

# Kansas Ornithological Society

## BULLETIN

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**Extreme Dates of Occurrence of Birds in Northeastern Kansas and Adjacent Missouri.**—The following observations were made in 1962 and 1963 in northeastern Kansas and adjacent northwestern Missouri. The extreme dates beyond represent observations made by one or more of the authors. In the event that a specimen was taken to substantiate an observation, the catalogue number of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History is put in parentheses. These dates are either earlier or later than those from Kansas given by Johnston (Directory to the Bird-life of Kansas, Misc. Publ. No. 23, Univ. of Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist., 1960:1-69).

The Missouri dates are from three localities in the Missouri River Valley:

Loc. 1. Beverly (Mud) Lake, two miles east of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Loc. 2. Bottomland north of the Missouri River, southwest of Parkville, Platte County.

Loc. 3. Mt. Washington Cemetery, western Jackson County.

Kansas records are from Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte counties:

Loc. 4. Lone Star Lake, Douglas County.

Loc. 5. Sand Pits, 2.2 miles north-northwest of Lawrence, Douglas County.

Loc. 6. Lakeview, Douglas County.

Loc. 7. Lawrence, Douglas County.

Loc. 8. Wyandotte County Lake, Wyandotte County.

Loc. 9. Kansas City, Johnson County.

Loc. 10. Camp Towanyak, Johnson County.

### ACCOUNTS OF SPECIES

Eared Grebe: *Podiceps caspicus*.—March 29, 1963, Loc. 4 (1).

Common Egret: *Casmerodius albus*.—March 31, 1963, Loc. 1 (1).

Black-crowned Night Heron: *Nycticorax nycticorax*.—March 24, 1963, Loc. 1 (1).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: *Nyctanassa violacea*.—April 20, 1963, Loc. 1 (2).

American Bittern: *Botaurus lentiginosus*.—March 31, 1963, Loc. 1 (1).

Glossy Ibis: *Pelgadis falcinellus*.—May 4, 1963, Loc. 1 (2).

Wood Duck: *Aix sponsa*.—December 26, 1962, Loc. 2 (1); February 24, 1963, Loc. 8 (2).

Sora: *Porzana carolina*.—March 31, 1963, Loc. 1 (5).

Common Snipe: *Capella gallinago*.—March 8, 1963, Loc. 5 (1).

Greater Yellowlegs: *Totanus melanoleucus*.—March 19, 1963, Loc. 5 (5).

Lesser Yellowlegs: *Totanus flavipes*.—March 19, 1963, Loc. 5 (8).

Baird Sandpiper: *Erolia bairdii*.—November 25, 1963, Loc. 6 (1 taken: KU 43402).

Least Sandpiper: *Erolia minutilla*.—November 25, 1963, Loc. 6 (18, one taken: KU 43401).

Dunlin: *Erolia alpina*.—October 26, 1963, Loc. 5 (10, one found dead October 27, 1963, Loc. 5, but not preserved).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: *Ereunetes pusillus*.—July 20, 1963, Loc. 6 (several); November 3, 1963, Loc. 6 (several).

Western Sandpiper: *Ereunetes mauri*.—March 29, 1963, Loc. 5 (2).

Herring Gull: *Larus argentatus*.—June 17, 1962, Loc. 1 (1).

Common Tern: *Sterna hirundo*.—June 6, 1962, Loc. 1 (1).

Caspian Tern: *Hydroprogne caspia*.—July 13, 1963, Loc. 8 (1).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *Coccyzus americanus*.—October 20, 1962, Loc. 7 (1).

Chimney Swift: *Chaetura pelagica*.—October 16, 1962, Loc. 7 (1).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *Archilochus colubris*.—October 7, 1962, Loc. 10 (1).  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *Sphyrapicus varius*.—September 29, 1962, Loc. 10 (1).  
 Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*.—October 28, 1962, Loc. 5 (2).  
 Purple Martin: *Progne subis*.—October 7, 1962, Loc. 2 (3).  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch: *Sitta canadensis*.—September 3, 1963, Loc. 10 (1).  
 Catbird: *Dumetella carolinensis*.—April 24, 1963, Loc. 7 (1).  
 Swainson Thrush: *Hylocichla ustulata*.—April 21, 1963, Loc. 3 (1).  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *Regulus calendula*.—September 4, 1963, Loc. 10 (several).  
 Sprague Pipit: *Anthus spragueii*.—November 9, 1963, Loc. 7 (1 taken: KU 43409).  
 Warbling Vireo: *Vireo gilvus*.—April 17, 1963, Loc. 7 (1).  
 Tennessee Warbler: *Vermivora peregrina*.—April 18, 1963, Loc. 7 (1).  
 Nashville Warbler: *Vermivora ruficapilla*.—April 28, 1963, Loc. 3 (12); April 29, 1963, Loc. 4 (common).  
 Magnolia Warbler: *Dendroica magnolia*.—September 3, 1963, Loc. 10 (1).  
 Myrtle Warbler: *Dendroica coronata*.—August 31, 1963, Loc. 10 (1); March 29, 1963, Loc. 6 (1).  
 Black-throated Green Warbler: *Dendroica virens*.—May 6, 1962, Loc. 9 (1); October 17, 1963, Loc. 10 (1).  
 Blackburnian Warbler: *Dendroica fusca*.—October 12, 1962, Loc. 10 (1); August 29, 1963, Loc. 2 (1 taken: KU 43411).  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—September 5, 1962, Loc. 3 (2).  
 Louisiana Waterthrush: *Seiurus motacilla*.—March 29–August 17, 1963 (Douglas County).  
 Bobolink: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—May 18–May 22, 1963, Loc. 6 (2).  
 Baltimore Oriole: *Icterus galbula*.—April 21, 1963, Loc. 7 (2).  
 Summer Tanager: *Piranga rubra*.—April 21, 1963, Loc. 7 (1).  
 Indigo Bunting: *Passerina cyanea*.—April 24, 1963, Loc. 6 (2).  
 White-throated Sparrow: *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—June 6, 1962, Loc. 1 (2).  
 —JAMES D. RISING, TED R. ANDERSON, MARY LOUISE MYERS, AND SANFORD R. LEFFLER, *Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, February 22, 1964.*

**Notes on the Mating of the Rough-winged Swallow.**—The Rough-winged Swallow is to be found breeding throughout most of the United States and is not at all uncommon within its range. In spite of this, relatively little is known of its behavior, especially in comparison with the substantial knowledge of the behavior of other, common, North American swallows. Lunk's recent book (Publ. Nutt. Ornith. Club, No. 4, 1962) on the Rough-winged Swallow reveals that some of our "knowledge" has been based on unwarranted assumptions, and that rather startling gaps exist. One such gap concerns mating behavior. In regard to this, Lunk states (1962:33), "I have never been able to observe the actual act of copulation by Rough-wings, or to learn anything of the behavior leading up to it. Perhaps it takes place in the nest, even though the male is seldom seen to enter it."

In pursuit of studies on the Bank Swallow, I twice observed Rough-wings mating at the Holliday Sandpits in Lawrence, Kansas. In 1960, I saw an attempted copulation on a beach near a nesting hole. Unfortunately, the birds were some distance away and flew off before I could bring my binoculars to bear. On May 30, 1961, I was able to watch the entire act. The female was sitting on the upper strand of a barbed wire fence which was strung along the bank above the nesting cavity. The male landed about a foot from her and, with wings held slightly out, approached, mounted, copulated, and dismounted on the other side. The female then began intensive preening, especially under the wings. The birds continued to play around the fence for some minutes. One would alight on the upper strand, and the other would glide by, either above or below the perched bird. In one instance, a bird lit and cocked its tail. The other immediately landed on top of it, knocking it from the fence. At no time were the wings of either sex used in a manner which would suggest that the barbs on the primaries function as holding devices during copulation.

In conclusion, it can be said that the Rough-wing does mate, at least sometimes,

outside the confines of its nesting cavity. The associated behavior does not seem to be remarkably different from that described for other swallows. It is to be hoped that more information will be soon forthcoming.—ABBOT S. GAUNT, *Department of Biology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, February 20, 1964.*

**Occurrences of the Ground Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon in Kansas.**—On November 18, 1963, at approximately 11:30 a.m., I was walking along the bed of a small, wooded tributary stream on my farm 8½ miles southwest of Toronto, Kansas, when a Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*) flew to a field of milo stubble and perched on a dead elm limb about 10 feet above the ground and 30 yards in front of me. I was greatly surprised to see the bird. I called to my brothers, Blake and Paul, to move in slowly. While we were looking at it one of my brothers' dogs ran under the tree and the dove flew. The rufous color of the wings was plainly visible.

It was not possible to try to locate the dove that day. On November 19, 1963, it rained or drizzled and no effort was made to locate it. Early the morning of November 20, 1963, I began a careful search of local flocks of Mourning Doves and worked southward to where we had seen the Ground Dove on Monday. A continued search was made of all pastures and fields. By this time the doves had stopped feeding and were resting in small flocks in isolated trees. In a large osage orange in a pasture one-quarter mile from where the dove was seen Monday, a flock of 30 or more Mourning Doves were flushed and among them was a Ground Dove. Fortunately it did not fly with the Mourning Doves but headed for the open upland. The specimen was a male—weighing 42.5 grams, was moderately fat and with testes measuring 4.0 mm. The skin was prepared by Norman Ford and is No. 159375 in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. It was referred to the nominate subspecies, *C. p. passerina*, by Robert W. Storer.

At 5:45 a.m., July 19, 1963, I flushed a Mourning Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) in Clark County, 6½ miles south by west of Kingsdown, Kansas from the middle of the road leading to the E. M. Pyle, III, ranch house. The Band-tailed Pigeon flew into the low branches of a large cottonwood by the side of the road on the north side of Bluff Creek. I stopped the truck by the tree and was able to carefully observe it. I drove away slowly and the bird was still perched in the tree. Mr. Pyle and his son watched for the Pigeon but it was not observed again. It was not possible for me to return to the area and look for it.—CLAUDE W. HIBBARD, *Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 10, 1964.*

**Another Summer Record of the Brewer Sparrow in Kansas.**—On July 17, 1963, in the sagebrush habitat south of the Cimarron River, seven miles north and two miles east of Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas, I watched a Brewer Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) sitting on a fence wire. The observation was made at close range and for a period of five minutes. The only other summer record of the species is another for Morton County, on August 19, 1954 (King and Andrews, Bull. Kansas Ornith. Soc., 5:29-30, 1954). These observations suggest that Brewer Sparrows may breed in western Kansas, at least occasionally, and that further field work in Morton County would be profitable.

Field notes outlined briefly above were made while I was a member of the summer session Field Course in Vertebrate Zoology of The University of Kansas.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Department of Biology, Kansas City Junior College, Kansas City, Kansas, February 24, 1964.*

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The State of California originally had about 1.75 million acres of redwood forest. Today the figure for virgin redwood areas is 200,000 acres. Of this, 50,000 is held by various conservation groups or by the California Division of Parks and Beaches. About 3 per cent of the original virgin redwood forest is thus available for present and future generations of Americans. The remainder of the virgin area is presently held by lumbering interests and will ultimately be cut and sold to the highest bidder. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

**First Specimen of the Cattle Egret for Kansas.**—Mr. Robert E. McWhorter of Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission obtained an adult Cattle Egret, *Ardeola ibis*, that was shot by a farmer in Pottawatomie County, Kansas on April 26, 1964. This bird shows buff on the crown, breast, and back; its legs are greenish-yellow; the bill is orange-pink; the lores are yellow. It is a female with the largest follicle in the ovary measuring 1.5 mm in diameter. This is the first specimen of this species for Kansas, and it is in the collection of Kansas State University.

The Cattle Egret first appeared in this area of the Great Plains in Oklahoma during April and May of 1962 (Aud. Field Notes, 16, 1962:426), and two pairs nested at Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1963 (Aud. Field Notes, 17, 1963:468). Since this species shows a regular tendency to move with prevailing winds, Bagg and Bagg (Aud. Field Notes, 16, 1962:382–386) concluded on the basis of weather data that the Oklahoma birds of 1962 arrived on a northward flow of air from Texas. Examination of the daily weather maps of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the last week of April suggests that the origin of this year's Kansas specimen could also be directly from the south due to similar weather conditions.

On April 24 a low pressure area developed over eastern Colorado, and winds were easterly across Kansas north of a warm front that extended from Dodge City to Wichita and eastward through Tennessee. During the night of April 25–26 this low was still centered over eastern Colorado, but the warm front had dissipated allowing a continuous flow of air from the south across Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas at velocities up to 15–20 miles per hour. On April 26 this low began moving eastward, reaching northeastern Kansas by the afternoon of April 27. During this period winds remained southerly, but by late on April 27, due to the counterclockwise circulation of air into this low, winds became northwesterly over Kansas. The Cattle Egret shot on April 26 could have dispersed northward with this southerly airflow, being killed soon after its arrival in the Manhattan area.—JOHN L. ZIMMERMAN, *Department of Zoology, Kansas State University, May 6, 1964.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

Another pair of assistant editors of KOS have left Kansas and the *Bulletin* and *Newsletter*. Max Thompson is currently at work in the field in Alaska, under auspices of the United States National Museum, and Jon Barlow has taken a post at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri. We wish them well and at the same time welcome Jim Rising to the editorial staff.

At the recent AOU meeting at KU, four members of KOS read papers at scientific sessions. They were Dr. Henry S. Fitch on the ecology of Red-tailed Hawks, Sanford Leffler on relationships of tinamous, Erwin Klaas on cowbird–phoebe nesting interactions, and Jon Barlow on morphology of European Tree Sparrows in North America 90 years after introduction.

As this is being written it seems most unlikely that the *Bulletin* will be mailed in time to reach members before the Fall Field Trip on October 4. For the record, however, the field trip is being held at the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Management Area, with trips leaving the Trading Post area at 5:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on October 4. The *Newsletter* for October (issued in September) carries full details.

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