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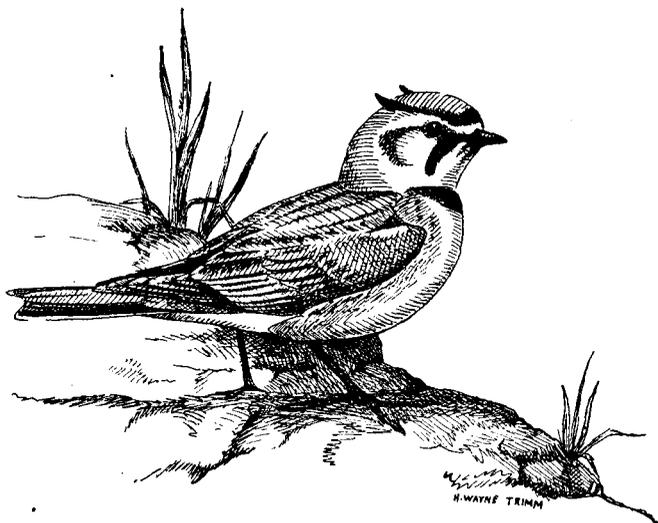
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Sight Records Of Bird Migration In North-Central Kansas*

By JOHN M. PORTER

Concordia, Kansas

The following notations are presented from sight records made since 1929 in an area of north-central Kansas, which, to the best of my knowledge, has never formed the basis of any kind of ornithological report. It centers around Concordia and includes Cloud County and the six adjoining counties of Washington, Republic, Mitchell, Jewell, Ottawa and Clay. This district has been called the crossroads of America and opportunities exist for studying birds from almost all parts of the country. No reference will be made to resident birds and subspecific names will be avoided. I hope this report will tend to round out the excellent records already available from Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan, Baldwin and other parts of Kansas and I hope it may stimulate other amateurs to report such seasonal and geographic variations as may come to their attention.

The Pied-billed Grebe is a common spring and fall migrant. The Eared Grebe also appears as a migrant from April to June and occasionally in the fall. Differentiation of the Horned Grebe, especially in winter plumage, is extremely difficult but I believe the latter appears at times and my records show four observations in April and five fall records. I have one doubtful record of Holboell's Grebe made on September 27, 1947.

The White Pelican is an abundant migrant from about April 1 to as late as November. The major portion of the birds leave by mid-June and do not return until September but an occasional non-breeding adult is seen in July or August. This year's flocks of two to four hundred were larger than usual. The Double-crested Cormorant is an irregular but sometimes common migrant coming in the spring from March to May and again in the fall. A dozen at a time would be a large flock.

The Great Blue Heron is common from late March until early November but only one small heronry (near Waterville in 1938) has been located. The Black-crowned Night Heron has been a rather rare bird recently but prior to World War II there was a huge nesting colony near the Jamestown State Lake with birds present from April to October. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is apparently accidental and has been noted only three times in April and July. The Green Heron is fairly common from April to late September. The American Egret is a regular summer visitor from late July to September and I saw one specimen on May 22, 1949 following severe storms in Texas. The Snowy Egret is much less common and is usually seen only once in July or August. The American Bittern is a regular but rather uncommon bird from April to late October but is rare in June and July and no evidence of breeding in this area has been discovered. The Least Bittern has been seen only in May, 1940, and in July, 1949.

Geese are abundant in this area whenever the water supply and weather are suitable. White-fronted and Canada Geese (both large and small varieties) may appear early in January and by March huge flocks of Lesser Snow Geese are common, accompanied usually by a few Blue Geese.

I have no unusual notations on ducks from this area and will run through the list rapidly. Mallards occur in huge flocks from March to May and may be seen through the winter when the weather is open. Gadwalls are common in small numbers from March to the last of April. Baldpates, often in large flocks, are common from February or March to May. The Pintail is probably the most abundant duck in north-central Kansas and some have been observed in every month of the year, although I have found no

* Presented at the annual meeting April 21, 1951.

evidence of nesting. The Green-winged Teal occurs from about March 1 to the last of May but never in great numbers. The Blue-winged Teal is abundant from March to late October and undoubtedly nests in this area. I have noted the Cinnamon Teal four times between March and May. The Shoveller is abundant from February or March to June and from August to early November. The local game wardens have reported it nesting. The Wood Duck is accidental and has been seen only on October 12 and November 30, 1947. The Redhead is seen fairly frequently from February to May. The Ring-necked Duck is somewhat unpredictable, common at times in March and April and at other times rare or missing. The Lesser Scaup is the common "blue-bill" of this country and is abundant from March to early June and not uncommon in October and November. W. S. Long relegated the Greater Scaup to the hypothetical list but it has been listed by other observers and I am inclined to think it occurs in this territory. My dates are from March 3 to April 21 and from October 29 to November 17. The American Golden-eye has been identified only twice, in March of 1949 and 1950. I have very uncertain notations of Barrow's Golden-eye for 1932 and 1940. The Buffle-head is a fairly regular but not common migrant in March and April. Ruddy Ducks are common from about March 20 to June 1. American Mergansers are common winter residents or early spring migrants up to April and the Hooded Merganser has been observed several times in March and November. All the spring migrants mentioned above occur in lesser numbers in the fall.

The Turkey Vulture is rather rare in this area as compared to the hills around the Blue Valley but is observed occasionally almost every year from April up to October 1. Swainson's Hawk is fairly common from April to October and usually breeds in this area. The American Rough-legged Hawk is common from November to March and occasionally the Bald Eagle is seen from December to April. Duck Hawks and Ospreys occur in fall migrations only. The Pigeon Hawk and Prairie Falcon has been seen rarely and I have only one observation on the Golden Eagle for January 12, 1950.

The Sandhill Crane is a rare but fairly regular spring migrant, appearing at least once in March or April and a much common fall migrant in September and October. The King Rail is seen in small numbers in May, June and July and rarely in September. One nest with eggs was located near Concordia June 30, 1931 and last year near Jamestown on July 18 I was able to capture a fledgling in the fuzzy black plumage which has no protective value whatever in the brown marsh grass of this locality. The Sora is a rather uncertain migrant, going through in May and again in the fall but never in large numbers. The Coot occurs in large flocks from March to June and again from early fall up to December but in June, July and August is quite rare and I am not certain it breeds in this area.

Except for the Killdeer which has been seen as early as February 21 and as late as December 3, the Plovers are not common. The Semipalmated is usually seen in small numbers in April and May and again in late August and early September. The Piping Plover is occasional from August to October. The Black-bellied has been seen at various times from April 30 to June 1 and from August to early November but is never a common bird. The Golden Plover has been recorded twice in May and June and on October 30, 1932 I caught an injured bird which I am fairly certain was this species although the fall migration is not supposed to cover this area. Ruddy Turnstones have been seen in four recent years usually in late May and early June but once in September.

Sight records on sandpipers are notoriously unreliable and I give you these for what they are worth. The American Woodcock was seen in August, 1934 and in April, 1937. Wilson's Snipe is a fairly common migrant from March to May and from July to November. The Long-billed Curlew has been seen three times in April and May and I have one fall record. The Upland Plover occurs in the southern part of my territory from May to October but is never common and I have seen no evidences of breeding. The Spotted Sandpiper is common from late April to September. The Solitary

Sandpiper is fairly common from late April to early May and again in the fall. The Willet is a common but rather erratic migrant from April to early June and again from late July to October. Both Yellow-legs are common migrants, the Lesser more abundant than the Greater, and appearing a little later in the spring. The Pectoral Sandpiper occurs irregularly through the spring and again from late August to mid-September. White-rumped Sandpipers are common for a time in late April and May and again in August and September. Baird's are somewhat more abundant and may be seen from late March to about June 1st and again from the last week in July to September. Least, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers all appear in this locality but their differentiation is difficult. The Least is probably the most common and migrates from late April to June 1 and from July to September. The Semipalmated appears on about the same dates but is less abundant while the Western has more variable dates extending from April to October. I have only one record for the Red-backed Sandpiper, May 26, 1949. The Stilt Sandpiper is rather uncertain but is usually recorded once or twice in May and occasionally in August and September. Dowitchers, probably Long-billed, are abundant at times from April to early June and again from July to November. Both Godwits occur but rather rarely, with the Hudsonian being more frequently seen than the Marbled. Dates run from late April to August. The Avocet is a frequent migrant in this territory and may often be seen in flocks of a dozen or more. The earliest date recorded is April 2 and the latest spring date June 27. The fall dates run from August 1 to November 7. The Black-necked Stilt has been noted twice, on April 24, 1947 and April 27, 1948, a single specimen each time. Wilson's Phalaropes are abundant spring migrants from April to June and fairly abundant fall migrants.

Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls are regular migrants in this area, the Herring appearing somewhat earlier and remaining later in the fall. Franklin's Gulls are abundant migrants and the spring visit lasts from April to June and the fall migration from July to early November. On May 8, 1947 I saw one immature Bonaparte's Gull. Forster's Tern is a not uncommon spring migrant from late April through May. Fall records are less common. The Common Tern has been noted on three occasions in September and October. The Least Tern is a somewhat erratic migrant occurring from late May to the last of August sometimes in fairly large numbers. It may possibly breed in or near this territory. The Black Tern is abundant from early May to late September but no nests have been located.

Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos are common summer residents of this area, the yellow-billed somewhat more frequent. Dates of migration are May to early September.

Barn Owls occur frequently from March to September but I have no winter record for this bird. The Long-eared Owl is seen rarely, usually from February to April but is probably a year around resident. A nest was located at Bennington March 25, 1931. Burrowing Owls, formerly abundant from late March to early October, have become scarce as prairie-dog villages have been destroyed. Recently the bird has been seen only as a rare migrant. Short-eared Owls occur very irregularly and are somewhat more common in the winter.

Nighthawks are common residents from early May to September. In late September or early October a migrating form, possibly Sennett's, is seen in small flocks. The Chimney Swift is abundant from about April 26th to the first week in October. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are casual migrants usually in August and September but may possibly breed rarely in this area. Belted Kingfishers have recently extended their fall departure from the usual October or November into December and January. Following hard freezes in February they disappear until the usual time for their reappearance in late March.

The Red-shafted Flicker is seen regularly every year from September to April. In recent years many of the Northern Flickers migrate out of the area in the winter time

so that any Flicker seen from December to March is about as likely to be a Red-shafted or hybrid as the commoner resident form. The Red-headed Woodpecker is distinctly a migrant in this territory and has never been seen earlier than April 26 nor later than October 9. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appears in very limited numbers for only a day or so in April and again in late September or October. On April 4, 1935, I saw a single specimen of a strange sapsucker in some evergreens in Concordia. W. S. Long, who at that time was on the staff at the University of Kansas, was kind enough to send me a number of skins for comparison and from these I reached the conclusion that it was a male Natalie's Sapsucker, a sub-species of Williamson's Sapsucker, which is ordinarily a Rocky Mountain bird wintering in New Mexico and western Texas into Mexico. Long was good enough to include it in his hypothetical list in the check-list published in 1940.

The Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds are about equally common in this part of Kansas, each arriving late in April and leaving by late September. Wetmore has stated that the Arkansas Kingbird has steadily extended its range eastward in the past 60 years and I have been told by old residents of Cloud County that the bird was not common in this area 40 years ago. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is locally common from May to September in the southern part of my territory and breeds regularly in Ottawa County. The Crested Flycatcher is a common summer resident. The Eastern Phoebe is common and arrives early in March and usually remains until late October. A pair of Say's Phoebes were seen in Republic County from April 13 to April 27, 1947. (A nesting record of the Say's Phoebe in Jewell County five miles south and two miles east of Formoso was added to the list after this report was presented at the annual meeting.—Ed.) Of the Empidonax group, I am certain only of the Least Flycatcher which occurs regularly for a few days in May and may return in August or September. Others doubtless migrate through this territory but any sight records of mine would be worthless. The Wood Pewee is not uncommon from early May to September. The Olive-sided Flycatcher has been noted about half a dozen times from August 29 to September 14 and is never a common bird.

Tree Swallows migrate in varying numbers in April and May and rather rarely in October. Bank Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows both occur as summer residents and the dates of migration for both species are roughly April or May to mid-August. The Barn Swallow is abundant from April to late October. Cliff Swallows nest in fairly large colonies and may be seen from May 1 to early September. Purple Martins arrive in late March and usually disappear about August 20.

The Blue Jay which most of you know as a year-round resident migrates from this territory from about the first of October to the third week in April. Rarely one bird, either lost or crippled, will remain for a few weeks in December, January or February and his lone calls only emphasize the absence of the usual flocks common to this country. The American Magpie is apparently a common bird only a little north and west of my territory and about a dozen observations have been made in Jewell, Cloud and Ottawa Counties since 1934. These are more apt to be in winter during stormy weather but in 1950 I saw one bird on June 8.

White-breasted Nuthatches are totally unpredictable in this area and may be located from January to July and equally well may be absent for a year or more. They are never common and I have seen no evidence of nesting. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a rare winter resident from November to April. Brown Creepers are fairly common from October 1 to early April.

The House Wren is abundant from April to early October. The Winter Wren has been noted only four times in October, November and January. (The Bewick's Wren was added to the list of migrating species on May 3, 1951.—Ed.) The Carolina Wren is occasionally common at various times of the year but may be unaccountably absent

for years at a time. The Prairie Marsh Wren has been noted twice in April and in May of 1935 I thought I recognized a Short-billed Marsh Wren. Neither species is at all common. The Common Rock Wren was seen in October, 1937 and October, 1941. The Mockingbird is a common resident from early April to September, the Catbird from May to September and the Brown Thrasher from late April to the first week in October. I have no winter records of any of these birds.

The Wood Thrush is a regular but never very common summer resident from early May to September. The Hermit Thrush has been seen in migration in April of 1938 and 1941. The Olive-backed Thrush is a rather common migrant throughout May and less frequently in September. The Willow Thrush has been seen a few times in May. The Eastern Bluebird and Mountain Bluebird have recently been about equally common throughout the winter months from late December to mid-March. Since 1939 Townsend's Solitaire has been recorded in Concordia in all but two winter seasons. The earliest fall record is November 5 and the latest in the spring, March 31. The bird appears as a single specimen or at best one pair, usually in evergreens in the local cemetery but rarely in shelter belts or other thick growths of trees. They frequently sing on clear winter days.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is apparently migratory in this area although occasionally specimens are seen in June, July and August. April 1 and September 16 are the extreme dates. They are never common. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is most common in the fall migration from October through December and may be seen occasionally in January and February and up to April 9. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is common only in migration from early April to the first few days of May and from September to November.

Pipits, presumably American, have been noted frequently in migration from March to May and again from late September to October. The Bohemian Waxwing has been identified with some degree of certainty on January 18 and 23, 1939 and on December 19, 1941. Others may have been overlooked in flocks of Cedar Waxwings which are common at certain times from September to early June.

The winter shrike in this territory has been recorded as the Northwestern Shrike but might readily be the Northern. It is distinguished with difficulty from the common Migrant Shrike, especially since their dates of arrival and departure (mid-March and early November) overlap slightly.

My first Kansas record for the Starling is March 25, 1934 and it was not recorded again until 1938. Since 1940 it has been seen every month in the year and has nested regularly since 1942.

Vireos are more commonly heard than seen and my notes are grossly inadequate as to their frequency in this area. The Warbling Vireo is probably the commonest, occurring from late April to the first week in September with the Red-eyed Vireo somewhat less frequent during approximately the same time. Bell's Vireo is also quite common from early May to September. The Yellow-throated Vireo has been seen occasionally between April and August but is never a common bird. The Blue-headed Vireo has been noted in migration in September, 1937 and October, 1948.

North-central Kansas is not a good locality for warblers. Summer residents in this group consist of the Yellow Warbler, the Yellow-throat, the Yellow-breasted Chat and very rarely the Redstart. Regular spring migrants are the Black and White Warbler, the Orange-crowned, the Myrtle, the Black-poll, the Ovenbird and Grinnell's Water Thrush. In addition to most of these birds, fall migrants include the Nashville Warbler, the Tennessee and Wilson's Warbler. Others appear to be accidental with one or two spring notations on the Prothonotary, the Magnolia, the Pine Warbler and the Palm Warbler, and one spring and one fall note on the Mourning Warbler and the Canada Warbler.

The Bobolink migrates through this territory in moderate sized flocks from about May 8 to early June and in 1940 several pairs remained until July 21 in some swampy land near the Jamestown State Lake. On June 25 of that year I saw two pairs feeding fledgling birds. In other years there have been no evidences of breeding. The bird has been recognized only rarely in July and August but is probably overlooked in the fall plumage. The Yellow-headed Blackbird is a common migrant from late April to early June and is seen occasionally into July and then frequently again up to October 1. It is possible this species nests here or not far north. The Orchard Oriole is abundant from May to August and the Baltimore Oriole from April to early September. Both Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds are casual migrants and winter residents, occurring irregularly and infrequently but often in large flocks any time from September to May. The Bronzed Grackle is abundant from mid-March to October and the Eastern Cowbird is quite common during the same period.

Usually one pair of Scarlet Tanagers can be located in the territory between May and August and they have occasionally been found nesting.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Rocky Mountain (or Black-headed) Grosbeaks are about equally common, reaching Concordia about May 1 and leaving early in September. Both birds nest regularly. Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings are not uncommon in May and June and occasionally up to the last of August or later. The Lazuli Bunting has been seen once yearly in May or early June on four occasions. The Dickcissel is abundant from May 1 to late September. The Eastern Evening Grosbeak is a casual winter visitor usually in small flocks. I have notations of March 6 to 13, 1938; December 7, 1947 to March 7, 1948 and one specimen on March 31, 1951. The Common Redpoll was seen February 21, 1937 and was reported in 1951 by other observers in this area. Pine Siskins are common but somewhat erratic winter visitors from November to late May. This year I managed to get in on the well-publicized Crossbill invasion by observing one pair of Red Crossbills at Concordia on February 25. Red-eyed Towhees are regular summer residents in this area but have never been observed later than October 8 or earlier than April 4. The Arctic Towhee is a common migrant and a frequent winter resident from early September to the first week in May. Lark Buntings, usually in small flocks, are occasional spring migrants and were seen in May in 1936, 1940 and 1950.

Savannah Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows are common migrants in the spring and fall. Henslow's, Leconte's, Nelson's and Swamp Sparrows have been recorded at various times but with no great certainty. Lark and Grasshopper Sparrows are common residents from late April to early September. Slate-colored Juncos are abundant from early October to May 1. A red-backed Junco is seen occasionally during the winter and is very likely the Cassiar Junco described recently in a bulletin (Vol. 2, No. 1) of this society. The Tree Sparrow is abundant from early October to April and Harris's Sparrow from October to May. Chipping Sparrows and Clay-colored Sparrows are migrants only, appearing in April and May and again from August to October. The Field Sparrow is only an occasional migrant in April or May and again in the fall and have been rarely present during the winter. The Fox Sparrow is a rare visitor with scattered observations from October and November through January and March. Lincoln's Sparrow occurs regularly but sparingly during April and May and rather rarely in September and October. Song Sparrows are common winter residents from September 1 to about May 1. Lapland Longspurs occur in huge flocks at irregular intervals from November to March and I have made uncertain observations on McCown's Longspur during about the same time of the year.

State Bird Notes

Notes from Hays

We have two observations which might be of interest. On September 21, Dr. Wooster saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher east of Great Bend on Highway 50N. Several have also been seen this summer around LaCrosse. On September 17, Dr. Tomanek and I took our monthly bird census in the College Pasture and observed a flight of about 150 Ring-billed Gulls going north across the pasture. Some came in quite low and we had good field observation of them, so we feel sure that they were Ring-billed Gulls.—Wm. R. Eastman, Hays, Kansas.

Notes from Topeka

We have enjoyed a nice flight of shore birds including two late records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. T. W. Nelson discovered one September 9. We found a couple more on September 16. We found a nice flock of Black-crowned Night Herons on September 3. Most of them were in the immature plumage. They were with several Little Blue Herons on Silver Lake. American Egrets have not been plentiful and no Snowys have been found.

John Bishop brought a car load of birders from Kansas City on September 9. We were fortunate in that we found Semipalmated Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Golden Plovers (second fall record as we had them last year), Killdeers, Sanderlings and Buff-breasted Sandpipers all in the same field at the same time. We also located a Dowitcher in good plumage on August 24.

We found a Black-bellied Plover in good plumage on August 24. This bird retained the black throat and belly but the breast was turning to a silver sheen. The back was the distinct silver of the breeding bird. The Kaw Valley is full of pot holes and since these pot holes have a lot of small fish, they have attracted numerous herons and terns. I have found only the Black but Roberta Foote found the Caspian and Elizabeth Fisher identified the Least. Nelson and I discovered what we thought was a Ward's Heron on September 9. This bird was distinctly lighter than the normal plumage of the Great Blue and had much lighter legs.—L. B. Carson, Topeka, Kansas.

Notes from Halstead

We have had a very dull summer season. Due to so much flooding of streams we did not get much scouting done. We do know that Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were in our area as late as August 5 but we do not know whether they nested here, as was true of the Blue Grosbeaks last year. Of our common birds, there were less nesting than usual, yet quite a variety of juveniles came to our yard during the season: Mourning Doves, Robins, House Wrens, two sets of Catbirds, Brown Thrasher, Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern Kingbird, Bluejay, Baltimore Oriole, Cardinal, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Red-bellied Woodpecker fed on our suet stick from June 21 to July 12. We rather surmise the pair of Carolina Wrens first seen October 31, 1949, and resident here since incubated this summer; twice we think we had an immature. We hear them daily and they are a constant joy with their varied calls and scolds. This is the first season we have heard Carolina Wrens in various localities: one was seen in Newton April 11; we saw one at Murdock, May 24; heard one 4 miles southeast of Halstead, July 4; Mrs. Challans heard one this summer at Springdale 3 miles northwest of town.

On August 12, Mississippi Kites were again seen in Harvey County where we remained that evening until the moon was high, hoping to hear the call of the Whip-poorwills which veteran birder C. A. Smith of Halstead used to hear there in earlier years, and which H. R. Schmidt insists are still resident there. Our wait was fruitless.

Cardinals seem scarce. On a field trip last Saturday (September 22), not one did we see all day. Yellow-shafted Flickers are sparse here the past several years.—Edna Ruth, Halstead, Kansas.

**Notes from
Emporia**

Observations on September 6 and 25 were interesting to me. A couple of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were frolicking around the Lantanas and Salvias in the Campus Sunken Garden. I cannot remember having seen them so late in the season in former years. Last week I saw my second Broad-winged Hawk in Emporia.—Ted Andrews, Emporia, Kansas.

**Notes from
Lawrence**

Our biggest thrill of the season was the sight of six Caspian Terns six miles east of Lawrence, September 5. Later in the day R. W. Fredrickson confirmed our identification of these terns. We have seen them several times since—the last time was September 26. Mr. Fredrickson says there are only two previous records of Caspian Terns in Kansas. Another good find was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron which the Fredricksons and we saw north of the airport, August 26. On September 2 we saw a mature Little Blue Heron near Perry. Mr. Fredrickson reported a Bald Eagle west of town, September 22.

The flood left many fields covered with water about six miles east of Lawrence. For several weeks many American Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and immature Little Blues have been feeding there. Also seen in the area were Willets, Least Terns, Forsters Terns, Stilt Sandpipers, Dowitchers, and the common sandpipers.

It would seem that an interesting project for the K. O. S. Bulletin would be to act as a clearing house for reporting birds not common to all parts of Kansas, or for birds not ordinarily found in the State. We would like to start the ball rolling by asking if anyone has seen a Roadrunner in Kansas. Dr. H. T. Gier asked about the Painted Bunting sometime ago. We hear and see them in Lawrence as late as July so we presume that they nest in this area.—BERT AND HELEN CHEWNING, Lawrence, Kansas.

Editor's note: If you will send your Kansas observations on these two birds I shall be glad to tabulate the results in the next issue. Have you a bird in which you are interested in hearing of its occurrence in other parts of the state? If so, with the cooperation of the membership, valuable data can be assembled. Perhaps a publication of "Where to see Birds in Kansas" could evolve.

**Notes from
Kansas City**

Bill Buckingham and R. L. Brown found a Long-eared Owl in the city limits (heavy woodland) which gives this area the Barred, Great Horned, Screech, Long Eared and the Saw-whet Owls. The Saw-whet was found last winter and is still here. Young Saw-whets have been observed occasionally. This could be a new record for eastern Kansas.—JOHN BISHOP, Kansas City, Kansas.

Membership News

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewning took a vacation trip this past summer to the Lake of the Woods and the Canadian wild-life research station located at Delta on the southern tip of Lake Manitoba. While they were there they watched Cornell University students gathering eggs of the Pintails which they were placing in incubators for hatching. The young ducks were to be taken back to New York and released in the hopes that the Pintail could be established in that state.

Just received word from John Bishop that he had arrived home from a fall trip to Texas where he added three "lifcers": they were Fish Crow, Wood Ibis and Man-of-War. John states that he now has slightly over 500 (species and subspecies) on his life list.

Early in September Mr. and Mrs. Ralph O'Neil visited the Jack Miner Wild Life Sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario, Canada. Jack Miner died in 1944 but his three sons are carrying on the great work of their noted father and Canadian naturalist. Their acreage, just over 1000 acres, is protected from hunters by the Canadian Government.

In recent years about 20,000 Canada Geese are stopping each fall and spring. The Miners give them about 75 bushels of corn each day. This corn is scattered on the ground about 50 yards from the highway which goes by the homes of the Miner boys. Thousands of people watch this free and spectacular show. The Miners have been able to catch thousands of these Canada Geese and band them and through their efforts, a very informative and comprehensive chart has been made of the migration of these geese which use the eastern part of North America for their round trips.

H. C. Hedges and family made a trip to California in June. Miss Amelia Betts and Katherine Kelley toured the Northwest in July. Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans spent two weeks in Colorado and then proceeded to California on business. On their return trip they found birding excellent in Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona. R. F. Miller and family took a trip in early September to Yellowstone Park, Tetons, Salt Lake City and Rocky Mountain National Park. Eugene Dehner spent part of the summer in Iowa and early this fall he was in Pennsylvania.

At the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club Harrison B. Tordoff was selected as the editor of The Wilson Bulletin. The Club met on April 27-29, 1951 in Davenport, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Tordoff were the sole representatives from Kansas.

Theodore M. Sperry is on leave of absent from Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg. Under the supervision of the Belgian government he is making ecological studies of the vegetative types in undeveloped areas. Perhaps after his return he will give us a report of the bird population in that country.

General Notes

Purple Gallinule at Lake Quivira, Kansas.—On June 10, 1951, Harold Hedges and Ben King flushed a Purple Gallinule from under their feet while birding early in the morning at Lake Quivira. Mr. Hedges stated that the color of the bird was very brilliant in the morning sunlight. This bird is regarded as 'accidental' or a 'straggler' in eastern Kansas.

Albino Spotted Sandpiper at Atchison, Kansas.—Rev. Eugene Dehner states that early in May Miss Florence Barth of Atchison, called to tell him that she had seen what

looked like an albino Spotted Sandpiper. The bird was west of Sugar Lake along the road parallel to the Missouri River. She stated that it was distinctly white, and a sandpiper.

Albino English Sparrows in Baldwin, Kansas.—Sunday, June 24, brought a very unusual and interesting experience to me. There has been a veritable influx of English Sparrows this summer and the thought of so many rather unwelcomed guests at my feeders this coming winter fills me with dismay! However, they brought me a real thrill, when in watching the birds from my kitchen windows on the north I saw a very different looking sparrow! It was feeding with a group of English Sparrows and they seemed curious and also resentful of its presence and kept it on the defensive for the short time that it was there.

I am certain it was an English Sparrow as it was the same in size, build, type of bill, feeding habits and in all ways except in color. This sparrow was a deep cream color, in strong sunlight at times verging on a golden cream over the entire body, with a tiny fleck of brown on the shoulder and another small bit of brown on the tip of one or possibly two wing feathers. It was easily outstanding in the group of English Sparrows which soon drove it away.

I began to scan all groups of sparrows from then on but saw no unusual one for about two weeks. This was July 15 and here was the same sparrow or its counterpart! That same day at noon I saw another one in the edge of the arbor but this one had a little more brown on the wings though the entire body was cream color. Again the other sparrows drove it away in only a few minutes.

On August 12, I saw another one briefly. This one with several English Sparrows flew into a feeding shelf on my back porch. I was so surprised to see the "stray" one that I didn't even "shoo" the English Sparrows away. Again this one had the same deep cream colored body but with a little more brown on the wings and a tiny spot of brown on top of its head. Surely all were of the same brood.—MRS. GEORGE BOICOURT, Baldwin, Kansas.

Heron Colony in Chase County.*—The Great Blue Heron colony here described is in the southeastern part of Chase County, about 28 miles southwest of Emporia. It now consists of about 46 nests, 38 of them in two trees and the remainder scattered about, one to three per tree. This colony has been observed annually by George Nernberg, who lives about two miles from the site, since 1908. When he first saw the colony it was about the same size as it is now, as he recalls it. In 1932 the nests were counted by the author of this note and his students; there were about 50 nests in six trees. In 1936 a new colony of about a dozen nests was established about a half mile south of the main one. In 1938 there were about 80 nests, about 50 in the old colony and about 30 in the new colony. During that year the largest tree in the group, bearing more than 20 nests, was blown down. One of these nests, the one in best condition after the fall of the tree, was salvaged and is now in the Emporia State College museum. It is about 36 inches in diameter and about 18 inches deep. This is somewhat above the average size of the nests which were in good enough condition to be measured. After 1938 the nests in the north colony were abandoned and the entire colony moved to the south site. Throughout the 43 years this colony has been observed, all nests have been in sycamores.

The date of arrival of the herons at this colony range from March 10 to April 10, according to Mr. Nernberg. The earliest date on which we have seen them was March 16; this was in 1939. This year the birds arrived March 21.

Other Kansas heron colonies seen by the author are as follows: about 11 miles northwest of Strong City, near highway K 13; about five miles northwest of Reading; about six miles northeast of Woodbine. A colony southwest of Reece has been reported

* Presented at the annual meeting April 21, 1951.

to him, also one in Miami County. He would appreciate information on the location and history of other colonies in Kansas.—JOHN BREUKELMAN, State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

Sunflower seeds wanted in South Dakota.—H. F. Chapman, Editor of South Dakota Bird Notes is interested in a quantity of sunflower seeds of large size. Last year the seed he obtained was of small size and the English Sparrows would work them over, in the absence of lots of other feed. Anyone that can direct Mr. Chapman to a source of large seeded sunflowers which he can obtain at a reasonable price please do so. His address is 504 Security Bank Building, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Reprints of an article on hawks and eagles available.—Your editor can obtain a limited number of copies of a reprint from Wilson Bulletin for September, 1925, "Field Studies of the Diurnal Raptores of Eastern and Central Kansas" by Harold K. Gloyd. If you would like to have a copy of this article drop your editor a card.—IVAN L. BOYD, Baldwin, Kansas.

Invitation from the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.—Those that would like to extend their birding interests beyond the boundaries of Kansas are invited to join the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. Active membership is \$3.00 and this includes the quarterly issues of the Nebraska Bird Review. The Nebraska club is an old and experienced organization having been founded in 1899. Send your subscription to Mr. ADRIAN C. FOX, Box 1451, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Least Bittern in lumberyard.—On September 22 I was called over to the local lumberyard to identify a bird which had been captured in the upper part of the building. Much to my surprise it was a Least Bittern. We tried without success to get it to eat insects and worms while it was in the cage. The next morning I released it at Baldwin Lake. It made no effort to fly but walked a few feet and captured and ate a grasshopper. I took this as a cue and so caught grasshoppers, disabled them, and tossed them one at a time in front of the bird. After swallowing six or more insects it decided to walk into the cattails and disappeared.—MARGARET BOYD.

Mid-Winter Bird Count—Those members wishing to take part in the mid-winter bird count this year should follow the style suggested by the National Audubon Society in the issue of the Audubon Field Notes for April, 1950. In brief the rules are as follows: Select an area not over 15 miles in diameter which includes the best or most varied bird population; the count should be made on one calendar day during the period from December 22, 1951 through January 2, 1952. Give the location, kinds of habitat covered, date and number of hours spent in the field. List the birds in the order in which they appear in Peterson's Field Guide. Total the species and the individuals. All persons taking part in the count should be listed by name and the reporter specified. Send your report to the editor, Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin, Kansas not later than January 18.