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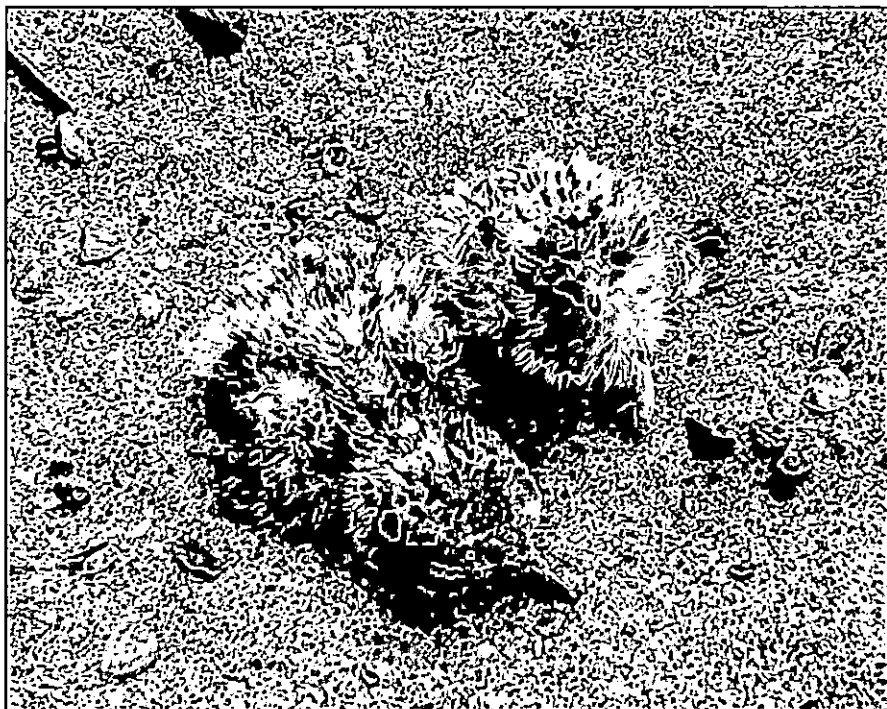
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Mark Monroe for the cover photograph of Interior Least Tern chicks at a nest site on the Mississippi River, Hickman County, 25 June 2005. See associated article on p. 99 of this issue. Financial support for color cover provided by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



2005 SURVEY OF INTERIOR LEAST TERN NESTING COLONIES IN KENTUCKY

Elizabeth Ciuizio, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Gerald Burnett

Introduction

The Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) was listed as federally endangered in 1985 (USFWS 1990). The breeding range of this subspecies extends from the unimpounded stretches of the Missouri River in North Dakota southward through the Great Plains (primarily on western tributaries of the Mississippi River), eastward along the lower Ohio River and major tributaries east as far as central Kentucky and southwestern Indiana, and southward on the mainstem Mississippi River as far south as Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USFWS 1990). Since 1985, monitoring efforts have been undertaken at differing scales across the tern's breeding range; some populations have been surveyed annually while others have never been counted. Population estimates have been calculated by compiling the results of surveys conducted in different years and at varying times during the breeding season. This methodology has resulted in poor confidence in population estimates because the lack of coordination may have resulted in birds being counted more than once or missed altogether.

In response to the need for a single-year, range-wide census of the Interior Least Tern, the American Bird Conservancy coordinated an effort to survey the entire breeding population from 20 June to 3 July 2005. As part of the Interior Least Tern Working Group, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), along with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC), conducted surveys of tern nesting colonies along the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. In addition, KDFWR and KSNPC partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation to survey the portion of the Mississippi River along Kentucky's western border. These efforts served to account for the entire known population of nesting birds in Kentucky.

Methods

On 23 June 2005, a helicopter overflight was conducted to assess habitat conditions along the entire lower Ohio and Mississippi River corridors within and adjacent to Kentucky. Sites potentially suitable for nesting Interior Least Terns were marked on field maps for subsequent ground surveys. These ground surveys were conducted 24 June to 6 July 2005 (nesting was not confirmed at one site until after the official survey window closed); numbers of adults, nests and chicks, habitat data, and location coordinates were recorded during ground surveys. Sites on the lower Ohio River with nesting terns were posted with signs to deter human disturbance. Sites on the Mississippi River are so extensive and relatively isolated from human disturbance that they have not been posted in recent years.

During various dates in July and August, many of the sites were revisited to qualitatively assess the level of success of nesting efforts. Again, numbers of adults, nests, chicks, and juveniles were recorded. At the end of the nesting season signs were retrieved from posted sites if high water had not already removed them.

Results

Results of the 2005 survey of Interior Least Tern nesting colonies in Kentucky are summarized below (Table 1). Two additional sites on the lower Ohio River that technically lie within the boundaries of Indiana and Illinois are included because Kentucky has assumed responsibility for monitoring these sites. The 2005 survey yielded a total of approximately 525 pairs of nesting Interior Least Terns at eight colony sites within the borders of Kentucky, plus another 50 pairs observed at the two sites in the adjacent waters of Indiana and Illinois.

Table 1. Sites with Nesting Interior Least Terns in 2005.

Site	Date of survey	Counts of ads, nests, chicks	Remarks
Ohio River below Lewisport, Hancock Co. (IN) (ORM 740)	28 June	20 ads.; 6 nests obs; 2 chicks	Site was partially inundated in early July; follow-up observations suggest some limited fledging success.
Camp #9 Slurry Pond, Union Co. (10 mi. SE of ORM 842.5 at Uniontown)	6 July	15+ ads.; 3 nests obs; 1+ chick	Follow-up visits continued to yield observations of 1-2 chicks, suggesting some limited success at this site, which is a large coal slurry pond in open agricultural land.
Ohio River near Curtlew Union Co. (ORM 866.5)	30 June	12 ads.; 4 nests	Site inundated in early July; visit on 14 July turned up only a few adults that were not showing defensive; site considered unsuccessful.
Ohio River upstream from Ledbetter, Livingston Co. (Pope Co., IL) (ORM 924)	24 June	75 ads.; 41 nests obs	Site was likely partially inundated in early July; some large chicks observed 14 July; suggests limited fledging success.
Ohio River opposite Monkey's Eyebrow, Ballard Co. (ORM 959.5)	24 June	17 ads.; 5 nests obs	Site was partially inundated in early July; visit on 19 July detected confirmed nesting and some chicks were observed; suggests some fledging success.
Ohio River upstream from Mound City, IL, Ballard Co. (ORM 971)	3 July	a few ads; 2 nests obs	Follow-up visits failed to detect birds at this site, and it was likely inundated in early July, resulting in no fledging success.
Arkema lagoon, off Tennessee River, Marshall Co. (TRM 14.75)	24 June	25 ads.; 16 nests obs	Follow-up visits detected some large chicks nearly capable of flight, but visit on 11 August detected no birds present, suggesting predation may have occurred; thus, fledging success was likely low.
Mississippi River at Island No. 1, Carlisle Co. (MRM 945-946.5)	26 June	46+ ads.; 16 nests	Nests were just being initiated on date of survey; follow-up visits detected that some juvs. were capable of flight; suggests limited to moderate fledging success; bar likely became accessible to ATVs during nesting season.
Mississippi River downstream from Middle Bar, Hickman Co. (MRM 931)	25 June	331 nests; 53 chicks	No follow-up visits, but river level remained low during rest of breeding season, so fledging success was likely high unless predators accessed the bar because of low flow conditions in July.
Mississippi River at and downstream from Watson Point, Kentucky Bend, Fulton Co. (MRM 884.5-888)	25 June	134 nests; 4 chicks	No follow-up visits, but situation was likely similar to previous site and fledging success was likely high unless predation became a factor.

In addition to confirmed nesting colonies listed (Table 1), several other potential nesting sites were surveyed by boat or helicopter during the 2005 survey period. No activity was detected at the following sites where nesting was documented in 1994: lower Ohio River – Livingston Point and Cottonwood Bar sandbar near Ledbetter, both in Livingston County; Mississippi River – head of Middle Bar, Hickman County; head of Island No. 8, Fulton County; and Kentucky Point, Fulton County. It is possible that some limited amount of nesting occurred at some of the Mississippi River sites subsequent to the late June-early July survey period, but no activity was documented during the main survey window.

A few adult terns were also observed at the following sites in 2005: Ohio River – below Smithland Dam, Livingston County; opposite Metropolis Lake, McCracken County; Mississippi River – at and below Campbell Dikes, Carlisle/Hickman counties; and along Island No. 6, Fulton Co. (latter *vide* J. Rumancik and K. Jones, pers. comm.). It is believed that reproduction did not occur at the above-mentioned sites this year because of unfavorable landform characteristics (e.g., low relief or attachment of the island to mainland areas).

Discussion

KDFWR and KSNPC have monitored the lower Ohio River Interior Least Tern population annually in recent years, but the only prior comprehensive survey of Kentucky's entire nesting population was conducted in 1994 (Palmer-Ball 1995). Although a peak in nesting activity occurs during June in most years, the nesting season is rather drawn out. Nests can be initiated any time from mid-May to late July depending on a variety of factors including age and experience of individual pairs as well as variation in river levels. For this reason, two surveys were conducted at most sites in 1994 in an effort to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of nesting pairs in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1995). In contrast, the goal of the 2005 survey was to contribute data to the Interior Least Tern Working Group census; therefore, one intensive survey was conducted during the two-week survey window. Thus, the 2005 survey was likely a slightly less than complete count of nests in Kentucky; however, birds that moved to Kentucky waters or initiated nesting later in the season should have been counted elsewhere during the survey window.

The 1994 survey yielded a total of approximately 400 nests at nine sites compared to 581 at eight sites in 2005. A qualitative comparison of subtotals of the population by drainage indicates that increases appear to have occurred along both the Mississippi River (350+ pairs in 1994; 481 in 2005) and lower Ohio River (33+ pairs in 1994; 93 in 2005); however, while it is tempting to compare results of the 2005 survey to results of the previous surveys to evaluate population trends, gaps in our knowledge about the number of breeding sites do not allow it. For example, birds on the Mississippi River may shift from site to site between years, with some exchange occurring among sites that lie within the boundaries of adjacent states that have not been included in Kentucky survey totals (1994, for example). For this reason, no single year total from a portion of the range (Kentucky's portion of the Mississippi River, for example), can be directly compared to the total from another year. In contrast, in the lower Ohio River region we continue to discover new sites, and there may be some exchange of birds breeding along the lower Wabash River (with numbers not accounted for in Kentucky totals). Therefore, meaningful year-to-year comparisons of the lower Ohio River population numbers also remain impractical. This scenario is true for all states that monitor Interior Least Tern breeding populations, hence the need for the coordinated, range-wide survey that was conducted in 2005.

One apparent trend is the gradual loss of those sites considered most significant to nesting terns in the mid- to late 1990s along the lower Ohio River. The sandbar at Livingston Point (ORM 932.5), Livingston County, which harbored as many as 50 nests in 1996 and 64 nests in 2000, has disappeared due to changes in sediment deposition. At the Cottonwood Bar sandbar near Ledbetter (ORM 928.5), Livingston County, where as many as 25 nests were counted in 1995 and 2000, trees have overgrown the island. Consequently,

both sites no longer support suitable nesting habitat for the Interior Least Tern. Unfortunately, sites where terns have attempted to nest in recent years have been more susceptible to flooding during brief rises in river level that occur during the nesting season. Some of these sites have consisted of dredge material that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, has intentionally placed in a configuration that has resulted in some nesting success and shows promise for creating more secure sites in the future. Two additional sites on industrial ponds, both of artificial materials, have been discovered, and it is probable that these sites have recently become colonized by terns, perhaps in response to habitat loss on the Ohio River in recent years and the corresponding lack of reproductive success that has occurred. One site is located just off the lower Tennessee River, Marshall County, and has been active at least since 2003 (Palmer-Ball and McNeely 2004); the other is on a coal slurry impoundment in north-central Union County about 10 miles (16 km) by air from the Ohio River. So far, rate of fledging success does not appear to be high at these sites; however, they may also offer potential as important nesting sites because they are not as vulnerable to flooding and human disturbance as sandbar sites.

Early-season nest counts may not necessarily be indicative of the level of nesting success. For this reason, we made an attempt to assess the relative success Interior Least Terns experienced at various sites in 2005. Several factors may influence nesting success: rises in river levels (and consequent flooding of nests or drowning of chicks); human disturbance (from all-terrain vehicles and other recreational activities); and predation (coyotes, raptors, etc.). On the lower Ohio River, where sites typically protrude above average water levels by only a couple of feet (0.7 m) during the breeding season, fledging success is believed to have been quite low in recent years because of rises in river levels during the nesting season. In 2005, we believe that high mortality occurred as a result of one brief rise in water level that occurred subsequent to the passage of the remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy through the Appalachian region 6-7 July, causing the Ohio River to rise about two feet (0.7 m) for one to two days. For example, at the site upstream from Ledbetter, Kentucky, in Pope County, Illinois, where 41 nests were observed 24 June, only about six chicks were observed 15 July, a date by which numerous chicks and flightless juveniles should have been present. In addition, the presence of eight apparently incubating birds on that date indicates that birds may have attempted to reneest following the high water event a week prior. At the industrial pond site in Marshall County, a sudden decrease in the number of chicks in mid-August occurred too early to be attributed to maturation and departure of juveniles and was likely the result of mortality by an unknown predator. An exception to this downward trend occurred on the small gravel bar near Monkey's Eyebrow, Ballard County, where many flying juveniles were observed in late August, suggesting high productivity at this site.

In contrast, fledging success appeared to be greater on the Mississippi River, where sandbars are typically larger and protrude higher at normal water levels. We observed a relatively high percentage of juveniles in the company of adults at three sandbars in Carlisle and Hickman counties in late August. In some years, abnormally dry weather caused many sandbars in the Mississippi River to become attached to shore, allowing access by predators and humans on all-terrain vehicles; in other years, sudden rises in the river level have caused major losses of nests and young. This year, however, was one in which we believe moderate rises of the river claimed only a few nests and flow remained high long enough to preclude access by most mammalian predators and human visitors.

While survey data suggest an increase of breeding pairs of Interior Least Tern on both the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers, this observation may reflect an increase in survey efforts, rather than a real increase in terns. With the recent formation of the Interior Least Tern Working Group, we can expect that much more attention will be paid to population estimates for this endangered species. In addition, KDFWR and KSNPC list the Interior

Least Tern as a species in greatest need of conservation and endangered, respectively, and plan to continue to monitor the state's nesting population.

Although two important colony sites for the Interior Least Tern have been lost on the lower Ohio River, two artificial sites have been colonized (off the river). With proper management, perhaps these artificial sites can be utilized to maximize reproductive potential within the lower Ohio River population.

Funding for the 2005 survey effort was provided, in part, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District; taxpayer donations to the Nature and Wildlife Fund; and KDFWR funds generated by support from Kentucky sportsmen and women. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts and assistance of Ken Jones (Dyersburg State Community College), Casey Lott (American Bird Conservancy), Mark Monroe (KSNPC), Rochelle Renken and associates (Missouri Department of Conservation), John Rumancik (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District), and Robert van Hoff (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District). Thanks also to Rocky Pritchert, Brian Smith, and Stephen Stedman for helpful reviews of the manuscript.

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THE SUMMER SEASON 2005

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The summer 2005 season was overall hot and dry, with temperatures reaching the 90 degree mark in Louisville on 23 days and precipitation at Louisville slightly below normal for the period. Some areas of the state were not as dry, especially in the eastern and western portions, which received rainfall from the remnants of two tropical storms, Tropical Storm Cindy (east) 7 July and Hurricane Dennis (west) 12-13 July.

Certainly without doubt the highlight of the season was the collection of rare pelagic birds that were deposited with the remnants of Dennis 12-15 July. Multiple Sooty Terns were observed in western Kentucky, with one on the Ohio River above Cincinnati, and an Audubon's Shearwater on Kentucky Lake 12 July may represent the first-ever "mid-continent" record for the species! Grabbing smaller headlines, but certainly noteworthy were an early June Rough-legged Hawk in Boyd County, two Marbled Godwits at Kentucky Dam, nesting of Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, and Common Moorhen in Union County, and continued nesting of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Livingston County. Least Tern nesting success was mixed, with moderate success on the Mississippi but low success on the lower Ohio and Tennessee rivers.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Observers are cautioned that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance. Documentation must be submitted to 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 "I" symbol is used in place of "and"; "ph." next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); "vt." next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented on videotape; "*" next to an observer's initials

indicates that written details were submitted with the report; ad(s). = adult(s); juv(s). = juvenile(s); yg. = young; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey. **Place names:** Ballard = Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston; Big South Fork = Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, McCreary; Black Mountain = Black Mountain, Harlan; Calvert City = industrial ponds at Calvert City, Marshall; Camp #9 = Peabody Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant, Union; Camp #11 = Camp #11 impoundments, Union; Cooley's Pond = Cooley's Pond, Wayne; Danville = Danville, Boyle; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Falls of the Ohio = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment, Lake Cumberland, Pulaski; Green Turtle Bay = Lake Barkley at Green Turtle Bay marina, Livingston; Horseshoe Road = slough next to Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; Jenny Hole = Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, Union; Keniana = Kentucky Lake at Keniana, Calloway; KY 268 = slough along KY 268 w. of Sauerheber, w. Henderson; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Marshall (unless otherwise noted); Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, Lyon; Lake No. 9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton; Ledbetter = Ledbetter, Livingston; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, Pulaski; Meng's Pond = Meng's Pond, Warren; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; Mitchell Lake = Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, Ballard; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant impoundments, Muhlenberg; Petersburg = gravel pit lakes at Petersburg, Boone; Petros Pond = Petros Pond, Warren; Rock Bridge = Rock Bridge loop trail, DBNF, Wolfe; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Smithland Dam = Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, Livingston; Surrey Hills Farm = Surrey Hills Farm, ne. Jefferson; Van Buren = Taylorsville Lake at Van Buren boat ramp, Anderson; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – an injured bird lingered through the season at Mitchell Lake (ph.SR et al.).

Blue-winged Teal – 3 males and a female were still at Camp #11 on 10 June (BP, MM), but nesting was not confirmed there this year; a bird was at Keniana 10 July (ME, HC, et al.); 3 early migrants or possibly local nesters were present near Dot, Logan, 31 July (FL).

Green-winged Teal – certainly out of place – and a first July record for the state – was a male at Kuttawa 13 July (DR et al.).

Ring-necked Duck – a male was present s. of Ledbetter, Livingston, 21 July (BP, MM); another male continued at Petersburg to 2 July and likely summered (LM).

Lesser Scaup – 1 at Keniana 10 July (ME, HC, et al.) and 2 at Green Turtle Bay 12 July (DR, MM) were likely injured and summering.

Bufflehead – a male, likely injured and summering, was present on Ky Lake above the dam 12 July (DR).

Hooded Merganser – 7 juvs. were still at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, Jefferson

(where a brood had been observed in May) 11 June (BY, MW); 2 birds at Meng's Pond 21 June (DR) may have nested somewhere in the vicinity.

Red-breasted Merganser – a female, possibly summering, was present at the Falls of the Ohio 13-14 July (BP).

Ruddy Duck – a male lingered at Camp #11 to 6 July (BP), but no other evidence of nesting was observed there this summer.

Ruffed Grouse – family groups were seen near Wolf Knob, Whitley, 4 June (SS) and at Little Lick 18 June (RD, SBC).

Common Loon – 1 in basic plumage was present on Ky Lake above the dam 12 July (DR).

Pied-billed Grebe – the species was present throughout the season at Camp #11 with at least 6 broods of 1-6 yg. being fed by ads. 6 July (BP). Also reported were 1 at Long Run Park, Jefferson, 16 July (BW) and 2 at the Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton, 31 July (KL, BLe), both of which likely attest to the early date by which some individuals of this species begin to move south.

Audubon's Shearwater – quite remarkable was the presence of 1 deposited by Hurricane Dennis on Ky Lake above the dam 12 July (vt.DR, MM, BP). KBRC review required.



Audubon's Shearwater, Ky Lake
12 July 2005
David Roemer

Double-crested Cormorant – non-breeders lingered throughout the season at a few traditional locales including Calvert City, Kuttawa, and Paradise (m. ob.); up to 50-75 were at Kuttawa during June (EC, BP). Also reported were 7 on the Casey Creek embayment of Green River Lake, *Adair*, 1 July (RD) and 4 at Van Buren 14 July (BW); 21 nests remained active at Keniana 10 July (ME, HC, et al.).

Least Bittern – 1 was observed at Camp #11 on 10 June (BP) with at least 3 ads. seen and calling yg. heard there 6 July (BP); also reported was 1 at a marsh along KY 176 e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 17 June (JW) and 1 heard at Paradise 20 July (BP).

Great Blue Heron – a count of 70+ at the Falls of the Ohio 13 July was a new high count for that location (BP); a count of 50 at Van Buren 14/18 July (BW) was also rather impressive.

Great Egret – 2 active nests were present among ca. 120 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests near downtown Louisville in June (RH); a bird in *Pike* 5 July (LE) was perhaps a first for the county; impressive early-season concentrations included 100

at Horseshoe Road 6 July (CC) and 99+ at Ballard 8 July (SR).

Little Blue Heron – post-breeding visitors included a few at Van Buren 14/18 July (BW) and 1 at Minor Clark 31 July (GR).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 2 nesting pairs on Woodbine Road, Lexington, produced 7 yg. this year (fide JW).

Osprey – new nests were located along the Ohio River near Metropolis Lake, *McCracken*, 24 June (BP et al.) and along the Tennessee River near Ledbetter 21 July (BP, MM).

Mississippi Kite – 1 over a woodlot along I-24 in suburban Paducah, *McCracken*, 20 July (MM, BP) and 1 over Tennessee River bottoms, *Marshall*, s. of Ledbetter 21 July (MM, BP) were in areas where the species previously has not been reported.

Cooper's Hawk – an active nest was observed at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, 25 June (RG, KSNH).

Rough-legged Hawk – unprecedented was a likely juv. bird on a reclaimed mine off Happy Fork Road, e. *Greenup*, 7 June (*BP).

Peregrine Falcon – yg. fledged from a nest along the Ohio River at Louisville in late June (SV, AS); yg. at the nest at Milton, *Trimble*, fledged relatively late – during the last week of July (SV, AS). One of the birds from Louisville was admitted to a local rehabilitator with elevated lead level in its blood (EW).



Common Moorhen nest, *Union*
6 July 2005
B. Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Common Moorhen – birds again nested at Camp #11 with 8 ads. counted 10 June (BP, MM) and a pair with 6 yg. and a nest with 5 eggs observed 6 July (ph.BP). Also reported was a bird at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, where nesting has occurred in recent years, 26 June (CC) with 2 there 6 July (CC).

American Coot – 7 were still at Camp #11 on 10 June, with 1 possibly incubating (BP, MM), but only 1 bird was seen there 21 July (BP, MM).

Semipalmated Plover – latest spring reports were for 1 at Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*, 2 June (RD); 20 at Horseshoe Road (CC) and 1 at Petros Pond (DR), both 3 June; a few along KY 268 on 4 June (CC); 1 at Paradise 6 June (DR); and 1 below Newburgh Dam, *Henderson*, 10 June (MM, BP). Earliest fall report was for 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 14 July (BP).

Killdeer – peak counts were at Camp #9 and included 300+ on 21 June (BP, MM) and 440 on 21 July (BP, MM).

American Avocet – there were 2 reports at the Falls of the Ohio: 1 bird 14 July (BP) and 5 birds 28 July (BE et al.).

Lesser Yellowlegs – latest spring reports were for singles at Cooley's Pond (RD) and Petros Pond (DR), both 2 June.

Willet – there were a remarkable number of reports of likely grounded migrants during and after the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Dennis, all being included: 4 + 1 at Ky Dam Village SRP beach (m. ob.), 2 at Green Turtle Bay (DR, MM), and 2 at Calvert City (BP), all 12 July; 22 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP), 15 at Ky Dam (DR et al.), and 2 below Smithland Dam (DR et al.), all 13 July; at least 16 still at the Falls of the Ohio 14 July (BP et al.), with 4 still there 15 July (MW), 1 there 16 July (MS), and 2 there 17 July (MS); and 1 at Minor Clark (SM) and 2 near Honey Cypress Slough, *Henderson* (CC), both 18 July.

Spotted Sandpiper – at least 2 pairs nested at Horseshoe Road with 3 ads. seen 21 June (BP, MM) and at least 2 family groups of 2 & 3 chicks there 6 July (BP);

1 was still at Clifty Pond 2 June (RD); and 1 was present at Petersburg 4 June and 2 July (LM).

Marbled Godwit – quite unusual were 2 fly-by birds at Ky Dam 12 July (*BY, *MS, MM).

Ruddy Turnstone – a tardy spring bird was observed at Cooley's Pond 2 June (ph. RD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 60 were still at Petros Pond 2 June (DR); latest reports were for 1 at Clifty Pond 7 June (RD); 6 at Petros Pond and 2 at Meng's Pond, both 9 June (DR); and 10 at Camp #9 on 10 June (BP, MM). Earliest fall report was for 1 at Paradise 14 July (RD).

Western Sandpiper – there was a flurry of reports of grounded southbound ads. during and immediately after the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Dennis, all being included: 1 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP) and 1 at Fishing Creek (RD), both 13 July; 3 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP) and 6 at Paradise (RD), both 14 July; 3 at Paradise (DR) and 1 at Calvert City (BP), both 15 July; 1 at Minor Clark 18 July (SM); and 2 at Paradise 20 July (BP).

Least Sandpiper – returning fall birds were apparent by early July with 1 at Paradise 5-6 July (DR); 5 at Horseshoe Road 6 July (BP); and 1 at Fishing Creek 8 July (RD).

White-rumped Sandpiper – latest spring reports were for an impressive count of 61 at Petros Pond (DR) and 27 at Horseshoe Road (CC), both 3 June; 1 at Clifty Pond 6 June (RD) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 21 June (BP, MM).

Baird's Sandpiper – earliest fall report was for 1 in w. *Fulton* 30 July (HC).

Pectoral Sandpiper – latest spring report was for 1 at Petros Pond 3 June (DR); earliest fall report was for 1 at Horseshoe Road 10 July (CC).

Dunlin – latest spring reports were for 1 at Horseshoe Road 3 June (CC); 1 along KY 268 on 4 June (CC); and 1 at Camp #9 on 10 June (BP, MM).

Short-billed Dowitcher – earliest fall report was for 1 at Horseshoe Road 6/10 July

(CC); also reported were 1 at Ky Dam Village SRP beach 12 July (DR, MM); 7 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP et al.) and 4 at Paradise (RD), both 14 July; 1 at Calvert City 15 July (BP); and 8+ at Van Buren (BW), 2 at Minor Clark (SM), 1 at Horse-shoe Road (CC), and 5 near Honey Cypress Slough, *Henderson* (CC), all 18 July.

Laughing Gull – 1 was present at Keniana 10 July (ME, HC, et al.); at least 3 different birds were observed 12 July in the vicinity of Ky Dam – an ad., a second-summer, and a first-summer (DR, BP, MM, et al.) with 2 there 13 July (SR) and at least 1 still there 15 July (BLi).

Franklin's Gull – an ad. or second-year bird was present on the Homestead Unit of Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 3 June (DR, NR, TE).

Bonaparte's Gull – quite unusual was a likely first-summer bird on Lake Barkley above the dam 13 July (DR, LPe).

Ring-billed Gull – 1 on the Ohio River at Newport, *Campbell/Kenton*, 5 June (FR) was either a late spring bird or summerer; as is the norm, a few birds began returning in late June with 12 below Smithland Dam 21 June (BP); ca. 120 were at Keniana by 10 July (ME, HC, et al.) with 300 at Ky Dam (DR et al.) and 300-400 at Calvert City (BP) by 12 July.

Herring Gull – a count of 6 at Keniana 10 July (ME, HC, et al.) was rather impressive for that early in the season; also reported was an ad. at Ky Dam 12 July (DR).

Caspian Tern – 1 at Calvert City 24 June (BP et al.) was likely an early returning fall migrant.

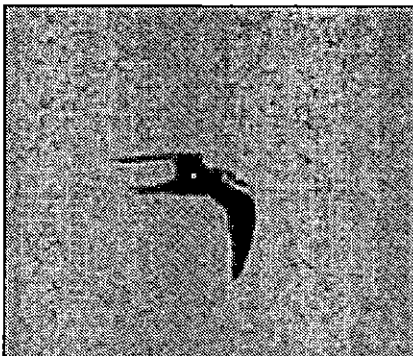
Common Tern – a flurry of reports during the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Dennis included 1 at Keniana (HC) and 1 ad. at the Falls of the Ohio (BP), both 13 July; and at least 2 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP) and 2 at Paradise (RD), both 14 July.

Forster's Tern – early fall reports included 1 at Ky Dam 12 July (DR); scattered flocks on both Ky Lake and Lake Barkley, *Livingston/Lyon*, 13 July (DR); and at

least 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 14 July (BP).

Least Tern – 2 new nesting colonies were documented this season: up to 16 birds (including 3 that were incubating/brooding) were at Camp #9 on 21 June (BP, MM) with a few chicks present in July (BP); a small colony was also found on the Ohio River opposite Monkey's Eyebrow, *Ballard*, and consisted of at least 17 nests 25 June (EC, GB, BP). Another new site that represents the most upstream on the Ohio River that a colony has ever been documented was discovered ca. 2 mi. downstream from Lewisport, *Hancock*, but located barely into *Spencer, IN*; there were at least 5 active nests there in late June (DA, BP, EC). Also reported was 1 on Ky Lake at the US68/KY80 bridge, *Trigg*, 4 June (BLi). A full summary of the year's nesting appears elsewhere in this issue.

Sooty Tern – remnants of Hurricane Dennis brought unprecedented numbers to the state, with no less than 10 individuals reported as follows: up to 6 on Ky Lake above the dam 12 July (vt.DR, ph. MM, et al.) with 4 still there 13 July (DR et al.), 5 there 14 July (DR, NR), and 3 last seen there 15 July (DR, SR); 1 at Green Turtle Bay 12 July (DR, MM); at least 2 and possibly 3 below Smithland Dam 13 July (DR); and 1 on the Ohio River near New Richmond, OH, 12 July (*DMr). KBRC review required.



Sooty Tern, Ky Lake
13 July 2005
David Roemer

Black Tern – a few were on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, and 1 was below Smithland Dam, both 13 July (DR et al.); 1 was on the Ohio River below Lewisport, *Hancock*, 16 July (DA).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – reports of birds in new locales included 1 at Fairfield, *Nelson*, 12 June (BY); and 2 in Oscar, *Bal-lard*, 20 July (BP, MM).

Black-billed Cuckoo – the only report was for 1 near Danville 17 June (BD).

Barn Owl – the family of yg. at New Ha-ven, *Nelson*, fledged in late June (C&CL); also reported was a pair nesting in *Hart* during late June (fide SK).

Red-headed Woodpecker – again this year, interesting interactions between indi-viduals involved in *three* nesting cavities in adjacent trees were studied at Long Run Park, *Jefferson*, during June and July (BW).

Willow Flycatcher – birds in interesting ar-eas included singles along KY 553, ca. 1.4 mi. w. of Albany, *Clinton*, 6 June (SS); along Miller Road near Creelsboro Pond, *Russell*, 2 July (RD); and in n. *Taylor*, 5 June (BP).

Least Flycatcher – in addition to an active nest with 3 yg., 11 birds were seen/heard at the summit of Black Mountain 13 June (ph.BP, MM); quite out of place was a bird seen and heard at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 28 July (HC, JH).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – the pair near Grand Rivers, *Livingston*, continued with an attempt to nest through the period (m. ob.).

Bell's Vireo – 2 each were heard at Camp #9 and Camp #11, both 6 July (BP).

Blue-headed Vireo – 1 near Slagle Hollow, *Wayne*, 7 June (RD) was away from known breeding areas.

Fish Crow – a likely family group of 6 was seen at Ky Dam 14 July (DR, NR); 1 or more were heard at Jenny Hole 21 June (BP, MM).

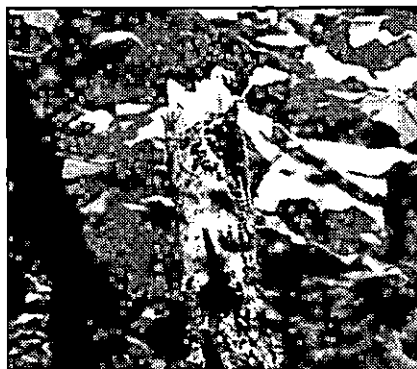
Tree Swallow – 2 pairs at nest boxes along US 119 near Dione, *Harlan*, and ne. of

Harlan, Harlan, 14 June (MM, BP) were county firsts.

Bank Swallow – the colony at Lewis WMA, *Lewis*, was active with 200-300 birds in-cluding recently fledged yg. observed 4 July (SF).

Cliff Swallow – birds flying around a US 25E bridge between Barbourville, *Knox*, and the *Bell* line 13 June (MM, BP) likely represented a new county nesting record. Other newly documented colony sites in-cluded 100+ birds under the approach to the US 231 bridge over the Ohio River, *Daviess* (DA); 100+ nests under the US 231 bridge over Drakes Creek, *Warren* (DR); and a few nests under the Halifax-Bailey Road bridge over Bays Fork Creek, nw. *Allen* (DR). Also of interest was a post-breeding gathering along the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, with a peak of 60 birds 17 July (FR)

Red-breasted Nuthatch – a pair was pres-ent at Rock Bridge 8/10/15 June (FR); 2 males were heard singing at Rock Bridge 3 July (BP, AC). Of great interest was the discovery of a pair at a nest cavity in a new location ca. 3 mi. nw. of Rock Bridge, along the Rough Trail at Parched Corn Creek, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 18 June (ph.FR).



Red-breasted Nuthatch nest cavity
18 June 2005, *Wolfe*
Frank Renfrow

Bewick's Wren – the only report for the state this year was a male n. of Stamping Ground, nw. *Scott*, that sang off and on

- during June and was last heard 1 July (LB).
- Sedge Wren** – not many reports, all being included: 1 at Lloyd WMA, *Grant*, 4 July (DO, JCr); 1 heard at the Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 15 July (BP, MM); 3 near Gentle Pond, Sauerheber, 29 July (CC): 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 31 July (BP).
- Blue-winged Warbler** – a continuing University of Kentucky study focusing on Golden-winged Warblers in se. Kentucky documented 28 territorial male Blue-wingeds in *Bell* (22) and *Harlan* (6) (LPa et al.). The study also resulted in data collection on 5 active nests in *Bell* (3) and *Harlan* (2) (LPa et al.).
- Golden-winged Warbler** – the same University of Kentucky study documented 44 territorial male Golden-wingeds in *Bell* (21), *Harlan* (12), and *Whitley* (11) (LPa et al.). The study also resulted in data collection on 5 active nests in *Bell* (2), *Harlan* (2), and *Whitley* (1) (LPa et al.).
- Brewster's Warbler** – the same University of Kentucky study documented 13 territorial male Brewster's in *Bell* (5), *Harlan* (2), and *Whitley* (6) (LPa et al.); a bird in *Bell* was observed feeding a fledgling (LPa et al.). Also reported was 1 at South Williamson, *Pike*, 27 July (JCa).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** – a nest with 2 small yg. was found at the summit of Black Mountain 13 June (MM, BP); outside of known breeding areas was a singing male at the Sky Bridge Picnic Area, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 9/10/19 June (ph.FR).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** – 1 along W.S. Criswell Road off KY 167, *Wayne*, 3 June (RD) was in a region where the species has been seldom reported in summer.
- Blackpoll Warbler** – latest spring report was for 1 at Sauerheber 4 June (CC).
- Worm-eating Warbler** – a pair was observed feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird at Boone County Cliffs SNP, *Boone*, 4 June (LM).
- Swainson's Warbler** – all reports are included: 1 at Bee Rock Recreational Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 4 June (BY, MW); 1-2 at Rock Bridge during a few June visits (FR); 1 along KY 11 and the Middle Fork Red River, *Wolfe*, 1.8 road mi. s. of the *Powell* line, 9/10 June (FR); 2-3 heard in the Parched Corn Creek drainage, Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 9/10/18 June (FR); 1 along KY 715 at Swift Camp Creek, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 17 June (FR); 2 at Little Lick 18 June (RD, SBC); 1 at Yahoo Falls, Big South Fork, 26 June (RD); and 2 still heard singing at Rock Bridge 3 July (BP, AC).
- Canada Warbler** – latest spring report was for 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 4 June (BP).
- Bachman's Sparrow** – 4 were recorded at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 1 July (DMs).
- Lark Sparrow** – the only report was for an ad. at Calvert City 12 July (ph.BP).
- Savannah Sparrow** – a bird exhibiting defensive nesting behavior was present sw. of Buffalo, *Larue*, 6 July (DR et al.). This would be a significant range expansion outside of the central Bluegrass region.
- Henslow's Sparrow** – there were a number of reports in scattered locales, several on BBS routes, including 1 in n. *Taylor* 5 June (BP); 2 at Addington/Starfire WMA, *Knott*, 7/8 June (EC, SV); 3 in se. *Washington* 11 June (BP); 1 along A.R. Oliver Road, *Allen*, 15 June (DR); 1 in sw. *Metcalf*, 18 June (SS); and 4 in nc. *Livingston* 21 June (BP). An Eastern Kentucky University graduate study yielded the following number of territories at the following sites (all BD et al.): near Sonora, *Hardin* (an incredible estimate of at least 120!); Ano (25); w.-cen. *Anderson* (8); near Danville (5); Green River State Park, *Taylor* (10); Ft. Knox airfield, *Hardin* (6); Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln* (9); Central Ky WMA, *Madison* (11); and Sally Brown Nature Preserve, *Garrard* (8).
- White-throated Sparrow** – for the second year in a row, 1 lingered very late at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, this time to 6 June (BW).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – a seemingly territorial male was present at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 4 June (LM).

Dickcissel – there were 2 reports from the e. edge of the species' Kentucky breeding range: 1 on a reclaimed mine w. of Ashland, e. *Greenup*, 7 June (BP) and 1 on the Addington/Starfire WMA, *Knott*, 8 June (EC).

Bobolink – there were several reports of summering birds, including 2 males just n. of Mackville, *Washington*, 11 June (BP) which were a first for that area; 2 males off Holloway Lane, *Jessamine*, 13 June (JL); at least 4 or 5 ca 2.5 mi. sw. of Pleasureville, *Shelby*, 19 June (BS); and 3-5 at two sites near Danville during June (BD).

Observers: David Ayer (DA); Laura Burford (LB); Gerald Burnett (GB); Joan Carr (JCa); Hap Chambers (HC); Elizabeth Ciuzio (EC); Amy Covert (AC); Julie Craves (JCr); Charlie Crawford (CC); Brian Davidson (BD); Roseanna Denton (RD); Melissa Easley (ME); Les Estep (LE); Bett Etenohan (BE); Troy Evans (TE); Scott Freidhof (SF); Rod Goforth (RG); Rose Hensel (RH); Jenny Howard (JH); Steve Kistler (SK); Joe Lacefield (JL); Betty Leggett (BL); Ken Leggett (KL); Charles & Cindy Lemons (C&CL); Bill Lisowsky (BLi); Frank Lyne (FL); Scott Marsh (SM); Lee McNeely (LM); Mark Monroe (MM); Donald Morse, Jr. (DMr); Daniel Moss (DMs); Darrin O'Brien (DO); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP); Laura Patton (LPa); Larry Peavler (LPe); Nicole Ranalli (NR); Scott Record (SR); David Roemer (DR); Frank Renfrow (FR); Gerald Robe (GR); Adam Smith (AS); Brian Smith (BS); Stephen Stedman (SS); Matt Stickel (MS); Shawchyi Vorisek (SV); Mary Walter (MW); Eileen Wicker (EW); Jim Williams (JW); Barbara Woerner (BW); Ben Yandell (BY); Ky. Society of Natural History (KSNH); Somerset Bird Club (SBC).

**The Kentucky Ornithological Society
Fall 2005 Meeting
September 23-25, 2005
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park**

The Fall 2005 meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held September 23-25 at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, Russell County. President Hap Chambers called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. CDT on September 23. She introduced Vice-President Mark Bennett who made the opening announcements and introduced the speakers.

Mark announced that the Spring 2006 KOS meeting would be held April 28-30 at Pennyrite State Resort Park. Rooms for the Spring meeting will be released February 28, so those planning to attend should make their reservations by that date.

Next, Mark announced the first speaker of the evening, Nicole Ranalli of Eastern Kentucky University. Ms. Ranalli's presentation, *Shorebird Migration in Kentucky*, detailed her work with the Kentucky shorebird study, which evaluated the location and quality of areas important to shorebird migration in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, which includes 35 hectares of land in Kentucky. Since 50 to 90 percent of historical wetlands have been lost, the remaining wetlands need to be preserved in order to ensure the survival of the bird species that use them. The Ballard, Peabody, and Sloughs Wildlife Management Areas were included in her survey. These areas were categorized according to the types of habitat and food sources available for migrating shorebirds in order to determine the factors that attract shorebirds to these areas.

After Ms. Ranalli's presentation, Mark Bennett announced that Wayne Davis had several free Carolina Wren houses and information on how to place them to attract wrens for anyone who was interested.

Mark then introduced the second speaker of the evening, KOS member Dona Coates, who gave a presentation detailing her recent birding trip to Bolivia. Despite problems with fires that often prevented travel, Dona managed to observe 248 life birds during her trip.

Following her presentation, Dona announced a Beckham Bird Club-sponsored field trip to San Blas, Mexico, for KOS/BBC members scheduled for February 2006. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dona for more information.

Next, Mark introduced KOS members Marilee and Wendell Thompson, who gave a presentation on their birding trip to Peru in September 2003. Their three-week trip featured endemics and the high elevation specialties of the Andes of southern and central Peru.

At the conclusion of Friday evening's presentations, Mark announced the field trips scheduled for Saturday morning, and reminded the attendees that the proposed changes to the KOS bylaws would be discussed during Saturday's business meeting.

KOS Treasurer Jim Williams reminded everyone to register for the meeting, if they had not already done so.

Field trips on Saturday morning included a trip to the Kendall Recreation Area led by Roseanna Denton, birding around the Lake Cumberland State Resort Park area led by Brainard Palmer-Ball, and a trip in the proximity of the lodge led by Blaine Ferrell.

The KOS Board meeting was held from 2:35 to 5:47 p.m. CDT at the Lake Cumberland Activities Center.

The Saturday evening meeting was called to order by Hap Chambers at 7:05 p.m. CDT. Hap began the meeting with several announcements, including the "Wild Mountain Mania" festival scheduled for Friday, October 7 at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, and the new Christmas Bird Count being organized at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Hap also reminded the attendees about the Spring 2006 KOS meeting at Pennyryle State Resort Park.

After the opening announcements, Hap called the annual KOS business meeting to order. The first item on the agenda was the proposed bylaw changes that were listed in the meeting flyer. Hap noted that the KOS Board had voted to table item #6 on the list, pending further clarification of the intent of the change. The remaining five proposed changes on the list were voted on and accepted without dissent.

The next item of business was the proposed slate of officers. Nominated were Mark Bennett for President, Win Ahrens for Vice-President, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., for Treasurer, Amy Covert for Corresponding Secretary, Laura Patton for Recording Secretary, Gay Hodges for Councilor for three years, Ed Huber for Councilor for three years, and Shawchyi Vorisek to fill Elizabeth Ciuizio's vacant councilor position (to 2007). Existing councilors include Mary Walter for two more years, Mark Monroe for one more year and Melissa Easley for one year to fill in for Win Ahrens. The proposed slate of KOS officers was accepted by the membership and passed without dissent.

Following the business portion of the evening, Hap introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Fred Alsop, professor of biological science at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Alsop gave a slide presentation about bird photography, detailing some of his techniques for obtaining photographs of birds. These techniques included building scaffolds (some as high as 65 feet from the ground) and building platforms (some built in precarious places, such as on the edge of cliffs), as well as using various types of blinds and camouflage to get close to his subjects.

After Dr. Alsop's presentation, Blaine Ferrell compiled the bird count list for the meeting. Attendees had observed 86 species of birds between Friday and Saturday night. Blaine concluded with a request for articles for *The Kentucky Warbler*, and thanked Hap Chambers for her service as KOS President.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Hap Chambers made announcements concerning the field trips scheduled for Sunday morning: birding on the park trails and golf course led by Lee McNeely and birding the Wolf Creek Dam area to be led by Gerald Robe. Hap also announced that there would be a silent auction of donated bird-related items held at the Spring 2006 meeting, with the proceeds of the auction sales to go to the KOS general fund. The Fall 2005 KOS meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. CDT.

On Sunday morning, the weather conditions were very poor, with high winds and impending rain. Due to the poor birding conditions, the field trip around the park area was cancelled, and Lee McNeely and Gerald Robe both led separate field trips to the Wolf Creek Dam area.

Attendance at the KOS Fall Meeting

Alexandria:	Ron Lusby and Mary Beth Lusby
Berea:	Paul Hager
Bowling Green:	Blaine Ferrell, Joan Roemer, and David Roemer
Burlington:	Kathy Caminiti, Joe Caminiti, and Lee McNeely
Carlisle:	Virginia Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver
Carmel, IN:	Lou Anne Barriger
Cox's Creek:	Dona Coates
Cunningham:	Matthew Toon and Maurica Toon
Danville:	Ginny Eklund and Neil Eklund
Frankfort:	Shawchyi Vorisek
Indianapolis, IN:	Larry Peavler
Johnson City, TN:	JoAnn Alsop and Fred Alsop
Lexington:	Bruce Cryder, Shirley Davis, Wayne Davis, Phyllis Deal, Carol Goes Sarah Goes, Mike Kenawell, Jim Williams, and Jackie van Willigen
Louisville:	Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Bonnie Dever, Robert Dever, Eddie Huber, Jennifer Huber, Celia Lawrence, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Betsy Sangster, Collette Sangster, David Sangster, Mary Walter, and Ben Yandell
Morehead:	Fred Busroe, Joanna Busroe, and Katie Busroe
Morgantown:	Carroll Tichenor and Doris Tichenor
Mt. Sterling:	Gerald Robe
Murray:	Hap Chambers and Melissa Easley
Owensboro:	Marilee Thompson and Wendell Thompson
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Richmond:	Brenda Thompson and Pete Thompson
Russellville:	Mark Bennett
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Somerset:	Gay Hodges

Bird Species Observed at the KOS Fall Meeting Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

The following bird species were observed during the weekend of September 23-25: Wood Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Laughing Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler,

Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow. The total for the weekend was 87 species.

FIELD NOTES

First Kentucky Record of Bullock's Oriole

While involved in some cooperative field work 9 February 2005, Brian Gasdorf with East Kentucky Power Cooperative mentioned to me that he had recently heard about an oriole visiting the yard of Annette and Bobby Riddle just outside of Lawrenceburg, Anderson County. The Riddles had first noticed the oriole in early January and had observed it since then on a nearly daily basis during its visits to feed on oranges and suet. With keen interest in determining the identity of the bird, we arranged to visit the Riddles' yard later that day, but the oriole did not appear during our hour-long, late afternoon stay. The following day the Riddles emailed two photographs they had taken, confirming the bird to be an adult male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (*The Kentucky Warbler* 81:61, 2005).

I arranged to revisit the Riddles' home 12 February 2005, when David and Joan Roemer, Amy Covert, and I were able to see the oriole as it repeatedly visited the yard to feed. David was successful in obtaining some excellent images of the bird (Figure 1; p. 116), which did, in fact, appear to be an adult male Bullock's Oriole devoid of any indication of intergradation with Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). In subsequent weeks, many birders were able to enjoy the oriole as it continued to visit the Riddles' yard daily. As the season progressed, the Riddles did not notice the bird frequenting the yard as much, but it occasionally visited until early spring, last being observed 8 April.

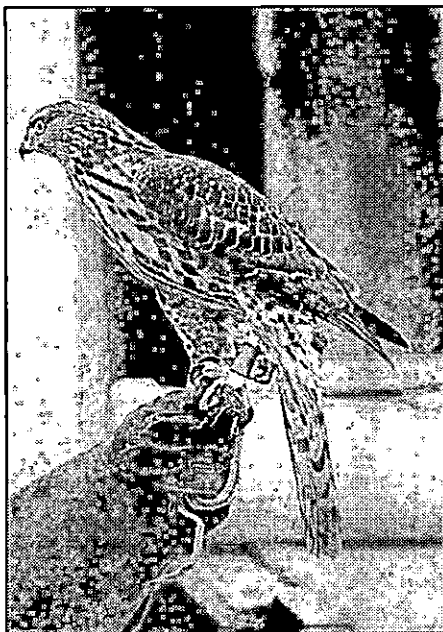
About a dozen winter records of orioles are scattered across much of Kentucky, mostly at feeding stations in suburban and rural yards. Some of these individuals have been conclusively documented with written or photographic evidence as Baltimore Orioles, but several have been described with little detail. With Bullock's Oriole possible in the eastern United States and female/immature plumages of the two species being quite similar, one or more previous winter oriole record may have pertained to Bullock's. Not surprisingly though, the individual described above represents the first documented record for Bullock's Oriole in Kentucky. Like many other western songbirds that occur occasionally in the East, this one most often occurs during late fall and winter.

— Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Documentation from Boone County

Although Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) has been reported from more than a dozen counties on nearly two dozen occasions, no extant specimen documents its occurrence in Kentucky. Mengel (1965, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 205) cites the collection of an adult bird near Bardstown, Nelson County, in 1917, but he could not locate the specimen. For the purpose of acceptance onto the Official State List, the only conclusive documentation for this rare raptor within Kentucky consists of photographs obtained by Kathy Caminiti in December 1988 of a juvenile captured by falconer, Ken Brol, in southern Boone County 28 October 1988 (Figures 1 and 2, p. 114). The bird was kept in captivity for several years, but when it died, its remains were not preserved. Publication of these photographs serves to conclusively document the occurrence of the species in Kentucky.

— Kentucky Bird Records Committee, Lee McNeely, Secretary, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY, 41005.



Figures 1 and 2. Juvenile Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) captured in southern Boone County, Kentucky, 28 October 1988.

KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 23 2005

Depository	Account	Balance
National City Bank, Louisville	General Fund (Checking)	\$2,959.82
National City Bank, Louisville	Burt Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund (Checking)	\$2,014.71
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Gordon Wilson Fund (CD)	\$15,442.23
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Gordon Wilson Fund (Savings)	\$2,442.72
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund (Savings)	\$3,474.69
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Endowment Fund (CD)	\$14,135.00
Total assets		\$40,469.17

Submitted by James Williams, Treasurer, September 23, 2005

Audited by Wendell Thompson, November 19, 2005

**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 18, 2004 – September 23, 2005**

Beginning Balance (September 18, 2004) \$3,631.10

RECEIPTS

Membership Dues	\$3,885.00
Annotated Checklist Sales	\$228.00
Meeting Registration Income	\$545.00
Misc. Sales (KOS Pins, Field Cards, Etc.)	\$151.60
Donations	
- Gordon Wilson Fund	\$40.00
- Burt L. Monroe Fund	\$115.00
- Anne Stamm Fund	\$220.00
Wheeler Book Sales Gross	\$777.00
Old Book Sales	\$70.00
Bristol Bird Club – Mtg. Expense Contribution	\$225.00
Book Fund CD Disbursement	\$954.76
Endowment Fund Annual Yield	\$173.62
Warbler Back Issue Sale	\$162.50
East Kentucky Power Cooperative Donation	\$300.00
Adjustment To Corresponding Secretary Expense (April 28, 2005)	\$5.00

Total \$7,852.48

DISBURSEMENTS

Heritage Elementary School – Anne Stamm Fund Award	\$250.00
Meeting Speaker Expense	\$428.27
Meeting Speaker Fees	\$600.00
Meeting Expenses	\$188.11
Transfer from Checking To B.L. Monroe Fund	\$1,600.00
United Graphics – 5 Issues of Warbler	\$3240.38
BellSouth – Hotline Phone	\$255.80
Transfer Two Life Memberships To Endowment Fund	\$600.00
Postmaster – Two Warbler Mailings	\$135.00
Ky. State Treasurer – Sales Tax	\$14.53
Corresponding Secretary & Treasurer Misc. Expenses	\$536.67
Transfer To Gordon Wilson Fund	\$40.00
Transfer To B.L. Monroe Fund	\$115.00
Transfer To Anne Stamm Fund	\$220.00
Postmaster – Permit Fee & Deposit	\$300.00

Total (\$8,523.76)

Ending Balance (September 23, 2005) \$2,959.82

Submitted by James Williams, Treasurer, September 23, 2005

Audited by Wendell Thompson, November 19, 2005

NEWS AND VIEWS

Visit the K.O.S. Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society and interesting happenings, visit the K.O.S. website maintained by Dr. Gary Ritchison at www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm.

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grant Fund

The K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grant Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky up to \$500. For guidelines on how to apply, please contact Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Dean's Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101 (blaine.ferrell@eku.edu).

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings and birds observed out of season should be well documented, and the documentations should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the K.B.R.C., P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY, 41005, for consideration by the committee for official state record status.

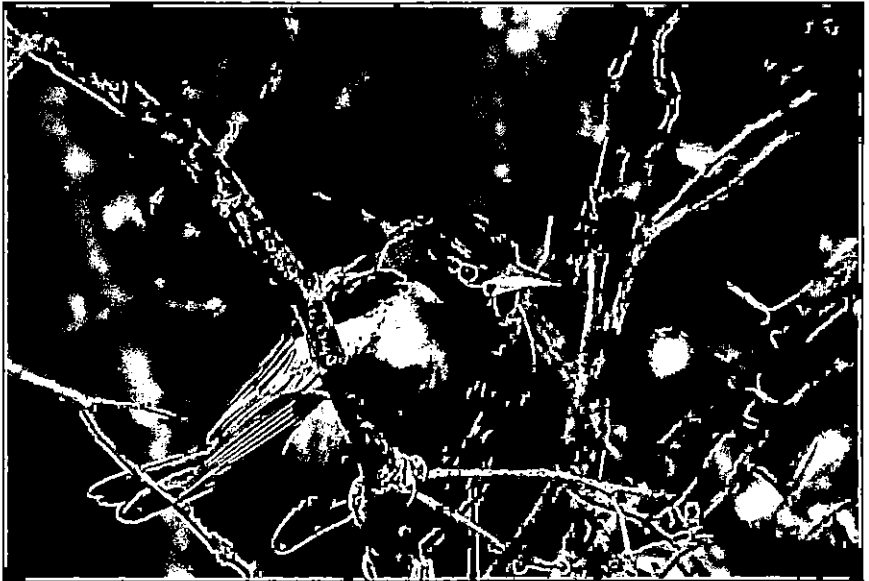


Figure 1. Bullock's Oriole, Lawrenceburg, Anderson Co.; 12 February 2005.
Photograph by David Roemer (See Field Note, p. 113).