

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, LAWRENCE 66045

NUMBER 9
FEBRUARY 4, 1965

CONSERVATION NOTES

THE FIRST NATURE CONSERVANCY PROJECT IN KANSAS HAS BEEN LAUNCHED. THE SAND PRAIRIE NATURAL HISTORY RESERVATION IN WESTERN HARVEY COUNTY, CO-SPONSORED BY BETHEL COLLEGE AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, HAS BECOME A REALITY. NOW IT IS IMPORTANT FOR KANSASNS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION TO SUPPORT THE FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE A SHARE OF THE COST. CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO THE TREASURER OF THE KANSAS SAND PRAIRIE COMMITTEE, CARL HOLMES, 1728 N. SHERIDAN, WICHITA. YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE RESERVATION. TO DO SO, YOU MAY CONTACT DWIGHT PLATT AT THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, BETHEL COLLEGE, NORTH NEWTON.

THE REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ON PREDATOR AND ROBERT CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES IS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF KOS. IT CONTAINS SOME IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE WITH RESPECT TO CONTROL OF "PEST" VERTEBRATES, INCLUDING BIRDS, BASED ON THE FOLLOWING TENETS:

- 1) ALL NATIVE ANIMALS ARE RESOURCES OF INHERENT INTEREST AND VALUE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. BASIC GOVERNMENTAL POLICY THEREFORE SHOULD BE ONE OF HUSBANDRY OF ALL FORMS OF WILDLIFE.
- 2) AT THE SAME TIME, LOCAL POPULATION CONTROL IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A MANAGEMENT POLICY, WHERE A SPECIES IS CAUSING SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO OTHER RESOURCES OR CROPS, OR WHERE IT ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH OR SAFETY. CONTROL SHOULD BE LIMITED STRICTLY TO THE TROUBLESOME SPECIES, PREFERABLY TO THE TROUBLESOME INDIVIDUALS, AND IN ANY EVENT TO THE LOCALITIES WHERE SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE OR DANGER EXISTS.

IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE ADOPTED, IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FORWARD STEP IN CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE. THE REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPOINTED A SCIENTIFIC TEAM THIS PAST SUMMER TO MAKE AN INTENSIVE STUDY TO HELP IN PRESERVING RARE OR ENDANGERED FORMS OF AMERICAN WILDLIFE. THE PARTIAL LISTS RELEASED AT THAT TIME INCLUDE 23 SPECIES OF BIRDS THAT HAVE BECOME EXTINCT IN THE LAST 130 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO AND 35 SPECIES OF BIRDS THAT ARE IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION. PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THIS TOPIC THAT ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ARE: CONSERVATION NOTE NO. 3 -- PROTECTING OUR ENDANGERED BIRDS AND PUBLICATION WL 455 -- BIRDS PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW.

THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR IN THE ATTEMPT TO SAVE TWO RARE BIRDS. ACCORDING TO CONSERVATION NEWS, THE POPULATION OF WHOOPING CRANES IS NOW 42, HIGHER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY. THIS INCLUDES 11 YOUNG BIRDS (ONE CRIPPLE) OUT OF A POSSIBLE 12 NESTINGS. THIS IS PHENOMENAL NESTING SUCCESS. MAYBE THE BIRDS TOOK HEART AT THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE LAST SPRING MEETING OF THE KOS!

A NUMBER OF CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS HAVE STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$365,000 TO PURCHASE 3400 ACRES OF PRAIRIE IN COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS, TO BE USED AS A REFUGE FOR THE DWINDLING POPULATION OF ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN. A CENTURY AGO THEY NUMBERED A MILLION OR MORE IN THE COASTAL PRAIRIES OF LOUISIANA AND TEXAS. IN 1963 THERE WERE ONLY A THOUSAND BIRDS LEFT. MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PROJECT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, 2039 K STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

DWIGHT PLATT
CHMN., CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

ENCLOSED IS A SHEET DESCRIBING A PROGRAM TO COLLECT NESTING DATA FROM ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. KOS MEMBERS MAY ALREADY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE KANSAS BREEDING BIRD SURVEY SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. WE ~~SEEK~~ ALL INTERESTED PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS. DATA CONCERNING NESTING (CLUTCH SIZE, NUMBER OF EGGS, SIZE OF YOUNG, NEST SITE, LOCALITY, AND DATE) SENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS WILL BE ENTERED ON OUR FILES AND SENT TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY WHERE IT WILL BE CATALOGUED WITH RECORDS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. KANSAS BREEDING BIRD SURVEY CARDS WILL BE SENT TO ANYONE UPON REQUEST. FOR CARDS WRITE:

RICHARD F. JOHNSTON
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66045

PINE WARBLER WINTERING IN MERRIAM--SINCE NOVEMBER 28, A MALE PINE WARBLER HAS BEEN A DAILY VISITOR AT THE FEEDING STATION OF THE JOHN BIEWENERS, 6629 MASTIN DRIVE, MERRIAM, KANSAS. DAILY THE WARBLER ARRIVES ABOUT 7:15 A.M. AND FEEDS, ALMOST TO THE MINUTE, EVERY HALF HOUR, PUTTING IN HIS LAST APPEARANCE ABOUT 3:15 P.M. OVER THIRTY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE BIRD FEED THERE. THE BIEWENER'S FEED THE WARBLER A VARIETY OF ITEMS -- PEANUT-BUTTER, SUET-MIX, BREAD CRUMBS, SUNFLOWER SEED, MILO, CURRENTS, AND CRACKED BLACK WALNUTS. ONE OF IT'S FAVORITES IS A SUET-MIX WHICH CONTAINS MELTED SUET, MIXED WITH PEANUT BUTTER, PEANUT HEARTS, NUT-MEATS, BREAD CRUMBS, AND CURRENTS. MRS. BIEWENER HULLS AND CHOPS SUNFLOWER SEEDS FOR THE BIRD, BUT SHE HAS ON OCCASION WATCHED HIM TAKE AN UNHULLED ONE, WEDGE IT FIRMLY IN THE BARK OF A TREE AND HAMMER AWAY AT IT UNTIL HE GOT THE KERNEL. ONCE SHE TIMED HIM, AND SAID THAT IT TOOK HIM TEN MINUTES TO DO THIS. THIS IS THE FIRST RECORD FOR A PINE WARBLER IN THE WINTER IN THIS AREA, AND WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT ONE HAS BEEN REPORTED ON THE KANSAS CITY MO.-KAN. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, JANUARY 29, THE BIRD IS STILL FEEDING REGULARLY. M. L. MYERS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: AS OF THIS TIME, ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF THE KOS HAVE NOT YET PAID THEIR 1965 MEMBERSHIP DUES. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF ALL MEMBERS WOULD PAY PROMPTLY. PLEASE NOTIFY AMELIA BETTS (BALDWIN CITY, KANSAS), OR THE EDITOR ABOUT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

FALL NOTES: KANSAS CITY (COMPILER BY DAVID A. EASTERLA)

COMMON LOON	11/8	WHIP-POOR-WILL	10/3
HORNED GREBE	11/8	NIGHTHAWK	10/28
EARED GREBE	10/17	RED-SHAFTED FLICKER	10/9 - 11/25
PIEC-BILLED GREBE	11/8	SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER	11/11
WHITE PELICAN	10/24	WINTER WREN	10/26 - 11/29
GREAT BLUE HERON	11/1	WATER PIPIT	10/28 - 11/26
BLUE AND SNOW GEESE	AFTER 10/10	CEDAR WAXWING (SCARCE)	8/26
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	10/18	SOLITARY VIREO	9/10 - 9/15
WOOD DUCK	11/1	PHILADELPHIA VIREO	9/10
BUFFLEHEAD (SEVERAL)	11/22	BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	9/3 (E. COLE)
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER		BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	9/10 - 10/18
(♀ AT WYCO. LAKE)	11/7	PALM WARBLER	9/10
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	(COMMON)	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	9/10
OSPREY	10/17	CONNECTICUT WARBLER	9/10 (D. EASTERLA)
BAIRD SANDPIPER	10/24	MOURNING WARBLER	9/10
GOLDEN PLOVER	11/3-8	CANADA WARBLER	9/10
DOWITCHER (SEVERAL)	10/24	BOBOLINK	9/10
RING-BILLED GULL	10/28	CHIPPING SPARROW	10/29
FRANKLIN GULL	10/28	FOX SPARROW	11/8
SHORT-EARED OWL	11/15	CLAY-COLORED SPARROW	9/10
		SMITH LONGSPUR	11/14-11/20 (D. EASTERLA).

FALL NOTES: CAMP TOWANYAK, SHAWNEE, KANSAS (COMPILED BY M. L. MYERS)

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	TO 10/1	CEDAR WAXWING	AFTER 10/26
WHIP-POOR-WILL	TO 9/19	SOLITARY VIREO	TO 9/15
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	TO 9/19	RED-EYED VIREO	TO 9/12
CHIMNEY SWIFT	TO 10/1	ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	9/24
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	TO 9/22	NASHVILLE WARBLER	9/15
RED-SHAFTED FLICKER	10/9	MYRTLE WARBLER	8/13 - 10/30
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	AFTER 11/5	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	8/17 - 9/15
EASTERN KINGBIRD	TO 9/6	BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	10/18
EASTERN PHOEBE	TO 9/24	REDSTART	8/31 - 9/15
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE	9/8	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	TO 9/16
BARN SWALLOW	TO 9/30	SUMMER Tanager	TO 9/30
PURPLE MARTIN	TO 9/2	SCARLET Tanager	TO 9/14
BROWN CREEPER	AFTER 10/18	BLUE CROSSBARK	9/17
CATBIRD	TO 9/8	PURPLE FINCH (SCARCE)	AFTER 10/7
BROWN THRASHER	TO 10/26	SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	AFTER 10/14
WOOD THRUSH	TO 9/20	TREE SPARROW	AFTER 10/31
SWAINSON THRUSH	9/16 - 9/21	FIELD SPARROW	TO 11/11
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	9/17 - 9/21	HARRIS SPARROW	11/14
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	AFTER 10/18	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	AFTER 10/1
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	9/12 - 10/5	FOX SPARROW	AFTER 11/17
		SONG SPARROW	AFTER 11/1

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES : MR. JOSHUA HARMAN SAW A RED-BREASTED GOOSE AT QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WHERE HE IS MANAGER ON JANUARY 4, 1965. IT WAS WITH A GROUP OF WHITE-FRONTED GEESE. THIS SPECIES NESTS IN SIBERIA AND WINTERS ON THE CASPIAN SEA. IT SEEMS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THIS RECORD IS OF AN ESCAPED CAGE BIRD, BUT IT IS NONETHELESS AN INTERESTING SIGHTING.

MRS. RUTH J. GREEN OF TOPEKA WRITES OF LARGE NUMBERS OF WHITE PELICANS AND FRANKLIN GULLS THAT SHE AND HER FAMILY SAW AT TUTTLE LAKE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1964. THEY SAW TWO FLOCKS OF ABOUT 50 PELICANS EACH, AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK THEY SAW OVER 300 GULLS.

HOUSE FINCHES WERE UNUSUALLY COMMON IN THE WESTERN-MOST COUNTIES OF KANSAS THIS YEAR. A LAPLAND LONGSPUR REPORTED AT LAWRENCE, KANSAS, ON OCTOBER 9, 1964, WAS AN EARLY RECORD FOR THE STATE. LONGSPURS APPEARED EARLY THROUGHOUT THE STATE THIS YEAR. — J. D. RISING, ASS'T. ED.

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Seventeenth Annual Meeting: 1965

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held at Kansas State University, Manhattan, May 8-9. Chairman of the local arrangements committee is Dr. John L. Zimmerman.

The program of reports by members at sessions on Saturday, May 8, is now being planned. If you have anything to present at the Saturday sessions, please fill out the form below and send it to the address indicated.

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Call for Papers

Title of report _____

Name of person(s) giving report _____

Length of report (15 minute limit) _____ minutes.

Projection and sound equipment needed _____

Mail, by March 15, to: D. F. Parmelee, Biology Department, K.S.T.C.,
Emporia, Kansas.

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Best Bird of Year (May 1, 1964 to May 1, 1965)

Name one bird _____

Locality and date _____

Name of observer(s) _____

Mail, by May 2, to: John C. Johnson, Jr., Department of Biology,
Kansas State College, Pittsburg, Kansas.