

Ceruleans were noted in 17 counties, mostly in e. Iowa (m.ob.). At least 13 males were at Effigy Mounds N.M., Clayton (DA). Single male Black-and-white Warblers 9 & 19 Jun in Lucas and Jefferson, IA (SP, DP) seemed territorial. Worm-eating Warblers were found in Decatur, Lee, Pottawattamie, and Warren, IA (m.ob.). The only indication of nesting was ads. feeding a young cowbird 18 Jun in Lee (MB). Iowa's only Hooded Warblers were widely scattered in Allamakee, Lee, and Warren (DK, CE, MP, SP).

Single Summer Tanagers in Black Hawk and Boone (TS, WO) were at the edge of the species' usual Iowa range. A singing male Clay-colored Sparrow 10 Jul in Winneshiek, IA (SP, KP) was e. of where expected. Others in Dickinson and Hancock (RG, PH, DA, LS) were in more typical locales. Henslow's Sparrows were reported from 20 Iowa counties (m.ob.); the number of reports of this for-

merly rare species has increased dramatically in recent years. Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Bobolink were widely reported across Iowa.

Single Blue Grosbeaks 2 Jun (CE) and 17 Jul (SP), both in Lee, were far e. of its usual w. Iowa range and may be of the e. subspecies. In Missouri, they seemed quite common this summer (m.ob.). A Painted Bunting throughout the season at Weldon Springs C.A., St. Charles (JE, JU) was n. of where expected. In Missouri, Bobolinks were common 5 Jul at Dunn Ranch, Harrison (SK) and seen in Jul as far s. as Hickory (Mike Skinner). Great-tailed Grackle added to its range in both states, with 13 on 11 Jun at Coulter Marsh, Franklin (AB), 3 at Columbia, Boone, MO (BG), and several at E.B.C.A. (AF). Single Pine Siskins 23 Jun in Scott (WZ) and 2 Jul in Clayton, IA (DA) were unexpected.

Cited observers (subregional coordinators in boldface): Danny Akers, Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Ron Andrews, Neil Bernstein, Dick Bierman, John Bissell, Aaron Brees, Mark Brown, Robert Cecil, **James Dinsmore**, Stephen Dinsmore, Joe Eades, David Easterla, Chris Edwards, Bruce Ehresman, Bery Engbreten, Andrew Forbes, James Fuller, Jay Gilliam, Bill Goodge, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzell, Jack Hilsabeck, Bill Huser, Thomas Kent, Matthew Kenne, Steve Kinder, Darwin Koenig, Larry Lade, Charlene Malone, Wolf Oesterreich, Katy Patterson, Shane Patterson, Diana Pesek, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Dean Rising, Larry Rizzo, Tommy Rogers, Bill Scheible, Pat Schlarbaum, Lee Schoenewe, Tom Stone, Ed Thelen, Dennis Thompson, Josh Uffman, Gerald Von Ehwegen, Walt Zuurdeeg. An additional 21 uncited individuals contributed to the report; all have our thanks. ☺

The summer 2005 season was overall hot and dry, with temperatures reaching the 90° F mark in Louisville on 23 days and in Nashville on 33 days. Precipitation at Louisville and Nashville was below normal for the period. Some areas were not as dry, especially in the eastern and western portions of the Region, which received rainfall from the remnants of two tropical storms, Hurricane Cindy 6–7 July (eastern portion) and Hurricane Dennis 11–12 July (western portion).

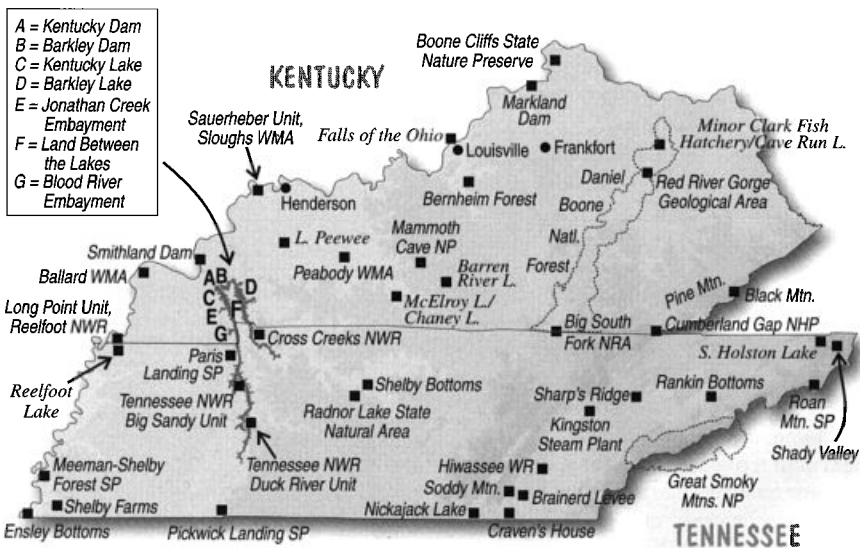
Certainly without doubt the highlight of the season was the collection of rare pelagic species that were deposited with the remnants of Dennis 12–15 July. An Audubon's Shearwater on Kentucky Lake may have represented the first-ever interior record for the species, and a Bridled Tern and a Royal Tern on Pickwick Lake were a first and a second, respectively, for Tennessee! No fewer than 21 Sooty Terns were found in Tennessee, with multiple Sooties observed in western Kentucky and one as far north as the Ohio River upstream from Cincinnati, Ohio. Grabbing smaller headlines but certainly noteworthy were reports of Roseate Spoonbill and White-winged Dove in Tennessee, and Marbled Godwit in Kentucky. Least Tern nesting success was mixed, with moderate success on the Mississippi River but low success on the lower Ohio and Tennessee Rivers.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. Shelby, TN), Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A few Common Loons in basic plumage

Tennessee & Kentucky

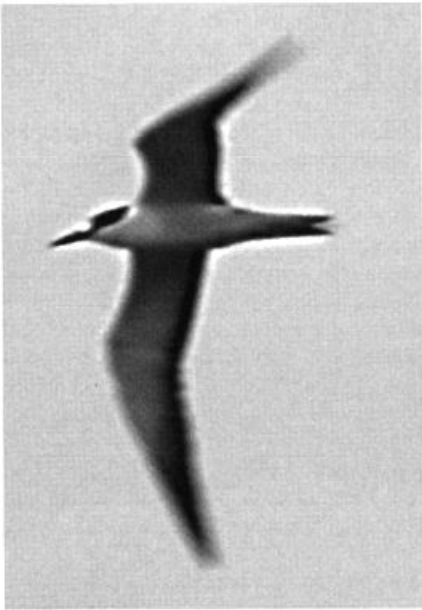


Chris Sloan

224 Hicks Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37221
(chris.sloan@comcast.net)

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov)



In the wake of Hurricane *Dennis*, at least 20 Sooty Terns were reported in Tennessee, including 14 (one of which is shown here) at Pickwick Lake, Hardin County 11 July 2005.

Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

were likely summering: one on Kentucky L. above Kentucky Dam 12 Jul (DR), one on the Tennessee R., *Hamilton*, TN 12 Jul (KC), 2 at the latter location 23 Jul (DJ), and one at Dale Hollow L., *Clay*, TN 21 Jul (SJS, TC). Pied-billed Grebes were confirmed breeding in *Union*, KY for the first time, with at least six family groups present 6 Jul (BP).

An imm. Brown Pelican, possibly attributable to Hurricane *Dennis*, remained below Chickamauga Dam, *Hamilton*, TN 11 Jul+ (ph. DJ, m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants were documented nesting in three locations: one nest at Rankin W.M.A., *Cocke*, TN 19 Jun (DMi, LG, MSI), ca. 20 nests on Kentucky L., *Calloway*, KY (EC, HC et al.), and an astonishing count of about 137 nests on four islands on Old Hickory L., *Sumner*, TN (CS). Least Bitterns were confirmed nesting in *Union*, KY again this year (BP). At Standifer Gap, at least 10 Least Bittern nests and at least 20 nestling Least Bitterns were observed in Jun (DP). An ad. Tricolored Heron at Standifer Gap 9 Jun (DP) was surprising both for the location (they are rare across the Region, and most records are from the far w. portion) and for the date (most Regional records are from late summer or early fall). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons confirmed nesting in Kentucky this year were two pairs in suburban Lexington, *Fayette* (fide JW).

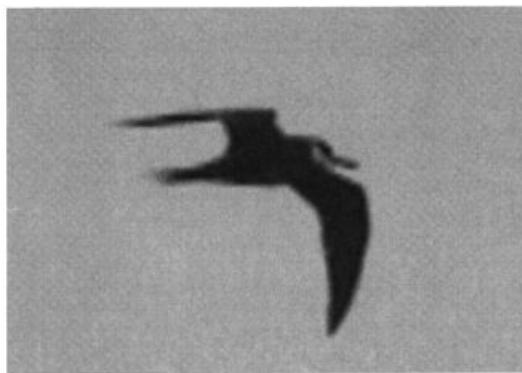
Imm. White Ibis appeared widely across Tennessee starting in late Jun: 14 were at Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood* 25 Jun (CR), and at least 2 lingered through 30 Jun (fide JRW); one was in Loretto, *Lawrence* 29 Jun (DoS, fide DaS); 2 were at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, *Anderson* 13–16 Jul (RH et al.); and 3 were in *Anderson* 16 Jul (NM, DMy, RH).

Even more surprising were 5 Roseate Spoonbills in *Obion*, TN 25–26 Jul (K&BL, ph. JRW); one remained as of 30 Jul (HC). Two Wood Storks, possibly driven northward by Hurricane *Dennis*, were at the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., TN 14 Jul (CF).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

An injured Greater White-fronted Goose lingered through the season at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY (ph. SR et al.). A male and an injured female American Wigeon and 3 male Ring-necked Ducks were at White L. Refuge, *Dyer*, TN 5 Jun (ph. JRW). A male Green-winged Teal was certainly out of place on L. Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 13 Jul (DR et al.). A few Lesser Scaup were detected during the summer on Kentucky L., *Marshall/Calloway*, KY; a male Bufflehead off Kentucky Dam Village S.P. 12 Jul (DR) was likely injured. A female Red-breasted Merganser on the Ohio R. at Louisville 13–14 Jul (BP) may have been summering. A male Ruddy Duck lingered in *Union*, KY to 6 Jul (BP), but no other evidence of nesting was observed there this summer. Likewise, a male Hooded Merganser in Shady Valley, *Johnson*, TN 17 Jun (WC) did not appear to be nesting.

New nesting sites for Osprey were found in *McCracken* and *Marshall*, KY (BP et al.). A Rough-legged Hawk on a reclaimed surface mine in e. *Greenup*, KY 7 Jun (†BP) was unprecedented for summer in the Region. Again this year, five pairs of Peregrine Falcons were successful in fledging young from nest sites scattered along the Ohio R., KY (SV, AS). Their survival rate remains unclear, as each year a few are found injured or unhealthy; this year, one from Louisville was found to have an elevated level of lead in the blood (EW). Two ads. with one fledg-



Following Hurricane *Dennis*, no fewer than six Sooty Terns were present on the north end of Kentucky Lake, Livingston and Marshall Counties, Kentucky 12 July 2005 (here), with at least 3 lingering through 15 July. Image from video by David Roemer.

ling were observed regularly below Chickamauga Dam, *Hamilton*, TN throughout Jun (fide KC).

Two Virginia Rail nests, as well as several fledglings, were observed through the period at Standifer Gap. Common Moorhens were

again confirmed nesting in *Union*, KY (ph. BP), with likely nesting also in *Henderson*, KY (CC); a lone bird was at Chickasaw N.W.R., *Lauderdale*, TN 26 Jun (JRW).

At least two pairs of Spotted Sandpipers nested in w. *Henderson*, with family groups of 2 and 3 chicks observed 6 Jul (BP). Nearly all shorebird highlights from Kentucky occurred during the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Dennis*, which likely grounded many early southbound migrants. Interesting reports included one to 22 Willets at seven locations 12–18 Jul (m. ob.); an American Avocet at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, KY 14 Jul (BP); 2 Marbled Godwits over Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 12 Jul (†BY, †MSt, MM); and one to 6 ad. Western Sandpipers at five sites 13–20 Jul (m. ob.). Latest spring migrant shorebirds included a Semipalmated Plover in *Henderson*, KY 10 Jun (MM, BP); a Ruddy Turnstone in *Wayne*, KY 2 Jun (ph. RD); 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Union*, KY 10 Jun (BP, MM); 2 White-rumped at Ensley 17 Jun (JRW) and another in w. *Henderson*, KY 21 Jun (BP, MM); and a Dunlin in *Union*, KY 10 Jun (BP, MM). Unusually early fall migrants included a Semipalmated Plover at Ensley 25 Jun (JRW), an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Chickasaw N.W.R., *Lauderdale*, TN 4 Jul (JRW), and single Baird's Sandpipers at Ensley 28 & 30 Jul (JRW). Five American Avocets were at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, KY 28 Jul (BE et al.).

There were reports of one to 4 Laughing Gulls in the vicinity of Kentucky L., KY 10–15 Jul (m.ob.); it is unclear to what extent the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Dennis* were involved, as the species occurs there fairly regularly in summer. In Tennessee, an ad. at Nickajack L., *Marion* 11 Jul (KC) and an ad. in *Gibson* 12 Jul (MG) were almost certainly associated with *Dennis*. Single Franklin's Gulls in *Ohio*, KY 3 Jun (DR, NR, TE) and on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 30 Jul (JRW) represented very rare summer records. Quite unusual was a first-summer Bonaparte's Gull on L. Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 13 Jul (DR). A count of 6 Herring Gulls on Kentucky L., *Calloway*, KY 10 Jul (ME, HC et al.) was rather impressive for so early in the season. A Caspian Tern in *Marshall*, KY 24 Jun (BP et al.) was likely an early returning fall migrant. A few Common, Forster's and Black Terns—likely early migrants—were grounded by the remnants of *Dennis* 12–14 Jul (m.ob.). Twenty-five Black Terns in *Hamilton*, TN 26 Jul (DJ, KC) was a noteworthy concentration.

Levels of Least Tern nesting success were mixed. Birds on the Mississippi R. apparently did fairly well, but smaller populations on the lower Ohio R. and Tennessee R. were

SA The remnants of Hurricane *Dennis* deposited an unprecedented number of pelagic birds into the Region 12-15 Jul. Highlights of this event included an **Audubon's Shearwater**, apparently the first interior North American record ever documented, on Kentucky L., *Livingston/Marshall*, KY 12 Jul (vt. DR, MM, BP), and three exceptionally unusual finds on *Pickwick L., Hardin*, TN 11 Jul: a **Bridled Tern** (†JRW, †MT), a **Royal Tern** (†JRW, MT, DMA, JG), and a **Parasitic Jaeger** (†JRW, MT). The most numerous pelagic species was **Sooty Tern**; in Tennessee, no fewer than 14 were reported from *Pickwick L., Hardin*, 11 Jul (ph. JRW, et al.), as well as 4 at Chickamauga Dam, *Hamilton* 11 Jul (ph. KC, m.ob.), and single ads. 12 Jul from *Gibson* (MG), *J. Percy Priest L., Davidson* (†RC), and *Putnam* (ph. SJS, BHS); the last was picked up dead on a road. In Kentucky, one to 6 **Sooty Terns** were reported at three locales in the w. portion of the state 12-15 Jul (vt. DR et al.), as well as one on the Ohio R. upstream from Cincinnati, *Campbell*, KY 12 Jul (†DMr).

mostly unsuccessful because of rises of river levels and apparent predation, respectively (RR, EC, BP). On the Mississippi R., ca. 710 ads. were counted at three sites in Kentucky and ca. 1027 ads. were counted at 13 sites in Tennessee 25-26 Jun (KJ, JR et al.). A new nesting site was discovered some 16 km from the Ohio R. in *Union*, KY (BP).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

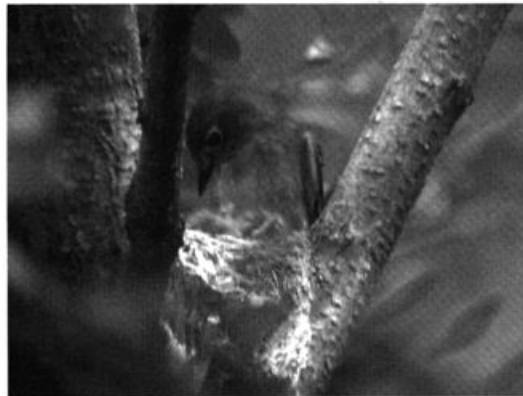
The Region's 7th **White-winged Dove** was reported from *Tipton*, TN 9-10 Jul (DB, *fide* MT). Nesting **Barn Owls** were reported from *Nelson* (C&CL) and *Hart* (*fide* SK), both KY, during the season. The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** reported were singles in *Putnam*, TN 4 Jun (RS) and *Boyle*, KY 17 Jun (BD). Again this year, interesting interactions between possible polygamous **Red-headed Woodpeckers** involved in three nesting cavities in adjacent trees were studied at Long Run Park, *Jefferson*, KY during Jun and Jul (BW).

Least **Flycatchers** were confirmed nesting at the summit of *Black Mt., Harlan*, KY again this year, with at least 11 birds detected 13 Jun (ph. BP, MM); quite out of place were single singing birds at Ft. Campbell, TN 17 Jun (DMS) and in *Marshall*, KY 28 Jul (HC, JH). One singing in *Frozen Head State Natural Area, Morgan*, TN 5 Jun (SJS) was also suggestive of breeding. *Shelby*, TN again hosted as many as four **Western Kingbird** nests (ph. JRW). The pair of **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** in s. *Livingston*, KY nested for the 4th consecutive summer (m.ob.). In Tennessee, evidence of breeding was observed near S. *Pittsburgh, Marion* (2 ads. and 3 fledglings [DJ, RJH, JCh]); in *Murfreesboro* (pair at nest [SD]); in *Shelby* (nest with 3 nestlings [JRW]); and in *Bledsoe* (one seen near regular nest location [R&DS, HB]). An ad. male was in *Tipton*, TN 11 Jun (JRW).

Two pairs of nesting **Tree Swallows** in *Harlan* 14 Jun (MM, BP) represented a first for se. Kentucky. Up to two pairs of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present at their traditional *Wolfe*, KY breeding locale in Jun and early Jul (FR, BP); in addition, a nest was located 5 km nw. of there in mid-Jun (ph. FR). The only **Bewick's Wren** reported all year in Kentucky was a male heard several times in Jun and early Jul in nw. *Scott* (LB); one in *Sumner*, TN 10 Jun (MR) was

less surprising. Possibly breeding **Sedge Wrens** were seen/heard in *Grant*, KY 4 Jul (DO, JCr); *Muhlenberg*, KY 15 Jul (BP, MM); and *Henderson*, KY 29 Jul (CC).

A **Hermit Thrush** and a **Myrtle Warbler** were at *Roan Mt., Carter*, TN 17 Jun (TM); *Roan Mt.* is the only suspected breeding location in the Region for the latter species and one of only a few for the former. Late spring transient warblers included a **Mourning** in *Nashville*, TN 4 Jun (JA), a **Blackpoll** in *Henderson*, KY 4 Jun (CC), and a **Canada** in *Jefferson*, KY 4 Jun (BP). A continuing University of Kentucky study documented the presence of the following numbers of



This active **Least Flycatcher** nest was photographed at the summit of *Black Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky* 13 June 2005, representing the first documented nest of the species in the state. Photograph by *Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.*

territorial male **Golden-winged Warblers** in se. Kentucky: *Bell* (21), *Harlan* (12), and *Whitley* (11) (LP et al.). The study also resulted in data collection on five active **Golden-winged** nests in *Bell* (2), *Harlan* (2), and *Whitley* (one) (LP et al.). The same study documented the following number of territorial male **Brewster's Warblers**: *Bell* (5), *Harlan* (2), and *Whitley* (6) (LP et al.); a bird in *Bell* was observed feeding a fledgling (LP et al.). Another **Brewster's** was reported in *Pike*, KY 27 Jul (JCa). A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** singing on territory in *Wolfe*, KY for at least 10 days in mid-Jun (FR) was well away from known breeding areas.

Again this summer, small numbers of **Bachman's** and **Lark Sparrows** were monitored at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, KY (DMS). The only **Lark Sparrow** reported in Kentucky

away from Ft. Campbell was an ad. in n. *Marshall* 12 Jul (ph. BP). The only **Bachman's Sparrow** reported in Tennessee was one in *Wayne* 17 Jun (DaS). A **Savannah Sparrow** exhibiting defensive nesting behavior in *Larue*, KY 6 Jul (DR et al.) would represent a significant range expansion outside of the cen. **Bluegrass region**, if actually nesting. One in *Holston Valley, Sullivan*, TN 28 Jun (WC, DW) constituted the county's first summer record. **Henslow's Sparrows** were relatively widespread in small numbers this season, with one to 25 reported at more than a dozen sites in Kentucky (m.ob.), plus a remarkable ca. 120 territories mapped at one site in *Hardin*, KY during Jun (BD). Again this year, a **White-throated Sparrow** lingered in e. *Jefferson*, KY through 6 Jun (BW); one also lingered in *Nashville*, TN through 10 Jun (SM). There were a few Jun reports of **Bobolinks** in n.-cen. Kentucky in *Boyle* (BD), *Washington* (BP), *Jessamine* (JL), and *Shelby* (BS). A male and 2 females were in *Washington*, TN 22 Jul (DH, m.ob.).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Jan Alexander, Harold Birch,

David Brown, Laura Burford, Kevin Calhoun (se. Tennessee), Terry Campbell, Joan Carr (JCa), Phillip Casteel (middle Tennessee), Janice Chadwell (JCh), Hap Chambers, Elizabeth Ciuzio, Wallace Coffey (e. Tennessee), Richard Connors, Julie Craves (JCr), Charlie Crawford, Brian Davidson, Scott Degenhardt, Roseanna Denton, Melissa Easley, Bett Etenohan, Troy Evans, Clayton Ferrell, Leslie Gibbens, Joe Guinn, Mark Greene, R. John Henderson, Ron Hoff, Don Holt, Jenny Howard, Daniel Jacobson, Kenneth Jones, Steve Kistler, Joe Lacefield, Ken & Betty Leggett, Charles and Cindy Lemons, Tom McNeil, Don Miller (DMi), Don Manning (DMA),

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