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# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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***The Kentucky Warbler***

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**THE COVER**

We thank Lana Hays for her photograph of a juvenile Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) at Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, 30 August 2017.

## THE FALL SEASON 2017

Ben Yandell

A total solar eclipse that had its point of greatest eclipse in western Kentucky, remnants of two major hurricanes crossing the state, and three first-ever state bird records combined to make August-November 2017 a truly remarkable season.

Overall average temperature for the period was slightly above normal, with August averaging about 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) cooler than average, and October averaging about the same amount warmer than average. August-October had about a third more rain than average. Total November precipitation was about 40% 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.)

Of course, the main weather story for the period was the passage of at least two hurricane remnants through the state. Hurricane Harvey's effects centered around 2 September. Hurricane Irma's effects were clearest 13-19 September. Keep these dates in mind when reading through the season's highlights. See our previous edition for a summary of hurricane-related observations (Palmer-Ball 2017).

Noteworthy bird observations for the season include Kentucky's first confirmed **RED-NECKED STINT**, **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD**, and **LARK BUNTING**. Other review species include **YELLOW RAIL**, **PARASITIC JAEGER**, **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**, **SABINE'S GULLS** in three separate locations, three **SOOTY TERNS**, **WOOD STORK**, at least two **Clay-colored Sparrow** observations (recently removed from the Review List), and **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS** in two locations. The season also had more reports than usual of uncommon members of Charadriiformes, including **Sanderlings**, a lingering **Upland Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and numerous **Caspian**, **Black**, and **Common Terns**.

In the summary below, Review List species are shown in **ALL CAPS**, and state firsts are shown in **BOXED ALL CAPS**.

Unless noted otherwise, publication of an observation in eBird or in this seasonal report does not imply acceptance 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*. All the review species in this report have now been accepted by KBRC. Note that **Clay-colored Sparrow** has since been removed from the review list.

Details of most of the following reports are available in eBird. August-November eBird reports totaled 277 species, 532 reporting observers, 6218 reports, 83,674 lines of data, 1862 different attached photographs or audio files, and 700,000 individual birds listed. (For example, a report of 3 House Finches counts as 3 individual birds. The total eliminates duplicate counts on the same date at a location and does not count entries with an "x" instead of a number.)

What follows are highlights from August-November 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 AOS 2017.



Ross's Geese – *Hardin*, 20 November 2017  
Pam Spaulding

**Snow Goose** – 41 reports. 10 at the Sloughs 30 October (CC) was the earliest report. 2000 at the Sloughs 19-20 November (CC) was the highest number reported.

**Ross's Goose** – 15 reports. 2 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 4 November (RD) was the earliest report. A flock of 22 at Dranes Lake, *Hardin*, 20-21 November (ph CBz, ph PS, PB, JB) was the highest number reported.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – 47 reports. 65 at Camp #9, *Union*, 10 October (ph BPB) was the earliest report. Up to 3000 at the Sloughs the last week of November (ph vd JM, CBz, CC) was the highest number reported.

**Cackling Goose** – 2 locations. 1 reported at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, 10 November (ph ATy). 2 in Prospect, *Jefferson*, 12-13 November (wr ph JW, ph PB JB, ph TrL).

**Mute Swan** – Reported in *Fayette*, *Hart*, *Muhlenberg*, and *Oldham*.

**Tundra Swan** – 2 locations. At the Sloughs, beginning with 6 there 7 November (CBz), with 15 there 14 November (CC)

and a peak of 34 there 23 November (JM). 2 at Hays Kennedy Park and Louisville Water Company Ponds, *Jefferson*, (ph PS, ph TrL, m.ob.).

**Blue-winged Teal** – 500 (estimated proportion out of a total of 850 teal) at Camp #11 10 October (BPB) was the highest number reported.

**Gadwall** – 52 in *Todd* 18 September (JoH) was the earliest report. 468 at Honker Bay, *Lyon*, 30 November (AH) was the highest number reported. A Gadwall x Mallard hybrid was reported for the third year from *Pulaski* 13 November (RD).

**American Wigeon** – 25 at Camp #11 10 October (BPB) were the earliest reported. 80 at the Sloughs 12 November (CBz) was the highest number reported.

**American Black Duck** – 16 reports; almost all reports were of 1-2 birds. 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 14 September (EvS) was the earliest report.

**Northern Pintail** – 29 reports. 6 at Camp #11 and 4 at Camp #9, both 5 September (BPB, m.ob.) were the earliest reported.

- Green-winged Teal** – 2 at Camp #11 25 August (TG) was the earliest report. 350 (estimated proportion out of a total of 850 teal) at Camp #11 10 October (BPB) was the highest number reported.
- Canvasback** – 11 reports. 1 in *Fayette* 21 October (MaO) was the earliest.
- Redhead** – 25 reports. 1 at KY Dam 18-19 September (TG, ph SG, ph NcK) was a record early fall date.
- Ring-necked Duck** – 2 at Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, 21 October (RD) were the first reported.
- Greater Scaup** – The only reports were 10 at LBL, Energy Lake Dam, *Trigg*, 24 November (SA, JoH) and singles 30 November at KY Dam (AH) and in *Daviess* (CBz).
- Lesser Scaup** – 4 near the US 68 bridge on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 7 August (ph DwG) were the earliest reported.
- Surf Scoter** – 6 locations; all listed here; all immature/female birds. Noticeable flight on 4 November: 2 on Green River Lake, *Adair* (wr ph RB); 2 on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln* (ph RD); 1 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle* (ph RD); 1 at the Owsley Fork Reservoir, Madison (ph RFs, RBa); 1-4 on the Ohio River, *Jefferson*, 4-8 November (wr BPB, ph m.ob.). 5 at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 27 November (wr ph JBa), with 1 still present 28 November (CBz).
- White-winged Scoter** – 2 reports. 1 male above the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 30 October (wr ph BPB). 4 at Waitsboro Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 4 November (wr ph RD).
- Black Scoter** – 1 report. 2 immature/female birds at Jeffersonville Waterfront, *Jefferson*, 30 October (wr BPB).
- Long-tailed Duck** – 2 reports. 1 adult male at the Sinclair Unit 11 November (wr ph RB). 1 at the Appalachian Wildlife Center, *Bell*, 24 November (wr ph DLd).
- Bufflehead** – 1 at the Louisville Water Company, *Jefferson*, 28 October (PB, JB) was the earliest reported.
- Common Goldeneye** – 7 reports. 4 at Nortonville Lake and 10 at Lake Peewee, both *Hopkins*, 19 November (TG, SG) were the earliest reports.
- Hooded Merganser** – 75 reports. 150 at Lexington Reservoir #2 & 3, *Fayette*, 30 November (DSv) was the highest number reported.
- Common Merganser** – 4 reports, all singles: Louisville Water Company Ponds, *Jefferson*, 11-12 November (PB, JB); Cave City, *Barren*, 12 November (JR); female at the Falls of the Ohio, 19 November (BPB, JBa); LBL, *Trigg*, 30 November (KnC).
- Red-breasted Merganser** – 15 reports. 2 at Lake Cumberland SRP, *Russell*, 31 October (RD) was the earliest report. 23 at Fishing Creek Recreation Area, *Pulaski*, 8 November (RD) was the highest number reported.
- Ruddy Duck** – 2 at Camp #9, *Union*, 10 October (BPB) were the earliest reported.
- Horned Grebe** – 3 at Lake Nevin, Bernheim Forest, 15 October (ScD) was the earliest report.
- Red-necked Grebe** – 1 report. 1 at Lake Peewee *Hopkins* 27-28 November (ph TG, ph CBz) was the only report.
- Eared Grebe** – 1 above the dam at Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 21 November (wr RB) was the only report.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – 1 at Rose Hill, *Oldham*, 11-14 October (RFi) and 1 at Berea College Forest 23 October (SM) were the last reported.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** – 5 reports; all included. 1 calling repeatedly but not seen at Green River, *Taylor*, 2 August (wr JSo). Very unusual was a possible family group of 3 at Mill Creek, *Jessamine*,

11 August (wr ThR). 1 at Veterans Park, *Fayette*, 8 and 18 September (wr LsC). 1 heard at Campbell County Environmental Education Center 15 September and 1 in Honors Forest, Northern Kentucky University, 16 September, *Campbell* (wr LnW).

**Common Nighthawk** – 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 24 October (ph MY, BY) was the last reported. 100 at Anchorage Trail 2 September (DSv) was the highest number reported.

**Chuck-Will's-Widow** – 2 reports. 1 at McKee, *Jackson*, 6 August (ph JnA). 1 heard at Moutardier Recreation Area Campground, *Edmonson*, 19 August (DPs).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** – 2 reports. Singles in *Jessamine* 27 August (wr SyP) and in Lexington 3 September (DSv).

**Chimney Swift** – 1 at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, 24 October (ShA) was the last reported.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – 1 at a feeder in *Calloway* 7 November (ME) was the last reported.



Black-bellied Plover – *Jefferson*, 3 October 2017  
Karen Bonsell

**Rufous Hummingbird** – 1 report. 1 that had wintered 2016-2017 returned to Salt Lick Bend, *Cumberland*, 21 September (ph SnJ *vide* BPB).

**YELLOW RAIL** – 1 at Spindletop 4 November (wr DSv). Accepted by KBRC.

**Virginia Rail** – 2 locations. 1-2 at the Sinclair Unit *Muhlenberg* 1-10 August / 4-27 November (wr RD, wr CBz). 2 at the Sloughs 14-15 October (wr CBz, wr BPB, BBC).

**Sora** – 21 reports. 1 at the Sloughs 2 September (RB) was the earliest report. 2 at the Sloughs 21 October (JBa, BBC) were the last reported. 10 at the Sloughs 9 October (CC) was the highest number reported. Also reported in *Fayette*, *Jefferson*, and *Muhlenberg*.

**American Coot** – 1 at the Sinclair Unit 8 September (ph CBz) was the earliest report. 850 at Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 28 October (RbS) was the highest number reported.

**Sandhill Crane** – 1 continued in *Hart*. Otherwise, the earliest report was of 1 heard at Crappie Hollow 24 October (HC). The first reports of 100+ birds were in *Muhlenberg* 11 November (RB) and *Barren* 12 November (JR). The largest flights reported for the season were in *Hardin* and *Jefferson* 19-25 November, with reports of 200-500 birds (m.ob.).

**Black-necked Stilt** – 2 locations. 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 19-26 August (wr ph TB, BBC). 2 at Horseshoe Road 21-26 August (wr ph TdK, wr ph JrD, ph m.ob.).

**American Avocet** – 4 reports. 1 at Jonathan Creek, *Marshall*, 28 September (JP). 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 9 October (wr BPB, ph PS); also 1 on 22 October (CsL *vide* RLa). 1 feeding in a flooded field s. of Masonville, *Daviess*, 12 October (ph CBz).

**Black-bellied Plover** – 2 at Horseshoe Road 21 August (JfT, TrM, ph BWu, JBa, TQ) was the earliest report. 4 at Crappie Hollow 9 November (wr HC) were the last reported.

**American Golden-Plover** – 2 at Camp #9 on 13 August (ph BPB, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 1 in *Pulaski* 3 November

(ph RD) was the last reported. 33 at Camp #11 21 September (BPB, m.ob.) was the highest number reported.

**Semipalmated Plover** – 1 at Frogue Pond 14 October (CBz) was the last reported.

**Upland Sandpiper** – Reported at Horseshoe Road 4-21 August (ph BPB, m.ob.). All reports of a single bird, except for a report of 4 there on 14 August (wr ph JBa). The only other report was 7 August ne. of Shelbyville, *Shelby* (wr RBA, RFs).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 2-4 and 9 September (JBa, CB, JW, m.ob.).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – 50 reports; from *Calloway, Henderson, Jefferson, Marshall, Pulaski, Rowan, Todd, Union, and Wayne*. 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 11 October (DS) was the last reported. A transient pond along Hwy. 848 ne. of Guthrie, *Todd*, had the highest numbers reported, with 18 there 18 September (JoH) and 13 on 21 September (BPB, m.ob.).

**RED-NECKED STINT** – First state record and an extremely rare bird in the US. 1 at Horseshoe Road Sloughs 20-22 August (ph CC, m.ob.). See field note in this issue. Accepted by KBRC.

**Sanderling** – 23 reports; from *Calloway, Henderson, Jefferson, Lyon, Marshall, Pulaski, Rowan, and Union*. 2 at Crappie Hollow 27 August (HC) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 28 August (CC) were the earliest reported. 1 at Camp #11 21 September (BPB, ph SG, m.ob.) was the last reported. 13 at KY Dam, *Marshall*, 13 September (DR, HC, JP) was the highest number reported.

**Dunlin** – 1 at Jonathan Creek 30 September (DSv, TG, SG) was the earliest report. Peak counts were a total of 150 in two groups at the Sloughs 7 November (CBz) and at Crappie Hollow with 136 there 4 November and 157 there 7 November (HC).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – 21 reports. 1 at Camp #11 13 August (BPB, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 6 October (NBr) was the last reported.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – 16 reports. 1 at Camp #11 7 August (BPB, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 4 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 9 October (NBr) were the last reported.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – 13 reports. 1 at Horseshoe Road 22 August (CBz, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 2 at Camp #11 Mine 21 September (BPB, TG, SG, CBz) were the last reported.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Henderson*, 25 August 2017  
Steve Graham

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – 2 at the Sloughs 7 November (wr CBz) were the last reported.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 9 October (ph NBr) was the last reported.

**Western Sandpiper** – All reports included. 3 at Camp #11 on 31 August (BPB, TG, ph SG) was the earliest report; 1 also reported there 5 and 21 September. 1 at the



Falls of the Ohio 2-4 September (BWo, m.ob.). 1 at Bailey Hollow on KY Lake 3 September and 1 at Crappie Hollow 10-11 September; both *Calloway* (HC). 2 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 3, 5, and 10 September, and 5 October (ph RC, DM, m.ob.). 1 at Barren River Lake, *Barren*, 28 October (RB, RbS).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – 24 reports; almost all of 1-2 birds in *Henderson* and *Union*. 1 at the Sinclair Unit 19 September (CBz) was the last reported. 4 at Fishing Creek Embayment, *Pulaski*, 6 September (ph RD) was the highest number reported.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – All reports included. 1 at Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 5 August (TG, ph SG) was the earliest report. The next report was not until 10 October, when 7 were at Camp #11 (BPB); 11 were there 15 October (BPB, m.ob.) for the season's peak count. 4 at Crappie Hollow 16 October (HC). 2 at Reed Pond, *Henderson*, 18 October (CBz). 1 in *Hart* 31 October (CBz, JSo) was the last reported.

**Dowitcher species** – 1 at Horseshoe Road 4 August (ph CC). 4 at Crappie Hollow 4 September (HC).

**American Woodcock** – All reports included. 1 at Green River SP, *Henderson*, 25 October (CC). 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 3 November (BPB). 2 at Mammoth Cave, *Barren*, 4 November (JnH). 1 at Spindletop 4 November (DSv). 1 at Cove Spring Park, Franklin, 9 November (JSo). 1 at White Hall Shrine, *Madison*, 26 November (DSv).

**Wilson's Snipe** – 1 at County Road 1321, s. of Horseshoe Road 25 August (BWu) was the earliest reported. 68 at Jones Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 29 November (JSo) was the highest number reported.

**Spotted Sandpiper** – 1 at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 10 November (JBa) was the last reported.

**Solitary Sandpiper** – 1 at Mt Zion Loop Road, *Pulaski*, 26 October (RD) was the last reported.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – Singles 12 November at the Sloughs (CBz) and Crappie Hollow (HC) were the last reported. 185 near Hadensville, *Todd*, 21 September (JoH) was the highest number reported.

**Willet** – 1 (Western) at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 30-31 August (ph DM, LnH, ph RD, m.ob.) was the only report.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – Continued reports through at least 19 November, with 1 at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, (ph ShA, TG, ph SG). 18 near Hadensville, *Todd*, 19 September (JoH) was the highest number reported.

**Wilson's Phalarope** – 3 locations. 1 at Horseshoe Road and nearby Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 4-26 August (ph CC, m.ob.) may have been the same individual throughout, and perhaps even the same as one reported in the area 14 July. 2 at Camp #11, 13 August (BPB, ph m.ob.). 1 near Hadensville, *Todd*, 20 September (wr JoH).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – All reports included. At the Falls of the Ohio 1-3 September (wr BPB, ph m.ob.); usually 2 birds, but 3 reported 2 September. On 13 September 9 were at KY Dam (wr DR, m.ob.) and 1 was at Little Bear Creek, *Marshall*, (BPB, m.ob.). 1 at Jonathan Creek, *Marshall*, 17 September (HC, JP, m.ob., ph TB) was the last reported.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – Second Kentucky record. At least 1 at KY Dam, likely dates 13-18 September (DR, HC, BPB, JBa, ph m.ob.). Accepted by KBRC.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** – Fourth Kentucky record. At least 1 at KY Dam, likely dates 13-19 September (DR, HC, BPB, JBa, ph m.ob.). Accepted by KBRC.

**Jaeger species** – At least 4 jaegers were reported from KY Lake 13-19 September, but KBRC has accepted only the two

records listed above.

**SABINE'S GULL** – 3 reports. Singles on 2 September at the Falls of the Ohio (ph JBa, ph m.ob.) and at Jacobson Park, *Fayette* (vd TrN). 1 at KY Dam 13 September (DR, HC, wr BPB, JBa, m.ob.). Accepted by KBRC.

**Bonaparte's Gull** – 1 at Horseshoe Road 23 August (TG, ph SG, ph TrL, m.ob.) was the earliest report. The next earliest report was at Jonathan Creek more than a month later, 30 September (wr DSv). Did not appear in numbers until late October. A roost of 950 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 4 November (RB) was the highest number reported for the season.

**Laughing Gull** – All reports included. 1 at Kuttawa, *Lyon*, 21 August (MgH). 1-2 at the Falls of the Ohio 30 August – 6 September (wr JBa, wr BPB); 6 present on 2 September (m.ob.). 1 in *Calloway* 10 September (HC). 1 at KY Dam 13-15 September (DR, HC, JP, LM, m.ob.).

**Franklin's Gull** – All reports included. 1 at KY Dam Marina, *Marshall*, 1 September (ph BY). 1 at KY Dam and KY Dam Marina 13 September (DR, HC, JP, JrG). 1 in *Calloway* 20 October (HC). 3 at Barren River Marina, *Barren*, 23 October (wr TD). 2 at Bailey's Point, *Allen*, 7 November (wr TD).

**Ring-billed Gull** – 500 on the rooftops at KY Dam Marina, *Marshall*, 1 September (BY) was the highest number reported.

**Herring Gull** – The earliest reports were 1 at Cozy Cove, Benton, *Marshall*, 10 August (AIW) and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 12 August (MiC).

**Iceland Gull** – 1 at KY Dam 24 November (wr JoH, ph ShA) was the only report.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – 18 reports; all from LBL. 1 above KY Dam 13-14 September (CBz, wr JoH) was the earliest report.

**SOOTY TERN** – 3 at KY Dam 13 September (DR, HC, BPB, ph JBa, m.ob.). Accepted by KBRC.

**Least Tern** – All reports included; all were in August. Reported from 3 counties. *Fulton*: Lake Number 9 had 1 on 3 August (BY) and 3 on 5 August (CBz); Hickman had 70 on 11 August (ph MG), 30 on 14 August (SRc), and 3 on 16 August (JP). *Carlisle*: Along the Mississippi River at and a few miles s. of Island Number 1 had 2 on 5 August (CBz), 35 on 14 August (SRc), and 2 on 26 August (BPB, BWu, TG, SG). *Rowan* (first county record): Minor Clark Fish Hatchery had 1 juvenile on 30 August (wr ph DM, ph LnH, DSv).

**Caspian Tern** – 1 at Barren River Marina, *Barren*, 9 October (TD) was the last reported. An amazing 43 at the Falls of the Ohio 2 September (m.ob., ph JBa) was the highest number reported.

**Black Tern** – 25 reports. 3 at Barren River Marina, *Barren*, 14 September (TD) were the last reported. 10 at the Falls of the Ohio (m.ob., ph JBa) and 12 at Green River Lake, *Taylor* (RD), both 1 September, were the highest numbers reported.

**Common Tern** – All reports included. 2 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 1 September (wr RD). 3 at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 1 September and 6, including 1 juvenile, there 2 September (wr RD). 6 at the Falls of the Ohio 2 September (ph JB, m.ob.). 1 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 3 September (LCr, SnM, BB, DR). At KY Dam, 1 on 14 September (JHo), up to 8 on 15 September, and 15 on 16 September (RB). 11 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 14 September (TD). 1 at Pulaski County Park, Pulaski, 14 September (wr RD, m.ob.). 3 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 14 September (wr RD). 2 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 30 September (TG, SG). 1 at Reservoir #4 *Fayette* 13 October (wr DSv).

**Forster's Tern** – 64 at Clear Creek, *Marshall*, 19 September (HC) was the

highest number reported.

**Red-throated Loon** – 3 reports of single birds. Green River Lake, *Adair*, 25 November (wr ph RD). Sledd Creek, *Marshall*, 27 November (wr ph JBa). Above the dam at Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 28-29 November (LyB, EwB, ph 2 December RB).

**Common Loon** – Singles at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 1 September (ph RD) and Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 1-2 September (wr RD) were the earliest reported. Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, had the season's peak counts, with 69 on 6 November (JSo) and 190 on 7 November (TD).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – First Kentucky record. 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 20 September (wr SBT, ph ErR). See Palmer-Ball 2017 for additional details. Accepted by KBRC.



*Plegadis Ibis* – *Union*, 10 October 2017  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**WOOD STORK** – 1 reported at Bird Roost Island 5 August (wr DwG, JmG). Accepted by KBRC.

**American White Pelican** – 400 at KY Dam 15 October (LCr) was the highest number reported.

**Snowy Egret** – 1 at Hillman Ferry, *LBL*, *Lyon*, 5 October (JAn) was the last reported. 14 at Lake Number 9 *Fulton* 7 September (HC,

JP) was the highest number reported.

**Little Blue Heron** – 1 at Wildcat Creek, *Calloway*, 16 September (CBz) was the last reported. 80 at Bird Roost Island 8 August (TG, SG, CBz) was the highest number reported.

**Cattle Egret** – Reported only in *Lyon*, *Marshall*, and *Trigg*. Last reports were 15-16 September (m.ob.). 120 at Bird Roost Island 8 August (TG, SG, CBz) was the highest number reported.

**Green Heron** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 25 November (ph BeJ) was the last reported.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – Two reports. 1-3 at Lakeview Church Road, *Marshall*, 4-6 August (CBz, TaS). 1 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 5 August (CBz).

**White Ibis** – 1 at Jonathan Creek, *Marshall*, 16 September (wr CBz) was the only report.

**Plegadis Ibis** – 1 at Camp #11 on 10 October (ph BPB).

**Osprey** – Reported from 34 counties. 1 at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 18 November (TrN, KHo) was the last reported.

**Mississippi Kite** – Reported from 14 counties. 1 adult near the nest location in e. Louisville 9 September (AM) was the last reported. No large gatherings reported. 11 at Obion Creek WMA, *Fulton*, 16 August (JP) was the highest number reported.

**Broad-winged Hawk** – 1 at Barren River Lake 29 October (SnM) was the last reported. 110+ in Calhoun, *McLean*, 26 September (RbR) was the highest number reported.

**Red-tailed Hawk** – A Krider's morph was at Camp #11 on 15 October (wr BPB, BBC). An intermediate Harlan's morph was at Turner Pond, *Barren*, 24-25 November (wr LCr, ph DR).

**Rough-legged Hawk** – 1 in *Pulaski* 30 November (wr ph RD) was the only report.

**Golden Eagle** – 2 immatures in *Madison* 23 November (wr ErL) was the only report.

**Barn Owl** – Reported from *Christian, Graves, Hopkins, Jefferson, Mercer, and Union*.



Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Jefferson*, 3 September 2017  
Tommy Quarles

**Short-eared Owl** – 1 in *Logan* 21 November (FL) was the earliest report. Reported from *Grayson, Logan, Mercer, and Muhlenberg*.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – 1 banded at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 28 October (MM, BPB) was the earliest report. The season brought two more reports of owls banded in Louisville recaptured elsewhere (MM): 1 banded 8 November 2015 recaptured in Hilliardton Marsh, Ontario, 19 September 2017. “This is now the 4th bird we have exchanged with this location in Canada (2 each way) since Saw-whet banding started in 1999.” 1 banded 3 November 2016 recaptured in Block Island Village, Rhode Island 8 November 2017.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 13 September (MY) was the earliest reported.

**Merlin** – 14 reports. 1 at KY Dam 13 September (DR, HC, JP) was the earliest report.

**Peregrine Falcon** – Most reports from *Jefferson*. Also reported from *Boone, Fayette, Henderson, Livingston, Marshall, Ohio, Pulaski, Rowan, and Union*.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – 10 reports. 1 in *Warren* 2 August (wr ph AH) was a record early date for fall. Singles 17 September in *Adair* (DCo) and at Anchorage Trail (BBC) were the last reported.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – 1 at the Sloughs 22 October (DSv) was the last reported.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – 8 reports. The earliest report was of 1 at Anchorage Trail 26-28 August, that responded to an audio of its call (m.ob.). 1 in *Carlisle* 17 September (BWu, CBz, TQ) was the last reported. Also reported in *Boone, Casey, Fayette, and Fulton*.

**Acadian Flycatcher** – Singles at the Sloughs 23 September (CC) and in *Campbell* 24 September (OsW) were the last reported.

**Alder Flycatcher** – At Elbow Slough Road, *Fulton*, 25-26 August (BPB, wr BWu, TG, ph SG); 1 the first day and 2 the second gave *pip* notes in response to playback.

**Willow/Alder Flycatcher** – All reports included. An additional Traill’s-type flycatcher was seen at the Alder location above 26 August but did not call. The following 4 reports were posted without details as **Willow Flycatcher**. 1 at Camp #11 on 13 August (StZ). 2 at Audubon SP Wetlands, *Henderson*, 23 August (MiC, BrB). 1 at The Bend, *Hart*, 26 August (JSO). 1 at Farnsley-Moremen Landing, *Jefferson*, 26 August (MiC).

**Least Flycatcher** – 1 at Wright Springs Woods in *Todd*, 21 August (DSv) started calling during the total solar eclipse and was the earliest reported. Turkey Run Park, *Jefferson*, 24 September (KtF) had the last report (number not specified).

**Empidonax flycatcher** – 1 at Audubon SP Wetlands, *Henderson*, 30 September (CC) was the last reported for the season.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** – 1 in *Hopkins* 23 September (DoS, HtS, m.ob.) was the last reported.

- Eastern Kingbird** – 2 in *Mercer* 24 September (FMi) were the last reported. 30 at Litchfield Lane, *Fayette*, 30 August (ROC) was the highest number reported.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – 1 continued at Dawson Lane, *Christian*; last reported 8 August (ph CBz, ph JSO, m.ob.).
- Loggerhead Shrike** – 1 in *Logan* continued through the season (FL, m.ob.).
- White-eyed Vireo** – 1 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 4 November (CKAS/ASK) was the last reported.
- Bell's Vireo** – All reports included. Up to 5 at the Sinclair Unit through 10 September (m.ob.). 1-2 at Camp #11; last reported 25 August (m.ob.). 4 at Sandy Lee Watkins County Park, *Henderson*, 5 August; also 1 on 20 August and 3 September (RbR, CC). 1 at the Sloughs 9 August (CC). 1 at Green River State Forest 27 August (CC).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – 1 in *Hart* 8 October (SK, JnK) was the last reported.
- Blue-headed Vireo** – The last reports were 1 each in *Barren*, *Daviess*, *Fayette*, *Jefferson*, and *Warren* 7-8 November (m.ob.).
- Philadelphia Vireo** – 1 at Glasgow, *Barren*, 30 August (wr LCr) was the earliest report. 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 18 October (wr KB, m.ob.) was the last reported.
- Warbling Vireo** – 1 at Caperton Swamp, *Jefferson*, 7 October (DHk) was the last reported.
- Red-eyed Vireo** – 1 in Berea 15 October (RBa, RFs) was the last reported.
- Fish Crow** – 48 reports. 1 at Audubon Wetlands, *Henderson*, 21 October (DSv) was the last reported. 21 at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 16 September (JW, JnS) was the highest number reported.
- Common Raven** – 3 reports. 2-3 at Paul Van Booven WMA, *Breathitt*, 16 September (ZcH). 1 at Bad Branch SNP, *Letcher*, 24 October (TG, SG). 2 at Fishtrap Lake WMA, *Pike*, 19 November (SF).
- Purple Martin** – Last reported 13-14 September (m.ob.). Peak estimates include 25,000 along the Missouri side of the Mississippi River near the s. end Lake 9, *Fulton*, 25 August (BWu, BPB); up to 7000 in Nicholasville, *Jessamine*, 9-26 August (TrN, m.ob.); and 8000 at KY Bend, *Fulton*, 11 August (MG).
- Tree Swallow** – 4 at the Sinclair Unit 11 November (RB) were the last reported. Up to 3000 at Bailey's Point, *Allen*, 28 October (RB) was the highest number reported.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 4 November (ph RD) was the last reported. 300 at Hickman, *Fulton*, 11 August (MG) was the highest number reported.
- Bank Swallow** – Last reported 16 September, with 1 at KY Dam (RB) and 3 in *Hopkins* (DoS). 250 at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*, 11 August (MG) was the highest number reported.
- Cliff Swallow** – Last report was of 2 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 29 October (wr DgR). Peak reports of 300 were at Camp #11 on 18 August (BPB, m.ob.) and Horseshoe Road 25 August (BWu, TG, SG).
- Barn Swallow** – 2 at the Sloughs 26 October (CBz) were the last reported. 80 at Smithland Dam, *Livingston*, 3 September (BY) was the highest number reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** – Reported from at least 16 locations in 13 counties. 1 at Long Creek, LBL, *Trigg*, 16 September (PB, JB, JP, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 3 near KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 27 November (JBa) was the highest number reported.
- Brown Creeper** – 1 in *Kenton*, 27 August (GnD) was very early. The next earliest report was 1 at Anchorage Trail 11 October (JB, PB).

**Winter Wren** – 1 in *Campbell* 29 September (BWu) was the earliest report.

**Sedge Wren** – 20 reports. First reported from *Christian, Fulton, Henderson, and Marshall* 4-6 August (m.ob.). The Sloughs had both the last report with 3 on 26 October (CBz) and the peak count of 8 on 21 October (BPB, m.ob.).

**Marsh Wren** – 27 reports. 2 at the Sloughs 15 September (ph CC) was the earliest report. 1-2 were at Spindletop from 12 October through at least 26 November (ph NBr, BBC, m.ob.).



Marsh Wren – *Henderson*, 15 September 2017  
Charles Crawford

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 12 October (PB, JB) was the last reported.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 2 at Campbell County Environmental Education Center, *Campbell*, 29 September (wr BWu) was the earliest report. An impressive count of 40+ at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 4 November (CKAS/ASK) was the highest number reported.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – 1 at Flat Rock Ridge Rd., DBNF, *McCreary*, 16 September (RD) was the earliest report.

**Veery** – 11 reports. 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, 4 September (JBa) was the earliest report. 1 at Jenny Wiley SRP, *Floyd*, 30 September (GBo, JfP) was the last reported.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – First reported 3-4 September in *Wayne* (RB) and *Calloway* (HC). 1 at Anchorage Trail *Jefferson* 19 October (wr PB, JB) was the last reported.

**Swainson's Thrush** – First reports 2-4 September (m.ob.). 1 at Waterfront Park, Louisville, 7 November (wr ph BPB) was very late. An impressive count of 30 at Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 21 September (RB) was the highest number reported.

**Hermit Thrush** – First arrivals 14-17 October (m.ob.).

**Wood Thrush** – 1 in Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 16 October (wr ph BY, MY) was the last reported.

**Gray Catbird** – Still present 25 November with 1 in *Boone* (wr JRw).

**American Pipit** – 27 reports. 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery *Rowan* 10 September (wr ph TQ, RbC) was the earliest report. 100 w. of Hydro, *Warren*, 23 November (AH) was the peak count.

**Purple Finch** – 3 in *Pulaski* 17 October (JmP) were the earliest.

**Pine Siskin** – Active season for this species. 7 at Camp #9 on 10 October (wr BPB) was the earliest report. Flocks of 15+ reported in *Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Hopkins, and Marshall* (m.ob.). Continued through the season.

**Lapland Longspur** – 4 locations. 2 at Spindletop 20 November (DSv); 1 there 26 November (BBC, ph TQ). 1-2 w. of Hydro, *Warren*, 23-24 November (AH). 1 at Beckley Creek, *Jefferson*, 25 November (LIV). 1 near KY Dam Village SRP 30 November (AH).

**Snow Bunting** – 1 w. of Smith Mills, *Henderson*, 6 November (ph CC) was the only report.

**American Tree Sparrow** – 1 in *Oldham* 27 October (RFi) was the earliest reported.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – All reports included. 1 w. of Tom Sawyer Park, Louisville, *Jefferson*, 30 August (ph KB). 1 at Schochoh Road, *Logan*, 30 September - 6 November (ph ST, DT, m.ob.). 1 at Spindletop 22 October (BBC, ph MiC, ph PS). Formerly a review species.

**Vesper Sparrow** – 1 at Sandy Lee Watkins County Park, *Henderson*, 20 August (wr RbR) was very early. The next earliest reports began 29-30 October (m.ob.)

**Lark Sparrow** – 2 at Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 5 September (wr RB) was the only report.

**LARK BUNTING** – First state record. 1 at Grassy Pond / Powells Lake Road, near junction with Mount Vernon-Uniontown Road, *Henderson*, 6-7 August (DSv, m.ob.). See field note in this issue. Accepted by KBRC.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – 15 reports. 1 at Guthrie Laake (restricted access) *Todd* 18 September (JoH) was the last reported.

**Henslow's Sparrow** – 2 reports. 2 at JC Jones Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 3 August (JSo). 1 at the Sinclair Unit 10 August (CBz).

**LeConte's Sparrow** – 3 locations. 1 at the Sloughs 27 October (ph CC). 1 in *Logan* 4 November (ph FL). 1 at the Sinclair Unit 6 and 11 November (ph CBz, AH, RB).

**Fox Sparrow** – 1 in *Mercer* 17 October (FMi) and 1 in *Oldham* 18-19 October (RFi) were the earliest reports.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – 1 at Beckley Creek, *Jefferson*, 24 September (PS) was the earliest report. 1 at the Homestead Unit, *Ohio*, 23 November (wr CBz) was the last of the season.

**Swamp Sparrow** – First reported 30 September, with 2 in *Logan* (FL) and 1 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, (CKAS/ASK).

**White-throated Sparrow** – 1 heard at Evergreen Cemetery in Louisville 26 September (wr BPB) was the earliest report.

**White-crowned Sparrow** – 1 at Murray Hill in Louisville 13 September (JdG) was the earliest report.

**Dark-eyed Junco** – 1 at Mount Washington *Bullitt* 11 October (SsB) was the earliest report. An "Oregon" morph returned for a third year in Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 6 November and continued through the season (ph BY, MY).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – 1 at Hurricane Creek Recreation Area, *Trigg*, 3 October (wr JAN) was the last reported.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** – 2 reports; both accepted by KBRC. 1 at Horseshoe Road 18 August (wr BPB, JSo, TG, SG). 1 at Cave Lake (Cooley Pond), *Wayne*, 13 September (ph RD).



Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Wayne*, 13 September 2017  
Roseanna Denton

**Bobolink** – 16 reports. 4 continued at Midway, *Woodford*, last reported 2 August (wr DL). Next report was 1 at Horseshoe Road 18 August (wr BPB, m.ob.) with reports through 29 August, including the season's peak count of 11 on 25 August (ph BWu, m.ob.). 1-3 at the Sloughs 15-21 October (m.ob.) were the last reports.

**Orchard Oriole** – 1 in *Kenton* 4 September (wr RC) was the last reported.

**Baltimore Oriole** – 1 in *Meade* 26 September (CBz) was the last reported.

- Rusty Blackbird** – 13 reports from *Barren, Fayette, Fulton, Henderson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, and Todd*. First reported 4 November, with 8 at Mammoth Cave, *Barren* (wr JnH) and 5 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson* (ph PB, JB). 25 were at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, 10 October (ATy). 33+ at Spindletop 26 November (BBC) was the highest number reported. **Note:** “Rusty Blackbird is one of North America’s most rapidly declining species. The population has plunged an estimated 85-99 percent over the past forty years and scientists are completely puzzled as to what is the cause.” - [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)
- Brewer’s Blackbird** – 1 in *Warren* 23 November (wr AH) was the only report.
- Ovenbird** – No reports in August. 1 in *Jefferson* 17 October (BrB) was the last report.
- Worm-eating Warbler** – 2 in *McCreary* 21 September (RD) were the last reported.
- Louisiana Waterthrush** – 1 in *Whitley* 20 August (LkB) was the last reported.
- Northern Waterthrush** – 1 singing at Obion Creek WMA, *Fulton*, 26 August (BPB, BWu, TG, SG) was the earliest report. 1 at Camp #11 10 October (BPB) was the last reported.
- Golden-winged Warbler** – 1 at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 26 August (TrL) was the earliest reported. 1 at Mahr Park, *Hopkins*, 14 October (wr BvC) was the last reported.
- Blue-winged Warbler** – 1 in *Franklin* 28 September (JSo) was the last reported.
- Black-and-white Warbler** – 1 in *Pulaski* 6 November (wr RD) was the last reported.
- Prothonotary Warbler** – 1 at Cherokee Park *Jefferson* 20 September (RLa, m.ob.) was the last reported.
- Swainson’s Warbler** – 1 at Crappie Hollow 4 September (wr HC) was the only report.
- Tennessee Warbler** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 24 August (PB, m.ob.) was the earliest report. 4 at Mahr Park, *Hopkins*, 6 November (wr ph DoS) were the last reported.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** – Singles 1 October at the Muhlenberg County Rail Trail (TG, SG) and Morgan Conservation Park, *Oldham* (BBC) were the earliest reported. 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 24-28 November (wr BPB) was the last reported for the season.
- Nashville Warbler** – 1 at Red River Gorge, *Powell*, 30 August (TN) was the earliest report. 1 at Louisville Waterfront Park, *Jefferson*, 7 November (ph BPB) was the last reported.
- Connecticut Warbler** – Uncommon in fall in KY. All reports included; all were of single birds. E. Louisville 9 September (wr PB, JB). Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 15 and 20 September (wr RB). Beckley Creek, *Jefferson*, 20 September (wr PB, JB).
- Mourning Warbler** – All reports included; all were of single birds. Anchorage Trail 28 August and 2-14 September (m.ob.). *Kenton* 31 August (ph HWN). Beckley Creek, *Jefferson*, 21-22 September (CB, PB, JB). Muhlenberg County Rail Trail 28 September (wr TG, SG).
- Kentucky Warbler** – 13 reports. 1 at Turkey Run Park, *Jefferson*, 24 September (KtF) was the last reported.
- Common Yellowthroat** – 1 at Green River WMA, *Adair*, 4 November (RB) was the last reported. 20 at the Sloughs 15 September (CC) was the highest number reported.
- Hooded Warbler** – 1 at Boyd’s Landing, *Lyon*, 30 September (TG, SG) was the last reported. 15 at Flat Rock Ridge Rd. DBNF *McCreary* 21 September (RD) was the highest number reported.
- American Redstart** – 2 in *Daviess* 14 October (RbR) and 1 in *Fayette* 14 October (DSv) were the last reported. 22



at Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 15 September (RB) was the highest number reported.

**Cape May Warbler** – 15 eBird reports. Earliest were 31 August singles in *Kenton* (HWN) and at Bernheim Forest (TrB). The last reported was 1 in *Madison* 15 October (RBa, RFs).

**Cerulean Warbler** – All reports included. 2 in e. *Fayette* 5 August (BBC). 2 at Hillman Ferry Campground, LBL, *Lyon*, 11 August (CvB). 1 at *Madison* 3 September (RFs).



Black-throated Blue Warbler – *Madison*, 22 October 2017  
Robert Foster

**Northern Parula** – Last reported 10 October, singles at Kenlake SRP, *Marshall* (ph TaS) and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery (DSv).

**Magnolia Warbler** – 2 at Doug Travis WMA, *Hickman*, 26 August (BPB, BWu, TG, SG) and 1 at Anchorage Trail 27 August (MA) were the earliest reported. 1 at the Sloughs 21 October (JW, JBa, m.ob.) was the last reported. 18 at Murl Pond, *Wayne*, 21 September (RB) was the highest number reported.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – 1 at Bernheim Forest 31 August (TrB) was the earliest report. 1 in Berea 21 October (RBa, ph RFs) was the last reported.

**Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 23 August (PB, JB) was the earliest report. 1 in Berea 12 October (RBa, RFs) was the last reported.

**Yellow Warbler** – 1 at Bernheim Forest 29 September (DxM) was the last reported.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 16 August (wr PB, JB) was the earliest report. 1 at Mahr Park, *Hopkins*, 14 October (BvC) was the last reported.

**Blackpoll Warbler** – Rare in fall in KY. 2 reports included. 1 at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 3 September (wr TrB). 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 5 October (JSo).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – All reports included. 1 in *Wayne* 7 September (RB). 1 adult male was found dead at a residence w. of Frankfort, *Franklin*, 11 September (specimen ph JBr). 1 at Mammoth Cave, *Edmonson*, 4 October (LCr). 2 at Mahr Park, *Hopkins*, 6 October (wr DoS, BvC). 1 in Berea 21-22 October (RBa, ph RFs).

**Palm Warbler** – 3 s. of Geneva, *Henderson*, 2 September (KM) and 1 at Anchorage Trail 3 September (BBC) were the earliest reported.

**Pine Warbler** – 1 near KY Dam Village SRP 9 November (JrG) was the last reported. 35 at Nolin Lake, *Hart*, 31 August (SK, JnK) was the highest number reported.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 20 September (NcK) was the earliest report. 75 at Pulaski County Park, *Pulaski*, 17 October (RD) was the highest number reported.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – 1 in Berea 12 October (RBa, RFs) was the last reported.

**Prairie Warbler** – 2 at LBL, *Trigg*, 4 October (JP) were the last reported.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** – 1 in Berea 12 October (RBa, RFs) was the last reported.

**Canada Warbler** – 31 reports. 1 at Anchorage Trail 19 August (PB, JB) and 3 at Mammoth Cave, *Hart*, 20 August (BrG, JeG) were the earliest reported. 1 at Beckley Creek, *Jefferson*, 28 September (wr PB, JB) was the last reported.

**Wilson's Warbler** – 32 reports. 1 at Anchorage Trail *Jefferson* 22 August (PB, JB) was the earliest report. 1 at Muhlenberg County Rail Trail 4 October (TG, SG) was the last reported.

**Summer Tanager** – 1 in *Marshall* 27 October - 7 November (ph JP) and 1 in *Davies* 6-7 November (RbR) were the last reported.

**Scarlet Tanager** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 16 October (PB, JB) was the last reported. A remarkable 25, including one group of 15, at Dale Hollow Lake SRP, *Cumberland*, 14 September (RB) was the highest number reported.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – 1 first-fall male that lingered at a feeder n. of Waynesburg, *Lincoln*, through 15 November (ph NnK) was the last reported.

**Blue Grosbeak** – 1 at the Sloughs 15 October (BPB, m.ob.) was the last reported.



Summer Tanager – *Marshall*, 3 November 2017  
Josh Powell

**Indigo Bunting** – 1 at Anchorage Trail 25 November (MA) was the last report of the season. 40 at Camp #11 in four separate flocks on 10 October (BPB) was the highest number reported.

**Dickcissel** – 1 at Schoch Rd, *Logan*, 16 October (PS) was the last reported.



Great Horned Owl – *Jefferson*, 3 September 2017  
Tommy Quarles

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- Yandell, B. 2017. 17th Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler*, 93: 104-107.

LOCATIONS (*Italics* indicate a county name.)

- Anchorage Trail, e. *Jefferson*
- Berea, *Madison*
- Bernheim Forest = Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, *Bullitt*
- Bird Roost Island = 1 mi. s. of US 68 bridge, Lake Barkley, *LBL*, *Trigg*
- Boyd's Landing, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*
- Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*
- Crappie Hollow, *LBL*, *Calloway*
- DBNF= Daniel Boone National Forest
- Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*
- Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*
- Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek Embayment *Marshall*
- KY Dam = Kentucky Lake Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*
- 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*
- Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*
- Open Pond, Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*
- Sloughs = Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*
- SNP = State Nature Preserve
- SP / SRP = State Park / State Resort Park
- Spindletop = University of Kentucky Spindletop Research Farm, Lexington, *Fayette*
- KY Dam = Kentucky Lake Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*
- KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*
- Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Livingston/Lyon/Marshall/Trigg*;
- LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*;
- WMA = Wildlife Management Area

**OBSERVERS**

m.ob. = multiple observers	Melissa Easley (ME)	Tina Nauman (TN)
	Rand Falls (RF)	Teresa Noel (TrN)
	Richard Fischer (RFi)	Ronan O'Carra (ROC)
	Kathy Fisher (KtF)	Marjorie Oliver (MaO)
Beckham Bird Club (BBC)	Robert Foster (RFs)	Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB)
Central KY Audubon	Scott Freidhof (SF)	Nancy Parker (NP)
Society / Audubon	Judy Galitzine (JdG)	David Parsons (DPs)
Society of KY (CKAS/ ASK)	Bryan Gorges (BrG)	Sydney Penner (SyP)
	Jessie Gorges (JeG)	Jennifer Perkins (JfP)
	Jared Gorrell (JrG)	James Perlowski (JmP)
John Abrams (JnA)	Steve Graham (SG)	Josh Powell (JP)
Jan Allen (JAn)	Teresa Graham (TG)	Tommy Quarles (TQ)
Sharon Arnold (ShA)	Mark Greene (MG)	Earl Raglin (ErR)
Michael Autin (MA)	Dawn Greenway (DwG)	Doug Raybuck (DgR)
Jamie Baker (JBa)	Jim Greenway (JmG)	Scott Record (SRc)
Scott Barrett (SBt)	Zach Hackworth (ZcH)	David Roemer (DR)
Rebecca Bates (RBa)	Joseph Hall (JoH)	Robert Rold (RbR)
Brenda Bauer (BrB)	Megan Hart (MgH)	Thad Roller (ThR)
Susan Bauer (SsB)	Lana Hayes (LnH)	Jeffery Rose (JR)
Tom Becker (TB)	Jonathan Heller (JnH)	Jeff Rowe (JRw)
Jane Bell (JB)	Doug Hitchcox (DHx)	Tammie Smith (TaS)
Pat Bell (PB)	Karen Hogan (KHo)	Jennifer Snyder (JnS)
Luke Berg (LkB)	Josh Holland (JHo)	Jeff Sole (JSo)
Carol Besse (CB)	Aaron Hulseley (AH)	Pam Spaulding (PS)
Clay Bliznick (CBz)	Sonya Jackson (SnJ)	Evan Speck (EvS)
Gretchen Bolton (GBo)	Bee Jenkins (BeJ)	Heather Staggs (HtS)
Karen Bonsell (KB)	Ted Kevel (TdK)	Ruben Stoll (RbS)
Edwin Bontrager (EwB)	Janet Kistler (JnK)	Donna Stricklin (DoS)
Lyle Bontrager (LyB)	Steve Kistler (SK)	Del Striegel (DS)
Ray Bontrager (RB)	Nancy Kitchen (NnK)	David Svetich (DSv)
Barbara Brand (BB)	Nicole Koeltzow (NcK)	Jeff Timmons (JfT)
Nancy Braun (NBr)	Rob Lane (RLa)	Alan Troyer (ATy)
Terry Bronson (TrB)	David Lang (DL)	Debby Tyson (DT)
John Brunjes (JBr)	David Ledford (DLd)	Steve Tyson (ST)
Michael Callan (MiC)	Casey Leek (CsL)	Curt VanBoening (CvB)
Beverly Carrico (BvC)	Erik Liddell (ErL)	Lloyd Vest (LIV)
Robert Chadwick (RbC)	Terri Lusk (TrL)	Lindsey Walters (LnW)
Hap Chambers (HC)	Frank Lyne (FL)	Allan Welby (AIW)
Lisa Combs (LsC)	Travis Mahan (TrM)	James Wheat (JW)
Derek Coomer (DCo)	Dax Manley (DxM)	Oscar Wilhelm (OsW)
Ken Cooper (KnC)	Don Martin (DM)	Barbara Woerner (BWo)
Linda Craiger (LCr)	Lee McNeely (LM)	Helen Wright-North (HWN)
Charlie Crawford (CC)	Andrew Melnykovych (AM)	Brian Wulker (BWu)
Rodney Crice (RC)	John Meredig (JM)	Ben Yandell (BY)
Gene Dennis (GnD)	Keith Michalski (KM)	Mary Yandell (MY)
Roseanna Denton (RD)	Frank Mitchell (FMi)	Stephen Zipperer (StZ)
Scott Dickman (ScD)	Mark Monroe (MM)	
Jeremy Dominguez (JrD)	Sandy Moss (SnM)	
Tom Durbin (TD)		

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 2017-2018**

James A. Wheat, Regional Editor for Kentucky CBCs

This was a successful Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The number of CBCs increased from 32 last year to 37 this year. Participants logged a total of 1148 party hours. Significantly, this is the first time that all Kentucky CBCs were also input into the National Audubon Society's *Christmas Bird Count* database. A total of 143 species was recorded, up slightly from last year's 139. There were three additional species reported the week of the count, but not on the count day: SNOWY OWL (requires KBRC review), Long-eared Owl, and Nashville Warbler. All three birds were well-documented; only the Snowy Owl was photographed. There were 19 common species that were reported on all 37 counts; 22 species were observed on only one CBC. These data reflect the work done by the observers in these counts and by the compilers who collected the details and documentation of the unusual birds. Most of these observations have also been reported in eBird.

Weather was cool and mild in Kentucky. The low temperature of -2°F in Falmouth (Jan. 1) was lower than the ten-year average low temperature of 15°F for the Commonwealth. Similarly, the high temperature of 58°F (Barren River Lake and Elkton, Dec. 21 and 22, respectively) was lower than the ten-year average high temperature of 67°F. Partly cloudy or cloudy weather was reported all day on 25 counts, but only 8 counts reported rain (with all-day rain on 3 counts). No snow was reported. Rivers and creeks were generally open or partly frozen. Lakes and ponds varied from frozen to open. As always, the distribution of count days across the count period was not uniform. With the traditional holidays and related travel falling on the weekends this year, counts were concentrated on two days: 10 counts were held on Saturday, Dec. 16, and 5 were conducted on Monday, Jan. 1. There were five days in the count period on which no counts were done.

Highlights of this CBC season include the following. Most of these are documented by photographs, and all have considerable identification notes on the rarities: Ross's Goose (39 on 8 counts), Cackling Goose (29 on 3 counts), Mute Swan (7 at Shelbyville), Tundra Swan (4 at Paradise), White-winged Scoter (2 at Green River Lake), Ruffed Grouse (1 at Ashland Boyd County), Eared Grebe (2 at Russell-Adair County), Virginia Rail (1 at Paradise), *Whooping Crane* (flyover; 3 at Barren River Lake; italics indicate not "countable" in Kentucky), Dunlin (2 at East Allen County), American Woodcock (1 at Ballard), Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 at Green River Lake), Forster's Tern (11 at Land Between the Lakes), Red-throated Loon (2 on Barren River Lake), Great Egret (1 at Louisville), Black-crowned Night-Heron (12 at Louisville), Rough-legged Hawk (4 on 4 counts), Golden Eagle (3 on 2 counts), Merlin (10 on 6 counts), Peregrine Falcon (5 at Louisville), White-eyed Vireo (1 at Danville), Blue-headed Vireo (3 on 2 counts), House Wren (14 on 9 counts), Sedge Wren (2 on 2 counts), Gray Catbird (1 at Kleber WMA), RED CROSSBILL (requires KBRC review; 14 photographed at Paradise), LeConte's Sparrow (3 on 2 counts), Lincoln's Sparrow (1 at Paradise), Brewer's Blackbird (2 at Otter Creek Park), Orange-crowned Warbler (4 on 3 counts) [Ed. Note: 1 was an IN bird], Pine Warbler (9 on 7 counts), Indigo Bunting (1 at West Allen County), and Dickcissel (1 at Burlington).

Historically, many CBCs held in Kentucky were published in *The Kentucky Warbler*, but were not included in the NAS CBC database. I am engaged in an ongoing effort to include all such counts (that meet qualifying criteria) in that online, searchable portal. When that project is complete, better trending can be derived from that foundation of data, as well as making available the data to researchers and the public. Progress is slow but completion will be reported in these pages, and this summary will then be more substantive. After confirmation, the data will be available on the [NAS CBC website](#).

Table 1 below summarizes the preliminary CBC results by five physiogeographic regions. The number of CBCs made it no longer feasible to include the detailed tabular data here. This table shows the average number of birds observed in an hour, with darker shading indicating higher-frequency species and the letter *u* indicating very low-frequency species. Table 1 was developed in collaboration with Ben Yandell.

[Technical notes: Includes only birds identified to species. Using number of birds per hour makes results more comparable across CBCs that vary in number of participants. If desired, the actual count can be closely approximated by multiplying the number of birds-per-hour rate by the total party hours. The letter *u* is used for rate less than 0.1. Using party hours avoids double-counting time in the field. As an example, 4 people birding together for 3 hours yields 3 (not 12) party hours.]

Sincere thanks to the 414 observers (yes, including some multi-CBC people) who participated in this year's counts and to the 37 hard-working compilers who organized and executed their counts, submitted count results online, and endured my many requests and questions. To those who completed Rare Bird Reports or otherwise documented the unusual birds, thank you.

### **Jackson Purchase (JackPr) – 2 sites**

**Ballard County** - KYBC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at jct. KY 358 and Stove Corner Road; 37.1228°N, -88.9518°W). Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 18; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Cloudy with periods of drizzle during the early morning hours; temp. 45–51°F; wind SW 5-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Five observers in one to three parties. Total party hours: 23 (8.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party miles: 156 (3 on foot, 153 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 90; total individuals 18,991.

**Observers:** Clay Bliznick, Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, **Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler)**, and Scott Record.

The day was cloudy with periods of drizzle during the early morning hours. The species total (90) was about-average for this count. Numbers of geese were average, although only 12 species of waterfowl were detected with Ring-necked Duck being the only species of diving duck found. Highlights included at least 15 Ross's Geese, a Rough-legged Hawk, a Sandhill Crane, a Barn Owl, two Loggerhead Shrikes, three Palm Warblers, and two LeConte's Sparrows. In addition to the missing species of diving duck, surprising misses included Great Horned Owl and Rock Pigeon. Red-headed Woodpeckers were present in good numbers in the bottomland forests, but again this year we did not spend much time in that habitat to tally a large number. Natural food supplies appeared to be good.

**Calloway County** - KYCC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery; 36.600276°N, -88.199857°W). Habitat: 20% lake shoreline and streams, 35% open fields, 30% residential, and 15% deciduous and pine woods. Jan. 2; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 3-21°F; wind NW, 3-4 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Nine observers in five parties. Total party hours: 29.5 (3.5 on foot, 26 by car). Total party miles: 191.7 (3.5 on foot, 188.2 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 74; total individuals 6,587.

**Observers:** Laura Beckers, **Hap Chambers (compiler)**, Katherine Cohen, Bob Head, Mike Miller, Josh Powell, Darrin Samborski, Angela Snodgrass, and Aviva Yasgur.

Very cold week for our region. All lake bays were frozen solid causing the low numbers and species of waterfowl, shorebirds, terns and gulls. Main channel of KY Lake was open and water was moving. Ducks were hunkered down along the edges of the islands and heat shimmers made identification difficult.

**Western Coal Fields (Wcoal) – 5 sites**

**Daviess County, South** - KYDS (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on Hwy 142 just s. of Habit, KY; 37.693778°N, -86.99575°W). Habitat to be described. Jan. 1, 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. CST. Clear skies, temp 0-13°F; wind NW 8-14 m.p.h. Water frozen.

Fourteen observers in three to nine parties. Total party hours: 20.15 (2 on foot, 18.15 by car). Total party miles: 180 (2 on foot, 178 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 57; total individuals 5,642.

**Observers:** Judy Adams, Henry Conner, Tony Eaden, Brenda Eaden, Steve Hahus, **Mike Henshaw (compiler)**, Sherry Henshaw, Mary Kissel, Lisa Leonard, Edna Murphey, Jeff Murphey, Mary Thompson, Wendell Thompson, and Carolyn Williams.

Bitter cold weather this year with no open water. Wind-chill was -11 at times during the count. Folks were not interested in getting out in the weather to walk around much.

Other than the cold, a normal CBC.

**Mammoth Cave National Park** - KYMC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Park Headquarters; 37.18644°N, -86.1101°W). Habitat as described in 1980. Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 48-52°F; wind NE 6-11 m.p.h. Water open.

Three observers in one party. Total party hours: 8 (3 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles: 73.5 (2.5 on foot, 71 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 40; total individuals 768.

**Observers:** Valerie Brown, John Delparto, and **Blaine Ferrell (compiler)**.

Although skies were overcast and periods of drizzle occurred, the count was pleasant due to warm temperatures and good numbers of birds. Thanks to those who participated.

**Nolin River** - KYNR (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.5 miles south of Hilltop, eastern Grayson County; 37.38964°, -86.1137°). Habitat: woodland, farmland, river and Nolin Reservoir. Dec. 15; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 33-40°F; wind SE, light breeze. Water open.

Eight observers in one party. Total party hours: 11 (3 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles: 100 (2 on foot, 98 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 70; total individuals 7,941.

**Observers:** Bonnie Avery, James Beachy, John Brittain, Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Janet Kistler, **Steve Kistler (compiler)**, and Jeff Sole.

Owls were quiet morning and night, except for 6 Short-eared Owls, which gave a nice show in the evening. Despite open water on ponds, waterfowl were scarce. Counts of 5 Bald Eagles and 280 Bonaparte's Gulls were record highs for this CBC.

**Paradise** - KYPA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in southern Ohio County; 37.27755°N, -86.95868°W). Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 31; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Partly cloudy; temp. 11-21° F; wind N 5-15 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Eight observers in four to five parties. Total party hours: 35 (18.5 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party miles: 91 (8 on foot, 83 by car). Hours owling: 1.5. Total species 95; total individuals 36,622.

**Observers:** Michael Autin, Preston Forsythe, Shari Forsythe, Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, Chris Hill, **Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler)**, and Matt Stickel.

A very cold, albeit mostly sunny, day, but the light to moderate north wind made birding uncomfortable. Most of the water was frozen, which helps concentrate water birds where they can be seen and counted, so waterfowl abundance and diversity was above average. Raptor numbers continue to be lower than in prior years when open habitat was more attractive to them. The species total (95) was the highest in several years, in part due to higher waterfowl diversity, but also due to the presence of a few rarities. Highlights included a Virginia Rail,

three Merlins, a LeConte's Sparrow, and 14 Red Crossbills. Not included in the table are 17,000 blackbirds (most likely Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds) observed flying to roost in the evening.

**Sorgho** - KYSG (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Hwy. 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection; 37.76297°N, -87.23086°W). Habitat farmland, river, creeks, river bottoms, urban parks and county parks. Dec. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 32-51°F; wind SE up to 18 m.p.h. Water open.

Fifteen observers in seven parties. Total party hours: 29 (10.5 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party miles: 193.5 (8.5 on foot, 185 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 54; total individuals 26,599.

**Observers:** Judy Adams, Pat Augenstein, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Steve Hahus, Doreen Harney, Rhonda Hoffman, **Janet Howard (compiler)**, Jody Jones, Mary Kissel, Merry Miller, Cathy Rogier, Steve Rogier, Frances Tichenor, and Lynn Tichenor.

In spite of there being several eagle nests in or near the count circle, no eagles were seen. Also missing was a nesting pair of Great Horned Owls from their usual tree. Highlights were 53 White-throated Sparrows found at Ben Hawes Park, a Great Horned Owl, 4 Wilson's Snipe, 2 Brown Creepers, and a flock of 200 American Robins at other parks.

### **Pennyrile (Penny) – 15 sites**

**Bowling Green** - KYBG (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Basil Griffin Park, six miles south of Bowling Green; 36.9159°N, -86.4359°W). Habitat: deciduous woods 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 31-53°F; wind S 8-11 m.p.h. Water open.

Eight observers in two parties. Total party hours: 14 (4 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles: 178 (3 on foot, 175 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 71; total individuals 5,413.

**Observers:** Donna Boden, Rudy Boden, Valerie Brown, John Delparto, Lisa Dalparto, **Blaine Ferrell (compiler)**, Aaron Hulsey, and David Roemer.

It was a beautiful day with plenty of good bird watching and good numbers for the species observed. The occurrence of Lapland Longspurs was nice. Thanks to those who participated.

**Barren River Lake** - KYBR (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2.31 mi. ESE jct. Rts. 1402 & 101; 36.933002°N, -86.170535°W). Habitat: 50% agricultural, 20% woodlands, 20% urban/suburban, 10% open water. Dec. 21; 5:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. CST. Partly cloudy to cloudy, with light rain in the morning, temp 32-58°F; wind SE 0-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Six observers in one to four parties. Total party hours: 32.75 (5 on foot, 27.75 by car). Total party miles: 272.5 (2.5 on foot, 270 by car). Hours owling: 0.5. Total species 92; total individuals 35,210.

**Observers:** Brooks Atherton, Lynn Atherton, Roseanna Denton, Aaron Hulsey, David Roemer, and **Stephen Stedman (compiler)**.

This count was the first Audubon-submitted CBC for this site; other counts for Glasgow, KY, having included parts of the circle within the area surveyed (the Glasgow circle was sometimes a 30-mile-diameter circle rather than the standard 15-mile-diameter circle). Small parts of this count circle overlap with three other official CBCs, so many thanks are extended to the Audubon CBC team for allowing this count to be registered. Thanks are also extended to the participants. The total of 92 species was lower than hoped for, mainly because of a lower than expected turnout of anserids and little effort to find nocturnal species; both issues



that may be overcome during future counts. Three Whooping Cranes by Aaron Hulsey were the most unexpected species for the count, while 2 Red-throated Loons, one of which was heard calling, were also less usual birds for the count. Four species of Warblers made the list, including Orange-crowned, Pine, Palm, and Yellow-rumped, with 2 of the first species being encountered in this circle. Two shrikes and two Lapland Longspurs were also nice species for this area. Weather for the day was about perfect – high overcast skies, little wind, moderate temperatures, and little precipitation.

**Eastern Allen County** - KYEA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center along Rhoden Creek, 3.0 miles n. of Holland, Ky., Post Office; 36.7426°N, -86.06855°W). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 20-35°F; wind NW 1-15 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Eight observers in five to seven parties. Total party hours: 45.75 (21.75 on foot, 9.5 by car, 5.25 by bicycle, and 9.25 by horse and buggy). Total party miles: 244.8 (34 on foot, 105.3 by car, 59.5 by bicycle, and 46 by horse and buggy). Hours owling: 1.25. Total species 94; total individuals 40,752.

**Observers: Jamin Beachy (compiler)**, Matthan Beachy, Lyle Bontrager, Ray Bontrager, Matthew Brubaker, Lydianne Glick, Noah Glick, and Daniel Troyer.

We had a great count this year despite the cold weather, low number of observers, and limited transportation methods. With only one party birding by car, one by bicycle, two by horse and buggy, and the remainder on foot, we still managed to pass our previous record of 88 species for a new high of 94 species. Waterfowl diversity was good considering the frozen ponds and limited habitat.

Some highlights were getting the expected shorebirds: Least Sandpipers and Dunlins; plus Short-eared Owls, Pine and Palm Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Chipping Sparrows, which can take some effort to find.

Unusual species were the 21 Cackling Geese, 2 Golden Eagles, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, and 2 Blue-headed Vireos. Notable misses included Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Horned Lark. Thanks to all participants. See you next CBC season!

**Elkton** - KYEK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center just north of jct. KY 102 (Allensville Road) and Gardner Road; 36.7605°N, -87.1016°W). Habitat: 73% agricultural fields, woodland 15%, brushy fencerows 8%, rural areas 2%, small ponds and streams 2%. Dec. 22; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy, with light rain; temp. 47-58°F; wind variable 5-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Nine observers in three to five parties. Total party hours: 38.5 (5.5 on foot, 33 by car). Total party miles: 178 (8 on foot, 170 by car). Hours owling: 2. Total species 90; total individuals 36,702.

**Observers:** Sharon Arnold, John Beachy, Seth Beachy, Joe Hall, Deborah Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Ruben Stoll, **Alan Troyer (compiler)**, and Albert Yoder.

Rain off and on all forenoon and fairly steady in the afternoon kept the vultures from flying as well as producing low numbers in most of the other raptors as well. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Turkey Vulture were completely missed and the only two Black Vultures on the count were huddled on a steel powerline tower in the rain. Good numbers of dabblers (for this count) were found but divers were nearly missed with only Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks in very small numbers. Geese were also very plentiful with good numbers of every species including Cackling (first time on this count). Another highlight was a single Sedge Wren, photographed in a wet weedy area that has had tree sparrows in the past. All in all, the rain held us (and the birds) back quite a bit but we still managed 90 species, which is the second highest ever for this count.

**Glasgow** - KYGL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Barren County Courthouse; 36.9956°N, -85.9127°W). Habitat as described in 1986. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. CST. Clear skies, temp 7-19°F; wind NW 5-15 m.p.h. Water frozen.

Nine observers in three parties. Total party hours: 24.75 (1.5 on foot, 6.75 by car). Total party miles: 118.5 (1.5 on foot, 117 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 66; total individuals 10,778.

**Observers:** Linda Craiger, **Tom Durbin (compiler)**, Sandra Moss, Bonnie Nicholson, Jeff Rose, Sarah Rose, Jeff Sole, Steven Zeilmann, and Zach Zeilmann.

The Glasgow CBC will be remembered primarily for bitter cold and many missed species. Temperatures ranged from a low of 7 degrees to a high of 18 degrees. Thankfully, the north winds were light and variable. Because all ponds were iced over, we missed all ducks except for Mallards and one female Lesser Scaup. Almost all raptors took refuge low in the trees, which made most of them difficult to find. Notable misses of songbirds included Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush, and we were unable to locate or hear even one Eastern Screech-Owl. Overall, the participants had a good time, and no doubt the count should improve next year.

**Green River Lake** - KYGR (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor Co.; 37.2987°N, -85.3688°W). Habitat: old fields, agricultural fields and borders, second growth forest, Green River riparian areas, open water, including Green River Lake and Campbellsville City Lake. Dec. 27; 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. EST. Sky mostly clear; temp. 12-26°F; wind NE 8 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Four observers in two parties. Total party hours: 24 (15 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles: 59.5 (3.5 on foot, 56 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 75 total individuals 3,016.

**Observers:** Lloyd Curry, Steve Dalton, **Richie Kessler (compiler)**, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Jeff Sole.

A total of 75 species and 3,016 individuals were observed for 2017 Green River CBC. Unusual observations on this frigid count day included two White-winged Scoter, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls as well as Pine Warblers. A relatively large number of Sandhill Cranes were observed compared to past mid-winter counts.

**Hart County** - KYHC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center corner of Craddock Road and Jaggers Lane; 37.28352°N, -85.83795°W). Habitat: rural fields and forests; one large (Hundred-Acre) pond, and Green River. Dec. 14; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 32-39°F; wind calm. Water open.

Twelve observers in one to two parties. Total party hours: 15 (5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles: 157.5 (2.5 on foot, 155 by car). Hours owling: 0.5. Total species 70; total individuals 5,223.

**Observers:** John Brittain, Tom Durbin, Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Janet Kistler, **Steve Kistler (compiler)**, Kathy Nichols, Jeff Rose, Sarah Rose, Jeff Sole, Steve Watkins, and Zach Zeilmann.

We had a mostly cloudy day in the 30s on Thursday, but persistence paid off, as we hit a new record for this count with 70 species in our thirty-second year. Twelve birders turned up the following list; highlights included Snow Geese (unusual in this land-locked county) and nice flight of cranes. Kestrel numbers remain high. The only clear miss was our resident screech-owl, who's been in the same spot for the last three or four years. As always, it was a fine day to be out birding with friends.

**Hopkinsville** - KYHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at jct. SR68 & Pennyrite Pkwy.; 36.861547°N, -87.472963°W). Habitat to be described. Jan. 1; 6:00am to 4:30 p.m. CST. Partly cloudy, temp 3-19°F; wind NW 5-12 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Eight observers in three parties. Total party hours: 30.25 (8.25 on foot, 22 by car).

Total party miles: 237.3 (7.3 on foot, 230 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 58; total individuals 14,049.

**Observers:** Candace Batchelder, Sarah Bell, Lewis Bradley, **James David Chiles (compiler)**, Irene Grace, Jeff Grace, Sondra Price, Tom Price, Maggie Selvidge, and Ken Utting.

Observations of note included 2 Bald Eagles which are showing up now on a regular basis in Christian County and 3 Wilson's Snipe which have not been observed in many years. One of our coldest counts with an initial temperature of 3°F.

**Land Between the Lakes - KYLB** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center northern edge of mouth to Pisgah Bay, south of Pisgah Point boat ramp and near the end of Forest Service Road 1111-A; 36.936736°N, -88.168328°W). Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 35-52°F; wind, SW, 0-17 m.p.h. Water open.

Twenty-six observers in two to nine parties. Total party hours: 54.25 (34 on foot, 20.25 by car). Total party miles: 259.75 (10.75 on foot, 249 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 84; total individuals 7,729.

**Observers:** Shannon Brockway, **Arriane Byrum (compiler)**, Hap Chambers, David Chiles, Cameron Cooper, Kim Cooper, Melodie Cunningham, Melissa Easley, Jan Gray, Rachel Greenwood, Patrick Holcomb, Lauren Isbell, Tim Johnson, Mike Miller, Sarah Moy, John Pollpeter, Darrin Samborski, Tammie Smith, Claire Stephenson, Gregory Waldrop, Nancy Waldrop, Monica West, Nickolaus Willis, Aviva Yasgur, Amos Yoder, and Elmer Yoder.

The Land Between the Lakes (LBL) circle is unique because of our location. LBL is a 170,000-acre parcel of federally protected mainly forested land managed by the USDA Forest Service. Most of our count area is composed of land within LBL, two large lakes, plus some adjacent private land on the opposite banks of those lakes. Most of the land in LBL is fairly undeveloped; there are roads, campgrounds, and visitor facilities, but no homes, shopping areas, etc., making the area a haven for forest-dwelling birds. LBL is surrounded on three sides by water, with the two main bodies being Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. The shorelines of LBL are undeveloped and mainly forested, providing three miles (not all in the count area) of continuous natural shoreline habitat. The lakes typically don't freeze during the winter, except some of the shallow bays. Because of this, they often attract a variety of wintering waterfowl and other aquatic birds, including some considered unusual for inland areas. This combination of a large forested area, undeveloped shorelines, and large bodies of water makes LBL an important habitat and migration corridor for a large number of migratory bird species.

The LBL count usually tallies between 80 and 100 species, including aquatic and terrestrial birds. Some of the count circle includes residential and developed areas on the opposite shores of the lakes across from the LBL land. However, because most of the count area is such a large forested area, we typically report low numbers of birds that are considered invasive species associated with urban areas, such as House Sparrows.

This year, we had uncharacteristically warm weather leading up to and after the bird count day, with the bird count day itself starting at around 30 degrees and maxing out at about 52 degrees midday. This made it enjoyable to be out in the field and despite the wind, made for a pleasant day. However due to the weather and migratory patterns, we did record an uncharacteristically low number of waterfowl for this area.

We tallied 86 bird species for the day, which is relatively low for our average count, with a number of additional species seen earlier in the count week (Sandhill Cranes!). Unusual for this year: waterfowl was lower than usual, we had low numbers of scaup, green-winged teal, ruddy duck, and great blue herons. We also had lower than usual chickadee, titmice, and robins, and somehow no grackles (last years grackle count was 138!). After breaking

our CBC record for bald eagles last year, we broke it AGAIN this year by seeing the largest number of Bald Eagle on our count at 91 individuals! A big thank you to all who helped us this year. We look forward to 2018!

**Lincoln's Birthplace (Hodgenville)** - KYLH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at courthouse square in downtown Hodgenville; 37.57375°N, -85.74038°W). Habitat as described in 2011. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky partly cloudy in the morning, cloudy by mid-day; temp. 23-37°F; wind W 4-9 m.p.h. Water partly open.

Nine observers in three to four parties. Total party hours: 27 (8 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles: 195 (5 on foot, 190 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 90; total individuals 5,476.

**Observers:** Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Bill Friel, Terri Friel, Otis Meredith, Rosemary Meredith, Jennifer Snyder, Jerry Snyder, and **Barbara Woerner (compiler)**.

The day started off with a fair amount of sunshine, but the sun disappeared behind clouds about 1:00PM, and bird activity became much diminished the rest of the day. Most ponds had recently become ice covered, so expectations for finding waterfowl were low. We were quite surprised to find an unprecedented plethora of waterfowl – 20 species, including Greater White-fronted Geese, a Ross's Goose and 10 Common Mergansers. Other highlights of the count included 4 Phoebes, 8 Palm Warblers, 4 Bald Eagles, a Brown Thrasher and count week Red-breasted Nuthatch and Merlin. Three Short-eared Owls at dusk helped bring our total to a new count record high of 90 species + 4 count week species. Thank you to all who helped!

**Otter Creek Park** - KYOC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center just west of the jct. of KY 1238 and Pack Lane, about two miles southwest of the Park entrance; 37.91409°N, -86.069836°W). Habitat as described in 2001. Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Mostly clear; temp. 11–21° F; wind E 5-15 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Ten observers in five parties. Total party hours: 31.5 (8.5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party miles: 215.5 (5.5 on foot, 210 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 73; total individuals 4,374.

**Observers:** Colleen Becker, Tom Becker, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Clay Bliznick, John Krull, **Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler)**, Del Striegel, Tim Towles, and Barbara Woerner.

The day was cold and breezy, but at least the sun shone. The species total (73) was about average for this count. All small bodies of water were frozen, so most of the water birds were found on Doe Valley Lake. Highlights included a Rough-legged Hawk, four Short-eared Owls, a Loggerhead Shrike, and two Brewer's Blackbirds, the last at a feedlot east of Flaherty in Meade County. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches could not be found.

**Russell-Adair County** - KYRA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of Warner Ridge Road and Payne Road; 36.965809°N, -85.121701°W). Habitat: mixed and deciduous woodland, pasture fields, streams and lake, mostly rural with a small percentage of urban. Elevation 530-1140 ft. Dec. 16; 5:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 24-50°F; wind SW, 3-10 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Seven observers in five parties. Total party hours: 44.5 (8.5 on foot, 36 by car). Total party miles: 327 (9 on foot, 318 by car). Hours owling: 1.5. Total species 90; total individuals 7,254.

**Observers:** Edwin Bontrager, Ray Bontrager, Derek Coomer, **Roseanna Denton (compiler)**, Steve Denton, Arlene Morton, and Stephen J. Stedman.

The species total of 90 was a new count high. Highlights of the count included 2 Eared Grebes (count first), 2 Short-eared Owls (count first), 4 House Wrens, and 26 Palm Warblers.

**Somerset** - KYSO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Bypass Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 39; 37.102452°N, -84.603757°W). Habitat as described in 2000. Jan. 1;

6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 12-22°F; wind NW, 3-10 m.p.h. Water Partly frozen.

Twelve observers in five parties. Total party hours: 41.5 (4.75 by foot, 36.75 by car). Total party miles: 316.75 (1.75 on foot, 315 by car). Hours owling: 2. Total species 80; total individuals 8,712.

**Observers:** Rhonda Bryant, Granville Cox, **Roseanna Denton (compiler)**, Steve Denton, Mayloh Gerod, John Higgins, Laura Kamperman, James Kiser, Scott Marsh, Tom Mills, Arlene Morton, and Chris Speicher.

Cold and cloudy conditions made detecting birds difficult. The Rough-legged Hawk was a first for this count. Other highlights included 8 Ross's Geese, Greater White-fronted Goose, Greater Scaup, Merlin, House Wren, 100 American Pipits and 10 Rusty Blackbirds.

**Wayne County** - KYWC (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwy. 1275 and Cooley Lane; 36.897211°N, -84.821301°W). Habitat as described in 2002. Jan. 5; 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 10-22°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Six observers in four parties. Total party hours: 36 (8.75 on foot, 27.25 by car). Total party miles: 276.25 (2.75 on foot, 273.5 by car). Hours owling: 2. Total species 87; total individuals 14,604.

**Observers:** Lyle Bontrager, Ray Bontrager, Granville Cox, **Roseanna Denton (compiler)**, Bret Kuss, and Arlene Morton.

The cold, cloudy and sometimes breezy day seemed to reduce numbers of passerines observed, but our total species count of 87 was on the high side. Good numbers of American Robins and Yellow-rumped Warblers were counted. New species for this count were Common Merganser and Barn Owl. Other highlights included Wood Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Loon, House Wren (almost becoming expected on these southern KY counts), 3 Palm Warblers, and 75 Rusty Blackbirds.

**Western Allen County** - KYWL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center one-half mile west of jct. KY 2136 (Towe Road) and Shores Road; 36.71278°N, -86.3469°W). Habitat as described in 2012. Jan. 3; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 11-40°F; wind S 10-25 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Nine observers in two to six parties. Total party hours: 25.25 (15.5 on foot, 9.75 by horse and buggy). Total party miles: 44 (16.5 on foot, 27.5 by horse and buggy). Hours owling: 0. Total species 69, total individuals 3,530.

**Observers:** Abraham Brubaker, **John David Brubaker (compiler)**, Matthan Brubaker, Ethan Hoover, Joseph Hoover, Justin Hoover, Ida Weaver, Karl Weaver, and Katie Weaver.

Highlights for the count were a House Wren found in a bluebird house after dark, an Indigo Bunting that came to a neighbor's bird feeder, 36 Gadwall, Short-eared Owl, and Lapland Longspurs were count firsts! Twelve Palm Warblers was a high count. The Long-eared Owl found on 31 December could not be found on count day.

## **Bluegrass (BG) – 10 sites**

**Bernheim Forest** - KYBF (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Forest lookout tower, 2.75 mi. SE of Forest entrance; 37.902405°N, -85.62752°W). Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 23; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Cloudy with rain showers most of the morning; temp. 37-57°F; wind NW 5-20 m.p.h. Water open.

Seven observers in four parties. Total party hours: 27 (12.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party miles: 142 (9 on foot, 133 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 63; total individuals 3,581.

**Observers:** Michael Autin, Clay Bliznick, Dona Coates, **Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., (compiler)**, Matt Stickel, Nancy Vance, and Kelly Vowels.

Light to moderate showers throughout the morning greatly hindered birding. Accordingly, the species total (63) was well below average for this count for recent years. Highlights of the day included three Bald Eagles, a Sedge Wren in thick growth in the floodplain of Wilson Creek, and 17 Chipping Sparrows. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches could not be found. Natural and ornamental food sources appeared to be sufficient to support more birds than were found.

**Burlington** - KYBU (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels; 38.9493°N, -84.7463°W). Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Partly cloudy; temp. 7-15°F; wind N 5-18 m.p.h. Most water frozen.

Eight observers in five parties. Total party hours: 24 (6 on foot, 18 by car). Total party miles: 144 (4 on foot, 140 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 60; total individuals 2,649.

**Observers:** Linda Altevers, Kimmy Birrer, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, David Linden, **Lee McNeely (compiler)**, Gayle Pille, and Tommy Stephens.

The Dickcissel had been coming to a feeding station at Union for a few weeks and was photographed.

**Danville** - KYDA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse; 37.646268°N, -84.773268°W). Habitat: 15% water edge, 8% urban, 10% cultivated, 35% field/fence row, 25% wooded edge, and 7% feeder. Dec. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 30-48°F; wind SW 6-14 m.p.h. Water open.

Twenty-seven observers in nine parties. Total party hours: 54.25 (12 on foot, 42.25 by car). Total party miles: 541.2 (13.75 on foot, 527.45 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 66; total individuals 6,714.

**Observers:** Laura Baird, Jim Barnard, Jane Brantley, John Brantley, Granville Cox, Thelma Cox, Neil Eklund, Virginia Eklund, Amanda Falk, Mark Galatowitsch, Bill Garriott, Mort Hoagland, Danielle LaLonde, Tom Lamp, Ben Leffew, Anne Lubbers, Gail Manning, Preston Miles, Eric Mount, Don Pelly, Rob Pendygraft, Milton Scarborough, **Kate Slankard (compiler)**, Lisa Smentowski, Loren Taylor, Patsi Trollinger, and Charles Vahlkamp.

Highlights included a White-eyed Vireo and four Bald Eagles (high count). It was a good year for raptors with 49 Red-tailed Hawks, nine Northern Harriers and 65 American Kestrels recorded. A Hermit Thrush was also observed, a rare bird for this count.

**Falmouth** - KYFA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Caddo, KY; 38.74738°N, -84.24473°W). Habitat as described in 2011. Jan. 1; 6:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. -2-15°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Most water frozen.

Two observers in two parties. Total party hours: 9 (2 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles: 60 (2 on foot, 58 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 45; total individuals 1,662.

**Observers:** Rodney Crice and Kathi Hutton. Non-participating **compiler (Lee McNeely)**.

It was a frigid day and it seemed that the birds were hunkered down out of sight. Waterfowl numbers were especially poor. Every water body except the river was frozen. Highlight was six Bald Eagles, one at the dam, four in flight at Kincaid, and one along Grimes Rd. The four adults, and one juvenile at Kincaid seemed to be flying together. Other highlights included large flocks of single species of birds: 100+ Common Grackles at Meldahl, at least 160 Wild Turkey along KY 177 near 609, and a conservatively estimated number of 35 American Tree Sparrows in a concentrated flock along Grimes Rd. The female King Eider previously documented in the count circle did not appear on count day or during count week.

**Frankfort** - KYFR (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. US 127 and KY 1900; 38.227051°N, -84.852521°W). Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky clear; temp. 31-51°F; wind SW, 11-22 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Twenty-one observers in nine parties. Total party hours: 39.5 (22.5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles: 124 (17 on foot, 107 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 63; total individuals 3,928.

**Observers:** Melanie Arnold, Steve Bush, Susan Bush, Robert Chadwick, Barb Cornett, Samantha Engstrom, Leah Godlaski, **Peggy Gould (compiler)**, Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Alicia Jacobs, Jeff Jones, Joel Jones, Susan Laurenson, Tommy Quarles, Geoffrey Roberts, Edwin Shouse, Mary Shouse, Fran Slezak, and Gary Sprandel.

On the Frankfort CBC, 21 birders participated, in groups as small as 1 person to 7 at the Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary. Weather-wise, it was a good day: clear with moderate temperatures ranging from a low of 31 to a high of 51 degrees. However, several groups remarked that it was a slow, quiet day, and often difficult to find any birds to count!

Nonetheless, our overall report was a good one, with two unusual species: the Ross's Geese were observed at the Salato Center Game Farm, having been seen there for at least a week prior to count day, and a House Wren was spotted in another area of the count circle. Our 'count week' list was a bit larger than usual this year, with a Peregrine Falcon observed close to downtown Frankfort, and a Black Duck, Ring-Necked Ducks and a Lesser Scaup were seen at the Salato Center Game Farm.

**Henry County** - KYHE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at intersection of Happy Ridge Road and Woods Pike Road; 38.39183°N, -85.03719°W). Habitat to be described. Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 22-36°F; wind NW 5-10 m.p.h. Water frozen to partly frozen.

Three observers in two parties. Total party hours: 19 (1 on foot, 1 by car, and 17 by bicycle). Total party miles: 68 (1 on foot, 15 by car, and 52 by bicycle). Hours owling: 0. Total species 54; total individuals 9,921.

**Observers:** Joel Raber, Moses Raber, and **Reuben Raber (compiler)**.

Our 2nd CBC turned out pretty good for the circumstances. Though we were minus two of our observers, we still found about the same number of species; our total (individuals) were up a lot. The weather was cool but tolerable. Having only two parties meant that a lot of territory was left unexplored. Some highlights were Pine Warbler, Merlin, and Greater White-fronted Goose being on our only unfrozen pond with 155 Canada Geese. The Merlin was observed at 75-100 feet for about five minutes eating a bird. All in all, we had a great enjoyable day!

**Kleber Wildlife Management Area** - KYKL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hensler, Owen Co.; 38.463333°N, -84.776749°W). Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Partly clear to partly cloudy skies; temp. 18-26°F; wind N, 6-13 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Three observers in one party. Total party hours: 9.5 (3 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party miles: 31.5 (4 on foot, 27.5 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 51; total individuals 1,292.

**Observers:** Michael Autin, **Jeff Jones (compiler)**, and Joel Jones.

The morning began cold and windy - ground frozen and birds quiet and in deep cover. Multiple large flocks of Robins noted throughout the day. Most open waters and streams were frozen. Birds became more active as the weather warmed in the afternoon. Highlight of the day was the sighting of four Harriers.

**Lexington** - KYLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church on Tates Creek Road; 37.922732°N, -84.471872°W). Habitat: suburban farms, woodlots, water company reservoirs, Kentucky River cliffs and bottomland. Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 35-52°F; wind SW 0-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Thirty-nine observers in 11 parties. Total party hours: 57 (25 by foot, 32 by car). Total party miles: 260 (15 by foot, 245 by car). Hours owling: 4. Total species 84; total individuals 14,992.

**Observers:** Clay Bliznick, Gretchen Bolton, Nancy Braun, Tony Brusate, Jan Clark, Lisa Combs, Eddie DeMoll, Caleb Fligor, Jim Hodge, Marcia Hopkins, Kevin Hopper, Beverly James, Allen Kingsland, Judy Lundquist, Chas Martin, Betty Maxon, Josie Miller, Kay Neikirk, Teresa Noel, Ronan O'Carra, Beth Oleson, Sydney Penner, Susan Pollack, Vicki Reed, Layton Register, Lou Shain, Nathan Skinner, Greg Smith, Dave Svetich, Joe Swanson, Laurie Thomas, **Mark Tower (compiler)**, Charles Tremoulet, Ellen Tunnell, Barbara Vellios, Chuck Vellios, George Weams, David Westneat, and Justin Yandell.

I was pleased with the overall species count given that one of our best birders called out sick the morning of the count, and we were unable to adequately survey his portion of the circle (one of the most productive sections). This may have affected our total number counts as several species counts seemed to be a little low. Big misses were Wild Turkey and Red-winged Blackbird.

**Louisville - KYLO** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Hwy 42 and old Hwy 22; 38.28126°N, -85.63481°W). Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 17; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 39-47°F; wind S, 0-13 m.p.h. Water open.

Fifty observers in 3-16 parties. Total party hours: 85.16 (52.12 on foot, 33.04 by car). Total party miles: 283.14 (39.04 on foot, 244.1 by car). Hours owling: 4.5. Total species 87; total individuals 15,726.

**Observers:** Win Ahrens, Jim Arnett, Michael Autin, Jamie Baker, Brenda Bauer, Tom Becker, Pat Bedford, Sherm Bedford, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Warren Bilkey, Carl Bochmann, JoAnn Bochmann, Karen Bonsell, Mike Callan, Dona Coates, Marge Constan, Colleen Craven-Becker, Wes Cunningham, Rod Goforth, Nancy Grant, Charles Hatten, Bob Johnson, John Krull, David Lusk, Terri Lusk, JoAnn Luyster, Richard Maysfield, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Bill Parsley, Bill Pike, Patrice Pittman, Christine Ransdell, Eden Ransdell, Megan Ransdell, Samantha Ransdell, Taylor Ransdell, Peggy Renn, Michael Riggs, Tim Ritter, Tom Sklodoski, Pam Spaulding, Jack Still, Del Striegel, Nancy Vance, Major Waltman, **James Wheat (compiler)**, and Barbara Woerner.

This year's Louisville CBC was an odd one - not very cold (39 low, 47 high) but cloudy all day with some light rain in the morning and afternoon. Species count was 87, above average but less than last year. There were 50 birders in the field, including several out early searching for owls.

Rarities (defined as species observed in less than 15% of the 84 historical Louisville CBCs) include: Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, Great Egret, Orange-crowned Warbler (observed in the IN portion of the count circle), and Pine Warbler. Species with new high counts include: Green-winged Teal (60), Bufflehead (30), Merlin (3), Peregrine Falcon (5), Eastern Phoebe (8), and Winter Wren (12).

Notable misses (defined as species observed in more than 50% of the last 20 CBCs) include: Wilson's Snipe, Herring Gull, Barred Owl, Horned Lark, and Brown Thrasher. Note: several more species would be listed here which had been seen regularly in the distant past, but not recently. Count week birds include: Mute Swan, Sandhill Crane, Barred Owl, Nashville Warbler, and Pine Siskin.

Thanks to all participants and section leaders, and to Win Ahrens for hosting the compilation dinner.

**Richmond - KYRI** (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center ca. 0.7 air miles e. of junction of US 25 and KY 1983 (White Station Road); 37.6311°N, -84.2638°W. Habitat: 20% fencerows and roadsides, 20% woodland, 55% pasture/open fields, 4% lawns and 1%



lakes and ponds. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 29-34°F; wind SW, 0-8 m.p.h. Water open.

Six observers in two to three parties. Total party hours: 16 (6.3 on foot, 9.7 by car). Total party miles: 126.5 (4.5 on foot, 122 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 53; total individuals 990.

**Observers:** John Abrams, Michael Patton, Brianna Ritchison, **Gary Ritchison (compiler)**, Tamera Ritchison, and CareyJo Titus.

The Richmond CBC was on 15 December. Highlights included one Palm Warbler, two Bald Eagles, one Snow Goose (blue phase), and one Ross's Goose (both geese at Lake Reba in Richmond).

**Shelbyville** - KYSH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile s. of US 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714; 38.18997°N, -85.14535°W). Elevation 640-1190 ft. Habitat: farmland, fallow land, suburban, woodland, and grassland. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 6:60 p.m. EST. Sky clear; temp. 29-50°F; wind S 10 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Thirteen observers in five parties. Total party hours: 55 (12.5 on foot, 42.5 by car). Total party miles: 391 (11.5 on foot, 379.5 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 63; total individuals 5,097.

**Observers:** Lori Ault, **Horace Brown (compiler)**, Joan Brown, Sean Brown, Todd Brown, Joy Fitzgerald, Kevin Flowers, Kathy King, Walt Reichart, Jean Riddell, Josh Riddell, Thomas Willard, and Benton Young.

**Warsaw** - KYWA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse; 38.78387°N, -84.90227°W). Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 29-51°F; wind SW, 5-25 m.p.h. Most water open.

Eight observers in five parties. Total party hours: 30.5 (4.5 on foot, 26 by car). Total party miles: 209 (19.5 on foot, 189.5 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 13,092.

**Observers:** Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Rodney Crice, Ed Groneman, Carol Hummel, **Lee McNeely (compiler)**, Tommy Stephens, and Tim Towles.

The extraordinary total of American Robins was attributed to large flocks passing overhead from a roost during the early morning hours.

### Eastern Mountain Coal Fields (EMtns) – 3 sites

**Ashland, Boyd County** - KYAL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at 3722 Emitt Drive, Ashland, KY; 38.466993°N, -82.699916°W) and including portions of adjacent Lawrence County, OH, and Wayne County, WV). Habitat: 60% forest, 20% suburban, 15% roadside and brush edges, 3% open land, and 2% open water and streams. Dec. 23; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Rain all day, heavier in morning; temp. 42-53°F; wind SE 0-6 m.p.h. Water open.

Three observers in two to three parties; one feeder watcher. Total party hours: 15 (4.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party miles: 102 (3 on foot, 99 by car). Hours owling: 1. Total species 52; total individuals 2,505.

**Observers:** Beverly Canterbury, Lucas Canterbury, **Ronald Canterbury (compiler)**, and Ashley Kuflewski.

Despite steady rain for most of the day, a total of 52 species were detected. Species noted in highest number since inception of this count included Wood Duck (n = 5), Gadwall (n = 2), Belted Kingfisher (n = 3), Red-bellied Woodpecker (n = 16), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (n = 3), Pileated Woodpecker (n = 3), Carolina Chickadee (n = 41), Field Sparrow (n = 12), and Song Sparrow (n = 76).

We had good numbers of most woodpeckers, as they seemed to be out in numerous areas

foraging. Additional highlights included a Ruffed Grouse, a calling Great Horned Owl, and an adult Red-headed Woodpecker.

**Cumberland Falls** - KYCF (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on upper Bark Camp Creek; 36.889994°N, -84.261105°W). Habitat: mostly forest; 70% upland oak and pine, mixed forest, and hemlock forest, 20% in small rural home lots, small farm holdings, and minimal residential and urban areas, one large reservoir (Laurel River Lake), and about 17 miles of Cumberland River/Lake Cumberland and its riparian forest. Dec. 18; 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST; sky cloudy with light rain during a.m.; temp. 43-54°F; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Water open.

Nine observers in one to five parties. Total party hours: 38.5 (8 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party miles: 283.5 (4.5 on foot, 279 by car). Hours owling: 3.25. Total species 70; total individuals 2,414.

**Observers:** Sara Ash, Ellen Boles, Granville Cox, Thelma Cox, Roseanna Denton, Steve Denton, **Bret Kuss (compiler)**, Tom Mills, and Renee Yetter.

This year's count showed a good representation of typical bird populations for the region. This was the 8th official year of the Cumberland Falls CBC. No particularly rare birds were seen, although three species from the count were a bit unusual in that they more commonly winter in states to our south. Those species being Blue-headed Vireo, House Wren and Pine Warbler. Blue-headed Vireo and Pine Warbler were new species for the count, House Wren had been observed two years ago on this count and this year two were reported. This was also the second year in which Common Mergansers were seen. The only other species new to the count this year was Northern Pintail. Golden-crowned Kinglets were conspicuously abundant across the area with a total of 59. A Black Vulture roosting group on the circle helped to give them a high count of 60. Other species which met or exceeded previous high counts were Ring-necked duck (16), Great Blue Heron (7), Bald Eagle (7), Rock Pigeon (40), Eastern Screech-Owl (7), Great Horned Owl (2), Belted Kingfisher (6), Pileated Woodpecker (30), American Kestrel (13), Tufted Titmouse (128), White-breasted Nuthatch (64), Brown Creeper (4), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (9), Hermit Thrush (22). Only 2 Ring-billed Gulls were reported. Chipping Sparrows were not seen. Other less notable misses include Purple Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird and Common Grackle.

**London** - KYLD (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at jct. Rte. 3432 and US 25; 37.135376°N, -84.094161°W). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 28; 6:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy in a.m.; clouds moved in after noon; temp. 21-28°F; wind NW, 2-10 m.p.h. Water open.

Nine observers in three parties. Total party hours: 28.25 (4.5 on foot, 23.75 by car). Total party miles: 194.5 (1.25 on foot, 193.25 by car). Hours owling: 0. Total species 67; total individuals 3,358.

**Observers:** Wendi Allen, **Granville Cox (compiler)**, Thelma Cox, Roseanna Denton, Steve Denton, Abi Dixon, Megan Martin, Marie Oakley, and Alaine Robinson.

## CORRECTION

Last year's CBC summary table incorrectly listed a count week observation of LeConte's Sparrow for Henry County; the *cw* notation should have been for Savannah Sparrow (KW 93: 28-29).

**Table 1. 2017-2018 Kentucky Christmas Bird Count: number of birds per hour by region**

Species	JackPr	WCoal	Penny	BG	EMtns	Total
Snow Goose	76.2		0.8	u	u	3.8
Ross's Goose	0.3		u	u		u
Gr. White-fronted Goose	62.9	u	0.3	u		3.0
Cackling Goose			u	u		u
Canada Goose	6.8	5.7	9.9	13.5	3.1	10.2
Mute Swan				u		u
Tundra Swan		u				u
Wood Duck	0.1	u	u	u	u	u
Northern Shoveler	2.5	0.2	0.3	0.3		0.3
Gadwall	10.1	2.7	2.5	0.7	0.1	2.0
American Wigeon	0.5	0.1	0.1	u	u	u
Mallard	101.7	19.7	6.9	4.2	1.8	11.0
American Black Duck	u	0.5	0.1	u	u	0.1
Northern Pintail	0.5	0.3	0.5	u	u	0.3
Green-winged Teal	4.8	u	0.2	0.2		0.4
Canvasback	u	0.2	u	u	u	u
Redhead		0.2	0.1	0.1	u	0.1
Ring-necked Duck	1.1	4.5	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.7
Greater Scaup			u			u
Lesser Scaup	1.8	u	0.9	0.1		0.5
White-winged Scoter			u			u
Bufflehead	0.5		0.3	u	0.2	0.2
Common Goldeneye	u	u	0.5	u		0.2
Hooded Merganser	u	0.2	1.4	1.5	0.1	1.2
Common Merganser		u	u	u	0.1	u
Red-breasted Merganser			u	u		u
Ruddy Duck			u	u	u	u
Northern Bobwhite		0.3	u	u		u
Ruffed Grouse					u	u
Wild Turkey	1.1	1.6	1.3	0.6	0.5	1.0
Pied-billed Grebe	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.4
Horned Grebe	0.1		0.5	u		0.2
Eared Grebe			u			u
Rock Pigeon	1.6	0.9	2.3	3.3	8.7	2.9
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0.2	0.1	0.2	u		0.1
Mourning Dove	2.9	2.3	8.1	4.6	3.5	5.7
Virginia Rail		u				u
American Coot	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	u	0.3
Sandhill Crane	u	0.2	27.1	0.1		11.5
<i>Whooping Crane</i>			u			u
Killdeer	1.0	1.3	2.8	0.3	0.1	1.5
Dunlin			u			u
Least Sandpiper			u			u
American Woodcock	u					u
Wilson's Snipe	0.2	0.1	0.3	u	u	0.1
Bonaparte's Gull	0.3	2.7	7.3			3.3
Ring-billed Gull	1.4	0.2	28.3	2.4	u	12.9
Herring Gull	u		u	u		u
Lesser Black-backed Gull			u			u
Forster's Tern			u			u
Red-throated Loon			u			u

Species	JackPr	WCoal	Penny	BG	EMtns	Total
Common Loon			u		u	u
Double-crested Cormorant			1.9	0.2	u	0.9
American White Pelican	0.2		0.2			u
Great Blue Heron	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Great Egret				u		u
Black-crwn. Night-Heron				u		u
Black Vulture	0.2	2.4	2.1	2.6	1.2	2.2
Turkey Vulture	0.7	2.7	2.2	1.1	0.5	1.7
Bald Eagle	0.6	0.1	0.3	u	u	0.2
Northern Harrier	0.4	0.3	0.2	u		0.1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	u	u	u	u	u
Cooper's Hawk	u	0.1	u	u	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
Red-tailed Hawk	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.7
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u		u	u
Golden Eagle			u			u
Barn Owl	u	u	u			u
Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u	u	u
SNOWY OWL						cw
Barred Owl	0.2	u	u	u	u	u
Long-eared Owl						cw
Short-eared Owl		u	u			u
Belted Kingfisher	u	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.9	0.1	0.2	u	0.1	0.2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.5	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Downy Woodpecker	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
Hairy Woodpecker	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Northern Flicker	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.7
Pileated Woodpecker	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
American Kestrel	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.9
Merlin		u	u	u		u
Peregrine Falcon				u		u
Eastern Phoebe	0.2	0.1	0.3	u	0.2	0.2
Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u		u
White-eyed Vireo				u		u
Blue-headed Vireo			u		u	u
Blue Jay	1.9	4.3	4.3	1.8	2.1	3.1
American Crow	4.2	5.0	7.1	4.2	7.3	5.7
Horned Lark	1.2	3.2	4.0	0.3		2.2
Carolina Chickadee	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.8
Tufted Titmouse	1.7	1.1	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.5
Red-breasted Nuthatch		u	u	u	u	u
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.7
Brown Creeper	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	u	0.1
House Wren			u	u	u	u
Winter Wren	0.1	u	0.2	u	0.2	0.1
Sedge Wren			u	u		u
Carolina Wren	1.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0.2	u	0.1	u	0.2	u

Species	JackPr	WCoal	Penny	BG	EMtns	Total
Eastern Bluebird	2.5	2.1	2.6	0.8	2.6	1.9
Hermit Thrush	0.3	0.2	0.1	u	0.4	0.1
American Robin	0.5	8.1	26.7	41.9	4.9	27.9
Gray Catbird				u		u
Brown Thrasher	0.6	0.2	u	u	u	u
Northern Mockingbird	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9
European Starling	35.8	298.9	63.4	71.4	33.1	84.1
Cedar Waxwing	0.9	1.3	2.4	0.6	0.2	1.4
House Sparrow	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.2
American Pipit	u		2.1			0.9
House Finch	0.4	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.5	1.2
Purple Finch	u	0.2	0.1	u		u
RED CROSSBILL		0.1				u
Pine Siskin		u	0.1	u	0.5	0.1
American Goldfinch	1.1	2.1	3.7	1.9	1.3	2.6
Lapland Longspur	u		3.9			1.6
Eastern Towhee	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.5
American Tree Sparrow	u	0.4	u	0.2		0.1
Chipping Sparrow	0.1	0.3	0.8	u	u	0.4
Field Sparrow	2.2	1.3	2.0	0.4	0.6	1.3
Savannah Sparrow	0.2	0.2	0.6	u		0.3
LeConte's Sparrow	u	u				u
Fox Sparrow	0.5	0.4	0.2	u		0.1
Song Sparrow	2.0	3.0	4.3	2.0	2.0	3.1
Lincoln's Sparrow		u				u
Swamp Sparrow	1.1	2.9	1.6	0.4	0.1	1.2
White-throated Sparrow	6.6	3.7	4.0	2.0	1.4	3.2
White-crowned Sparrow	0.4	1.7	1.0	0.5	u	0.8
Dark-eyed Junco	8.6	5.2	3.5	1.8	1.7	3.2
Eastern Meadowlark	1.8	0.5	2.9	0.3	u	1.5
Red-winged Blackbird	33.2	20.3	20.1	0.6		12.1
Brown-headed Cowbird	16.0	1.1	7.6	0.3		4.2
Rusty Blackbird	0.3	1.0	1.7	u	u	0.8
Brewer's Blackbird			u			u
Common Grackle	57.5	311.5	108.7	0.8		76.8
Orange-crowned Warbler			u	u		u
Nashville Warbler						cw
Palm Warbler	u		0.2	u	u	u
Pine Warbler			u	u	u	u
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0.3	2.0	2.2	0.7	0.3	1.4
Northern Cardinal	6.1	5.0	5.4	3.7	5.1	4.7
Indigo Bunting			u			u
Dickcissel				u		u
Total Party Hours	53	103	485	426	82	1,148
Total Species	102	102	129	115	86	143
Total Individuals	25,578	77,572	202,822	79,644	8,277	393,893
# of CBCs	2	5	15	12	3	37
from date	18 Dec	15 Dec	14 Dec	16 Dec	18 Dec	14 Dec
to date	2 Jan	1 Jan	5 Jan	1 Jan	28 Dec	5 Jan

Note: "cw" denotes species seen within three days before or three days after count day, but not on count day. "u" denotes "uncommon," with few individuals observed on this count.

## FIELD NOTES

**Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) in Henderson County**

On the morning of 20 August 2017, Charles Crawford made a trip to an Ohio River floodplain slough that has been dubbed by birders “Horseshoe Road Slough” in western Henderson County. This natural slough runs along the southeast side of a section of Horseshoe Road. It was long-ago converted from bottomland hardwood forest to row-crop agricultural use and annually provides excellent waterbird habitat following periods of high water on the nearby Ohio River. Following typical winter and spring floods, the slough persists for many weeks and disappears only when the river drops back to normal level and the subsurface water table recedes.

During mid-August 2017, Horseshoe Road Slough was in the process of drying out following late spring flooding, so it was providing good habitat for migratory shorebirds. As a result, it had been a regular destination for Crawford’s outings in preceding weeks. On the morning of 20 August 2017, he found a good variety of herons, egrets, and shorebirds present. While scanning with binoculars, he realized that a bird that was with a group of Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutus*) was quite different. It was a dark-legged peep, a bit larger than the nearby Least, and it had a relatively bright rusty-colored throat and upper breast.

Crawford always carries a camera while in the field, so although he was not sure what the odd shorebird was, he took a series of photographs that he downloaded to his computer



Red-necked Stint – Henderson, 20 August 2017  
Charles Crawford

upon returning home. A comparison of his photos to images in field guides led him to the conclusion that the odd-looking peep had to be a Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*). At that point he forwarded a couple of his photographs to Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., who concurred with the identification. Crawford posted his observation on Kentucky’s birding listserv, [birdky](#), and by later that evening, about 15 additional birders were able to see the stint.

The following morning, the Red-necked Stint was relocated at Horseshoe Road Slough by about a dozen birders; however, a couple of groups who arrived in the mid-afternoon were not able to find it. The stint was again at Horseshoe Road Slough on the morning of 22 August 2017. It was seen by several more birders during the day; however, it was never refound on subsequent days. Interestingly, the odd disappearance of the bird on the afternoon of 21 August might be explained by the near total solar eclipse that had occurred during the early afternoon. Perhaps in the darkening conditions, the stint decided to go to a roosting spot early and did not return until the following morning.

The Red-necked Stint was photographed extensively by Crawford, Jamie Baker, and others, yielding excellent documentation. It was a medium-sized peep with relatively long black legs. The wings were relatively long, the primaries projecting noticeably past the tip of the tail. The orangish-rust color, consistent with an alternate-plumaged adult, was faded but still very noticeable on the throat, upper breast, lower portion of the face, and sides of the nape. A few faded, brownish streaks were present ringing the bottom margin of the orange on the upper breast. A noticeable pale supercilium was present below a darker, finely streaked crown. The nape was dark and streaked. The back and upperwing covert feathers were mostly

worn and faded, although a few back feathers still retained some bright rufous, and the upperwing coverts were dark centered with pale margins. The underparts were clear white; the underwing coverts were also white.

The only feature of the bird that seemed a bit out of character was its relatively long and deep bill, very unlike the short, narrow bills of males of the species. Perhaps the bird is a female, and the bill is near the maximum limit for the species. A review of photographs by several shorebird authorities yielded the same conclusion. The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) has accepted this record.

This represents the first Kentucky record of Red-necked Stint and one of only a few for the inland eastern United States of this Asian shorebird. It is regularly reported only in western Alaska, and is occasional on the east and west coasts of North America. A review of eBird shows only three additional records of the species in the inland eastern United States: one in northern Indiana 23 May 2007, and two in sw. Tennessee, where individuals were reported 7 August 1993 and 8-15 October 1994. A summary of records of rarities in the mid-continent states of North America (Domalgaski, R. 2010. Mid-continent rare birds records, unpubl. summary) also included a report from Ashtabula County, Ohio, 21-22 July 1962 and one hypothetical report from Holt County, Missouri, 20 May 1990.

— **Charles Crawford**, 1763 Turnagain Drive, Henderson, KY, 42420, and **Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.**, 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222.

### **Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in Henderson County**

As a lark, I thought of making 2017 the year I reached 300 on my Kentucky eBird list. Several birds that I had had before but had never documented were targets. Union County offered potential Wilson's Phalarope and Upland Sandpiper, the latter of which would be a lifer for Lisa Combs. We went for a Sunday drive that August 6<sup>th</sup> exploring slowly to the Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road "fuddle" where we found the phalarope with other shorebirds and plenty of swallows.

It was now after 6 pm, with fading light and drizzling rain. I was not sure where the Upland Sandpiper was, but I knew it was in the direction of Lexington. We had never been in this area before, so I pulled up the Upland Sandpiper post in eBird and hit Maps, which took us into Henderson County down an unnamed road. After an initial stretch with trees, the road opened to an area with grasses overhanging the narrow lane on either side. My car lights were now on because of the overcast with steady rain.

A small black bird with symmetric white wing flashes flew off the road, and I immediately blurted out, "Lark Bunting." I called Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. to say that I had just seen a Lark Bunting! He said, naturally, "Not without a photo you didn't!" After all, I had had only a 2-second look at a dark bird at dusk in the rain.

Amazingly, the bird reappeared less than 50 feet away!

Through the windshield I confirmed my suspicion, at least to myself. I grabbed my camera and an umbrella and holding my umbrella with my chin, I was able to snap off a few identifiable photos confirming the state's first Lark Bunting (and a life bird for Lisa). I snapped a phone shot off the camera and sent it to Brainard. Lisa and I managed several additional photos, until the light deteriorated predictably, and the rain punished us and the road.

We created a precise, separate eBird entry and emailed a rare bird alert to [birdky](http://birdky.com). I also secured a blue towel at eye level on a branch next to the road. About 10 people were able to observe and photograph the bunting before 10 a.m. the next day.

Our observations and the subsequent photos confirmed a sparrow-sized bird with a

thick dark bill. Initially, it looked all black and white, given the lighting. Photos show brown smudges. It was jumping up to grab grass seed off stems overhanging the lane.

KBRC later accepted Kentucky's first documented Lark Bunting.

– **David Svetich**, Lexington; [svetich813@gmail.com](mailto:svetich813@gmail.com)

**Editor's note:** *The Lark Bunting has a history of wandering east of its usual Great Plains range. "Almost every lower Canadian province and U.S. state has recorded this wandering species at least once" (Shane 2000). The species appears as a review species on the official bird lists of Ohio, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. The blotchy appearance and buffy patches of this individual are consistent with Lark Bunting. "Definitive Prebasic molt ... complete; occurs late Jul–Sep. Begins on breeding ground and completed at migratory stopover sites or on wintering grounds (Pyle 1997c)" (Shane 2000).*

### Literature cited

Pyle, P. 1997c. *Identification guide to North American birds Part I: Columbidae to Ploceidae*. Bolinas, CA: Slate Creek Press. [As cited in Shane 2000.]

Shane, Thomas G. 2000. Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.542>. Accessed 5 February 2018.

## 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 May 1, 2018, however grants will be subject to ABA camp's space availability.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kate.slankard@ky.gov).





**1. Red-necked Stint** (foreground) – Henderson, 20 August 2017, Charles Crawford; **2. Long-tailed Jaeger** – Livingston/Marshall, 17 September 2017, Mary Yandell; **3. Lark Bunting** – Henderson, 7 August 2017, Steve Graham; **4. Parasitic Jaeger** – Livingston/Marshall, 16 September 2017, Pam Spaulding; **5. Willet** – Rowan, 30 August 2017, Don Martin; **6. Winter Wren** – Marshall, 27 November 2017, Tammie Vied Smith; **7. Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – Lincoln, 28 October 2017, Nancy Kitchen