

The Kestrel

Newsletter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Mark Bennett, Editor

Volume VIII, No. 2

November 2005

Spring Meeting to be at Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park, Christian County, 28–30 April 2006. Accommodations at the park include lodge rooms, cottages, and the park campground. *This is a small lodge and the entire lodge is currently reserved through 28 February 2006 at a rate of \$79.95 plus tax. Please make your reservations prior to the release date at 800.325.1711.* A small number of cottages are also reserved. The campground operates on a first come-first served basis. KOS last met at Pennyrile in the fall of 1994. Information about Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park is available on-line at <http://parks.ky.gov/resortparks/pf/details.htm>

Daniel Moss, avian biologist for the Fort Campbell Military Reservation, is the tentative speaker for Friday evening. His program will include the latest information on the status of Bachman's Sparrow on Fort Campbell, as well as his survey work on Henslow's Sparrows and other species. Daniel has spoken to Beckham Bird Club and has led a couple of field trips on Fort Campbell for KOS/BBC.

Other aspects of the meeting, including the Saturday night program and field trip opportunities, are in the planning process at this time.

Silent Auction at Spring KOS Meeting *(Your Items are Needed)*

A silent auction will be held at the spring KOS meeting at Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park. Bird books, bird items, other nature items, or any other items that you are willing to donate and that might sell at a silent auction of birders are sought. Hap Chambers and Dona Coates are co-chairpersons of the fundraiser. If you have items please contact Hap at hapc1@aol.com or Dona at donacoates@aol.com and inform them of what you have. In order to plan, a general list and description of the property would be helpful. However, if you cannot do this, simply bring your items to the Friday evening meeting prior to the 7:30 PM starting time and an effort will be made to include them.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the general fund for the specific purpose of improving KOS meeting quality by funding regionally and nationally recognized experts in ornithology and/or birding as the primary speaker for the Saturday evening session.

Future Meeting Locations

Meeting	Location	Dates	Room Release
Fall 2006	Greenbo Lake State Resort Park	29 September—1 October	14 September 2006
Spring 2007	Vicinity of Peabody WMA or Ballard WMA	Target is last weekend in April	TBA
Fall 2007	Kenlake State Resort Park	28 – 30 September	TBA
Spring 2008	Cumberland Falls State Resort Park	25 – 27 April	26 March 2008

KOS Field Trip Schedule

Peabody Wildlife Management Area for Waterfowl, Hawks, and Owls. Saturday, 10 December.

Leader: Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. (502.300.3998 or brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov). Meet at Arby's in the Service Center on the Western Kentucky Parkway just east of the Beaver Dam exit (#75) at 8:00 AM CST and *bring lunch*.

ALWAYS CONTACT THE LEADER BEFORE ARRIVING AT A DESIGNATED MEETING PLACE AS ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

Additional Field Trips will be announced on the KOS web site as they are arranged.

<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/birding.htm>

KBRC Going Electronic

Beginning in 2006, the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) will start officially accepting "electronic records" as the preferred method of reporting. To facilitate this process, an electronic form will be posted on the KOS web site based on Microsoft Word. The file can be saved to a computer as a Word document, completed, and then e-mailed as an attachment to the committee. A PDF version of this form will also be available to be printed for "old fashioned" written submission by US mail. Written submissions will be scanned and converted to an electronic format for review.

Photographs or video clips may be submitted in JPEG, BIT, or similar formats, with JPEG preferred. These images may be submitted as files or may be pasted into the MS Word documentation form or similar file.

Lee McNeely, chair of the KBRC, will continue to receive all hand written documents and conventional photos. Due to technology issues, Mark Bennett will assist the chair with electronic records. Electronic records should be submitted to the KBRC, c/o Mark Bennett at mbennett@logan.k12.ky.us or benn5609@bellsouth.net. Electronic review is currently being used to deal with the backlog of submitted records and should allow the KBRC to review records in a timely manner in the future.

Details of any sighting of a species that is not on the official Kentucky State Bird List, is listed on the KBRC Review List, or that is out of season, such as a Baltimore Oriole in January, should be submitted to the KBRC promptly.

KBRC Review List

Brant	White-faced Ibis	Iceland Gull	Western Kingbird
Eurasian Wigeon	Roseate Spoonbill	Lesser Black-backed Gull **	Black-capped Chickadee
Cinnamon Teal	Wood Stork	Great Black-backed Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Tufted Duck	Swallow-tailed Kite	Sabine's Gull	Rock Wren
King Eider	White-tailed Kite	Black-legged Kittiwake	Mountain Bluebird
Harlequin Duck	Prairie Falcon	Gull-billed Tern	Varied Thrush
Masked Duck	Yellow Rail	Sooty Tern	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Pacific Loon	Purple Gallinule	Long-billed Murrelet	Green-tailed Towhee
Red-necked Grebe	Whimbrel	Band-tailed Pigeon	Spotted Towhee
Western Grebe	Hudsonian Godwit	White-winged Dove	Bachman's Sparrow
Black-capped Petrel	Marbled Godwit	Inca Dove	Clay-colored Sparrow
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Curlew Sandpiper	Common Ground-Dove	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*
Northern Gannet	Ruff	Groove-billed Ani	Harris's Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Red-necked Phalarope	Green Violet-ear	Smith's Longspur
Anhinga	Red Phalarope	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Tricolored Heron	Pomarine Jaeger	Rufous Hummingbird	Lesser Goldfinch
Reddish Egret	Little Gull	Say's Phoebe	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
White Ibis	Black-headed Gull	Vermilion Flycatcher	
Glossy Ibis	California Gull	Ash-throated Flycatcher	

* Except during established October fall migratory period; ** Except in vicinity of Kentucky Lake/Dam, Barkley Lake/Dam, and lower Ohio River (from Smithland Dam, downstream).

Membership Renewal Time

It is time to renew your membership in KOS for the year 2006. A dues renewal envelope is enclosed with the November issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* for this purpose. Please complete and return the envelope with payment as soon as possible. This year Life Members (who, of course, have no need to renew) will find an envelope allowing them to make contributions to any of the Society's various funds for endowment, publications, research, and education projects.

And ALWAYS please remember to notify the Treasurer of any change of address, either when you make your renewal or as it may occur during the calendar year ... returned mailings are quite expensive, and your diligence at keeping us updated with your current address saves the Society from having to pay costly returned mail and First Class mailing fees.

Christmas Bird Counts ***(14 December 2005 – 5 January 2006)***

Christmas Birds Counts (CBC) will be held as usual this Christmas season across Kentucky. *Some counts are "sanctioned" by the National Audubon Society, reported in American Birds, and require a \$5.00 participation fee.* Results of other counts are published only in *The Kentucky Warbler* and are free. Results of most of the Audubon Society sanctioned counts are also published in *The Kentucky Warbler*. The CBC window is from 14 December 2005 through 5 January 2006. Information regarding counts received as of press time is contained in the table below. Updated information may be found on the KOS web site at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/>. Use the drop-down menu and select "meetings, field trips, and counts". *Never participate in a CBC without contacting the CBC compiler and following the specific directions provided.*

<i>CBC</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Compiler and Contact Info</i>
Warsaw	17 Dec	Lee McNeely: lkmc9@netscape.net or 859.586.7520
Lexington	17 Dec	Dave Svetich: 859.278.6031
Land Between the Lakes	17 Dec	Carl Mowery: TriCarl@aol.com
W. Daviess County (Sorgho)	17 Dec	Janet Howard: janbbq@aol.com or 270.926.3795
Louisville	18 Dec	Pat Bell: beckhambc@aol.com or 502.326.9610
Otter Creek	20 Dec	Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov
Bernheim Forest	23 Dec	Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov
Olmstead	27 Dec	Mark Bennett: 270.726.9385 or benn5609@bellsouth.net
Dewey Lake (Johnson Co.)	29 Dec	Troy Evans: chillyweather@hotmail.com
Burlington	31 Dec	Lee McNeely: lkmc9@netscape.net or 859.586.7520
Somerset	31 Dec	Roseanna Denton: Roseanna@charter.net or 606.875.5401
SE Daviess County	31 Dec	Mike Henshaw: 270.275.4250
Paradise	1 Jan	Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov
Falmouth	TBA	Lee McNeely: lkmc9@netscape.net or 859.586.7520
Hart County	TBA	Steve Kistler: 270.524.1095 or kistlers@scrtp.com
E. Grayson County	TBA	John or Lisa Brittain: web22kgm@verizon.net or 270.369.8551
Calloway County	TBA	Hap Chambers: hapc1@aol.com

Last year, 34 Christmas Bird Counts were held throughout the Commonwealth. A grand total of 295 participants, observed 134 species and nearly 340,000 individuals according to the February 2005 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

KOS Board Notes

In an effort to keep all KOS members informed of actions of the KOS Board, the Society President will periodically and informally report significant Board decisions and activities in *The Kestrel*. The Society Board meets on Saturday afternoon at the spring and fall KOS meeting. The Board consists of five (5) elected officers, six (6) elected Councillors, the immediate Past President, the Curator, the Editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*, the Secretary of the KBRC, and a Representative of Beckham Bird Club.

On 25 September, 2005, the Board met in the Activities Center at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park and discussed the items and/or made the decision below:

- Determined that Society Funds were to be audited by Wendell Thompson;
- Heard a report from the Editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*, Dr. Blaine Ferrell, stating that there was a need for articles and written field notes on unusual sightings;
- Discussed issues with the current printer of *The Kentucky Warbler*;
- Reported that the Burt L. Monroe Avian Research Fund contained about \$2,000 and was awaiting requests from funding;
- Awarded \$250 to the Daviess County Audubon Society for their on-going Classroom Nest Box Video program for the Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund;
- Discussed the status of the KBRC;
- Discussed correspondence on behalf of the Board and the Society;
- Approved the slate of officers to be presented to the Society;
- Discussed the possible sale of unbound journals in the Society's possession;
- Approved proposed changes to the by-laws for presentation to the Society;
- Discussed storage issues of the Society's collection of old copies of *The Kentucky Warbler*; and
- Discussed the creation of a membership directory.

Great Back Yard Bird Count (17-20 February 2006)

The Great Back Yard Bird Count will be held during the window of 17 – 20 February 2006. This event is jointly sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. In 2005, almost 52,000 checklists were submitted, tallying over 600 species and 6.5 million individuals in the US and Canada.

In Kentucky, 651 checklists were compiled containing 60,902 individuals representing 104 species from observers across the Commonwealth. The most common species in Kentucky was the ubiquitous European Starling with 11,373 individuals. Louisville reported the most checklists with 146 followed by Lexington and Science Hill with 26 each. Science Hill reported the most species with 67 followed by Louisville with 66 and Somerset with 58.

More information regarding the Great Backyard Bird Count may be found on the internet at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>. For additional projects sponsored by the Cornell Lab and the National Audubon Society, visit <http://www.birdsource.org>.

***Remember
KOS On-Line @
<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm>***