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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Rodney Crice for the image of the Spotted Towhee (*Pipilio maculatus*) taken 5 January 2013 at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in McCracken County (see p. 53). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



WINTER 2012-2013 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during winter 2012-2013 were quite variable through the season. December temperatures averaged warmer-than-normal statewide, but slightly below normal during January and slightly above normal during February. Precipitation across most of the state was well above normal during December with Louisville and Lexington receiving about twice the normal total, and Jackson receiving about 150% of normal; however, at Paducah precipitation was below normal during the month. During January, precipitation was above normal statewide, with Paducah receiving a record amount for the month (8.05 in [20.4 cm]) with more than 5.0 in (12.7 cm) coming during 12-13 January. February became drier-than-normal with most major stations recording about one-half of normal precipitation. There were no prolonged periods of cold weather or snow cover.

Rarity highlights included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Little Gull, Glaucous Gull, several continuing Rufous Hummingbirds, Say's Phoebe, at least *three* Northern Shrikes, two Brown-headed Nuthatches, and a Spotted Towhee. Out-of-season passerines included a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and a state-first for winter Nelson's Sparrow. Following the appearance of several irruptive boreal species during late November, a number of reports of both crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll continued.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba” next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vr.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with recordings of call notes; “+” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Barkley Dam, *Lyon* (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren* (unless otherwise noted); Blood River = Blood River embayment, *Ky Lake*, *Calloway*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*; Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*; Cecilia, *Hardin*; Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*; Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Flemingsburg = city water reservoir at Flemingsburg, *Fleming*; Goose Lake = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, *Kentucky Lake*, *Marshall*; Ken Unit, Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Kentucky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Marshall/Trigg*; Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lexington, *Fayette*; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*; McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*; Meldahl Dam = Ohio River at/above Meldahl Dam, *Bracken*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Obion WMA, n. of Hickman, *Fulton*; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, *Oldham*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Wendell Ford Training Center = Wendell Ford National Guard Regional Training Center, *Muhlenberg*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*.

- Greater White-fronted Goose** – local peak counts included ca. 3000 at Sauerheber 23 December (CC); 8700 at Ballard WMA 3 January (RCo); and ca. 3000 at Long Point 17 January (BP, EHu). Other reports of interest included 2 at Goose Lake 30 December into late January (SG, TG, et al.); 3 at Spindletop Farm 30 December (DL et al.) with 3 on the e. side of Lexington 5-6 January (C>, MT); 1 at the State Game Farm, *Franklin* 2 January (GS); 31 at McElroy Lake during the 3rd week of January (TD); 4 at Cave Run Lake/Minor Clark 1 February (ph. BWu); and ca. 75 still at Horseshoe Road 24 February (BP, EHu, SG, TG).
- Snow Goose** – local peak counts included 31,000 at Ballard WMA 3 January (RCo); 3000 at Sauerheber 10 January (KM); and ca. 12,000 at Long Point 2 February (PK et al.). Other reports of interest included 30 over e. *Meade* 22 December (DSI, EHu); 10 on the e. side of Lexington 5-6 January (C>, MT) with up to 18 at Spindletop Farm during mid-February (JPK, DL, et al.); ca. 25 on the Ohio River at Louisville 11 February (ph. MF); 1 at Minor Clark 22 February (BWu); ca. 500 still at Horseshoe Road 24 February (BP, EHu, SG, TG); and 22 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 28 February (MBy, MkB).
- Ross's Goose** – local peak counts included 4 at Ballard WMA 18 December (EHu, BP, JSo); at least 6 at Sauerheber 11 January (BP, EHu); and 4 at Long Point 2 February (PK et al.) with at least 16 there 17 February (ph. JPK, TM). Other reports of interest included 2 at Twin Lakes Sub-division, *Pulaski*, 6 December (ph. RD) with 1 still there 7 December (ph. RD); 1 e. of Munfordville, *Hart*, 5 January (ph. JSo, ph. JK, et al.); 1 at the Reformatory Lake 7 January (EHu); 1 at the Ken Unit 19 January (RD, BY) and 2 at Goose Lake 19 January–18 February (BY, EWs, et al.); 1 w. of Cecilia 31 January (BP, MM, N&RP); 2 at Spindletop Farm 12/13 February (ph. JPK/JSo) with 1 still there 15/16 February (ph. DL/TP); 1 at Erlanger, *Kenton*, 22-23 February (ph. HW); and 1 at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 25 February (ph. MBr).
- Cackling Goose** – reports of interest included 9 at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, 29 December (LM); small numbers at Spindletop Farm 4 January–15 February (m. ob.) with a peak count of 10 there 7 January (ph. JSo); 5 at Conley Bottom Resort on Lake Cumberland, *Wayne*, 5 January (ph. RD); 8 on a pond along KY 1421 s. of Scottsville, *Allen*, 17 January (JBy, MBy); 1 at Miller Pond, *Russell*, 22 January/7 February (†RD); small numbers at the Reformatory Lake, *Oldham*, during January and early February (m. ob.); and 3 at Flemingsburg 26 January (BP, EHu).
- Tundra Swan** – peak counts reported for the wintering flock at Sloughs WMA, w. *Henderson*, were 115 in the vicinity 7 January (TY) and 118 at Horseshoe Road 24 February (BP, EHu, SG, TG); also reported were 2 imms. at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 22 December (ph. HC) and 4 at Goose Lake 19 January–18 February (ph. BY, EWs, et al.).
- Gadwall** – local peak counts included 54 on Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 6 December (RD); 830 on Honker Bay, LBL, *Lyon*, 15 December (JPt) with 920 (possibly same group) on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 7 January (PH); 450 at Jonathan Creek 15 December (HC); 62 at the Falls of the Ohio 8 January (TBe, DSI); 52 on Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 18 January (KO); 65 on Cedar Creek Lake 24 January (RD); and ca. 100 at Camp #11 on 24 February (BP, EHu).
- American Wigeon** – ca. 75 at Sauerheber 11/16 January (BP, EHu/JSo) represented a very modest peak count for the season.
- Mallard** – peak count for the season was ca. 75,000 in the Ohio River Bottoms, *Ballard*, 7 January (PH).
- Blue-winged Teal** – reports from two CBCs have not been included here because of lack of sufficient description. Winter reports of Blue-winged Teal need to be documented with comprehensive written descriptions and/or photographs.
- Northern Shoveler** – peak counts of interest included 93 on the Reformatory Lake 6 January (MC); ca. 50 on Goose Lake 20 January (BP); 45 at Owingsville, *Bath*, 9

February (BWu); and ca. 300 at Sauerheber 13 February (KM).

Northern Pintail – local peak counts of interest included ca. 250 adjacent to Obion WMA 15 February (ME); 65 at Sauerheber and 70 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, both 18 February (CC); and 110 at Sauerheber, 100 along J. Dance Road, *Henderson*, ca. 35 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, and ca. 50 at Horse Pond Slough, *Henderson*, all 24 February (BP, EHu).

Green-winged Teal – local peak counts of interest included 400 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 7 January (PH); ca. 150 at Long Point 15 February (ME); ca. 200 along J. Dance Road, *Henderson*, 24 February (BP, EHu); and ca. 200 along KY 94 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 26 February (JSo).

Redhead – local peak counts of interest included 69 on Goose Lake 27 January (RD); 15-20 at Flemingsburg 26 January (BP, EHu); 58 at Fishing Creek 1 February (RD) with 65 there 9 February (RD); 58 at Somerset, *Pulaski*, 16 February (RD); ca. 100 on Barren River Lake 19 February (JBy, MBy); 89 at Minor Clark 20 February (BWu) with at least 150 there 22 February (BWu) and an impressive high count of 281 there 24 February (BWu); 30 on Cedar Creek Lake 21 February (RD) and 35 on a pond in *Fayette* 27 February (JSw).

Ring-necked Duck – local peak counts of interest included 136 on the Louisville Water Company ponds at Prospect, *Jefferson*, 15 December (MC); 111 on Goose Lake 27 January (RD); and 2000 in *Ballard* 7 January (PH).

Greater Scaup – ca. 100 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 4 January (BP, EHu) represented a modest peak count for the season.

Lesser Scaup – local peak counts included 135 on the Ohio River at Louisville 25 February (BP) with at least 150 there 28 February (BP); and ca. 1500 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 7 January (PH).

Surf Scoter – there were three reports: 1 on the Ohio River above Uniontown Dam, *Union*, 11 December (ph. CC); an imm. male above Meldahl Dam 27-29 January (GWu et al.); and 2 above Meldahl Dam 23 February (BS, CBC).

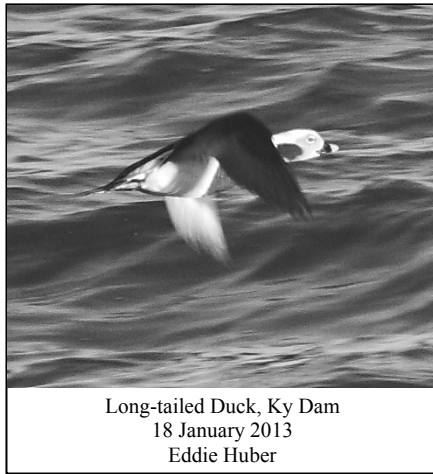
White-winged Scoter – there were five reports: a female/imm. on the Ohio River at Louisville 16 December (CBe, ph. TBe, et al.); a male on Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, 5 February (ph. JPk); a female/imm. above Meldahl Dam 9 February (JFr, LHo); a female on the Ohio River at Louisville 16 February into March (MA, ph. EHu, et al.); and an imm. male on Cave Run Lake 23 February (JSo, MSt, ph. BP).



White-winged Scoter, Louisville
20 February 2013
Eddie Huber

Black Scoter – there was one report: 2 females/imms. on Barren River Lake 25 December (†JBr, JM).

Long-tailed Duck – there were reports from four locales: 2 males on Ky Lake above the dam 30 December (BY, ph. MYa) with 1 lingering in the vicinity into late February (m. ob.); 2 on the Smith Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Lyon*, 7 January (GBu); an imm. male on the Ohio River at Louisville 19-20 January (ph. KB, DSt, KR, et al.); and a female above Meldahl Dam 25-29 January (BWu, BHu, et al.).



Long-tailed Duck, Ky Dam
18 January 2013
Eddie Huber

Bufflehead – local peak counts of interest included 41 on Lake Cumberland at Conley Bottom Resort, *Wayne*, 5 December (RD) and 61 at Waitsboro 26 December (RD).

Common Goldeneye – local peak counts included several hundred on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 4 January (BP, EHu) with at least 250 there 18 January (BP, EHu); and at least 25 on the Ohio River at Louisville 21 February (BP).

Hooded Merganser – local peak counts of interest included ca. 100 on Lake Peewee 2 January (CC); 105 on Cooley's Pond, *Wayne*, 10 January (RD); ca. 200 on Barren River Lake 16 January (JBy, MBy); and ca. 127 on the Lexington Reservoir 16 February (RO) with 260 there 17 February (SM) and ca. 250 still there 18 February (JSw).

Common Merganser – 1-3 were reported at mostly traditional locales during the season (m. ob.); a peak count of 10 was tallied on Honker Lake/Honker Bay, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 26 January (JPt).

Red-breasted Merganser – a female wintered on the Ohio River at Louisville (BP et al.).

Ruddy Duck – a tally of at least 650 on Lake Barkley above the dam, *Lyon*, 4 January (BP, EHu) represented a new state high count; other local peak counts included 208 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 4 Jan-

uary (*vide* HC); ca. 100 on Lake Peewee 8 February (BP); and ca. 70 on the Lexington Reservoir 18 February (JSw).

Red-throated Loon – 1 was on Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 8 February (RH, ph. BP, EHu, HC). KBRC review required.



Red-throated Loon, *Hardin*
8 February 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Common Loon – 35-40 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 4 January (BP, EHu) represented the peak count for the season.

Pied-billed Grebe – peak counts of interest included ca. 100 on Lake Peewee 2 January (CC) with 102 counted there 11 January (BP, EHu) and ca. 100 there 28 January (RD); and 125 on Barren River Lake 17 January & 19 February (MBy, JBy).

Horned Grebe – local peak counts of interest included 141 counted on Honker Bay, Lake Barkley, *Lyon* 17 December (JPt); 250-300 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 4 January (BP, EHu); a few on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, 26 January (BP, EHu); 20-25 on Cave Run Lake 4 February (BP, EHu); and 81 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam 18 February (RD).

Red-necked Grebe – there was one report: 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 29 December (†JSO).

American White Pelican – reports of interest included ca. 100 seen flying over Wickliffe, *Ballard*, 19 December (JSO); 1000+ over the Little River embayment of Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 19 January (WG); ca. 1000 over LBL, *Lyon*, 21 January (JPt); 25 over Long Point 31 January (PK

et al.) with another flock of unspecified size seen over the vicinity of Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 2 February (PK et al.); and 259 at Jonathan Creek 14 February (HC).

Great Egret – there were two reports of lingering birds: 1 at the Falls of the Ohio that continued from the fall season to 16 December (TBe, CBe, et al.) and 1 at the Jacobs Creek impoundments, Paradise Power Plant, *Muhlenberg*, 30 December (SG, TG, †BP).



Golden Eagle, *Pike*
28 January 2013
Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Black-crowned Night-Heron – up to 8 (26 January [CT, RS]) wintered at the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup*, and small numbers also wintered at traditional locales in the Louisville area.

Black Vulture – peak counts for the season included 300-500 (maybe with some Turkey Vultures mixed in) at Germantown, *Bracken* during the winter (WM) and 240 along KY 1730 near Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 17 December (RD, SDn).

Turkey Vulture – 225 were counted at Barren River Lake 19 February (MBy, JBy).

Northern Harrier – at least 46 were counted coming in to roost at Camp #11 on 24 February (BP, EHu).

Red-tailed Hawk – the dark morph Harlan's Hawk that has wintered during previous years along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, was seen 17 December & 11 January (ph. BP, ph. EHu).

Rough-legged Hawk – generally quite scarce this winter with all reports included: up to 5 continued sw. of Owensboro, *Daviess*, into mid-December (JH, MBn, et al.); 1 at the Louisville landfill 31 December–2 January (RA); 1 at the Sinclair Unit 23 January (ph. MYa, ph. EHu, BP) & 15 February (Jpk, TM); and an injured bird from near Boston, *Nelson*, admitted for rehabilitation 11 February (EWt).

Golden Eagle – there were reports from seven locales: 1 over the Kentucky River at Mundy's Landing, *Mercer/Woodford*, 5 December (ph. C&MYk); an ad. se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 December/12 February (MBy, SBy); 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, during mid-January (ph. JPt); 1 adjacent to Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, 18 January (ph. SBo, *fide* SF) with an ad. over Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, 1 February (BWu); 1 at Fishtrap WMA, *Pike*, 28 January (ph. SBo, *fide* SF); a juv. se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 28 January (MBy, SBy); up to 3 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/ Nelson* (11 January [KV]), with possibly as many as 10 different individuals encountered in the area during the season (KV); and 1 at Ballard WMA 8 February (ph. RCr).

Virginia Rail – there was one report: 3 heard in e. *Muhlenberg* 30 December (BP, CBs).

American Coot – a tally of 1200 on Cedar Creek Lake 21 February (RD) was impressive.

Sandhill Crane – again this year, the lack of cold weather during early winter resulted in several late waves of southbound flocks (e.g. 1216 counted in numerous groups headed s. over e. *Meade* 22 December [DSI, EHu]) with smaller numbers trickling south into mid-January; by the 3rd week of January, however, large flocks were already moving north, as well, and numbers were dwindling by late February. At Barren River Lake, 3300+ were present by 6 December (WT) with the following representative counts during the winter: 5200+ there 11 December (WT et al.); 7670 there 3 January (WT, JT); 5890 there 22 January (WT, JT); but only 3000+ there 31 January (WT, JT); ca.

2400 there 12 February (WT, JT); and none present by 18 February (WT). West of Cecilia, *Hardin*, numbers fluctuated weekly as weather conditions changed, but some representative peak counts included 3000+ there 12 December (*vide* EHa); ca. 2500-3000 not uncommon during January (EHa) with peak counts of ca. 5300 there 22/29 January (EHa), 7400+ there 31 January (EHa), and ca. 8600 there 3 February (EHa). Another less significant staging area has developed e. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, where several hundred may have wintered and peak counts of 3890 and 2811 were tallied there 22 January and 18 February, respectively (EHa).

Lesser Yellowlegs – 1 at Sauerheber 23/24 February (JMe/EHu, BP) was the earliest to be reported.

Least Sandpiper – reports of interest included up to 22 at Jonathan Creek into mid-December (HC et al.) with 5 there 14 February (HC); up to 5 at Blood River into mid-December (HC) with 7 there 21 January (ME) and 4 there 6 February (HC); 4 just e. of Ballard WMA 18 December (BP, EHu, JSo); 3 along J.C. Jones Road, *Hart*, 18 February (JSo); and 13 at Sauerheber 23 February (JMe).

Pectoral Sandpiper – 10 at Sauerheber 24 February (BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported.

Dunlin – 5 at Sauerheber 24 February (EHu, BP) were the earliest to be reported.

Wilson's Snipe – local high counts of interest included 16 n. of Boston, *Nelson*, 8 January (BP, MYa, EHu) and 24 in e. *Trigg* 20 February (BL).

American Woodcock – an impressive total for the season of at least 21 was seen/heard at and adjacent to West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 18 December (BP, EHu, JSo); as is the norm, birds were back in numbers in many areas by mid-February (m. ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull – local peak counts during the season included 300 on Lake Cumberland at Conley Bottom Resort, *Wayne*, 5 December (RD); “more than

half of 6000 or more gulls” at Barren River Lake 25 December (JBy, TBr); 400 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam during the first week of February, with 700 there 18 February (RD); and “probably at least 3000” at the roost on Ky Lake 9 February (BP, EHu).

Little Gull – a first-year bird was at Blood River 5 December (†HC). KBRC review required.

Ring-billed Gull – local peak counts of interest included possibly “40% of ca. 6000 (maybe 8000-10,000) gulls” at Barren River Lake 25 December (JBy, TBr) with ca. 3000 still present there 16 January (JBy, MBy); 2000-2500 on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, 29 January (BP, EHu); ca. 2000 on Cave Run Lake 4 February (BP, EHu); and ca. 2000 on the Ohio River above Markland Dam, *Gallatin*, 12 February (BP, EHu).

Herring Gull – modest peak counts included 80-90 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 4 January (BP, EHu) with 150-200 on Ky Lake above Ky Dam 18 January (BP, EHu); and ca. 60 in the vicinity of Barkley Dam 28 January (RD).

Thayer's Gull – there were at least two reports: a first-year bird below Ky Dam 4 January (BP, EHu) and above Ky Dam 18 January (BP, ph. EHu); and an ad. at Barkley Dam 28 January (ph. RD) and 12 February (†BL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – there were several reports: an ad. on Ky Lake above the dam 6/16 January (EHu, BP); 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 18 January (BP, EHu); an ad. at Meldahl Dam 25-27 January (BHu, †BWu, DW, GWu); an ad. on the Lick Creek embayment of Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 8 February (BP); and a second-year bird at Barkley Dam 12 February (BL). In addition, a new state high count of probably 9 individuals were encountered at various locales on Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Ky Lake*, *Marshall*, 9 February (BP, EHu).

Glaucous Gull – an ad. was present at the gull roost on Ky Lake above the dam 16/18 January (†BP, EHu).

Forster's Tern – as has become the norm, the species lingered into winter at Jonathan Creek, where 51 were still present 15 December (HC); at Blood River, 24 were still present 18 December (HC) with 32 there 30 January (HC) and 23 there 28 February (HC), also reported were a few in the vicinity of Ky Dam with 3 there 12 December (HC) and 6 there 1 February (HC), and 33 on the Wildcat Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 16 February (HC).

Barn Owl – there were six reports: 1 near Dot, *Logan*, during the season (FL); 1 just e. of Geneva, *Henderson*, 15 December (†KM); 2 in w. *Allen* 15 December (*fide* JBy, TBr); 1 at Figgett Bend, *Hart*, 17 February (JSo); 1 along Russell Cave Road, n. *Fayette*, 18 February (LS); and a pair in *Nelson* through the season (TH).

Long-eared Owl – there were four reports: 1 at the Sinclair Unit 4 December (ph. JSo); 1 n. of Red Hill, w. *Allen*, 29 December–26 January (†TBr, AB, JBr, JH); 2 at the Wendell Ford Training Center 18 February (BP, ph. EHu, ph. MYa) and 3 at Camp #11 on 24 February (BP, ph. EHu).



Long-eared Owl, *Union*
24 February 2013
Eddie Huber

Short-eared Owl – there were reports from five locales: 5 were first observed at the Sinclair Unit 12 December (P&SF) with up to 13 [22 February] there during the season (P&SF et al.); up to about 12 at the Ken Unit during the season (AF); up to 5

[17 February (JSo)] along Horntown Road, e. *Grayson*, during the season (SKi, JK, et al.); up to 6 [mid-January (PS)] along Harley-Thompson Road, *Shelby*, during the season (HB et al.); and at least 45 roosting at Camp #11 on 24 February (BP, ph. EHu).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – there were two reports of birds that responded to tape playbacks: 2 seen at Central Kentucky WMA, *Madison*, 6 December (ph. JPK, TM); and 1 heard at Pennyriple Forest SP, *Christian*, 11 January (BP, EHu).

Rufous Hummingbird – several birds continued through the winter as follows: birds captured/banded during the fall season and previously reported (*KW* 89:11, 2013) from *Barren* (L&RY), *Hart* (MSg), and *Pulaski* (RD) lingered into March; previously reported birds (*KW* 89: 11, 2013) in *Menifee* and *Wayne* lingered to mid-December (LHa) and 24 February (BHa), respectively; an imm. female that had been present at South Williamson, *Pike*, since late October was banded 2 December (JCr, LE, ba. BP) and lingered through the season; an ad. male that had been present at Frankfort, *Franklin*, all fall was banded 21 December (ER, ba. BP) and lingered to the last week of January (ER); and an imm. male that had been present at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, all fall/winter was banded 12 February (A&DL, J&MG, ba. BP) and lingered into March.

Selasphorus sp. – a female Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was present at Lexington late October–31 January (ph. GF).

Merlin – there were reports from 16 locales, all being included: a male at Cave Hill Cemetery 3 December (ph. TBe, WC, SDt); 1 at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 14 December (ph. CC); 1 at Lexington 15 December/29 January (ph. JL, TK, GWe/SM, RB); 1 on the Bowling Green CBC 16 December (*fide* BF); 1 a few miles nw. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, 28 December (EHu, BP); 2 at the end of Schulztown Road, s. *Ohio* (EHu, MSt), and 1 at the Sinclair Unit (BP), both 30 December, with 1-2 continuing at the Sinclair Unit into February (m. ob.); 1 at



Northern Shrike, *Ohio*
16 February 2013
Alex Fish



Rufous Hummingbird, *Franklin*
21 December 2012
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Indigo Bunting, *Daviess*
12 December 2012
Judy Adams



Merlin, *Oldham*
2 February 2013
Mary Yandell



Northern Cardinal (yellow variant), *Calloway*
10 January 2013
Tony Black



Long-eared Owl, *Muhlenberg*
18 February 2013
Eddie Huber



White-winged Crossbill, Lexington
23 January 2013
Pam Spaulding



Northern Shrike, *Ohio*
30 December 2012
Ben Yandell



Rough-legged Hawk, *Muhlenberg*
23 January 2013
Mary Yandell



Evening Grosbeak, *Morgan*
19 February 2013
Eddie Huber



Red Crossbill, Louisville
27 January 2013
Pam Spaulding



Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Madison*
7 December 2012
JohnRyan Polascik

Caddo, *Pendleton*, 1 January (LM, ph. RCr, TS); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 4 January (JBe, PB); 1 at Cox's Park, Louisville, 7 January/13 February (EHu); 1 at the East Park Industrial Park, *Greenup*, 26 January (ph. EHu, BP); 1 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 1 February (†HC); 1 at the Reformatory Lake 2 February (ph. BY, ph. MYa, MSt); 1 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 11 February (EHu); 1 at Minor Clark 22 February (MW, BWu); 1 at Woodsbend, *Morgan*, 23/24 February (MSt, JSo, BP, et al./JSo et al.); and 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 25 February (†BL).

Peregrine Falcon – birds reported away from traditional breeding locales included 1 at Ky Dam 15 December (HC); 1 on the US 68/KY 80 bridge over Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 21 December (BL); 2 at Spindletop Farm 23 December (JSw) & 22 January (Jpk, TM); 1 at Hundred Acre Pond, *Hart*, 5 January (SKi et al.); 1 at Ballard WMA 11 January (JSo); 1 at the Old Kuttawa Rec. Area Marina, *Lyon*, 28 January (RD); an ad. at Meldahl Dam 29 January (BP, EHu); and an ad. at Blood River 28 February (HC).

Say's Phoebe – 1 was present along Independence Church Road, ne. of Almo, *Calloway*, 4 January (ph. MSc, AY, et al.)–16 February (ME). KBRC review required.

Eastern Phoebe – a tally of 25 on the Eastern Allen County CBC was extraordinary (*fide* MBy).

Northern Shrike – it was an unprecedented season with at least three and probably four individuals reported as follows: an imm. at the Ken Unit 30 December–27 January (ph. EHu, MSt, BY, MYa, et al.); an ad. at the Sinclair Unit 19 January into February (ph. BY, ph. DL, et al.); an ad. along KY 379 near Helm's Junction, *Russell*, 17 December & 13/14 January (ph. RD, SDn); and an ad. inadvertently captured in a live trap and released unharmed on the Ken Unit 16 February (ph. AF). KBRC review required.

Purple Martin – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 23 February (MBy, MkB, et al.); 1 at Bowling Green 25 February (*fide* TD); and 2 at the LBL Nature Station, *Lyon/Trigg*, 28

February (JPt) were the earliest to be reported.

Tree Swallow – 2 at the Wendell Ford Training Center 18 February (MYa, EHu, BP) were rather early. Next earliest were 2 at Allensville, *Todd* (DH), 1 at Sauerheber (EHu, BP), and at least 60 at Camp #11 (EHu, BP), all 24 February.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – relatively good numbers lingered through the winter with 1-31 reported on 23 CBCs.

Brown-headed Nuthatch – 2 (a pair?) were found near Kentucky Dam Village SRP 18 January (BP, ph. EHu) and continued through the winter with possibly up to 4 birds reported there 31 January (JSo). KBRC review required.

House Wren – there were four reports: 1 on Ft. Campbell, *Christian*, 5 December (DM); 1 on the Russell-Adair County CBC 17 December (*fide* RD); and 1 seen and heard calling on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, and 1 heard calling along Rockport-Paradise Road, *Muhlenberg*, both 30 December (BP, CBs).

Marsh Wren – there were two reports (probably of the same bird): 1 at the Sinclair Unit 22 December (†RD) with 1 at the same location 23 January (†BP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – a very tardy bird was seen ne. of Olmstead, *Logan*, 22 December (†MBt, †FL).

Gray Catbird – 1 was at the Cherokee Unit, Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 2 December (BP, EHu).

American Pipit – present in average numbers during the season with 1-199 reported on 11 CBCs.

Cedar Waxwing – not numerous in most areas during the season with 1-1424 reported on 25 CBCs.

Lapland Longspur – reports of interest included ca. 20 nw. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, 28 December (BP, EHu); up to 30 at Spindletop Farm during late December (DL, RO, DSv, et al.); 75-100 or more e. of Needmore, *Ballard*, 3 January (BP, EHu); more than 500 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 17 January (BP, EHu); and 7

near Smiths Grove, *Warren*, 22 January (MBy, MkB, SBy).

Snow Bunting – there was only one report: 1 in flight along KY 801 at Farmers, *Rowan*, 1 February (†BWu).

Tennessee Warbler – 1 was present in a yard at Louisville 2 February (BD, ph. SDt).

Orange-crowned Warbler – likely the same individual that wintered near Union, *Boone*, last year was present in the same yard mid-December into February (TS).

Palm Warbler – 1-3 were reported on four CBCs; also reported were 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, through the season with 8 there 20 January (MBy, DB, SBr); 2 at the Sinclair Unit 20 January (BP); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 26 January (RD); and 1 near the Barren River Lake Dam, *Allen*, 15 February (HC, RD).

Pine Warbler – 2 along Schulztown Road, s. *Ohio*, 30 December (EHu, MSt) were the only ones reported on a CBC (Paradise); other reports of interest included 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen* 1 December/31 January (MBy); 1 on Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 5 December (DM); 1 at the Reformatory Lake, *Oldham*, 29 December (BWo); 1 along Kelly Branch Road, *Ballard*, 3 January (BP, EHu); and 1 that wintered in a Louisville yard (ph. KB).

Prairie Warbler – 1 was found along Shirk Road, w. *Allen*, 14 December (†JBy, TBr, et al.).

Spotted Towhee – a male was present at and adjacent to West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 18 December (ph. EHu, ph. BP, et al.)–30 January (RD). The bird was located ca. 0.75 mi. s. of where a male wintered 6-8 years ago and conceivably could have been the same individual. KBRC review required.

American Tree Sparrow – present in about average numbers during the season with 1-218 reported on 15 CBCs.

Chipping Sparrow – the species continues to be relatively well distributed during winter with 1-21 reported on 15 CBCs; other reports of interest included 23 at

Burnside Island SP, *Pulaski*, 28 December (RD); 30 at Fishing Creek 26 January (RD); and 9 at St. Anne's Convent, *Campbell*, 12 February (BP, EHu).

Le Conte's Sparrow – there were three reports: at least 3 at Ballard WMA 18 December (BP, EHu, JSo); at least 3 at the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 30 December (BP, CBs); and 1 along Kelly Branch Road, *Ballard*, 3 January (BP).

Nelson's Sparrow – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 16 December (ph. BP, ba. MM, et al.) represented a first for the state during winter. KBRC review required.



Nelson's Sparrow, *Jefferson*
16 December 2012
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Fox Sparrow – not as numerous as last winter with 1-51 reported on 18 CBCs.

Lincoln's Sparrow – there was one report: 1 along KY 1128 between Cayce and Hickman, *Fulton*, 29 January (†RD).

Swamp Sparrow – a tally of 63 at Fishing Creek 14 December (RD) was relatively impressive.

Northern Cardinal – a yellow variant was present in e. *Calloway* late fall into mid-winter (ph. TBl).

Indigo Bunting – there were two reports: 1 at Owensboro, *Daviess*, 12 December (ph. JA) and 1 at Melbourne, *Campbell*, 30 December (†BS, ph. JBi, GBi).

Western Meadowlark – there were reports from three locales: 1 se. of Needmore, *Ballard*, 3 January (ph. BP, EHu); 1 singing sw. of Cayce, *Fulton*, 17 January (†BP, EHu) with 10 in the same area 29 January (RD); and 1 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 17 January (BP, ph. EHu).



Western Meadowlark, *Ballard*
3 January 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Rusty Blackbird – reports of interest included an estimate of more than 1000 on the Olmstead CBC 22 December (*fide* MBt); 195 at the Gateway Community College, *Boone*, 22 December (ph. SKo) with 100 still there 18 January (SKo); 40-50+ e. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 3 January (BP, EHu); at least 140 at Kentucky Dam Village SRP 4 January (BP, EHu); and ca. 200 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 21 January (CC).

Brewer's Blackbird – there were reports from seven locales: 30 in s. *Logan* 22 December (*fide* MBt); 2 nr. the East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*, 29 December (JCM); at least 20 at the end of Schulztown Road, s. *Ohio*, 2 January (BP, EHu); at least a few e. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 3 January (BP, EHu); 12 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 17 January (BP, EHu) with 6 there 29 January (RD); up to 20 along Royal-Oak Grove Road, e. *Grayson*, where the species has wintered previously, during mid-February (SKi, JK, et al.); and 10 e. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 26 February (†BL).

Purple Finch – present in relatively modest numbers during the winter season with 1-54 reported on 18 CBCs. No exceptional

counts were reported, but the species appeared to be well distributed in small numbers.

Red Crossbill – following the appearance of birds at a few locales during late November, the species remained locally distributed through the winter with all reports included [note that two different call types were confirmed by voice recordings (*fide* MYo): a flock wintered at Cave Hill Cemetery (m. ob.) with 17 there 10 December (vr. BP, et al.) [calls confirmed as Type 3 (*fide* MYo)], 14 there 14 December (MYa); 11 there 15 December (vr. BP, BY, MYa) [calls confirmed as Type 3 (*fide* MYo)]; 23 there 1 January (BP et al.); at least 16 there 5 January (BP); 23 there 22 January (BP); at least 20 there 21 February (BP); and at least 26 there 28 February (BP, BWu) [calls confirmed as Type 3 (*fide* MYo)]. Also reported were one at Pulaski County Park 11 Dec (vr./ph. RD) [calls confirmed as Type 3 (*fide* MYo)]; 6 along Kelly Branch Road, *Ballard*, 3 Jan (BP, EHu) [unconfirmed, but likely Type 2 (associated with loblolly pines and softer call than Type 3) (†BP)]; one just w. of Barkley Dam 16 Jan (BP); and 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 23 Jan (JSo) with 6 there 24 Jan (vr. RD) [calls confirmed as Type 10 (*fide* MYo)].

White-winged Crossbill – up to a dozen lingered at the Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, into late December (m. ob.) with at least 20 there 10 January (BP et al.) and a peak count of ca. 40 there 27 January (DL, ASK); additional reports included 1 at Cave Hill Cemetery 1 December (BP); 1 at St. Anne's Convent, *Campbell*, 7 February (ph. FR) with 3 there 12 February (BP, EHu); 1 at Elizabethtown, *Hardin* 30 January (ph. KBr); and 1 at the Glasgow Cemetery, *Barren*, 12-15 Feb (AH, ph. LC, HC, RD).

Common Redpoll – there was one report: 1 ne. of Independence, *Kenton*, 13 February (†GD). KBRC review required.

Pine Siskin – a few lingered into December, but most apparently moved farther south with only 1-28 reported on only 10 CBCs; local early winter peak counts included 25

at Cave Hill Cemetery 1 December (BP); 20-30 at the Frankfort Cemetery, *Franklin* 12 December (BP); and 15-20 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 8 January (BP, EHu, MYa). During January and February, small numbers continued but were very locally distributed and absent in most areas with mid- to late winter peak counts including 12 at the LBL Nature Station, *Lyon/Trigg*, 21 January (JPt); 40 at *Almo, Calloway*, 16 February (JFl) and 14 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 17 February (SDi).

Evening Grosbeak – there were two reports: 6 at Mammoth Cave 18 December (ph. BF et al.); and up to ca. 12 at Woodsbend, *Morgan*, from late December into March (B&BA, N&BE, ph. BWu, et al.).

Addendum to the Fall 2012 Season Report:

Barn Owl – 2 were seen at Bouteloua Barrens SNP, *Lincoln*, 6 September (DC).

Observers: Judy Adams (JA), Bud & Brenda Angus (B&BA), Ryan Ankeny (RA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Sarahann Beachy (SBy), Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TBe), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MBt), Carol Besse (CBs), Gordon Bills (GBi), Jody Bills (JBi), Tony Black (TBl), Steve Bonney (SBo), Karen Bonsell (KB), Mike Bremermann (MBr), Kathy Brewer (KB), Horace Brown (HB), Mike Brown (MBn), Abraham Brubaker (AB), Daniel Brubaker (DB), John David Brubaker (JBr), Stephen Brubaker (SBr), Timothy Brubaker (TBr), Rhonda Bryant (RB), Gerald Burnett (GBu), Mike Callan (MC), Joe Caminiti (JCm), Joan Carr (JCr), Hap Chambers (HC), Cincinnati Bird Club (CBC), Robert Colvis (RCo), Dan Cox (DC), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Rodney Crice (RCr), Wes Cunningham (WC), Ben Deetsch (BD), Steve Deetsch (SDt), Gene Dennis (GD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Steve Denton (SDn), Scott Dickman (SDi), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Norman & Betty Elam (N&BE), Les Estep (LE), Millie Farmer (MF), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Alex Fish (AF), Jan Flynn (JFl), Geri Foley (GF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Jonathan Frodge (JFr), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Judy & Mark Grainger (J&MG), Willard Gray (WG), Brenda Hager (BH), Pat Hahs (PH), Debbie Hamilton (DH), Erin Harper (EH), Linda Harvey (LHa), Richard Healy (RH), Todd Hendricks (TH), Joseph Hoover (JH), Les Houser (LHo), Janet Howard (JH), Eddie Huber (EHu), Bill Hull (BH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SKi), Steve Kolbe (SKo), Terri Koontz (TK), Paul Krusling (PK), David Lang (DL), Allen & Donna Law (A&DL), Judy Lundquist (JL), Lee McNeely (LM), John Meredig (JMe), Keith Michalski (KM), Wendy Mitchell (WM), Mark Monroe (MM), Tanner Morris (TM), Daniel Moss (DM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Karl Overman (KO), Tony Paladino (TP), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), JohnRyan Polascik (JPk), Nicole & Richard Pollitt (N&RP), John Pollpeter (JPt), Elaine Rall (ER), Frank Renfrow (FR), Keith Richardson (KR), Mary Schmidt (MSc), Rick Seelhorst (RS), Jeff Sole (JSo), Pam Spaulding (PS), Gary Sprandel (GS), Bill Stanley (BS), Tom Stephens (TS), David Stewart (DSt), Matt Stickel (MSt), Laura Stone (LS), Del Striegel (DSl), Mitch Sturgeon (MSg), Dave Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Wayne Tamminga (WT), Charles Thompson (CT), Mark Tower (MT), James Tracey (JT), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C>), Kelly Vowels (KV), George Weems (GWe), Eileen Wicker (EW), Eric Williams (EWs), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Mike Wright (MW), Helen Wright-North (HW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Dave Wulker (DW), Gale Wulker (GWu), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MYa), Carol & Mark Yanik (C&MYk), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY), Matt Young (MYo); Thomas Young (TY).

**K.O.S. SPRING 2013 MEETING
Carter Caves State Resort Park
April 26-April 28, 2013**

Blaine R. Ferrell

Registration for the meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Lee McNeely at the Lewis Caveland Lodge. Steve Kistler, Vice President, opened the Friday evening program at 7:02 p.m. with a Kentucky bird quiz. The quiz included pictures of habitats with an accompanying bird vocalization and the audience was to guess what species made the vocalization. Following the quiz, he introduced the first speaker on the program, Adam Heist. Adam is a student at Eastern Kentucky University and his talk was an informative presentation of his research on "Effects of variation in hunger levels on the begging behavior of nestlings and the provisioning behavior of adult Eastern Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*).” Begging behavior is a true indication of hunger on the part of the young, but its intensity can be influenced by several factors. Parents appear to respond by feeding those birds that beg with the greatest intensity. Again, there may be variation in parental involvement because of various factors. After a number of questions for the first speaker, Vice President Kistler introduced the second speaker, Todd Weinkam. Todd is also a student at Eastern Kentucky University and he gave an informative talk about his research on "Winter home range, habitat use, and effects of weather on foraging of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) in Kentucky.” It was pointed out that few studies focus on the impact of winter behavior on the subsequent breeding season. Following questions for the speaker, Vice President Kistler described the field trips scheduled for the morning. Blaine Ferrell would lead a field trip around the lodge, Lee McNeely would lead a field trip to Box Canyon, and Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. would lead a field trip to an industrial site east of Carter Caves looking for Henslow’s Sparrows. Vice President Kistler announced that a social hour would immediately follow the meeting that adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The three field trips announced at the Friday evening meeting left the lodge at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. The Board of Directors met at the lodge at 2:00 p.m. President Carol Besse called the Saturday evening business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. President Besse welcomed new Board members, Councillors Pat and Jane Bell, and Beckham Bird Club representative, Mary Yandell. She announced that the field checklist had been updated and is now available and informed the members that the KOS Board had voted to initiate a scholarship to honor Ginny and Wendell Kingsolver for their long and loyal support for the KOS. Details are to be finalized with the intent being to provide funds to send a student to an ornithological meeting. Blaine Ferrell compiled the list of 108 species found on the Saturday field trips.

President Besse introduced the Saturday evening speaker, Dr. Amanda Rodewald, Associate Professor and Director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. She presented an excellent summary of research on Cerulean Warblers titled "Singing the blues: The challenge of conserving Cerulean Warblers.” She discussed the challenges and habitats for Cerulean Warblers, both during the summer and at their wintering sites in northern South America. She also included a discussion of what is known about their migration. Dr. Rodewald offered several suggestions for the conservation of certain habitats conducive for Cerulean Warbler survival, but cautioned that there are many other species to consider and habitats for one species are not necessarily good for others. After a period of questions for the speaker, Vice President Kistler outlined the field trips for Sunday. Jane and Pat Bell would lead a field trip around the lodge, Lee McNeely would lead a field trip in the lodge area and the Tiger Creek area, and Brian Wulker would lead a field trip to the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery area in Rowan County. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and was followed by a social hour. Sunday morning field trips left

the lodge at 8:00 a.m. Another 19 species were added to the weekend list by observers on Sunday.

Attendance at the Spring 2013 K.O.S. Meeting

Alexandria:	Mary Beth & Ron Lusby
Ashland:	Vicki Sandage
Bowling Green:	Valerie Brown, Lisa Dalporto, John Forman, Blaine Ferrell, Ken Kuehn
Burlington:	Lee & Lynda McNeely
Erlanger:	Ed Groneman
Frankfort:	Carol & Jeff Sole
Georgetown:	David Lang
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger, M. David Moss, Sandra Moss
Greenville:	Steve & Teresa Graham
Lexington:	Ramesh & Suzanne Bhatt, Bruce Cryder, Phyllis Deal, Jessica Moss, Marie Sutton, Joe Swanson, Jim Williams
Louisville:	Bonnie Avery, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Katherine Griswold, Cheryl & Scott Jones, Ben & Mary Yandell
Morehead:	Fred, Joanna, & Katie Busroe, Lynn Haller, Brian Reeder, Mike Wright
Munfordville:	Janet & Steve Kistler
Owensboro:	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Richmond:	Brenda & Pete Thompson
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Cincinnati, OH:	Brian Wulker, Gail Wulker
Indianapolis, IN:	Lou Anne Barriger, Larry Peavler

**Birds Observed at the KOS Spring Meeting at
Carter Caves State Resort Park and Vicinity,
April 26-28, 2013**

Birds observed at Carter Caves State Resort Park, Cave Run Lake, Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, and the Eastpark Industrial Park, in Boyd County: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Parula,

Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The species total was 127 for the weekend.

FIELD NOTE

A Wintering Nelson's Sparrow

On 16 December 2012, I participated in the Louisville Christmas Bird Count, covering my family's farm in eastern Jefferson County. On our farm we have approximately 40 acres of Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) fields that are left in waist high stubble during the winter season. These fields have attracted a number of interesting birds over the years, including some wintering sparrows of open grassy or weedy areas like Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*).

I was walking one of the fields, flushing several Savannah Sparrows, when a different looking sparrow flew up and landed ahead of me. It was reminiscent of a Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus lecontei*), which I have seen in the fields on several previous occasions. When I approached the spot where the bird landed, it popped up on the grass stalks, but I immediately realized that it was not a Le Conte's, but a much rarer Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). I left the bird to drop back in the grass and called several other birders including Mark Monroe, who I knew could assist in attempting to capture and band the bird for documentary purposes. About an hour later, several of us set up a mist-net and flushed the sparrow into the net, where Mark retrieved it. The bird, the first of its kind to be found in the state during winter, was banded, and photos were taken (see p. 53).

Later during the winter season, I walked the same field a few times in hopes that I might see the Nelson's Sparrow again, but it was never observed. However, on 14 April 2013, I was mowing the field next to the field in which the Nelson's Sparrow was captured in December, and had an interesting looking *Ammodramus* sparrow pop up in front of the tractor and fly over to a fence line. I had binoculars with me, so I hopped off the tractor and looked at the bird, skulking within the cover of a red cedar tree. There it was, the Nelson's Sparrow, with shiny silver band on its right leg. The bird had flushed from only about 200 ft (61.5 m) from where it had been seen initially in mid-December.

Over the next few days, several birders came over and were able to see the bird, which was hesitant to leave a patch of Indian grass stubble that I left unmowed in hopes that it might linger. I was able to obtain photos of the bird showing the band on 15 April 2013 (Flickr 2013), and Eddie Huber also obtained an image showing the band on 19 April 2013 (see p. 60); I did not see the bird after the latter date.

Although the Nelson's Sparrow was not recaptured to read the band number, it seems reasonable to believe that the bird overwintered in the immediate area of its capture in mid-December. A search of a number of published sources (e.g. Rising 1996) did not yield any reports of wintering Nelson's Sparrows across inland eastern North America. However, an inspection of the eBird database (eBird 2013) revealed several (mostly recent) winter reports, including one from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, during the winter of 2012-2013. According to Kent Miller (pers. comm.), it is possible that there were two birds at this site and they were seen later during the winter, documenting wintering there, as well. These reports would suggest that the species does, at least on occasion, winter away from coastal areas.

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- Rising, J.D. 1996. A guide to the natural identification and natural history of the sparrows of the United States and Canada. Academic Press, Inc. San Diego, CA. 365 pp.
- Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.**, 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 (brainard@mindspring.com).

NEWS AND VIEWS**Visit the K.O.S. Website**

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

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

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (scott.marsh@insightbb.com).

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

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.biology.uky.edu/kos/monroe.htm>) or contact Shawchyi Vorisek, Chair of the Burt Monroe Fund Committee, at Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (shawchyi.vorisek@ky.gov).

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

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

The Kentucky Warbler Available in PDF Format

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive their quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now do so. In the new and here-to-stay digital age, we have found that some members prefer to have a searchable electronic format. The board of the Kentucky Ornithological Society has discussed the eventual scanning of all back issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* to PDF format and making them available on the internet, but that project may be a few years away. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society's Treasurer, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at (brainard@mindspring.com).



Northern Shrike, *Russell*
14 January 2013
Roseanna Denton



Nelson's Sparrow, *Jefferson*
19 April 2013
Eddie Huber



Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Marshall*
18 January 2013
Eddie Huber



Say's Phoebe, *Calloway*
6 January 2013
Eddie Huber



Tennessee Warbler, *Louisville*
2 February 2013
Steve Deetsch



Northern Shrike, *Muhlenberg*
23 January 2013
David Lang