassed within each 1, 5, and 10 km circular plot, which corresponded to water, forest, agriculture, and human development, was assessed. The land use data associated with an active colony were compared to corresponding information associated with a GIS control site. GIS control site locations were located using a three digit number to serve as a compass direction. After locating a nesting colony site on an aerial view in GIS (Arcview 9.2, 9.3), a 20-km line was drawn on the map the direction of which corresponded to the randomly determined compass direction (1° to 360°). The point on the map where the random line intersected a body of water (stream, river, or lake shore) was designated as a "control point". Percent of land use associated with each control point was determined using the same procedure (i.e., land use within a radius of 1, 5, and 10 km of the control site) as that established for nesting colony sites. Land use was separated into four groups: forest, developed, reservoir, and agriculture. For each nesting colony and random GIS control point, the distance to the nearest anthropogenic structure (e.g., road, building) was determined. For each colony site, we measured from the nest tree located closest to water. The Mann-Whitney U test was employed to determine if there was a difference in the amount of each land use type found within each landscape level (1, 5, 10 km radius) between nesting colonies and GIS control sites. The

significance level for all statistical tests performed in this study was set at $P < 0.05$, and mean values are reported as mean \pm SE.

Results

A total of 79 Great Blue Heron nest trees, supporting 311 nests, were located during this study. No other species of bird was observed nesting within the colony sites. There was a significant difference ($\chi^2 = 182.73$, $p < 0.05$, $df = 6$) among tree species used for nesting by herons; with American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) accounting for 63% of all trees containing nests. American beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), and Swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*) accounted for 20, 3, 2, 2, 1, and 1 nest tree(s), respectively. The importance of sycamore to Great Blue Herons as nest sites may be misleading because not all colonies contained sycamore trees; e.g., three colonies did not contain any sycamores [two colonies consisted mainly of American beech, and one colony consisted of a mixture of deciduous species {American beech, Northern red oak, Green ash}]. However, in the seven colonies that contained sycamores, the herons did not use any other tree species for nesting. Of the trees used for nesting, 98% were alive, and 2% dead.

There was an average of 3.90 ± 0.38 nests/nest tree, with nests located 3.84 ± 0.14 m from the bole of the tree and 28.30 ± 0.36 m above the ground. There was a significant difference ($\chi^2 = 165.62$, $df = 2$, $P < 0.05$) between the types of limbs supporting nests; with the majority of nests (65%) supported by moderate limbs (29% light limbs, 6% heavy limbs; Carver et al. 1998). For trees that supported more than one nest, the mean horizontal distance between nests was 2.58 ± 0.12 m. There was no significant difference ($\chi^2 = 6.69$, $df = 3$, $P > 0.05$) in the orientation of nests from the bole of the tree; with 29% oriented northwest, 28% southwest, 22% northeast, and 21% southeast. On average, nest trees within a colony were between 14.4 ± 9.3 and 33.5 ± 15.0 m from the nearest water.

There was a significant difference ($t = 6.33$, $P = 0.001$, $df = 9$) between the mean DBH of Great Blue Heron nest trees (78.67 ± 3.36 cm) and randomly selected trees in control plots ("control trees", 31.97 ± 1.87 cm). There was also a significant difference (Wilcoxon Signed Ranks, $Z = -2.49$) between the average height of nest trees (34.77 ± 0.75 m) and control trees (21.32 ± 1.56 m).

There was no significant difference (Mann Whitney U test, $z = -1.55$, $P = 0.06$, $n = 10$) between the average distance from each Great Blue Heron nesting colony (versus random GIS control points) to the nearest anthropogenic structure (348.5 ± 100.05 m and 190.5 ± 76.18 m, respectively). For landscape comparisons, the only difference between nesting colonies and GIS control points occurred at the 1 km radius scale, where reservoirs occupied more land near heronries than control points (Table 1). There were no other differences between the nesting colonies and GIS control points with regard to the average amount of forested, developed, reservoir, and agricultural land within a 1, 5, and 10 km radius of each site.

Discussion

In some respects, the nesting habits of Great Blue Herons within the Interior Plateau ecoregion of Kentucky parallel what has been reported by other researchers (Carver et al. 1998). Herons prefer to nest in live trees, there is no preference for the orientation of the nest with reference to the bole of the tree, and moderate branch support appears to be the best framework on which to construct a nest. Contrary to what has been reported in other studies (Carver et al. 1998), heron colonies visited in this study did not support many inactive nests. The lack of unused nests may be due to the severe ice storm that heavily impacted the study area in late January 2009. At almost every colony, many nests and remnants of nests were observed on the ground.

Table 1. Mean (\pm SE) percent, Mann-Whitney test statistic (U) and significance level (P) of forested, developed, reservoir, and agricultural land within 1, 5, and 10 km of Great Blue Heron nesting colonies and random control points on the Interior Plateau ecoregion of Kentucky, 2009.

Land Use	Distance	Nesting Colonies	Control Point	U	P
Forested	1 km	13.15 \pm 4.93%	28.95 \pm 11.93%	50.0	1.00
“ “	5 km	11.75 \pm 4.44%	33.07 \pm 11.51%	36.0	0.28
“ “	10 km	14.86 \pm 5.38%	30.81 \pm 9.77%	38.0	0.36
Developed	1 km	2.54 \pm 1.56%	6.92 \pm 4.65%	44.0	0.57
“ “	5 km	7.05 \pm 2.74%	6.84 \pm 3.58%	40.0	0.45
“ “	10 km	6.25 \pm 1.52%	7.38 \pm 3.14%	43.0	0.59
Reservoir	1 km	8.27 \pm 4.30%	0 \pm 0%	30.0	0.03
“ “	5 km	3.24 \pm 1.80%	0.51 \pm 0.29%	50.0	1.00
“ “	10 km	1.93 \pm 1.18%	0.41 \pm 0.33%	46.0	0.75
Agriculture	1 km	75.75 \pm 7.20%	63.54 \pm 13.05%	49.0	0.94
“ “	5 km	77.54 \pm 6.18%	59.60 \pm 11.15%	41.0	0.49
“ “	10 km	76.74 \pm 5.95%	61.37 \pm 9.61%	39.0	0.40

Based on the GIS landscape-scale analysis, it appears that herons can nest successfully in Kentucky using the existing landscape of the state. The majority of Kentucky is privately owned and a large portion of that land is used for agricultural activities, e.g. row cropping, hayfields, and livestock. Although herons appear to require trees in Kentucky for nesting, it is not necessary to have large tracts of forested landscape in order for the birds to be successful; a minimal riparian tree buffer is often sufficient to support nesting.

Similar to what has been noted in studies of Great Blue Herons in other regions of the country (Carver et al. 1998; Kirsch et al. 2008; Vineyard 1981), birds in this study tended to use the largest trees (tallest, greatest DBH) available in a colony site. In riparian areas associated with streams and rivers, nest trees tended to be American sycamores; while nests in colonies associated with lakes were never in sycamores, but mainly in American beech trees. Management efforts undertaken in Kentucky to benefit nesting Great Blue Herons should take into consideration that tree height, more so than tree species, may be of importance in designating high quality heron nesting habitat. This is especially relevant because the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Model for Great Blue Herons (Short and Cooper 1985) indicates that for heron nesting sites the "...height of individual trees is not a variable..."; suggesting that herons "...select an adequate tree structure for nest placement, rather than a particular tree height or species...".

Great Blue Heron nesting colonies in this study were typically located within riparian corridors (from the water's edge out to about 35 m). Stream ecologists promote the maintenance of riparian zones in order to preserve the integrity of the associated aquatic ecosystem (Teels et al. 2006). Our results suggest that maintaining and protecting the riparian areas associated with water courses in Kentucky also is necessary to promote the long term population stability of Great Blue Herons in the Commonwealth. In localities where Great Blue Heron colonies currently exist, or have existed in the past, we recommend a buffer strip extending at least 40 m from the water's edge with fencing to discourage incursion by livestock and related silvicultural (i.e., timber stand improvement [TSI]) and agricultural (i.e., mowing, herbicide spraying) activities.

If the riparian areas so important as nesting habitat for Great Blue Herons in Kentucky can be protected, results of this study imply that herons can coexist with farming activities. Active disturbance related directly to farming, e.g., tractors and planting or mowing activities, are typically the only disturbances that might occur when herons are nesting. GIS assessment of four habitat features (forest, reservoir, development, and agriculture) within 1, 5, and 10 km of nesting colonies revealed that agriculture was the predominant land use associated with colony sites (Table 1). This may simply be a reflection of the dominance of agricultural activities across the Kentucky landscape, but the benefits provided by farming

practices to herons should not be underestimated. Great Blue Herons have a broad diet (Glahn et al. 2002) and can take advantage of foraging opportunities that exist on most farms, e.g., fish in farm ponds and small mammals and snakes found in crop and pasture lands. Herons have been documented flying up to 20 km from a nesting colony in search of food (Kelly et al. 2008). If suitable foraging grounds (i.e., farm ponds and farm fields) can be found closer to nest colonies, adult Great Blue Herons could provision young at a higher rate while expending (over-all) less energy foraging.

Heronries were more likely to be located within landscape areas that included reservoirs at the 1 km scale. Also, we did find a trend, but not statistically significant, for Great Blue Herons to nest away from anthropogenic structures such as paved roads and buildings. For a heronry found near areas of high human activity (e.g., nesting colony located near a large marina), human access to the colony was very difficult (e.g., the colony was located on an island that had an almost vertical shoreline). We suggest that habitat found in areas of high levels of human activity may be capable of supporting Great Blue Heron nesting colonies if human access to the colony sites is restricted. The relationship in Kentucky between Great Blue Heron nesting, levels of anthropogenic disturbance, and access, warrant further investigation.

There were two additional items noted in this study that we believe are of relevance when discussing the management of Great Blue Heron nesting colonies in Kentucky. As noted by other researchers (Vineyard 1981), vultures (*Corygyps atratus*, *Cathartes aura*) were observed at every colony. The vultures appeared to be looking for an easy meal after heron fledglings (possibly as the result of siblicide) fell from the nest. According to Mehner (1952), vultures will attack herons and could be a factor in the moving of colonies. In addition, on many occasions herons were observed foraging in conjunction with low-head dams. Low-head dams can create water bodies resembling large, shallow ponds. These areas can be attractive foraging sites for Great Blue Herons.

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- Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475.

SPRING 2012 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Weather conditions during spring 2012 were overall very mild and somewhat variable regarding precipitation. Temperatures during March averaged 11-13°F. warmer than normal at most stations with 86°F. reached at Jackson 20 March and 85°F. reached at Bowling Green 20 March and at Louisville 20 & 21 March. April varied from slightly warmer than normal across northern and eastern parts of the state to warmer than normal across the west. May temperatures averaged warmer than normal statewide, but were not as abnormally high as during March. Precipitation was lacking throughout the duration of the three-month period, but only slightly so during March in most areas. During April, north-central Kentucky was only slightly dry, but southern and western portions of the state began to suffer from the early stages of a prolonged drought, with Paducah receiving about one-third normal rainfall during the month. May continued to be dry across most of the state, especially in the west where Paducah received about one-half normal rainfall.

Rarity highlights included two Swallow-tailed Kites, a state-first Ferruginous Hawk, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, two White-winged Doves, Nelson's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting. It should be noted that based on comments received from several individuals concerning the difficulty in distinguishing between Ross's Geese and hybrid Ross's Geese x Snow Geese in the field, reports of Ross's Geese in this and future seasonal reports will not be subjected to extraordinary scrutiny for the possibility of hybridization with Snow Geese. In particular, photographs of two birds in Henry County 1 January 2012 (*The Kentucky*

Warbler 88:44, 2012), as well as the birds at Berea 7 March 2012 and at Lexington 14 March 2012 reported below, generated such a diverse array of responses as to their real identity (i.e. Ross's or hybrids) that the authors of these reports do not believe it is worth putting an extraordinary amount of effort into attempting to differentiate between the two. Ross's Geese have been established to occur in Kentucky on a regular basis, and field characters of a few individuals have suggested that a certain percentage of "Ross's Geese" reports may very well represent hybrids (not only first generation hybrids, but also less apparent backcrosses). The subtleties involved in making clear distinctions between genetically "good" Ross's Geese and potential hybrids based on field observation, or even photographs, make it impossible to put strong faith into any such decisions. The authors continue to encourage observers to obtain photographs of Ross's Geese so that documentation will be accessible to anyone wishing to delve into this identification problem in the future.

Another aspect of the seasonal reports that should be recognized by anyone utilizing the data contained in them in future years is that there have been two factors that have diminished the quantity of reports during the past year or so: 1) the increase in the cost of motor fuel has certainly diminished the number of field trips that birders are taking, and 2) contributions to the content of the seasonal reports have been discontinued by a small percentage of very active birders who formerly contributed a significant amount of information. The diminishment in reports that some future researchers may detect in seasonal reports commencing during the latter half of 2011 should not necessarily be construed to reflect a sudden disappearance or decline of some species, but may simply reflect the diminished levels of activity and reporting reflected by these changes.

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); “†” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report. **Place names:** Alpine = Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*; Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Barkley Dam, *Lyon* (unless otherwise noted); Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, *Madison*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*; Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*; CVG = Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport, *Boone*; Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Horseshoe Road = slough along Green Turtle Bay = Lake Barkley off Green Turtle Bay Resort, *Livingston/Lyon*; Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; J. Dance Road, w. *Henderson*; Jacobson Park, Lexington, *Fayette*; J.J. Audubon = J.J. Audubon SP, *Henderson*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; Ken Unit = Ken Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Marshall/Trigg*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake No. 9, *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; LBL Nature Station, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lick Creek = Lake Barkley at the mouth of Lick Creek, *Lyon*; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson* (unless otherwise noted); Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *Jefferson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Obion WMA, *Fulton*; Open Pond, w. *Fulton*; Owsley Fork = Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison*; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant, *Muhlenberg*; Sand Slough,

w. *Henderson*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair Unit = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Waitsboro = Lake Cumberland at Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – 1 at Ballard WMA 6 April (HC, ME) may have been injured; an injured bird lingered at Sauerheber through May (ph. CC).

Ross's Goose – there were four reports away from far w. Kentucky: 2 at the Berea College Farm, *Madison*, 7 March (RF, RBa, ph. AN, et al.); 1 at Jacobson Park 14 March (ph. FH); 1 identified in flight with Canada Geese over Lexington 17 March (†SM); and 1 (all the same bird?) at the State Game Farm, Frankfort, 26-30 March (ph. GS), 23-27 April (GS, ph. DBa, ph. JBr), and 25 May (GS).



Ross's Goose, *Franklin*
23 April 2012
Dave Baker

American Black Duck – an individual that appeared most like this species (rather than Mottled Duck) was present at Horseshoe Road 24 May (ph. CC).

Gadwall – 4 at Blood River (HC) and 1 on the Sinclair Unit (EHa), both 2 May; 1 at Horseshoe Road and a pair at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN); and 1 at Kuttawa 16 May (JSo) were the latest to be reported.

American Wigeon – at least 145 were counted at Open Pond 18 March (MA); a female was still at Lake No. 9 on 30 April (EHu).

Blue-winged Teal – 3 lingered at Blood River to 30 May (HC).

Northern Shoveler – at least 50 were still at Horseshoe Road 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr) with 1 still there 30 April (BP); 2 lingered at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, to 21 May (CC) with 1 there to 27 May (ph. CC).

Green-winged Teal – peak counts included 482 total in *Fulton* 7 March (HC, ME); 600 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 17 March (MA); 120-150 sw. of Schultztown, *Ohio*, 11 March (BP et al.); and at least 500 in w. *Henderson*, including at least 300 at Horseshoe Road, 17 March (BP, EHu, MY). One at Sauerheber and 2 at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN) were the latest to be reported.

Redhead – modest peak counts included 34 at Jacobson Park 6 March (JSo, JSw) and 50 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 18 March (MBu); 10 were still at Camp #11 on 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr); 2 on the Sinclair Unit 2 May (EHa) were the latest to be reported.

Ring-necked Duck – 1 lingered on a pond near Dot, *Logan*, to 9 May (FL); 1 was present above Uniontown Dam on the Ohio River, *Union*, 25 May (ph. CC).

Lesser Scaup – 28 were still on Lake Barkley above the dam 5 May (BP, EHu, AN) with 5 still at Kuttawa 17 May (JSo).

Surf Scoter – there were three reports: 2 on Owsley Fork 24 March (JSo, ph. RF, RBa, et al.); 1 on the Ohio River at the mouth of the Licking River, *Campbell/Kenton*, 13 April (FR); 6 on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 14 April (ph. RD); and 1 on Fagan Lake at Lebanon, *Marion*, 20-22 May (†JKe).

Black Scoter – there was only one report: 2 on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 14 April (ph. RD).

Bufflehead – a male lingered at Kuttawa to 16 May (JSo).

Common Goldeneye – tardy males were seen at Green Turtle Bay and at Kuttawa, both 5 May (AN, EHu, BP).

Hooded Merganser – a female was seen entering a cavity in a living cypress tree at Gentle Pond, Sauerheber, 26 March (BP, EHu, CC, MBr); in addition, there were six reports of broods of young at the following locations: n. of the entrance to Long Point 28 April (BP); on Hematite Lake, LBL, *Trigg*, 3 May (AY, MSc); at Horseshoe Road and along KY 1574 sw. of Sauerheber, both 4 May (BP, EHu, AN); on the Sinclair Unit 15 May (ph. EW); and at Grassy Pond/Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 24 May (CC).

Common Merganser – a male was observed passing over Wandering Woods, Mammoth Cave, *Barren*, 26 March (TD).

Red-breasted Merganser – 5 on Ky Lake above the dam 5 May (AN, EHu, BP) and 5 adjacent to Obion WMA 16 May (JSo) were the latest to be reported.

Ruddy Duck – 1 at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN) and 1 at Waitsboro (RD) and 6 on Lake Barkley above the dam (BP, EHu, AN), all 5 May, were the latest to be reported.

Common Loon – reports of interest included ca. 75 on Cave Run Lake 5 April (BY, MY, EHu) with at least 40 still there 6 April (EHu, BP, AC); 11 total in three groups over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 28 March (MY, BY) with 4 over the same locale 4 April (MY); a few on the n. end

of Ky Lake, *Livingston/Marshall*, into the first week of May (m. ob.) with 2 at Waitsboro (RD) and 1 on Ky Lake at the Hancock Biological Station, *Calloway* (DSs, LP), all 5 May; 2 on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 14 May (RR); 1 on Cave Run Lake above the dam 20 May (DPa); and 1 on the Green River at Figgett Bend, *Hart*, 27 May (JSo) being the latest to be reported.

Pied-billed Grebe – 1 lingered at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, to at least 27 May (CC).

Horned Grebe – reports of interest included 29 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 16 March (RD); 12 at Flemingsburg, *Fleming*, 5 April (BWu); 8 on Lexington Reservoir #4, 29 April (AN); and 1 on Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 5 May (SK, JKs).

American White Pelican – ca. 500 at Blood River 1 March (HC) represented the season's peak count; there were five reports from central Kentucky: 17 on the Larue County Sportsman's Lake, Hodgenville, 21 March (ph. LI); 31 on Herrington Lake, *Garrard/Mercer*, 28-29 March (LA, ph. DY); and 11 at the Falls of the Ohio 29 March (DSt, ph. AG) with 2 there 5 April (TBe, CF) and 12 there 17 May (CF, ph. AG, et al.). Other reports of interest included at least 100 over Obion WMA 29 April (MY, BY, EHu), 3 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 5 May (AN, EHu, BP) last reported on the lake at Willow Bay, *Lyon*, 9 May (TN); and 27 on Ky Lake at Hamlin, *Calloway*, 11 May (HC, ME).



American White Pelicans, *Larue*
21 March 2012
Linda Ireland

American Bittern – there were five reports:

1 at Garvin Brown Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 31 March (MA, BBC); singles at Sauerheber 14/16 April (BP, KOS/BP, EHu); and singles at Clear Creek WMA (EHa) and adjacent to Obion WMA (JSO), both 17 April.

Least Bittern – there were reports from seven locales: 1 heard calling at Camp #11 on 16/27 April (BP, EHu/BP); 2 on the Ken Unit 16 April (EHa); 1 at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (EHa); 5 on the Sinclair Unit 17 April (EHa) with 1 there 2 May (EHa) and 3 there 17 May (EHa); 1 at Sauerheber 20 April (MMr *fide* EHa); 1 at Ballard WMA 24 April (MV *fide* EHa) with 2 there 10 May (MV *fide* EHa); and 2 at Doug Travis WMA, *Carlisle/Hickman*, 10 May (MV *fide* EHa).

Great Blue Heron – at least 85 were at the Falls of the Ohio 18 April/29 May (BP); a nesting colony along the Red River near Dot, *Logan*, during late March (FL) represented a new county nesting record.

Great Egret – singles at Ky Dam Village SRP 17 March (MA) and at Melco 21 March (MC) were the earliest to be reported; 1 at the Littcarr Wildlife Viewing Area at Carr Creek Lake, *Knott*, 5 April (BG) was unusual for e. Kentucky; at least 17 were counted on nests at Kuttawa 4 May (BP, EHu, AN).

Little Blue Heron – the only reports away from w. Kentucky were 1 at Sauerheber 17/28 April (ph. ES/KM); 1 at Fishing Creek 1 May (RD); and 1 over Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, Louisville, 12 May (MY, BY) that may have been the same one seen at the Falls of the Ohio 23-25 May (EHu, MC, et al.) and at Putney Pond, Prospect, *Jefferson*, 27 May (PM, BBC).

Cattle Egret – the only birds reported away from w. Kentucky were 2 sw. of Cloverport, *Breckinridge*, 26 May (Jpp).

Green Heron – 1 along West Old State Road, *Allen*, 30 March (ABr, JBk) was the earliest to be reported.

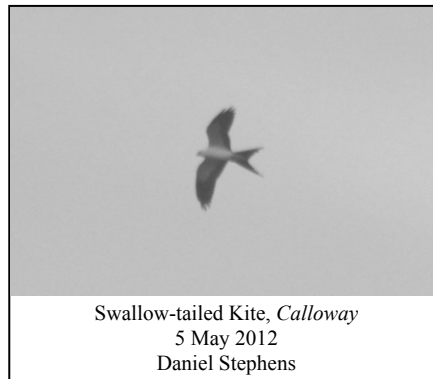
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – there were four reports: 1 at the Jenny Hole/Highland

Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 2 May (CC); 1 just e. of Hematite Lake, LBL, *Trigg*, 4 May (BL); at least 7 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 4 May (BP, EHu, AN) with at least 8 there 5 May (BY, MY); and 1 in e. *Calloway* 12 May (KCa, *fide* ME).

Black Vulture – ca. 100 at the Kendall Recreation Area below Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 6 March (RD) represented the season's peak count.

Osprey – birds returned to the LBL vicinity during the second week of March (m. ob.); other early arrivals included 2 at Paradise 11 March (EHu); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 20 March (TBe, CBk); and 1 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 25 March (DMA). A nest on a gas pipeline over the Ohio River below Greenup Dam, *Greenup*, was being attended by a pair 9 May (BP).

Swallow-tailed Kite – there were two reports: 1 near Rockfield, *Warren*, 22-23 April (ph. MMe) and 1 over the Hancock Biological Station on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 5 May (†SWh, LP, ph. DSs). KBRC review required.



Swallow-tailed Kite, *Calloway*
5 May 2012
Daniel Stephens

Mississippi Kite – 3 at Long Point 28 April (BP) and ca. 30 at Hickman, *Fulton*, 29 April (MY, BY, EHu) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 1 over the Jenny Hole/ Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 2 May (CC) with 3 there 4 May (BP, EHu, AN); 1 over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 4 May (ph. MY); 1 on the Ken Unit 4 May (MY,

BY); and 1 at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, 9-10 May (ph. JHz).



Mississippi Kite, *Jefferson*
9 May 2012
Jason Holzworth

Red-tailed Hawk – a darkish morph *B. j. calurus* was seen at CVG 23 April (ph. BP, ph. MY).

Ferruginous Hawk – a juv. was present at CVG apparently as early as late January (CR, WH) and last seen 12 May (BWu); it was first photographed during late March (ph. RC) and seen by many during early April. KBRC review required.

Rough-legged Hawk – 1 sw. of Schultztown, *Ohio*, 11 March (BP, EHu, JBe, PB, CBs) was the only one reported.

Golden Eagle – there were two reports: at least 1 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, to 13 March (ABe, KV), and a juv. along Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 23 March (MBy).

Merlin – there were four reports: 1 at CVG 3 April (RD); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 17 April (BP, EHu); 1 over Mammoth Cave 27 April (TD); and 1 at the Ky Dam Village SRP airport 30 April (EHu).

Peregrine Falcon – there were only four reports away from traditional breeding territories: 2 at Melco 15/16 March (EHu, MY/MC), 26 May (MY, EHu) & 31 May (MC); 1 n. of Old State Road, *Allen*, 6 April (JBk); an adult over CVG 23 April

(ph. MY, BP); and an adult at Long Point 28 April (BP).

King Rail – there were two reports: 1 responded during a tape playback survey at Doug Travis WMA, *Carlisle/Hickman*, 23 April (MV *fide* EHa); and 1 was heard at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 26 April (CMs et al.).

Virginia Rail – 1 heard at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (EHa) was the only one reported.

Sora – 3 heard at Camp #11 on 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr) were the earliest to be reported; local peak counts included 13 at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (EHa) with 24 there 2 May (EHa); 15 on the Sinclair Unit 17 April (EHa) with 20 there 2 May (EHa); 4 on the Ken Unit 1 May (EHa); and 8-10 at Camp #11 and 5-6 at Sauerheber, both 4 May (BP, EHu, AN). Other reports of interest included 1 at Windhover Farm, *Oldham*, 16 April (MC); 1 at Jacobson Park 19 April (GB); 1 at Ballard WMA 24 April (MV *fide* EHa); and 3 at Long Point 3 May (MT0).

Common Gallinule – there were three reports: 3 at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (EHa); 1 at Camp #11 on 4 May (AN, EHu, BP); and 1 at Ballard WMA 22 May (MV *fide* EHa).

American Coot – ca. 1000 at Sauerheber 11 March (KM) represented the season's peak count; ca. 75 were still at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN); tardy birds included 3 at Fishing Creek 13 May (RD); 4 at Kuttawa 16-17 May (JSo); 1 at Ballard WMA 22 May (MV *fide* EHa); and a few that lingered at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, through the last week of May (CC).

Sandhill Crane – 1 at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 2 May (ph. JBr) was the only tardy bird reported.

Black-bellied Plover – scarce this spring with reports from only two locales: 1 at Horseshoe Road 27 April/4 May (BP/BP, EHu, AN) & 27 May (CC); and 2 at Lake No. 9 on 1/3 May (EHu/HC) with 3 there 5 May (EHu, AN, BP).

American Golden-Plover – 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 17 March (JHv, JBy, MBy, et al.), 42 e. of Open Pond 18 March (MA), and 2 at Sauerheber 19 March (CC) were the earliest to be reported; also reported were 26 at Horseshoe Road 26 March (BP, EHU, MBr) with 4 there 14 April (BP, KOS); 2 at Lake No. 9 on 1/5 May (EHU/EHu, AN, BP); 9 w. of West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 3 May (SR); and 3 adjacent to Obion WMA (AN, BP, EHu) and 26 along KY 94 w. of Mud Creek, *Fulton* (BY, MY), both 5 May.

Semipalmated Plover – 13 along KY 94 w. of Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 9 April (JSo) and 2 at Sauerheber and 15-20 at Horseshoe Road, all 14 April (BP, KOS) were the earliest to be reported; impressive for so early was the season's peak counts of 230 at Horseshoe Road 27 April (BP) and at least 330 there 30 April (BP), with at least 170 there 4 May (BP, EHu, AN). Other reports of interest included more than 100 in w. *Fulton* 28 April (BP); ca. 100 at Grassy Pond/Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 2 May (CC); at least 50 at Melco 21 May (BP) with 20-25 still there 27 May (EHU) and 1 still there 29 May (BP); and 1 at Horseshoe Road to 27 May (CC).

Black-necked Stilt – there were only three reports: 1 at Sauerheber 1-4 April (JMe, ph. CC); 6 that flew by at Camp #11 on 16 April (BP, EHu); and 1 at Lake No. 9 on 29 April (BY, MY, EHu).

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 7 April (BF, BBC) was the earliest to be reported; 12 at Minor Clark 2 May (BWu) represented a modest peak count for the season; singles at Melco 22 May (EHU), at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 23 May (RD), and on the Green River near Figett Bend, *Hart* (JSo) and at Horseshoe Road (CC), both 27 May, were the latest to be reported.

Solitary Sandpiper – singles at Open Pond 17 March (MA) and at Sauerheber 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr) were the earliest to be reported; at least 50 were at Melco 17 April (BP, EHu) with 62 there 18 April (BP).

Greater Yellowlegs – reports of interest included 9 in w. *Fulton* 7 March (HC, ME); 20+ at Horseshoe Road 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr); at least 100 in w. *Henderson* 14 April (BP, KOS); 42 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 19 April (JSo); and a tardy bird at Melco 27-29 May (EHU, BP).

Willet – there were only three reports: 5 at Ky Dam Village SRP 27 April (SM, RBr); 1 adjacent to Obion WMA 28/29 April (BP/EHu, BY, MY); and 2 at Kuttawa 16 May (JSo).

Lesser Yellowlegs – reports of interest included 51 in w. *Fulton* (HC, ME) and 1 at Melco (EHU), both 7 March; ca. 80 at Sand Slough 17 March (BP, EHu, MY); at least 100 at Sauerheber 26 March (BP, EHu, MBr); 197 in w. *Fulton* 14 April (HC, ME); at least 300 in w. *Henderson* 14 April (BP, KOS) with at least 150 in the same vicinity 16 April (BP, EHu) and at least 200 in the same vicinity (including at least 150 of the total at Horseshoe Road) 27 April (BP); 35-40 at Melco 2 May (BP); and at least 185 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 April (BP).

Upland Sandpiper – 1 heard over White Hall Road, *Madison*, 22 April (AN) was the only one reported.

Whimbrel – 2 were on a gravel bar on Ky Lake off Hamlin, *Calloway*, 11 May (ph. HC, ME). KBRC review required.

Marbled Godwit – there were two reports: 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 16 April (ph. BP, et al.) and 21 at Blood River 26 April (HC).



Marbled Godwit, Falls of the Ohio
16 April 2012
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Ruddy Turnstone – there was only one report: 1 at Lick Creek 4-5 May (BP, EHu, AN, BY, MY).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 1 at Long Point 28 April (BP), 2 at Sauerheber 30 April (KM) and 1 at Melco 1 May (BP) were the earliest to be reported; at least 50 were at Melco 21 May (BP), but 175+ were there 24 May (EHu) and a very impressive tally of 731 there and at least 90 at the Falls of the Ohio, both 25 May (EHu), represented the season's peak count.

Western Sandpiper – there were five reports: 1 at Blood River 25 April (ph. HC); 1 at Horseshoe Road 27 April (ph. BP) with 2 there 30 April (BP); 1 near Long Point 28 April (BP); and 2 at Long Point 3 May (HC).

Least Sandpiper – modest peak counts included 50 at Ballard WMA 6 April (HC); at least 50 in w. *Henderson* 14 April (BP, KOS); at least 560 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, including at least 350 at Long Point, 28 April (BP); 63 at Melco 2 May (BP); and at least 75 at Minor Clark 8 May (BWu).

White-rumped Sandpiper – 1 near Long Point 1 May (ph. EHu) was the earliest to be reported; also reported were 2 at Paradise 5 May (BP, EHu, AN); 1 near the jct. Tommy Wix Road & Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 14 May (JBy, MBy, MkB, DBk, MBk); 1 along Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 15 May (JBy, MBy, MkB, DBk, MBk); 2 at Melco 21-23 May (BP, MC, EHu) with at least 3 there 24-25 May (EHu) and 1 still there 26 May (EHu, MY); and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 25 May (EHu) with 9 there 29 May (BP).

Pectoral Sandpiper – 1 was at Melco (EHu) and 62 were in w. *Fulton* (HC), by 7 March; modest peak counts included 80 at Ellis Park 1 April (ES, TG); 200 along J. Dance Road 9 April (CC); at least 350 in w. *Henderson*, with 100 at Sauerheber, all 14 April (BP, KOS); and at least 225 in w. *Fulton* 14 April (HC, ME).

Dunlin – the species passed through relatively early, being most numerous during late April with the following reports of

interest: 1-4 at Melco 4 April–12 May (EHu, BP, MC, et al.); 24 in w. *Fulton* 14 April (HC, ME); 1 at Jacobson Park 14 April (ph. FH); 37 at Sauerheber 16 April (BP, EHu) with a peak of 85 there 27 April (BP); 15-20 at Horseshoe Road 14 April (BP, KOS) with at least 225 there 27 April (BP), at least 160 there 30 April (BP), 100 still there 14 May (CC), and 1 there to 27 May (CC); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 16/22 April (BP, EHu/BP); 1 at Fishing Creek 21 April (RD); and at least 90 at Long Point 28 April (BP).

Stilt Sandpiper – there were five reports: 2 in w. *Fulton* (HC, ME); 1 at Sauerheber (BP, KOS) and 2 at Sand Slough (BY, MY, EHu), all 14 April; and singles at Long Point (BP) and at Melco (TBe, CBk), both 28 April.

Short-billed Dowitcher – there were only four reports: 1 at Horseshoe Road 30 April (BP) with 5 there 4 May (BP, AN, EHu); ca. 10 at Long Point 1 May (ph. EHu); and 1 at Sauerheber 16 May (ph. CC). Seven dowitcher sp. at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN) were likely Short-billed.

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1 adjacent to Long Pond, Boatwright WMA, *Ballard*, 4 April (JSo) was the earliest to be reported; a new state one-day high count of 225 was tallied in w. *Fulton* (with 164 counted at Long Point) 14 April (HC, ME) with 83 still at Long Point 17 April (HC). Other reports of interest included up to 9 along J. Dance Road 14-26 April (BP, EHu, CC, et al.); 11 adjacent to Obion WMA 19 April (JSo); 1 at Melco 26 April (BP) with 3 there 1 May (BP, MC); 20 at Blood River 26 April (HC) with 8 still there 30 April (HC); 15 in w. *Henderson* 27 April (BP); 12 at Jonathan Creek 29 April (HC); and 1 at Fishing Creek 3 May (RD).

Wilson's Snipe – 278 counted in w. *Fulton* 7 March (HC, ME) and at least 150 at Sauerheber 17 March (BP, EHu, MY) represented the season's peak counts.

Wilson's Phalarope – there were only three reports: 1 along J. Dance Road 26 April (ph. CC); and 1 adjacent to Obion WMA

29 April/1 May (BY, MY, EHu/EHu) and 3 May (HC).

Bonaparte's Gull – very modest peak counts included 200 at Blood River 11 March (HC) and 225 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 17 March (MA).

Laughing Gull – there were two reports: a first-year bird at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (ph. EHu et al.) and an adult at Melco 8 May (ph. EHu).



Franklin's Gull, *Rowan*
28 April 2012
Brian Wulker

Franklin's Gull – there was only one report: an adult at Minor Clark 28 April (ph. BWu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – an adult at Jacobson Park 5 March (ph. SH, HJ, ph. FH, et al.) represented a first for the Lexington area.

Caspian Tern – very modest peak counts included 10 at the Falls of the Ohio 16 April (BWo) and 7 on Ky Lake at Hamlin, *Calloway*, 11-12 May (HC, ME).

Black Tern – 1 at Camp #11 on 4 May (BP, EHu, AN) was the only one reported.

Common Tern – there were four reports: 1 was especially early over Lake Barkley at US 68/KY 80, *Trigg*, 6 April (BL); 25 over Ky Lake above the dam and ca. 15 at Green Turtle Bay, all 5 May (BP, EHu, AN); and 1 at Minor Clark 8 May (BWu).

Forster's Tern – 12 from winter were still at Blood River 1 March (HC) with 43 there by 11 March (HC); modest peak counts included at least 50 at Lick Creek 30 April (BP et al.) with ca. 70 there 1 May (EHu) and at least 60 there 4/5 May

(BP, EHu, AN); and 10 at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 30 April (MBu).

White-winged Dove – there were two reports: 1 s. of Sharkey, *Rowan*, 2-6 April (MW, ph. BY, ph. EHu); and 1 at Lexington 6 May (ph. C>). KBRC review required.

Black-billed Cuckoo – there were five reports: 1 at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 9 May (BP, ph. EHu); 1 n. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 12 May (JBk); 1 at Seneca Gardens, Louisville, 19 May (RH); possibly as many as 4 heard along n. Fork Elkhorn Creek, *Franklin*, 19 May (JSo, CS); and 1 on the Anchorage Trail 26 May (GHe, TA, et al.).

Barn Owl – there were four reports: a nesting pair sw. of Bloomfield, *Nelson*, during the season (TH); 1 found road-killed on KY 801 just n. of Farmers, *Rowan*, 6 April (BP); 2 heard near Lemon Bend of the Green River, *Taylor*, 20 March (JSo); and 2, including a young bird, at a traditional nesting locale in s. *Calloway* 11 May (HC).



Lesser Black-backed Gull, Lexington
5 March 2012
Frank Huggins

Short-eared Owl – there were two reports: at least 5 on the Sinclair Unit 10 March (BY, MY, MA, DSt) and 4 along Horn-town Rd., *Grayson*, 11 March (BP et al.).

Long-eared Owl – 1 was still on the Sinclair Unit 11 March (BP et al.).

Rufous Hummingbird – the 2 wintering females s. of Haywood, *Barren*, were last seen 26 March (L&RY), and the wintering female at Franklin, *Simpson*, was last seen 26 March (ST).

- Common Nighthawk** – an unspecified number over Murray, *Calloway*, 20 April (ME) were the earliest to be reported.
- Chuck-will's-widow** – individuals heard se. of Burnside, *Pulaski* (LO), and s. of Sharkey, *Rowan* (BWu), both 28 April, were relatively far east.
- Whip-poor-will** – individuals heard on Lake Cumberland nw. of Steubenville, *Wayne*, 27 March (JBU); se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 29 March (MBk); and near Zachariah, *Lee*, 30 March (GHO) were the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – singles in LBL, *Lyon*, 28 April (MTh) and at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 6 May (BWo) were the latest to be reported.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were four reports: 1 at Boone County Cliffs SNP 5 May (LM, ph. LH, NKBC); 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, Louisville, 6 May (BWo, BBC, ph. KB); and singles at Iroquois Park, Louisville (MA) and at Miles Park, e. *Jefferson* (BWo), both 12 May.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** – 1 at Berea Forest 23 April (RF, RBa) was the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were three reports: 1 heard at Surrey Hills Farm 17 May (BP); 1 seen s. of Richmond, *Madison*, 20 May (AN); and 1 on Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 25 May (DMo).
- Willow Flycatcher** – a singing bird was likely on territory at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, (where the species has been reported in recent years [*vide* SF]), 9 May (BP, EHu).
- Alder Flycatcher** – there were three reports: 1 at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*, 6 May (BP, JBe, PB, JMc, CBs); 1 heard singing near Middletown, *Jefferson*, 17 May (MMo); and 1 on Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 22 May (DMo).
- Least Flycatcher** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 20 April (RD) was the earliest to be reported.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles at Oak Creek Campground sw. of Walton, *Boone*, 3 April (†M&JH); at Fishing Creek 15 April (RD); and along Bee Creek, *Calloway*, 16 April (JPO) were the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Kingbird** – 1 at Blood River 9 April (HC) was the earliest to be reported.
- White-eyed Vireo** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 28 March (MBy, MkB); in LBL, *Trigg*, 29 March (BL); and at Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve, e. *Fleming*, 30 March (BWu) were the earliest to be reported; the first two represented new early arrival dates for the state.
- Bell's Vireo** – reports of interest included 3 at and adjacent to Sauerheber 6 May (JMe); 1 heard singing near Middletown, *Jefferson*, 16 May (MMo); and 1 at Melco 18 May (MA).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – singles at Mammoth Cave 1 April (JBe, PB, CBs) and at Berea Forest 2 April (JBn) were the earliest to be reported.
- Blue-headed Vireo** – 3 at Alpine 17 March (RD) and singles at E.C. Million Park, *Madison* (AN), and at Anglin Falls, *Rockcastle* (ET), both 18 March, were the earliest to be reported; a singing male at Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP) was rather tardy.
- Warbling Vireo** – 1 at East Bend Station, w. *Boone*, 7 April (LM) tied the early arrival date for the state.
- Philadelphia Vireo** – reports of interest included 4 in LBL, *Lyon*, 30 April (BP et al.); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 2 May (AN, SH, MTw); and 5 at Surrey Hills Farm 18 May (BP).
- Red-eyed Vireo** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 1 April (JBe, PB, CBs); 1 at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, 2 April (MSc); and 4 at Alpine 7 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- Fish Crow** – reports of interest included 1 flying ne. ca. 8 mi. nw. of Murray, *Calloway*, 28 February (MMi); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 6 March (DSs, LP); 1 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 21 March (BL); 18 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 17 March (MA); and 1 at Sauerheber 23 March (CC).

- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – 1 at the Kendall Rec. Area, *Russell*, 16 March (RD) and at 3 near Trammel Creek along Squire Lyles Road, *Allen*, 19 March (JBy, TBr) were the earliest to be reported.
- Purple Martin** – singles along Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 25 February (JBy, MBy) and at the LBL Nature Station 1 March (JPo et al.) were the earliest to be reported; 5 with other swallows at Paradise 5 May (BP, EHU, AN) must have been tardy migrants.
- Tree Swallow** – an impressive flock of at least 5000 and possibly 7500–10,000 was seen at Camp #11 on 16 April (BP, EHU).
- Bank Swallow** – 1 along the Kentucky River, *Clark*, 7 April (AN) was the earliest to be reported.
- Barn Swallow** – 1 over McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 28 March (AN) was the earliest to be reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – there were a few reports of lingering wintering birds or migrants including the following: 1 at Tom Dorman SNP, *Garrard*, 5 April (BP, AC) and 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 25 March/29 April (SBo/MBu). There was only one report from the nesting population along the Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*, that being 1 on 26 May (JSw, DL).
- Brown Creeper** – 1 at Cane Creek WMA, *Laurel*, 16 April (DCo) was the latest to be reported other than 1 (unsure if same bird) seen and heard singing on different parts of the Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 7/8 May (BP/BP, JD, et al.).
- House Wren** – singles at Noble Park, Paducah, *McCracken* (AY), and at Murray, *Calloway* (ME), both 28 March, and at the Kendall Rec. Area 31 March (RD) were apparently all very early migrants; other early reports included singles nw. of Geneva, *Henderson*, 1 April (JMe), at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 5 April (RD), and at Berea, *Madison*, 8 April (RF, RBa).
- Marsh Wren** – there were reports from two locales as follows: singles at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 17 March (BP), 26 April (CMs, BT, et al.), and 1 May (CC); and 3 at Camp # 11 on 26 March (BP, EHU, MBr) with 1 heard there 16 April (BP, EHU) and 2 heard there 27 April (BP).
- Sedge Wren** – there were only two reports: 1 at Camp #11 on 16 April (BP, EHU) and 1 s. of jct. KY 1333 and Red Hill Road, *Allen*, 2 May (JBy, MBy, NGI).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** – singles at Berea, *Madison*, 18 April (RF, RBa) and at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 21 April (BJ, EHU, BBC) were the latest to be reported.
- Swainson's Thrush** – singles near Hardwick, *Wayne*, 18 April (RD) and in Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 22 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported.
- Wood Thrush** – singles at Little Lick (SS) and at J.J. Audubon (JMe), both 12 April, and at Lexington 14 April (DCh) were the earliest to be reported.
- Gray Catbird** – 1 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 15 April (DCo) was the earliest to be reported.
- American Pipit** – 1 at Horseshoe Road 4 May (BP, EHU, AN) and 2 heard at E.P. Tom Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 7 May (MA) were the latest to be reported.
- Cedar Waxwing** – the species moved through in largest numbers a bit earlier than has become the norm in recent years (May), with large flocks first noted during early March and scarce by mid-May.
- Ovenbird** – singles at Mammoth Cave 4 April (SK) and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.
- Worm-eating Warbler** – 4 at Alpine and 2 along Blue John Road, *Pulaski*, all 7 April (RD), and 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 8 April (BL) were the earliest to be reported.
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – 1 at Blood River (HC), 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski* (RD), 1 w. of Kessinger, *Hart* (SK), and at least 2 along Pinchgut Creek, *Allen* (MBy), all 15 March, were the earliest to be reported.
- Blue-winged Warbler** – singles along Pinchgut Creek, *Allen* (MBy) and along

Long Hungry Creek, *Allen* (MBy), both 1 April, represented a new early arrival date for the state by a day; otherwise, singles in LBL, *Trigg*, 2 April (BL), along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 4 April (RD) and at Berea Forest 8 April (RO) were the earliest to be reported.

Golden-winged Warbler – there were seven reports: 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 28 April (DL, ASK); 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 29 April (DL); 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 29 April (BP, KOS) with 2 there 30 April (BP, et al.) and 1 there 2 May (AY); 1 along Indian Knob Road, *McCreary*, 5 May (RD); and 1 along Blue John Road, se. of Burnside, *Pulaski*, 14 May (LO).

Brewster's Warbler – there were two reports: singles at Owsley Fork 27 April (RF) and at Mammoth Cave 3 May (TD); another individual that was a backcross hybrid was seen on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 15 May (AN).

Black-and-white Warbler – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 19 March (BL) established a new early arrival date for the state by three days; also early were singles at Berea Forest (RF, RBa) and at Berea, *Madison* (RF), both 21 March.

Prothonotary Warbler – singles at Blood River 4 April (HC) and at both Boatwright WMA, *Ballard*, and Ballard WMA 6 April (HC, ME) were the earliest to be reported.

Swainson's Warbler – it was an excellent season for the species with the following reports of interest: singles along Pounder Branch, Cane Creek WMA, *Laurel*, 16 April (DCo) and on the Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 21 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported; 3 heard at Blanton Forest SNP, *Harlan*, 29 April (SH); 7 seen/heard in the Red River Gorge Geological Area, *Powell/Wolfe*, 7 May (BP); 3 at Little Lick 12 May (RD); singles along Rock Branch, *McCreary*, near Sawyer, *McCreary*, and along KY 90, DBNF, *Whitley* (RD), all 15 May; and 2 heard at different locales nw. of Beatyville, *Lee*, 31 May (BP).

Orange-crowned Warbler – 2 in LBL, *Trigg*, 21 March (BL) may have been con-

tinuing from winter or very early migrants; also reported were 1 at J.J. Audubon 1 April (JMe); 1 nw. of Burkesville, *Cumberland*, 19 April (BP, EHu, MY); 1 along Dry Fork Road, *Rockcastle*, 21 April (AN, GB, MBu); singles at Owsley Fork (AN) and at Iroquois Park, Louisville (MA), both 27 April; 1 at Obion WMA 28 April (BP); and 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 30 April (MY).

Nashville Warbler – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 8 April (BL) established a new early state arrival date by one day; otherwise, 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 16 April (RBo) was the earliest to be reported; 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 18 May (BP) were somewhat tardy.

Connecticut Warbler – there were four reports: 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, Louisville, on the very early date of 2 May (†SWa); 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 14 May (RD); and singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 17/18 May (BP).

Mourning Warbler – there were not many reports, all being included: 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 5 May (BWo, RBo); 1 at Owsley Fork 11 May (AN); 1 at the LBL Nature Station 12 May (CS, AY, JPo, et al.); 1 on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 15 May (AN, EHu, BP); singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 14/17 May with 2 there 18 May (BP); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 18 May (RD); and 1 on Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 19 May (BL).

Common Yellowthroat – 1 at Sauerheber 23 March (ph. CC) may have been lingering from winter or a very early migrant; next earliest were 1 at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 3 April (CC) and 3 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 4 April (RD).

Kentucky Warbler – 1 nw. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 8 April (JBk) was the earliest to be reported.

Hooded Warbler – 2 at Alpine 7 April (RD) and several at Little Lick 12 April (SS) were the earliest to be reported.

Northern Parula – singles in LBL, *Trigg* (BL), and at Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve, *Oldham* (KD), both 20 March, and

1 at Mammoth Cave 21 March (JBe, PB, CBs), all established new early arrival dates for the state by nearly a week; otherwise, 2 at Alpine (RD) and 1 at the LBL Nature Station (JPo), both 26 March, tied the early state arrival date; also early was 1 along Pinchgut Creek, *Allen*, 27 March (MBy).

Blackburnian Warbler – singles at J.J. Audubon 16 April (JMe), at Marrowbone State Forest, *Metcalf*, 19 April (BP, MY), and at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 22 April (BWo, BBC) were the earliest to be reported; 1 at Iroquois Park, Louisville, 28 May (SWa, MK) was relatively tardy.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – there were five reports: a male at the Lexington Cemetery 6 May (SH, AN); a male at Boone County Cliffs SNP 7 May (RS); a male along the Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 8 May (BP); 1 at Doe Run Lake, *Kenton*, 12 May (EG); and a male at Surrey Hills Farm 17-18 May (BP).

Palm Warbler – singles at Owsley Fork 10 March (AN) and at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 13 March (ph. CC) may have represented individuals lingering from winter; singles at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 25 March (RD) and at J.J. Audubon 30 March (JMe), may have been more likely very early migrants. Singles at Berea Forest 12 May (AN, ASK) and on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 15 May (BP, EHu, AN) were the latest to be reported.

Yellow-throated Warbler – 1 along Pinchgut Creek at KY 1333, *Allen*, 18 March (MBy); 2 at the LBL Nature Station (JPo et al.), 1 along Clear Fork Creek, n. *Rowan* (BWu), and 1 at South Williamson, *Pike* (JC), all 19 March; and 2 in DBNF n. of Hightop, *Laurel* (R&JW), 1 near Iron Furnace, *Bath* (BWu), and 4 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski* (RD), all 20 March, all established new early arrival dates for the state; tying the old early date were 2 at Bee Rock Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski* (RD), 1 at Mammoth Cave (JBe, PB, CBs), and 2 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski* (RD), all 21 March.

Prairie Warbler – singles in se. *Adair* 31 March (WB); near Barren Fork, DBNF,

McCreary (RD), in *Hancock* (MBr), and in LBL, *Trigg* (BL), all 1 April; along Squire Lyles Road, *Allen*, 3 April (TBr, JBk), and along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 4 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.

Black-throated Green Warbler – 1 along Logue Road, nw. *Lee*, 20 March (WC) tied the early arrival date for the state; next earliest were 3 at Little Lick 24 March (RD) and 1 at Cumberland Gap National Park, *Bell*, 25 March (AN).

Canada Warbler – reports of interest included 1 at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 9 May (BP, EHu) and 7 at Surrey Hills Farm 18 May (BP).

Wilson's Warbler – singles in LBL, *Lyon*, 28 April (RD) and at the Jenny Hole/Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 29 April (CC) were the earliest to be reported.

Yellow-breasted Chat – 1 heard se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 15 April (DBk, SBk) represented a new early arrival date for the state by one day; next earliest were 4 near Hardwick, *Wayne*, 18 April (RD) and 2 at Little Lick (RD) and at least 6 at Marrowbone State Forest, *Cumberland & Metcalf* (BP, MY, EHu), both 19 April.

Bachman's Sparrow – a total of 8 birds were reported within traditionally inhabited portions of Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 15/25 May (DMo).

Field Sparrow – an individual of the western race, *S. p. arenacea*, was seen along Straightline Road, w. *Henderson*, 17 March (*BP, EHu, MY).

Lark Sparrow – there were five reports: 1 n. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 15 April (TBr); 1 along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 1 May (ph. CC) with 2 there 27 May (CC); 2 along Pack Church Road, *McLean*, 2 May (†JKt); 2 along Squire Lyles Road, *Allen*, 3 May (TBr, ABr, JBk); and 4 within traditionally inhabited portions of Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 25 May (DMo).

Grasshopper Sparrow – 1 along West Old State Road, *Allen*, 6-10 March (†JBk, ABr, JMa, †JBy) may have been lingering

from winter or a very early migrant; next earliest were 1 heard singing e. of Munfordville, *Hart*, 22 March (SK, CMn), and singles at New Haven, *Nelson* (JSo), and at CVG (BP), both 9 April.

Henslow's Sparrow – 1 along Trammel Creek n. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 4 March (†JBy, TBr, ABr, †JBk) may have been lingering from winter or a very early migrant; otherwise, “several” at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 3 April (DPe) and singles at the Pumphrey Tract, Buck Creek Nature Preserve, *Pulaski*, 12 April (RD) and along Duncannon Lane s. of Richmond, *Madison*, 15 April (AN) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included at least two dozen territorial birds at the East Park Industrial Park, *Greenup/Boyd*, during late April and early May (SH et al.); 2 n. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 20 April (MBy, JBy, TBr, ABr, JBk); and up to 3 heard at the LBL Elk/Bison Prairie, *Trigg*, during the 3rd week of May (BL).

Le Conte's Sparrow – there were reports from three locales: at least 11 that likely wintered at the Cape Hills Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 17 March (BP, EHu, ph. MY) with at least 10 there 26 March (BP, EHu, ph. CC, MBr) and at least 2 still there 14 April (BP, KOS); 1 at the Clarks River NWR Education Center e. of Benton, *Marshall*, 28 March (JSo); and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 21 March (BP) with at least 6 and probably as many as 10 there 29 March (ph. BP), 2 still there 3 April (BP), and 1 last seen there 7 April (BP).

Nelson's Sparrow – 1 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 12 May (MSt, ba. BP, PS, ph. EHu) represented only the second spring record for the state. KBRC review required.

Fox Sparrow – 1 at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 25 March (KM) was the latest to be reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow – 1 on the Sinclair Unit 10 March (MA, ph. DSt) and 11 March (BP et al.) may have been a lingering winter bird or a very early migrant.

White-throated Sparrow – singles at Cave Hill Cemetery 13 May (BWo, BBC) and at Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP) were the latest to be reported.

White-crowned Sparrow – 1 in *Pendleton* 19 May (LH) was the latest to be reported.

Dark-eyed Junco – 1 at Minor Clark 26 April (BWu) was the latest to be reported.

Summer Tanager – 1 was heard calling at Mammoth Cave on the extraordinarily early date of 26 March (TD).

Scarlet Tanager – 1 along Rowena Road, Lake Cumberland SRP, *Russell*, 31 March (RD) established a new early arrival date for the state by five days; next earliest were singles at Alpine (RD) and at Lexington (DCh), both 7 April.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – singles at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 13 April (KCo), at Bowling Green, *Warren*, 15 April (TD), at the LBL Nature Station 19 April (JPo et al.), and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 20 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported. The species was not particularly numerous at feeding stations this spring.

Blue Grosbeak – singles at the LBL Nature Station 15 April (JPo), and n. of West Old State Road, *Allen* (ABr, JBk) and near Dot, *Logan* (FL), both 16 April, were the earliest to be reported.

Indigo Bunting – singles at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 5 April (HC) and along Hinkston Creek, *Bourbon*, 6 April (JHw) were the earliest to be reported.

Painted Bunting – a male was present in a yard at Crestwood, *Oldham*, 26 April (TF, ph. NGr). KBRC review required.

Dickcissel – 3 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 14 April (HC, ME) represented a new early arrival date for the state by two days.

Bobolink – a male in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 14 April (HC, ME) represented a new early arrival date for the state by one day; next earliest were 5 near Dot, *Logan*, 21 April (FL). Other reports of interest included ca. 250 along the levee in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 3 May (HC). a female at the East Park Industrial Park,

Greenup/Boyd, 8 May (BP, JD, et al.); 1 heard over the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 15 May (BP, EHu, AN); and a tardy female n. of West Old State Road, *Allen*, 25 May (JBk).

Rusty Blackbird – reports of interest included ca. 300 along Straightline Road, w. *Henderson*, 17 March (BP, EHu, MY) and 1 at Minor Clark 20 April (BWu).

Brewer's Blackbird – there were three reports: 2 near Sassafras Ridge, w. *Fulton*, 18 March (MA); 2 along West Old State Road, *Allen*, 19 March (ABr, JBk); and at least 100-150 in groups of 2 to 25-30 observed coming in with other blackbirds to roost at Camp #11 on 16 April (BP, EHu).

Purple Finch – numbers remained quite low through the spring season with the latest

reports being singles at Million, *Madison*, 23 April (MBu) and at Lexington 25 April (DCh).

Pine Siskin – a few birds continued from winter, but there were hardly any reports of migrants; all reports are included: 5 at the Lexington Cemetery 3 March (SBo) with 1 still there 25 March (SBo); 10-15 at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 15 March (BWu); 1 at Alpine 26 March (RD); 1 along White Hall Road, *Madison*, 6 April (AN); 2 sw. of Fisherville, *Jefferson*, 3 May (JHu, EHu); a flock of up to 20 at the LBL Administration Office, *Trigg*, continuously to 3 May (BL); and 4-8 nw. of Riders Mill, *Hart*, through the spring (ph. BA) with 1 last seen there 18 May (BA).

Observers: Linda Alexander (LA), Terry Anderson (TA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Bonnie Avery (BA), Dave Baker (DBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Colleen Craven-Becker (CBk, Tom Becker (TBe), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Andrew Berry (ABe), Carol Besse (CBs), Gretchen Bolton (GB), Simon Bonner (SBo), Karen Bonsell (KB), Rod Botkins (RBo), Jean Bremermann (JBn), Mike Brown (MBr), Abraham Brubaker (ABr), Daniel Brubaker (DBk), John David Brubaker (JBk), Matthew Brubaker (MBk), Stephen Brubaker (SBk), Timothy Brubaker (TBr), John Brunjes (JBr), Rhonda Bryant (RBr), Wendy Burt (WB), Marissa Buschow (MBu), Joyce Butterfield (JBU), Mike Callan (MC), Kandy Carstens (KCa), Joan Carr (JC), Hap Chambers (HC), Don Chesnut (DCh), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Derek Coomer (DCo), Amy Covert (AC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Rodney Crice (RC), Wes Cunningham (WC); Kathy Dennis (KD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Jon Dunn (JD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Connie Farmer (CF), Rob Foster (RF), Bill Friel (BF), Teresa Fultz (TF), Noah Glick (NGI), Alan Goldstein (AG), Brad Goodrich (BG), Nick Gregory (NGr), Tim Griffith (TG), Ed Groneman (EG), Laura Haggarty (LH), Erin Harper (EHa), Stratton Hatfield (SH), Gerald Heath (GHe), Todd Hen-dricks (TH), Ron Hirsch (RH), Greg Hoeting (GHo), Jason Holzworth (JHz), Joseph Hoover (JHv), Jesse Howell (JHw), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Mark & Joanie Hubinger (M&JH), Frank Huggins (FH), William Hull (WH), Linda Ireland (LI), Bob Johnson (BJ), Heather Jordan (HJ), Meghan Kahn (MK), John Keith (JKe), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Janet Kistler (JKs), Steve Kistler (SK), James Kittinger (JKt), David Lang (DL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Frank Lyne (FL), Dax Manley (DMa), Scott Marsh (SM), Jerome Martin (JMa), Paul McAllister (PM), Judith McCandless (JMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Mark Meador (MMe), John Meredig (JMe), Keith Michalski (KM), Cap Middleton (CMn), Mike Miller (MMi), Chuck Mills (CMs), Mark Monroe (MMo), Mike Morton (MMr), Daniel Moss (DMo), multiple observers (m. ob.), Thomas Nall (TN), Andy Newman (AN), Northern Kentucky Bird Club (NKBC), Laura Obiso (LO), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), David Patick (DPa), Don Pelly (DPe), John Pollpeter (JPo), Jacob Popham (JPP), Leslie Potts (LP), Scott Record (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Ronnie Robertson (RR), Cindy Rogers (CR), Mary Schmidt (MSc), Steven Scott (SS), Rick Skehen (RS), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JSO), Evan Speck (ES), Gary Sprandel (GS), Daniel Stephens (DSs), David Stewart (DSt), Matt Stickel (MSt), Paul Stickel (PS), Joe Swanson (JSw), Carrie Szwed (CS), Ed Talbott (ET), Brian Taylor (BT), Marilee Thompson (MTh), Mike Todd (MTo), Mark Tower (MTw), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C>), Shannon Trimboli (ST), Mandy Van Meter (MV), Kelly Vowels (KV), Sean Ward (SWa), Steve White (SWh), Eric Williams (EW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Richard & Julia Wolinski (R&JW), Mike Wright (MW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY); Aviva Yasgur (AY), Doug Young (DY), Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY).



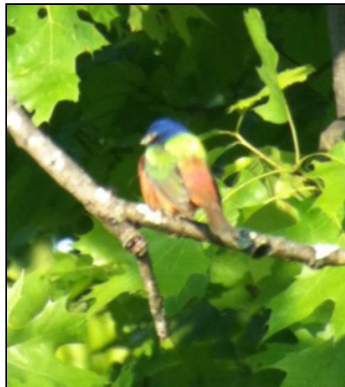
Western Sandpiper, *Calloway*
25 April 2012
Hap Chambers



American White Pelicans, *Herrington Lake*
29 March 2012
Doug Young



Swallow-tailed Kite, *Warren*
22 April 2012
Mark Meador



Painted Bunting, *Oldham*
26 April 2012
Nick Gregory



Ferruginous Hawk, *Boone*
6 April 2012
Mary Yandell



Nelson's Sparrow, *Jefferson*
12 May 2012
Eddie Huber



White-winged Dove, *Fayette*
6 May 2012
Charles Tremoulet