

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Museum of Natural History
The University of Kansas, Lawrence

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Hats off to the Baldwin Bird Club which is starting its 20th year. Meetings are held the third Wednesday in September through November and January through April in the east wing of the Baldwin Grade School at 7:30 p.m. The Club now has members from Edgerton and Wellsville as well as Baldwin. Visitors are welcome.

Katharine Kelley and Amelia Betts had unusual numbers of Wilson Warblers at their home in Baldwin this fall. On August 30, Miss Kelley found one in her figure-8, water drip trap. After consultation with Dr. I. L. Boyd, the bird was banded and recorded as a Wilson Warbler in female or immature plumage.

SECRETARY'S REPORT--I recently became a member of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society and the information I found in its bulletin, The Scissortail, set me to checking the KOS files. While the OOS has "over 600 members in over 150 communities," the KOS has under 250 members in less than 50 communities (plus 22 out-of-state localities)!!! The Scissortail is now in volume 13 while the KOS Bulletin is in volume 14. This indicates that the organizations are about the same age. The Oklahoma population is a little larger than the Kansas population but even so we should have in proportion over 500 members. The only way to get new members is for present members to let prospective members know about the KOS and invite them to join. If you need application cards, just ask the secretary for them. If you would like to show the prospect a KOS Bulletin, just send his name to the editor. The membership year begins in January, but anyone joining before then will also get the December 1963 bulletin. Why not ask someone to join now. If you are bashful or hesitant send the prospect's name to me and I'll contact him.--Amelia J. Betts, Secretary--

Mr. Geo. A. Montgomery, Topeka, writes--"I note that the Black-billed Magpie was one of the birds observed at the Kirwin Refuge. This species has extended its range eastward in Kansas. It now nests in Jewell County southwest of Mankato. I drove about the area in late May and observed half a dozen or more. Near Ionia, I saw individuals but no nest. Bob and Arnold Rose report that the magpies first moved into the area 3-4 years ago. The magpie was not a resident of Jewell County when I left there in 1915. I observed one straggler too weak to fly prior to 1908. I am writing this in hopes of getting more reports from KOS members who have observed resident populations in other parts of Kansas." --Editors Note--Johnston's "Directory to the Bird-life of Kansas" lists the Black-billed Magpie nesting east to Clay County. Porter reported it nesting also in Cloud Co.

Are KOS birders asleep at the binoculars or just inactive???? It seems as if all of our neighboring states have managed to see the Cattle Egret and we haven't. We have had one probable sighting but not by anyone familiar with birds. They are to be looked for especially around cattle either feeding along beside them or sitting on their backs. Birders in southern Kansas should be on the lookout for the Boat-tailed Grackle. It was recorded at Bixby, Oklahoma this spring and is extending its breeding range northward. Bixby is just south of Tulsa.

Robert and Jock LaShelle report a flock of 200-300 Swainson Hawks were seen in eastern Geary County, on lower Clarks Creek the afternoon of October 4. They were in two, practically bare, cultivated fields planted to wheat and alfalfa. The flock was reported in another field farther east the same afternoon, but apparently was not seen the next day.

Since the hunting season has started, you might notify your hunter friends to be on the lookout for the Whooping Cranes and not to shoot indiscriminately at any large white bird with black wing tips. They have been sighted already in South Dakota. Also remind the hunters that hawks and owls are protected except for the Cooper Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Goshawk and Great Horned Owl. With the influx of Rough-legged Hawks, and the augmenting of the Red-tailed Hawk populations with northern ones there is a tendency for hunters to do the farmers a good turn and kill the "chicken hawks."

Some notably late departures have been observed at Lawrence. The Chimney Swift, Swainson Thrush and Eastern Phoebe have all been seen into the last week in October. Jim Rising observed a flock of 10 Dunlins near Lawrence on October 26. Many of the winter visitors have reached Lawrence. The KU campus continues to be host to what appears to be an invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches. You are never out of hearing of their tinny yank-yank.

This is the second and last Newsletter for this year. The December issue of the KOS Bulletin has gone to press. We will mail it out along with the Christmas Bird Count forms and the dues envelopes in early December. Be sure and send your dues in promptly. It saves the secretary the time and the KOS the expense of notifying you the second time. The next Newsletter will come out around the middle of January, so have your news in by January 10. The editors appreciated the response to the Newsletter and are pleased with the compliments that we received. Remember that this is YOUR Newsletter and without your news there will be no news.--Max C. Thompson, Assistant Editor--