

Kansas Ornithological Society

NEWSLETTER

Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66502

August, 1985

Vol. 12, No. 3

Fall Meeting
at
Ft. Hays State
October 4-6,
1985

OFFICERS' CORNER

It's the end of June. The third number in the current volume of the Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin is due out in September. But when I open the file folder that contains manuscripts ready for publication, it is empty. There is nothing there. I have nothing to publish for the September Bulletin. Perhaps a one page number, that is, the masthead followed by the list of officers? Of course I could wait until something comes in the mail and make that the September issue (but what will I do for December?). Maybe the current volume will just be two issues (I remember back in WWII that happened with journals because of the scarcity of paper). When the ornithologists at the University of Kansas were involved in the Society, Bulletin space could always be filled with records of newly acquired dead birds (but I remember Jim Rising always considered that only as a last resort). The bottom line of this lament, of course, is the question, does the Kansas Ornithological Society need a quarterly publication limited to ornithological science? Like the lady from Chicago who writes a column in my daily newspaper says, if you don't use it (that is, provide the editor with manuscripts), you lose it. Many of you have good records from your location, some of them quite long-term; we've published similar efforts on Swope Park and McCoid Lake. Many of you have done Breeding-bird Surveys for the Fish and Wildlife Service for years; look what Ted Sperry did with his back in the September 1981 issue. There are important nesting and distributional records sitting in your notes that will disappear from the face of the earth, if you don't get them in print. In this regard, I got a note about an earlier House Finch record from eastern Kansas in response to Dave Rintoul's recent article; but if such records are not published in the accessible literature, they remain secrets. I obviously think there is a need for the Bulletin. But that's easy for me to say. The critical concurrence is, do you agree enough to do something about it?

John L. Zimmerman, Editor
KOS Bulletin

REEVE SIGHTING

On 20 May 1985 at 3:30 PM and for the following ca. 15 minutes in Unit G (NW side), Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Management Area, Linn County, Kansas we observed a Reeve (Philomachus pugnax). The bird had bright orange legs and a darkish down-curved bill that was not much longer than its head. The Reeve had a heavy body look that made the bird appear small-headed. The back was very scaly with dark vanes and whitish edges to the feathers. The scapulars were very long. The tail had a very distinctive white "U"-shaped pattern that was obvious when the bird preened. At this point we were observing the bird with 15-60x, 20-45x, and 25x spotting scopes from 75-80m. The bird flew approximately 300m then fed actively and preened in "knee"-deep water; we continued to observe it with 25x spotting scopes and 10x binoculars. No calls were given by the bird. Near the Reeve there were Wilson's Phalaropes, Stilt Sandpipers (Reeve distinctly bigger) and Lesser Yellowlegs (Reeve about same length, bill stouter and curved, body much thicker). We noted dark "smudges" covering much of the breast. The lighting conditions were excellent, there was virtually no wind, the bird was close and we could not have hoped for a better look at a Reeve. Galen Pittman, Richard Rucker and Dave Seibel.

David E. Seibel
Lawrence, KS

So, how do you see 200 species in Kansas? We started at Marais des Cygnes, flew to Morton County and back to Great Bend. Time and wind killed our chances. The flight to Morton County was supposed to take 3 hours but 30 mph headwinds made it 5 hours. Add another hour and 45 minutes to fly to Great Bend and you have almost 7 hours in the air. That will not give you enough time to see the birds on the ground. It would be best to start at Marais des Cygnes and bird until 10:30 AM. Then fly (hopefully 1.5 hours) to Great Bend bird there until 5:00 PM. Then fly to Morton County (another 1.5 hours) to look for western species (maybe even Poor-will and Western Screech Owl at night). This second plan would give you at least an extra 1.5 hours on the ground looking at birds. Remember, on a Big Day your two worst enemies are time and weather.

On using an airplane, you must find a pilot willing to wait 5 hours for you on the ground or use 2 planes. Hopefully, you have a friend (as I do) who owns an airplane and won't charge an arm and a leg to fly you. Charter planes cost big bucks! Airplanes should not be disallowed however, because the whole point of a Big Day is how many birds can be seen, not how you get to them.

In conclusion, Kansas in May has 16 possible birds of prey, 7 owls, 4 night-jars, 17 flycatchers, 8 vireos, 35 warblers and many other passerines. While we had only 159 on our attempt, if I combine it with our 1984 try and our scouting trip to Morton County on April 25, 1985, I come up with 209 species! Add some other realistic possibilities and I arrive at around 235 species possible for a Big Day in Kansas! Time will probably prevent that number from being reached, but I am sure that 200 is possible with good weather and a fast airplane. OK, now somebody get out there and do it!

I would like to acknowledge Lawrence Smith, John Zimmerman, Scott Seltman, Roger Boyd, and Lloyd Moore for helping me come up with this plan.

1985 BIG DAY LINN, MORTON, AND STAFFORD COUNTIES - May 11, 1985

Pied-billed Grebe	Eared Grebe
White Pelican	Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern	Great Blue Heron
Great Egret	Snowy Egret
Green-backed Heron	Black-crowned Night Heron
Canada Goose	Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal	Mallard
Northern Pintail	Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler	Gadwall
Redhead	Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup	Ruddy Duck
Turkey Vulture	Mississippi Kite
Broad-winged Hawk	Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk	Ferruginous Hawk
American Kestrel	Peregrine Falcon
Ring-necked Pheasant	Northern Bobwhite
Scaled Quail	American Coot
Black-bellied Plover	Snowy Plover
Killdeer	Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet	Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs	Spotted Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper	White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher	American Woodcock
Wilson's Phalarope	Franklin's Gull

BIRDING SIGHTINGS

Meade County - April 1, 1985

Wood Duck (pair)
Ferruginous Hawk
Golden Eagle
Lesser Prairie Chicken
Turkey
Sandhill Crane 40
Long billed Curlew
Burrowing Owl
Long-eared Owl
Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Bewick's Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Vesper Sparrow
Fox Sparrow

Commanche County - April 2, 1985

Lesser Prairie Chicken 9 on lek
Chestnut-collared Longspur 10

Wichita - April 3, 1985

Great Egret
Little Blue Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron

Quivira - March 31, 1985

Snowy Plover 3
Baird's Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs

Roger Boyd
Baldwin, KS

HOW TO HAVE A 200 BIG DAY IN KANSAS

Move over California, Texas, and New Jersey! There are some other good birding states in the USA. Kansas is well situated in the Central Flyway and is one of the states where both eastern and western birds can be found. The Kansas list has 415 species, 39 with less than 5 records and 2 extinct. That leaves 374 species possible over one year (Scott Seltman had 293 in 1984). A variety of habitats is present in Kansas. The eastern one-third is mostly oak-hickory forest with some bluestem prairie. The middle one-third is bluestem-gramma prairie with some sandsage and northern floodplain forest. The western one-third has 3 prairie types: gramma-buffalo grass, sandsage-bluestem, and bluestem-gramma.

The keys to a Big Day in Kansas are:

1. Marais des Cygnes (Linn County) in eastern Kansas, where almost 25 species of warblers are possible 7 woodpeckers including Pileated Woodpecker, and numerous other eastern species. My own one day personal record is 127; others have higher.
2. Morton County in southwest Kansas, where such western birds as Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Poor-will, Chihuahuan Raven, Black-billed Magpie, Brown Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher, House Finch, Cassin's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Brewer's Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lark Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rock Wren, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Scaled Quail and possibly Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler and MacGillivray's Warbler can be found.
3. Cheyenne Bottoms WMA and Quivira NWR (Barton and Stafford counties) are the main keys to a Big Day in Kansas. They are the best spots in the state for shorebirds and possibly one of the best in the Central Flyway. There could also be 4 rails, 21 waterfowl, 11 herons and bitterns, and White-faced Ibis. In one day 154 species can be seen between these two places alone.

BEST BIRDS OF THE SEASON

SPECIES _____ SUBMITTED BY _____

DATE _____ COUNTY & LOCALITY _____

DETAILS: (Send separate sheet for each species).

FIRST COUNTY RECORDS - JANUARY-MAY 1985

Horned Grebe	(2)	3-23-85 Trego
Eared Grebe		4-29-85 Ness
	several on feedlot lagoon	4-29-85 Hodgeman
American Bittern		5-18-85 Barber
Wood Duck	(2)	4-29-85 Rush
Black-bellied Plover	(1)	5-17-85 Pawnee
	several south of Coldwater	5-18-85 Comanche
	several north of Bucklin	5-18-85 Ford
	one near Iuka	5-18-85 Pratt
Golden Plover	one south of Coldwater	5-18-85 Comanche
Semipalmated Plover	(3)	5-17-85 Pawnee
Western Sandpiper	several at Meade State Lake	4-23-85 Meade
Stilt Sandpiper	30+ north of Bucklin	5-18-85 Ford
Tree Swallow	(1)	4-08-85 Rush
Cedar Waxwing	one at Cedar Bluff	1-15-85 Trego
	20+	3-14-85 Norton
Northern Shrike	immature bird near Dundee	1-17-85 Barton
Orange-crowned Warbler		4-29-85 Hodgeman
Common Yellowthroat		4-29-85 Hodgeman
Yellow-breasted Chat		5-18-85 Barber
Hooded Warbler	one female seen repeatedly	5-15-85 Pawnee
Northern Cardinal		4-29-85 Hodgeman
Lincoln's Sparrow		4-29-85 Hodgeman
Pine Siskin	10+	3-14-85 Norton

UNUSUAL BIRDS - JANUARY-MAY 1985

Merlin	5 sightings	January W. Kan.
Peregrine Falcon		3-19-85 Rush
Prairie Falcon	17 sightings	January W. Kan.
Swainson's Hawk	one sitting on snow drift	3-31-85 Stafford
Ross' Goose	one among mixed flock near Dundee	1-07-85 Barton
Whooping Crane	3 two-year-old adults	4-06-85 Stafford

Forster's Tern
Black Tern
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech Owl
Burrowing Owl
Common Nighthawk
Whip-poor-will
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Purple Martin
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-billed Magpie
Chihuahuan Raven
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Gray-cheeked Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Tennessee Warbler
Northern Parula
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
American redstart
Ovenbird
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Scarlet Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Rufous-sided Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Bobolink
Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Oriole
House Sparrow

Least Tern
Rock Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Common Barn Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Chuck-will's Widow
Chimney Swift
Red-headed Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Least Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Eastern Bluebird
Swainson's Thrush
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Bell's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
Cerulean Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Mourning Warbler
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Dickcissel
Cassin's Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Grasshopper Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Orchard Oriole
American Goldfinch

Our group: Tim Bardsdale, Steve Crawford, and Mark Corder
Non-participants: Lawrence Smith, Jim Garrison and Elaine Corder

Steve Crawford
Olathe, Kansas

Snowy Plover	10+	3-31-85 Stafford
Piping Plover	4 along Redwing Dike - Pool 3	4-20-85 Barton
Red-necked Phalarope	3 females	5-19-85 Stafford
Snowy Owl	grayish immature	1-07-85 Barton
Say's Phoebe	several arrived 2 weeks early	3-26-85 Rush
Chihuahuan Raven	one heard	4-23-85 Meade
Mountain Bluebird	5	3-05-85 Rush
Hermit Thrush	2	5-11-85 Morton
Northern Shrike		1-10-85 Rush
	immature attacking R-W Blackbirds	1-15-85 Trego
Northern Parula Warbler	2	4-27-85 Morton
Summer Tanager	molting male found by Gene Lewis	4-27-85 Morton
Lazuli Bunting	one at Colorado Line	5-11-85 Morton
Painted Bunting	10+	5-18-85 Comanche
Pine Grosbeak	found by Charles Ely in Hays	1-05-85 Ellis
Evening Grosbeak	6 at south Hays feeder	1-11-85 Ellis
House Finch	pair building nest in Larned	4-11-85 Pawnee

Scott Selman
Nekoma, Kansas

COUNTY RECORDS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
1. Chuck-wills-widow	Ellsworth
2. Chuck-wills-widow	Meade
3. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Mitchell
4. Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Meade
5. Cassin's Kingbird	Clark (doubtful)
6. Eastern Phoebe	Clark
7. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Meade
8. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Sheridan
9. Acadian Flycatcher	Clark (doubtful)
10. Acadian Flycatcher	Ellis
11. Acadian Flycatcher	Saline (doubtful)
12. Traill's Flycatcher	Saline
13. Traill's Flycatcher	Wabaunsee
14. Least Flycatcher	Cloud
15. Least Flycatcher	Osborne
16. Least Flycatcher	Mitchell
17. Eastern Wood Pewee	Ellsworth
18. Eastern Wood Pewee	Kiowa
19. Eastern Wood Pewee	Seward
20. Western Wood Pewee	Kingman
21. Olive-sided Flycatcher	Clark
22. Violet-green Swallow	Sherman
23. Bank Swallow	Ottawa
24. Purple Martin	Wichita
25. Scrub Jay	Ellsworth
26. Common Raven	Haskell
27. Common Raven	Jewell
28. Common Raven	Johnson
29. Clark's Nutcracker	Pottawatomie

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
30. Carolina Chickadee	Harvey (hypothetically)
31. Mountain Chickadee	Finney
32. Mountain Chickadee	Haskell
33. Sage Thrasher	Jackson (doubtful)
34. Curve-billed Thrasher	Riley
35. Varied Thrush	Finney
36. Varied Thrush	Haskell
37. Varied Thrush	Pottawatomie
38. Varied Thrush	Douglas
39. Wood Thrush	Haskell
40. Wood Thrush	Ottawa
41. Wood Thrush	Republic
42. Wood Thrush	Saline
43. Hermit Thrush	Meade
44. Swainson's Thrush	Lane
45. Gray-checked Thrush	Trego
46. Veery	Wabaunsee
47. Eastern Bluebird	Smith
48. Golden-crowned Kinglet	Kiowa
49. Bohemian Waxwing	Russell
50. Cedar Waxwing	Clay
51. Northern Shrike	Scott
52. Bell's Vireo	Meade
53. Solitary Vireo	Bourbon
54. Solitary Vireo	Lincoln
55. Solitary Vireo	Russell
56. Red-eyed Vireo	Ellsworth
57. Red-eyed Vireo	McPherson
58. Red-eyed Vireo	Meade
59. Red-eyed Vireo	Mitchell
60. Philadelphia Vireo	Meade
61. Philadelphia Vireo	Sheridan
62. Black & White Warbler	Kiowa
63. Black & White Warbler	Mitchell
64. Black & White Warbler	Ottawa
65. Golden-winged Warbler	Kiowa
66. Tennessee Warbler	Cloud
67. Tennessee Warbler	Lincoln
68. Tennessee Warbler	Ottawa
69. Tennessee Warbler	Saline
70. Tennessee Warbler	Meade
71. Tennessee Warbler	Mitchell
72. Tennessee Warbler	Osborne
73. Wilson's Warbler	Cloud
74. Wilson's Warbler	Labette
75. Wilson's Warbler	Wallace
76. Canada Warbler	Wabaunsee
77. American Redstart	Clark
78. American Redstart	Mitchell
79. American Redstart	Osbrone
80. Bobolink	Bourbon
81. Bobolink	Gray

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
82. Bobolink	Mitchell
83. Eastern Meadowlark	Gray
84. Bullock's Oriole	Greeley
85. Rusty Blackbird	Sheridan
86. Great-tailed Grackle	Atchison
87. Great-tailed Grackle	Dickinson
88. Great-tailed Grackle	Finney
89. Great-tailed Grackle	Osage
90. Western Tanager	Clark
91. Scarlet Tanager	Elk
92. Scarlet Tanager	Haskell
93. Cardinal	Hodgeman
94. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Clark
95. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Ellsworth
96. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Meade
97. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Republic
98. Black-headed Grosbeak	Clark
99. Lazuli Bunting	Kiowa
100. Magnolia Warbler	Lincoln
101. Magnolia Warbler	Ottawa
102. Magnolia Warbler	Wabaunsee
103. Black-throated Blue Warbler	Wabaunsee
104. Audubon's Warbler	Clark
105. Black-throated Gray Warbler	Sheridan
106. Black-throated Green Warbler	Mitchell
107. Blackburnian Warbler	Bourbon
108. Chestnut-sided Warbler	Bourbon
109. Chestnut-sided Warbler	Meade
110. Chestnut-sided Warbler	Lyon
111. Bay-breasted Warbler	Mitchell
112. Blackpoll Warbler	Clark
113. Blackpoll Warbler	Cloud
114. Blackpoll Warbler	Mitchell
115. Blackpoll Warbler	Ottawa
116. Palm Warbler	Haskell
117. Ovenbird	Cloud
118. Ovenbird	Ottawa
119. Ovenbird	Saline
120. Northern Waterthrush	Ottawa
121. Louisiana Waterthrush	Rush
122. Louisiana Waterthrush	Saline
123. Connecticut Warbler	Sedgwick
124. Connecticut Warbler	Wabaunsee
125. Mourning Warbler	Clark
126. Mourning Warbler	Lincoln
127. Common Yellowthroat	Ness
128. Common Yellowthroat	Osborne
129. Yellow-breasted Chat	Clay
130. Yellow-breasted Chat	Osborne
131. Purple Finch	Haskell
132. House Finch	Gove
133. House Finch	Harvey
134. House Finch	Hodgeman

135. House Finch	Mitchell
136. Pine Siskin	Mitchell
137. American Goldfinch	Lane
138. Red Crossbill	Haskell
139. Red Crossbill	Mitchell
140. Red Crossbill	Russell
141. Red Crossbill	Kiowa
142. LeConte's Sparrow	Clark
143. Henslow's Sparrow	Barton
144. Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Reno
145. White-winged Junco	Haskell
146. Chipping Sparrow	Meade
147. Clay-colored Sparrow	Mitchell
148. Fox Sparrow	Lincoln
149. Lincoln Sparrow	Kiowa
150. Snow Bunting	Saline
151. Blue-winged Warbler	Sheridan
152. Blue-winged Warbler	Sherman
153. Virginia's Warbler	Haskell
154. Black-throated Gray Warbler	Haskell
155. Pine Warbler	Sheridan
156. Yellow-throated Warbler	Sheridan
157. Yellow-throated Warbler	Sherman
158. White-winged Crossbill	Allen
159. Fox Sparrow	Meade

Chuck Ely
Hays, KS

CHEYENNE BOTTOMS UPDATE

The Kansas legislature has funded an eighteen month feasibility study of the Cheyenne Bottoms. The study will be a cooperative effort among the Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Fish and Game. The latter has the final responsibility for writing the final report and presenting it to the Governor and legislature in January 1987. Jan Garton would like to thank all who participated in this endeavor and she encourages you to write to your legislators to thank them for their efforts. If you want to keep better informed on the Bottoms, write to Jan Garton and she will send you the Bottoms line, a newsletter with the purpose of keeping Kansans informed about the Bottoms.

Jan Garton
219 Westwood Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone (913) 539-3004

She will also accept contributions for this newsletter. Keep informed.

Elmer J. Finck
KOS Representative
Cheyenne Bottoms Technical Task Force

