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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Andy Bess for the image of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) taken 2 March 2015 on the Ohio River waterfront off Covington, Kenton County (see p. 66). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



SPRING 2015 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during spring 2015 were somewhat variable. Temperatures during the three-month period were not far from average, although slightly cooler-than-normal during March and slightly warmer-than-normal during April and May. Precipitation was quite variable during the period, however; March was very wet, with major stations recording about one and one-half to two times normal rainfall. Paducah was the most extreme, recording more than two times normal precipitation. April continued to be abnormally wet, especially across the central and eastern portions of the state, where Louisville and Jackson recorded two and one-half times normal rainfall and three times normal rainfall, respectively. In contrast, May turned dry with major stations recording three-quarters to about one-half normal precipitation and Jackson setting a record with only about one-third normal rainfall. The period of wet weather during March and April was significant enough to cause a brief appearance of the transient lakes in southern Warren County, but they disappeared during early June.

Rarity highlights during the season included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, a few rare waterfowl, loons, and gulls continuing from the winter season, Western Grebe, several Whimbrel, Ruff, multiple Harris's Sparrows, and continuing Common Redpoll.

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 or song; “†” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Adkins Swamp, Sinclair Unit, *Muhlenberg*; Anchorage Trail, e. *Jefferson*; Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston* (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren* (unless otherwise noted); Beckley Creek Park, e. *Jefferson*; Berea, *Madison*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, *Ky Lake, Calloway*; Cecilia, *Hardin*; Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*; Cherokee Park, *Louisville*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Eastpark Industrial Park, *Greenup/Boyd*; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; Jacobson Park, *Lexington*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Kentucky Dam Village [SRP], *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Marshall/Trigg*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Old Kuttawa Rec. Area, *Lyon*; Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*; Lake Reba, *Madison*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; LBL Nature Station, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lentz Pond, along River Road below the mouth of Goose Creek, *Jefferson*; Lexington, *Fayette*; 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); McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, s. *Jefferson*; s. of Middleton, transient ponds along J. Ferguson Road, s. of Middleton, *Simpson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Mud Creek = Mud Creek floodplain at KY 94, e. of Hickman, *Fulton*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; nw. of Powderly = Muhlenberg County Rail-Trail section s. of Western Ky. Parkway, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*; Obion WMA, n. of

Hickman, *Fulton*; Open Pond, w. *Fulton*; Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison/Jackson*; Parsons Pond (formerly KY 739 Pond) = transient lake e. of KY 739 e. of Lickskilllet, sw. *Logan*; Pond Creek Bottoms, along KY 85 ne. of Anton, *Hopkins*; Pope Lick Park (formerly Floyds Fork Park), *Jefferson*; Rock Bridge = Rock Bridge Loop Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*; Sandy Watkins Park, *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; Stone Place Stables, along the Ohio River nw. of Prospect, ne. *Jefferson*; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Walton Pond, s. *Warren*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – 1 was present at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 18 April–19 May (ph. KWa, DHr, et al.). KBRC review required.

Greater White-fronted Goose – reports of interest included 20 n. of Worthington, *Oldham*, 4 March (PB, JBe); 1 at Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); at least 26 w. of Cecilia 8 March (MY); 400 still at Sauerheber 8 March (KMj); 37 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 15 March (TG, SG); 1 at the Burnside Marina, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 19 March/5 April (DMc/RD); and 1 at Minor Clark 19 April (ph. DSv, LCo).

Cackling Goose – there were two reports: 6 at Spindletop Farm 1 March (DSv) with 2 last reported there 2 March (SP) and 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 9 March (BPa et al.).

Snow Goose – 500 were still at Sauerheber 9 March (KMj); in excess of 10,000 were still in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 11 March (HC); other reports of interest included 80 at Barren River Lake 2 March with probably the same group se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 March (MBy, MkB); 23 n. of Worthington, *Oldham* 4 March (PB, JBe); and 500 over sw. *Logan* 5 March (FL).

Ross's Goose – reports of interest included 2 at Barren River Lake 2 March with probably the same 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 March (MBy, MkB); 1 w. of Cecilia 8 March (ph. MY); 4 at McElroy Lake 8 March (TD) with 3 there 22 March (TD); either a Ross's or a hybrid Ross's x Snow upstream from the mouth of Goose Creek 11 March (ph. RFa et al.); 8 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 24 March (JBa, ph. BPa,

TG); and 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 31 March (HC, AN).

Mute Swan – a few birds continued from the winter season at scattered sites into mid-March; the "wild" resident pair at Adkins Swamp had 4 cygnets in their company 12 May (EH).

Tundra Swan – reports of interest included 2 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg*, 15 March (ph. SG, TG) and 2 last seen at Sauerheber 4 April (CC).

Gadwall – modest local peak counts included 300 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); at least 200 sw. of Semiway, *McLean*, 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); and 200 at Sauerheber 28 March (KMj). A pair that lingered at Spindletop Farm to 14 May (DSv, SP, et al.) and a pair that lingered at Twin Lakes Subdivision, Somerset, *Pulaski*, to 17 May (RD) were the latest to be reported.

American Wigeon – local peak counts included 50 along the Ohio River near the mouth of Goose Creek 8 March (BPa et al.) with 70 there 9 March (BPa et al.); 50 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); and 50 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG). Three at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 5 May (JSo); a pair at McElroy Lake 8 May (TD); and 1 at Cove Spring Park, *Franklin*, 23 May (ph. RC) were the latest to be reported.

Blue-winged Teal – local peak counts of interest included 250 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); 300 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 150 still there 15 April (CC); 100 on Lentz Pond 3 April (C&KHo); ca. 250 in the vicinity of Morgan Pond 5 April (BPa, JBa); 200 at McElroy Lake (SK, JK) and 200 along US 431, *Daviess*

(TG, SG), both 11 April; 106 at Long Point 17 April (HC); and 825 at Mud Creek 17 April (HC) with 600 still there 22 April (JSo) and 175 there 28 April (HC). Small numbers lingered at McElroy Lake and at Morgan Pond into late May without evidence of successful nesting (m. ob.).

Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler – a male was present on Lentz Pond 27 March (ph. BPa, JBa).

Northern Shoveler – local peak counts of interest included 200 sw. of Semiway, *McLean*, and 200 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, both 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); 500 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 400 there 2 April (KMj); and ca. 200 at McElroy Lake 11 April (SK, JK) with 10-12 still there 15 May (TD, BPa, MM). Two at Minor Clark 22 May (TLu); and 3 at McElroy Lake (BPa, CBs), a male at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette* (AX), and a pair at Jacobson Park (KWa), all 24 May, were the latest to be reported.

Northern Pintail – 17 were on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 March (BPa et al.) with an impressive total of 335 in a flooded field near the mouth of Goose Creek, ne. *Jefferson*, 7 March (BPa et al.) but only about 30 there the following day (BPa et al.). Other peak counts of interest included 200 at Barren River Lake 2 March (MBy, MkB); 350 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 175 at Mud Creek (HC) and 350 at McElroy Lake (JSo), both 11 March; and 400 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, and another 100 se. of Vandetta, *Hopkins*, both 15 March (TG, SG).

Green-winged Teal – local peak counts of interest included 200 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); 110 at the Leo Pitt Moist Soils Unit, s. *Allen*, 15 March (MBy); 150 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg*, 15 March (TG, SG); and 200 at Sauerheber 29 March (JMg);

Canvasback – local peak counts included at least 200 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.); 270 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 11 March (JSo); and 125 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). A

female on McElroy Lake 25 April (BPa, CW, BWu) and 2 on Open Pond 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG) were the latest to be reported.

Redhead – at least 620 were on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) with 400+ there 9 March (BPa et al.), but an impressive local peak count of ca. 1000 was there 11 March (BPa et al.); also of interest was a flock of 300 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). Two males on Morgan Pond 3 May (HC, JH) and a pair on Cedar Creek Lake 22 May (RFo, RB) were the latest to be reported.

Ring-necked Duck – peak counts of interest included 250 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 275 on Owsley Fork Lake 8 March (RB, RFo); at least 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) with ca. 400 there 11 March (BPa et al.); 250 on a pond along Iron Works Pike, n. *Fayette*, 9 March (JSo); 600 at Kuttawa (JSo) and at least 1000 on McElroy Lake (JSo), both 11 March; 200 on the Ohio River, *Campbell* (JW), and 200 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg* (SG, TG), both 15 March; 200 near the mouth of Big Bone Creek, *Boone*, 21 March (LM); 400+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); and 200 at Sauerheber 28 March (KMj); Three lingered at McElroy Lake to 23 May (DSv et al.) with a pair last seen there 28 May (VS); a male was still at Morgan Pond 24 May (BPa, CBs).

Greater Scaup – local peak counts of interest included at least 100 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) and 110 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). Lingered birds included a female in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26/30 April (BPa, CW, BWu/BPa) and a male, perhaps injured, that lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville to 29 May (TBa, ph. BPa).

Lesser Scaup – local peak counts of interest included at least 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.); 350 on Ky Lake above the dam and 1200 at Kuttawa, both 11 March (JSo); 225 total on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, 21 March



White-winged Scoters (60 of 61), Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*
8 March 2015
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(BPa, BWu); 500 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, and 1000+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms, both 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG). Tardy birds included 1 on Lake Reba (AC) and 2 at Minor Clark (VS), both 18 May; 1 at Jacobson Park 22 May (DSv, LCo); and 2 males at Camp #9 on 24 May (BPa, CBs).

Surf Scoter – 1-2 continued along the Ohio River at Louisville and were seen at various points to 19 March (DSt et al.) with 1 last seen there 20 March (SW); the only other reports were for 1 on Cedar Creek Lake 13 March (ph. RD); an imm. male opposite Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 26 March (ph. BWu); and a pair on the Ohio River off Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 26 March (SCI).

White-winged Scoter – small numbers (1-4) lingered from the winter season at a couple of locales on the Ohio River at Louisville into mid-March (m. ob.) with peak counts of 6 there 7 March (AM, BPi); 11 there 16 March (DC); 18 total at a few different locales there 18 March (BPa et al.), and 18 + 3 last seen there 23 March (RFa). Also present were 61 on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*, 8-9 March (BPa et al.) with 55 still there 12 March (AM); 1 on Owsley Fork Lake 8/15 March (RB, RFo); 4 on the Ohio River opposite Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 8 March (BWu, GW) with 26 counted in the same area astride the OH/KY state line 12 March (FR); 10 on the Ohio River off

Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 13 March (SCI); 34 on the Ohio River upstream of Higginsport, OH, *Bracken*, 17 March (SCI); a total of 56 on the Ohio River from Mel-dahl Dam upstream to below Ripley, OH, *Bracken/Mason*, 21 March (BPa, BWu); and 6 at Waitsboro 26 March (ph. RD).

Black Scoter – the wintering imm. male on the Ohio River at Louisville lingered to 23 March (TBa, m. ob.); an ad. male was in the company of the large flock of White-wingeds on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*, 8-12 March (ph. BPa et al.).

Long-tailed Duck – there were reports from six locales: an ad. male on the Ohio River at Covington, *Kenton*, 1-4 March (FR et al.); an ad. male on Lake Linville 21 March (ph. JSo, CS); an ad. male on Lexington Reservoir #2 on 23 March (ph. RO et al.); a female/imm. at Sauerheber 4 April (BY, ph. MY) with surely the same individual nearby on the slough along KY 268 nw. of Sauerheber 6-11 April (ph. CC et al.); an ad. male on Lake Liberty, *Cassey*, 16 April (ph. RD); and a remarkably tardy imm. male at Kuttawa 2 May (†BPa, TQ).

Bufflehead – local peak counts of interest included 100 at Kuttawa 11 March (JSo) and at least 50 on McElroy Lake 5 April (BPa, JBa). A female on Morgan Pond to 28 April (RD) and a pair on Ky Lake

above the dam and 3 at Kuttawa (BP_a, TQ), all 2 May, were the latest to be reported.

Common Goldeneye – at least 50 lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville into the first few days of March (m. ob.); 125 were counted at Kuttawa 11 March (JS_o); single males on Lake Barkley above the dam and at Kuttawa, both 2 May (BP_a, TQ) were the latest to be reported.

Hooded Merganser – females with broods of young were observed at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 12 May (JP_o); along the Mississippi River levee wsw. of Hickman, *Fulton*, 14 May (ph. JT); at Long Point 7 May (ph. JMr); and at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 7+ May (AS et al.).

Common Merganser – small numbers continued from the winter season at several locales; reports of interest included 26 on Barren River Lake 3 March (MBy, MkB); 93 at Fishing Creek 4 March (RD) with 83 still there 7 March (RD); 45 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 18 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 8 March (LCo) with 22 there 11 March (RO); and 80 on the Ohio River off Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 13 March (SCI). One ene. of Science Hill, *Pulaski*, 3 April (ph. RD) and 3 on Russell Fork, Elkhorn City, *Pike*, 11 April (ph. JBI) were the latest to be reported.

Red-breasted Merganser – 3 at Minor Clark 3 May (JS_o); 3 on Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (MY, BY); and 1 on the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 12 May (JSu) were the latest to be reported.

Ruddy Duck – 70 were still on Lexington Reservoirs #2 & #3 on 9 March (RO); 70 were still at Jonathan Creek 20 March (HC, ME). Other reports of interest included at least 50 on McElroy Lake 5 April (TD, BP_a, JBa) with a pair lingering there to 28 May (JH).

Red-throated Loon – there were three reports: the bird found on the Ohio River at Louisville during late February lingered to 1 March (ph. BJ, et al.); 2 were on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 2 March (†LCu); and a very tardy individual was on Lake Bark-

ley above the dam, *Lyon*, 2 May (†BP_a, TQ, MQ).

Common Loon – 76 at Waitsboro and 11 at Fishing Creek, both 3 April (RD) represented the season's peak count. Singles on Ky Lake above the dam 9 May (MY, BY), on a gravel pit s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 May (LM); on the Ohio River at Louisville 11 May (BP_a); at Kuttawa 16 May (KMi); and at Jacobson Park 17/19 May (AX/DSv) were the latest to be reported.

Pied-billed Grebe – small numbers lingered at McElroy Lake and Morgan Pond well into May with nest building observed at both but without evidence of successful nesting (m. ob.).

Western Grebe – 1 was reported at Morgan Pond 27 March (†DMo). KBRC review required.

Horned Grebe – local peak counts of interest included 46 on the Ohio River at the mouth of Sugar Creek, *Gallatin*, 22 March (LM); 60 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 24 March (RD); 60 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 25 March (JW); and 53 on McElroy Lake 5 April (TD, BP_a, JBa). One at KenLake SRP, *Marshall*, 4 May (IH) was the latest to be reported.

American White Pelican – local peak counts included 500 at Blood River 17 March (HC) and 750 at Jonathan Creek 25 March (HC). Reports away from the LBL region included 3 on Lake Buck/Lake Vega, Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 15/16 March (†KMo, JSu/JSu); 23 on the Ohio River opposite Dayton, *Campbell*, 26 March (ph. SCr); 3 over the Cape Hills Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 8 April (CC); 1 over Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 4 May (LE, CLa, et al.); and 3 on the Ohio River at Louisville 23 May (ph. BP_a et al.). Small numbers, some probably injured, lingered on Lake Barkley into late May (m. ob.).

American Bittern – there were reports from four locales: at least 3 and probably 4 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 12 April (BP_a, ph. SG, BBC); 1 at Beckley Creek Park 9 & 23-24 April (ph. TBa et al.); 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 11 April

(LM); and 1 at Spindletop Farm 6 May (DSv).

Least Bittern – there were reports from five locales: singles heard at White City WMA, e. of Mortons Gap, *Hopkins*, 28 April/12 May (EH); singles heard at Adkins Swamp 28/29 April (TG, SG/EH) and 22 May (EH); 1-3 heard nw. of Powderly 30 April–5 May (TG, SG, et al.); 1 heard at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 11 May (EH) with 3 heard there 21 May (EH); and 1 heard at Sauerheber 12 May (CP).

Great Egret – 1 at Guthrie Swamp 30 March (JH) and 2 at Melco 31 March (BPa et al.) were the earliest to be reported. Local peak counts of interest included 22 at Melco 29 April (BPa); 30 at the Falls of the Ohio 29 May (BPa); and an impressive tally of 80 birds at the heronry at Kuttawa 13 April (JSo).

Snowy Egret – the species was unreported away from w. Kentucky.

Little Blue Heron – the species was unreported away from w. Kentucky.

Cattle Egret – there were only two reports away from the LBL region: 1 at Morgan Pond 30 April (BPa) and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 15 May (WG, ph. PS, et al.).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 13 at Mason's Island, Barren River Lake, *Barren*, 8 May (MBy, JBy) suggest the possibility of nesting there or nearby.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – there were only four reports: 7 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 10 May (BY, MY); an ad. at Shippingport Island 11 May (BPa); 1 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 27 May (CC); and 2 at the slough w. of the Ky Dam tailwater 30 May (DSv).

Plegadis ibis – there were two reports of unidentified dark ibis: 2 at Mud Creek 18 April (ph. JT) and 1 at Minor Clark 29 May (ph. SBa).

Osprey – 1 at Ky Dam 7 March (HC) was the earliest to be reported.

Golden Eagle – there were three reports: 1 was last seen at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*,

13 March (KV); a juv. n. of Kirkwood in extreme n. *Mercer* in early March and again 3-4 April (ph. JSp); and a juv. at LBL, *Lyon*, 15 April (AY, TJ).

Mississippi Kite – there were several reports from Louisville including returning nesting birds at St. Matthews by 8 May (MCn); 1-2 at Cherokee Park 9+ May (BPa, MW, JBa, et al.); 1 over Strathmoor Manor 10 May (JBa); and 1 over Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BPa). Also of interest were 6 at the Sinclair Unit 29 April (EH); 1 at Central City, *Muhlenberg*, 11 May (SN); and 1 w. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, 31 May (TG).

Broad-winged Hawk – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 2 April (MBy); 1 at Owsley Fork Lake 4 April (Rfo, RBa); and 1 over Mt. Victory, *Pulaski*, and 2 at Little Lick, both 4 April (RD), were the earliest to be reported. A total of 43 were seen passing over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 9 April (MM), but independent counts of 118 (MY) and 81 (MM) were tallied from there 19 April.

Virginia Rail – there were two reports: 1 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 12 April (BPa, BBC) and 1 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 26 April (BPa, CW).

Sora – 6+ were at Sauerheber 12 April (BPa, BBC); 1 at Spindletop Farm 13/14 May (AX/SP) was the latest to be reported.

Common Gallinule – the only report was for 2 at Adkins Swamp 29 April (EH).

American Coot – local peak counts included 350 on Cedar Creek Lake 18 March (CF); 750 sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 24 March (BPa, JBa); 500 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 24/31 March (BPa, JBa/JSo); 3000 at McElroy Lake 24 March (RD) with 850 still there 18 April (RD), 390 still there 25 April (CW, BWu, BPa), 300 still there 30 April (BPa), and 40 still there 23 May (DSv, RD, et al.); 1500 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 2500 there 7 April (RD); 300 at Lake Reba 19 April (RBa, Rfo); and 350 still at Morgan Pond 30 April (BPa) with 7 still there 24 May (BPa, CBs).

Sandhill Crane – impressive peak counts of 13,436 and 14,570 were tallied w. of Cecilia 2 March (EH) and 11 March (CLO) respectively, but only about 500 were still there 12 March (SP). Additional peak counts of interest included a flight of ca. 500 total over Ballard WMA 12 March (GB) that likely represented a record high count for the locale, and 600-700 at McElroy Lake 8 March (TD). One over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 9 April (MM) and 2 over Mammoth Cave 21 April (SK, JK) were the latest to be reported.

Black-necked Stilt – 1 at Mud Creek and 2 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 10 April (BY) were the earliest to be reported; up to 19 (8 May [TG, SG]) were present in the Lower Hickman Bottoms during May (m. ob.). Reports away from the Mississippi River floodplain included 1 nw. of Newtown, *Scott*, 16 April (ph. MH); 2 at Parsons Pond 3 May (ph. FL); 2 at McElroy Lake 3 May (TD) with 4 there 5 May (LCr, TD, et al.) and up to 8 (18 May [TD]) present there during the month with at least 1 pair incubating [but eventually unsuccessful] there during late May (TD) and 3 last seen there 31 May (TD); 2 at Sauerheber 4-11 May (KM_i, CP); 2 s. of Middleton 4-19 May (ph. RD, TG, SG, et al.); 1 at Jacobson Park 5 May (ph. LCo, DS_v, et al.); 2 at Sandy Watkins Park 5 May (ph. CC); and 1 at Louisville Trackside off Preston Highway 27-28 May (ph. DD et al.) that was a long overdue first for *Jefferson*.



Black-necked Stilt, *Jefferson*
27 May 2015
Diana Dubbeld

American Avocet – there were three reports: 48 at Morgan Pond 18 April (ph. CH, JH); 6 at Louisville Trackside off Preston Highway 27-30 April (ph. DD et al.) with 5 still there 1 May (BP_a), and 1 last seen there 2 May (TBe, CBe); 1 at Sauerheber 11-13 May (CP, ph. SG, TG); and 1 at McElroy Lake 12 May (TD).

Black-bellied Plover – reports of interest included 3 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BL); 17 at Open Pond 9 May (BY, MY) with 28 there 10 May (BY, MY); 1 at Melco 10 May (BP_a et al.); 8 at Morgan Pond 18 May (HC); and up to 8 (23 May [TD]) at McElroy Lake during the last week of May with 1 last seen there 28 May (JH).

American Golden-Plover – reports of interest included 5 at McElroy Lake 23 March (TD); 47 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 24 March (BP_a, JB_a, TG); 65 e. of Open Pond 28 April (HC, JH); 63 n. of Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 30 April (BY, MY); and a very tardy bird at McElroy Lake to 24 May (BP_a, CB_s).

Semipalmated Plover – 1 at McElroy Lake 5 April (ph. BP_a, JB_a) represented a new early arrival date for the state; other reports of interest included 2 at Melco 18 April (BP_a et al.); 65 at Morgan Pond 3 May (HC); 76 at Walton Pond 6 May (JS_o); 50 at Melco 11 May (RF_a et al.); 50 s. of Middleton 10 May (TG, SG) with 161 there 12 May (RD); 29 at Jacobson Park 17 May (SP); and 200+ at McElroy Lake 15 May (TD, BP_a, MM) with 25-30 still there 24 May (BP_a, CB_s) and 10 still there 28 May (VS).

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 April (C&KHo) was the earliest to be reported; peak counts of interest included 18 at Walton Pond 6 May (JS_o); 21 s. of Middleton 12 May (RD); and an especially impressive tally of 37 along the Barren River, e. *Allen*, 15 May (MBy). At least 10 were still at McElroy Lake 24 May (BP_a, CB_s) with 2 there (JH) and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio (TB_a), both 28 May, being the latest to be reported.

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 29 March (RD) was the earliest to be

reported; 24 at Beckley Creek Park 24 April (CW, BPa) and 25 at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 30 April (JSo) represented the peak counts for the season; 3 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 24 May (JW) were the latest to be reported.

Greater Yellowlegs – peak counts included 40 at Sauerheber 4/23 April & 2 May (CC) with 100 there 26 April (CC); 64 at a transient pond along US 79 nne. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 5 April (BPa, JBa); 40 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BL); 61 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH); and at least 30 at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BPa). One at McElroy Lake 28 May (JH) was the latest to be reported.

Willet – it was a poor season with reports from only three locales: 1 at Morgan Pond 9 April (JH) with 2 there 26 April (HC, JH) and 1 there 3 May (HC); 2 along McElwain Road sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (CW, BWu, BPa); and 47 at McElroy Lake 3 May (TD).

Lesser Yellowlegs – 2 at Stone Place Stables 15 March (BPa et al.) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 182 at Open Pond 17 April (HC); 70 s. of Middleton 18 April (RD); at least 720 along KY 1155 sw. of Rumsey, *McLean* (BPa, CW, BWu), and 800 at Sauerheber (KMi), both 26 April, that represented new state high counts for spring until three days later (see next entry!); 250 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH) with 810, another new state high count for spring, there 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG); 150 at Mud Creek 29 April (HC, RD); 300 s. of Middleton 28 April (RD) with 162 there 4 May (RD) and 136 still there 12 May (RD); at least 55 at Melco 29 April (BPa); and 370 at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BPa). One at McElroy Lake 28 May (VS, JH) was the latest to be reported.

Upland Sandpiper – there were two reports: 1 along US 79 n. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 30 March (ph. JH) and 1 at McElroy Lake 7 May (TD).

Whimbrel – there were three reports: remarkably early individuals in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 22 April (ph. JSo) and

at McElroy Lake 23 April (†TD), with 3 at the former location 7-8 May (ph. JSo, TG, SG). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – there were five reports, all from McElroy Lake: 1 there 18 May (TD et al.) with 15 there 21 May (TD), 20 there 22 May (JSo), 3 there 23 May (RD, DSv, TG, SG, et al.), and 1 last seen there 25 May (TD).

Ruff – 1 was present at McElroy Lake 17 May (†BPa, ph. MY, ph. BY, TD). KBRC review required.

Stilt Sandpiper – 2 at Morgan Pond 26 April (HC, JH) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 8 at Melco 15 May (BPa et al.); mostly small numbers at McElroy Lake 5-25 May (TD et al.) with a peak count of 35 there 23 May (TD); 23 s. of Middleton 16 May (RD); and 1 at Jacobson Park 17 May (SP).

Sanderling – there were only three reports: 1 at Ky Dam Village 9-10 May (ph. BY, ph. MY) and 1 at Parsons Pond (ph. FL) and 2 at McElroy Lake (TD et al.), both 18 May.

Dunlin – reports of interest including generally modest local peak counts included 6 at Mud Creek 22 April (JSo); 1 at Melco 27 April/9 May (BPa et al.); 20 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu); 60 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); 35 at Horseshoe Road 13 May (CC); generally small numbers at McElroy Lake 15-28 May (TD, VS, et al.) with peak counts of ca. 30 there 17 May (TD et al.) and ca. 75 there 25/28 May (TD); and 40 s. of Middleton 19 May (TG, SG).

Least Sandpiper – 1 along US 79 n. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 30 March (JH) was the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 156 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 5 May (HC); 75 at Open Pond 9 May (BY, MY); 211 at Ellis Park 11 May (JMg); 120+ at Melco (BPa et al.) and 151 s. of Middleton (RD), both 12 May. Small numbers at McElroy Lake 28 May (JH, VS) were the latest to be reported.

- White-rumped Sandpiper** – reports of interest included 3 e. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 5 May (TLe); 4 at Walton Pond 6 May (JSo); 2 at Melco 9-11 May (BPa et al.); 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 12-13 May (BPa et al.) and again 25 May (BPa); 1-5 at McElroy Lake 5-29 May (LCr, TD, VS, JH, et al.); 5 at J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 14 May (JSo); 1-2 s. of Middleton 10/15 May (TG, SG/BPa, MM); 1 at Jacobson Park (SP et al.) and 3 at Horseshoe Road (CC), both 17 May; and 1 at Camp #9 on 24 May (BPa, CBs).
- Pectoral Sandpiper** – 3 at Beckley Creek Park 16 March (TBa) were the earliest to be reported. Modest local peak counts included ca. 400 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, and 200 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, both 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); 100 at Sauerheber 12/24 April (BPa, BBC/KMi); 150 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26 April (CW, BWu, BPa); 50 at Long Point 29 April (RD, HC, SG, TG); 160 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); and 221 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 5 May (HC);
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** – local peak counts included 75+ at Melco 15 May (BPa) with 86 there 17 May (BPa) and 110+ there 18 May (BPa et al.); 500+ at McElroy Lake 15-19 May (TD et al.) with 200 there 23/28 May (TD et al./JH) and 400 there 29 May (TD); 200+ s. of Middleton 15 May (BPa, MM) with 150 there 16 May (RD); ca. 100 at Parsons Pond 15 May (FL); 230 at Camp #9 on 24 May (BPa, CBs); and 46 at the Falls of the Ohio 25 May (BPa). Small numbers lingered at several site into early June.
- Short-billed Dowitcher** – singles at McElroy Lake 21 April (TD) and at Morgan Pond 24 April (†BL) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 10 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); 15 s. of Middleton 10 May (TG, SG); small numbers at McElroy Lake 5-22 May (LCr, JSo, et al.) with peak counts of at least 10 there 17 May (TD, BY, MY, BPa) and 36 there 18 May (TD); 10 at Morgan Pond 18 May (HC); and 11 at Parsons Pond 18 May (ph. FL).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 26 March (†LM) was quite early. Local peak counts included 14 at McElroy Lake 25 April (BPa, CW, BWu); 12 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu); most or all of 28 dowitchers at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BPa); 50 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH) with 22 there 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG); 6 at Sauerheber 2 May (CC); and at least 10 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL). Singles at Melco 12 May (BPa, ph. JBa, et al.) and s. of Middleton 15 May (†BPa, MM) were relatively tardy.
- Wilson's Snipe** – peak counts included 160 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 March (MBy); 101 at the J.C. Jones sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 27 March (JSo) and at least 75 at Beckley Creek Park 29 March (TBa).
- American Woodcock** – the frigid late-winter weather resulted in a tardy return with most initial observations for the year occurring during the second week of March. (m. ob.).
- Wilson's Phalarope** – there were reports from seven locales: a male along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (CW, BWu, BPa); singles at Sauerheber 26 April (KMi) and 1 May (RLe); 5 at Long Point 28-29 April (HC et al.); 1 at Mud Creek 30 April (BY, MY); singles in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (BL) and s. of Middleton (RD), both 4 May; and 4 at McElroy Lake 8 May (TD).
- Bonaparte's Gull** – generally modest local peak counts included 450 at Barren River Lake 3 March (MBy, MkB); 100 above Wolf Creek Dam 27 March (RD); 50 at McElroy Lake 29 March (SK, JK); and 60 on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 April (C&KHo). A first-year bird at Taylorsville Lake, *Spencer*, 23 May (ph. KB) was very tardy.
- Franklin's Gull** – an ad. at McElroy Lake 21 April (LCr, TD) was the only one reported.
- Laughing Gull** – there were three reports: an ad. at Ky Dam Village 2 May (BPa,

TQ); an ad. at McElroy Lake 17 May (ph. BY, ph. MY, TD, BPa); and an ad. at Melco 20 May (BPa, ph. CBs, et al.).

Ring-billed Gull – local peak counts of interest included 500+ at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March (BPa et al.); at least 7000 at Barren River Lake 3 March (TD); 350 at Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 400 at Stone Place Stables 11 March (MW, BPa, et al.); and 1100 in agricultural fields along US 79 nw. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 9 March (JH).

California Gull – the ad. at the Falls of the Ohio was seen again 1 March (†BPa et al.). Under KBRC review.

Herring Gull – 350 were at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March with a few hundred still on the Ohio River at Louisville to 3 March (BPa et al.) and ca. 150 were still at Ky Dam 11 March (JSo).

Iceland Gull – the wintering first-year bird on the Ohio River at Louisville was last seen 15 March (BPa, ph. TQ, et al.). Under KBRC review.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – an ad. lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville to 1 March (BPa et al.) with 3 (2 ads. and a second-year bird) at Stone Place Stables 11 March (MW, ph. BPa, TBa); also reported was an ad. at Barren River Lake 2-3 March (MBy, MkB); a first-year bird at Ky Dam 7 March (HC) and a first-year bird at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (ph. BY, ph. MY, BPa, et al.).

Glaucous Gull – the ad. and third-year birds on the Ohio River at Louisville were observed to 7 March (TBa, BPa, et al.).

Great Black-backed Gull – 2 first-year birds were at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March (BPa et al.) with 1 last seen in the vicinity 8 March (ph. BPa, CBs).

Caspian Tern – 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 31 March (HC, AN) was the earliest to be reported. Local peak counts of interest included 17 at Paradise 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu) and 14 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 28 April (RD) with 16 there 12 May (HC, AN). One at the Falls of the Ohio 28 May (TBe, CBe) was the latest to be reported.

Black Tern – there were reports from only two locales: 1-2 at McElroy Lake 15-20 May (m. ob.) with a peak count of 12 there 18 May (TD et al.); and 1 at Melco 17 May (JBa, et al.).

Common Tern – there were reports at three locales: at least 1 at the Kuttawa Rec. Area on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 11 May (BY, MY); 16 at the Falls of the Ohio 13 May (TBe, CBe, ph. BPa, et al.) with 4 there 14 May (TBe, TBa, et al.) and 22 May (JBa, BPa); and 1 at Jacobson Park 22 May (ph. DSv, LCo, RO).

Forster's Tern – a few apparently wintered at Blood River, but 21 were back by 17 March (HC); next earliest was 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 April (C&KHo); only very small numbers were reported at mostly traditional sites during April and May (m. ob.).

Least Tern – the only report was of at least 6 at Camp #9 and 1 at Camp #11, both 24 May (BPa, CBs).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – singles at Black-acre SNP, *Jefferson*, 24 April (TBa) and at Mammoth Cave 25 April (CW, BPa) were the earliest to be reported.



Great Black-backed Gull (first-year)
Ohio River at Louisville, 8 March 2015
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Black-billed Cuckoo – there were at least 15 reports: 1 at the LBL Nature Station 24 April (JPr); singles heard at Cherokee Park 29-30 April & 6 May (RLa et al.); 1-2 at Pope Lick Park 1-9 May (PB, JBe, CBs, TBa et al.); 2 at the Taylor Fork Ecological Area, *Madison*, 2 May (JSu et al.); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 4 May

(DL, TN, MTw); 2 along Stockdell Road ne. of Stamping Ground, *Scott*, 4 May (SR); 1 heard at General Butler SP, *Carroll*, 4 May (SBu/JMc); singles heard at Figett Bend, *Hart*, 6 May and nw. of Powderly 8 May (JSo); singles at Raven Run 5/9 May (LT/RO et al.); 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 11 May (JPo, J&KP); 1 nw. of Fal-mouth, *Pendleton*, 10 May (BDi); 1 sw. of Lawrenceburg, *Anderson*, 14 May (PG); and 1 w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 20 May (KD *fide* CD).

Barn Owl – there were four reports: 1 found dead in a barn wsw. of Cynthiana, *Harrison*, 3 March (SDu *fide* HH); 1 along Sullivan Lane, n. *Franklin*, 3 March (HH); 1 ne. of Lebanon, *Marion*, during mid-April (*fide* LCu); and 1 at Lucas, *Barren*, 22/24 May (DSn).

Short-eared Owl – the only reports were of 1 at the Sinclair Unit 8 March (MY, BY) and 2 at Spindletop Farm that were seen off and on to 4 April (DL, RO, AX, MTw, et al.).

Chuck-will's-widow – several birds were heard at and adjacent to McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, during May (BPa, CBs, et al.); a small number of birds have apparently been on territory in the vicinity since at least 2011 (SDi).

Common Nighthawk – singles at Murray, *Calloway*, 24 April (MTr) and at Cherokee Park 27 April (RLa) were the earliest to be reported.

Chimney Swift – 1 nw. of Stanford, *Lincoln*, 3 April (JE) was the earliest to be reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – singles at Almo, *Calloway*, 3 April (JF); se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 April (MBy); and at Benton, *Marshall*, 7 April (JPo) were the earliest to be reported.

Merlin – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 7 March (SP); 1 at Sauerheber 7 April (RD); singles at McElroy Lake on a few dates during March (TD) and 9 April (LCr); 1 at Beavers Knob, *Pike*, 11 April (JBl, DO); and 1 at Melco 21 April (JBa, BPa, CBs).

Peregrine Falcon – reports away from known breeding territories included 1 at Spindletop Farm 28 February/4 March (DSv/SCo); singles at Melco 14 March/23 April (BPa/MA); 1 in w. *Franklin* 21 March (JSo); 1 at Lexington 1 April (SM); 1 at Morgan Pond 5 April (JBa, BPa); 1 at Sauerheber 12 April (CC); an ad. in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu); 1 near Ky Dam 28 April (JPo); 1 at Mud Creek 30 April (BY, MY); and singles at McElroy Lake 12/19 May (TG, SG/LCr, LD). A probable nest site occupied by a pair of birds was found on a cliffline along the Dix River, *Mercer*, 24 May (ph. TN).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – there were at least seven reports: 1 at Iroquois Park 9-10 May (MA et al.); singles at Surrey Hills Farm (BPa et al.) and at Schochoh, *Logan* (ph. ST), both 10 May; 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 12 May (JBy, MBy); singles at Cherokee Park 12-13 May (RLa, KR, et al.); 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 16 May (LM); and 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 21 May (BL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – there were reports from seven locales: singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 12/22 May (BPa); 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 17 May (BL); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 20 May (AX, MTw); 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 21 May (BL); 1 heard at Thurman Hutchins Park, Louisville, 22 May (RLa); 1 at the Crenshaw Tract, Sauerheber Unit, 27 April (JMg); and 1 along Rock Lick Creek Road s. of Bethelridge, *Pulaski*, 31 May (RD).

Acadian Flycatcher – 1 at Waddy, *Shelby*, 21 April (TS) was the earliest to be reported.

Alder Flycatcher – there were reports from seven locales: singles at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, and at Sauerheber (JMg), both 12 May; 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 13 May (BPa et al.); singles at Melco on several occasions 13-17 May (BPa et al.); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 16 May (BPa, AM, CBs); 1 at Cherokee Park 19 May (AM); and 1 at Caperton Swamp

- Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 24 May (KW_i).
- Least Flycatcher** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 24 April (RO) was the earliest to be reported.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles at six different locales 17 April (eBird data) were the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Kingbird** – 1 at the the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 27 March (†JSo) was extremely early; singles along Loveless Road, *Pulaski*, 8 April and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 9 April (ph. RD) were the next earliest to be reported.
- Bell's Vireo** – 2 at the Sinclair Unit 28 April (TG, SG) were the earliest to be reported.
- Warbling Vireo** – 2 at Cherokee Park 11 April (CBs) were the earliest to be reported.
- Fish Crow** – a few had returned to *Fulton* by 11 March (HC, AN).
- Common Raven** – reports of interest included 1 at Pikeville, *Pike*, 26 March (JBI); 1 at Beaver Knob, Elkhorn City, *Pike*, 11 April (JBI, DO); 1 at Dewey Lake WMA, *Floyd*, 15 April (SF); a nesting pair at Buckhorn Lake, *Perry*, 3 May (SF); and 2 at Robinson Forest, *Breathitt*, 29 May (CLi).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – 1 at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 20 March (RD) was the earliest to be reported.
- Purple Martin** – 3 at the LBL Nature Station 8 March (JPr) were the earliest to be reported.
- Tree Swallow** – individuals were first reported at several spots 8 March (eBird data); 500 at Sauerheber 26 April (KM_i) represented the peak count for the season.
- Bank Swallow** – singles at Sauerheber 7/10 April (RD/SP) were the earliest to be reported.
- Barn Swallow** – 3 at Lake Linville 23 March (RD) and 2 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 24 March (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – following the near absence of birds during the winter season, there were only a few reports of possible migrants; 1-2 were present at the traditional Rock Bridge nesting area during the season (m. ob.).
- Brown-headed Nuthatch** – birds continued at the nesting area at Ky Dam Village SRP through the season (m. ob.) with the observation of a nest with nestlings being fed during early May (ph. FR) and up to 6 (presumably including fledglings) present during late May (MC et al.).
- Brown Creeper** – 1 at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette*, 15 April (TLu) was the latest to be reported away from documented nesting areas. The species was heard at Rock Bridge 17 April (FR) but there were no subsequent encounters at last year's nesting location there.
- Carolina Wren** – the period of harsh late-winter weather apparently resulted in at least some mortality in scattered areas (m. ob.).
- Winter Wren** – 1 at Cherokee Park 18 April (PB, JBe) was the latest to be reported.
- Sedge Wren** – there was only one report: 1 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 2/9 May (AC, CLi, et al./DHr).
- Marsh Wren** – there were reports from three locales: singles at Sauerheber 31 March/4 April/6 May (CC) and 30 April (RLe); 1 at Adkins Swamp 29 April (EH); 1 along the Barren River, se. *Allen*, 2 May (JBy, MBy); and 1 at Beckley Creek Park 2 May (RFa, RLa).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 27 April (JSo) were the latest to be reported.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – singles at LBL, *Lyon*, 14 May (BLi) and at Greenbo Lake SRP, *Greenup*, 15 May (DHu) were the latest to be reported.
- Eastern Bluebird** – extreme cold late winter conditions apparently resulted in quite a bit of mortality in some areas; specific reports of dead birds in roost/nest boxes included the Blue Grass Army Depot, *Madison* (GR); *Todd* (DHm); Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg* (R&JPK); and Land Between the Lakes (R&JPK).

- Swainson's Thrush** – at least 1 and as many as 3 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 19 April (ph. BWo, BBC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Hermit Thrush** – singles at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette* (DSv, LCo), and at Cherokee Park (JBa), both 4 May, were the latest to be reported.
- Wood Thrush** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 April (MBy) and at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 11 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.
- Gray Catbird** – 1 at Independence, *Kenton*, 16 March (GD) was either a wintering bird or very early migrant; next earliest was 1 n. of Glasgow, *Barren*, 1 April (LCr).
- American Pipit** – 2 at Parsons Pond 6 May (FL) were the latest to be reported.
- Cedar Waxwing** – very few lingered through late winter into early spring; numbers began reappearing during the last week of April and the number of migrants peaked in numbers during the third week of May.
- Lapland Longspur** – 3 were last seen at Spindletop Farm 5 March (DSv); quite unexpected was a singing bird (not seen, but heard skylarking overhead) along Vaught Road, e. of Jewell City, *McLean*, 26 April (†CW, BPa, BWu).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – singles at two locations in *Hart* 22 March (SK, BA) were the earliest to be reported.
- Golden-winged Warbler** – the species was scarce with only four reports: 1 nw. of Powderly 5 May (TG, SG); singles at LBL, *Trigg & Lyon*, 11 & 14 May, respectively (BL); and 1 in w. *Henderson* 12 May (JMg). Reports of hybrids included a Lawrence's at Minor Clark 21 April (†DL) and single Brewster's at LBL, *Trigg*, 23 April (ph. SG, TG) and at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 1 May (†RD).
- Prothonotary Warbler** – a tally of 106 along the Barren River and Long Creek, e. *Allen*, 15 May (MBy) represented a state high count!
- Swainson's Warbler** – singles at Rock Bridge 18 April (FR) and n. of Honeybee, *McCreary*, 25/26 April (RD, KOS/TG, SG) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 1 at Long Point 29 April (HC, RD) and 1 at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 1-23 May (HC, JPo).
- Orange-crowned Warbler** – it was a good season with reports of 1-2 birds at no less than 14 locales 12-29 April (eBird data); singles at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 10 May (SP) and at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 14 May (†PB, JBe) were particularly tardy.
- Connecticut Warbler** – there were reports from five locales: singles at Cherokee Park on a few dates 11-23 May (RLa et al.); 1 along the Anchorage Trail 16 May (AM, ph. PS, et al.); singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 22 May (BPa) and at the Louisville Zoo 25 May (RLa); and 1 at Lexington 25 May (ph. DSv, LCo).
- Mourning Warbler** – there were reports of 1-2 birds at a dozen locales 4-28 May (eBird data).
- Common Yellowthroat** – singles at Clarks River NWR (JPo) and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski* (JD *fide* RD), both 4 April, and at Sauerheber 6 April (RLe) were the earliest to be reported.
- American Redstart** – 1 at Jenny Wiley SRP, *Floyd*, 8 April (TLu) was exceptionally early.
- Cape May Warbler** – 2 ne. of Goshen, *Oldham*, 18 May (BDa) were the latest to be reported.
- Cerulean Warbler** – 1 along KY 192, *Laurel*, 10 April (JMu) was the earliest to be reported.
- Northern Parula** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 1 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.
- Bay-breasted Warbler** – 1 at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 26 April (RD, KOS) was the earliest to be reported.
- Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 at Berea 22 April (RFo, RBa) was the earliest to be reported.

- Blackpoll Warbler** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 22 April (PB, BBC) was the earliest to be reported.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** – reports of interest included early individuals at Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell*, 11 April (JMu) and at Mammoth Cave 12 April (WB *fide* SK); otherwise, single migrants were reported at nearly a dozen locales mostly in the central part of the state 22 April–14 May (eBird data).
- Wilson's Warbler** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 28 April (SP) was relatively early.
- American Tree Sparrow** – ca. 30 were still at Surrey Hills Farm 4-5 March (BPa).
- Vesper Sparrow** – 8 at Beckley Creek Park 28/29 March (MC, BBC/TBa) represented the peak count for the season; 1 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 21 May (RLr) was either a particularly tardy migrant or perhaps on territory.
- Lark Sparrow** – there were reports from three locales: 1 along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 12 April (CC) with 2 there 14 May (CC); 1 at Walton Pond 25 April (BPa, CW, BWu); and 2 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu).
- Savannah Sparrow** – a few se. of *Salvisa, Mecer*, 19/22 May (FM) may have been on territory; also tardy or on territory were 2 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 21 May (RLr).
- Grasshopper Sparrow** – 1 on the Murray State University campus, *Calloway*, 6 April (MTr) was the earliest to be reported.
- Le Conte's Sparrow** – there was only one report: 1 at Hardy Slough, *Sauerheber*, 12 April (BPa, ph. SG, ph. JBa, BBC).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – 1-2 at Surrey Hills Farm 7-9 April (BPa et al.) were the earliest to be reported; a nesting colony of at least 4 territorial males was discovered at McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, 9 May into June (BPa, CBs, et al.).
- Fox Sparrow** – a late peak of 5 birds at Surrey Hills Farm 1 April likely demonstrated a peak in migratory movement (BPa); 1 was last seen there 8 April (BPa).
- White-throated Sparrow** – 1 in e. *Jefferson* 15 May (JW) and 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 19 May (RO) were the latest to be reported.
- Harris's Sparrow** – there were three reports: the ad. that wintered n. of *Dot, Logan*, was last seen 4 May (ph. FL); an ad. was at the Vogue Unit of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 26/30 April (ph. CW, ph. BWu, BPa/ph. BPa); and a very tardy ad. was reported at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 24 May (†JPe). KBRC review required.
- White-crowned Sparrow** – 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski* (RD), 1 at St. Matthews, *Jefferson* (MF), and 2 at Schochoh, *Logan* (ST), all 15 May, were the latest to be reported.
- Dark-eyed Junco** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 29 April (MBy) was the latest to be reported.
- Scarlet Tanager** – 1 at Berea 9 April (RBa, RFo) was the earliest to be reported.
- Blue Grosbeak** – 1 w. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, 14 April (TG) was the earliest to be reported.
- Indigo Bunting** – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 9 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.
- Dickcissel** – 1 along Batts Road, sw. *Graves*, 17 April (MCo) was the earliest to be reported; a few birds were again on territory at the Eastpark Industrial Park during May (m. ob.).
- Bobolink** – ca. 30 were along KY 7 s. of Grayson, *Carter*, 5-6 May (EM).
- Brewer's Blackbird** – there were three reports: ca. 10 along KY 1155 n. of Sacramento, *McLean*, 24 March (BPa, JBa); 5 at Surrey Hills Farm 3 April (BPa et al.); and at least 150 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 5 April (BPa, ph. JBa).
- Purple Finch** – peak counts included 15 at the Alpine Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 25 March (RD) and 25 at Berea 4-6 April (RFo, RBa); migrants were conspicuous during April with a few lingering into

May; 1 at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 13 May (JPe) being the latest to be reported.

Common Redpoll – the female continuing from the winter season at Lexington was last seen 26 March (AH).

Pine Siskin – a pronounced wave of migrants arrived during mid-April with num

bers actually peaking during early May including peak counts of 50 at Berea 3 May (RFo, RBa) and at least 56 at Iroquois Park, Louisville, 9 May (BPa, CBs). A few birds lingered into mid-May with 1 at Berea 22 May (RBa, RFo) and 1 at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 31 May (JPe, ph. TC) being the latest to be reported.

Observers: Michael Autin (MA), Bonnie Avery (BA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Thom Barnell (TBa), Scott Barrett (SBa), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkBa), Matthan Beachy (MBY); Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TBe), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CBs), Josh Blackmon (JBl), Karen Bonsell (KB), Sara Burch (SBu), Gerald Burnett (GB), Wendy Burt (WB), Mike Callan (MC), Tim Carter (TC), Robert Chadwick (RC), David Chaffin (DC), Hap Chambers (HC), Alex Clark (AC), Suzanne Clingman (SCl), Marta Coleman (MCo), Lisa Combs (LCo), Marge Constan (MCn), Sam Corbo (SCo), Linda Craiger (LCr), Charlie Crawford (CC), Susan Crew (SCr), Lloyd Curry (LCu), Lisa Dalporto (LD), Brian Davis (BDa), Gene Dennis (GD), Julie Denton (JD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Barb Dickison (BDi), Scott Dickman (SDi), Cheryl Dorman (CD), Kurt Dorman (KD), Diana Dubbeld (DD), Sara Dunham (SDu), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Linda Easter (LE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Rand Falls (RFa), Millie Farmer (MF), Caleb Fligor (CF), Jan Flynn (JF), Rob Foster (RFo), Scott Freidhof (SF), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Wallace Gullett (WG), Joe Hall (JH), Debbie Hamilton (DHm); Erin Harper (EH), Drew Harvey (DHR), Curt & Kathy Hofer (C&KHo), Chris Holt (CH), Ian Horn (IH), Heather Housman (HH), Alice Howell (AH), Mason Howell (MH), Derek Hudgins (DHu), Brian Johnson (BJ), Tim Johnson (TJ), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Rob Lane (RLa), David Lang (DL), Carol Langford (CLa), Richard Lee (RLe), Roger Lemaster (RLr), Tony Leukering (TLe), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Chris Lituma (CLi), Charlie Logsdon (CLo), Terri Lusk (TLu), Frank Lyne (FL), John MacGregor (JMr), Scott Marsh (SM), Jacob McCartney (JMc), Doug McCoy (DMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JMg), Keith Michalski (KMl), Frank Mitchell (FM), Katrina Moeller (KMo), Mark Monroe (MM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Daniel Moss (DMo), James Muller (JMu), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Susan Neace (SN), Anne Newberry (AN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Daryl Owens (DO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPa), Robert & Judy Peak (R&JPk), Sydney Penner (SP), James Perlowski (JPe), Bill Pike (BPi), Charlie Plush (CP), John Pollpeter (JPr), John & Katie Powell (J&KP), Josh Powell (JPo), Meg Quarles (MQ), Tommy Quarles (TQ), Spencer Reinhard (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Keith Richardson (KR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Vicki Sandage (VS), Tanner Shepard (TS), Amy Simmons (AS), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JSO), Pam Spaulding (PS), Joe Springer (JSp), Dirk Steenbergen (DSn), Del Striegel (DSt), Josh Suich (JSu), Dave Svetich (DSv), Jared Teague (JT), Laurie Thomas (LT), Melanie Torres (MTr), Mark Tower (MTw), Steve Tyson (ST), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MW), Sean Ward (SW), Katheryn Watson (KWa), James Wheat (JW), Keith Wilbourn (KWl), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Chris Wood (CW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Gale Wulker (GW), Antonio Xeira (AX), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Visit the K.O.S. Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website at the following link: <http://www.birdky.org/>.

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia "Ginny" Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to K.O.S. and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to a young birder between the ages of 13 and 18 who lives in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition for a young birder to attend an American Birding Association Summer Camp. Details about the A.B.A. camps can be found on the A.B.A. website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the K.O.S. web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to K.O.S. at a meeting, or in writing. The deadline to apply for a 2016 Kingsolver Scholarship is May 15, 2016.

K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or you can contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (scott.marsh@twc.com).

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or contact Kathryn Heyden, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kathryn.heyden@ky.gov).

The Kentucky Warbler Available in PDF Format

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive their quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now do so. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at the following address: brainard@mindspring.com.

(continued on following page)

K.O.S. Establishes New Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville

At the winter meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, the Board voted to establish a new Endowment Fund with the Community Foundation of Louisville (CFL). CFL is the largest charitable foundation in Kentucky with over \$430 million in assets and more than 1350 different funds, each with a charitable purpose defined by the donor. In 2014, the Community Foundation made over 8000 grants totaling \$45 million to local, national, and international nonprofits.

The Society's initial contribution of \$25,000 to the new Endowment Fund came from principal and earnings from the long-standing Gordon Wilson Fund (about \$24,000) and a small portion (about \$1000) of the Society's General Operating Fund. That amount is now essentially "locked up" in perpetuity to support the Society's charitable activities. The Gordon Wilson Fund was established in 1957, with proceeds to be used for the following purposes: 1) to assist in the improvement and expansion of *The Kentucky Warbler* by printing of photographs and other illustrations of ornithological interest in the journal; by printing of tables, graphs, maps, and other illustrative materials requiring special treatment; and by assisting in the cost of publication of long papers, such as monographs and occasional papers beyond the scope of the finances of the Society; 2) to assist in financing of research projects related to ornithology of Kentucky and adjacent states; and 3) to award fellowships and scholarships for the study of ornithology in schools and colleges and research stations.

The performance history of CFL's "socially responsible" investment option chosen by the Board suggests that the Fund will generate about five percent (or about \$1250) each year that can be used to assist in funding bird-related conservation and research projects, or scholarships.

As a participating member of the CFL, the Society has been registered as a qualifying recipient for donations that will be solicited through a one-day, internet giving campaign called "Give Local Louisville" that will occur on October 1, 2015. Visit the Give Local Louisville web site at (<http://www.cflouisville.org/grants-partnerships/give-local-louisville/>) or the CFL web site at (<http://www.cflouisville.org/>) to learn more about this exciting opportunity to donate to the Society as well as a wealth of background information on CFL.



California Gull (ad.) in pursuit of Ring-billed Gull, Falls of the Ohio
1 March 2015
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Black Scoter (ad. male w/ White-winged Scoter)
Jefferson Co., 12 March 2015
Pam Spaulding



Brown-headed Nuthatch (w/ food at nest cavity)
Marshall Co., 5 May 2015
Frank Renfrow



Sanderling, Marshall Co.
10 May 2015
Ben Yandell



Harris's Sparrow (ad.), Muhlenberg Co.
30 April 2015
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal, Jefferson Co.
27 March 2015
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Madison Co.
19 April 2015
Katheryn Watson