

Kansas Ornithological Society

BULLETIN

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Vol. 19

September, 1968

No. 3

Early Records of the Chuck-will's-widow at Manhattan, Kansas.—Recently I discovered a summary by Oberholser (1926) of some migration records for the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). Included was an entry for Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas, which gave, for three years of observation, the average date of arrival as 27 April, and the earliest date of arrival as 26 April 1913. Harris (1919:275) apparently did not know of this record, which was at that time unpublished, when he reported a Chuck-will's-widow from Kansas City, Missouri, in 1918. He stated that the species' "normal range in western Missouri does not extend much further north than from eighty to one hundred miles to the south of Jackson County." That would be approximately at 38° N latitude, the same as the latitude of Hamilton, Greenwood County, Kansas, where a bird had been taken on 30 April 1912 (Bent, 1940:162).

The Manhattan record was overlooked by Johnston (1960) and by Shane (1966), both of whom discussed the presumed range expansion of the Chuck-will's-widow in Kansas. On the basis of their summaries, however, it is obvious that the presence of the species as far northwest in Kansas (or, in fact, in the United States) as Manhattan, in 1913, is noteworthy, and the details, as known, seem worth repeating here.

Richard C. Banks, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who had access to Oberholser's records, replied to my query regarding the records as follows (letter, 12 December 1967): "[They] were reported by F. L. Shelley, who was a regular bird migration reporter from 1912 to 1917, and occasionally thereafter until 1921. He filled out and returned migration cards which were sent to qualified birders of that time. Apparently he lived at Manhattan, Kansas. The cards for the years 1913–1915 bear the following data [see Table 1]."

Oberholser (1926:117) did not directly indicate that the Manhattan record was remarkable, although he did state that the species bred "north to . . . southern Kansas" and "west to central southern Kansas." F. C. Lincoln (*in* Bent, 1940:162) also did not seem to regard the Manhattan record as being unusual. Under the heading "Spring migration—early dates of arrival" he listed "Kansas—Manhattan, April 26 [apparently the 1913 record]; Elmdale, April 29 [see details below]." On the same page, under "Casual records," he stated: "There are several records for Kansas north of areas where it is known to breed, among them being a specimen collected at Wichita on June 12, 1898; one taken at Hamilton on April 30, 1912; and one obtained at Lawrence on May 4, 1935." Apparently neither Oberholser nor Lincoln carefully studied a map of Kansas when compiling their records.

Chandler S. Robbins, also of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, informed me (personal communication) that the above-mentioned record for Elmdale, Chase County, was also made by F. L. Shelley. It was for 1916, and Shelley reported that the Chuck-will's-widow was first noted on 29 April and was common by 4 May.

Thus, the Elmdale and Manhattan reports, which were to stand for many years as the northwesternmost records in the United States for the Chuck-will's-widow, all were made by one person. This emphasizes the fact that there were, in Kansas, only a few, scattered persons recording their observations in the first several decades of this century. Because of this, we will never precisely know how much of the apparent recent range expansion of the Chuck-will's-widow in Kansas is real and how much is a result of an increase in the number of observers. In fact,

TABLE 1
SOME RECORDS OF THE CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW AT MANHATTAN,
RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS^a

Year	First seen	Next seen	Common
1913	April 26	April 27	April 30
1914	April 27	April 28	—
1915	April 29	April 30	May 6

^a See text for explanation of source.

we are still not adequately documenting the status of the species in Kansas. This area, which essentially still represents the northwestern edge of the species' range, is critical in any study of the factors limiting the birds' distribution. We should have estimates of the numbers of birds present every spring for all areas of the state, not just reports of new localities.

The early appearance of this bird in Manhattan, on the Kansas River, and its recent occurrence in nearby Geary County (Shane, 1966) support Johnston's thesis (1960) that the species will be limited to the riparian vegetation along the great rivers in the western portion of its range in Kansas.

I thank Richard C. Banks and Chandler S. Robbins for assistance in obtaining the details of these records and Robert M. Mengel for reading the manuscript of this paper.

As this paper was going to press, I became indebted to Sievert A. Rohwer for the data on a Chuck-will's-widow he had recently examined in the U. S. National Museum. It was a male (no. 140355), which still retained some juvenal body plumage, from Cedarvale, Chautauqua County, taken on 18 July 1892. This specimen indicates that Chuck-will's-widows were breeding in the area and pre-dates by six years the one reported on by Lantz (1899) which has generally been regarded as the first specimen of the Chuck-will's-widow for Kansas.

LITERATURE CITED

- BENT, A. C. 1940. Life histories of North American cuckoos, goatsuckers, hummingbirds and their allies. U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 176.
- HARRIS, H. 1919. Birds of the Kansas City region. Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis, 23:213-371.
- JOHNSTON, R. F. 1960. Distributional history of the Chuck-will's-widow in Kansas. Bull. Kansas Ornith. Soc., 11:18.
- LANTZ, D. E. 1899. New and rare birds in Kansas. Auk, 16:187.
- OBERHOLSER, H. C. 1926. The migration of North American birds. XXX. Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will. Bird-Lore, 28:117-120.
- SHANE, T. G. 1966. Chuck-will's-widow breeding in Geary County, Kansas. Bull. Kansas Ornith. Soc., 17:12-14.
- MARION ANNE JENKINSON, *Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, 66044.*

Nest Parasitism by the Bobwhite.—Another case of nest parasitism by the Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* and possible communal egg-laying by Ring-necked Pheasants *Phasianus colchicus* was observed this past spring on the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation in Harvey County, Kansas. The nest was first discovered in tall grass on April 24, 1968, from which the hen pheasant flushed. There were eight pheasant eggs and two bobwhite eggs in the nest. On April 27, there were 12 pheasant eggs and four bobwhite eggs. On May 7, there were 18 pheasant eggs, one bobwhite egg, and the crushed remains of three other bobwhite eggs. On May 10, the nest was empty, and broken eggshells were scattered near the nest.—DWIGHT R. PLATT, *Dept. of Biology, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.*

Golden-winged Warbler in Harvey County.—A male Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* was seen on May 28, 1968, in a cottonwood tree on the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation in western Harvey County, Kansas, by Dwight R. Platt and Robert W. Regier. Identification was positive, as field guides were consulted while the bird was being observed for an extended period of time.—Dwight R. PLATT, *Dept. of Biology, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.*

BOOK REVIEW

Honeybees from close up. By Arthur M. Dines. Photographs by Stephen Dalton. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York. 114 pages. Price, \$6.95.

This is a beautifully printed and rather brief account of the honey bee, illustrated with excellent black and white photographs. It is designed for the general reader and lover of nature, and is something of a picture book, perhaps one-third of the space being occupied by photographs. The style is easily understood and simple. The material presented is for practical purposes accurate in terms of present knowledge, although the author pays little attention to differences of opinion. He evidently selects what he or his sources consider the most likely views and presents them, in some cases like established facts. This problem is particularly noticeable in the case of the dance "language" which has recently been seriously questioned by Wenner and his associates although no indication of such questioning appears in this book. Some topics such as the dances could have been presented in a considerably clearer manner had drawings and diagrams been included among the illustrations. When one sees the really superb photographs, however, magnificently printed as well, one cannot be overly critical of the illustrations in this book.

The book is to be strongly recommended for young readers or readers desiring a competent and nontechnical treatment of this insect, about which more is doubtless known than for any other of the perhaps 1,000,000 insect species. The book will also be of interest to those who keep bees, either commercially or as a hobby, not for any practical details concerning beekeeping but because it will better enable them to explain the subjects of their interest to friends, other potential beekeepers, or customers.—CHARLES D. MICHENER.

Scott's Oriole—an Addition to the Kansas Avifauna.—On 16 April 1967, Larry W. Anthony collected a Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) along the Cimarron River about 7½ miles north and one mile east of Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas.

The presence of a Scott's Oriole in Kansas is unexpected. The species has a rather limited breeding range from southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, north-central Arizona, north-central New Mexico and western Texas south throughout southeastern California and northern Mexico. It winters chiefly southward into Mexico (Amer. Ornith. Union Check-List, 1957:533). Recently a few have bred in central western Texas (Comal Co., *Aud. Field Notes*, 20:584; 21:586). Scattered birds have been observed very rarely outside the breeding range detailed above—, e.g., in coastal California and Texas (Midland, 29 April 1957, *Aud. Field Notes*, 11:360; near Beaumont, 15 January 1957, *Aud. Field Notes*, 11:280) and in Colorado and Louisiana. The single Colorado record is of a singing male, observed on the south rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison during the last week of May and the first of June 1960 by Baer and Holt (*Aud. Field Notes*, 14:468). The two available Louisiana records are: Thibodaux, 6 March 1962 (Taylor, *Aud. Field Notes*, 16:422); New Orleans (McGee and Myers, 29 January 1967, *Aud. Field Notes*, 21:429).

The Kansas specimen (FHKSC 1397) was a female (ovary 5×3 mm, largest ovum minute) with moderate fat, completely ossified skull and moderately worn plumage. It was collected from open young cottonwoods along the south bank of the river. Migration was just getting underway and the resident Bullock and orchard orioles (*Icterus bullockii* and *I. spurius*) had not yet arrived. The area had received a three-inch rain several days before but weather conditions did not otherwise seem unusual.—CHARLES A. ELY AND LARRY W. ANTHONY, *Department of Zoology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, 67601.*

Kansas Ornithological Society

OFFICERS FOR 1967-1968

President John L. Zimmerman, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 67212
Vice-President Mrs. Ralph White, Junction City, Kansas 66441
Corresponding Secretary Mrs. A. R. Challans, St. Mary of the Plains College,
Dodge City, Kansas 67881
Membership Secretary Amelia Betts, Baldwin, Kansas 66006
Treasurer Orville O. Rice, 1663 W. 28th St. Terrace, Topeka, Kansas 66611

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dwight Platt	1967-1969	Max C. Thompson
Philip S. Humphrey	1968-1970	Stanley D. Roth, Jr.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor, *The Newsletter* Charles A. Ely, Fort Hays State, Hays, Kansas 67602
Editor, *The Bulletin* Richard F. Johnston, Museum of Natural History, KU,
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
Assistant Editor, *The Bulletin* Jerome A. Jackson, Museum of Natural History, KU,
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Regular Membership, \$3.00 Student Membership, \$1.00 Sustaining Membership, \$5.00

Dues payable January 1 to the Treasurer

Subscription to the Bulletin is included in any class of membership

Published 20 September 1968