

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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### Madge Hilbish: Kansas Ornithological Society Benefactor

By  
Max C. Thompson

Madge Hilbish, a long time member of the Kansas Ornithological Society, left a bequest of \$46,700 to the Society. Madge joined the Society in 1950, very close to the date of its founding. I joined the Society in 1955 and remember Madge as she always attended all of the Society meetings. She was quiet and unassuming but an avid bird watcher. She was always present on the field trips.

Madge was born 8 July 1896 in the Martindale district north of Burlington, Kansas. She attended grade school at Martindale District 4 school and Burlington High for a year. Madge moved to Topeka for a year; then Great Bend and went to Kansas City before returning to Burlington in 1943. She lived in the Hilbish home until her death. Madge remained active until the day of her death and was still driving to Yates Center whenever possible to attend church. She died unexpectedly on December 26, 1996, at the Coffey County Hospital in Burlington at the age of 100 years.

Early in her life, Madge became obsessed with the wonders of nature. She was always interested in wild flowers and shrubs and grew many in her backyard. Until a year before her death, she maintained her yard and flower gardens. For many years she kept a supply of feed and water in open places and the birds found a harbor in her trees. Madge was a long time member of the National Audubon Society and the Kansas Ornithological Society. She was a key in Burlington helping many youths of the area who wanted to learn more about bird watching.

One of the most interesting stories was the trouble she had with House Sparrows. About a 1,000 decided to take up residence in her trees. A friend suggested shooting a shotgun into the trees. Madge was busy for several days picking up as many as 160 dead sparrows in one day!

Her bequest to the Kansas Ornithological Society was placed in the Society endowment funds. The interest will be used to fund special



**Photo 1** — Madge Hilbish on her 100th birthday. *Photo by Coffey County Today Newspaper.*

projects for the organization as determined by the Board of Directors. Madges generosity makes funds available to the Society that most thought impossible until far in the future. We thank Madge for her devotion over the years to the Kansas Ornithological Society and her bequest.

I want to thank the Coffey County Today newspaper for their help and the picture.

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## Fall Weights of Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Quail in Southwestern Kansas

by  
Roger D. Applegate

Data on animal weights are useful in determining seasonal condition, age, and other characteristics of populations. Published weights of Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) in Kansas are restricted to south-central and northeastern Kansas (Robinson 1957, Robel and Linderman 1966). No published weights are available for Kansas Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*). This paper presents weights obtained from a series of bobwhites and Scaled Quail from Morton County, KS.

				WEIGHT				
				Mean	Std Err of Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Number
SPECIES	Scaled	SEX	female	197	197	223	179	15
	Quail		male	201	201	217	171	11
	bobwhite	SEX	female	161	161	185	141	8
			male	171	171	194	142	15

**Table 1** – Fall weights of male and female Scaled Quail from southwestern Kansas.

### Methods

Quail were captured in baited Stoddard (Stoddard 1931) traps or by night lighting (Labisky 1968) in October and November. Weights were taken to the nearest 0.1 g with a spring scale. Sex and age were determined according to (Rosene 1969). *T*-tests (Norušis 1996) were used to test the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) that there is no difference between Scaled Quail and Northern Bobwhite weights, and there is no difference between male and female quail weights. Linear regression (Norušis 1996) was used to test the  $H_0$  that there is no relationship between age and weight.

### Results

Weights were obtained from 26 Scaled Quail and 23 Northern Bobwhite (Table 1). There was no difference between weights of Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Quail ( $t = -0.579$ , 16.37 df, 2-tailed  $P = 0.57$ ). There was no significant difference in weights between sexes (Scaled Quail  $t = -0.755$ , 19.68 df, 2-tailed  $P = 0.46$ ; Northern Bobwhite  $t = -1.524$ , 16.61 df, 2-tailed  $P = 0.146$ ). Acceptable = 0.10.

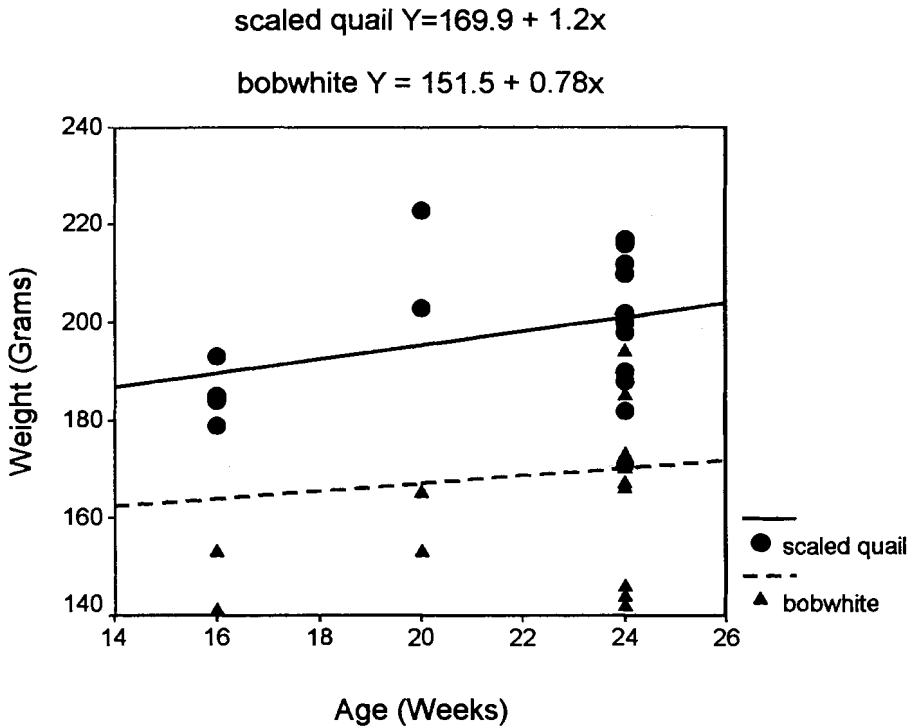
A linear regression model was built with age as independent variable and weight as dependent variable for juvenile 29 weeks quail (Figure 1). The  $H_0$  was accepted for Scaled Quail and Northern Bobwhite;  $R^2$  values were low, 0.08 and 0.18 respectively.

### Discussion

Northern Bobwhite weights for southwestern Kansas were less than weights for south-central Kansas (Robinson 1957), northeastern Kansas (Robel and Linderman 1966), Oklahoma (Wiseman 1977), and Missouri (Hamilton 1957) (Table 2). The weights in this study are pooled weights of both adults (N= 10) and juveniles (N=13). Agencies and private individuals have released pen-reared quail as well as quail obtained from different parts of bobwhite range so that it is not certain what influence subspecific differences may have on interpretation of our results.

The Scaled Quail weights from southwestern Kansas were greater than those reported in the literature (Schemnitz 1994; 143 adult males 191 g, , 177 adult females 177 g.). As with Northern Bobwhite, the Scaled Quail weights are pooled adult (N=9) and juvenile (N=17).

Reasons for lower weights in the Morton County sample include: small sample size, preponderance of juveniles in sample, food, weather, or other environmental conditions. The weights reported here provide a starting point for examining this characteristic of southwestern Kansas quail.



**Figure 1** – Fall age/weight relationship of juvenile bobwhite and Scaled Quail from southwestern Kansas. Scaled quail  $R^2=0.08$ ,  $p=.18$ , bobwhite  $R^2=.02$ ,  $p=.54$ .

State	Age/Sex	Weight (grams $\pm$	Weight (grams $\pm$	Source
		SE (N)--	SE (N)--	
		October	November	
Northeastern				Robel &
Kansas	Adult	187.8 $\pm$ 4.25 (5)	197.8 $\pm$ 1.68 (6)	Linderman 1966
		169.3 $\pm$ 4.55	183.9 $\pm$ 5.46	Robel &
	Juvenile	(32)	(25)	Linderman 1966
Southcentral				
Kansas--	Adult	193.5	193.8	Robinson 1957
Oklahoma	Adult $\sigma$	180.9 $\pm$ 0.0 (1)	203.1 $\pm$ 6.6 (4)	Wiseman 1977
	Adult $\text{♀}$	192.0 $\pm$ 6.0 (4)	199.0 $\pm$ 8.9 (5)	Wiseman 1977
	Juvenile $\sigma$	163.4 $\pm$ 10.2 (8)	184.6 $\pm$ 2.4 (19)	Wiseman 1977
	Juvenile $\text{♀}$	177.5 $\pm$ 2.9 (6)	178.0 $\pm$ 3.2 (16)	Wiseman 1977
Missouri	Adult $\sigma$	180.0 (2)	177.3 (3)	Hamilton 1957
	Adult $\text{♀}$	181.5 (4)	179.7 (3)	Hamilton 1957

**Table 2** – Fall weights of Northern Bobwhite from south-central Kansas, northeastern Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

### Acknowledgments

This study is a contribution of Kansas Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Projects FW-9-P and W-39-R. Thanks are due to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks personnel who assisted with trapping quail.

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- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, P. O. Box 1525, Emporia, KS 66801-1525*

**Bird Sightings in Thomas County, Kansas – continued from 48(3):28.**

- American White Pelican – Infrequent during migration. Observed late April 1993 when a flight of seven observed west of Colby.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo – On 5/15/97 one flew into a window in Colby.
- Long-eared Owl – A juvenile, non-flying bird was turned over to a rehabilitator in the spring of 1991. In the spring of 1992 I and others observed an active nest in a cedar grove three miles south of Colby.
- Chuck-will's-widow – Injured bird found at Gem, 5/24/95 following severe wind storm. Turned over to a local game warden who took it to a rehabilitator.
- Purple Martin – Regular visitor to Thomas County.
- Clark's Nutcracker – Single specimen observed in Logan County, spring 1973, in wooded area near Smoky Hill River.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch – Single bird observed near feeders 11/27/96 and again on 4/28/97 in Colby.
- Rock Wren – Single adult observed in shrubs near feeders in Colby, 5/7/96.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Dead specimen found in Colby, 11/7/93.
- Townsend's Solitaire – A group of four were observed in Colby, 10/3/93.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler – One adult and possibly several others observed in Colby, 10/6/93.
- Black-and-White Warbler – A single adult specimen was found dead in Colby in the spring of 1992, after flying into a glass window.
- Scarlet Tanager – Sharon Steele had a pair maintain an active nest in Colby in the spring of 1986 or 1987.
- Black-headed Grosbeak – Irregular visitor. Observed in Colby 5/5/93.
- Blue Grosbeak – Single bird observed in Colby, 7/10/96
- Lazuli Bunting – Adult males observed at Colby feeders 5/30/96 and 5/7/97.
- Indigo Bunting – On 5/23/79, four male Indigo Buntings were at a feeder in Colby.
- Green-tailed Towhee – Single adult observed near feeders in Colby, 5/19/93.
- Spotted Towhee – Adult pair near feeders for several days around 4/30/93. Another pair (possibly) were seen a mile away a few days later.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird – Irregular visitor during migration.
- Great-tailed Grackle – Single bird observed during the summer of 1995,

Villa Hig Lake, Colby.

Red Crossbill – Casual winter visitor to Colby. Small flocks observed every year at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak – Female observed in Colby, 2/5/97 and a pair from 3/21-31/97.

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**1996 Report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee** – This report summarizes records received and evaluated by the Committee for the calendar year 1996, as well as any decisions pending from previous years. A total of 39 submissions were received by the Committee in 1996 and 32 were circulated for evaluation. One still has a decision pending.

Record submissions are assigned a sequential number in the order in which they are received with the year (of receipt) as a prefix. Not all submissions that receive a number are circulated. Birds are listed in phylogenetic order under each of two categories: Records Accepted and Records Rejected. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds (1983) and all subsequent supplements.

The KBRC record number follows the scientific name, with the number of individuals seen, date(s) of observation, locality, observer(s) documenting the record, any supporting physical evidence, and any significant change in status. Rejected records have the observer(s) names omitted and a brief explanation as to the reason for rejection.

#### **RECORDS ACCEPTED**

**Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*); 96-05; 1; 10 December 1995; Wilson Lake, Russell Co; Mike Rader. First state record, added to the KOS Checklist as hypothetical.

**Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*); 96-37; 1; 23 November 1996; Cheney Reservoir, Kingman and Sedgwick Co; Pete Janzen. Second record.

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*); 96-26; 1; 10 June 1996; Quivira NWR, Stafford Co; Galen Pittman. Sixth record.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*); 96-28; 1; 10 August 1996; Quivira NWR, Stafford Co; Mark Robbins. Fourth record.

**Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*); 96-14; 1; 7 April 1996; Lassiter Marsh, Perry Lake, Jefferson Co; Dan LaShelle. Fifth record.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*); 96-35; 1; 27 October 1996; Lake Afton, Sedgwick Co; John Northrup. First state record, added to the KOS Checklist as hypothetical.

**Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*); 96-22; 1; 21 January 1996; Wichita, Sedgwick Co; Pete Janzen. Tenth record.

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*); 96-36; 1; 17 November 1996; Eldorado Lake, Butler Co; Tyler Hicks. 13th record.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*); 96-30; 1; 9 September 1996; Waconda Lake, Mitchell Co; Mark Robbins. 13th record.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*); 96-32; 1; 6 October 1996; Clinton Lake, Douglas Co; ick McHugh. Sixth record.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*); 96-34; 1; 13 October 1996; Melvern Lake, Osage Co; Galen Pittman. Seventh record.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*); 96-11; 1; 8 February 1996;

Winfield City Lake, Cowley Co; Max Thompson. First state record, added to the KOS Checklist as hypothetical.

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*); 96-23; 1; 26 January 1996; Wichita, Sedgwick Co; Pete Janzen. Fourth state record.

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*); 96-31; 1; 9 September 1996; Waconda Lake, Mitchell Co; Mark Robbins.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (*Archilochus alexandri*); 96-08; 1; 5 November 1995; Overland Park, Johnson Co; Jan Hall; banded. Fifth record.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*); 96-27; 1; 20-26 July 1996; Elkhart, Morton Co; Lawrence and Ruth Smith; photographs. Second record.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*); 96-20; 1; 29 August 1995; Wichita, Sedgwick Co; Pete Janzen and Nick Clausen; photographs. Seventh record.

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*); 96-07; 1; 12 September 1995; Lawrence, Douglas Co; Jan Hall; banded.

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*); 96-09; 1; 15 November 1995; Mission, Johnson Co; Jan Hill; banded.

**Canyon Wren** (*Catherpes mexicanus*); 96-04; 1; 25 November 1995; Point of Rocks, Morton Co; Mike and Ellen Rader. Third record.

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*); 96-21; 1; 13 September 1995; Wichita, Sedgwick Co; Pete Janzen.

**Black-throated Sparrow** (*Amphispiza bi. ineata*); 96-17; 2; 4 May 1996; near the Cimarron River, Morton Co; Jerry Horak. Seventh record.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*); 96-02; 1; 20 October 1995; Kirwin NWR, Phillips Co; Richard Rucker. 13th record.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*); 96-03; 1; 1 January 1996; near Marias des Cygnes Wildlife Area, Linn Co; Mick McHugh. 14th record.

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Carduelis psaltria*); 96-24; 1; 1 June 1996; near Lenexa, Johnson Co; Louis and Jane Betros; photographs. 11th record.

#### RECORDS REJECTED

**Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*); 96-38; 1; 16 November 1996; Cheney Reservoir, Kingman Co; Identification questionable; insufficient details to eliminate Western Grebe.

**Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*); 96-25; 1; 25-27 May 1996; Lassiter Marsh, Perry Lake, Jefferson Co; Identification questionable; insufficient details to eliminate Tundra Swan.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*); 96-12; 1; 26 December 1995; Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Pottawatomie Co; Identification questionable, insufficient details to eliminate similar species.

**White-throated Swift** (*Aeronautes saxatalis*); 96-01; 1; 9 October 1995; Olathe, Johnson Co; Identification questionable, insufficient details to eliminate similar species.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*); 96-19; 1; 20 May 1996; St. John, Stafford Co; Identification questionable, insufficient details to eliminate similar species.

The following is a list of the members and alternates of the KBRC for the period covered by this report.

Position #1 : Mick McHugh, Chairperson  
Position #2 : David Seibel  
Position #3 : Christopher Hobbs  
Position #4 : Max Thompson  
Position #5 : Lloyd Moore  
Alternate #1 : Pete Janzen  
Position #6 : Galen Pittman, Secretary  
Position #7 : Roger Boyd  
Alternate #2 : David Rintoul

#### **CORRIGENDA:**

In the 1992 Report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KOS Bulletin 44(2):22), under Records Accepted, an entry for Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) is listed as: 92-53; 1; 11 September 1992; Overland Park, Johnson Co; Chris Hobbs and Lloyd Moore; Photograph. This record should have read: 92-53; 1; 11 September 1992; Cimarron River, Morton Co; Mark Corder. Fifth record. In 1992, another entry for Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) was omitted from the Records Accepted section. This record should have been listed as: 92-62; 1; 5-6 December 1992; Overland Park, Johnson Co; Chris Hobbs and Lloyd Moore; photograph. Sixth record.

In the 1993 report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KOS Bulletin 45(4):36), under Records Accepted, an entry for Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) was omitted. The missing entry should have read: 93-17; 1; 2 January 1993; Elkhart, Morton Co; Sebastian Patti and JoAnn Garrett; photographs. Second record.

*Submitted 1 July 1997. Galen L. Pittman, KBRC Secretary*