

Kansas Ornithological Society

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Bulletin

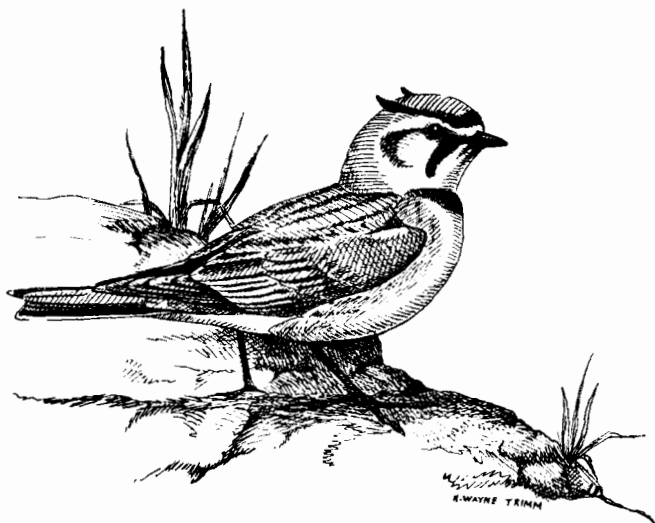
COUNSELORS

Rollin Baker
Roy Henry
Harold Hedges
H. T. Gier
John Porter

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Active Membership, \$1.00;

Sustaining Membership, \$5.00.

Subscription to the Bulletin is included in either class of membership

State Bird Notes

Notes from Concordia

Nothing exciting here except a sight record of an adult Little Blue Heron seen on May 18, north of Concordia. This is an unusual find for me.—John M. Porter, Concordia.

Notes from Emporia

Birding has been good this spring in and around Emporia. During our warbler migration we had large numbers of Tennessee and Nashville Warblers. Both species occurred in great abundance on April 25, 26, and 27. They remained with us until May 14, when a noted decrease in the two species occurred. Of course we have our usual Yellow Warbler population. But this is the first year, to my knowledge that Tennessee and Nashville Warblers have been so numerous.

On May 11 I spent the day taking colored motion pictures of Great Blue Herons at the colony near Woodbine.—Ted Andrews, Emporia.

Notes from Halstead

On March 22 eight Sandhill Cranes were seen S. W. of town. The Hermit Thrush was seen on April 3 and 15. On April 9 and 10, the Worm-eating Warbler was found five times within a block of the first sighting. April 16, a number of Hudsonian Godwits were seen by Roy Henry and myself SW of town. April 26, two American Bittercus were seen out County Park way. Also that day we again found the pair of Burrowing Owl in the same pasture as last year. The owls were seen again the following day.

From April 23 to May 4 inclusive, several White-throated Sparrows were around our place. And from May 5 to May 12 inclusive, two White-crowned Sparrows were with us, plus at times a Lincoln Sparrow.

On May 5, several of us added the Black-throated Blue Warbler to our life lists.

On May 9, we had a pair of Lazuli Bunting on our place. The Indigo also was here, both male and female. May 12 a Veery appeared in the yard next door. We had a Mourning Warbler May 20.

The Rose-breasted and the Black-headed Grosbeaks, neither very common here, have both been seen and heard this spring. The Blue Grosbeak has also been seen in three or four areas.

On May 26 we had a Bay-breasted Warbler, a lifer for the three of us, in the pear tree by the house. It came on the ground near the feeder and we should have had a fine study of it but the Brown Thrasher nesting in the syringa bush chased it away.

May 13, one American Egret was seen on our way to Hutchinson and on May 15, in the same area, two American Egrets and four Black-crowned Night Herons were seen.

The Warbler list for this season, in addition to the ones already mentioned, includes: Orange-crowned, Yellow, Myrtle, Black-poll, Yellow-throat, Chat, Nashville, Tennessee, Redstart and Grinnell and Northern Waterthrushes; makes this list quite good for here.—Edna Ruth, Halstead.

Notes from Kansas City

This year has been the best warbler season I have ever had.

Harold Hedges and I saw Cerulean Warblers on May 3 and 11.

I saw Golden-winged Warblers on May 4 and 10. Harold saw another one. The Hedges and I located a Prothonotary Warbler on May 10. On the 12th we saw two Cape May Warblers and the Bay-breasted chasing each other. Incidentally, both of the Cape Mays were males, one was probably a first year bird. Elizabeth Cole found a flock of 70 Bobolinks on May 8. The Bobolinks stayed almost a week. Wilson's Warblers were common this year. Usually only two or three are seen during the spring migration.

My "hundred or bust day" on May 10 was a success as I listed 104 species. The "Century Run" on the next day was also a success. Henry Harford, Harrison Tordoff, Harold Hedges and I were present this year. We found 135 species, the best being the

Red-throated Loon seen on Lake Quivara. It stayed on the lake for a week.—Ben King, Shawnee.

**Notes from
Lawrence**

These few reports from around Lawrence may be of some interest.

On May 4 the Piping Plover was seen on the river bank near Lake View, identification by R. W. Fredrickson. Last fall when we came upon a flock of thirty-four Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits feeding near the river, we thought we had established quite a record for this part of Kansas, but on May 9, we found seventy-five of them on two marsh mud-flats N. E. of Lawrence. The larger flock of about fifty was gone the next day but a few on the other pool remained for several days.

On May 17, Dr. Harrison Tordoff reported two Virginia Rails in a marsh a mile east of the airport. Black-crowned Night Herons, American Bitterns, Least Bitterns and Soras also were found in this area. We saw a King Rail S. E. of town Saturday May 24.—Helen Chewing, Lawrence.

**Notes from
Newton**

On May 18, just outside of Harvey County Park, we saw a flock of 18 Great Blue Herons fly up from a pond.

The first week of May a Barn Owl was caught on the top floor of our Administration Building of Bethel College. It is no doubt one of those that has been spending at least the last several months in this vicinity. Many pellets have been found beneath a favorite perching spot on this building.

On May 11, in Harvey County Park, a Mississippi Kite gave us a thrill by performing for us in the peculiar habit of spinning around in mid-air. The same day we saw a Wilson Phalarope indulge in its swimming and spinning habits.—Carl R. Jantzen, Newton.

**Notes from
St. Marys**

On May 1, I had the best luck with warblers that I have ever had.

Around St. Mary's College campus and the Old River Bed I found Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Myrtle, Blackpoll, Northern Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Prothonotary, Chestnut-sided, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush and Ovenbird. Just the day before L. B. Carson and I saw what we were certain was a Philadelphia Vireo. This brought my list of vireos to five.

I have been consistently spotting Wood Ducks in the old River Bed and on the College grounds so they must be nesting around here.—T. J. Hatrel, S. J., St. Marys.

**Notes from
Topeka**

Topcka Audubon Society is the recipient of a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lakin Meade of a Bird Sanctuary consisting of 3.9 acres bordering the Shunganunga at Gage Boulevard. Many of the Topeka birders have added the Long-eared Owl to their life lists this year with Orville Rice being the one to report the birds. Two Bald Eagles were reported as late as March 16 at Lake Shawnee.

Topeka has had a good year for warblers with some unusual records. The Bay-breasted was reported by Dick and Jean Graber and also by David Pantle. A Lawrence's Warbler was found by Mrs. L. G. Thorpe in her yard at 1286 Washburn. In all 25 species of warblers were seen by Topeka birders.

One marsh yielded King, Virginia and Sora Rails and also a number of Short-billed Marsh Wrens.

We observed a Migrant Shrike carrying a freshly killed male Bluebird for a distance of at least 100 feet. That was quite a feat when you compare the relative size of the two birds.—L. B. Carson, Topeka.

**Notes from
Baldwin**

There has been a scarcity of Cedar Waxwings in this area. Some local birders have failed to see them at all this year. The Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been on the scarce list.

Short-eared, Long-eared and Barn Owls have appeared in increasing numbers. There has even been a rumor that Saw-whet Owls were seen north of Baldwin in the last

year. The group of small flycatchers (*Empidonax*) was unusually numerous during May, but since they refused to "sing" we had very little success in identifying them as to species. The Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers were new to those birders who saw them here on May 10 and May 25, respectively. Katharine Kelley and Amelia Betts have reported numerous areas in which they have located Painting Buntings. That species appears to be on the increase locally.

The spring bird count made by twelve members of the Baldwin Bird Club failed by one to meet the "Century Run" mark, the rarest species being the Bay-breasted Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo and Hudsonian Godwit.—Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin.

Membership Notes

Frank Robl was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Topeka Audubon Society held on Feb. 18, 1952. The 167 guests and members enjoyed hearing of Mr. Robl's experiences while banding wild ducks and geese on his farm-pond sanctuary near Ellinwood, Kansas.

Paul Finniger, an active bird-watcher of the Topeka group is taking graduate work in anthropology at Mexico City College. While in Topeka he was a pre-medic student at Washburn and worked part time at the Menninger Clinic.

K. O. S. welcomes back to Kansas Maurice Nuss, a fine birder who left the state to reside in Missouri for a short period. He has returned to Topeka.

Theodore M. Sperry on leave of absence for a year from Pittsburg State Teachers College will be back home in August. He has been on a vegetation survey in the Belgian Congo. Dr. Sperry states that he has had difficulty in identifying the birds of southern Africa due to lack of time and an adequate manual for the region.

Word has been received of the death of Dr. Mary Edith Pinney at her home in Wilson, Kansas. She was a member since 1950.

General Notes

Invitation for birding in the Colorado Springs, Colorado area. If you are planning on vacationing in the Colorado Springs area you might accept the cordial invitation sent out by the Aiken Ornithological Society of that city.

You will find notices in the paper of the discussion group which meets at the homes of members the first Monday of each month at 8:00 p. m., and the bird walks each Saturday morning usually congregating at the post office at 8:00 a. m. Additional information may be obtained by calling Miss Mary Shirer, 2116 N. Tejon—M.6117J or Mrs. Frank Sample, 35 W. Brookside—1049R. (The editor can recommend the group's hospitality and assistance.)

Reprints of two articles on the birds of southwestern Kansas. Your Editor has received reprints of two excellent articles by Richard and Jean Graber of Topeka. They are "New Birds for the State of Kansas" reprinted from *The Wilson Bulletin* Vol. 62, No. 4, December, 1950 and "Notes on the Birds of Southwestern Kansas" reprinted from *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*. Vol. 54, No. 2, 1951.

Reclassification of membership dues.—At the current annual meeting held at Newton in April a new class of membership was added and called Sustaining Membership of which the dues shall be \$5.00, or more annually. This new classification will give the members an opportunity to support the Society's publication and other activities. Because of a sagging treasury it was necessary to omit one issue of the *Bulletin* in 1951. That may be duplicated in the future unless we have the cooperation of every member who is seriously interested in the Society's welfare. The dues for Regular Membership was retained at \$1.00 with the sole purpose of retaining all present members as well as a means of securing as many new members as possible. Those who continue with the regular membership rate may, of course, make a contribution in addition to their one dollar dues.

The Newton Convention

by Rev. Eugene Dehner

Sec'y—K. O. S.

Atchison, Kansas

The fourth annual meeting of Kansas Ornithological Society was held Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, 1952 at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas. The morning session which convened in the chapel in the Administration Building was opened at 10:10 a. m. by President Harold C. Hedges. He introduced Dr. Robert L. Gering of Bethel College, Chairman of the local committee on arrangements. Dr. Gering welcomed the group and commended the members of his committee from Harvey and Marion Counties for their splendid work in preparing for the meeting.

President Hedges congratulated the local committee for its fine work on behalf of the Society. He then introduced the first speaker, Dr. Henry Fitch, Lawrence, who presented the paper, "Home Ranges and Movements of some Resident Birds of the Kansas University Nature Reservation", augmented with slide diagrams.

Wallace M. Good, Kansas City, Kansas, told with the aid of colored slides of his experiences entitled "An Artic Tern Island in Great Slave Lake".

The Chairman opened the preliminary business session at 10:45 a. m. The minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved by the members. The report of the Treasurer showed a current balance on hand of \$82.74. Ted F. Andrews, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported and showed membership at the time of meeting of 199 persons, representing 40 cities in Kansas and ten states. This was an increase of 49 members for the year.

President Hedges commended H. T. Gier for pushing to completion the production of the Society's Horned Lark emblem and the printing of stationery. Mr. Gier explained the proposition of ordering personalized stationery on the KOS letter-head for those wishing it.

The Nominating Committee (R. F. Miller, Chairman, Bert Chewning and T. W. Nelson) submitted the names of new officers for the coming year (as given on the cover of this issue of the Bulletin.) These were elected by unanimous ballot cast by the Secretary upon motion of the voting members. As Counsellors, H. T. Gier, Manhattan, and John M. Porter, Concordia, were elected for a two year term.

The president introduced Mr. Charles J. Kauffman, director of the Kauffman Museum of Bethel College. Mr. Kauffman outlined the development of his museum from his boyhood days at Freeman, South Dakota to his present large collection, including a large number of birds, as it is at Bethel College. He recalled that his interest in the collection and mounting of birds began with the finding of a dead waterfowl. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a. m. for a tour of the Kauffman Museum, a splendid and commendable display.

Noon lunch was served in the dining hall of the college. The afternoon session began with a colored film presented by Wm. R. Eastman, Jr. in illustration of his report on "A Short-eared Owl Study" The speaker, Frank Robl of Ellinwood scheduled to give "Kansas Bird Life in Motion Pictures", was unable to appear at this time due to unexpected illness.

L. D. Wooster, Hays, considered "Notes on Changes in Bird Population", especially pertaining to robins and their congregating in unusually large numbers. He advanced the theory of correlation between seasonal-zoological changes influenced by sunspot cycles.

"Best Birds of the Year (1951) in Kansas" were discussed by L. B. Carson, Topeka. This is a difficult selection as a species rare in one part of the state may be common elsewhere within our borders. The top-ranking rarities were listed as Ross's Goose, Wyandotte County Lake; Inca Dove, Halstead; Glaucous Gull, Kittiwake, Cas-

pair Tern, Shawnee Lake; White-faced Glossy Ibis (nesting), Cheyenne Bottoms; Prairie Falcon, Duck Hawk, Topeka; Goshawk, Lawrence; Say's Phoebe, Concordia; Northern Phalarope, Concordia; Piping Plover, Emporia; Purple Gallinule, Quivira; Red-backed Sandpiper, Lawrence.

Worthy of note also were the White Pelicans staying all summer at Republican Lake; Cormorants nesting in Cheyenne Bottoms; Sandhill Cranes in numbers in Barber Co.; Saw-whet Owls at Topeka; Vermillion Flycatcher, Medicine Lodge; Acadian Flycatcher, Baldwin; Rock Wren, Manhattan; Mt. Bluebirds, St. Marys and Baldwin; Townsend's Solitaire, Topeka; Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireo, Topeka, Bay-breasted Warbler, Quivira and Lawrence; Cape May Warbler, Topeka, Kansas City; Worm-eating Warbler, Halstead; Evening Grosbeak, Topeka and Concordia; Gambel's Sparrow, Manhattan and Topeka.

The next paper was presented on "Relationship of Birds to Coyote Control" by H. T. Gier, Manhattan.

"A Preliminary Report on the presence of Owls in Kansas was given by Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Baldwin. A large map showed the distribution of the nine species included from the data assembled. As the title indicates the topic needs additional information. The speaker urged all persons to send past and future records of owls seen in Kansas to the editor.

"The Affinities of the Northern Finches" was presented by Harrison B. Todd, Lawrence, using graphic lantern slides for illustration.

The story of "The Displaced Inca Dove" as related by Edna Ruth, Halstead, was one of deep interest, pathos and mystery. "Incy" as she was affectionately called remained for observation from Nov. 10, 1951 to Jan. 21, 1952—a total of 72 days.

A business meeting ended the afternoon session at which time the changes to the Constitution and amendments were acted upon and passed, namely:

1. The manner of admitting new members was simplified so that the name of an interested person may be proposed by an active member to a member of the Council accompanied by payment of dues.

2. The society shall have two classes of membership—Regular with \$1.00 dues, and Sustaining with \$5.00 or more. The latter was created to encourage members to assist in the support of the Society's publication.

3. The fiscal year was changed to the calendar year basis with dues payable on Jan. 1 of each year. (Anyone with 1952 dues paid is in good standing until Jan. 1, 1953)

4. The dues of new members paid during the last four months of any calendar year beginning with 1951 shall be applied to membership for the following year.

The addition of two committees to be appointed by the president as proposed by H. T. Gier was passed. They are (1.) A Research Committee for the gathering of information on distribution, taxonomy, food habits, etc., of Kansas birds, and (2) A Conservation Committee which might cooperate with and make suggestions to various agencies in the state.

A discussion which originated in a Council meeting was presented by I. L. Boyd suggesting a suitable amendment be drawn up for presentation to the next annual meeting to the effect of changing the constitution so as to allow the President to serve more than one term. Since the duties of the KOS President are rather extensive the Society could thus take advantage of his previous experience.

At the conclusion of the banquet when the resolution committee read its report, President Hedges appointed the following committee to plan the Fall Field Trip: Rollin Baker, chairman, (Lawrence), Amelia Betts (Baldwin), and A. Dean Cole Jr. (Shawnee).

The 6 o'clock banquet held in Memorial Hall Dining Room had a gala setting of a southern garden. The tables were cleverly decorated with miniature bird houses and paper-mache' birds for favors and centerpieces.

At 7:30 p. m. Dr. Oscar Hawksley, Professor of Biology at Central Missouri State Teachers College, Warrensburg, showed his colored film "Tides and Terns" in the Chapel of the Administration Building. The excellent filming and interesting story revealed a summer's study of the Arctic Tern Colony on Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick.

During the convention ornithological books consigned to the KOS by Pierce Book Service, Winthrop, Iowa were on display and for sale in the Main Hall. A bulletin board held comments and good wishes for our meeting from members not able to attend.

RESOLUTIONS—BE IT RESOLVED by the 4th session of the Kansas Ornithological Society:

1. That the thanks of the KOS be extended to Dr. and Mrs. Gering and the Administration of Bethel College for their hospitality to the Society on the occasion of this fourth annual meeting.

2. That thanks be extended to Roy Henry, and the members of his local committee on arrangements, for their work in preparing for the meeting.

3. That thanks be expressed to Mr. Charles Kauffman for extending to the KOS members the hospitality of his notable museum.

4. That the officers be congratulated on the completion of a successful year and annual meeting.

5. That the dining hall committee be congratulated for the excellent and reasonably-priced meals.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolution Committee, Rollin Baker, Chairman.

Attendance Register.—ATCHISON, Rev. Eugene Dehner; ARKANSAS CITY, KS., Willis Ratzlaff; BALDWIN, Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Mrs. C. Gates, Katherine Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Miller; CANTON, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schmidt; EMPORIA, Ted Andrews, John Breuchelman, Edward Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. P. Scott Smith; HALSTEAD, Marie Dettweiler, Mrs. J. M. Cathcart, Mrs. A. R. Challans, Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth, Edna Ruth; HAYS, Patricia Byrum, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Eastman, Pete Felton, Bob Henderson; HESSTON, Orpha Zimmerly, HILLSBORO, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Henry, Royce Kenny, KANSAS CITY, KS., Wallace Good, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hedges, Lena Feighner, Geneva McFarland, Bernice Tatum; LAWRENCE, Maurice Baker, Rollin Baker, Henry Fitch, Roger Olmstead, Thane Robinson, Wm. Stallcup, Harrison Tordoff, R. W. Fredrickson; MANHATTAN, E. K. Beals, Donald Gier, Harold Gier, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Gier; MOUND CITY, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus; NEWTON, Charles Blaylock, Iva Blaylock, Delbert Johnson, Leta Larrew, Marvin Larrew, Helen Rupp, Madalyn Schmidt, Lucille Thomas; NORTH NEWTON, J. H. Doell, Elbert Esau, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gering, Charles Hamm, Donald Harder, Lester Harms, Dorothea Heubert, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Kauffman, Harold Kauffman, Dwight Platt, Roland Ratzlaff, Dean Stucky, Lorraine Unruh; OAKLEY, Ruth Grossen; SHAWNEE, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dean Cole, Ben King; TOPEKA, L. B. Carson, Roberta Foote, Grace Holcombe, Mrs. W. A. Huxman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kingman, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Martin, Mrs. Fred Martin, T. W. Nelson, Orville Rice; WARRENSBURG, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hawksley.

Field Trip—Assembling at six o'clock in the morning of April 20, 1952 between fifty and sixty K. O. S. members and local birders met in three groups. Under competent leadership all of the groups centered their attention on the sand dune areas west of Newton. In spite of the drizzling rain a very successful count was made. The birders converged at the Legion Hall at 12:30 in Halstead where a bounteous lunch was served and a composite list of birds was compiled. The list of 105 is as follows: Pied-billed Grebe; Great Blue, Green, Black-crowned Night Herons; American Bittern;

Canada Goose; Mallard; Gadwall; Baldpate; Pintail; Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal; Shoveller; Wood Duck; Redhead; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Cooper's, Red-tailed, Swainson's, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks; Osprey; Bob-white; Ring-necked Pheasant; King, Sora, and Yellow Rails; Coot; Killdeer; Wilson's Snipe; Upland and Golden Plover; Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs; Herring and Franklin's Gulls; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Chimney Swift; Belted Kingfisher; Northern and Red-shafted Flickers; Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Eastern Kingbird; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Eastern Phoebe; Horned Lark; Tree, Bank, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina and Black-capped Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Prairie Marsh and House Wrens; Mockinbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Migrant Shrike; Starling; Myrtle and Palm Warblers; Northern Water-thrush; English Sparrow; Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; Bronze Grackle; Cowbird; Cardinal; Pine Siskin, Goldfinch; Red-eyed and Spotted Towhee; Nelson's, Henslow's, Savannah, Grasshopper, Leconte's, Vesper, Lark Sparrows; Slate-colored Junco; Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Harris's, White-crowned, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows.