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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank David Lang for the cover photograph of Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*).

The Kentucky Ornithological Society

Spring 2017 Meeting

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park

April 28 - 30, 2017

Friday, April 28

2:30 p.m. Pat and Jane Bell led a bird walk along Kentucky Scenic Lake Drive, Land Between the Lakes.

7:10 p.m. Evening Meeting

David Lang called the meeting to order, introduced one new member, and discussed birding etiquette. David announced the field trips for Saturday morning. Blaine Ferrell will lead a field trip around the lodge, Steve Kistler will lead a trip for beginners around the lodge, Josh Powell will lead a field trip to the Clark River Wildlife Management Area, David Lang and Rebecca Bates led trips to the north end of the Land Between the Lakes.

Steve Kistler conducted a bird quiz showing pictures of parts of 25 birds in flight for members to guess the identity. He did show the whole picture as well after the quiz.

Kate Slankard, biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, gave a talk "Habitat Management is for the Birds." She described the latest research conducted at Kentucky Wildlife Management Areas, including the impact of habitat management by fire, monitoring avian species, restoring oak-hickory forests, and the impact of restoring native warm season grasses on bird populations. Forty-eight species in decline are covered in the program. She asked members to share information regarding the location of Loggerhead Shrikes for an ongoing project studying their status. She also asked for information on Osprey nests, particularly east of the Land Between the Lakes.

Tony Brusate, President of the Central Kentucky Audubon Society, presented Audubon's Climate Report. The future of 314 species of birds of North American Birds is in peril. He showed graphics regarding temperature and other meteorological changes suspected of determining the range of bird species. Birds are anticipated to spend winters farther north. He described examples of species whose range will likely change due to climate changes and what can be done to help them adjust. All of us need to reduce energy use that require fossil fuels to reduce climate changes. Audubon Climate Watch, a model predicting future species ranges, needs volunteers to monitor species in select areas to see if their model will be predictive.

Pat Bell mentioned that donated books are available for a silent auction. Also, she mentioned that bird cards produced by Mary Yandell are available for dissemination to inform potential members about KOS. She asked members to take some and share them with others. The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m. and was followed by a social with refreshments.

Saturday, April 29

8:00 a.m. Field trips departed from the Park Lodge. Several field trips were offered for the afternoon. Steve Kistler led a wildflower walk and David Lang led a field trip to the north end of Land Between the Lakes on FS Road 107.

7:00 p.m. Evening Meeting

Pat called the meeting to order and reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones. She welcomed everyone and identified one new member. Also, she introduced the recipient, Kimmy Birrer, of an award to attend a birding camp from the Kingsolver Fund.

Blaine Ferrell tallied the species observed by K.O.S. members during field trips (158 species). Mary Yandell announced plans for Wings of Winter Bird Festival in Tennessee.

Pat Bell introduced Steve Shunk, author of the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* and founder of the Woodpecker Wonderland Festival in central Oregon. This was his first time in Kentucky. His talk "Lives and Times of Kentucky Woodpeckers" covered the natural history of Kentucky Woodpeckers, their anatomy, conservation and ecology. He gave out stuffed bird toy prizes for answers to three questions. He indicated that woodpeckers represent keystone species in that they excavate cavity nests for approximately 40 other bird species. He stressed the need to maintain healthy forests for woodpeckers. He invited members to visit Woodpecker Wonderland in central Oregon where there are 11 species of breeding woodpeckers.

Pat Bell thanked Steve Shunk for the talk and thanked David Lang for making the arrangements for the meeting and field trip leaders. David Lang reminded everyone about the Sunday morning field trips. Lee Mc Neely will lead a trip to the Sheriff's Ranch and below the dam. Win Ahrens will lead a trip along the Lake Scenic Trail.

Attendance at the KOS Spring Meeting

Alexandria	Mary Beth Lusby and Ron Lusby
Austin	Barbara Brand
Benton	Josh Powell
Berea	Gretchen Bolton, Rebecca Bates, Rob Foster, Jennifer Perkins
Bowling Green	Valerie Brown, Blaine Ferrell, Ken Keuhn, Marilyn Mattingly, and Tom Durbin
Brandon	Preston Forsythe and Shari Forsythe
Burlington	Lee McNeely
Cadiz	James D. Chiles
Carrolton, MO	June Newman
Columbia, MO	Kathleen Anderson, Janice Gaston, Edge Wade
Danville	Granville Cox
Elizabethtown	Jennifer Snyder
Fredericksburg, VA	Joyce Bathke, Michael Bathke
Floyds Knob, IN	Colleen Craven-Becker, Tom Becker
Glasgow	Linda Craiger
Georgetown	Betsy Lang, David Lang
Greenville	Steve Graham, Teresa Graham
Herndon	Sarah Bell
Hodgenville	Rosemary Meredith
Lawrenceburg	Kate Slankard
Lexington	Clay Bliznik, Nancy Braun, Tony Brusate, Jessica Hollis, Alice Howell, Mary Sutton, Carl Vogel, Jim Williams,
Louisville	Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, David Lusk, Terri Lusk, Pam Spaulding, James Wheat, Ben Yandell and Mary Yandell
Morehead	Fred Busroe, Katie Busroe, Brian Reeder
Munfordville	Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler
Murray	Melissa Easley, Bonnie McNeely, Same McNeely, Sarah Moy
Prospect	Win Ahrens
Salem	Patty Horner
Science Hill	Roseanna Denton
Villa Hills	Kimmy Birrer

Bird Species Observed at the KOS Spring Meeting
Kentucky Dam Village and Area
April 28-April 30, 2017

The following birds were observed by members: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

The total species tally was 158, a record number.

WINTER 2016-2017 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during winter 2016-2017 were overall mild with variable precipitation during the season. The average temperature during December was very close to normal at all major recording stations; however, January and February were much warmer than normal, with average temperatures roughly 7-8°F higher than normal and 9-10°F higher than normal at all major recording stations during January and February, respectively. Most of the state received slightly more to one-and-a-half times more than the normal amount of precipitation during December and January, the exception being the far west, where Paducah received about three-fourths the normal amount of precipitation during January. February turned somewhat dry, with most major stations recording roughly one-half to three-fourths the normal amount of precipitation. Mild temperatures during mid-winter resulted in very little snowfall anywhere in the state during the season.

It was the second winter in a row with an above-normal number of reports of lingering migrants and summer residents; these included American Bittern, Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, House Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow. Vagrant rarities were limited to a Say's Phoebe in Nelson County. Winter finches were very scarce, although Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in above-average numbers for the first time in four years.

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); “vo.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with a voice recording; “†” 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); Blood River = Blood River embayment of Ky Lake, Calloway; Cecilia, w. Hardin; former Gibraltar Mine, se. of Martwick e. Muhlenberg; Frogue Pond, n. of Zion, Todd; Jacobson Park, Reservoir #4 at Jacobson Park, Lexington; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, Marshall; Ken Unit, Peabody WMA, Ohio; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Ky Dam Village SRP, Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Peewee, Hopkins; Lake Reba, Madison; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Lexington, Fayette; Long Point =

Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. Fulton; McElroy Lake, s. Warren; Melco = Melco Flood Retention Basin, s. Jefferson; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, Oldham; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Science Hill, Pulaski; Sinclair Unit = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg; Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, Marshall; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Research Farm, Fayette; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Upper Hickman Bottoms, Fulton; West Ky WMA, McCracken; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – peak counts from the traditional wintering locales included 2000 at Sauerheber by 3 December (JM) with 8750 there 14 December (CPI) and ca. 7000 there during the latter half of January (CPI); up to 8530 at Ballard WMA during the last week of December (RCo); and 1900 at at Long Point 4 January (GP). Also of interest were tallies of 8000 & 10,000 at Doug Travis WMA, Carlisle, 31 January & 3 February, respectively (TK). Additional reports of interest included 4 at Shaker Village, Mercer, 3 December (DL, ASK); 6 at the Reformatory Lake (BrD, KP) and 1 at Freeman Lake, Hardin, (BP, JAr), both 21 December; 11 along McGill Wyan Road, Laurel, 22 December (CBI); up to 21 (23 December [DSv, LCo]) at various locales in Fayette from mid-December to early January; up to 31 (4/11 February [SA, JHa]) at Frogue Pond and other ponds in the vicinity during the season; 40 at Lake Linville 23 December (JSo); 1 s. of Science Hill 31 December (RBo) with 1 ne. of Albia, Pulaski, 7 January (RD); 100 s. of Rumsey, McLean, 18 January (TG, SG) with at least 1000 there 23 January (SG, TG); 45 at McElroy Lake 18 January (TD); and 500 sw. of Owensboro, Daviess, 23 January (SG, TG).

Snow Goose – peak counts at the traditional wintering locales included 9250 at Sauerheber 6 December (CPI) with 5000 on the Ohio River nearby 22 December (KMt) and 15,000 along Straightline Road n. of Sauerheber 5 January (KMt); ca. 12,000 at Ballard WMA 19 December (BWu, BP, TG, SG); 3500 at Long Point 1 February (HC, ME, JP); and 5000-10,000 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 13 February (BP). Also reported were impressive tallies of 80,000 and a near-state-record high count of 150,000 at Doug Travis WMA, Carlisle, 31 January and 3 February, respectively (TK). In addition, a very unusual movement appeared farther e. than normal 17-18 January with the following reports: 75-100 seen from Melco 17 January (MA) with 375 total in two flocks over there 18 January (MM, BP, TR); a large number heard over s. Henry (RR), an unknown number heard over Franklin (WH), and about 50 in two flocks over s. Jefferson (EHu), all on the night of 17 January; and 25-30 over Stephensburg, Hardin (JBn), 100+ over Harrison (WH), ca. 1000 over ne. Hart (JBt, fide SK), ca. 100 over Nicholasville, Jessamine, (STu), ca. 100 over Bardstown, Nelson (PB, JBe), ca. 50 over sw. Logan (FL), ca. 50 over ne. Barren (LCr), and 300 at McElroy Lake (TD), all 18 January. There were also second-hand reports

from Oldham and Shelby (fide JBr). In addition, abnormal high counts reported in subsequent days included 150 w. of Cecilia 22 January (BWu, BP); and 3000 sw. of Owensboro, Daviess, and 8000 s. of Rumsey, McLean, both 23 January (TG, SG). It is thought that these birds were displaced in some way by inclement weather along the Mississippi River flyway (fide JBr).

Ross's Goose – in recent years, the number of reports of this species has continued to increase; also, the number of reports of birds that appear to be hybrids or backcrosses has increased; however, the blurred line between hybrids and “good” Ross's is confusing, and the authors have tended to be more inclusive of small, but slightly odd-looking birds being considered herein as Ross's. Reports of interest included 1 at Shaker Village, Mercer, 16 December (DL, ASK); at least 14 at Ballard WMA 19 December (BP, BWu, SG, TG); 8 sw. of Trenton, Todd, 8-9 December (ph. SA) with 1-3 at Frogue Pond during mid- to late December (ph. SA et al.) and 3 at Guthrie Swamp, Todd, 23 January (SA); 1 at the State Game Farm, Franklin, 21 December (ph. RCh); 3 in n. Fayette 24 December–3 January (DSv, ph. LCo, et al.) with 5 at Spindletop Farm 19 February (DSv) and 1 still there 22 February (RO); 3 ene. of Science Hill 2 January (ph. RD); at least 4 at Sauerheber 14 January (BP, NB); 5 s. of Rumsey, McLean (TG, SG), 2 s. of Richmond, Madison (DSv), and 18 at McElroy Lake (TD), both 18 January; 1 at the mouth of the Licking River, Campbell/Kenton, 18-27 January (ph. RCr et al.); 1 nw. of Independence,

Kenton, 6 February (RCr); at least 65 sw. of Sassafras Ridge, Fulton, 13 February (BP); 2 at Fox Chase Pond, Wayne, 18 February (ph. RBo); and 1 at Burlington, Boone, 26 February (LM).

Cackling Goose – reports of interest included 1 at Lake Linville 9 December (DR); 4 at the Reformatory Lake 21 December (BrD); 1-4 at various ponds in Fayette 23 December–22 January (CBI, DSv, DL, et al.); 2 sw. of Shelbyville, Shelby, 12 January with 5 there 19 January (†AM); 3 n. of Franklin Crossroads, Hardin, 22 January (ph. BP, ph. BWu); 3 at Stone Place Stables, n. Jefferson, 11-12 February (PB, JBe, et al.); and 4 at Science Hill 10 January (ph. RD) with 7 ene. of Science Hill 4 February (ph. RD).

Mute Swan – the blurred line between birds that are part of established populations, mostly originating from the Great Lakes, and those that simply represent local birds that are likely non-reproducing and simply feral has been difficult to distinguish. The authors now consider it likely that birds traditionally reported herein from n. Fayette, the Reformatory Lake, and several locales in Shelby, may simply be feral birds originating from local collections. One at Petersburg, Boone, 19 January (LM) and up to 5 at Frankfort, Franklin, during the first week of February were more likely of origin from established populations (ph. RCh, et al.). Additional reports found in eBird are of unspculated origin.

- Tundra Swan** – the wintering flock at Sauerheber peaked at 105 on 20 December (CPI); there were three additional reports: 8 s. of Rumsey, McLean, 16 January (TG, SG) that had apparently been present for a couple of weeks according to local residents; 6 at Lake Reba 28 January (ph. RCh) and 6 at Spindletop Farm 19 February (ph. DSv et al.).
- Gadwall** – generally modest peak counts included 200 at Sauerheber 11 December (JM); 200 at Blood River 30 December (HC); 200 at Melco 11 January (MA); 250 on Honker Lake/Bay, LBL, Lyon/Trigg, 16 January (AS); 1000 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 1 February (HC, ME, JP); and 200 at Clarks River NWR, Marshall, 18 February (MTs).
- American Wigeon** – peak counts of interest included 300 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 1 February (HC, ME, JP) and at least 350 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (most at Long Point) 13 February (BP) with 520 at and immediately adjacent to Long Point 17 February (BWu, MM, BP).
- Gadwall x Mallard** – a male that was observed at Somerset, Pulaski, during November was seen again 17 February (ph. RD).
- Blue-winged Teal** – 1 was reported at Barren River Lake 9 January (†RBo); 5 ne. of Benton, Marshall (MTs), and 1 at Murl Pond s. of Murl, Wayne (ph. RBo), both 18 February, were the earliest spring migrants to be reported.
- Northern Shoveler** – local peak counts of interest included 45 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 9 January (CBI, JSo, et al.); 45 at Melco 12 January (MA); 130 at KY 94 and Mud Creek, Fulton, 1 February (HC, JP, ME); 300 at Ballard WMA 17 February (BWu, MM, BP); and at least 350 at Long Point 27 February (JP).
- Mallard x Northern Pintail** – a male was present at Freeman Lake, Hardin, 16 January (ph. JSn).
- Northern Pintail** – at least 300 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 13 February (BP) and 100 along Straightline Road n. of Sauerheber 16 February (KM) represented the peak counts for the season.
- Green-winged Teal** – peak counts of interest included an impressive 270 on a small farm pond along Lawson-Poindexter Road, Todd, 14 December (ph. BP); 1300 at Ballard WMA 19 December (BWu, BP, SG, TG); at least 525 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 17 February (BWu, MM, BP); and 342 at Obion WMA, Fulton, 27 February (JP).
- Redhead** – generally modest peak counts included 50 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 9 December (CBI et al.); 103 on Ky Lake e. of New Concord, Calloway, 3 January (JP, ME); 55 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 25-27 February (DL, ASK, et al.); and 50 on Lake Reba 25 February (DL, ASK).
- Ring-necked Duck** – modest peak counts for the season included 200 at Sauerheber 11 December (JM) and 100 at the Sinclair Unit 2 January (CBI, BP).

Greater Scaup – generally below-average numbers were present during this mild winter season.

Lesser Scaup – 750 on Lake Barkley, Trigg, 6 December (BL) represented the peak count for the season.

Surf Scoter – there were four reports: 1 on Ky Lake above the dam, Marshall, 13/17 December (AH/HC, ME); 2 on Lake Reba 20-25 December (ph. TQ, RCh, et al.); 2 on the Ohio River above Markland Dam, Gallatin, 27 December (ph. WH); and 2 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 23 January (CBI, ph. LCo, et al.).

White-winged Scoter – there were four reports: 1 on Green River Lake, Adair, 9 December (ph. RD); 5 on Green River Lake, Taylor, 16 December (BP, JBa); 1 on Lake Linville 18 December (ph. RD); and 8 at Jacobson Park 1 January (ph. BY, et al.).



White-winged Scoter, *Fayette*
1 January 2017
Ben Yandell

Long-tailed Duck – a male on Ky Lake above the dam, Livingston, 17 February (BP, MM, BWu) was the only one reported.

Bufflehead – 46 on Lake Linville 7 December (JSO) represented a modest peak Count.

Hooded Merganser – 500 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 15 December (SP, DL, et al.) represented the peak count for the season.

Common Merganser – reports of interest included 7 on the lower Rockcastle River, Laurel, 15 December (ph. RD); 4 on Green River Lake, Taylor, 28 December (BP, JSO); 5 on Lake Reba 3 January (ph. JAB); 4 on Lake Peewee 8 January (TG, SG); and 1 on Lake Linville 31 January (CBI).

Red-breasted Merganser – peak counts of interest included 65 on Lake Barkley above the dam 8 February (BP); at least 100 on Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, Lyon, 14 February (BP); and at least 105 on Lake Barkley, Lyon, 17 February (BWu, MM, BP).

Ruddy Duck – generally modest peak counts included 110 total on Green River Lake, Adair/Taylor, 16 December (BP, JBa); 60 on Lake Linville 25 December (SP); 69 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 1 January (JSO); and at least 200 on Lake Barkley above the dam 17 February (BWu, MM, BP).

Common Loon – modest peak counts included 30 on Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton, 3 December (RD, RBo) and 61 on Green River Lake, Taylor, 4 December (JSO).

Horned Grebe – peak counts of interest included 70 on Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton, 3 December (RD, RBo) and 63 on Green River Lake, Adair, 27

December (JSo) with 98 total on the lake 28 December (JSo, BP).

American White Pelican – the mild winter resulted in an above-average number lingering on Lake Barkley and Ky Lake through the season. In addition, a flock of 7 on Dewey Lake, Floyd, 19 December (ph. ZS) was exceptional for e. Kentucky.

American Bittern – there were two reports: 1 at Spindletop Farm 10 January (ph. DSv) and 1 at Norton Commons, ne. Jefferson, 8-12 February (ph. PB, JBe, et al.).

Great Egret – there were reports from seven locales: 1 n. of Oak Grove, Christian, 7 December (ph. SA); 1 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 12/15 December (MG); 5 still at Guthrie Swamp, Todd, 13 December (ph. SA) with 3 there to 16 December (ph. SA) and 1 lingering in the vicinity to 4 January (ph. SA); 1 lingered at the Falls of the Ohio to 18 December (BP); 1 present at the Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 from 15 December to 4 January (DL, SP, et al.); 1 at Debord Pond n. of Monticello, Wayne, 8 February (ph. RD); and 1 at Cave Lake, Wayne, 18 February (†RBo).

Green Heron – 1 apparently wintered at Pumphouse Pond, Pulaski, where a bird has also been reported twice in previous years; this individual was seen 12 January & 15.

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 1 at Long Point 17 December (†JHa) was quite unusual for that locale, especially during early winter.

Osprey – extraordinarily early was 1 below Ky Dam 28 February (†RS, VS).

Golden Eagle – 1-3 were reported at the traditional wintering locale at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson, during the season (m. ob.); also reported were singles along the Kentucky River near Gratz, Owen, 1 December (RR) and at Long Point 18 December (†JHa, †GK).

Rough-legged Hawk – there was only one report: 1 in ne. Daviess 17 December (MTh fide JHo).

Virginia Rail – there were reports from two locales: 2 heard at the Ken Unit and 3 heard on the former Gibraltar Mine, all 2 January (BP, CBl) and 3 heard at the Ken Unit and 2 heard on the former Gibraltar Mine, all 17 February (BP, MM, BWu), with 1 heard at the latter locale 18 February (CBl).

Sora – singles heard at different spots on the former Gibraltar Mine, both 2 January (BP, CBl) represented a first for the state during winter; one of these birds was heard calling again 17/18 February (BP, BWu, MM/CBl).

Sandhill Crane – the first large south-bound movements of the season included counts of 1700 over Douglass Hills, Jefferson, 8 December (BY, MY, JBe, PB, et al.) and 1600 over the same location 10 December (MY). At Barren River Lake, only 716 were present 5 December (WT), with 4780 there 12 December (WT), 13,000 there 19 December (WT), 9500 there 5 January (WT), 12,400 there 9 January (WT), 4700+ there 17 January (WT),

7000 there 23 January (WT), and only 216 there 6 February (WT). With conditions w. of Cecilia, Hardin, relatively dry early during the winter, few were present until January, when 1200 were counted there 1 January (CL), with 1565 there 17 January (EHa), 2178 there 23 January (EHa), ca. 2500 there 28 January (JBe, PB), a season peak count of 13,600+ there 29 January (EHa), ca. 12,000 there 9 February (CL), and 7200+ there 13 February (EHa).

Pectoral Sandpiper – 1 w. of Miller, Fulton, 17 February (BP, BWu, MM) established a new early arrival date for the state by four days.

Dunlin – 2 lingered at Jonathan Creek to 17 December (HC, ME).

Least Sandpiper – 52 were still at Blood River 1 December (HC) and as has become the norm, small numbers appeared to linger at Blood River and Jonathan Creek through the season; other reports of interest included up to ca. 12 lingering at Frogue Pond into mid-December, with 1 lingering there to 11 February (ph. SA); small numbers at Guthrie Swamp, Todd, to 26 December (ph. SA); 1 n. of Franklin Crossroads, Hardin, 22 January (ph. BP, ph. BWu); 3 w. of Miller, Fulton, 13 February (BP); and 4 just n. of Long Point 27 February (JP).

Spotted Sandpiper – there were two reports: 2 at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, Franklin [where one wintered last winter], 18 December (JeJ, JoJ) with 1 there 30 December (†GR); and 1 along the Cumberland River at the mouth of Wolf Creek, Russell, 20 January (SD fide RD).

Greater Yellowlegs – 1 at Lake No. 9, Fulton, 27 February (JP) was the earliest to be reported.

Lesser Yellowlegs – ca. 25 at Long Point and 2 at Lake No. 9, Fulton, both 27 February (JP) were the earliest to be reported.

Bonaparte's Gull – a tally of ca. 1900 at Barren River Lake 13 February (RBo) represented a local high count. Additional peak counts of interest included 430 at Blood River 14 December (HC) and 525 on Lake Barkley, Trigg, 31 January (HC).

Herring Gull – ca. 100 birds in the vicinity of Ky Dam 8/10 February (BP/CBI) represented the peak count for the season.

Thayer's Gull – a second-year bird at Ky Dam 8 February (ph. BP) was the only one reported.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – as is the norm, a few were present on Ky Lake/Lake Barkley during the season; reports of interest included a first-year bird at Ky Dam, 2 ads. at Sledd Creek, and an ad. on Lake Barkley, Lyon, all 8 February (BP); and an ad. that wintered at Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 from 14 December to 13 February (ph. DSv, et al.).

Forster's Tern – small numbers lingered at Blood River into February and likely wintered; also reported were 3 at Sledd Creek 10 February (CBI); 2 at Jonathan Creek 17 February (ME); and 2 on Lake Barkley at Devil's Elbow, Trigg, 19 February (JP).

- Barn Owl** – there were reports from five locales: 1 nw. of Bennettstown, Christian, 2 December (SB); 2 near Frogue Pond 12/16 December (AT); 1 nw. of Keysburg, Logan, 16 December (JHa, RS); 1 at Perryville Battlefield State Historical Site, Boyle, 2 February (RD); and birds in four boxes at the Sinclair Unit 15 February (EW).
- Short-eared Owl** – there were reports from eight locales: up to 6 at the Sinclair Unit during the season (P&SF, SG, TG, CBI, et al.); 1 at Spindletop Farm 11 December– 1 January (DSv, LCo, et al.); singles along Ash Grove Road, Jessamine, 23 December (SP) and along Bliss Road, Adair, 26 December (DC); 2 along Horntown Road, e. Grayson, 9 December (SK, JK) with up to 11 there (6 January [JSn]) through late February (m. ob.); 1 in e. Shelby 21 January (PS); up to 6 at Perryville Battlefield State Historical Site, Boyle, during early February (JL, et al.); and 1 ne. of Zula, Wayne, 10 February (RBo).
- Rufous Hummingbird** – there were three reports: the imm. female at Salt Lick Bend, Cumberland, remained through the season (SJ); the imm. male at Douglass Hills, Jefferson, lingered to 19 December (BoD, ba. BP, et al.); and an imm. male present at Taylor Mill, Kenton, since sometime in October lingered to 4 January (TE, ba. BP, et al.).
- Merlin** – there were reports of single birds from more than two dozen locales, some now becoming traditional for wintering (mostly eBird data).
- Peregrine Falcon** – reports of birds not at or near known breeding territories included 1 at a few different sites at Lexington during the season (m. ob.); 1 at Petros Pond, Warren, 11 December (TD); 1 over the Dog Creek Campground, Nolin Lake, Grayson, 15 December (SK, JSo, et al.); and 1 at Newburgh Dam, Henderson, 3 February (KM_i). It also appeared from repeated observations that a bird wintered again this season at Ky Dam (m. ob.).
- Say's Phoebe** – 1 was s. of Bloomfield, Nelson, 21 January through the season (ph. DM et al.). KBRC review required.
- Fish Crow** – 1 was heard calling at Ky Dam Village SRP 17 December (HC, ME); single birds, perhaps early returning individuals, were heard at KY 94 and Mud Creek, Fulton, and in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, both 1 February (HC, ME, JP) with individuals at several locales in the far w. part of the state by the end of the month.
- Common Raven** – there were two reports of interest: 1 at the Patoker Boat Ramp, Paintsville Lake WMA, Morgan, 6 December (SF) and 1 at Yatesville Lake WMA, Lawrence (where the species was apparently encountered several times during the season [fide SF]), 27 February (SF). Unspecific dates of observation were also reported during the season at Dewey Lake WMA; Floyd, Fishtrap Lake WMA, Pike; and Grayson Lake WMA, Carter (SF).

Tree Swallow – a tardy bird was at Lake Peewee 5 December (TG, SG). Three at Frogue Pond 8 February (AT); 2 at Schochoh, Logan, 17 February (STy); 12 at Cave Lake, Wayne, 18 February (RBo); 1 s. of Bloomfield, Nelson, 19 February (DM); and 2 at Spindletop Farm 21 February (CBI) were the earliest returning birds to be reported.

Black-capped Chickadee – 1 was present at Yatesville Lake WMA, Lawrence, 21 January/6 February (BP, ph. BWu, JSt, DSv, ph. LCo/JSO, DL, CBI). KBRC review required.



Black-capped Chickadee, *Lawrence*
21 January 2017
Brian Wulker

Red-breasted Nuthatch – the species was well distributed statewide during the season (1-23 reported on 23 CBCs), but numbers did not seem as high as during late fall, suggesting that many birds continued farther south to winter.

Brown-headed Nuthatch – 1-2 continued at the Ky Dam Village SRP territory through the season (m. ob.).

House Wren – it was another exceptional winter for the species with no less than 21 individuals reported from at least 15 locales. All reports are included: 2 at the Ken Unit 8 December (BP, ph. JBa, TG, SG) with 1 there 18 December (†CBI); 1 at Green River Lake, Taylor, 9/17 December (ph. RD); 1 at Doug Travis WMA, Carlisle, 12 December (vo. MG); 2 s. of Smiths Grove, Warren (AH), and 1 along Rock Lick Creek Road, Pulaski, (RD), both 25 December; 2 at different spots ne. of Lebanon Junction, Bullitt, 26 December (†BP, PH); singles along Kellyville Road, Taylor (ph. BP, JSo) and at Green River Lake WMA, Adair (†BP, JSo), both 28 December; singles at Ft. Knox, Meade (ph. BP) and at West Ky WMA, McCracken (†KMc, TW), both 30 December; 1 at Ansel, Pulaski, 1 January (RD); 5 at various locales on the former Gibraltar Mine 2 January (†BP, CBI); 1 at Yatesville Lake WMA, Lawrence, 21 January (vo. BWu, JSt, BP); and 1 at Hickman, Fulton, 13/17 February (ph. BP/BP, MM, BWu).

Marsh Wren – 1 was heard at the former Gibraltar Mine 2 January (BP, CBI).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – an injured bird was found on the Anchorage Trail 18 December (ph. PS, JBe, PB, CBs).

Gray Catbird – 1 wintered on the Anchorage Trail (ph. TQ, RCh, et al.).

American Pipit – 250 near Whaynes Corner, Hickman, 12 December (MG) and 350 s. of Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, Allen, 9 January (RBo)

represented the peak counts for the season.

Lapland Longspur – reports of interest included as many as 200 in roadside fields at a few different locales in s. Logan and Todd during December (BP, SA, JHa, RS, et al.) and as many as 50 at Frogue Pond during early February (ph. SA et al.).

Orange-crowned Warbler – again this winter, there were a remarkable number (at least 14) of reports, all being included: 1 at the Ken Unit 8 December (†BP, TG, SG); singles at Long Point (JHa) and along Dry Branch Road, s. Fayette (DR, †MTr, CF), both 17 December; 1 at West Ky WMA (BP, BWu), 3 along Kelly Branch Road, Ballard (ph. BP, ph. BWu), and 2 together adjacent to Ballard WMA (ph. BWu, BP), all 19 December; 1 at the WKU Farm, Warren, 21 December (†AH); 1 at Eva Bandman Park, Louisville, 7 January (†PB, JBe); 1 at Ky Dam Village SRP 9 January (†GD); 1 at the Rockcastle River WMA, Pulaski, 16 January (†RD); 1 along the Old Henry Trail, Jefferson, 28 January (ph. JW); 1 at J.J. Audubon SP, Henderson, 6 February (†JM); 1 at Hickman, Fulton, 13 February (ph. BP); and 1 adjacent to Ballard WMA 17 February (MM, †BWu, BP).

Common Yellowthroat – there were three reports: 1 s. of Smiths Grove, Warren, 24 December (†AH); 1 near the Paradise Power Plant, Muhlenberg, 2 January (ph. SG, TG); and 1 n. of Sauerheber 28 January (†JM).

Cape May Warbler – 1 was present at Horse Cave, Hart, 22 December–25 January (ph. JR).

Palm Warbler – relatively well distributed early in the winter with 1-35 reported on 11 CBCs, plus a number of eBird reports; the peak CBC tally involved a single flock of 35 e. of Flaherty, Meade, 30 December (ph. EHu, DSt, BP) with as many as 31 continuing into early January (ph. BP). An individual presumed to be of the Eastern race (*S. p. hypochrysea*) was in the company of this large group 30 December–4 January (ph. BP).

Pine Warbler – relatively well distributed early in the winter with 1-12 reported on five CBCs; there were also numbers of eBird reports, particularly of presumed returning birds during February. The total of 12 on the Calloway County CBC 3 January (fide AY) certainly represents a high count for the season in the state.

Yellow-throated Warbler – 1 at the WKU Farm, Warren, 20/21 December (†TD/AH) represented a first for the state during December.

American Tree Sparrow – not remarkably widespread this winter with 1-37 reported on only 13 CBCs.

Chipping Sparrow – this species has become a normal winter resident; ca. 50 on the Anchorage Trail 20 January (MA) represented the peak count for the season, although an impressive total of 176 from various locations was reported on the Somerset CBC 31 December (fide RD).

- Henslow's Sparrow** – 1 at West Ky WMA 19 December (†BP, BWu) represents a second winter record for the state. Under KBRC review.
- Le Conte's Sparrow** – there were reports from four locales: 1 along Whayne Road, Upper Hickman Bottoms, 15 December (†MG); 2 at West Ky WMA 19 December (BP, †BWu) with at least 1 there 14/17 February (BP/BP, MM, BWu); 2 at the former Gibraltar Mine 2 January (BP, †CBI); and 1 at Ballard WMA 14 February (ph. BP).
- Lark Sparrow** – quite exceptional was 1 on the n. side of Lexington 2 January (DSv, ph. LCo).
- Fox Sparrow** – present in below-average abundance this winter with 1-36 reported on 23 CBCs.
- Vesper Sparrow** – there were reports from three locales: up to 5 just e. of Guthrie, Todd, 14-15 December (†BP, ph. SA) with 4-5 at the same locale 16-23 February (ph. SA); 8 nw. of Zion, Todd, 16 December (†AT); and up to 6 n. of Dot, Logan, 8 January–19 February (ph. FL).
- Lincoln's Sparrow** – there was one report: 1 at West Ky WMA 30 December (†KMc, †TW).
- Dark-eyed Junco** – a male “Oregon Junco” wintered for the second year in a row in a yard at Douglass Hills, Jefferson (ph. MY, BY).
- Indigo Bunting** – there were two reports: 1 se. of Mt. Zion, Allen, on an unspecified date during December (MB) and 1 se. of Science Hill 31 December (†RBo).
- Western Meadowlark** – 15-20 were present e. of Hickman, Fulton, 13 February (ph./vo. BP) with a few continuing in the area through the month (m. ob.).
- Rusty Blackbird** – peak counts of interest included at least 200 at Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson, 11 December (BP) with at least 400 there 16/18 December (BP/BP, BWu); and 300 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, Union, 30 December (KMj).
- Brewer's Blackbird** – 6 at Oscar, Ballard, 14 February (ph. BP) with 2 there 17 February (BP, BWu, MM) were the only ones reported.
- Purple Finch** – the species lingered through the season in slightly above-normal number for recent years with 1-28 reported on 24 CBCs.
- Pine Siskin** – the species continued to be very scarce during the season, with only a handful of reports of small numbers, mostly singles, at feeding stations during the season (eBird data).

Observers: John Abrams (JAb), Jim Arnett (JAr), Sharon Arnold (SA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Matthan Beachy (MB), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (BP), Sarah Bell (SB), Joyce Bender (JBn), Carol Besse (CBs), Clay Bliznik (CBI), Ray Bontrager (RBo), Nancy Braun (NB), John Brittain (JBt), John Brunjes (JBr), Robert Chadwick (RCh), Hap Chambers (HC), Robert Colvis (RCo), Lisa Combs (LCo), Derek Coomer (DC), Linda Craiger (LCr), Rodney Crice (RCr), Bobbi Davis (BoD), Brian Davis (BrD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Steve Denton (SD), Gates Dupont (GD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Tom Ewing (TE), Caleb Fligor (CF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Mark Greene (MG), Wendell Haag (WH), Paul Hager (PH), Joe Hall (JHa), Erin Harper (EHa), Janet Howard (JHo), Eddie Huber (EHu), William Hull (WH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Sonya Jackson (SJ), Jeff Jones (JeJ), Joel Jones (JoJ), Gail King (GK), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Tim Kreher (TK), Joe Lacefield (JL), David Lang (DL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Charlie Logsdon (CL), Frank Lyne (FL), Dax Manley (DM), Kelly McKay (KMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JM), Keith Michalski (KMl), Mark Monroe (MM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Ken Pell (KP), Sydney Penner (SP), Charlie Plush (CPl), Gary Pogue (GP), Josh Powell (JP), Tommy Quarles (TQ), Reuben Raber (RR), Doug Raybuck (DR), Trudy Regan (TR), Geoff Roberts (GR), Jeffery Rose (JR), Allison Salas (AS), Zachary Slinker (ZS), Jennifer Snyder (JSn), Jeff Sole (JSO), Pam Spaulding (PS), Jack Stenger (JSt), Ruben Stoll (RS), Victor Stoll (VS), Del Striegel (DSt), Dave Svetich (DSv), Wayne Tamminga (WT), Marilee Thompson (MTh), Melanie Torres (MTs), Mark Tower (MTr), Alan Troyer (AT), Stephanie Turner (STu), Steve Tyson (STy), James Wheat (JW), Eric Williams (EW), Ted Wolff (TW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Aviva Yasgur (AY).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Awards

The Virginia and 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 young birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Scholarship will pay tuition for young birders to attend an American Birding Association (A.B.A) Summer Camp. 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 provide a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Scholarship recipients will be asked to report on their Camp experience, either in person at a K.O.S. meeting or their local bird club, or in writing.

Applications for 2018 are due January 1, 2018, in that A.B.A. camps sell out very early. Since the fund was established in 2013, K.O.S has provided Scholarships to seven young Kentucky birders.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 441 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY 40509, or via email at scott.marsh@twc.com.

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund Grants Available.

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards up to \$1,000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit K.O.S. website (<http://birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 or via email at (kate.slankard@ky.gov).



Horned Grebe
Lexington, *Fayette*, Jan. 15
David Lang



Tundra Swan
Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, Feb. 19
David Lang



Mallard x Northern Pintail Hybrid
Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, Jan. 16
Jennifer Snyder



Say's Phoebe
s. of Bloomfield, *Nelson*, Jan. 25
Pam Spaulding



Rufous Hummingbird
Louisville, *Jefferson*, Dec. 7
Pam Spaulding



Orange-crowned Warbler
Hickman, *Fulton*, Feb. 13
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr