

Due to continuing Covid restrictions, we were unable to meet in person for our Spring Meeting. The KOS board agreed to organize field trips around the state on the weekend of April 24, 25 and 26, following the CDC guidelines regarding mask-wearing and social distancing. Thanks to Jeff Sole and Ronan O'Carra for taking on this task.

Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative and some of the outings were cancelled. The trip leaders have shared their groups' experiences below, and have provided links to their Ebird checklists.

Janet & Steve Kistler

We had 3 outings planned, but had to scrap the Saturday one, due to rain.
(Cedar Sinks pics attached)

Mammoth Cave – Cedar Sink Trail Wildflower Hike

April 23, 1:00, Leaders Steve and Janet Kistler, 5 participants, including Steve and Janet. Conditions were cool and cloudy.

We hiked on the Cedar Sink trail at Mammoth Cave National Park to find the wildflowers that bloom in profusion here every spring. We were thrilled to see carpets of blooms, with many species including foam flower, nodding trillium, sessile trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, early phlox, wild geranium, fire pink, columbine, bell flowers, larkspur, round-leaf ragwort, ferns, and much more. The cliffs, sinkholes, and wooded paths provided stunning backdrops to the blooms.





Davis Bend Nature Preserve (Hart County)

April 25, 8:00, Trip Leaders Steve and Janet Kistler, 6 participants, including Steve and Janet.

This Nature Conservancy site in Hart County has a nice variety of open field and wooded habitats. We started our trip at the old home site surrounded by fields. Many birds were seen or heard in this habitat including prairie warbler, parula warbler, white-eyed vireo, eastern towhee, killdeer, red-shouldered hawk, and blue-gray gnatcatcher. We walked on the path through more fields down to the bottomland along the Green River. Wood ducks and Louisiana waterthrushes were seen there. 41 species were observed in all.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86345129>

Linda Craiger

My scheduled **Mammoth Cave/Diamond Caverns** 8am Saturday morning walk was re-scheduled for 8am on Sunday morning due to rain.

I had 6 participants to join me, on an easy hiking trail, looking for spring migrants and early summer residents. There was 1 person from Indiana, 1 from Louisville, and the rest of us were from Barren County, including an 11-year old birder. We immediately heard many singing birds at the parking lot, and were able to get a Common Yellowthroat & a Chat to come in close enough for all to see by briefly using individual bird calls. However, it kind of went downhill from there. We were disappointed with not being able to find warblers, and with most of the birds we heard not coming in close enough for the novice birders to get good looks.

We identified 27 species, while birding about 1 mile, over 2 hours with the following list
Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86338353>

Ed Groneman

Kathy Caminiti posted the below notice several times to the Northern Kentucky Bird Club Facebook group in the weeks leading up to the bird walk:

Doe Run Lake Park, Kenton County

April, 24, 2021, 8:00 a.m. Trip Leader, Ed Groneman. We will look for spring arrivals and any shorebirds as the lake is currently barely above winter pool. The hike is not strenuous but could be muddy so old shoes are recommended. I'll have some loaner binoculars and warbler identification sheets for anyone interested. Please Facebook message me with any questions. All are welcome!

The weather was heavily overcast and unfortunately no one showed up for the walk. I found N.Parula, Yellow-throated and Prairie warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and nesting Cooper's Hawks near the end of the trail. Also of note were a Greater Yellowlegs and a Solitary Sandpiper on the mudflats.

I totalled 35 species.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86229434>

I then drove to the nearby **Banklick Wetlands** and found Blue-winged Teal along with numerous Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Warbling Vireo and 2 Savannah Sparrows. Also saw N. Parula, Yellow and Yellow-throated Warblers. I totalled 24 species there. I totalled 4.25 miles of hiking in 2.5 hours.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86229946>

Jeff Sole

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NP

Trip Leader Jeff Sole – RSVP to jdsale56@gmail.com Focus on forest songbirds. Meet at the park picnic area parking lot on the east side of 31E just south of Hodgenville. Hike easy to moderately strenuous.

We had 6 participants on this hike, coming from Louisville, Anderson County, Larue County, and Hart County. The group enjoyed a leisurely 1.66 mile hike around the trails at the Lincoln Birthplace National Park over a 2 3/4 hour period. Birding was a little slow, but we tallied 28 species, with a few migrants included.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86347948>

After this hike the group was invited by Rosemary Meredith to come to her nearby Larue County home to continue birding her feeders and property. We had a great time there, tallying 37 species. A nice male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak was a nice highlight. We birded about another 2 hours here covering about another 1 1/3 miles by foot and Golf Cart. First time Golf Cart birding for me!! Thanks Rosemary!

Our group's total effort of about 3 miles of hiking and 4 3/4 hours of birding tallied 52 species in Larue County.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86340200>

Blaine Ferrell

Mammoth Cave National Park south in Edmonson County

Trip leader Blaine Ferrell, We conducted the trip on Tuesday, April 27. Participants were: Valerie Brown, Lisa Dalporto, Blaine Ferrell, John Fitts, John Forman, Miliska Knauft, Terry Knauft, Ken Keuhn, and Sharon Spall.

The count was from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Clear skies, temp. 56 – 74. Winds: Calm to 12 mph.

Approximately 2 miles walking

eBird Checklist Summary for: Apr 27, 2021

Number of Checklists: 4

Number of Taxa: 37

Checklists included in this summary:

(1): 42160, Park City US-KY 37.11247, -86.06034

Date: Apr 27, 2021 at 8:30 AM

(2): Mammoth Cave National Park, Park City US-KY 37.15109, -86.09812

Date: Apr 27, 2021 at 8:49 AM

(3): Mammoth Cave NP--Green River Ferry/Echo River Spring Trail (Edmonson Co.)

Date: Apr 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM

(4): 42160, Park City US-KY 37.11247, -86.06034

Date: Apr 27, 2021 at 2:21 PM

2 Canada Goose -- (2)
2 Wood Duck -- (2)
1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo -- (2)
1 Green Heron -- (2)
4 Turkey Vulture -- (1),(3),(4)
5 Red-bellied Woodpecker -- (1),(2),(3),(4)
1 Downy Woodpecker -- (2)
2 Pileated Woodpecker -- (2),(3)
7 White-eyed Vireo -- (1),(3),(4)
3 Yellow-throated Vireo -- (2),(4)
5 Red-eyed Vireo -- (2),(3),(4)
3 Blue Jay -- (1),(4)
2 American Crow -- (4)
2 Carolina Chickadee -- (4)
4 Tufted Titmouse -- (3),(4)
2 Tree Swallow -- (3)
6 Barn Swallow -- (1)
1 White-breasted Nuthatch -- (4)
10 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- (2),(3),(4)
4 Carolina Wren -- (1),(2),(3)
8 European Starling -- (1)
1 Eastern Bluebird -- (1)
1 Wood Thrush -- (3)
2 American Goldfinch -- (1)
2 Field Sparrow -- (1)
2 Eastern Towhee -- (1)
1 Yellow-breasted Chat -- (1)
6 Red-winged Blackbird -- (2)
6 Brown-headed Cowbird -- (1)
2 Ovenbird -- (4)
2 Worm-eating Warbler -- (4)
8 Common Yellowthroat -- (1),(3)
2 Hooded Warbler -- (2),(3)
2 Cerulean Warbler -- (3)
17 Northern Parula -- (1),(2),(3),(4)
4 Prairie Warbler -- (1)
4 Northern Cardinal -- (3)

David Lang

Lexington Cemetery

Trip Leaders David Lang & Ronan O'Carra. Focus on migrant songbirds. Meet at 8:00 at the Henry Clay Monument. Hike easy.

We had around 20 participants on this hike, so we broke up into two groups with the beginner birders going with Ronan and the rest going with David. David's group of 11 covered a slow 2 miles through the south eastern section of the cemetery in just over 3 hours. We tallied a decent 39 species including both resident and migrant species. We managed 5 species of warblers that most people were able to get good to decent looks at. We did our best to get everyone on each of the birds.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86335094>

Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery

Trip Leaders David Lang & Ronan O'Carra. Focus on migrant shorebirds and songbirds. Meet at 9:00 at the parking area by the office buildings. Hike easy.

We had 6 participants on this hike and a nice mix of new and experienced birders. The group covered 1.7 miles working mostly around the hatchery ponds and a little bit around the oxbow in 2.5 hours. We tallied a decent 51 species including both resident and migrant species. We only managed 6 species of shorebirds that most people were able to get good to decent looks at. In addition to the shorebirds we had a few waterfowl, fly over Caspian Terns, herons, raptors, woodpeckers, swallows, sparrows, a few warblers and other odds and ends. We managed to complete our walk before the rain came in.

Link to the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S86251739>