

Tennessee & Kentucky

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LOONS THROUGH STORKS

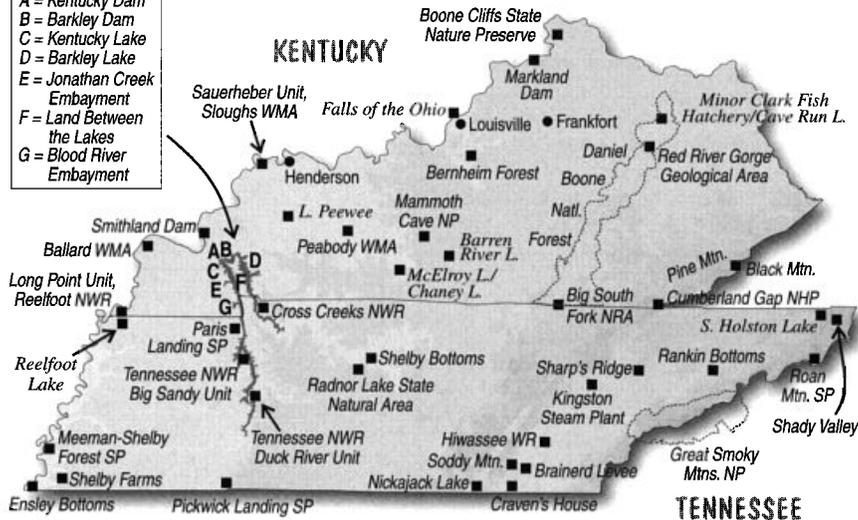
Four Red-throated Loons were reported: one in Muhlenberg, KY 31 Oct (RLo, MW), 2 at Watauga L., Carter, TN 19–20 Nov (TM et al.), and one in Henry, TN 28 Nov (JRW). A Horned Grebe at Mud I., Shelby, TN 2 Oct (JRW) was early. On 31 Aug, Eared Grebes returned to S. Holston L. for the 11th consecutive year (WC), with a high count of 8 later in the season (*vide* RK). Two Eared Grebes and a Clark's Grebe (the Region's 2nd record if accepted by the Tennessee B.R.C.) were found at Mud I., Shelby, TN 5 Nov (†JRW et al.). Kentucky's only Eared Grebe was one on L. Cumberland, Pulaski 5 Nov (ph. RDn).

American White Pelicans were again present in significant numbers along the Tennessee portion of the Mississippi R. throughout the period; migrants began arriving on L. Barkley, Lyon/Trigg, KY in late Sep, with a peak count of 500+ there 17 Oct (BP, BY). One in Rowan 6 Nov (ph. LH, FB et al.) represented the farthest e. the species has ever been reported in Kentucky. An imm. Neotropical Cormorant at Ensley 12 Sep adds to a handful of Regional records (ph. JRW et al.). The peak count of 4000–6000 Double-crested Cormorants occurred, as usual, at L. Barkley, Trigg, KY (19 Oct; ER, BDi).

Numbers of post-breeding waders were unremarkable: 1500 Great Egrets, 100 Snowy Egrets, 400–500 Little Blue Herons, and 1000+ Cattle Egrets at L. No. 9, Fulton, KY 27 Aug (DR, JR) was the most notable concentration reported. An apparently injured Snowy Egret lingered throughout the period at Ensley (JRW); one on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 21–27 Aug was unusual for se. Kentucky (RDn). Two Tricolored Herons were reported: one at White L. Refuge, Dyer, TN 6 Aug–2 Sep (WGC, KL) and one imm. at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 18–19 Sep (MP et al.). The latter, only the 4th or 5th for se. Tennessee, was likely displaced by Hurricane Ivan. A juv. Reddish Egret on the Mississippi R., Carlisle, KY 12 Sep (ph. DR, NR) was the first photographed in Kentucky and will constitute a 2nd state and 3rd Regional record. A roost of 233 Cattle Egrets at Kingston W.M.A. and Refuge, Roane, TN (BSh et al.) was a very high count for e. Tennessee; a late Oct count of 1475 nests (most used by this species during the previous breeding season) at the nesting colony on L. Barkley, Lyon (BP, TF, JS) represents the largest number ever to be reported in Kentucky. A Green Heron at Radnor 25 Nov (RCo) was unusually late.

Two White Ibis were reported: one at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 19 Aug (RLu, D&JS, JI) and an imm. in White, TN 10 Sep (SJS, DAD). An imm. White-faced Ibis, very

- A = Kentucky Dam
- B = Barkley Dam
- C = Kentucky Lake
- D = Barkley Lake
- E = Jonathan Creek Embayment
- F = Land Between the Lakes
- G = Blood River Embayment



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The fall season of 2004 was characterized by several extremes. Late summer started with a cooler- and wetter-than-normal August, but September was very dry, except for the eastern portion of the Region, which received copious rainfall from the remnants of two tropical systems. In contrast, some portions of central and western Kentucky and Tennessee went throughout September without measurable precipi-

tation. October and November returned to more normal conditions, although killing frosts were delayed well into November in many areas, and the period was devoid of strong, rainy weather fronts.

The season brought many notable rarities, including two Kentucky firsts: Long-tailed Jaeger and Northern Shrike. The overall lack of nasty weather in November may have contributed to a less-than-stellar season for migratory waterbirds. Relatively poor conditions for shorebird migrants resulted in diminished numbers during the season. By the period's end, a mediocre season for western hummingbirds seemed to be shaping up. Passerine migration was noted by several observers as lackluster but still better than the spring migration, when weather conditions allowed for many to pass through unnoticed. A moderate winter finch movement commenced in October, but species other than Pine Siskin and Purple Finch were not detected.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. Shelby, TN); Kentucky Dam (Livingston/Marshall, KY); Nickajack L. (Marion, TN); Radnor (Radnor L. State Natural Area, Nashville, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); Sinclair

rare in the Region, was at Ensley 25 Sep (ph. JRW); a *Plegadis ibis* in w. Fulton, KY 11 Sep (vt. DR, NR), also reported as White-faced, will constitute a 3rd state record if accepted by the Kentucky B.R.C. In contrast to most recent years, only one Wood Stork was reported, a single bird at Ensley 8 Aug (CB, VR, LZ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A juv. Greater White-fronted Goose in Pulaski, KY 6 Nov (RDn) was the easternmost report of the period. With fresh incentive for looking through flocks of Canada Geese, observers in Kentucky noted small numbers of Cackling Geese at Sinclair 14 Nov (DD, DAY) and at Homestead W.M.A., Ohio, KY 26 Nov (ph. DR, RDv, BDv, MW). Presumably the same Ross's Goose that has wintered in s. Ohio, KY the past few years was observed 5 Nov (DR), establishing a new early fall arrival date for the Region. A white-morph Snow Goose at Lexington, KY 18 Sep (BM) may have been a bird reported elsewhere in the county in summer. An ad. Tundra Swan was at Lauderdale W.M.A., Lauderdale, TN 11–20 Nov (WGC, JRW et al.); the first of the traditional wintering flock to return to Sauerheber were 4 there 19 Nov (CC).

Duck migration was unspectacular across the Region. Both dabblers and divers moved through without significant concentrations or fallouts being noted. Relatively mild weather may have even allowed some waterfowl to linger n. of the Region. A Mottled Duck at Ensley 28 Aug–15 Oct (MT, ph. JRW, m.ob.) was the Region's 2nd; the first was at the same location the previous fall. The fall scoter flight was not as notable as the previous few. Eight Surf Scoters were reported from five Tennessee locations 5–21 Nov, while up to 10 were reported on four occasions at three Kentucky locales 5–24 Nov. Seven Black Scoters were reported from three Tennessee locations along the Mississippi R. 6–26 Nov,

and there were two reports of one and three birds at two sites in Kentucky 8 & 23 Nov. No White-winged Scoters were reported.

An imm. Mississippi Kite, very rare in the Region away from the Mississippi R., was at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 14–26 Aug (DJa, RJH, KC). A Broad-winged Hawk in Henry, TN 7 Nov (JRW, KA) was late. The earliest report of Rough-legged Hawk was one in Boone, KY 25 Nov (LMcN). Three Golden Eagles were reported from se. Tennessee: one at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge,

nessee counties. One to 2 Merlins were also reported at eight Kentucky sites; and in addition to observations of local breeding pairs, 4 Peregrine Falcons were noted at four Kentucky sites.

The only King Rail reported was one at Sauerheber 9 Oct (DR et al.). Breeding Common Moorhens lingered in numbers up to 7 (ads. and young) at Sauerheber until 5 Oct (CC, DR). One was also present in White, TN 25 Oct (SJS, DAD). The Sandhill Crane migration seemed normal; 10 birds in Ful-



This Mottled Duck, only the second for the Tennessee & Kentucky Region, was discovered at the Ensley Bottoms near Memphis, Tennessee 28 August 2004 and remained through 15 October. The Region's first record was documented in the same location in the previous fall. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

Meigs 9 Nov (OC) and 2 at the Soddy Mt. Hawkwatch, Hamilton 16 Nov (WH), while 3 birds were first noted at the traditional wintering locale at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson, KY 8 Nov (BP). Merlins and Peregrine Falcons passed through in good numbers again, with at least 25 Merlins and 26 Peregrines each reported from 10 Ten-

ton, KY 10 Nov (BL) were well w. of the normal migratory corridor.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Shorebird migration was relatively unspectacular, due at least in some part to a lack of optimal habitat and the absence of weather conditions that typically ground migrants. The highlight was an imm. Curlew Sandpiper, Tennessee's 2nd and the Region's 3rd if accepted by the Tennessee B.R.C., at Britton Ford, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Bedford, TN 8 Oct (†TW). The only Piping Plovers reported were from Lake, TN: 2 each on 8 (JRW) & 19 Aug (MT). An apparently heretofore-undocumented Oct migration of Black-necked Stilts was represented by four reports in portions of the Region that have had only a few previous records: one in Blount, TN 9–24 Oct (JHm, m.ob.); one on Kentucky L., Calloway, 10–24 Oct (HC); one at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 13 Oct (RK, m.ob.); and 2 in Ohio, KY 19 Oct (NR). There were five reports of American Avocet: one to 2 at Ensley 21–22 Aug and

SA The remnants of Hurricanes *Frances* and *Ivan* grounded or displaced a number of uncommon species in e. Tennessee and se. Kentucky, as well as at least 5 ad. **Sooty Terns**: one at S. Holston L. 8–11 Sep (†RK, WC, RCr, LMcD, m.ob.); one picked up dead on a highway in Letcher, KY 9 Sep (*GL); at least 2 at Cherokee Dam, Jefferson, TN 17 Sep (KDE); and one at Nickajack L., Marion, TN 17 Sep (†KC, DV).

Charadriiform reports probably connected to the passage of *Frances* included 17 Black-bellied Plovers (RK, RCr et al.), a Whimbrel (†RCr, TM, WC et al.), and 14 Red Knots (RCr, TM, WC) at S. Holston L. 8 Sep; 2 Laughing Gulls at S. Holston L. 9 Sep (WC et al.); 2–32 Common Terns at five locales 7–9 Sep; one to 30 Black Terns at three locations 8–9 Sep; and 4 Forster's Terns at Nickajack L. 8 Sep (KC, RJH, JC). Reports associated with the remnants of *Ivan* were 4 Black-bellied Plovers at S. Holston L. 17 Sep (RK); 2 Red-necked Phalaropes at Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mts. N.P., TN 18 Sep (JHm, JA, DJo et al.); 2 Laughing Gulls at S. Holston L. 17–18 Sep (RCr, WC, RK et al.); one to 2 Laughing Gulls at Douglas Dam, Sevier, TN 17 Sep (KDE); one ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at S. Holston L. 18 Sep (†RK, TM, LMcD); one to 100+ Common Terns at four locations 17–18 Sep (m.ob.); 2 Least Terns at Cherokee Dam, Jefferson, TN 17 Sep (KDE); one to 7 Black Terns at three locales 17 Sep (m.ob.); and 46 Forster's Terns at Nickajack L. 17 Sep (KC, DV).

12–29 Oct (JRW); one on the Mississippi R., Carlisle, KY 28 Aug (DR, JR); 7 in Henry, TN 24 Oct (DMA, MT); and 8 at Mud I., Shelby 31 Oct (JRW). One to 4 Willets occurred at five Kentucky and three Tennessee locales 1 Aug–11 Sep. Ruddy Turnstones are uncommon outside the w. portion of the Region, so 2 in upper e. Tennessee were noteworthy: one at S. Holston L. 10–11 Sep (DH) and a late bird at Austin Springs, Washington 4 Nov (RK, m.ob.). Similarly, one to 4 Sanderlings were observed at four e. Tennessee locations 31 Aug–17 Sep. Three White-rumped Sandpipers, relatively rare in the Region in fall, were observed: singles at Ensley 16 Aug (JRW) and 25 Sep (JRW) and at L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 29–30 Sep (DR, JR). Peak counts of Baird's Sandpiper included 8 at Ensley 16 Aug–9 Oct (JRW) and 8 at L. Barkley, Lyon 2 Sep (BP, MM); 4 at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke (AT) and one at Kingston Steam Plant, Roane 4 Nov (EM) were noteworthy for e. Tennessee. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were not especially numerous; one to 5 were reported at six sites on eight dates 19 Aug–24 Sep in Kentucky and at three sites on eight dates 25 Aug–25 Sep in Tennessee. Kentucky's only Wilson's Phalarope was one in Ballard 19 Aug (NR, DR); in Tennessee, up to 4 were reported 2 Aug–16 Oct at various locales along the Mississippi R. An imm. Red-necked Phalarope was a rare find at Ensley 25 Sep (†JRW).

Unusually late shorebirds included 4 Long-billed Dowitchers at Lauderdale W.M.A., Lauderdale, TN 20 Nov (JRW), a Baird's Sandpiper at Ensley 26 Nov (JRW), and 14–15 Sanderlings at Ensley 19–30 Nov+ (JRW). An impressive tally of 235 Stilt Sandpipers at Ensley 26 Sep (MT, JRW) established a new high count for the Region.

A well-studied juv. Long-tailed Jaeger on Kentucky L. above Kentucky Dam 29 Aug–11 Sep (ph. HC, RDV, NR) was a first for Kentucky. A count of 7 Laughing Gulls at Kentucky Dam 24 Sep (DR) represents a new high count for Kentucky. For the 2nd consecutive year, a remarkable fallout of Franklin's Gulls was noted in w. Tennessee at the end of Oct and early Nov, with a high of 1600 in Henry 31 Oct (MT). An ad. Thayer's Gull was first observed at Barkley Dam 17 Nov (ph. DR), with perhaps the same bird at Kentucky Dam 26 Nov (HC). Lesser Black-backed Gull was first noted in the Region on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 24 Sep (DR) with subsequent reports of up to 3 ads. and a first-

year bird in the L. Barkley/Kentucky L., KY region through the end of the period. The peak count for Caspian Tern was 150+ on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 27 Aug (DR, JR); the latest report was for one at the same locale 17 Nov (DR). Two Least Terns in Shelby, TN 25 Sep (JRW, CB, VR) established a new late date for Tennessee. Other than birds detected during the passage of tropical storm remnants in Sep, the only Common Terns reported were 2 on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 24 Sep (DR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MIMIDS

Four Black-billed Cuckoos were reported: in Knott, KY 12 Sep (BG); Pulaski, KY 22 Sep (CN, WN) and 8 Oct (LO); and Hamilton, TN 25 Sep (JSL). Four young Barn Owls were found in a grain bin in McCracken, KY 11 Oct (DF, *vide* EW) for a rare late-season



This adult male Vermilion Flycatcher was found 28 November 2004 at Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge, Tennessee, where an immature male had been observed 22–29 February 2004—perhaps indicative of a returning individual. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

nesting record. An injured Northern Saw-whet Owl was turned in to a veterinarian's office in sw. Jefferson 1 Nov (*vide* EW); 4 were netted in e. Jefferson, KY 8 Nov (MM et al.), with another netted there 12 Nov (MM et al.), and one was heard in Pulaski, KY 14 Nov (RDn). Three were also banded in Anderson, TN 5–6 Nov (JG). The latest report of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was of one at Lexington, KY 9 Nov (BSt). Winter hummingbirds in the Region will be summarized in the winter season report.

Two Red-headed Woodpecker nests in e. Jefferson, KY were of interest not only because they were only a few feet apart and were active at the same time but also because nestlings were still being fed 18 Aug (BW) and both may have involved the same male,

which would constitute a rarely documented instance of polygamy in this species. Several Tennessee observers reported a strong fall migration for the species. A relatively normal flight of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included singles in Warren, KY 26 Aug (DR); Hamilton, TN 27 Aug (DAB); Marshall, KY 16 Sep (b.HC); e. Jefferson, KY 17 Sep (J&PB); and Eagle L. W.M.A., Shelby, TN 18 Sep (JRW). It was a good year for Alder Flycatchers, which seem to be rare fall transients in the Region; singles were reported at the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., TN 28 Aug (CS, JD), in Warren, KY 5 Sep (DR), and at Shelby Forest, Shelby, TN 18 Sep (†WRP). An unidentified *Empidonax* at Old Hickory L., Nashville, TN 13 Nov (GC et al.) was exceptionally late, whatever its species. An ad. male Vermilion Flycatcher, possibly the same individual found the previous Feb, was present at Hatchie N.W.R., TN 28 Nov (ph. JRW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (probably an ad. female) was observed at the Ft. Campbell Airfield, Christian, KY 3 Aug (DMo); a total of 4 was reported from three locations in Shelby and Putnam, TN 17 & 31 Oct.

A juv. Northern Shrike at Sinclair 13 Nov (ph. RDn, HC, ME) lingered through at least 28 Nov (ph. DR) and will constitute the first fully documented record for Kentucky, and only the 2nd for the Region. A Bell's Vireo at Black Bayou W.M.A., Lake, TN 14 Oct (NM), single Blue-headed Vireos at Old Hickory L., Nashville, TN 17 Nov (PC et al.) and in Jefferson, KY 20 Nov (MS, BY), and a White-eyed Vireo at Reelfoot L., TN 25 Nov (VH) were all unusually late. Following an extremely heavy and noticeable migration of Blue Jays through the Region in late Sep and Oct, the species

became quite scarce in some portions of Kentucky during the latter part of Nov, probably in large part due to the absence of a mast crop (hickory nuts, beech nuts, and acorns). A Purple Martin in e. Jefferson 20 Sep (BW) was rather tardy. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a moderate movement into the Region, mostly by early Nov.

Sedge Wrens were again confirmed nesting in e. Jefferson, KY in Oct (BP), with other likely territorial birds in Henderson, KY (DR et al.), Muhlenberg, KY (MS), and Ohio, KY (RDn et al.). Two family groups of Sedge Wrens with recently fledged young at Heritage Marsh, White, TN 25 Sep (SJS et al.) established Tennessee's 2nd confirmed breeding record. Two or 3 Sedge Wrens lingered at Sinclair through at least 26 Nov (JE, MM et

al.); at Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN, Sedge Wrens were present through 7 Nov, and Marsh Wrens were present throughout the period (DP). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Knox*, TN 28 Nov (SH) was rather late, as was a Gray Catbird in e. *Pulaski* 27 Nov (RDn).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Brewster's Warbler was observed in *Jefferson*, KY 5 Sep (JE). Golden-winged and Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from both states in above-average numbers; on the other hand, banding stations in *Unicoi* (RM) and *Carter* (RK), TN reported numbers of Tennessee Warblers much below average. A pair of Yellow Warblers with 3-4 fledglings in ne. *Jefferson*, KY 15 Aug (BW) represented a relatively late nesting. Somewhat above average for fall were five reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler in Kentucky, including one relatively far w. in *Union* 26 Sep (CC). There were four reports of single Blackpoll Warblers in *Bell*, KY 18 Sep (SM), in *Jefferson*, KY 26 Sep (ph. JY, BY), at Shelby Park, Nashville, TN 27 Sep (†PC), and in *Pulaski*, KY 29 Sep (RDn). There were two reports of Connecticut Warbler in e. *Jefferson*, KY 12 (BP) & 17 Sep (J&PB). Unusually late warblers included extraordinarily late Yellows in *Trigg*, KY 4 Nov (†BL) and *Celina*, *Clay*, TN 14 Nov (SJS, WW); a Chestnut-sided in *Jefferson*, KY 31 Oct (MS); a Louisiana Waterthrush in *Wolfe*, KY 5 Sep (†FR); a Yellow-breasted Chat in e. *Jefferson*, KY 9 Oct (BW); and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at *Radnor* 29 Oct (FF), which established a new late date for the Nashville area.

A Clay-colored Sparrow in *Blount*, TN 18 Sep (†TH) was an extremely rare transient for the Region. Unusual for fall was a probable migrant Lark Sparrow in w. *McCracken*, KY 26 Aug (SR). The only reports of Le Conte's Sparrow were of singles at *Sauerheber* 24 Oct (MS), *Ensley* 6 Nov (JRW), and *Sinclair* 26 Nov (MM, BP, NR). The only report of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was of 2 at *Sauerheber* 9 Oct (DR, ph. JHb et al.). A Henslow's Sparrow at *Brainerd Levee*, *Hamilton*, TN 17 Oct (KC, CB, DJa) was a rare transient. A count of at least 20 Lincoln's Sparrows in e. *Jefferson*, KY 2 Oct (BP) represented a new high count for Kentucky. A White-throated Sparrow was extremely early in e. *Jefferson* 28 Aug (BP, AC). The earliest Lapland Longspur was reported in s. *Warren*, KY 14 Oct (DR, CH). Two Snow Buntings—a female at *Sinclair* 14 Nov (MB) and another at S. *Holston L.* 13 Nov (DH, RCr, WC et al.)—were rare finds. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Knoxville*, TN 13 Nov (†L&JB) and in *Collierville*, TN 14 Nov (KH) were late, as was a male that lingered through 1 Dec in *Nelson*, KY (ph. GH). Indigo Buntings lingered at least until 5 Nov in *Pulaski*, KY

(CN) and 8 Nov in *Barren*, KY (DR, RDv). Brewer's Blackbirds were reported in *Ballard*, KY 13 Nov (BY) and *Warren*, KY 16 Nov (DR). Purple Finches and Pine Siskins staged a moderate movement into the Region, mostly during Nov.

Corrigenda: In the Nesting Season report (N.A.B. 58: 539-542), the Great Egret nesting site summary should read "breeding at seven distinct sites in *Carlisle*, *Fulton* (2), *Hickman* (2), *Lyon*, and *Marshall*" and the correct numbers for nesting Great Blue Herons are "about 2235 pairs" in 1999 and "more than 5200 pairs now present at more than 85 sites" in 2004. The Golden-winged Warbler study is being conducted by the University of Kentucky—not Eastern Kentucky University, as was reported.

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