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**Great Egrets Nesting in Sedgwick County** — During the 1982 breeding season, a heronry was located approximately 3 km northeast of Haysville, Kansas in an abandoned tree nursery composed almost entirely of white pine (*Pinus strobus*) about 6 m tall. Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) nested in 85 trees containing 163 nests. The Little Blue Herons occupied about 85% of the nests.

In 1983 this heronry was abandoned and a new one established approximately 2 km from the old site. The birds nested in a 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> grove of mixed trees owned by a commercial nursery that were 6 to 12 m tall and hence too large for transplanting and no longer considered to be useable stock. This heronry consisted of five nesting species: Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) and Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*).

In order to estimate the total numbers of each species, a count was made on the evening of 30 June 1983 (Table 1). The temperature at the beginning of the count was 34°C; the sky was clear; and the wind was gusty from the southwest. Immediately prior to the count, 500 nests and 500 adult herons were estimated to be present in the heronry. All birds subsequently entering the heronry that evening were identified and counted, while birds leaving were subtracted to avoid multiple counts of the same bird. No effort was made to distinguish between adult and immature birds. No hatching year birds were capable of sustained flight at the time of the count.

Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets accounted for 94% of the total. The 1,435 individuals that were counted coupled with the 500 birds estimated to be present prior to the count indicated that approximately 1,900 older than hatching year birds used the heronry for nesting or roosting in 1983. One White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihii*) also was counted. This species did not nest here but three ibises were observed again at the heronry on the evening of 15 September by Nathan and Geula McDonald.

A nest count was conducted at this site on 13 September 1983. By this time, most of the young birds had fledged and were flying to feeding areas. During this count, remains from 316 distinct nests were found in the trees. Many nest-sized clumps of branches were scattered on the ground below the heronry. The average nest height was 3.7 m (range - 1 to 10 m). More than 80% of the cedar trees contained nests with an average of 3.4 (range - 1 to 19) nests per tree.

This heronry has state-wide significance as one of the largest heronries and the third documentation of Great Egrets nesting in Kansas. Four Great Egret nests, three in red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) and one in a mulberry (*Morus rubra*), were observed at this site. From these nests, four, two, two and one young were fledged. In the past, Great Egrets have been known to nest only in Cowley county in a Great Blue Heron colony on Grouse Creek. Seibel (1978. A directory to the birds of Cowley and Sumner Counties and the Chaplin Nature Center. Wichita Audubon Society, Inc. Wichita, Kansas. 76 pp.) listed these records for the years 1926 and 1963.

The authors would like to thank Nathan and Geula McDonald and Mary Butel for their assistance and observations throughout the nesting season. A special appreciation is extended to Tom and Marilyn Mosteller for their interest and cooperation in allowing many

of us to observe this unusual event on their property.

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Table 1. Number of individuals entering heronry at half-hour intervals according to species

Species	19:00- 19:30	19:30- 20:00	20:00 20:30	20:30- 21:00	21:00- 21:30	Total (%)
Little Blue Heron	75	117	176	332	70	770 (53.6)
Cattle Egret	117	124	164	137	35	577 (40.2)
Snowy Egret	10	11	22	24	9	76 (5.3)
Great Egret	1	1	0	3	5	10 (0.7)
Black-crowned Night Heron	0	0	0	0	1	1 (0.1)
White-faced Ibis	0	0	0	1	0	1 (0.1)
all species	203	253	362	497	120	1435

**Correction of a Purported Nesting of the Chestnut-sided Warbler from Kansas** — Lowther (1977. *Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull.* 28:32) reported on a set of eggs in The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History collection that had been labeled as being those of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). They were said to have been taken from Dickinson County, Kansas. Were this true, they would represent the only known nesting record of the species from Kansas. Personnel at the museum recently entered data accompanying the egg collection into the computer and completely reorganized and curated the egg specimens. It became apparent that a large number of data sheets accompanying the eggs had been copied by one person at some time in the past; many errors were found on those data sheets.

The "Chestnut-sided Warbler" eggs (formerly KU set number 1194, now KU 75194) represent one of these. I sent the eggs to Lloyd Kiff, Curator of the very large egg collection at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. He wrote (20 October 1983): "It is my educated guess that these eggs were laid by a *Vermivora* species, probably *V. chrysoptera* (Golden-winged Warbler) or *V. pinus* (Blue-winged Warbler). The ground color is too white for *Dendroica pensylvanica*, and the superficial markings are the wrong color, shape, and density for that species . . . the shape of the eggs is not typical for the Chestnut-sided Warbler, being a bit too short in length (chestnut-sided eggs tend towards long ovate in shape)."

I agree with Kiff's further statement that "it is quite probably that the eggs are not from a Kansas nest at all." Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are rare to uncommon in eastern Kansas and I know of no breeding records for either of those species in the state. The eggs have now been entered in the museum's catalogue as "Parulidae, species indet." They should not be considered as a breeding record of the Chestnut-sided Warbler in Kansas.

I am very grateful to Lloyd Kiff for his assistance with this curatorial matter and to Robert M. Mengel for comments regarding this manuscript.

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**Glaucous Gulls in Riley County** — The Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) had been

seen previously on winter bird counts at Manhattan, Kansas (Zimmerman. 1982. Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 33: 1 - 17; Zimmerman. 1981. Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 32: 1 - 18). On 6 February 1983 Lee Railsback saw two Glaucous Gulls on the Blue River below the dam at Tuttle Creek Reservoir. On 10 February the birds were seen in the same location by the field ornithology class from Kansas State University, and I was able to photograph them that afternoon. Since there is only one specimen of this species from Kansas, taken by Marvin Schwilling at Cheyenne Bottoms in Barton County (Schwilling, pers. communication), it is worthwhile to provide further documentation of its occurrence in the state (Figures 1 and 2).

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Figure 1. Glaucous Gulls at rest on the water, showing the relative wing and tail lengths.



Figure 2. Glaucous Gull in flight showing the coloration pattern of the wings.

**Observations at a Northern Harrier Nest** — On 15 May 1982 while I was rope-dragging in search of Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) nests, I discovered a Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) nest with six eggs on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area in a watershed that had not been burned since the spring of 1980. The nest was the first Northern Harrier nesting record for Konza Prairie and for Geary County (Thompson. 1983. Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 34:25). The nest consisted of a platform made from grass litter. On 27 May there were four nestlings and two eggs in the nest. Both the male and female dove at me as I approached the nest. On 2 June the nest contained six nestlings, two of which were much smaller than the others. On 10 June there were no young in the nest, but the male dove at me as I approached the nest. Subsequently I saw two young with this pair of adults.

When I initially discovered the nest, I placed a surveyor's flag 1 m north of the nest. Two days later the flag had been removed. I then placed another flag further from the nest, but it too was removed. A flag placed 20 m from the nest was subsequently not removed. Could the adults have been removing the flags?

Once I saw the male carrying a cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) by the tail. The female flew up to the male from the ground and began to follow him. The male then dropped the cotton rat, which the female caught in mid-air and flew off to land in another part of the watershed. After a few minutes on the ground, the female flew away without the cotton rat. I went to the spot where she had dropped the cotton rat, but did not find any young. She did, however, dive at me as she had done several times before when I approached her nest. I therefore think that she was feeding her fledglings.

This observation resulted from studies funded by NSF grant DEB 88012166.

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**Note on Movements of Kansas Pine Siskins** — The Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) is known throughout its range as an erratic wanderer. Detailed accounts of the bird's sporadic occurrence and nesting have been described for Kansas (Rofls et al. 1974. Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 25: 26-28), Nebraska (Swenk. 1929. Wilson Bull. 41: 77-92) and New England (Weaver and West. 1943. Auk 60: 492-504). Betts (1978. Kansas Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 29: 23-24) described movements of siskins in eastern Kansas. My paper describes the movements of two banded siskins captured in central Kansas.

While living in Salina in the spring of 1982, I trapped and banded 187 Pine Siskins between 22 February and 22 April. On 26 February 1982 I recovered a Pine Siskin which had been banded on 28 February 1981 by D. H. Elder at Atikokan, Ontario, which is approximately 1040 km from Salina. Later a Pine Siskin that I had banded at Salina on 24 February 1982 was recovered on 14 May 1982 at Aberdeen, South Dakota by D. A. Tallman. Aberdeen is about 750 km from Salina. These recoveries show a north and south movement between Salina and the localities mentioned. A note of further interest involves a Pine Siskin recovered at Duluth, Minnesota on 14 May 1982 that had been banded 9 April 1982 at Marlton, New Jersey near Philadelphia (Meyer. 1982. The Loon 54: 251). This bird had traveled westward about 1580 km in 35 days or less. This recovery becomes significant in regards to the Kansas Pine Siskins since Duluth is approximately 220 km south of Atikokan, Ontario. Based on the relatively short distance between these localities, there could be movement of Pine Siskins between Kansas and northeastern United States by way of the upper Great Lakes or a more southerly route around the lakes. Likewise, it is conceivable that the birds could make this trip in a short time.

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