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The Kentucky Warbler

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The Kentucky Warbler

The journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

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THE COVER

We thank Kate Slankard for her photograph of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nestlings at Lake Barkley, Land Between the Lakes, Trigg County, June 2014. See this issue's article regarding the surveys of Osprey nesting.

The Recovery and Current Distribution of Nesting Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Kentucky

Loren Taylor, Kate Slankard, and Pat Hahs
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Abstract. *Osprey populations throughout the United States plummeted in response to the use of the pesticide DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) from 1945-1971. Following the DDT ban in 1972, restoration efforts were administered range-wide during the 1980's and 1990's. The Osprey's ability to adapt to human-altered environments gave this species an advantage during a quick recovery. Kentucky's nesting population has been monitored extensively in modern times through statewide nest surveys. Counts of occupied nests have continued to show an increase in recent years. Although the Land Between the Lakes area still supports the highest density of nests, nesting activity has finally expanded into other regions of the state. An increase in Osprey nest numbers is expected to continue in future years.*

Few landbirds rival Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) in geographical distribution and adaptability. Ospreys are one of only three raptor species known to breed in every biogeographical region of the world except Antarctica (Monti 2015). Ospreys are highly specialized birds of prey, hunting by diving up to a meter below the water surface to capture prey, with live fish making up 99% of their diet. Due to their piscivorous diet and hunting technique, Ospreys are concentrated in regions with shallow waters or plentiful surface-schooling fish (Poole 2002).

In Kentucky, Ospreys were historically recorded as rare summer residents, nesting mostly in the far western portion of the state and the floodplains of the lower Ohio River (Mengel 1965). Osprey populations along with many other raptor species suffered rangewide declines during the mid-1900's, largely in response to the widespread use of the pesticide DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane). Exposure to DDT caused eggshell thinning, resulting in decreased productivity (Ames 1966). As a result, no successful Osprey nests were documented in Kentucky between 1949 and 1985 (Ray et al. 2009).

Restoration Efforts

After the ban on DDT in 1972, nationwide restoration efforts led by both state and federal agencies began in the early 1980's. In 1981, The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) initiated an Osprey hacking program at Land Between the Lakes (LBL), releasing a total of 61 young Ospreys between 1981-1989. (Hacking is the gradual release of young birds into the wild.) In addition to the TVA efforts, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) released 36 Ospreys at 12 additional sites ranging from LBL to Laurel County in the eastern part of the state from 1982-1989 (Ray et al. 2009).

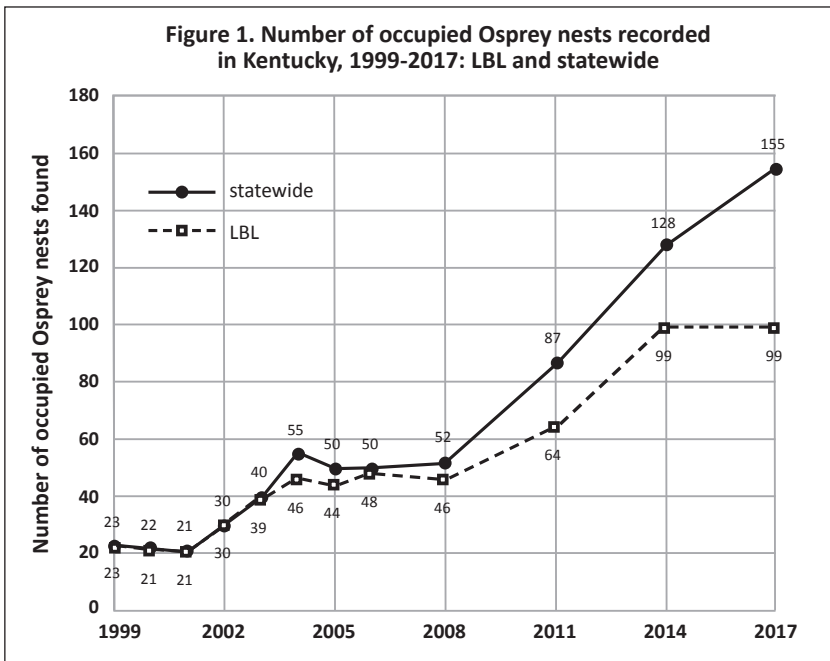
Ospreys historically nested in trees near or over water. While some Ospreys continue to use natural nest sites, many have adapted to nesting on manmade structures. Poole (2002) reported 90-95% of Osprey pairs in some regions choose to nest on artificial structures, likely due to predation, habitat loss, and development. Soon after the hacking efforts, state and federal agencies partnered with Kentucky Environment Education Projects Inc. (KEEP) to improve nesting habitat for Ospreys in Kentucky by installing safe nesting platforms. In the 1990's and 2000's, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), TVA, KDFWR and KEEP collaborated to install 17 free-standing platforms on Lake Barkley, and 22 platforms above channel-marker navigation lights on both Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake. Platforms were installed on channel markers in an attempt to allow Osprey nesting without nests blocking the navigation lights and hindering boater safety (Ray et al. 2009). KEEP and KDFWR installed 14 additional

nesting platforms from 2009-2013 to provide safer nesting options for Osprey pairs nesting in precarious situations. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet funded the installation of eight of these nesting platforms near the US 68-80 bridge over Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake during the bridge reconstruction (KDFWR 2015).

Population Recovery

The first successful Osprey nest acknowledged in Kentucky since 1949 was built along the Ohio River in Livingston County in 1986 (Stamm 1986). By 1995, 14 active nests were established on Lake Barkley. With the support of KDFWR, Ed Ray of KEEP conducted annual Osprey nesting surveys on the Kentucky portion of Lake Barkley from 1999-2008.

Kentucky Lake was first surveyed by Ray in 2004, documenting eight active nests, all on channel markers. Outside of LBL, Osprey nesting activity began expanding eastward in the early 2000's with several nests documented in Ohio and Muhlenberg Counties, one nest in Louisville, and one nest along the Ohio River in Greenup County (Ray et al. 2009). In 2005, the species was listed as a species of greatest conservation need in KDFWR's State Wildlife Action Plan (KDFWR 2013). Since then, Kentucky's Osprey population has expanded greatly (Figures 1 and 2).



Recent Survey Efforts

Following the conclusion of Ed Ray's surveys in 2008, KDFWR conducted statewide Osprey nest surveys every three years from 2011-2017. Beginning in 2011, established nesting locations were identified from Ray's 1999-2008 surveys, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) records, and KDFWR records. Known nesting locations were checked, where possible, by ground and boat during the nesting season (late March-July). Nests were considered occupied if one or more adults were observed at the nest during the



*Kate Slankard conducting 2014 Osprey nest survey.
Photo by Loren Taylor*

nesting season. When visible, chicks were counted and aged. Counts of young presented below should be interpreted with caution as survey timing did not always coincide with when young were old enough to be visible. KDFWR personnel surveyed the LBL area (defined as within 1 mile [1.6 km] of Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake) and the Tennessee River between Kentucky Dam and the Ohio River by boat and by ground between 1 June and 1 July in 2011, 2014, and 2017. Between survey years, KDFWR continued to keep track of new Osprey nests through reports from the public, and these new locations were monitored in consecutive surveys.

2011. The 2011 statewide Osprey nesting inventory yielded observations of 87 occupied nests and 60 young. The majority of nests (78%) were located on manmade structures (Table 1). The bulk of nesting was observed in the LBL area and surrounding counties (Figure 1). However, nesting in central and eastern Kentucky was also observed at Cave Run Lake in Menifee County, Laurel River Lake in Laurel County, Cedar Creek Lake in Lincoln County, and near the Lexington Reservoir in Fayette County. Several new nests were also documented between 2009-2011 in the Ohio and Muhlenberg County area (KDFWR 2011).

2014. A total of 128 occupied Osprey nests and 42 young were documented in 2014. Manmade structures supported 76% of occupied nests, with nesting on bridges nearly doubling from 2011 (Table 1). Nest counts in the LBL area continued to grow, from 64 nests in 2011 to 99 in 2014, accounting for much of the statewide increase (Figure 1). Notable population expansion in the Tennessee River area north of Kentucky Dam (Marshall and Livingston Counties) prompted the survey of a portion of the Cumberland River north of Barkley Dam (Livingston County). Despite the presence of available nesting structures, no nests were found on the Cumberland River outside of the Smithland area. Nests on low-level snags were

prevalent in 2014, with 10 nests on Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley, less than 10 feet (3 m) above water (KDFWR 2015).

2017. During the 2017 survey, 155 occupied nests were recorded and 42 young observed. As reported in previous years, the majority (80%) of nests occurred on manmade structures (Table 1). Nesting on power transmission towers greatly increased from only 12 nests in 2014, to 29 nests in 2017, with individual towers often supporting more than one nest. Nesting on bridges decreased from 17 in 2014 to 8 in 2017. This reduction was largely in response to the demolition of the Eggner's Ferry Bridge in 2016. The bulk of nesting Ospreys (88%) occurred in Calloway, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, and Trigg counties. The LBL area showed no signs of population growth in 2017. In fact, the same number (99) of occupied nests were observed in 2014 and 2017 (Figure 1). With the LBL area saturated with nesting pairs, the abundance of unoccupied nesting structures along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers north of Kentucky and Barkley Dams attracted many pairs to the area. During the 2017 survey, 16 new nests were observed on the Tennessee River and six new nests on the Cumberland River. East of LBL, notable new nesting locations were recorded at Green River Lake (Taylor County) and Taylorsville Lake (Spencer County) (Figure 2).

Patterns of Distribution

Although there were minor changes in survey area and technique starting with KDFWR's taking over the surveys from KEEP in 2011, the survey has used the same protocol since then. As mentioned above, portions of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers were added in 2011 and 2014, but the area surveyed in 2017 was not more than past surveys. We therefore assume the recent increase in the nest count represents a true increase in the nesting population.

Since the 1990's, the number of nests near Lake Barkley has consistently been higher than the number near Kentucky Lake. During 2017, 76 nests were located near Lake Barkley and 23 near Kentucky Lake (Figure 3). While this may be due in part to the types of manmade structures on Lake Barkley being superior to those on Kentucky Lake (there are fewer cell towers on Kentucky Lake and a different type of navigation light is in use on the north end of Kentucky Lake), water depth and prey availability may also influence nesting density. Ospreys are often found in higher numbers in areas with shallow waters or abundant surface-schooling fish, and shad are known to be a preferred prey item, when abundant (Poole 2002). Current data are lacking, but data summaries from 1978-1992 report that shad densities (pounds/acre [kg/hectare]) were on average 44% higher on Lake Barkley than on Kentucky Lake (Buynak 1993). The average water depth of Kentucky Lake is also a meter deeper overall (6 m) than that of Lake Barkley (5 m) (Lakepedia 2015). Moreover, the shoreline of Lake Barkley is considerably less steep than that of Kentucky Lake, with mud flats becoming exposed after a smaller drop in water level (P. Rister, pers. comm.).

The LBL area has long been important to the recovery of this species in the state and it continues to support the majority of the nesting population (Figure 2). The initial concentration of nesting in the area could be due to the higher number of birds hacked at LBL during the restoration efforts. Martell (2002) concluded that translocated Ospreys were more likely to return to their fledgling area to nest than wild-born birds were. However, as time passed, the density of nests at Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley far surpassed the expectations of restoration plans. Interestingly, the number of nests in the LBL area seems to have leveled off in recent years, perhaps indicating that this population is near or at carrying capacity (Figure 1).

Despite the pause in growth at LBL, the nesting population has gradually expanded into central and eastern Kentucky. Ospreys are notoriously slow to colonize new areas. Breeding typically first occurs at the age of 3-5 yrs, and nesting more than 50 km from their natal site is rare (Poole et al. 2002). Nevertheless, manmade reservoirs have created habitat in places Ospreys historically would not have nested. Continued growth of the population is expected in coming years, where habitat availability allows, especially west of LBL and in the west-central and central part of the state.

The Future

The triannual KDFWR statewide Osprey inventory concluded in 2017. However, KDFWR will continue to add any new locations of Osprey nests to a statewide database. As expected, the growth of Kentucky's nesting Osprey population has resulted in increased utilization of manmade nest structures, and nesting on power poles and power transmission towers has doubled in the last seven years (Table 1). These situations can be problematic and will continue to increase with population growth. Some scenarios can be prevented or rectified by providing an alternative nesting structure. As Osprey nesting in Kentucky continues to expand, KDFWR will continue to advise private companies on how to manage Ospreys in problematic situations, and ensure Ospreys have safe nesting locations well into the future. A guide to the management of Ospreys is available by request from Loren Taylor, KDFWR: loren.taylor@ky.gov.

Acknowledgments

This effort would not have been possible without the support of many cooperators, landowners, and staff. KDFWR would like to acknowledge the follow agencies and organizations for their contributions to the conservation of Ospreys in Kentucky: Kentucky Environmental Education Projects, Inc., Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Forest Service.

We would also like to acknowledge Beth Christensen (USFS), Stacey Hayden (USFWS), Andrew Logsdon (KYTC), Elizabeth Raikes (USFS), Andrew Randomski (USFWS), and Ray Stainfield (Volunteer), for their help with survey and monitoring efforts. Special thanks to the following KDFWR staff who have helped with nesting platform installations and nest monitoring: Jared Arnold, Jim Barnard, Tony Black, Luke Carter, Jason Curry, Brian Gray, Jared Handley, Becky Littleton, Bill Lynch, Wes Mattox, Rich Waite, Harley Weaver, Eric Williams, and Thomas Young. Thanks to Gary Sprandel, who provided support for the Osprey database, and to Paul Rister, who provided data on water depth and fish populations.

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Figure 2: Occupied Osprey nests in Kentucky during 1999, 2008, and 2017.

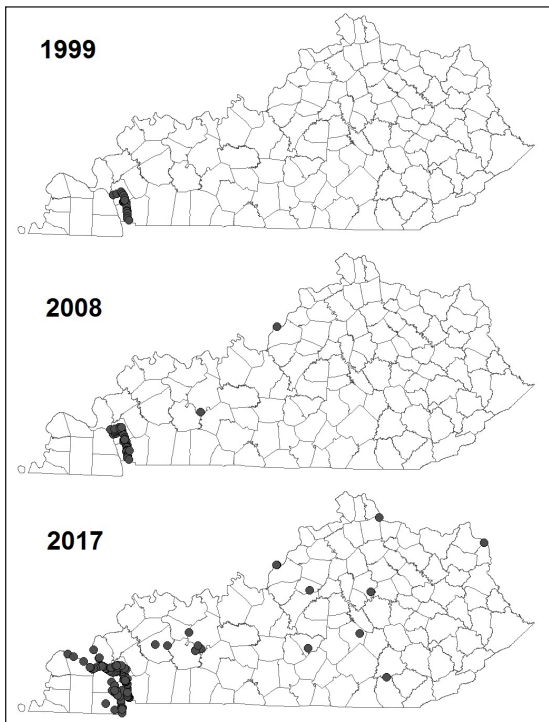
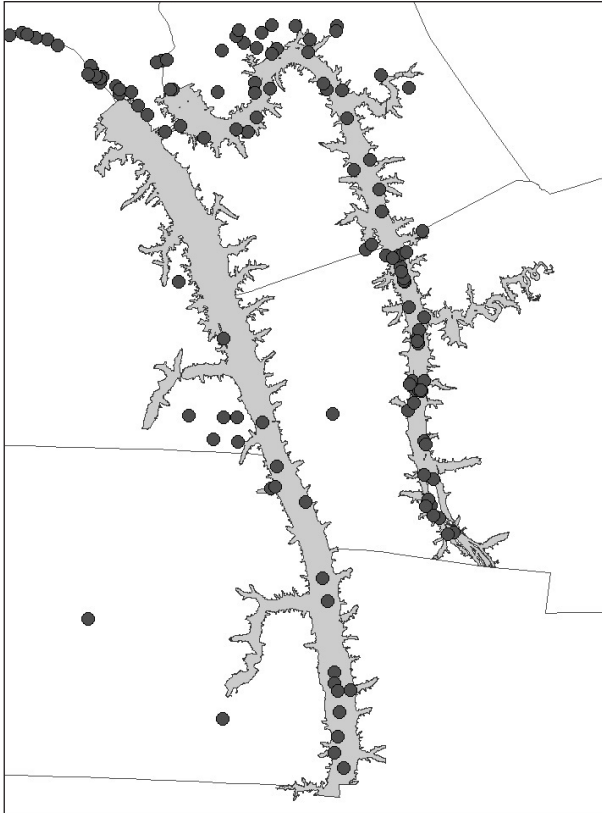


Table 1. Structure types used by nesting Osprey 2011-2017.

Nest Structure	2017	2014	2011
Bridge	8	17	8
Building	7	5	4
Cell Tower	12	9	6
Light Pole	7	1	1
Live Tree or Snag	32	31	19
Navigation Light	22	23	21
Power Pole	16	13	8
Power Transmission Tower	29	12	16
Stand-alone Platform	10	9	4
Other Manmade Structure	12	8	0
Total Nests	155	128	87

Figure 3: Occupied Osprey nests near Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake in 2017.



Kentucky Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

Kenlake State Resort Park

September 15-17, 2017

Blaine Ferrell, Corresponding Secretary

Friday, September 15, 2017

2:30 p.m. Pat and Jane Bell led a field trip around the park area.

7:00 Evening Meeting – Pat Bell called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. by introducing herself and welcoming everyone. One new member was identified and introduced herself. Pat introduced Steve Kistler. Steve conducted a bird quiz involving only wings of 23 species in flight for members to identify. He then showed more of the bird and gave the answers.

Loren Taylor, an avian biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), works on several species of birds in Kentucky. She presented an update on the status of Peregrine Falcons in Kentucky. She gave a background on their habits, food (primarily other birds), geographic distribution and other life history facts. They were extirpated from Kentucky by 1930. The KDFWR initiated a hacking program from 1993-2003 releasing 82 falcons hatched in manmade structures mainly in urban areas. The first documentation of nesting since its decline was in 1997 on the I-65 Bridge in Louisville. The Peregrine Falcon was removed from the endangered species list in 1999, but remains protected. The KDFWR has continued to monitor these birds with the help of volunteers. Their focus has been on providing stable nesting locations for breeding birds. They have documented 155 nesting attempts and 373 young fledged. Three hundred two Peregrine Falcon chicks have been banded in KY nests. There have been 16 nesting territories identified and 14 successful nests this year in Kentucky, a record. Forty-five eggs were laid and 39 young fledged. There were two cliff nests in 2017. The KDFWR continues to monitor Peregrine Falcons and erect nest boxes. There will be an inventory for Peregrine Falcons in 2018. Loren made a request for any information regarding Loggerhead Shrikes in winter and can be contacted at Loren.Taylor@ky.gov.

Shelly Morris, Western Kentucky Projects Director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), talked about wetland and grassland restoration projects in Western Kentucky. Since 2011 the primary objective of these projects has been the protection of floodplains and bottomlands in western Kentucky. Over 600 acres (243 ha) have been acquired thus far. She also described TNC as an organization whose goal is to preserve whole landscapes, to conserve nature and improve water quality. The TNC has been in existence since 1915 and has protected 120 million acres (49 million ha). She said the TNC is pragmatic and partners with many other people and agencies. There are 5,000+ Kentucky members and 150,000 acres (61,000 ha) protected. Phase two of the Western Kentucky wetlands project began in 2015. This is the final year of the program and they are looking for a record number of applications. The program is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a component of a Federal Farm Bill. They purchase permanent conservation easements. Thirty-five projects have been funded to date with 6,126 acres (2,479 ha) enrolled or under contract for enrollment. She briefly mentioned a few other projects and indicated she could be reached at mmorris@tnc.org or 1-270-748-0259 if there were any questions.

Pat Bell asked the group to use the KOS cards at the table in the front of the room to invite new members. She also asked for suggestions regarding what members would like to see

on the Friday evening programs. She placed a piece of paper on the front table for members to write down suggestions and indicate if they would be willing to present a talk. Saturday morning field trips were announced, with all groups to meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the lodge. Steve and Janet Kistler led a trip for beginners around the lodge, Josh Powell went to Long Creek, James Wheat went to the Clarks River Education Center, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Brian Wulker led a trip around the Land Between the Lakes.

Saturday afternoon walks began at 1:00 p.m. in front of the lodge. Steve and Janet Kistler led a plant walk in the Land Between the Lakes, James Wheat led a trip at Long Creek, and the trip led by Brainard and Brian was continued from the morning. The latter two groups ended up at Birmingham Point in search of the Parasitic Jaeger reported at an earlier time.

The meeting ended at 8:38 p.m. and was followed by a social time with refreshments.

Saturday, September 16 Evening meeting

Pat Bell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. by welcoming everyone and introducing herself. She reminded everyone to register if they had not done so already.

Blaine Ferrell tallied the weekend bird count. There were 134 species observed in the Land Between the Lakes and surrounding area. An additional species added Sunday brought the total to 135 species.

Pat Bell thanked board members rotating off for their work and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., for his work on the KOS Board and in general, mentioning *The Kentucky Warbler* in particular.

Mary Yandell announced that brochures about hummingbirds that encouraged people to leave hummingbird feeders up were available at the front table. Attendees were reminded to let Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., know if a western species shows up, as he bands them.

Pat Bell led into the business meeting by announcing the slate of officers as follows: President: Jeff Sole, Vice President: Rebecca Bates, Corresponding Secretary: Carol Besse, Treasurer: Lee McNeely, Recording Secretary: Blaine Ferrell, Councillors for 2017-2018: Mary Yandell and Clay Bliznick, for 2017-2020: James Wheat and Teresa Noel. Pat Bell asked if there were other nominations. Hearing none, Jane Bell made a motion to approve the slate as presented and Hap Chambers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sunday field trips were announced. Hap Chambers planned a trip to the Jonathan Creek Embayment and possibly Blood River. Win Ahrens was to lead a trip along the Kentucky Scenic Drive, and Rob Lane was to lead a trip for which the location was yet to be determined.

Pat Bell introduced Tommy Quarles who presented a talk about his experiences at Camp Avocet in Delaware that he attended at his own expense this past summer. He was a recipient of the Kingsolver Scholarship to attend the Colorado American Birding Association camp the previous year. He observed 142 species, mainly shorebirds and gulls. He now has 354 species on his life list and added 14 to that list this past summer.

Pat introduced the Keynote speaker, Al Batt of Heartland, Minnesota, a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. He writes for several nature magazines and is author of a book, *A Life Gone to the Birds*. He is also a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest*. He related stories from his childhood growing up on a Minnesota dairy farm. It was a very humorous presentation.

Pat concluded the meeting 8:26 p.m.

Fall KOS Meeting Bird List
 Kenlake State Resort Park and Area
 September 15 – September 17, 2017

The following birds were observed by members: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. The total species tally was 135.

2017 Fall meeting attendance list:

Win Ahrens	Prospect, KY
Terry Anderson	Lawrenceburg, KY
Lyle Babberl	Louisville, KY
Brenda Bauer	Louisville, KY
Tom Becker	Floyds Knobs, IN
Jane Bell	Louisville, KY
Sarah Bell	Hopkinsville, KY
Pat Bell	Louisville, KY
Carol Besse	Louisville, KY
Clay Bliznick	Beaver Dam, KY
Nancy Braun	Lexington, KY
Fred Busroe	Morehead, KY
Katie Busroe	Morehead, KY
Hap Chambers	Murray, KY
Colleen Craven-Becker	Floyds Knobs, IN



American Avocets – *Union*, 23 July 2017
 Jamie Baker

- Melissa Easley Murray, KY
- Blaine Ferrell Bowling Green, KY
- Erinn Finley Bumpus Mills, TN
- Steve Graham Greenville, KY
- Teresa Graham Greenville, KY
- JoAnn Hamm Danville, KY
- Michael Hamm Danville, KY
- Kay Harker Frankfort, KY
- Carol Hummel Frankfort, KY
- Jean Jones Louisville, KY
- Eva Lee Kingsolver Nicholasville, KY
- Wendell Kingsolver Nicholasville, KY
- Janet Kistler Munfordville, KY
- Steve Kistler Munfordville, KY
- Rob Lane Louisville, KY
- Lee McNeely Burlington, KY
- Sam McNeely Murray, KY
- Rosemary Meredith Hodgenville, KY
- Shelly Morris Gilbertsville, KY
- Teresa Noel Lexington, KY
- Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. Louisville, KY
- Josh Powell Benton, KY
- Tommy Quarles Frankfort, KY
- Jennifer Snyder Elizabethtown, KY
- Jerry Snyder Elizabethtown, KY
- Pam Spaulding Louisville, KY
- Marie Sutton Lexington, KY
- James Wheat Louisville, KY
- Jim Williams Lexington, KY
- Brian Wulker Cincinnati, OH
- Ben Yandell Louisville, KY
- Mary Yandell Louisville, KY

There were 47 people in attendance.

THE SUMMER SEASON 2017

Ben Yandell

Average temperatures for June-July 2017 were near normal. June averaged 0.2 degrees Fahrenheit (0.1 degrees Celsius) below average, and July averaged 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit (0.7 degrees Celsius) above average. Precipitation totals were average to slightly above average. June precipitation was about 40% above average; July precipitation was about 20% below average. (Based on an analysis of National Weather Service monthly averages in Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, Paducah, and Jackson compared to 1981-2010 averages.)

Birds of interest during the season included KING RAIL, American Avocet, Upland Sandpiper, WOOD STORK, BROWN PELICAN, White Ibis, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Review List species are shown in ALL CAPS.

Publication of any unusual sightings in eBird or in this seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official list of Kentucky birds. Reports of rare and out-of-season birds should be accompanied by written and photographic documentation for review 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*. The most recent KBRC decisions are reported later in this issue.

Details of many of the following reports are available in eBird. June-July eBird reports totaled 179 species, 366 reporting observers, almost 3000 reports, 42,500 lines of data, 621 different attached photographs or audio files, and 37,000 individual birds reported (not counting entries with an "x" instead of a number, and eliminating duplicate counts by groups).

What follows are highlights from June-July 2017. Entries summarize locations, dates, observer initials, and may include documentation method, where wr = written documentation, ph = photograph, vd = video recording, and au = audio recording. Species order is based on the *Fifty-eighth Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds*, 5 July 2017.

Blue-winged Teal – 1 swimming with Mallards at McElroy Lake, *Warren* 1 June (TD) was the only report.

Gadwall – A pair (potential nesters?) was reported at Spindletop Research Farm, *Fayette*, 27 June (DSv).

Ring-necked Duck – 1 at Buzzard Rock Marina, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 18 June (wr KM) was the only report.

Lesser Scaup – 2 reports. 1 continued at Horseshoe Road 10-13 June (ph CC). 3 males and 2 females at Devil's Elbow Area, LBL, *Trigg*, 1 July (wr JoH).

Hooded Merganser – 10 reports from *Fulton*, *Henderson*, *Jefferson*, *Rowan*, and *Wayne*.

Common Merganser – 2 early-June reports. 2 just w. of the Virginia border on Russell Fork, Breaks Interstate Park, *Pike*, 6 June (ph wr MaK). 1-2 on the Red River in *Menifee* 9 June (wr CBz).

Pied-billed Grebe – 3 reports. 2, with 1 being a juvenile, at Long Point 2 June (ME). 1 along 523 e. of Bernheim Forest, *Nelson*, 7 June (DxM). 1 at Camp #11, *Union*, 15-28 July (BPB, JBa, TG, SG).

Black-billed Cuckoo – Rare in summer. 1 was heard calling at night in e. Lexington 11 June (DSv).



Common Merganser (female) – *Pike*, 6 June 2017,
Mark Kosiewski

Chuck-Will's-Widow – 13 reports of 1-4 birds in *Allen, Barren, Casey, Edmonson, Franklin, Laurel, Marion, Marshall, Nelson, and Trigg*.

Eastern Whip-poor-will – 13 reports of 1-8 birds in *Breathitt, Edmonson, Harrison, Lee, Leslie, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McCreary, Oldham, Rowan, and Wolfe*.

KING RAIL – 1 at Long Point 16/26 May, 2 June (au TmJ, HC, ME). Accepted by KBRC.

Virginia Rail – 1 heard at the Sinclair Unit 11 July (TG, SG) was the only report.

American Coot – 1 at KY Dam Marina, *Marshall*, 15 June (DBe, HBe) was the only report.

Sandhill Crane – 1 continued in *Hart* 7 June (JSo).

Black-necked Stilt – 12 reports. 26 at Midway Road, *Fulton*, 2 June (HC) was the highest number reported.

American Avocet – 24 at Camp #9 23 July (BPB, ph JBa) were very early fall migrants.

Semipalmated Plover – The last reports of likely spring migrants were 1 June, with 4 at McElroy Lake, *Warren* (TD) and 1 in *Todd* (ph SA). Earliest reports of returning birds were 23 July, with 4 at Camp #11 (BPB, JBa), 1 at Camp #9 (BPB, JBa), 2 in *Fayette* (ROC), and 1 at *Minor Clark* (ROC).

Upland Sandpiper – Singles, perhaps the same bird, were reported at Horseshoe Road 15/25 July (BPB, ph CC).

Stilt Sandpiper – 11 reports. 1 at Horseshoe Road 14-15 July (ph CC, BPB) and 1 at Camp #9 15 July (BPB) were the earliest reported. 18 at Camp #9 23 July (BPB, JBa) was the highest number reported.

Dunlin – 2 at Open Pond 7 June (ph JP, HC) was the only report.

Least Sandpiper – 1 in *Todd* 1 June (SA) was the only report for June. 11 at Horseshoe Road 2 July (ph CC) was the earliest report of returning birds. 300 at Horseshoe Road 14 July (CC) was the highest number reported.

White-rumped Sandpiper – 4 at Horseshoe Road (ph CC) and 2 in *Pulaski* (RD), both 13 June, were the last reported.

Pectoral Sandpiper – 2 at McElroy Lake 7 July (BPB) were the earliest reported. Most reports were the last week of July (m.ob.). 75 at Camp #11 23 July (BPB) was the highest number reported.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Several reports through early June. 61 at Loveless Road *Pulaski* 1 June (RD) was the highest number reported. First returning birds reported mid-July (m.ob.).

Short-billed Dowitcher – 3-5 at Horseshoe Road 11-13 July (ph CC). 7 adults (1 calling) at Camp #11 23 July, with 4 there 28 July (BPB, JBa). 1 at Camp #9 30 July (BPB, m.ob.).

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1 (confirmed by call) at Camp #11, *Union*, 23 July (wr BPB, ph wr JBa) was the only report.



Wilson's Phalarope – *Henderson*, 14 July 2017
Charlie Crawford

Spotted Sandpiper – 1-2 reported at scattered locations through early July, becoming more frequent beginning mid-July. All June reports listed. 1 in *Pulaski* 1 June (RD). 1-2 along 1574 near the Sloughs, *Henderson*, 6 June – early July (ph CC). 1 in *Fayette* 24 June (wr AM). For the second year, 2 were at private property (and perhaps nested?) in *Kenton* 25 June (ph wr RC).

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 6 July (RD) was the earliest reported. 21 at Camp #11 30 July (BPB, BWu, m.ob.) was the highest number reported.

Lesser Yellowlegs – 20 reports. No counts higher than 10 reported.



Wood Stork – *Livingston*, 17 July 2017
Ray Stainfield

Greater Yellowlegs – 19 reports. 1 in w. *Henderson* (ph CC) and 16 at Open Pond (wr JP), both 5 July, were the earliest reported. The latter was also the highest count reported.

Wilson's Phalarope – 1 at Horseshoe Road 14 July (ph CC) was the only report.

Ring-billed Gull – 17 reports. 77 at Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, 14 July (JP) was the highest number reported.

Least Tern – 10 reports. 1 at Open Pond 1 June (MG) was the earliest reported. 20 in w. *Fulton* 10 June (RB) was the highest number reported. The following excerpt is from a summary of the nesting season provided by John Brunjes, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR): “[E]stimated 1000 nesting pairs in Kentucky as in previous years.... KDFWR marked 445 interior least tern nests and determined the fate of 292 17% successfully fledged at least one chick. ... 5.4% [of the nests] were lost to predation. ... The exact cause of loss could not be determined for 33% ... [S]torms [in late June and early July] were thought to be the greatest contributing factor.”

Caspian Tern – 11 reports; all of 1-2 birds. 1 at Falls of the Ohio 3 June (PB, JB) was the last of the spring reported. The next report was a month later, 1 at Kentucky Lake near Hamlin, *Calloway*, 2 July (CyR, SvR).

Black Tern – 2 locations. 1 at McElroy Lake 1 June (TD). Camp #11 had 4 reported on 23 July (BPB, JBa) and 8 on 28 July (BPB, TG, SG).

Forster's Tern – All reports included. 10-13 continued at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 4 June (ROC, DSv, ThM, m.ob.). 1 at Camp #11 15 July (BPB). 2 at Camp #9 and perhaps the same 2 at Camp #11 23 July (BPB, JBa). 2 in Pulaski County Park 25 July (RD), and 7-11 near there and a few miles s. at Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*, 28 July (RD, RB).

Common Loon – 2 reports. 1 adult in breeding plumage at Honker Bay, *LBL*, *Lyon*, 3 June (ph DxM). 1 immature near KY Dam Beach, *Marshall*, 25 July (ph TaS) was perhaps an unusually early fall migrant.

WOOD STORK – 1 along River Road, *Livingston*, 16-18 July (ph RSf). Accepted by KBRC.

Double-crested Cormorant – 1200 at LBL, *Trigg*, 6 July (HC) was the highest number reported.

American White Pelican – 15 reports. 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 2-3 June (DS, ph JoC, m.ob.), and 1 at Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 8 July (ph RC) were the only reports away from LBL or *Fulton*. 36 in w. *Fulton* 5 July (JP) was the highest number reported.

BROWN PELICAN – 1 immature at Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 8, 11-12 July (ph BrZ, ph JSO, m.ob.). Accepted by KBRC.

American Bittern – 1 in flight at Taylorsville Lake WMA, *Anderson*, 29 June (wr CBz) was the only report.

Least Bittern – 1-6 birds at the Sinclair Unit 9-25 July (TG, ph SG, m.ob.).

Great Egret – 86 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 20 July (ph CC) was the peak count for the season.

Snowy Egret – 6 reports. All from *Fulton* or LBL, *Trigg*.



Cliff Swallow nest colony – *Boone*, 9 July 2017
Brian Wulker

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – All reports included. 2-6 at Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, throughout the season (m.ob.). 1 continuing at a nest in Louisville, 2 June (TrL). 2 at the Highland Creek Unit, *Union*, 8 June (CC). 1 immature at Horseshoe Road 16 July (CC).

White Ibis – The only report was 1 at a small pond along 834 in *Wayne* 27 June (ph RB).

Mississippi Kite – Multiple reports from *Fulton*, including up to 12 in Hickman 2-10

June (HC, ME, RB, m.ob.). Nesting birds in Louisville (m.ob.). 2 at Veterans Park in Lexington may have nested, 20 June and through July (KIK, ph TrN, m.ob.), 1 crossing into *Jessamine* 1 July (DSv.). Also reported from *Ballard*, *Carlisle*, *Marshall*, *Muhlenberg*, and *Union*.

Northern Harrier – Only report was a male at Camp #9 9-30 July (BPB, JBa, m.ob.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 3 reports. 1 in Lexington 5 June (wr ROC). 1 in the Red River Gorge, *Powell*, 10 June (ChJ). 1 in *Leslie* 30 June (WH).

Peregrine Falcon – All reports included. The cliff-nesting pair at Kentucky River *Garrard*, successfully fledged two young. “Eldest male (K1) eyas [young raptor] fledged on May 29 and younger female (K2) on June 3.” (ph TN). The nesting pairs at the Falls of the Ohio and in downtown Lexington were observed throughout the season (m.ob.). The Louisville birds were seen with recently fledged young 28 June (DS, m.ob.). An adult was at Kentucky Dam, *Livingston*, 15 July (VrW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – 1 in Hickman, *Fulton*, 7 June (HC, ph JP) was the only report, establishing a state record late date for spring.

Least Flycatcher – 1 in *Oldham* 1 June (RFi) tied the spring late date away from known breeding areas.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – 1 near Elizabethtown, *Hardin*, 2-3 June (InS) and 1 in *Christian* 21 July (ph SBe) were the only reports.

Loggerhead Shrike – 8 reports; all included. In *Fulton*, 1 at Kentucky Bend 1 June (MG) and 2 at Sassafras Ridge 7 June (HC, JP). In *Barren*, 1 4 mi. e. of Cave City 6 June and 2 5 mi. s. of Cave City 29 June (SnM, LCr). 6 at Blue Grass Army Depot, *Madison*, 1 July (GR). 1 in *Anderson* 15 July (ph BWu). 1 in *Wayne* 17 July (RB). 1 in *Logan* 29 July “after being absent since March” (ph FL).

Bell's Vireo – 24 reports throughout the season, from *Henderson*, *Muhlenberg*, and *Union*. 4 reported from *Livingston* 9 June (ph BPB).

Grasshopper Sparrow – More than 60 reports from 21 counties.

Henslow's Sparrow – 28 reports from 15 counties.

White-throated Sparrow – Accidental in summer, 1 at Audubon SP, *Henderson*, 2 July (wr DvA).

Bobolink – 25 reports from 8 counties in the Bluegrass: *Bath, Bourbon, Fayette, Jessamine, Madison, Nicholas, Scott, Woodford*. At least 10, including 8 singing males, at Camp Nelson, *Jessamine*, 17 June (ThM).

Orchard Oriole – 20 at Fishing Creek Embayment, *Pulaski*, 29 July (RB) was the highest number reported.



Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Fulton*, 7 June 2017
Josh Powell



Baltimore Oriole (fledgling) – *Lincoln*, 10 June 2017
Jackie Elmore

Blue-winged Warbler – Only 12 reports; none in July.

Prothonotary Warbler – 44 at the Sloughs, *Henderson*, 7 June (JM) was the highest number reported.

Swainson's Warbler – 21 reports, most from the Red River Gorge, *Wolfe/Powell* (m.ob.). Other reports from the eastern part of the state include *Lee*, 1 recorded 1 June (wr BPB) and 2 heard 15 July (LkC), and 1 in *Leslie* 20 July (DvB). From south-central Kentucky, 1 in *Green* 2 June (wr RD), 1 in *Pulaski* 3 June (RB), and 1 in *McCreary* 20 June (wr RD). From western Kentucky, 2 continued at Clarks River, *Marshall*, 1 June (HC), 3 at Long Point 3 June (DSv), and 1 in Calloway 6-9 June (HC, ME).

Cerulean Warbler – 15 reports from 10 counties. The peak count was 9 at Wolf Knob, DBNF, *Whitley*, 20 June (wr RD).

LOCATIONS

Camp #9 = Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant, *Union*

Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*

DBNF= Daniel Boone National Forest

Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*

Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*

LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*

Lexington, *Fayette*

Long Point = KY portion of the Long Point Unit, Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*

Louisville, *Jefferson*

McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*

Open Pond, Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*

Sloughs = Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*

OBSERVERS

m.ob. = multiple observers

David Alvarez (DvA)

Michael Autin (MA)

Jamie Baker (JBa)

Melinda Barnett (MBa)

Scott Barrett (SBt)

Matthan Beachy (MBy)

Dave Belford (DvB)

Jane Bell (JB)

Pat Bell (PB)

Sarah Bell (SBe)

Daniel Berganza (DBe)

Heather Berganza (HBe)

Carol Besse (CB)

Clay Bliznick (CBz)

Karen Bonsell (KB)

Ray Bontrager (RB)

David Brown (DBr)

Luke Cannon (LkC)

Joseph Caruso (JoC)

Patti Case (PC)

Mcgee Catlett (McC)

Hap Chambers (HC)

Beverly Cox (BCx)

Linda Craiger (LCr)

Charlie Crawford (CC)

Rodney Crice (RC)

Roseanna Denton (RD)

Kurt Dorman (KrD)

Tom Durbin (TD)

Melissa Easley (ME)

Rand Falls (RF)

Richard Fischer (RFi)

Steve Graham (SG)

Teresa Graham (TG)

Mark Greene (MG)

Dawn Greenway (DwG)

Jim Greenway (JmG)

Richard Griffin (RcG)

Joseph Hall (JoH)

Eddie Huber (EHu)

William Hull (WH)

Aaron Hulsey (AH)

Cherith Janes (ChJ)

Timothy Jones (TmJ)

Mark Kosiewski (MaK)

Kelly Krechmer (KIK)

Richard Lee (RLe)

Bill Lisowsky (BL)

Terri Lusk (TrL)

Payton Lykins (PyL)

Frank Lyne (FL)

Dax Manley (DxM)

Don Martin (DM)

Thomas McNeil (ThM)

Andrew Melnykovych (AM)

John Meredig (JM)

Keith Michalski (KM)

Sandy Moss (SnM)

Tina Nauman (TN)

Teresa Noel (TrN)

Ronan O'Carra (ROC)

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB)

Josh Powell (JP)

Dick Preston (DP)

Earl Raglin (ErR)

John Rice (JoR)

Gary Ritchison (GR)

David Roemer (DR)

Jeffery Rose (JR)

Cyndi Routledge (CyR)

Steve Routledge (SvR)

Marshall Smith (MaS)

Tammie Smith (TaS)

Jeff Sole (JSo)

Ray Stainfield (RSf)

Del Striegel (DS)

David Svetich (DSv)

Derek Thorning (DrT)

Steve Tyson (ST)

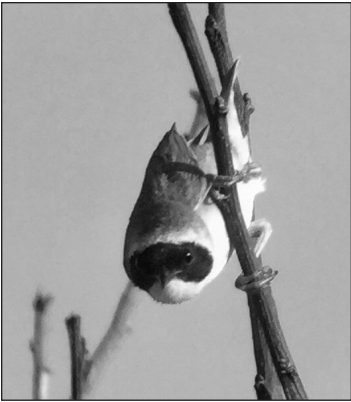
Vern Wilkins (VrW)

Brian Wulker (BWu)

Ben Yandell (BY)

Mary Yandell (MY)

Brett Zalla (BrZ)



Common Yellowthroat – Logan, 17 June 2017
Steve Tyson



Upland Sandpiper – Henderson, 25 July 2017
Charles Crawford

17TH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is a standing committee of the Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS). KBRC maintains the official list of bird species documented as having occurred in the state. The committee reviews bird observations and takes formal votes to determine whether the available documentation substantiates the natural occurrence of the species within state boundaries.

To be accepted into Kentucky's records, bird observations require review by the KBRC, if the reported species is either rare in the state or reported at a very unusual place or time of year. The Kentucky State List of Birds follows this report, with species requiring review shown in bold. Current versions of the Kentucky State List of Birds, a rare bird report form, and KBRC Bylaws are available on the KOS website at www.birdky.org.

Recent KBRC activity

This report covers committee actions from November 2016 through November 2017. The previous (16th) KBRC report was published one year ago (Yandell 2016). The principal effects of KBRC actions since the previous report are as follows:

1. Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) is removed from the Review List.
2. In accordance with the American Ornithological Society merger of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) with Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*), Thayer's Gull is removed from the state's list, and Iceland Gull is removed from the Review List. Previously reported Iceland Gulls that were pending KBRC review no longer require review and are accepted as Iceland Gull under the merged classification.
3. The Kentucky State List of Birds now stands at 387 species, including 7 extinct and extirpated species. The Review List comprises 99 species. The Hypothetical List comprises 9 species.

The summary below comprises 48 approved records, 2 reports that were not accepted, and 1 report closed without review. Approvals include the state's first confirmed occurrences of three species: Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), and Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), as well as other species with few confirmed occurrences in the state: second for Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), fourth for Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), and fourth for Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*).

One report is currently pending committee action.

Committee members participating in these actions were Roseanna Denton, David Lang, Mark Monroe, Brian Wulker, and Ben Yandell (Secretary). All are current members. KBRC also relies on occasional outside advisors to inform its votes.

We thank the many birders who supplied the reports and photographs that make the committee's work possible. We continue to encourage observers to submit detailed written documentation of rare bird encounters.

Each report listed below is displayed in the following sequence: **Common Name (# documented, if >1)**, *Scientific Name*. Location, *County*, Date(s) reported; Observer initials and documentation method, where wr = written documentation, ph = photograph, vd = video recording, and au = audio recording [KBRC report #, SPECIES CODE, and status or reason for review]. Status is a 1-5 scale indicating the difficulty of observing the species in

Kentucky in a typical year. Larger numbers indicate increasing difficulty. Species requiring KBRC review have a status of 4 or 5. Species nomenclature and order follow the American Ornithologists' Union (1998) and subsequent supplements through the 58th (AOS 2017).

Accepted Reports:

Note: Approval means that KBRC considered the available documentation conclusive, either unanimously upon blind first review or by positive vote of all or all but one voting member upon discussion and re-review.

Black-bellied Whistling-duck (16), *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. West Paducah, *McCracken*, late April-May 17; ph PC [#2017.007 BBWD 4]

Black-bellied Whistling-duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Ledbetter, *Livingston*, 16 May 2017; ph DrT [#2017.008 BBWD 4]

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*. Cave Lake (Cooley Pond), *Wayne*, 18 Dec 2008 - 7 Jan 2009; wr ph RD [#2008.161 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan (3), *Cygnus buccinator*. Salmon Lane, *Fulton*, 14 Mar 2009; wr ph BY, ph MY, ph EHu [#2009.044 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan (3), *Cygnus buccinator*. Otter Pond, *Caldwell*, 29 Dec 2009; ph JoR [#2009.045 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan (2), *Cygnus buccinator*. [no details], *Henderson*, 7 Mar 2009; ph DBr [#2009.046 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan (3), *Cygnus buccinator*. Lake 9, *Fulton*, 5 Mar 2010; ph RcG [#2010.048 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*. Dranes Lake, *Hardin*, 28-31 Dec 2013; ph BPB [#2013.051 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*. Sinclair Unit, *Henderson*, 29 Dec 2013; ph BPB, JSO [#2013.052 TRUS 5]

Trumpeter Swan (2), *Cygnus buccinator*. Dunham Lake, Edmonton, *Metcalfe*, 15 Jan 2015; ph RD [#2015.161 TRUS 5]

Cinnamon Teal, *Spatula cyanoptera*. Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 10 Sep 2016; wr ph ROC, wr ph CBz [#2016.020 CITE 4]

Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*. Schochoh, *Logan*, 7-9 Aug 2016; ph ST [#2016.019 INDO 5]

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*. Lexington, *Fayette*, 24-26 Nov 2016; ph DSV [#2016.031 WWDO 4]

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*. nw. Scott, *Scott*, 30 May 2017; ph MaS [#2017.013 WWDO 4]

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*. Midway, *Woodford*, 2-3 Jun 2017; ph BCx [#2017.015 WWDO 4]

King Rail, *Rallus elegans*. Long Point, *Fulton*, 16 May – 2 June 2017; au TmJ, HC, JP, ME [#2017.009 KIRA 4]

Sora (2), *Porzana carolina*. Paradise, *Ohio*, 2 Jan 2017; wr BPB, BWu [#2017.001 SORA winter]

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus*. Audubon Wetlands, *Henderson*, 4-10 May 17; wr RLe, ph JBa, CC, m.ob. [#2017.006 PUGA 4]

Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*. Horseshoe Road, *Henderson*, 20-22 Aug 2017; ph CC, m.ob. [#2017.021 RNST KY first]

- Short-billed Dowitcher**, *Limnodromus griseus*. Horseshoe Road, *Henderson*, 23 May 2005; wr ph BPB [#2005.163 SBDO subspecies]
- Parasitic Jaeger**, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Kentucky Dam, *Marshall*, 13-18 Sep 2017; DR, HC, BPB, ph JBa, ph m.ob. [#2017.027 PAJA 5]. Acceptance based on diagnostic photos of one individual 16/18 Sep 2017.
- Long-tailed Jaeger**, *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Kentucky Dam, *Marshall*, 13-19 Sep 2017; DR, HC, BPB, ph JBa, ph m.ob. [#2017.028 LTJA 5]. Acceptance based on diagnostic photos of one individual 17-19 Sep 2017.
- Sabine's Gull**, *Xema sabini*. Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 2 Sep 2017; ph Jba, m.ob. [#2017.023 SAGU 4]
- Sabine's Gull**, *Xema sabini*. Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 2 Sep 2017; vd TrN [#2017.030 SAGU 4]
- Sabine's Gull**, *Xema sabini*. Kentucky Dam, *Marshall*, 13 Sep 2017; DR, HC, wr BPB, JBa, m.ob. [#2017.032 SAGU 4]
- Sooty Tern (3)**, *Onychoprion fuscatus*. Kentucky Dam, *Marshall*, 13 Sep 2017; DR, HC, BPB, ph JBa, m.ob. [#2017.025 SOTE 5]
- Wood Stork**, *Mycteria americana*. River Road, *Livingston*, 16-18 July 2017; ph RSf [#2017.017 WOST 4]
- Wood Stork**, *Mycteria americana*. 1 mi. s. of 68 bridge, Lake Barkley, *LBL*, *Trigg*, 5 Aug 2017; wr DwG, JmG [#2017.018 WOST 4]
- Magnificent Frigatebird**, *Fregata magnificens*. Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 20 Sep 2017; wr Sbt, ph ErR [#2017.029 MAFR KY first]
- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga*. Island 8 boat ramp, *Fulton*, 31 May 2017; wr DP [#2017.014 ANHI 4]
- Brown Pelican**, *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 8-12 July 2017; ph BrZ, m.ob. [#2017.016 BRPE 5]
- White-faced Ibis**, *Plegadis chihi*. Midway Road, *Fulton*, 29 May 2017; TG, ph SG [#2017.012 WFIB 4]
- Swallow-tailed Kite**, *Elanoides forficatus*. Pinchgut Creek, *Allen*, 16 Aug 2015; wr Mby [#2015.019 STKI 4]
- Swallow-tailed Kite**, *Elanoides forficatus*. w of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 1 Aug 2016; ph KrD [#2016.024 STKI 4]
- Say's Phoebe**, *Sayornis saya*. Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 Sep 2016; wr MBy [#2016.021 SAPH 4]
- Say's Phoebe**, *Sayornis saya*. s. of Bloomfield, *Nelson*, 21 Jan -25 Mar 2017; ph DM, m.ob. [#2017.003 SAPH 4]
- Warbling Vireo**, *Vireo gilvus*. Cave Hill Cemetery, *Louisville*, *Jefferson*, 13 Nov 2016; ph JB, PB [#2016.032 WAVI late]
- Black-capped Chickadee**, *Poecile atricapillus*. Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 21 Jan 2016 / 6 Feb 2017 / 2 Mar 2017; ph BPB, wr ph BWu [#2017.004 BCCH 4]
- Clay-colored Sparrow**, *Spizella pallida*. Welldrill Ponds, *Wayne*, 17 Oct 2016; wr ph RB [#2016.023 CCSP 4]
- Clay-colored Sparrow**, *Spizella pallida*. 1 mi. w. of Tom Sawyer Park, *Louisville*, *Jefferson*, 30 Aug 2017; ph KB [#2017.022 CCSP 4]
- Clay-colored Sparrow**, *Spizella pallida*. Schochoh, *Logan*, 30 Sep - 06 Nov 2017; ph ST [#2017.031 CCSP 4]
- Lark Bunting**, *Calamospiza melanocorys*. Mount Vernon-Uniontown Road, *Henderson*, 6-7 Aug 2017; ph DSv, m.ob. [#2017.019 LARB KY first]

- Henslow's Sparrow**, *Ammodramus henslowii*. West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 19 Dec 2016; wr BPB, BWu [#2016.033 HESP winter]
- Yellow-headed Blackbird**, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Horseshoe Road, *Henderson*, 18 Aug 2017; wr BPB, JSo, TG, SG [#2017.020 YHBL 4]
- Yellow-headed Blackbird**, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Cooley's Pond, *Wayne*, 13 Sep 2017; ph RD [#2017.026 YHBL 4]
- Cape May Warbler**, *Setophaga tigrina*. Horse Cave, *Hart*, 22 Dec 16 – 25 Jan 2017; ph JR [#2017.002 CMWA winter]
- Yellow-throated Warbler**, *Setophaga dominica*. WKU Farm, *Warren*, 20-21 Dec 2016; wr TD, wr AH [#2016.034 YTWA late]
- Painted Bunting**, *Passerina ciris*. Ravenna, *Estill*, 28 Mar - 1 Apr 2017; wr ph MBA [#2017.010 PABU 4]. The committee considered the possibility of an escaped cage bird, especially given the early date, but believed natural occurrence was likely enough for acceptance.

Reports not Accepted

Note: Nonapproval means that KBRC considered the available documentation inconclusive, either unanimously upon blind first review or by negative vote of at least two voting members upon discussion and re-review. Nonapproval does not necessarily mean that the committee believes the report to be in error.

- Yellow-throated Vireo**, *Vireo flavifrons*. Audubon SP, *Henderson*, 15 Mar 2017 [#2017.005 YTVI early]
- Clay-colored Sparrow**, *Spizella pallida*. Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 5 Sep 2017 [#2017.024 CCSP 4]

Reports closed without review

KBRC is closing the following report without review due to having received no documentation.

- Western Kingbird (2)**, *Tyrannus verticalis*. Along Ohio River, *McCracken*, 7 Aug 2008.
(See *KW* 85:18, 2009.)

Literature Cited

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Kentucky State List of Birds

Format: Common name (species code, KY status, USA status). Species requiring review in KY are shown in **bold**. Status codes indicate difficulty in finding the bird (1=easy, 5=difficult). USA status taken from listing.aba.org/checklist-codes/.

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (BBWD 4 1)**
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (FUWD 5 1)
 Snow Goose (SNGO 1 1)
 Ross's Goose (ROGO 2 1)
 Greater White-fronted Goose (GWFG 1 1)
Brant (BRAN 5 1)
 Cackling Goose (CACG 2 1)
 Canada Goose (CANG 1 1)
 Mute Swan (MUSW 1 1)
Trumpeter Swan (TRUS 4 1)
 Tundra Swan (TUSW 2 1)
 Wood Duck (WODU 1 1)
 Blue-winged Teal (BWTE 1 1)
Cinnamon Teal (CITE 4 1)
 Northern Shoveler (NSHO 1 1)
 Gadwall (GADW 1 1)
Eurasian Wigeon (EUWI 5 2)
 American Wigeon (AMWI 1 1)
 Mallard (MALL 1 1)
 American Black Duck (ABDU 1 1)
Mottled Duck (MODU 5 1)
 Northern Pintail (NOPI 1 1)
 Green-winged Teal (GWTE 1 1)
 Canvasback (CANV 1 1)
 Redhead (REDH 1 1)
 Ring-necked Duck (RNDU 1 1)
Tufted Duck (TUDU 5 3)
 Greater Scaup (GRSC 1 1)
 Lesser Scaup (LESC 1 1)
King Eider (KIEI 5 2)
Harlequin Duck (HADU 5 1)
 Surf Scoter (SUSC 2 1)
 White-winged Scoter (WWSC 3 1)
 Black Scoter (BLSC 3 1)
 Long-tailed Duck (LTDU 3 1)
 Bufflehead (BUFF 1 1)
 Common Goldeneye (COGO 1 1)
 Hooded Merganser (HOME 1 1)
 Common Merganser (COME 2 1)
 Red-breasted Merganser (RBME 1 1)
 Ruddy Duck (RUDU 1 1)
 Northern Bobwhite (NOBO 1 1)
 Ruffed Grouse (RUGR 2 1)
 Greater Prairie-Chicken (GRPC 6 2)
 Wild Turkey (WITU 1 1)
 Pied-billed Grebe (PBGR 1 1)
 Horned Grebe (HOGR 1 1)
 Red-necked Grebe (RNGR 3 1)
 Eared Grebe (EAGR 3 1)
Western Grebe (WEGR 4 1)
 Rock Pigeon (ROPI 1 1)
Band-tailed Pigeon (BTPI 5 1)
 Eurasian Collared-Dove (EUCD 1 1)
 Passenger Pigeon (PAPI 6 6)
Inca Dove (INDO 5 1)
Common Ground-Dove (COGD 5 1)
White-winged Dove (WWDO 4 1)
 Mourning Dove (MODO 1 1)
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU 1 1)
 Black-billed Cuckoo (BBCU 2 1)
Groove-billed Ani (GBAN 5 2)
 Common Nighthawk (CONI 1 1)
 Chuck-Will's-Widow (CWWI 1 1)
 Eastern Whip-poor-will (EWPW 1 1)
 Chimney Swift (CHSW 1 1)
Mexican Violetear (MEVI 5 3)
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (RTHU 1 1)
Black-chinned Hummingbird (BCHU 5 1)
 Rufous Hummingbird (RUHU 3 1)
Yellow Rail (YERA 4 2)
King Rail (KIRA 4 1)
 Virginia Rail (VIRA 2 1)
 Sora (SORA 2 1)
Purple Gallinule (PUGA 4 1)
 Common Gallinule (COGA 3 1)
 American Coot (AMCO 1 1)
 Sandhill Crane (SACR 1 1)
 Whooping Crane (WHCR 6 2)
 Black-necked Stilt (BNST 2 1)
 American Avocet (AMAV 3 1)
 Black-bellied Plover (BBPL 1 1)
 American Golden-Plover (AMGP 1 1)
 Semipalmated Plover (SEPL 1 1)
 Piping Plover (PIPL 3 2)
 Killdeer (KILL 1 1)
 Upland Sandpiper (UPSA 3 1)
Whimbrel (WHIM 4 1)
Hudsonian Godwit (HUGO 4 1)
 Marbled Godwit (MAGO 3 1)
 Ruddy Turnstone (RUTU 2 1)

Red Knot (REKN 5 1)**Ruff (RUFF 4 3)**

Stilt Sandpiper (STSA 1 1)

Curlew Sandpiper (CUSA 5 3)**Red-necked Stint (RNST 5 3)**

Sanderling (SAND 2 1)

Dunlin (DUNL 1 1)

Baird's Sandpiper (BASA 2 1)

Little Stint (LIST 5 4)

Least Sandpiper (LESA 1 1)

White-rumped Sandpiper (WRSA 1 1)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (BBSA 2 1)

Pectoral Sandpiper (PESA 1 1)

Semipalmated Sandpiper (SESA 1 1)

Western Sandpiper (WESA 1 1)

Short-billed Dowitcher (SBDO 1 1)

Long-billed Dowitcher (LBDO 1 1)

American Woodcock (AMWO 1 1)

Wilson's Snipe (WISN 1 1)

Spotted Sandpiper (SPSA 1 1)

Solitary Sandpiper (SOSA 1 1)

Lesser Yellowlegs (LEYE 1 1)

Willet (WILL 2 1)

Greater Yellowlegs (GRYE 1 1)

Wilson's Phalarope (WIPH 2 1)

Red-necked Phalarope (RNPH 3 1)

Red Phalarope (REPH 4 1)**Pomarine Jaeger (POJA 5 1)****Parasitic Jaeger (PAJA 5 1)****Long-tailed Jaeger (LTJA 5 1)****Long-billed Murrelet (LBMU 5 3)****Black-legged Kittiwake (BLKI 4 1)****Sabine's Gull (SAGU 4 1)**

Bonaparte's Gull (BOGU 1 1)

Black-headed Gull (BHGU 5 3)**Little Gull (LIGU 5 3)**

Laughing Gull (LAGU 2 1)

Franklin's Gull (FRGU 2 1)

Mew Gull (MEGU 5 1)

Ring-billed Gull (RBGU 1 1)

California Gull (CAGU 4 1)

Herring Gull (HERG 1 1)

Iceland Gull (ICGU 2 1)

Lesser Black-backed Gull (LBBG 2 2)

Glaucous Gull (GLGU 3 1)

Great Black-backed Gull (GBBG 3 1)

Sooty Tern (SOTE 5 2)

Least Tern (LETE 2 1)

Gull-billed Tern (GBTE 5 1)

Caspian Tern (CATE 1 1)

Black Tern (BLTE 2 1)

Common Tern (COTE 2 1)

Forster's Tern (FOTE 1 1)

Sandwich Tern (SATE 5 1)**Black Skimmer (BLSK 5 1)**

Red-throated Loon (RTLO 3 1)

Pacific Loon (PALO 4 1)

Common Loon (COLO 1 1)

Yellow-billed Loon (YBLO 5 2)**Black-capped Petrel (BCPE 5 2)****Audubon's Shearwater (AUSH 5 1)****Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (BSTP 5 2)****Wood Stork (WOST 4 1)****Magnificent Frigatebird (MAFR 5 1)****Northern Gannet (NOGA 5 1)****Neotropic Cormorant (NECO 5 1)**

Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO 1 1)

Anhinga (ANHI 4 1)

American White Pelican (AWPE 1 1)

Brown Pelican (BRPE 5 1)

American Bittern (AMBI 2 1)

Least Bittern (LEBI 2 1)

Great Blue Heron (GBHE 1 1)

Great Egret (GREG 1 1)

Snowy Egret (SNEG 1 1)

Little Blue Heron (LBHE 1 1)

Tricolored Heron (TRHE 4 1)**Reddish Egret (REEG 5 1)**

Cattle Egret (CAEG 1 1)

Green Heron (GRHE 1 1)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (BCNH 1 1)

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (YCNH 2 1)

White Ibis (WHIB 3 1)

Glossy Ibis (GLIB 4 1)**White-faced Ibis (WFIB 4 1)****Roseate Spoonbill (ROSP 4 1)**

Black Vulture (BLVU 1 1)

Turkey Vulture (TUVU 1 1)

Osprey (OSPR 1 1)

Swallow-tailed Kite (STKI 4 1)**White-tailed Kite (WTKI 5 1)**

Mississippi Kite (MIKI 1 1)

Bald Eagle (BAEA 1 1)

Northern Harrier (NOHA 1 1)

Sharp-shinned Hawk (SSHA 1 1)

Cooper's Hawk (COHA 1 1)

Northern Goshawk (NOGO 5 1)

Red-shouldered Hawk (RSHA 1 1)

Broad-winged Hawk (BWAH 1 1)

Swainson's Hawk (SWHA 5 1)

- Red-tailed Hawk (RTHA 1 1)
 Rough-legged Hawk (RLHA 2 1)
Ferruginous Hawk (FEHA 5 1)
 Golden Eagle (GOEA 2 1)
 Barn Owl (BANO 2 1)
 Eastern Screech-Owl (EASO 1 1)
 Great Horned Owl (GHOW 1 1)
Snowy Owl (SNOW 4 2)
 Barred Owl (BADO 1 1)
 Long-eared Owl (LEOW 2 2)
 Short-eared Owl (SEOW 2 1)
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO 2 2)
 Belted Kingfisher (BEKI 1 1)
 Red-headed Woodpecker (RHWO 1 1)
 Red-bellied Woodpecker (RBWO 1 1)
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (YBSA 1 1)
 Downy Woodpecker (DOWO 1 1)
 Hairy Woodpecker (HAWO 1 1)
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCWO 6 2)
 Northern Flicker (NOFL 1 1)
 Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO 1 1)
 Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBWO 6 6)
 American Kestrel (AMKE 1 1)
 Merlin (MERL 2 1)
 Peregrine Falcon (PEFA 1 1)
Prairie Falcon (PRFA 4 1)
 Carolina Parakeet (CAPA 6 6)
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (OSFL 2 1)
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (EAWP 1 1)
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (YBFL 2 1)
 Acadian Flycatcher (ACFL 1 1)
 Alder Flycatcher (ALFL 2 1)
 Willow Flycatcher (WIFL 1 1)
 Least Flycatcher (LEFL 1 1)
 Eastern Phoebe (EAPH 1 1)
Say's Phoebe (SAPH 4 1)
Vermilion Flycatcher (VEFL 5 1)
Ash-throated Flycatcher (ATFL 5 1)
 Great Crested Flycatcher (GCFL 1 1)
Western Kingbird (WEKI 4 1)
 Eastern Kingbird (EAKI 1 1)
Gray Kingbird (GRAK 5 2)
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (STFL 3 1)
 Loggerhead Shrike (LOSH 1 1)
Northern Shrike (NSHR 4 1)
 White-eyed Vireo (WEVI 1 1)
 Bell's Vireo (BEVI 2 1)
 Yellow-throated Vireo (YTVI 1 1)
 Blue-headed Vireo (BHVI 1 1)
 Philadelphia Vireo (PHVI 1 1)
 Warbling Vireo (WAVI 1 1)
 Red-eyed Vireo (REVI 1 1)
 Blue Jay (BLJA 1 1)
 American Crow (AMCR 1 1)
 Fish Crow (FICR 1 1)
 Common Raven (CORA 2 1)
 Horned Lark (HOLA 1 1)
 Purple Martin (PUMA 1 1)
 Tree Swallow (TRES 1 1)
 N. Rough-winged Swallow (NRWS 1 1)
 Bank Swallow (BANS 1 1)
 Cliff Swallow (CLSW 1 1)
 Barn Swallow (BARS 1 1)
 Carolina Chickadee (CACH 1 1)
Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH 4 1)
 Tufted Titmouse (TUTI 1 1)
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (RBNU 2 1)
 White-breasted Nuthatch (WBNU 1 1)
Brown-headed Nuthatch (BHNU 4 1)
 Brown Creeper (BRCR 1 1)
Rock Wren (ROWR 5 1)
 House Wren (HOWR 1 1)
 Winter Wren (WIWR 2 1)
 Sedge Wren (SEWR 2 1)
 Marsh Wren (MAWR 2 1)
 Carolina Wren (CARW 1 1)
Bewick's Wren (BEWR 4 1)
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (BGGN 1 1)
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (GCKI 1 1)
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (RCKI 1 1)
 Eastern Bluebird (EABL 1 1)
Mountain Bluebird (MOBL 5 1)
 Veery (VEER 1 1)
 Gray-cheeked Thrush (GCTH 1 1)
 Swainson's Thrush (SWTH 1 1)
 Hermit Thrush (HETH 1 1)
 Wood Thrush (WOTH 1 1)
 American Robin (AMRO 1 1)
Varied Thrush (VATH 5 1)
 Gray Catbird (GRCA 1 1)
 Brown Thrasher (BRTH 1 1)
 Northern Mockingbird (NOMO 1 1)
 European Starling (EUST 1 1)
 Cedar Waxwing (CEDW 1 1)
 House Sparrow (HOSP 1 1)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (ETSP 5 2)
 American Pipit (AMPI 1 1)
Evening Grosbeak (EVGR 5 1)
 House Finch (HOFI 1 1)
 Purple Finch (PUFI 2 1)

- Common Redpoll (CORE 5 1)**
Red Crossbill (RECR 4 1)
White-winged Crossbill (WWCR 4 2)
 Pine Siskin (PISI 2 1)
Lesser Goldfinch (LEGO 5 1)
 American Goldfinch (AMGO 1 1)
 Lapland Longspur (LALO 2 1)
Smith's Longspur (SMLO 5 2)
 Snow Bunting (SNBU 2 1)
Green-tailed Towhee (GTTO 5 1)
Spotted Towhee (SPTO 4 1)
 Eastern Towhee (EATO 1 1)
Bachman's Sparrow (BACS 4 2)
 American Tree Sparrow (ATSP 1 1)
 Chipping Sparrow (CHSP 1 1)
 Clay-colored Sparrow (CCSP 3 1)
 Field Sparrow (FISP 1 1)
 Vesper Sparrow (VESP 1 1)
 Lark Sparrow (LASP 2 1)
Sagebrush Sparrow (SABS 5 1)
Lark Bunting (LARB 5 1)
 Savannah Sparrow (SAVS 1 1)
 Grasshopper Sparrow (GRSP 2 1)
 Henslow's Sparrow (HESP 2 2)
 LeConte's Sparrow (LCSP 2 1)
 Nelson's Sparrow (NESP 3 1)
 Fox Sparrow (FOSP 1 1)
 Song Sparrow (SOSP 1 1)
 Lincoln's Sparrow (LISP 1 1)
 Swamp Sparrow (SWSP 1 1)
 White-throated Sparrow (WTSP 1 1)
Harris's Sparrow (HASP 4 1)
 White-crowned Sparrow (WCSP 1 1)
 Dark-eyed Junco (DEJU 1 1)
 Yellow-breasted Chat (YBCH 1 1)
Yellow-headed Blackbird (YHBL 4 1)
 Bobolink (BOBO 1 1)
 Eastern Meadowlark (EAME 1 1)
 Western Meadowlark (WEME 3 1)
 Orchard Oriole (OROR 1 1)
Hooded Oriole (HOOR 5 1)
Bullock's Oriole (BUOR 5 1)
 Baltimore Oriole (BAOR 1 1)
Scott's Oriole (SCOR 5 1)
 Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL 1 1)
 Brown-headed Cowbird (BHCO 1 1)
 Rusty Blackbird (RUBL 1 1)
 Brewer's Blackbird (BRBL 2 1)
 Common Grackle (COGR 1 1)
 Ovenbird (OVEN 1 1)
 Worm-eating Warbler (WEWA 1 1)
 Louisiana Waterthrush (LOWA 1 1)
 Northern Waterthrush (NOWA 1 1)
 Bachman's Warbler (BAWA 6 6)
 Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA 2 2)
 Blue-winged Warbler (BWWA 1 1)
 Black-and-white Warbler (BAWW 1 1)
 Prothonotary Warbler (PROW 1 1)
 Swainson's Warbler (SWWA 2 2)
 Tennessee Warbler (TEWA 1 1)
 Orange-crowned Warbler (OCWA 1 1)
 Nashville Warbler (NAWA 1 1)
 Connecticut Warbler (CONW 2 2)
 Mourning Warbler (MOWA 2 1)
 Kentucky Warbler (KEWA 1 1)
 Common Yellowthroat (COYE 1 1)
 Hooded Warbler (HOWA 1 1)
 American Redstart (AMRE 1 1)
 Cape May Warbler (CMWA 1 1)
 Cerulean Warbler (CERW 2 2)
 Northern Parula (NOPA 1 1)
 Magnolia Warbler (MAWA 1 1)
 Bay-breasted Warbler (BBWA 1 1)
 Blackburnian Warbler (BLBW 1 1)
 Yellow Warbler (YEWA 1 1)
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (CSWA 1 1)
 Blackpoll Warbler (BLPW 1 1)
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (BTBW 2 1)
 Palm Warbler (PAWA 1 1)
 Pine Warbler (PIWA 1 1)
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (YRWA 1 1)
 Yellow-throated Warbler (YTWA 1 1)
 Prairie Warbler (PRAW 1 1)
Black-throated Gray Warbler (BTYW 5 1)
 Black-throated Green Warbler (BTNW 1 1)
 Canada Warbler (CAWA 1 1)
 Wilson's Warbler (WIWA 1 1)
 Summer Tanager (SUTA 1 1)
 Scarlet Tanager (SCTA 1 1)
Western Tanager (WETA 5 1)
 Northern Cardinal (NOCA 1 1)
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (RBGR 1 1)
Black-headed Grosbeak (BHGR 5 1)
 Blue Grosbeak (BLGR 1 1)
 Indigo Bunting (INBU 1 1)
Painted Bunting (PABU 4 1)
 Dickcissel (DICK 1 1)

FIELD NOTE
HURRICANE BIRDS IN KENTUCKY, SEPTEMBER 2017

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The summer and fall of 2017 were active periods for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. The remnants of four of these systems passed through Kentucky. Two brought reports of storm waifs and/or grounded migrants. Reports of those birds are summarized below. Information on each tropical cyclone was gleaned from various portions of the National Hurricane Center web site.

Hurricane Harvey

Harvey formed in the western Atlantic Ocean and reached hurricane status east of the Leeward Islands 17 August; it crossed the Caribbean Sea and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico before entering the Gulf of Mexico 23 August and hitting the Texas coast as a major hurricane 26 August. After sitting on top of southeast Texas for three days, it re-entered the Gulf of Mexico and made a second landfall on the western Louisiana coastline 29-30 August. The storm quickly lost tropical status, but its remnants moved northeast, entering central Kentucky 2 September when all the interesting observations of birds were made.

Most of the birds of interest reported during the passage of the remnants of Harvey were found along the Ohio River at Louisville with one additional rare find observed at Lexington, Fayette County. Hardly any were thought to be storm waifs, instead most likely being southbound migrants grounded by the inclement weather (low clouds, rains, winds) associated with the system.

Shorebirds: The list of shorebirds at the Falls of the Ohio 1-2 September included several uncommon species including Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*; 2 September), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*; 2 September), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*), Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*; 2 September), and Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Two juveniles of the last species were found 1 September, but the presence of three there 2 September established a new high fall count for the state until the remnants of Irma came through western Kentucky a couple of weeks later! Photographs and video of the phalaropes were obtained by Jamie Baker and me 2 September.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): A juvenile was found at the Falls of the Ohio by Jamie Baker early in the morning 2 September and was enjoyed by many during the day; unfortunately, it disappeared during the mid-afternoon. Diagnostic photos were obtained by Baker and others. Also found 2 September, was another juvenile Sabine's Gull at Lexington Reservoir #4 (Jacobson Park), Fayette County, by Teresa Noel in the late afternoon. Noel was able to get some diagnostic video of the bird in flight.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*): A juvenile bird, probably the same individual that had been present since 30 August, was seen at the Falls of the Ohio 1 September. Up to six juveniles that were probably storm waifs were there 2 September. At least two birds lingered at the Falls of the Ohio through 6 September (*vide* B. Woerner/M. Callan, eBird list).

Terns: Four species of terns were found at the Falls of the Ohio 2 September; the number of each species constantly changed during the day but included peak counts of 43 Caspian Terns

(*Hydroprogne caspia*), 6 Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), 1 Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), and 10 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*).

Hurricane Irma

Irma formed in the eastern Atlantic Ocean, becoming a hurricane 31 August and a major hurricane the following day. The storm devastated many islands as it crossed westward through the Caribbean Sea during the first week of September. It then skirted along the northern coastline of Cuba before turning northward and crossing the central Florida Keys and making final landfall south of Tampa, Florida, 10 September. Irma continued north through Florida before the remnants crossed southwest Georgia, middle and north Alabama, and middle Tennessee. What remained of the center of low pressure passed across western Kentucky during the daylight hours of 13 September, accompanied by some moderate wind and light rain showers.

Almost all the birds of interest reported during the passage of the remnants of Irma were found on Kentucky Lake, Livingston/Marshall counties. Included below is a summary of interesting observations thought to be related to the passage of the system 13-19 September with the following exception: reports of species listed and requiring documentation by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) are included only if they have been fully documented and submitted to the KBRC by the time of this writing. Observers associated with the 13 September observations on Kentucky Lake included Jamie Baker, Clay Bliznick, Hap Chambers, Steve and Teresa Graham, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Joshua Powell, David Roemer, and Matt Stickel.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*): One was seen foraging on Kentucky Lake from the Little Bear Creek boat ramp late in the afternoon of 13 September. Earlier in the day, a new state record high count of nine individuals was reported by Chambers and Roemer as they flew by and settled briefly on the lake. It is unclear if these birds were grounded migrants or had been brought inland by the storm.



Red-necked Phalaropes – Jefferson, 2 September 2017
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Jaegers: It is believed that at least four individual jaegers were present on Kentucky Lake (mostly Marshall County) 13 September with some continuing for nearly a week. During the day 13 September, jaegers were seen from two different viewing points, south of Kentucky Dam and east and southeast of the mouth of Little Bear Creek. At one point in the late afternoon, two individuals were in view from both locations (which are separated by more than three miles) at nearly the same time. In the group I was with, observers believed that both Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and Long-tailed Jaegers (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) were present 13 September, but we thought that the views were too distant in the suboptimal light to be certain of the identification. During subsequent days, close-up views of at least two individuals confirmed the identity of single individuals of both species on Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam (Parasitic 16/18 September, Long-tailed 17/18/19 September). It is believed that only these two species were involved (i.e., no Pomarine Jaegers were observed).

At least one and possibly two or three jaegers were also viewed on Kentucky Lake from Birmingham Point, about seven miles south of the dam, on a few occasions 15-17 September. It was unclear if these individuals were the same or different from the birds confirmed near the dam during the same period. The unprecedented number of jaegers present on Kentucky Lake post-Irma strongly suggests that they had been brought inland (like the Sooty Terns) by the storm.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): During the mid-morning of 13 September, a juvenile was found by Chambers and Roemer over Kentucky Lake south of the dam as it was being harassed by a jaeger. Others present subsequently were able to get on the bird; it was seen at a great distance, but the distinctive flight pattern was apparent to everyone. Unfortunately, it was not seen after an initial period of being in view for about 30 minutes.



Sooty Tern – Marshall, 13 September 2017
Jamie Baker

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*): At least two adult birds were seen foraging and flying over the lake from Kentucky Dam from mid-morning to mid-afternoon 13 September. At one point, three adults were seen at the same time by Chambers, Powell, and Roemer. Photographs of one of the individuals were obtained by several people during the day. Sooty Terns are one of the species most likely to be blown in with landfalling hurricanes, and these individuals were certainly of pelagic origin.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*): A full week after the remnants of Irma crossed Kentucky, Scott Barrett, a Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources employee at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, reported the brief sighting of a frigatebird flying over the hatchery on the afternoon of 20 September. As luck would have it, Lexington photographer Earl Raglin was present, and Barrett encouraged him to photograph the bird. Raglin forwarded the photos to Barrett who forwarded them to me the following day. Barrett included the following summary of the observation with the photos:

The bird was unusually large and graceful in flight, much larger wingspan than anything I had ever observed. The size was what first caught my eye. It was entirely black, with no other obvious marks of color, indicating an adult male. It was flying over one of our goldfish ponds here at Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery. The wings were distinctly angular and pointed. The deeply forked tail and de-curved bill were also obvious field marks. The most impressive thing about the bird was the ease in which it flew. It was so elegant and graceful for its



Magnificent Frigatebird (male) – Rowan, 20 September 2017
Earl Raglin

size. I observed it effortlessly snatch a couple of goldfish from the surface of the pond before it gained altitude and disappeared.

The all-black plumage of this frigatebird would appear to confirm the identification as Magnificent. If accepted by the KBRC, it will constitute a long-overdue first state record.

The remnants of two additional tropical cyclones crossed Kentucky during 2017. The relatively weak remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy crossed from southwest to east during the last week of July without

reports of storm waifs. Later in the season, the remnants of Hurricane Nate, which made landfall on the Alabama coastline 7 October, crossed the southeastern portion of Kentucky. No storm waifs were reported in Kentucky during this event, but Tennessee observers found the state's second Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) in less than a month's time!

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Award

The Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia "Ginny" Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions she and her husband Wendell made to KOS 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 (ABA) Summer Camp. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS website (<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 KOS meeting, to their local bird club, or in writing. Applications for 2018 scholarships are due 31 January 2018.

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 the KOS 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.



1. American Kestrels (fledglings) – Jefferson, 10 June 2017, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.; 2. Henslow's Sparrow – Anderson, 19 June 2017, Stephanie Turner; 3. Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Oldham, 5 June 2017, Terri Lusk; 4. Brown Pelican – Allen, 11 July 2017, Jeff Sole; 5. White Ibis – Wayne, 27 June 2017, Ray Bontrager