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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Frank Renfrow for the image of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) at its nest cavity taken 22 May 2013 at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, Marshall County (see Field Note, p. 82). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



IN MEMORIAM: VIRGINIA (GINNY) HENRY KINGSOLVER

Blaine R. Ferrell

On July 1, 2013, the KOS lost a very devoted member following a battle with a long illness. Virginia (Ginny) Henry Kingsolver was born November 20, 1929, in Lexington, Kentucky, to A.R. and Nellie Henry. She attended Lafayette High School and the University of Kentucky. She was married to her sweetheart of 70 years, Wendell Kingsolver, and they had just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Ginny, together with Wendell, loved the natural world, whether traveling together to marvel at the wonders worldwide or to preserve it in Kentucky. Ginny shared this passion through slide shows at KOS meetings. Ginny and Wendell spent many winters on Sanibel Island on the west coast of Florida enjoying the flowers and bird life. She was a lifelong birdwatcher and worked to instill her passion in others, especially young birders. She, Wendell, and family joined the KOS in 1970 and served in numerous service capacities, including President in 1990 and 1991. Ginny served as a board member of the Kentucky chapters of the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. She was a lifelong Girl Scout and served as President of the Wilderness Girl Scout Council. She found time to serve as the choir director and the first woman elder of the First Christian Church in Carlisle of which she and Wendell were among the founding members. Ginny was Director of the Volunteer Services at the Nicholas County Hospital for 20 years. Ginny's greatest passion was her family life, and she eloquently expressed her delight in her extended family and friendships in her annual review included in her Christmas card. KOS will truly miss this gracious person who devoted her time and energy to her family, to protect the natural world, and to help her fellow human beings.

SPRING 2013 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during spring 2013 were overall relatively normal. Average temperature during March was cooler than normal statewide, but about normal during April and May. Precipitation across most of the state was near normal during the March through May period with the following exceptions: Louisville was a bit drier than normal during April; Bowling Green was relatively wet during April with about one and a half times normal rainfall, but a bit drier than normal during May; Paducah received slightly more precipitation than normal during April, but slightly less than normal during May; and at Jackson, the month of March was slightly drier than normal while the month of May was slightly wetter than normal. Above normal rainfall in the upper Mississippi Valley did cause some minor flooding of the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during late April and May.

Rarity highlights included Cinnamon Teal, Red-throated Loon, Western Grebe, Anhinga, Glossy and White-faced Ibis, Whimbrel, Red Phalarope, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, continuing Say's Phoebe and Northern Shrike, and two Western Tanagers. Following the presence of several irruptive boreal species during the winter season, reports of both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak continued into the spring.

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); “vr.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with recordings of call notes; “+” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Anchorage Trail, e. *Jefferson*; Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Barkley Dam, *Lyon* (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren* (unless otherwise noted); Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt* (unless otherwise noted); Blood River = Blood River embayment, *Ky Lake*, *Calloway*; Calvert City = industrial pond at Calvert City, *Marshall*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*; Cave Hill Cemetery, *Louisville*; Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*; Chaney Lake, *Warren*; Cherokee Park, *Louisville*; Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Freeman Lake, *Hardin*; Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; Iroquois Park, *Louisville*; Jacobson Park, *Lexington*; John James Audubon SP, *Henderson*; KY 739 Pond = transient lake e. of KY 739 e. of Licksillet, sw. *Logan*; Ky Bend = Kentucky Bend, w. *Fulton*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Kentucky Dam Village [SRP], *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Marshall/Trigg*; Ky Sheriff’s Ranch, at Ky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Old Kuttawa Rec. Area, *Lyon*; Lake No. 9, w. *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lexington, *Fayette*; Lick Creek = Lick Creek embayment of Lake Barkley, *Lyon*; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, *DBNF, Pulaski*; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*; McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, s. *Jefferson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Morgan Pond, wnw. of Oak Grove, *Christian*; Mud Creek = Mud Creek floodplain at KY 94, e. of Hickman, *Fulton*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Obion WMA, n. of Hickman, *Fulton*; Open Pond, w. *Fulton*; Otter Pond, *Caldwell*; Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*; Sand Slough, w. *Henderson*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Walton Pond, s. *Warren*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – an injured bird was seen at Sauerheber 3 May (ph. CC).

Snow Goose – reports of interest included 1 at Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, 9 March (BWu); an imm. blue morph at Camp #11 on 29 April (BP, EHu); and 1 at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, to 11 May (LM).

Ross’s Goose – 1 was still at Goose Lake, Sinclair Unit, 8 March (P&SF); 1 was seen at Uniontown, *Union*, 10 March (ph. CC).

Cackling Goose – there were two reports: 2 at Spindletop Farm 5 March (Jsw) and 5 s. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 23 March (BL).

Mute Swan – up to 4 (19 March) were observed on a lake at Shelbyville, *Shelby*, during March (AM).

Tundra Swan – 37 of the Sloughs WMA flock were last reported at Horseshoe Road 8 March (CC).

Gadwall – local peak counts included 60+ at Otter Pond 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu); ca. 400 at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 8 March (KM); ca. 50 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); and 400+ at Long Point 17 April (BP, EHu); latest reports included 9 at Sauerheber 9 May (JM) with 2 last reported there 12 May (BP, EHu).

American Wigeon – peak counts included 32 at Otter Pond 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu); and 125 at Long Point (RD) with 204+ nearby (BY, MYa), both 23 March; a male at McElroy Lake 13 May (BP, EHu, TD) was the latest to be reported.

Blue-winged Teal – local peak counts included 320 adjacent to Obion WMA 30 March (JSo); ca. 600 at Sauerheber 2 April (KM); and 200-250 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EHu). Birds lingered at a number of sites including 20-30 still at Morgan Pond 18 May (BP); ca. 25-30 still

at McElroy Lake 22 May (BP, EHu); small numbers scattered in w. *Fulton* 21-22 May (RD, HC, BL); 1 last seen at Sauerheber 25 May (CC); a pair still at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 27 May (SWa, MK); and 10-12 still at McElroy Lake 31 May (BP, MYa, TD).

Cinnamon Teal – a male was present on a pond along Ironworks Pike n. of Lexington 28 March (ph. JSo, CSo, et al.) to 7 April (DSv). KBRC review required.

Northern Shoveler – local peak counts included ca. 185 in w. *Fulton* 7 March (HC) with ca. 150 at Long Point 31 March (JSo); ca. 250 at Sauerheber 16 March (KM) with ca. 400 there 2 April (KM); and 200-250+ adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP). Lingering birds included a male at Melco 8 May (EHu et al.); 2 pairs still at Sauerheber 12 May (BP, EHu) with 2 males last seen there 19 May (CC); at least 20 still at McElroy Lake 13 May (BP, EHu, TD) but only 6 there 16 May (BP, EHu, SK); ca. 10 at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EHu); 1 at and near Open Pond 21 May (HC, RD); 3-4 males last seen at Morgan Pond 22 May (BP, EHu); and 1 last seen at the KY 739 Pond 25 May (FL).

Northern Pintail – ca. 50 at Sand Slough 16 March (BP et al.) represented a modest peak count.

Green-winged Teal – local peak counts of interest included ca. 500 at Long Point 23 March (RD); 750-1000+ adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP) with 500-700 still there 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo); and 100-150 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC).

Canvasback – 1 at Twin Lakes Subdivision, *Pulaski*, 29 April (RD) and a male on Lake Barkley above the dam 23 April/1 May (BP, EHu) were the latest to be reported.

Redhead – local peak counts of interest included 45 on the Cedar Creek Sewage Ponds, *Jefferson* (MA), and 46 at Minor Clark (BWu), both 7 March; reports of lingering birds included 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 1/2 May (BP, EHu) with 1

still there 18 May (BP, EHu); 8 at McElroy Lake 3-16 May (TD et al.); 4 at Morgan Pond 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) with 2 there 18 May (BP, EHu) but 8 there 19-22 May (C&SRo, BL, BP, EHu) and 1 last seen there 25 May (BP, EHu); and a male still at McElroy Lake 31 May (BP, MYa, TD).

Ring-necked Duck – reports of interest included ca. 200 on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 March (EHu); 1 on McElroy Lake 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) with up to 3 there during latter part of May (m. ob.); and 1 at Morgan Pond 18/22 May (BP, EHu).

Lesser Scaup – local peak counts of interest included 1000+ on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu); 100 on Barren River Lake 9 March (JBy, MBy); most of 95 scaup on Freeman Lake 17 March (BP); ca. 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville (EHu) and 220+ total on the Lexington Reservoirs #3 & #4 (BP), both 18 March; at least 350 at the Wendell Ford Regional Training Center, *Muhlenberg*, 23 March (BP et al.); 750-1000 adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP); 70 on Freeman Lake 10 April (BP, EHu); and 132 on the Ohio River at Louisville 12 April (BP, EHu). Small numbers were present on McElroy Lake during early May with ca. 20 still there 11/14 May (SK, JKi/JSo), 6 still there 16 May (BP, EHu, SK), and 1 last reported there 22 May (BP, EHu); also tardy was 1 at Morgan Pond 18 May (BP, EHu).

Surf Scoter – there were two reports: 2 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 18 March (BP) and 1 on Freeman Lake 19 April (RH et al.).

White-winged Scoter – there were two reports: the female that was found on the Ohio River just upstream from Louisville during mid-February was last reported 24 March (SRg); and 5 on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam, *Bracken*, 4 April (BWu).

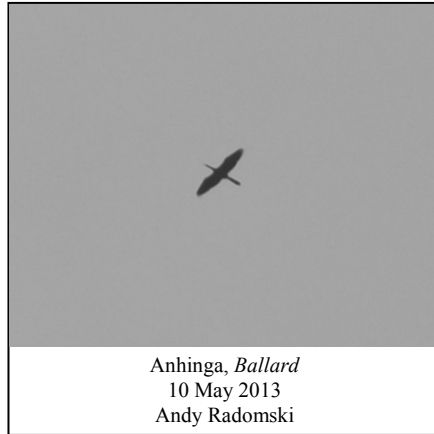
Black Scoter – there was one report: an ad. male on Ky Lake above the dam 24 April (BP, EHu, JSo).

- Long-tailed Duck** – presumably the same male continued on Ky Lake above the dam to 7 March (BP, EHu).
- Bufflehead** – reports of interest included 30-35 adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP); ca. 50 on Lake Barkley above the dam 31 March (BP, MSt); and 1 on Morgan Pond 19 May (C&SRo).
- Common Goldeneye** – 150-200 were still on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 8 March (BP, EHu); 3 on Ky Lake above the dam 18 May (EHu, BP), an imm. male at the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 19 May (ph. CC), and a female that lingered at Ballard WMA to 29 May (GBu) were the latest to be reported.
- Hooded Merganser** – 400 on Barren River Lake 8 March (JBy, JHo) represented the peak count for the season; a female with a brood of young was present at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 8+ May (SWa, MK); another brood was present at the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 19 May (CC).
- Common Merganser** – 18 were present on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 1 March (HC, ME); a female was on Lexington Reservoir #3 on 26 March (BP, EHu); a female lingered at Minor Clark to 5 May (BWu et al.).
- Red-breasted Merganser** – reports of interest included ca. 100 on Demumbers Bay, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 2 March (BWu, EHu, BP); ca. 75 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 7 March (BP, EHu); 79 on Cave Run Lake 16 March (BWu); 28 & 60 on Lexington Reservoirs #3 & #4, respectively, 18 March (BP); 21 on Barren River Lake 21 March (EHu, BP); 31 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 28 March (RD); 16 on Freeman Lake 31 March (EHu); 8 at Minor Clark 28 April (BWu et al.) with 2 last seen there 5 May (BWu); and 3 on Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (EHu, BP) with 7 there 18 May (BP, EHu).
- Ruddy Duck** – peak counts included 40-50 on Lexington Reservoir #3 on 18 March (BP) and 200-250 still on Lake Barkley above the dam 31 March (BP, MSt); lingering birds included 2 on McElroy Lake and 1 on Morgan Pond, both 16 May (BP, EHu, SK); 3 on McElroy Lake 18-22 May (m. ob.); and 3 on Morgan Pond 18/22 May (BP, EHu) with 4 there 21 May (BL).
- Red-throated Loon** – there was one report: 1 on Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, 31 March (†BWu). KBRC review required.
- Common Loon** – local peak counts included ca. 20 on Cave Run Lake 26 March (BP, EHu); 12 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 28 March (RD); 83 on Cave Run Lake 31 March (BWu); 64 on Barren River Lake 21 April (EHu, BP); 24 on Cave Run Lake 27 April (BP); and 12 on Ky Lake above the dam 2 May (EHu, BP) with 5-10 still there 11 May (BP, EHu); other tardy birds included 1 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 11 May (LM); 1 on Laurel River Lake, *Laurel*, 15 May (TN) and 2 on Barren River Lake 25 May (JBy, MBy).
- Pied-billed Grebe** – local peak counts of interest included 110 on Barren River Lake 9 March (JBy, MBy); and 150-200 on Lake Barkley just nw. of the dam, *Lyon*, 27 March (BP, EHu). A few birds lingered on transient ponds in *Christian* and *Warren* into May, with several still present and 1 incubating at Morgan Pond 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) and 6 there including 3 incubating 25 May (BP, EHu); a pair attending a nest during May at the KY 739 Pond (ph. FL); and 2 still at McElroy Lake 31 May (BP, MYa, TD). Also tardy was 1 on Barren River Lake 25 May (JBy, MBy).
- Horned Grebe** – local peak counts included 204 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 9 March (RD) with ca. 130 still there 28 March (RD); 20 on Freeman Lake 17 March (BP); and ca. 70 & 40-45 on the Lexington Reservoirs #3 & #4, respectively, 18 March (BP); singles on Ky Lake above the dam 2 May (BP, EHu) and on Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EHu) were the latest to be reported.
- Eared Grebe** – 2 were on McElroy Lake 13 May (ph. BP, EHu)–18 May (m. ob.).
- Western Grebe** – there were two reports: 1 on the Ohio River just upstream from

Louisville 15 March–12 April (ph. EHu, et al.); the bird spent a vast majority of its time in Indiana waters, but was seen on several occasions well out into the river. Also observed was 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 18 April (†BP, EHu). KBRC review required.

Double-crested Cormorant – many birds were already sitting on nests at Kuttawa 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu); as has become the norm, a few birds lingered at scattered locales into late May without further evidence of nesting.

Anhinga – there were two reports: 1 in a heronry along Mayfield Creek upstream from KY 121, *Ballard/Carlisle*, 10 May (†JSo, ph. AR); and an ad. male was present on a lake at the Sinclair Unit 11-13 May (ph. EHu, ph. BP, et al.). KBRC review required.



Anhinga, *Ballard*
10 May 2013
Andy Radomski

American White Pelican – reports of interest included 867 total at various locales on the Ohio River upstream from Smithland, *Livingston*, 29 March (JSo); 46 over the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 310 on the Ohio River n. of Sauerheber, and 25-30 passing over Sauerheber, all 5 April (CC); 1 at Uniontown, *Union*, 13 April (KM); a few hundred still below Barkley Dam 23 April (BP, EHu) with ca. 35 still there 18 May (BP, EHu); 100-125+ still below Ky Dam 11 May (BP, EHu); and 65 at Ky Bend and 60 w. of Lake No. 9, both 19 May (BP, EHu).

American Bittern – there were eight reports: 1 heard along the Clarks River near Dogtown Road, *Marshall*, 4 April (JSo); 1 at the Sinclair Unit 16 April (BP); 2 heard at Clear Creek WMA 1 May (EHa); 1 at Long Point (ph. EHu, BP) and 1 at the Clear Fork Wetlands above Cave Run Lake, *Rowan* (BWu), both 2 May; 2 along lower Mayfield Creek upstream from KY 121, *Carlisle*, 10 May (JSo, CSh); 1 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 10 May (BY, MYa); and 1 along Old Dixie Highway, *Hart*, 17 May (†JL).



American Bittern, *Marshall*
10 May 2013
Mary Yandell

Least Bittern – there were reports from five locales: 1 heard at Sinclair 16 April (EHa) with 3 heard there 2 May (EHa) and 3 seen and heard there 21 May (EHa); 1 heard at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (EHa) with 2 heard there 1 May (EHa) and 3 heard (1 seen) there 20 May (EHa); 2 heard at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 25 April (MMr *fide* EHa); 1 heard at Camp #11 on 29 April (BP, EHu); and 1 heard at the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 13 May (MMr *fide* EHa).

Great Egret – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 21 March (CSz) was the earliest to be reported; at least 105 at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EHu) was the largest number reported during the season.

Snowy Egret – 1 at Melco 24 May (MA) was the only one reported away from west Kentucky.

Cattle Egret – reports from e. of the LBL area included 2 at White City WMA, *Hopkins*, 18 April (EHa); singles at McElroy Lake and Morgan Pond, both 10 May (BP, EHu); and 1 continuing at McElroy Lake to 19 May (SK, JKi) with a peak count of 7 there 18 May (MBy, JBy, JBk, TBr, AB); and 2 last reported there 31 May (BP, MYa, TD).

Green Heron – singles at Twin Lakes Sub-division, *Pulaski*, 10 April (RD) and at Minor Clark 12 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – at least 6 active nests were located at the Highland Creek Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 10 April (ph. CC); also reported was 1 along Mayfield Creek upstream of KY 121, *Carlisle*, 10 May (JSo).



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at nest
Union, 10 April 2013
Charlie Crawford

Glossy Ibis – there were two reports: 1 at Minor Clark 28 April (BWu, ph. DL, ph. JSo, BY, MYa, et al.); and 1 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 18-19 May (ph. MC et al.) with 2 there 24 May (ph. MC). KBRC review required.

White-faced Ibis – 1 was at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 24 May (ph. MC). KBRC review required.

Osprey – a nest that was under construction near Athens, *Fayette*, 19 April (DSv) represented a first for the county.

Mississippi Kite – 1 at the Dry Creek Unit, Barren River Lake WMA, *Barren*, 11 May (JBy, MBy) was the only one reported away from traditional breeding areas.

Bald Eagle – 17 were in view at one time at and adjacent to Obion WMA 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo).

Northern Harrier – at least 45 were counted coming in to roost at Camp #11 on 16 March (EHu, CC, et al.).

Broad-winged Hawk – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 20 March (MBy); e. of Rockfield, *Warren*, 28 March (TD); and in w. *Fulton* 31 March (JSo) were the earliest to be reported. A total of 111 were seen migrating over Melco 17 April (MYa).

Red-tailed Hawk – different juv. Krider's morph birds were seen e. of Hickman, *Fulton*, and in Ky Bend, both 28 March (BP) with the former bird seen again 31 March (BP, MSt).

Golden Eagle – 1 at Bernheim Forest 5 March (KV) was the latest to be reported from the wintering population there.

Virginia Rail – there were reports from four locales: 1 heard along Little Cypress Creek, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*, 5/8 April (BP/JSo) with 2 heard there 25 April (JSo); 1 seen at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 6 April (SRe, DR); 1 seen along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 23 April (BP, EHu); and 1 found dead at Sauerheber 29 April (EHu, BP).

Sora – reports of interest included at least 13 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); 1 at Stephensburg Lakes, *Hardin*, 16 April (BP); 14 at the Sinclair Unit 16 April (EHa) with 8 there 2 May (EHa); 2 at Long Point (BP, EHu) and 6 at Clear Creek WMA (EHa), both 17 April; 2 at the Ken Unit 24 April (EHa); 4 along Little Cypress Creek, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*, 25 April (JSo); ca. 12 at Sauerheber and 15-20 at Camp #11, both 29 April (BP, EHu); 12 at Clear Creek WMA 1 May (EHa); and 1 se. of Mt. Zion,

Allen, 11 May (JBy, MBy). Singles at Sauerheber 17 May (CC) and at the Sinclair Unit 21 May (EHa) were the latest to be reported.

Common Gallinule – there were four reports: 1 along Little Cypress Creek, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*, 23 March into early April (TG, SG, et al.); 6 (3 seen, 3 heard) at the Sinclair Unit 2 May (ph. EHa); 1 at Sauerheber, 14 May (MMr *fide* EHa); and 2 at Minor Clark 25-26 May (MWr et al.).

American Coot – 300 were at Sauerheber 15 March (CC); 20-25 were at both McElroy Lake and Morgan Pond 10 May (BP, EHu), but an increase in numbers at McElroy Lake to 250-300 on 13/16 May (TD et al.) and to ca. 125 at Morgan Pond 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) and 150 there 19 May (C&SRo) indicated that many pass through much later than the normal peak during early April. Lingering birds included 1 at Open Pond 21 May (RD, HC); 35-40 at Morgan Pond and ca. 50 at McElroy Lake, both 22 May (BP, EHu); 2 at Minor Clark 25-26 May (MWr et al.); and 25-30 still at McElroy Lake 31 May (BP, MYa, TD).

Sandhill Crane – 6 in w. *Hopkins* 23 March (BP, DL, et al.); 8 over Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 23 March (SWa); 6 over Bernheim Forest 28 March (BF, BBC); and 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) were the latest to be reported.

Black-bellied Plover – 1 at Sand Slough 13 April (BP, BBC) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 9 w. of Miller, *Fulton*, 1 May (BP, EHu) with 8 there 2 May (BP, EHu); 1 at McElroy Lake 9 May (JSo) with 4-5 there 10-13 May (TD et al.) and peak counts of 10 there 14 May (JSo) and 9 there 16 May (BP, EHu, SK); 3 at Sauerheber 12 May (BP, EHu); 4 at Walton Pond 16 May (BP, EHu, SK); 11 at the KY 739 Pond 18 May (FL) with 5 there 22 May (FL); 4 at Morgan Pond 18 May (BP, EHu) with 3 there 19 May (C&SRo), 2 there 21 May (BL, C&SRo), and 1 there 22 May (BP,

EHu); and 1 at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EHu).

American Golden-Plover – 25 at McElroy Lake 21 March (EHu, BP), 25-30 in w. *Hopkins* 23 March (BP, ASK); and 39 at Open Pond 23 March (BY, MYa) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 600+ adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP) with ca. 300 still there 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo); 18 at Spindletop Farm 8 April (DL) with 12 still there 10 April (JSw); 34 at McElroy Lake 12 April (RD); at least 3 at Sand Slough 13 April (BP, BBC); ca. 100 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms and 20 adjacent to Obion WMA, all 17 April (BP, EHu); and 1 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BP, EHu).

Semipalmated Plover – 1 at Sand Slough 13 April (BP, BBC) was the earliest to be reported; not numerous this spring with 38 at McElroy Lake 14 May (JSo) and 52 still there 31 May (BP, MYa, TD), 32 in w. *Henderson* 15 May (JSo); 19 at the KY 739 Pond 17 May (FL); and 21 at Morgan Pond 19 May (BL) representing very modest peak counts.

Black-necked Stilt – 3 at Obion WMA 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 2 at Ballard WMA 8/18 April (GBu); 2 at Sauerheber 8/12 April (CC); 3 at the KY 739 Pond 24 May (ph. FL); 3 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 17/19 April (EHu, BP/HC); 2 at Mud Creek 2 May (EHu, BP); 1 at Morgan Pond 1 May (BP, EHu) with 3 there 3 May (BP, EHu); at least 7 (including 3 pairs) at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EHu); and 2 first noted at McElroy Lake 23 May (TD) with 2 pair on nests there 31 May (TD, MYa, BP). In the Lower Hickman Bottoms, small numbers were present at various locations from mid-April through May with 2 pairs including a pair incubating along KY 94 n. of Miller, *Fulton*, 12 with 2 incubating at Open Pond, and 5 e. of Open Pond, all 25 May (BP, EHu, CBs, LM).

American Avocet – it was an excellent season with seven reports: 18 on Ky Lake off

Sherwood Shores, *Marshall*, 23 April (BP, EHu); 21 at Ky Dam Village 28 April (BL, ph. BM) with 13 there 10 May (ph. MYa, BY, JSo); 1 at the Camp #9 coal preparation plant, *Union*, 29 April (EHu, BP); 18 at Calvert City 1 May (ph. BP, EHu); 1 at McElroy Lake 11 May (SK, JK, RD); and 2 at Morgan Pond 21 May (C&SRo).

Spotted Sandpiper – singles on the Ohio River at Louisville (BP, AC) and at Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison* (JPK), both 7 April; at Pumphouse Pond 10 April (RD); and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported. One lingered at Sauerheber to 29 May (CC).

Solitary Sandpiper – singles at Long Point (JSo) and sw. of Sassafras Ridge, *Fulton*, 31 March (JSo, MSt, BP) were the earliest to be reported.

Greater Yellowlegs – peak counts included 100+ adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP); at least 75 at Sauerheber 29 March (KM); and 75-100 adjacent to Obion WMA 17 April (BP, EHu).

Willet – there were six reports: 2 adjacent to Obion WMA 17 April (BP, EHu); 1 at Mud Creek 23 April (JSo); at least 40 at Minor Clark 27 April (MWr); 1 at McElroy Lake 10-31 May (TD et al.) with 2 there 9 May (JSo); and 53 at Ky Dam Village 10 May (ph. MYa, BY, JSo).

Lesser Yellowlegs – local peak counts included 250-300+ adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP) with 300-350 there 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo); 40-50 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); ca. 200 adjacent to Obion WMA 17 April (BP, EHu); at least 80 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BP, EHu) with at least 120 there 29 April (BL, BM); 330+ in w. *Henderson* 29 April (BP, EHu); 123 counted at Sauerheber 2 May (KM); 130+ at McElroy Lake 3 May (BP, EHu, TD); at least 48 at Melco 9 May (MA); and 100-125 at McElroy Lake and 35-40 at Morgan Pond, both 10 May (BP, EHu).

Whimbrel – there were two reports: 1 at Ky Bend 19 May (ph. BP, ph. EHu) and 1 at

McElroy Lake 22 May (ph. EHu, ph. BP). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – there were reports from four locales: 11 at Morgan Pond 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) with 3 there 18/19 May (BP, EHu/BL) and 1 there 22 May (BP, EHu); 1 at the KY 739 Pond 18 May (ph. FL); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 21 May (EHu); and 1 at McElroy Lake 22 May (BP, EHu).

Sanderling – there were reports from three locales: 2 at McElroy Lake 3 May (BP, EHu, TD) with 3 there 5 May (JSo) and 1 still there 9 May (JSo); 3 at Morgan Pond 18 May (BP, EHu) with 2 there 19 May (BL), 5 there 21 May (BL, C&SRo), and 1 last seen there 22 May (BP, EHu); and 1 at the KY 739 Pond 21 May (ph. FL).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 5 at Sauerheber 2 May (KM) and 2 at McElroy Lake 5 May (BP, EHu, JSo, TD, BY, MYa) were the earliest to be reported; local peak counts included ca. 100 at Melco 20 May (BP); 500-600 at McElroy Lake, ca. 75 at Walton Pond, and 450-500 at Morgan Pond, all 22 May (BP, EHu); 50 at Pumphouse Pond 23 May (RD); ca. 200 at the KY 739 Pond 24 May (FL); at least 215 at Morgan Pond 25 May (BP, EHu); ca. 500 still at McElroy Lake 27 May (TD) with ca. 50 still there 31 May (BP, MYa, TD); and 75 adjacent to the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 29 May (CC).

Western Sandpiper – there were two reports: 1 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EHu) and 1 at Long Point 30 April (BL, BM).

Least Sandpiper – 5 at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart* (JSo), and 6 at Sauerheber (BL), both 3 March, were early; peak counts included 60 at Morgan Pond 29 April (BL, BM); ca. 50 at McElroy Lake 3 May (BP, EHu, TD); ca. 100 at McElroy Lake and at least 400 at Morgan Pond, both 10 May (BP, EHu); 200 at McElroy Lake 11 May (RD, SK, JK); and ca. 100 at McElroy Lake and 100+ at Morgan Pond, both 16 May (BP, EHu, SK); numbers subsequently diminished to 10-15 at Morgan Pond and less than 10 at McElroy Lake, both 22 May (BP, EHu).

White-rumped Sandpiper – 1 at McElroy Lake 3 May (BP, EH, TD) was the earliest to be reported; 2-5 continued at McElroy Lake into mid-May (m. ob.) with modest peak counts of 12-15 there 22 May (BP, EH) and at least 12 there 27 May (TD), and 5 still there 31 May (BP, MYa, TD). Other reports of interest included 3 at Sauerheber 12 May (BP, EH); 1 at Jacobson Park 13 May (RO); and 3 at Morgan Pond 16/18 May (BP, EH) with at least 30 there 22 May (BP, EH) and 1 still there 25 May (BP, EH).

Pectoral Sandpiper – reports of interest included 12 at Sauerheber by 3 March (BL) with ca. 50 there 16 March (BP et al.); 1 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 9 March (RD); 155 in w. *Fulton*, 23 March (RD); 60+ at McElroy Lake 21 March (BP, EH); ca. 200 in w. *Hopkins* 23 March (BP et al.); 350-400 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 27 March (BP); 1500-2000 adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP) with 350-400 still there 31 March (BP, MSt, JSo); and at least 150 at McElroy Lake 28 March (TD).

Dunlin – 3 continuing from winter were at Sauerheber 3 March (BL) with 9 there 16 March (BP et al.); next earliest were singles adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP) and at Chaney Lake 10 April (BP). Other reports of interest (including very modest peak counts) included: 1 w. of Cecilia, *Hardin*, 16 April (BP, EH); 5 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 April (JBy, MBy); 6 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EH); 15-20 at McElroy Lake and 16 at Walton Pond, both 10 May (BP, EH); 30 at Sauerheber 17 May (CC); 35 at Morgan Pond 18 May (BP, EH); 65 n. of Midway Church, *Fulton*, 19 May (BP, EH); 50 at Morgan Pond 21 May (BL); and 5 at Sauerheber 23 May (CC).

Stilt Sandpiper – there were reports from eight locales: 2 w. of Miller, *Fulton*, 25 April (SRe) with 4 there 1 May (EH, BP) and 9 there 2 May (EH, BP); 3 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EH); 1 at McElroy Lake 3 May (BP, EH, TD) with 2 there 5/14 May (BP, EH, JSo, TD, BY, MYa/JSo), 10+ there 10 May (BP, EH), and 7

there 22 May (BP, EH); 1 near Lake No. 9 on 4 May (BY, MYa); 3 at Morgan Pond 10 May (BP, EH) with 1 there 16-21 May (BP, EH, SK, BL); 1 at Calvert City 11 May (BP, EH); 1 at the KY 739 Pond 11 May (FL) with 8 there 18/22 May (ph. FL) and 1 still there 24 May (ph. FL); and 4 at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EH).

Short-billed Dowitcher – there were reports from five locales: 4 at Mud Creek 30 April (BL, BM); 9 at Sauerheber 2 May (KM) with 4 there 14 May (JSo); most of 40-45 dowitchers at McElroy Lake 10 May (BP, EH, TD) with at least 12 there 11 May (RD), 4 there 16 May (BP, EH, SK), and 26 there 18 May (MBy, JBy, TBr, JBk, et al.); 1 at KY 739 Pond 11 May (FL) with at least a few there 18 May (FL); and 1 at Morgan Pond 21 May (BL). Also, 12 dowitcher sp. at McElroy Lake 14 May (JSo) were likely Short-billed by date.

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1 heard adjacent to Obion WMA 28 March (BP), a flock of 25 (call notes heard) in flight over the Lower Hickman Bottoms 31 March (RL), and 1 at Sauerheber 2 April (KM) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 8 adjacent to Obion WMA, 22 w. of Miller, *Fulton*, and 5 at Open Pond, all 17 April (BP, EH); 19 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BP, EH) with 4 there 25 April (BL); 52 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EH) with 20 still there 30 April (CC); 19 at Mud Creek 30 April (BL, BM); 4 at McElroy Lake 2 May (TD) with 11 there 9 May (JSo), 5-10 there 10 May (BP, EH), and 2 last seen there 13 May (BP, EH, TD); 5 near Open Pond 4 May (MYa, BY); 1 at Melco 5 May (BP) with 4 there 9 May (BP, MA); and 16 at Walton Pond 10 May (BP, EH). Also, 22 dowitcher sp. at Sauerheber 26 April (KM) were likely Long-billed by date.

Wilson's Snipe – local peak counts included at least 60 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 13 March (TD); 160 at Mud Creek and 50 at Open Pond, both 23 March (RD); “hundreds” in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 23

March (BY, MYa); at least 50 at Sauerheber 30 March (CC); ca. 50 at Chaney Lake 10 April (BP, EHu); and 50+ at Long Point 17 April (BP, EHu).

Wilson's Phalarope – there were reports from seven locales: 4 at Long Point 19 April (HC); 1 at Walton Pond 21 April (BP, EHu); 4 w. of Miller, *Fulton*, 25 April (SRe); 5 at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EHu) with 2 still there 30 April (CC); 1 at Morgan Pond 10 May (BP, EHu); 7 at McElroy Lake 10/11 May (BP, EHu, TD/RD) with 2 still there 13 May (BP, EHu, TD); 3 at Sauerheber 12 May (BP, EHu) with 1 still there 13/15 May (CC/JSo); 1 at Middleton, *Simpson*, 15 May (DT, KT); and a relatively tardy male at Morgan Pond 21 May (BL).

Red-necked Phalarope – there were reports from three locales: 2 females at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville, 4-6 May (ph. ALi, et al.) with 1 still there 7 May (ph. EHu); a female at McElroy Lake (MBy, JBy, TBr, JbK, et al.) and 3 (2 females and a male) at Morgan Pond (BP, EHu), both 18 May; and 1 at Morgan Pond 21 May (BL, C&SRo).

Red Phalarope – 2 at Melco 8 May (JBe, PB, CBs, RL, ph. EHu, et al.) represented a first ever for the state during spring. KBRC review required.

Bonaparte's Gull – reports of interest included at least 2500 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu); at least 60 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 18 March (BP); at least 65 still on Lake Barkley above the dam 24 April (BP, EHu); 11 first-year birds on Ky Lake above the dam 2 May (BP, EHu); and a first-year bird at McElroy Lake 16 May (BP, EHu, SK).

Laughing Gull – an ad. at Ky Dam Village 24 April (BP, EHu) was the only one reported.

Franklin's Gull – there was only one report: 2 near Open Pond 27 March (ph. BP) with perhaps the same 2 at Open Pond 28 March (ph. BP).

California Gull – an adult was present at Kuttawa 1-2 March (BP, EHu, BWu, MA)

with likely the same bird at Lick Creek 7 March (ph. BP, ph. EHu). KBRC review required.

Herring Gull – reports of interest included ca. 125 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 1 March (BP, EHu, BWu), with at least 70 still there 23 April (BP, EHu) and ca. 20 still there 1 May (BP, EHu); and 1 at Jacobson Park 11 May (DL, ASK).

Thayer's Gull – there were two reports: a first-year bird at Ky Dam 1/8 March (BP, EHu, BWu/BP, ph. EHu) and an ad. at Barkley Dam 22 March (†RD); also reported was a first-year Thayer's Gull or Thayer's Gull/Iceland Gull intergrade at Ky Dam Village 18 April (†BP, EHu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – several birds continued in the vicinity of Lake Barkley and Ky Lake from winter; reports of interest included 3 birds (ad., first-year, third-year) at Lick Creek 7 March (ph. BP, ph. EHu) with 4 more birds (ad., 2 second-year, 1 first-year) on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 7 March (BP, EHu); 1 at Kuttawa 20 March (JSo) and 22 March (RD); an adult at Freeman Lake 31 March (RH); a second-year bird at Ky Dam Village 18 April (BP, EHu); a first-year bird at Ky Dam Village 23 April (BP, EHu) with 3 (ad., second-year, first-year) there 24 April (BP, EHu); an ad. there 28 April (BL, BM); and an ad. and a first-year bird at Ky Dam Village 1 May (BP, EHu); and a first- or second-year bird there 3 May (BP, EHu).

Great Black-backed Gull – a first-year bird was present at Ky Dam 8 March (ph. EHu, ph. BP). KBRC review required.

Caspian Tern – 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 2 April (MA) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 6 at Jacobson Park 12 April (DL); 1 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 14 April (LM); a modest peak count of 7 at the Falls of the Ohio 14 April (BP); 2 at Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*, and 2 at the Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, both 17 April (RD); 1 at Minor Clark 28 April (DL); 12 still at Ky Dam Village 18 May (BP, EHu); 1 at Morgan Pond 21 May

(C&SRo); and 3 at Barren River Lake 25 May (JBy, MBy).



Great Black-backed Gull, Kentucky Dam
8 March 2013
Eddie Huber

Black Tern – there were reports from five locales: 20 at McElroy Lake (TD, BP, EHu) and 4 at Morgan Pond (BP, EHu), both 10 May; 30 over Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (BP, EHu); 1 at Melco 11 May (BY, MYa); 5 at McElroy Lake 16 May (BP, EHu, SK) with an impressive tally of 85 there 17 May (TD) and 29 there 22 May (BP, EHu); 10 at Morgan Pond 21 May (C&SRo, BL) with 8 there 22 May (EHu, BP); and 1 at the KY 739 Pond 22 May (FL).

Common Tern – there were three reports: 25 at Ky Dam Village 10 May (ph. MYa, BY, JSo) with at least 10 over Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (EHu, BP); and 1 at McElroy Lake 18 May (JBy, MBy, JBk, AB, TBr).

Forster's Tern – reports of interest included 2 at Kuttawa 2 March (BWu, EHu, BP) with 3 at Lick Creek 7 March (BP, EHu); 26 continuing from the winter season at Blood River 8 March (HC); ca. 60 in the vicinity of Barkley Dam 23 April (BP, EHu); 2 below Greenup Dam on the Ohio River, *Greenup*, 27 April (BP, KOS); 1 at Minor Clark 28 April (BWu, KOS); 1 at McElroy Lake 5 May (JSo); 2 at Jacobson Park 12 May (IF) with 1 there 13 May (RO); 2 at the KY 739 Pond (FL) and 1 at Morgan Pond (EHu, BP), both 22 May; and 5 at Barren River Lake 25 May (JBy, MBy).

White-winged Dove – 1 was at Henderson, *Henderson*, 12 May (ph. CC et al.). KBRC review required.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – singles at Cherokee Park 25 April (AM) and at Sauerheber 26 April (KM) were the earliest to be reported; overall, the species came in relatively late and was relatively inconspicuous, although at least 11 were heard (nocturnal flight calls) over Surrey Hills Farm 15 May (BP).

Black-billed Cuckoo – there were more than a dozen reports, all being included: 1 near Taylorsville Lake, *Anderson*, 23 April (PG); singles heard at Cherokee Park 27 April/9 May (RL, RBo/RL et al.); 1 sw. of Hickory Grove, *Anderson*, 30 April & 7/13 May (PG); 1 nw. of Hickory Grove, *Anderson*, 1 May (PG); singles on the Anchorage Trail 2/7 May (JBe, PB); 1 at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 4 May (DL, ASK); 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 6 May (RD); 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 7 May (BL); 1 at Cherokee Park 9 May (SWa, MK); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 13 May (BL); 1 (possibly as many as 3-4) heard (nocturnal flight calls) over Surrey Hills Farm 15 May (BP); and singles at Iroquois Park 20/26 May (JCI/MA).

Barn Owl – there were three reports: a resident pair in *Nelson* through the season (TH); 2 at Camp #11 on 16 March (MSt, EHu, CC, BY, MYa) with 1 still there 5 April (BP); and 1 heard at Surrey Hills Farm 15 May (BP).

Long-eared Owl – there was one report: 3 at the Wendell Ford Regional Training Center, *Muhlenberg*, 23 March (BP, ph. DL, et al.).

Short-eared Owl – there were reports from five locales: 4 adjacent to Clear Creek WMA 2 March (EHu, BWu, BP); 6 along Horntown Road, e. *Grayson*, 3 March (SK, JKi, SS) with 3 there 8 March (JKi, SK); 4 at the Sinclair Unit 3 March (BL) with a peak of 17 there 8 March (P&SF, KD), 5 there 9/19 March (MA/JSo), and 4 last reported there 20 March (P&SF); at least 12 at Camp #11 on 16 March (EHu, MSt, CC, BY, MYa) with at least 2 still



Cinnamon Teal, *Fayette*
29 March 2013
David Lang



Glossy Ibis, *Rowan*
28 April 2013
David Lang



Red-necked Phalaropes, *Jefferson*
4 May 2013
Amy Lint



California Gull, *Lyon*
7 March 2013
Eddie Huber



Whimbrel, *Fulton*
19 May 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Western Grebe, *Jefferson*
15 March 2013
Eddie Huber



White-faced Ibis, *Trigg*
24 May 2013
Mel Cunningham



Anhinga, *Muhlenberg*
11 May 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



White-winged Dove, *Henderson*
12 May 2013
Charlie Crawford



Red Phalaropes, *Jefferson*
8 May 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



American Avocets (13), *Marshall*
10 May 2013
Mary Yandell



Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Fulton*
30 April 2013
Bobby Metz

there 5 April (BP); and 1 along Elkhorn Creek s. of Stamping Ground, *Scott*, 6 April (JSO).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – there were two reports of birds heard calling: 1 se. of Foster, *Bracken*, 9 March (†TyF, TrF, et al.) and 1 along Roy Hunter Road w. of Cave City, *Barren*, 2 April (C&ROI, *fide* SK). A bird banded at Surrey Hills Farm during November 2012 was recaptured at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Michigan, 15 April (NM, CN).

Chuck-will's-widow – 1 calling along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 17 April (BL) was the earliest to be reported.

Chimney Swift – 1 over Cherokee Park 2 April (SWa) was the earliest to be reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 7 April (RD) was the earliest to be reported.

Rufous Hummingbird – several birds continued from winter as follows: the adult female that wintered s. of Glasgow, *Barren*, was last seen 6 April (L&RY); the adult female that wintered in *Hart* was last seen 6 April (MSg); the female that wintered at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, was last seen 30 March (RD); the imm. female that wintered at South Williamson, *Pike*, was last seen 19 April (JCa, LE); and an imm. male that had been present at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, all fall/winter was last seen 9 April (A&DLa). A presumed spring migrant, the first such ever reported in the state, was present s. of Glasgow, *Barren*, 18-20 April (ph. L&RY).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1 e. of Marion, *Crittenden*, 8 May (MTa) was tardy.

Merlin – there were only five reports: 1 at the Sinclair Unit 9 March (MA); 1 ne. of Independence, *Kenton*, 14 March (GD); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 20/23 March (ph. PS/ph. AM); 1 at Schochoh, *Logan*, 24 March (ph. ST); and 1 at WKU Woods, *Warren*, 16 April (TD).

Peregrine Falcon – there were at least 10 reports of birds away from known breeding areas: 1 sw. of Middletown, *Jefferson*,

11 March–23 April (MMn, MYa, et al.); 1 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); 1 at Figgett Bend on the Green River, *Hart*, 15 April (JSO); 1 at Long Point 17 April (BP, EHu); 1 seen migrating over Melco 17 April (MYa) with another there 22/26 April (EHu); 1 at Horseshoe Road (BP, EHu) and 1 at Morgan Pond (BL, BM), both 29 April; 1 at McElroy Lake 10 May (BP, EHu, TD) and 11 May (RD); 1 over the Lexington Cemetery 13 May (JSO); and 1 at Sauerheber 15 May (JSO).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – there were twelve reports: singles heard at Figgett Bend, *Hart* (JSO), and seen at Cave Hill Cemetery (CBe), both 2 May; 1 along the Barren River se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10/11 May (MBy/MBr, SB); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 13 May (BL) and 19 May (BP, EHu); 1 at Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary, *Woodford*, 14 May (ph. NF); 1 at Natural Arch, DBNF, *McCreary*, 15 May (EM et al.); singles at Cherokee Park (ph. BP et al.) and ne. of Cave City, *Hart* (JL), both 17 May; 1 at Cherokee Park 19 May (CBs, ph. JSO, BBC); 1 at Doug Travis WMA, *Carlisle*, 22 May (RD, HC); and 2 at Iroquois Park 26 May (MA).



Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Woodford*
14 May 2013
Nathan Farnau

Eastern Wood-Pewee – 1 heard along Beaver Creek, *Menifee*, 13 April (†BWu) was extraordinarily early; next earliest were singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 April (MBy) and in LBL, *Trigg*, 20 April (AY).

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were only four reports: singles heard calling at Cherokee Park (RL, RBo, SWa, MK) and heard calling in LBL, *Lyon* (BP, EHu), both 11 May; 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 13 May (BL); and 1 heard calling at Surrey Hills Farm 24 May (BP).
- Acadian Flycatcher** – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 16 April (JPo) was the earliest to be reported.
- Alder Flycatcher** – there were seven reports: singles were seen and heard in LBL, *Trigg*, 19/20 May (BP, EHu/BL); singles at Douglas Hills, *Jefferson*, 19/24 May (MMn); 2 along Running Slough Road, *Fulton*, 21 May (HC, RD); 2 heard at Sauerheber 25 May (JM); and 1 heard singing at Surrey Hills Farm 24 May (BP).
- Say's Phoebe** – the wintering bird along Independence Church Road, ne. of Almo, *Calloway*, was last seen 4/7 March (HC/BL).
- Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles heard at Green River WMA, *Adair*, 11 April (RD) and seen at Sauerheber 15 April (CC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Kingbird** – singles at Bernheim Forest 9 April (DSt) and in LBL, *Trigg*, 10 April (BL) were the earliest to be reported.
- Northern Shrike** – an ad. was present on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 23 March (ph./† BP, ph. SWd, DL, MTo, JSw, JN). A shrike sp. at Sinclair 8 March (P&SF, KD) may have been the previously reported Northern at that locale. KBRC review required.
- Bell's Vireo** – 2 singing birds had returned to nw. of Sauerheber 9 May (JM).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 7 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.
- Blue-headed Vireo** – singles at Little Lick and at the Bee Rock Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, both 16 March (RD) were the earliest to be reported; 1 singing at Cherokee Park (BP) and 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott* (DL), both 13 May, and 2 at the Lexington Cemetery (DL) and 2 at Cherokee Park (BWo et al.), both 14 May, were all rather tardy migrants.
- Tree Swallow** – at least 3000 and possibly 5000 were at Camp #11 on 12 April (BP, EHu).
- No. Rough-winged Swallow** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 13 March (MBy) represented an early spring arrival date for the state by one day; next earliest were 2 at Blood River 18 March (HC).
- Bank Swallow** – 1 over Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC) was the earliest to be reported.
- Barn Swallow** – singles at Blood River 13 March (HC) and at Pumphouse Pond 20 March (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – small numbers lingered at wintering sites into April; latest migrants included 1 at Lake Cumberland SRP, *Russell*, 7 May (RD); 1 at Boone County Cliffs SNP 8 May (HW); 1 at Little Lick 9 May (RD); 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 11 May (BP, EHu); and 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 14 May (†DL).
- Brown-headed Nuthatch** – the pair at the Ky Sheriff's Ranch continued through the spring season with an active nest (a state-first) located there 21 April (ph. FR). See Field Note, p. 82.
- Brown Creeper** – 1 at the University of Kentucky Arboretum, Lexington, 20 April (DL, ASK) was rather tardy.
- Bewick's Wren** – 1 was heard at WKU Woods, *Warren*, 16 April (†TD).
- Sedge Wren** – there were four reports: 2 at Camp #11 on 29 April (BP, EHu); 1 heard near Lake No. 9 on 1 May (BP, EHu); 3 heard in wheat fields at Ky Bend 19 May (BP, EHu); and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 26 May (BP).
- Marsh Wren** – there were five reports: 2 along Little Cypress Creek, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*, 5 April (BP); 1 singing e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 16 April (BP, EHu); and 1 at Sauerheber (CC), 2 at Camp #11 (BP, EHu), and 1 at the Sinclair Unit (BL), all 29 April.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – 1 lingered at Lexington to 21 May (DCh).

- Veery** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 20 April (JBy, MBy) and at John James Audubon SP 24 April (KM) were the earliest to be reported.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush** – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 April (JBy, MBy) and singles at the Cape Hills Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson* (CC), and at John James Audubon SP (KM), both 21 April, were the earliest to be reported. One at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 25 May (ba. HC) was the latest to be reported.
- Swainson's Thrush** – singles at Shawnee Park, Louisville, 16 April (†AM) and at Cherokee Park 17 April (†BWo) were the earliest to be reported.
- Hermit Thrush** – 1 at Boone County Cliffs SNP 10 May (†TyF, R&BMc) was tardy.
- Wood Thrush** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.
- Gray Catbird** – singles in *Harrison* 10 April (MH) and *Adair* 11 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- American Pipit** – local peak counts included 85 at Surrey Hills Farm 1 April (BP) and “hundreds” at McElroy Lake 30 March (SK, JKi) with at least 100 there 10 April (BP, EHu) and ca. 30 still there 9 May (JSo). Twenty along the Ohio River at Hebron, *Boone*, 12 May (LM) and singles along Vance Road, *Warren*, 13 May (BP, EHu) and at McElroy Lake 18 May (JBy, MBy, et al.) were the latest to be reported.
- Cedar Waxwing** – as has become the norm, numbers increased significantly during the second week of May, especially in west Kentucky.
- Lapland Longspur** – a few were still present at McElroy Lake 21 March (BP, EHu) with a couple of individual birds heard in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 March (BP).
- Worm-eating Warbler** – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 8 April (AY) was the earliest to be reported.
- Northern Waterthrush** – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 14 April (†ST, DT, KT) was extraordinarily early; next earliest was 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 April (JBy, MBy).
- Golden-winged Warbler** – there were seven reports: singles in LBL, *Trigg*, 27 April (BM), 6 May (BL) and 13 May (BL) with 5 in LBL, *Lyon*, 11 May (BP, EHu); 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 12 May (LM); and singles at the Lexington Cemetery (JSo) and at Sauerheber (CC), both 13 May;
- Lawrence's Warbler** – 1 was reported at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, 30 April (†LT).
- Black-and-white Warbler** – 2 in LBL, *Trigg*, 20 March (BL) were the earliest to be reported.
- Swainson's Warbler** – singles at Laurel Gorge WMA, *Elliott*, and along Binion Ford Road, *Elliott*, both 30 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported; 1 along Running Slough Road, w. *Fulton*, 21 May (HC, RD) was the first to be reported in *Fulton* in many years.
- Tennessee Warbler** – singles at two locales in LBL, *Trigg*, 17 April (BL) were the earliest to be reported; 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 27 May (BP) was the latest to be reported.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** – it was an extraordinary season for the species with reports from more than a dozen locales: 1 on the Anchorage Trail 9/15 April (JBe, PB, JG/JBe, PB); 1-2 in LBL, *Trigg*, on several dates 12 April–6 May (BL et al.) with 4 there 26/27 April (BL/BL, BM) and an extraordinary tally of at least 8 in LBL, *Trigg/Lyon*, 24 April (BL, EHu, BP); 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 17 April (JBy, MBy); singles at Cave Hill Cemetery (BJ, BBC), at John James Audubon SP (SWt et al.), and at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union* (KM), all 20 April; singles at Sauerheber (ph. CC) and at Carter Caves SRP, *Carter* (JKe), both 21 April; 1 along Helm School Road se. of Lebanon, *Marion*, 23 April (JKe); singles at Blackacre SNP, *Jefferson* (MA, BBC), and at John James Audubon SP (KM), both 27 April; 1 at Freeman Lake 28 April (BF, BBC); singles at McConnell

Springs, *Fayette*, and at Jacobson Park, both 29 April (JSw); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 30 April (C>); and 1 at Cherokee Park 2/7 May (TBe, CBe/RL).

Nashville Warbler – 1 at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 7 April (KC) was the earliest to be reported.

Connecticut Warbler – there were seven reports: 1 heard at Cherokee Park 10 May (RL) with 1 seen/heard there 13-14 May (BP, MWa, et al.); 1 heard singing in LBL, *Trigg*, 15 May (BL); 1 heard singing at Surrey Hills Farm 16 May (BP); 2 heard (1 seen) in LBL, *Trigg*, 19 May (BP, EHu); 1 at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, 20 May (LT); and 1 at Sauerheber 23 May (ph. CC).

Mourning Warbler – there were ten reports: 1 in w. *Franklin* 7 May (JSO); singles in LBL, *Trigg*, 13 May (BL) and 19 May (BP, EHu); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 14 May (AH); 1 at Sauerheber 17 May (CC); 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 19 May (RD); singles at Surrey Hills Farm (BP) and in e. *Daviess* (MTh), both 24 May; 1 at the Jenny Hole Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 25 May (JM); and 1 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 26 May (RD).

Common Yellowthroat – a female at Sauerheber 30 March (ES, DCo) may have been continuing from winter or a very early spring migrant.

Hooded Warbler – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 8 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.

American Redstart – 1 at Berea, *Madison*, 9 April (†RF, RBa) was the earliest to be reported.

Cape May Warbler – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 April (JBy, MBy) tied the early spring arrival date for the state.

Blackburnian Warbler – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 26 May (JBy, MBy) was the latest to be reported.

Yellow Warbler – 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 4 April (BL) was relatively early.

Blackpoll Warbler – singles at Lexington (C>) and in LBL, *Trigg* (BL), both 17 April, and 1 near Ky Dam Village 18 April (BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – reports of migrants from central and w. Kentucky included males at the Lexington Cemetery 30 April (JBe, PB, et al.) and 12 May (SMa et al.); a male in LBL, *Lyon*, 3 May (BP, EHu, BL, BM); a male at Cherokee Park 13 May (BP, RL); and a female at the Lexington Cemetery 18 May (DL, ASK).

Palm Warbler – 4 in the Vernon Bottoms, e. *Monroe*, 1 March (MBy) were certainly lingering from winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – singles at Cherokee Park 16 May (SWa, MK, RBo) and at the Lexington Cemetery 18 May (DL, ASK) were relatively late. One in LBL, *Trigg*, 20 May (BL) represented a new late spring departure date for the state by a day.

Yellow-breasted Chat – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.

Bachman's Sparrow – as is the norm, the only ones reported were 4 from the traditional breeding areas on Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 29 April (2)/6 May (2) (DM).

American Tree Sparrow – a few at Sauerheber 5 April (CC) were the latest to be reported.

Lark Sparrow – there were reports from seven locales: 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 15 April (BL); 1 at the KY 739 Pond, *Logan*, 15 April (FL); 1 s. of Ragland, w. *McCracken*, 24 April (SRe); 1 se. of Salvisa, *Mercer*, 27 April (JBr); 4 along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 29 April (ph. EHu, BP) and into May (RD, CC); 4 different birds on Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 29 April (1)/6 May (2)/23 May (1) (DM); and 1 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 3 May (SK, JKi).

Grasshopper Sparrow – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 15 April (BP) was the earliest to be reported.

Le Conte's Sparrow – there were two reports: at least 8 at the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 23 March (BP, ph. DL, et al.) and ca. 6 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC).

Nelson's Sparrow – the bird that was discovered at Surrey Hills Farm 16 December was relocated 14 April (ph. BP) and lingered to 19 April (BP, ph. EHu).

Fox Sparrow – a tally of 10-12 at the Lexington Cemetery 26 March (BP, EHu) were likely migrants as none had been seen there earlier in the month.

White-throated Sparrow – 4-5 were still on the Anchorage Trail 12 May (BP); singles seen at the Lexington Cemetery 18 May (DL, ASK) and heard at the Savage Branch Preserve, *Boyd*, 22 May (CT) were the latest to be reported.

White-crowned Sparrow – 1 at the Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 15 May (CC) was the latest to be reported.

Summer Tanager – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 9 April (MBy, MkB) was the earliest to be reported.

Western Tanager – quite remarkably, there were two separate reports: a male coming to feeders in a yard s. of Lawrenceburg, *Anderson*, 27-29 March (ph./vt. BS); and a male at the Lexington Cemetery 29 April (ph. TN, ph. DL). KBRC review required.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1 sw. of Fishersville, *Jefferson*, 11 April (JHu, EHu) was the earliest to be reported.

Indigo Bunting – singles at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 10 April (HC) and se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.

Dickcissel – 1 n. of Lake No. 9 on 17 April (BP, EHu) was the earliest to be reported.

Bobolink – singles w. of Cecilia, *Hardin*, 19 April (BP, EHu) and at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 21 April (BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported; local peak counts of interest included ca. 450 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 30 April (BL, BM); at least 100 e. of Whaynes Corner, *Hickman*, 2 May (BP, EHu); and at least 75 at the

WKU Farm, *Warren*, 11 May (RD). At least 10 at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, *Jessamine*, lingered to 29 May and appeared to be on territory (AE, JSw); at least several birds also appeared to be on territory at Spindletop Farm during May (TN, DL, MTo, BP, et al.).

Western Meadowlark – there were reports from six locales: at least 3 se. of Needmore, *Ballard*, 8 March (vr. BP, EHu); 1 at McElroy Lake 21 March (ph. BP, EHu); 1 heard singing se. of Open Pond 27 March (BP); 4 e. of Lake No. 9 and 1 heard singing at Ky Bend, both 28 March (BP); and 3 males singing as if on territory between Hickman and Cayce, *Fulton*, 28 March (BP) with at least 2 still there 31 March (BP MSt), 1 still singing there 17 April (BP, EHu), and a pair with a female incubating 2/4 May (ph. BP, EHu/BY, MYa); unfortunately the nest was found destroyed by farming activities 19 May (BP, EHu).



Western Meadowlark, *Warren*
21 March 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Yellow-headed Blackbird – a female was present along Elbow Slough, w. *Fulton*, 30 April (BL, ph. BM). KBRC review required.

Rusty Blackbird – reports of interest included ca. 150 at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 3 March (JSo); ca. 250 at Sauerheber 3 March (BL) and 30 March (ES, DCo); at least 80 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); and a male

still singing at Sauerheber 29 April (BP, EHu).

Brewer's Blackbird – a new state high count of at least 350 (probably 500 or more) was tallied along Frostburg Road, w. *Hopkins*, 23 March (BP, DL, JSw, JN) with at least 75 still there 5 April (BP); also reported were at least 3 at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 3 March (JSo) with 1 still there 4 April (JSo); and at least 85 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 27 March (BP) with 20-25 still there 28 March (BP).

Baltimore Oriole – 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 17 April (BL) was the earliest to be reported.

Purple Finch – reports of interest included 26 at Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison*, 8 April (RF, RBa); more than 30 still present w. of Frankfort, *Franklin*, 20 April (JBr); 45-50 at Eastpark Industrial Park, *Boyd*, 27 April (BP, KOS); 2 at Berea, *Madison*, to 7 May (GBo); 2 in the Red River Gorge, *Menifee*, 7 May (SMc); and 1 at Rock Bridge, *Wolfe*, 8 May (BP, JD).

Red Crossbill – following the presence of birds at a few locales during the winter season, the species remained locally distributed through the early spring with all reports included: 4 at Cave Hill Cemetery 20 March (BP); 2 at the Ky Sheriff's Ranch 2 March (BP, ph. EHu, BWu, MA/BP, EHu) with the same birds continuing to 7/8 March with calls confirmed as Type 2 (*vide* MYo), 3 there 23 March (BY, MYa), and 2 last reported there 25 May (ph. FR). Also reported were 12 at the Lexington Cemetery 24 March (DSv), call notes of a Type 3 bird were confirmed at Surrey Hills Farm 4 April (vr. BP, *vide* MYo); 2 at Eubank, *Pulaski*, 9 May (GC); and 5 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 19 May (BL).

White-winged Crossbill – a few lingered at the Lexington Cemetery into March (m. ob.) with 3 last reported there 26 March (ph. EHu, BP, JW); also reported were an imm. male at Buckley Hills Sanctuary, *Woodford*, 10 March (ph. TW); 5 at St. Anne's Convent, Melbourne, *Campbell*, 14 March (ph. FR); 3 at Spindletop Farm 29 March (C>) with 8 there 30 March

(ph. RD); and 3 at Surrey Hills Farm 4 April (ph. BP).

Pine Siskin – relatively small numbers continued at a few locations from winter; small numbers of migrants (generally <10) appeared at a number of scattered locales during April and early May with lingering birds still relatively widespread during the second week of May and the latest lingering birds reported as follows: 2 in *Boyd* to 17 May (CT); 10-12 near Berry, *Pendleton*, 17 May (LH); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 10/18 May (BP); 3 at Maysville, *Mason*, 18 May (FS); 2 at the LBL Nature Station to 21 May with 1 last heard there 25 May (JPo); 4 at the Ky Sheriff's Ranch 23 May (FR); 1 at Berea, *Madison*, 26 May (GBo, JPe); and 1 at Erlanger, *Kenton*, to 29 May (EG).



Red Crossbill, *Marshall*
25 May 2013
Frank Renfrow

Evening Grosbeak – as many as 12-15 continued at Woodsbend, *Morgan*, into mid-March (B&BA, NE) with a few last seen there 26 April (B&BA); also reported were 5 flyover birds at Louisville 7 March (RL) and a female near Waddy, *Shelby*, 24 March (DD).

Addendum to Fall 2012 Report:

Rufous Hummingbird – a male was present near Battletown, *Meade*, for a few days during late August (ph. JPa).

Addendum to Winter 2012-2013 Report:

Brewer's Blackbird – ca. 6 were seen s. of Rockport, *Ohio*, 9 February (MSt).

Observers: Brenda & Bud Angus (B&BA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TBe), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CBs), Gretchen Bolton (GBo), Rod Botkins (RBo), Abraham Brubaker (AB), John David Brubaker (JBk), Matthew Brubaker (MBr), Stephen Brubaker (SB), Timothy Brubaker (TBr), John Brunjes (JBr), Gerald Burnett (GBu), Joan Carr (JCa), Hap Chambers (HC), Don Chesnut (DCh), Joseph Clarkson (JCl), Kathy Cohen (KC), Dan Collins (DCo), Amy Covert (AC), Granville Cox (GC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Melodie Cunningham (MC), Gene Dennis (GD), Kathy Dennis (KD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Don Dott (DD), Jon Dunn (JD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Amanda Echelbach (AE), Norman Elam (NE), Les Estep (LE), Nathan Farnau (NF), Ian Ferrell (IF), Tracy Ficker (TrF), Tyler Ficker (TyF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Rob Foster (RF), Bill Friel (BF), Judy Galitzine (JG), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Ed Groneman (EG), Laura Haggarty (LH), Erin Harper (EHa), Richard Healy (RH), Adam Heist (AH), Todd Hendricks (TH), Joseph Hoover (JHo), Mary Hopson (MH), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Bob Johnson (BJ), Meghan Kahn (MK), John Keith (JKe), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Janet Kistler (JKi), Steve Kistler (SK), Rob Lane (RL), David Lang (DL), Allen & Donna Law (A&DLA), John Lindsey (JL), Amy Lint (ALi), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Frank Lyne (FL), Nova MacKentley (NM), Scott Marsh (SMA), Rene & Bill McGill (R&BMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Stephany McNew (SMc), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JM), Bobby Metz (BM), Keith Michalski (KM), Mark Monroe (MMn), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Mike Morton (MMr), Daniel Moss (DM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Chris Neri (CN), Jeff Noffsinger (JN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Colleen & Rick Olson (C&ROI), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Jerry Parcell (JPa), Jennifer Perkins (JPe), JohnRyan Polascik (JPK), John Pollpeter (JPo), Andy Radomski (AR), Daniel Record (DR), Scott Record (SRe), Frank Renfrow (FR), Steve Rogers (SRg), Cyndi & Steve Routledge (C&SRo), Frances Shirley (FS), Casey Shrader (CSh), Bob Snow (BS), Carol Sole (CSO), Jeff Sole (JSO), Pam Spaulding (PS), Evan Speck (ES), Seth Spencer (SS), David Stewart (DSt), Matt Stickel (MSt), Mitch Sturgeon (MSg), Dave Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Carrie Szwed (CSz), Melissa Tabor (MTa), Laurie Thomas (LT), Charles Thompson (CT), Marilee Thompson (MTh), Mark Tower (MTo), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C>), Debby Tyson (DT), Katie Tyson (KT), Steve Tyson (ST), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MWA), Sean Ward (SWa), Jim Williams (JW), Tim Williams (TW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Stefan Woltmann (SWt), Sam Woodall (SWd), Helen Wright-North (HW), Mike Wright (MWr), Brian Wulker (BWu), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MYa), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY), Matt Young (MYo).

FIELD NOTE

Brown-headed Nuthatches in Marshall County: A First Nesting Record for Kentucky

Introduction

The Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) is a permanent resident of pine and mixed deciduous-pine woodlands within the southeastern United States. This species has exhibited considerable expansion of its range over the past 45 years (Renfrow 2003). The first record of Brown-headed Nuthatch in Kentucky was documented in Russell County in 1999 (Palmer-Ball 2003), followed by sightings of a single bird in Marshall County in 2008 (Palmer-Ball and McNeely 2008). Nesting of the Brown-headed Nuthatch was confirmed at the Marshall County location during spring 2013.

Range Expansion

Prior to the latter half of the twentieth century, all known breeding populations of the Brown-headed Nuthatch were well to the south, east or west of the state of Kentucky. Northward expansion of the breeding range of the Brown-headed Nuthatch into Tennessee has been well documented, beginning with a Hamilton County record in 1968 (Basham 1969). Further northward expansion was confirmed in Roane County in 1995 in areas of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*), pitch pine (*P. rigida*) and shortleaf pine (*P. echinata*) at the Kingston Steam Plant (Nicholson 1997, Renfrow 2003). Further breeding range expansion was confirmed at a golf course containing scattered stands of loblolly pines in Putnam County in 1999 (Stedman and Walden 2003). In 2008 nesting was confirmed less than 5 mi (8 km) from the Kentucky line in Fentress County (Sloan and Palmer-Ball 2008); there the birds were associated with an open area of horse farms with a stand of shortleaf pines lining the road (F. Renfrow, unpubl. data). A Brown-headed Nuthatch was also documented about 20 mi (32 km) south of the Kentucky line in Campbell County, Tennessee, in an area of Virginia and shortleaf pines at Cove Lake State Park 25 March 2012 (Sloan and Palmer-Ball 2013) and again 19 February 2013 (F. Renfrow, unpubl. data).

In recent years, breeding Brown-headed Nuthatches have also been found in southwestern Tennessee at Pickwick Dam, Hardin County (Cardiff 1997). This is the closest known breeding area of Brown-headed Nuthatch to the Marshall County, Kentucky, nest location. It is important to note that many of the range expansion records in Tennessee as well as both of the Brown-headed Nuthatch locations in Kentucky have occurred at government managed areas with significant plantings of loblolly pine (F. Renfrow, unpubl. data).

The first documented record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Kentucky was of a single individual frequenting an extensive planting of loblolly pines at Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County, from 26 September through 12 October 1999 (Palmer-Ball 2003). Most of these loblolly pines were either logged or they succumbed to the Southern Pine [Bark] Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) during the next year or so (Renfrow 2003).

A First Nest Record for Kentucky

On 9 May 2008 a Brown-headed Nuthatch was observed by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Mark Monroe in loblolly and shortleaf pine stands on a portion of the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, near Gilbertsville in Marshall County. These pines were planted by the Kentucky Division of Forestry beginning in 1961 for the purpose of producing seeds for the adjacent John P. Rhody Tree Nursery (J. Davidson, pers. comm.). The nuthatch, which lingered for about ten days, appeared to be a lone individual, and it or others were not relocated at the site during subsequent years despite relatively regular searches (B. Palmer-Ball, pers. comm.). On 18 January 2013, two Brown-headed Nuthatches were seen at this same location by Palmer-Ball and Eddie Huber. These birds were observed off and on by Palmer-Ball and others during March and April. On 7 March Palmer-Ball observed one of the birds digging out a hole in a loblolly pine snag, but the two nuthatches later continued to dig holes in various snags and did not appear to have decided on a specific nest location. During his observations at the site Palmer-Ball observed several other notable conifer obligate species in the loblolly pine stand including Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) and Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*). On 18 April 2013 he also located an active Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) nest at the tip top of one of the loblolly pines, not far from where a pair of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was also nesting (B. Palmer-Ball, pers. comm.).

Late in the afternoon of 20 April 2013 I arrived at the area and proceeded to search for evidence of Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting activity within the loblolly pine stand. After an

hour or so at the location I did locate one individual which appeared to be all by itself, which made me wonder if its mate might be already sitting on a nest.

Upon returning the next morning, I followed the Brown-headed Nuthatch around the loblolly pine stand but found that it kept returning to a line of sweetgum trees (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) along the other side of the road. While watching the Brown-headed Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was seen feeding in the same tree. Quickly and vociferously, the Brown-headed Nuthatch chased the Red-breasted Nuthatch from that location which indicated to me that the former was being particularly territorial of that area and that the nest might be nearby. Sure enough, when the Brown-headed Nuthatch gleaned a small caterpillar from the bark of the sweetgum tree, it immediately took off and carried it into the shortleaf pine stand; it subsequently repeated this procedure several times during the next 20 minute period. Soon after finding a good observation point from which the nuthatch could be seen carrying the food, I saw that it was going to an approximately 1 in (2.5 cm) diameter hole in the middle of a large standing dead trunk of a shortleaf pine. There was bark still adhering to that section of the pine trunk which made the hole rather difficult to notice from any distance. Upon getting closer, I observed the Brown-headed Nuthatch feeding another adult Brown-headed Nuthatch which was seen with its head in the nest cavity entrance. This nuthatch subsequently left the cavity for brief periods to join its mate in feeding nearby. At this time I obtained a number of photographs of an adult in the nest hole (see Back Cover, left-center) and leaving the nest hole, and an adult feeding its mate in the nest hole. The nest hole was approximately 17.5 ft (5.4 m) up in the dead trunk which was approximately 35 ft (10.8 m) tall and 2 ft (60 cm) in diameter.

I returned later in the afternoon and watched the nest cavity for a full 40 minutes until the setting Brown-headed Nuthatch left with a midge already in its bill which it apparently caught on the way out of the hole. Just prior to the nuthatch's exit, two Tufted Titmice (*Baeolophus bicolor*) had landed near the nest hole and the other Brown-headed Nuthatch quickly chased them away from the area. The length of time the nuthatch was setting in the cavity seemed to indicate that it was indeed incubating eggs at this time. The next day I arrived at the area in the early morning and found one of Brown-headed Nuthatches going to the hole at frequent intervals to feed its mate and also watched the other nuthatch leave the hole on several occasions to feed with its mate. At one point a pair of Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) came close to the nest area and again the presumed male became agitated and successfully drove the flickers from their perches.

I returned to the area again 11 May 2013 and found both Brown-headed Nuthatches going back and forth at frequent intervals carrying food to the nest. The presence of nestlings was verified when I observed the nuthatches removing three fecal sacs in a period of 40 minutes. During the next two days I observed the nuthatches as they continued carrying food and removing fecal sacs from the nest at frequent intervals.

Late in the afternoon of 22 May 2013 I returned to the nest site to find both adults excitedly vocalizing in an apparent attempt to coax the nestlings out of the nest hole. A nestling occasionally appeared at the lip of the nest hole to take food from the adults. The nestling was easily recognized by its dark gray crown and yellow lower mandible (see Front Cover). About twenty minutes later I could observe two nestlings at the nest hole, with one sticking its neck out of the hole to receive food from the adults. The nestlings seemed more inclined to peer out of the nest cavity while the sun was shining on them. As sunset commenced and darkness approached the observable activity of the nuthatches at the nest hole gradually diminished.

I returned the next morning, 23 May, but noted no activity at the nest hole. Searching nearby I located several Brown-headed Nuthatch fledglings being fed by the adults in shortleaf pines adjacent to the nest snag. The fledglings were scattered about but at one point I was able to count at least three in separate pine trees. Later in the morning I found at least two of the fledglings gathered together on the upper branch of one of the pines

huddling in stillness (see Back Cover, right-center) while the adult nuthatches flew back and forth with food for them. A bit later in the afternoon the fledglings were observed making rather wobbly attempts to search for food on the bark of shortleaf pine branches and trunks. At one point during these observations a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinea mississippiensis*) was noted soaring overhead.

For the next two days I continued to observe the family group of Brown-headed Nuthatches in the area of shortleaf pines. During this period at least one of the adult nuthatches continued to return to the nest hole, excitedly calling and looking in the hole as if it was attempting to coax additional young to fledge; however, there was no observable indication of any young still in the nest. This same adult continued to feed the fledglings in the neighboring pines between trips to the nest snag. This interesting behavior may have been an example of delayed detachment from the nest subsequent to the young fledging. The nuthatch even went so far as to continue to drive other birds, including Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), away from the nest snag.

During this same period I began to notice many of the pines were becoming partially denuded by a rather severe infestation of Loblolly Pine Sawfly (*Neodiprion taedae linearis*). The Loblolly Pine Sawfly larvae appeared to be a primary food source for the Brown-headed Nuthatches as well as many other avian species during this period. On 25 May I observed a Red Crossbill, four Pine Siskins, and one Brown-headed Nuthatch, all feasting on sawfly larvae in the same shortleaf pine tree. As the crossbills and siskins are primarily seed-eaters and normally long gone from Kentucky by late May, this may have been an indication that both species also may have been breeding in the vicinity of the pine stands.

Habitat

In areas north of the range of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) the Brown-headed Nuthatch exhibits a decided preference for pinewoods containing a significant component of loblolly pine. Loblolly pine is not native to Kentucky. However, besides the previously mentioned managed areas of loblolly pines planted by government agencies, private timber companies have planted large tracts of loblolly pine in what was once oak-hickory forest within the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region, which includes Marshall County (Palmer-Ball 1996).

In some upland portions of their range, the Brown-headed Nuthatch also inhabits oak-hickory-pine forests with a strong element of shortleaf pine (Renfrow 2003). Shortleaf pine is native to Kentucky but occurs principally in the eastern part of the state. However, there is a small area of native shortleaf pine that formerly extended into western Kentucky from Tennessee (Little 1971). Interestingly enough, this area of native shortleaf pine was centered just to the southeast of the Marshall County nest location in the general vicinity of Trigg County (Little 1971).

The Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting site at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park is situated within a large area of planted loblolly and shortleaf pine trees that has matured into a pine savannah habitat which in my opinion is regionally significant in character. The shortleaf pine stand on the north side of Sheriffs Ranch Road is open in nature with a dense understory of grasses. The somewhat denser planting of loblolly pines on the south side of Sheriffs Ranch Road is also underlain by a thick growth of grasses. The combined expanse of grassland pine savannah afforded by the loblolly and shortleaf pine stands offers what appears to be very attractive nesting habitat for the Brown-headed Nuthatch and potentially other pinewoods specialists as well.

During my time in the Land Between the Lakes area, I noted many areas of pinewoods habitat that might well sustain a population of Brown-headed Nuthatches. These include stands of both loblolly and shortleaf pines in other portions of Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, below Barkley Dam, adjacent to the Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, as well as many areas within the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

However, I spent considerable time checking these pine areas by playing the calls of the Brown-headed Nuthatch, and failed to elicit a Brown-headed Nuthatch response at any of the pine stands surveyed.

Tentative Conclusions

It is possible that the Marshall County Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting is a unique occurrence of just one isolated pair. It is also possible that there may be other Brown-headed Nuthatches in the vicinity that have yet to be located. In light of the recent records of range expansion in this species, the eventual location of a nest within Kentucky was not entirely unexpected. However, documentation of northward expansion approaching the Kentucky line within Tennessee has so far been limited to eastern Tennessee. The closest known Brown-headed Nuthatch population in western Tennessee is about 150 mi (240 km) due south at Pickwick Dam, which is less than 10 mi (16 km) north of the Alabama line. Conversely the Kentucky nest site is less than 15 mi (24 km) south of the Illinois line. The most likely explanation for this seeming incongruity is the optimal combination of loblolly and shortleaf pine habitat in the Land Between the Lakes area, which would be quite attractive to a wandering pair or family group of Brown-headed Nuthatches following a path northward along the Tennessee River watershed. It is also quite possible that there are other Brown-headed Nuthatch populations in western Tennessee to the north of Pickwick Dam that have yet to be documented.

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- Frank Renfrow**, 103 Covert Run Pike, Fort Thomas, KY 41075

NEWS AND VIEWS

Visit the K.O.S. Website

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

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The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is charged with determining the validity of records of rare and out-of-season birds in Kentucky. Sightings of such birds should be documented with information supporting the identification promptly submitted to the KBRC. Photographic evidence is desirable but not essential. Electronic documentation is preferred and should be submitted to KBRC Secretary, Ben Yandell, via e-mail at secy@kybirdrecords.org. If electronic submission is not feasible, paper documentation can be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243.

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Western Tanager, *Fayette*
29 April 2013
Tina Nauman



Glossy Ibis, *Trigg*
19 May 2013
Mel Cunningham



Brown-headed Nuthatch at nest hole, *Marshall*
21 April 2013
Frank Renfrow



Brown-headed Nuthatches (3), *Marshall*
23 May 2013
Frank Renfrow



White-winged Crossbill, *Campbell*
14 March 2013
Frank Renfrow



Western Tanager, *Anderson*
29 March 2013
Bob Snow