

Kansas Ornithological Society

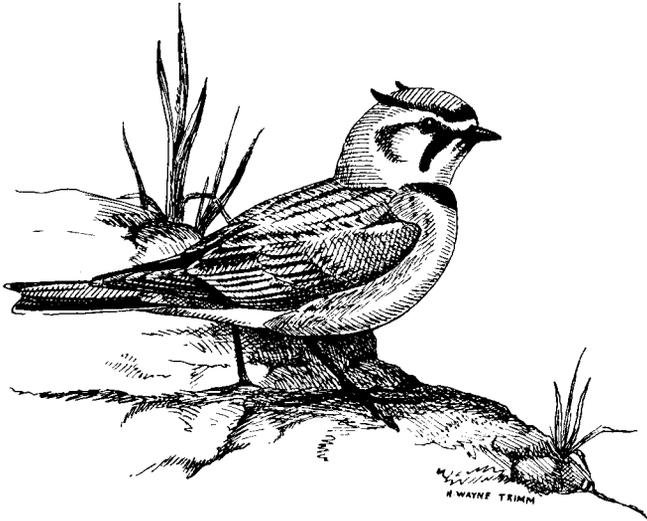
BULLETIN

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Vol. VI

September, 1955

No. 3



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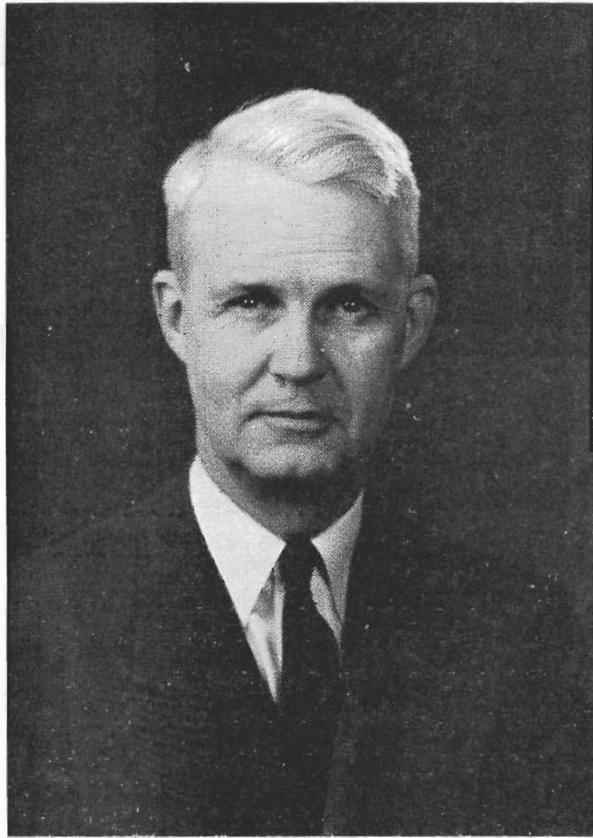
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In Memoriam



John M. Porter, M. D.

John M. Porter, M.D., member and Vice President of the Kansas Ornithological Society, died at St. Mary's Hospital, Concordia, Kansas on September 5, 1955. Death resulted from complications following surgery for acute pancreatitis. Dr. Porter was regarded highly by fellow members of his profession, and at the time of his death was President of the Kansas Medical Society.

John Porter joined the Kansas Ornithological Society in its second year, 1950. He served as councilor in 1952-53 and as Vice President from 1954 until his death. He was an ardent birder and contributed much to our knowledge of birds in the Concordia area. The people of Concordia knew him as an authority on birds as well as a medical doctor. He contributed one article to the Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin (Sight Records of Bird Migration in North-Central Kansas. Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 3, September 1951). His contributions to the business of the society were many and valued. He was especially active in promoting sustaining memberships.

John M. Porter was born August 13, 1899, in Kansas City, Kansas, the son of Judge and Mrs. Silas Porter. At eight years of age he moved with his parents to Topeka when his father became a justice of the state supreme court. He attended elementary and high school at Topeka, and received his A.B degree at the University of Kansas. He received his degree in medicine from Harvard Medical school, and took post-graduate work at the University of London and the London Heart Hospital in London, England in 1938 and 1939.

The Social Behavior of Birds

A. M. Guhl

Many species of birds show definite patterns of social organization, and the observation of birds may be enhanced when their social life is understood. Bird societies are based on social domination among the individuals in a flock or on the special relationships or territory. How are flocks organized? Where can one obtain information on social habits of birds?

This field of study is relatively new and has fascinated both the amateur and the professional ornithologist. The British ornithologists are probably more active in this study than are the Americans. For one wishing to make observations on the social life of birds the writer would suggest two references which not only serve as good review articles but also contain many specific references. These are (1) a book by Edward A. Armstrong, "Bird Display and Behaviour," 1947, Lindsay Drummond Ltd., London, and (2) Margaret Nice, "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow I," 1937. Transactions Linneean Society of New York, Vol. 4; and part II, published in the same journal in 1943, Vol. 6.

Many species of birds are aggressive, that is, they are self assertive. Acts of aggression are varied and may take the form of pecking another individual of the same species; there may be wing beating in some species; use of spurs; or various ways of bluffing. Fighting may be used merely to defend a given area from intrusion by others of the same species. Dominance orders were first described by T. Schjelderup-Ebbe in 1922, and were found in chickens and other birds.

As the writer is most familiar with the social behavior of chickens, these birds will be used to illustrate an hierarchial system. The birds are marked with various colors or colored legbands for individual identification. All observed pecks were recorded as to which bird pecked and which bird was pecked. After tabulating these pecks on a tally sheet one finds that pecking occurs in one direction only, and that the birds may be ranked according to the number of individuals each member of the flock pecks. One bird may peck all in the group and not be pecked in return, another pecks none and is pecked by all. The males do not peck the females, although they appear to dominate them. The dominance order is appropriately called a peck-order. The order among the males may change, but in small flocks of hens the order may persist for months. Peck-orders have been found in flocks of chickens containing approximately one hundred birds. As each bird learns which it may peck and which ones it must avoid, it is obvious that they recognize one another.

What is the significance of the social hierarchy in terms of the individual bird and of the flock as a unit? High ranking hens have greater freedom of the pen and have precedence at the food hopper, nest boxes, roosts, and elsewhere. The highest ranking male has precedence in mating, and therefore may sire the most chicks. High ranking hens are in the habit of being bossy and submit less readily for the males and therefore mate less often than do the low ranking females. The dominance of the males over the females is of a passive type and facilitates mating.

Flocks of hens having a well developed peck-order were contrasted with flocks having their social order held in a state of flux. The flocks in which the hens were well acquainted ate more food, pecked each other less often and less hard, laid more eggs, and gained more weight, than birds in flocks which were prevented from developing a social hierarchy. Apparently a social organization has some definite advantage to the group.

When and how does a peck-order form? Newly hatched chicks do not peck each other. During the third and fourth weeks of age pecking occurs during spurts of frolicking, but a peck-order does not appear until White Leghorn chicks are about eight to 12 weeks old. When a strange bird is placed with other adults, it is attacked and driven about. After some time

it may be accepted but usually at the lowest level in the social order. If a group of hens is assembled in which all are strangers to each other, fights occur by pairs until each has met each of its penmates and settled the dominance relationships. It is upon the outcome of these encounters that the peck-order is based. The birds soon learn which individuals each may peck and which each must avoid. In a matter of days, or weeks depending on the size of the flock, pecks become less frequent and less intense, as recognition improves and as special habits of behavior toward each flock member are developed. Among well acquainted hens these individual-to-individual reactions may become symbolized, that is, the dominant one of a pair need only to raise its head in a threatening manner and the inferior one lowers its head or steps aside. Toleration of others may develop to a point in small flocks in which actual pecking is rare.

Various terms have been used to designate social orders based on domination such as hierarchy; dominance-subordination order; ascendancy order; or just dominance order. The name given may also suggest the type of attack such as peck-order in birds; nip-order in fish; bunt or bunt-order in cows; of chase-order in squirrels. There are two chief types of dominance orders, with intergradations. One is based on unidirectional pecking such as the rank order or peck-right system described for chickens. It has been found in Jackdaws, Valley Quail, White-throated Sparrows, and Titmice. The other is bidirectional or a peck-dominance system and is based on an exchange of pecks with more pecking in one direction than in the other. The latter may also be considered as statistical despotism, and is found in pigeons, doves, canaries and shell parakeets. The Black-capped Chickadee has peck-dominance between closely ranked individuals and a peck-right system between others in the flock. The tendency of some birds to defend a territory further complicates any attempt to make a simple classification.

The concept of territory has many connotations among ornithologists. Any defended area may be considered as a territory. The area may be used for any one or any combination, or all of the following — nesting, displaying, mating, foraging or roosting. The area may be defended by either or both of a breeding pair, or by a flock as a whole. Territories may be small or large, contiguous or scattered. The density of the population may alter the size of each territory in a given species. Inter-specific territories may be superimposed upon each other if each species occupies a different ecological niche.

There have been several attempts to classify territory on various grounds. The following one is oversimplified and is offered merely as an introduction to the subject of territoriality. One might consider three basic types.

Type I. Many Passerines are highly territorial and monogamous. They arrive in the spring as migrating flocks, often as unisexual groups. The males take up territories which they defend by attacking others of their species. They may sing from some high perch to advertise that the area is occupied, that is, song may serve as a warning to other males or it may attract a female. In this area pairing occurs, a nest is built, and a brood is reared without interference from others. The human analogue would be a farm homestead of the covered wagon days in the early west.

Type II. Gulls and other birds which live in breeding colonies or rookeries find suitable nesting sites in restricted and limited areas. Feeding takes place at a distance from the nest site, as in the sea. The general nesting area is subdivided into territories limited to a few feet about the nest of these monogamous birds. Elaborate ceremonies take place at the nest when a mate returns to the territory and before a bird is admitted. One might compare this behavior with man's habit of living in towns and cities and the necessity of doorbells and proper introductions.

Type III. Many Gallinaceous birds live in flocks and share an area in common. These species may form a peck-order. There are many variations. Many are polygamous and some are monogamous, or each male may have his own territory with a harem. One might consider some of these organizations as socialistic or communistic.

With most territorial birds the tendency to defend an area is associated with breeding and the belligerent attitudes disappear after the brood is raised. The birds may later collect in large flocks and migrate as a group of tolerant individuals.

The foregoing account is very sketchy and has all the weaknesses of such presentations. If the reader should find some stimulation to activity it is hoped that he will turn to the reviews given above. The field is both broad and deep and one may find a segment which would keep him occupied season after season with increasing fascination in waters that have never been navigated.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, KANSAS STATE COLLEGE, MANHATTAN.

State Bird Notes

Pileated Woodpecker and American Woodcock in Southeastern Kansas. The American Woodcock, *Philohela minor* (Gmelin), has been recorded from Woodson, Saline, Johnson, Douglas, Riley, Cloud, and Meade counties (see Long, 1940, Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., 43: 442, and Graber and Graber, 1951, Trans. Kansas Acad., 54: 151). The Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus* (Linnaeus), has been observed in Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Douglas, Linn, Woodson and Miami counties, but is considered by Long (op. cit.: 446) to be rare in the State. Therefore, additional records of occurrence of the two species in this State should be of interest to Kansas ornithologists.

Two pileated woodpeckers were observed by the writer and Mr. John Legler, a fellow graduate student, on November 27, 1953, two miles west of Jingo, Miami County, Kansas. One bird was seen and positively identified at 3:30 p.m., perched on a shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*. The second bird was observed flying at an approximate height of twenty-five feet through the timber two minutes after the first bird had been observed and could not be seen so distinctly as the first but gave a loud call that I thought was that of the pileated woodpecker. On November 26, 1954, I saw a third pileated woodpecker seventeen miles south, and one and one-half miles east of Erie, Neosho County, Kansas. This bird was feeding while clinging to a mature sycamore tree, *Plantanus occidentalis*. I approached to within forty feet of the base of that tree when the woodpecker flew south some sixty yards along the east side of the Neosho River. The bird's new position was upon the side of a cottonwood tree, *Populus deltoides*, at an approximate height of one hundred feet. The second time I approached the bird, I got no closer to the tree than seventy feet before it uttered a loud cry and flew south along the river. On both occasions, the birds seemed to be extremely cognizant of movement or noise, much more so than other piciform birds which I have watched in the field. Also, pileated woodpeckers may be more common than Long reported and are apt to occur where mature stands of timber grow along rivers and creeks in southeastern Kansas.

The woodcock was observed by Mr. T. V. Stradley, Mr. G. E. Crowley, and the writer at 2:00 p.m., on November 20, 1954, at the Glen E. Crowley farm, two miles south and one and one-half miles west of Williamsburg, Osage County, Kansas. This bird was flushed from a grove of osage orange trees, *Maclura pomifera*, on an east-facing slope of a grazed pasture, and flew approximately seventy-five yards south before alighting in another grove of osage orange trees. The bird was flushed once more in the afternoon a short distance from the area in which it had alighted. The bird could not be located on November 22, 1954, when the locality was again visited. Probably this bird was a migrant. Robert L. Packard, State Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Eastern Kansas. Early this summer, 1955, Mr. Ray Wackly of Olathe told me that he had seen a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on June 7 on the Charles Moll farm seven miles north-east of Olathe, Kansas. Since scissor-tails are seldom seen in eastern Kansas as far north as Olathe, Mrs. Boyd and I made a trip to the Moll farm on June 12 and found the birds frequenting a mulberry tree which was about 100 yards east of the barn. Mr. Moll thought they had been building a nest in the tree but we did not approach close enough to be positive. A second trip, June 19, made by Mr. Wackly, revealed that the birds were still flying in and out of the mulberry. On Mr. Wackly's third visit, July 17, he found what appeared to be the same pair of birds occupying a nest in a small osage orange tree across the road west of the Moll residence. One of the birds was seen to fly to the nest and occupy it. On August 7, a fourth trip was made to the location. At that time no birds were seen and the nest had disappeared so it seemed doubtful if the nesting was successful.

In June several sight records of scissor-tails were reported to me. All of these observations were made east of Baldwin. At least one nesting pair was observed near Kansas City as reported in the Burroughs Club Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 2. Frequent observations have been made of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in areas 25 or more miles south of Baldwin and at least two successful breeding records can be sited. The first was in a park at Garnett, July 20, 1947, and the other was 1½ miles east of Princeton in July 1948.

Questions arise as to why this particular flycatcher has moved its range farther north this summer. Possibly it is a temporary occurrence brought about by the extremely dry and hot weather conditions which induces these birds to attempt nesting farther north than their usual range. On the other hand it is possible that a gradual movement is occurring with this species as has been observed with several other species of birds. Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin, Kansas, September 22, 1955.

Townsend's Solitaire in Kansas, 1954-55. Following several reports of Townsend's Solitaire in Kansas in the winter of 1954-55, a request was made to the membership by the editor for further information on this subject. There follows a summary of this information. For each report the place or dates and the reporter are given. McPherson, one wintered, E. Cole; Topeka, January 28, 29 and 30, 1955, T. W. Nelson; Halstead and Newton (seven localities), no dates given, Edna Ruth; Newton, November 5, 1954 to March 9, 1955, Lucille Thomas; Burlington, February 3 and 4, 1955, Madge Hilbisch; Garden City October 3, 1954, February 15, 1955, Lakin November 6, November 12, December 18, 1954, Meade County Park March 7, 1955, Marvin Schwilling; Saint Mary's December 19, 1954 to January 1, 1955, Thomas A. Hoffman, S.I.; Blue Mound, January, Eunice Dingus; Winfield, November 14, 1954 to March 1955, Max Thompson.

On the Christmas Count (K. O. S. Bull. Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 2-3) Townsend's Solitaire was reported from Wichita, Hays, St. Mary's and Halstead. Summarized by the Editor.

News

Hays Area **Notes on the Summer's Observation of Birds and People.**
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Eastman, who have been very active in K.O.S. from the beginning and who have spent the past year on leave in the Hawaiian Islands have now moved to Bend, Oregon, where Bill has a position in the Central Oregon Community College.

Bill took a lot of interesting bird pictures in the islands during the year but his move to Oregon will probably eliminate the possibility of our seeing them. We are sorry to lose them from Kansas.

With the loss of the Eastmans and their intense interest in birds here in Western Kansas we have on the other hand gained a good birder in the person of M. V. Walker, for many years chief Naturalist in several of our national parks, most recently in Zion, Bryce, and Cedar Breaks. Myrle

Walker and his wife are Western Kansans by birth, up-bringing and education. They will be a fine asset to our bird studies in Kansas and K.O.S.

More and more magpies are being reported as summer residents in this part of Kansas. Myrtle Walker reported seeing two, southwest of Ellis, September 18, and the writer saw three 40 miles north of Hays on September 11th. Magpie nests have been seen south of Collyer along Hackberry Creek the past three years. Goldfinches were seen by the writer near Stockton Lake on September 11. To the best of his knowledge they do not nest in this region.

Recently, September 17, large hawks were seen splashing into Stockton Lake (40 miles north of Hays) and coming up with fish in their talons. Those who reported seeing this hawk activity were fishermen who, while they could not identify the hawks, said they had never seen this activity on the part of such hawks before. The lakes in this region were quite low at the time.

The biggest bird thrill the writer has had the past summer was to see about 50 or more American Egrets at Cheyenne Bottoms, in Barton County, in August and again in September. He had never seen them before. L. D. Wooster, Hays, Kansas, September 26, 1955.

Topeka Area

Hot weather and lack of water offers little to entice migrants. Warblers reached the area about the first of September, with scattered reports since that date. So far Blackburnian, Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Yellow-throat and Mourning Warblers have been listed. Sora Rails and Wilson's Snipes have been feeding near the fish hatcheries at Lake Shawnee.

An American Magpie has apparently taken up residence in the College Hill district of Topeka. The bird, apparently a bird of the year, and from his lack of fear, probably an escaped pet, was first reported on July 12, by George Brantingham, 1519 Mulvane. This bird was doing well on September 18, when he visited my neighbor across the alley from 1306 Lincoln.

So far the television tower has produced few casualties; a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the last week of August, Sora, 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Warbling Vireos, Olive-backed Thrush, Northern Yellow-throat and Savannah Sparrow on September 11 and an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on September 18th.

An Osprey, Cormorant, and scattered flocks of Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal and Shovellers rounds out the report. I also have two nesting records on Scissor-tailed Flycatchers east of Lake Shawnee. L. B. Carson, Topeka, September 21, 1955.

Halstead Area

We believe Harvey County is the driest spot in Kansas and it surely made birding difficult this summer. The season for Bell's Vireo was not as good as last year. Yellow-billed Cuckoos also were again scarce. Early in the season on several occasions we heard Chuck-Will's-Widow in the same area as last year. Burrowing Owls seen in spring in their usual pasture near Harvey County Park were victims later of Prairie-dog control. However two active dog towns with Burrowing Owls were located 12 miles southwest of Halstead.

Mrs. H. Beam and the Misses Virginia Harris and Edna Neher of McPherson joined four of us in a visit to the Sedgwick County heronry May 1 at which time, as well as on June 25 and 28, there was great activity in the cottonwood grove. Only one pair of American Egrets was noted instead of the eight seen last year. An immature Black-crowned Night Heron with a crippled wing was found in town May 16. The Wood Thrush, uncommon with us, showed up on our return from the Atchison meeting and took up his abode in the alley across the street. He sang daily until July 3. We fear he was shot.

A Double-crested Cormorant was sighted June 12 at Veterans Lake, Pratt, Kans. With Lucile Thomas and Nell Finnell June 19 we drove to Flint Hill territory 35 miles southeast of Newton and found 8 Upland Plovers. On returning there June 23 we found 15. Black Terns were seen

July 25 west of town and on August 7 a little island at Lake Marion was covered with Black Terns in both adult and immature plumage; 4 Willets were on the shore. Mississippi Kites were again found in Harvey County Park this summer and were at their peak on July 28 when we saw 13 birds in two dead trees. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen in a number of flocks of six or seven on September 11.

By dint of early morning boating our Warblers this fall include the Black and White Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, numerous Wilson's, Nashville, Yellow-throat, Kentucky, Yellow-breasted Chat, Redstart, Orange Crown, Yellow, Black-throated Green, and today (Sept. 22) the Oven-bird called on us. J. C. saw two Magnolias last week. Edna Ruth, Halstead, Kansas, September 2, 1955.

Baldwin

Area

Eastern Kansas had an early spring, warm in March and April. Unsettled weather occurred during most of May. Six and one-half inches of rain fell in May which totaled more than for the previous four months of 1955. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed scarce in Baldwin this summer. In the past 14 years I have located many nesting sites of Bell's Vireos but in the last 2 or 3 years I find it difficult to locate even one pair. Brush killer sprays are probably responsible at least in part, for the lack of suitable nesting sites.

Warblers were scattered and difficult to find. The usually common Tennessee, Nashville and Orange-crowned were scarce. The usual numbers of Parulas, Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Northern Yellow-throats and Kentucky Warblers were to be found during the nesting season in the Baldwin area. Yellow-breasted Chats are gradually disappearing as nesting birds because of the same old reason—lack of suitable thickets. Several attempts were made this summer by local birders to locate a Parula Warbler nest but without success. The young of this warbler have been seen in this area on at least one occasion (KOS Bull., Vol. IV, No. 3).

Shorebirds, like the Warblers, were difficult to find. Reclamation of swamp land in this area has become a common practice. Consequently about the only place where sandpipers are to be found near Baldwin is 18 miles north of here along the mud flats of the Kansas River. These flats are difficult to reach. Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Bobolinks were not observed in this area this spring. Both of these species are usually found in small numbers.

The Summer Tanager was found in the usual numbers. The Scarlet Tanager lingered a few days in migration but apparently did not stay this year to nest. Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings are having the same difficulty as the Bell's Vireo in finding suitable roadside thickets.

The Grasshopper and Field Sparrows seem to be the most numerous of the Sparrows here during the nesting season. The Lark and Chipping sparrows breed in this area but far less commonly than do the Grasshopper and Field sparrows. Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin, September 13, 1955.

St. Mary's

Area

Late spring birding at St. Mary's was not as good as former years, with fewer species and smaller numbers seen. Most interesting find was a Piping Plover along the Kaw River on May 16 in company with a single Ringed Plover and a small flock of "peeps," mostly White-rumped Sandpipers. Other birds not so unusual in this part of Kansas, but seldom found at St. Mary's were an Osprey also on May 16, Upland Plovers on June 12, and Alder Flycatcher (identified by its call which I learned on the nesting grounds during summers spent in Wisconsin) that stayed about the campus for about a week.

Mid-summer was spent by Mr. Hoffman in Wisconsin and Father Mulligan in Colorado. Since our return in August we have found birding much improved with the largest sandpiper migration in years. Unusual ones have included a Ruddy Turnstone on August 1, Buff-breasted Sandpiper on August 25, September 8 and 11 and Sanderlings on September 8 and 11. There have been Upland Plovers and Ringed Plovers and at least one Western Sandpiper, fifteen kinds in all up to this writing (September 14). There were about 175 Blue-winged Teal in one flock on the Kaw on

September 11. All shore birds except the Upland Plovers were also found on the Kaw River sandbars. T. A. Hoffman and J. A. Mulligan, St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Kansas, September 14.

Mound City Area The Linn County Audubon Society had a display of birds, eggs, nests, pictures and literature at the Linn County Fair August 17-20. In a "Bird Quiz" held each day, four student memberships and several of Buck Carson's little bird books were awarded as prizes. In the September meeting of the society Frank Wood of Pleasanton will discuss nesting habits of Linn County birds and there will be a film, "The Bluebird." Eunice Dingus, Mound City, August 31, 1955.

Lawrence Area On May 24, while hunting for Sanderlings and Northern Phalaropes seen by Dr. H. B. Tordoff on the Kaw River two or three days before, we (with Wess and Barbara Hunn) discovered a Ruddy Turnstone. Wess has seen Turnstones in Georgia so was positive on the identification.

During the week of July 10 we observed a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers 2½ miles southwest of Lawrence, first reported by Mrs. Ethan Allen. The birds were entering and leaving an enclosed space on a platform holding transformers on a power line pole. Some straw could be seen and we presumed that they were nesting. Bert and Helen Chewning, Lawrence, Kansas, September 22, 1955.

Winfield Area This might be better headed, "Winfield and Points Northeast," for it includes my activities during vacation. Notes from your vacations would make up a good September issue. Perhaps the best observation in early summer was one that went by rather casually, that of a brood of Chipping Sparrows here on the campus. At that time, I did not think of it as noteworthy, but have found since that it may be unusual. There was a notable lack of Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds on the campus. The past two summers both have nested in a cedar tree near the science hall. Last year, mortality of young was noted in the excessively hot weather, and this year neither kind used that tree, although they were in the vicinity.

In north central Iowa (Clarion, Wright County and vicinity) the bird that was most surprising was the American Egret. I have never seen them that far north before, and it was of sufficient interest to find its way into some of the larger daily papers of the area. We saw four of them on a small lake, and one or more were reported near Mason City. Another new experience was that of seeing Lesser Yellow Legs walking on mats of floating pondweeds. Inasmuch as they would sink down until they appeared to be swimming, the identification was not too easy. I did discover a pleasant way to observe warblers—flat on my back in a hammock slung between two large trees. This was in August (about the 20th), in a farm grove quite isolated from other wooded areas. A Canada Warbler, and a nondescript one I couldn't be certain of were seen. Also a Black and White was seen. Of especial interest was a Northern Water Thrush that visited the stock tank in the barn lot. This was one of the driest summers on record there and there was no available natural water nearby. Ring-necked Pheasants were more abundant than I have ever seen there. Maurice F. Baker, Winfield, Kansas.

The memorial to Dr. John Porter occupies the space in this issue of the Bulletin usually given to some brief comments by one of the officers of the Society. Therefore, you will find the comments of the President on the back page. Our president expresses a point with which the editor feels constrained to agree.

Due to the lateness of this issue, we are including the instructions for the Christmas Bird Count. Instructions and report sheets are enclosed. Let's all get out and participate in the count and enjoy this rather special bit of birding.

A Word from the President

I think your president has been watching the birds so long that he has acquired their characteristic of devoting his attention to the urgencies of the moment. The present urgency is that a deadline is approaching for your editor to put another issue of the Bulletin to press, and your president should therefore perch in the top of a tree and call, "Jay! Jay! Jay!" to advise all within range of his whereabouts.

I wonder why self-assertion and boldness should be characteristics of birds and humans when it is not a common behavior pattern among most other forms of life. There are but few species for which secretiveness does not come naturally at all times. Maybe that is why we have a special liking for the birds. Let me hasten to note, however, that birds, too, can become secretive at times, as we all know. A similar secretiveness is what your editor finds distressing among our KOS members. Too few are "peeping" to make their activities known. First among this list is your president himself, who has been both observing and recording the local avifauna without letting anyone else know that has been noted here. He must hereby come out of his bush and tell something of bird life in southeast Kansas (which will appear in a future issue of the Bulletin), while he urges those elsewhere in the State likewise to make their verbal contributions to the Bulletin.

Schedules For This Season's Audubon Screen Tours

Topeka Auduborn Society

Municipal Auditorium—7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28—Arthur A. Allen
"Hunting with a Microphone and
Color Camera"

Nov. 5—Alan Cruickshank
"Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs"

March 8—Ernest P. Edwards
"Land of the Scarlet Macaw"

April 4—G. Harrison Orians
"Great Smoky Skylands"

May 2—William H. Wagoner
"A Touch of the Tropics"

Burroughs Nature Club

Battenfield Auditorium—University
of Kansas Medical Center—8 p.m.

Sept. 27—Arthur A. Allen
"Hunting with a Microphone and
Color Camera"

Nov. 8—Allan D. Cruickshank
"River of the Crying Bird"

Dec. 14—Dick Byrd
"Alphabet of the Out-of-Doors"

March 6—Ernest P. Edwards
"Land of the Scarlet Macaw"

April 3—G. Harrison Orians
"Great Smoky Skyland"