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A Little Gull Record for Tuttle Creek Lake. — On 17-19 May 1989 a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) was present along the face of the dam at Tuttle Creek Lake, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. The bird was largely in its first winter plumage. It was beginning to molt, however, into the first summer plumage in that the tail band was broken by at least one newly-grown feather; and, although the dark crown and ear spot were still prominent, close inspection revealed a faint hood beginning to appear. Over the course of three days it was seen by several people and photographed by David Rintoul. The Little Gull was often observed foraging with Black Terns (*Chlidomas niger*) and Franklin's Gulls (*L. pipixcan*). It was readily discernible from these species not only by the obvious size and plumage differences, but also by its graceful, tern-like flight.

This sighting constitutes the fifth state record for Kansas. The first state record of a Little Gull was an adult in winter plumage discovered on 3 November 1974 at John Redmond Reservoir, Coffey County (Miller. 1975. *Kans. Ornithol. Soc. Bull.* 26: 9-10.). This bird was with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*).

Marvin D. Schwilling, Nongame Program Leader, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, provided the following information concerning three other confirmed Little Gull observations. The only previous spring record was at Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County, on 20 March 1977. This bird was found again five days later and subsequently stayed until early April 1977. On 4 November 1984, almost 10 years to the day of the first state record, four experienced observers reported a Little Gull at the LaCygne Lake in Linn County. This bird was in a flock of 300 to 400 Bonaparte's Gulls. A Little Gull in second winter plumage was reported on 8 October 1988 at Perry Lake, Jefferson County. Formal written documentation was provided for this sighting. In addition to these reports, Schwilling has an unconfirmed report of a Little Gull at Cheyenne Bottoms in March 1981.

Although the Little Gull is primarily an Old World species, since 1962 there have been breeding records in the Great Lakes area and a general increase in sight records for eastern North America (Grant. 1982. *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*. Buteo Books, Vermillion, SD, 280pp.). As was the case with the Coffey and Linn county sightings, Little Gulls are most often found on the Great Lakes by studying flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. Thorough inspections of the large flocks of migrating gulls that occur on Kansas reservoirs may result in additional Little Gull records.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Ecology and Conservation of Grassland Birds. Edited by Paul D. Goriup. International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ, UK. 252 pp, \$17.00. 1988.

This book is the seventh in a series of technical publications by the ICBP which provides current treatments of major bird conservation issues. Grasslands are defined to include steppe, savanna, rangeland, prairie, and in some locales, desert scrub, but the book is mistitled. There is little on the ecology of grassland birds, and hardly anything but hopes regarding strategies for their conservation. Rather it is a status report on the extinction, extirpation, and decline of grassland birds across most of the world as re-

ported in 20 papers that were written in conjunction with the IXI World Conference of the ICBP. But the emphasis of this book is still nevertheless important, since determining population status is the initial step in conservation. Furthermore, to quote Beintema from his article on the Netherlands, "... degradation of the natural grasslands of the world, especially those in temperate regions, has taken place largely unnoticed." This book provides notice.

There is some ecology in this book. Most of the paper describe the flora and illustrate the biogeography of grassland communities. The paper by Bock and Bock on the grassland birds of southeastern Arizona is an analysis of original data on the effects of fire, grazing, and exotic grasses on bird populations. Petretti's consideration of steppe habitats in Italy offers quantitative data on bird populations. Most of the papers, however, are qualitative assessments of the populations of grassland birds and the factors that affect them. Goriup's treatment of Western Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East provides an excellent synthesis of the various impacts of agriculture that modify grassland communities. The lack of any quantitative data, however, make conclusions such as Wilson's in the paper on the sahel of central Mali that, "impoverishment of the savannah environment . . . does not yet appear to have resulted in a major direct negative effect on bird populations" suspect, and probably dangerous.

Little discussion concerns conservation except to stress better land management and the development of preserves of sufficient size to maintain entire grassland ecosystems. While many authors, but surprisingly not all, relate the loss of grassland habitat to the increase in human population, not one suggests that the long-term conservation of grassland birds is utterly and completely dependent upon control of human population growth.

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Summer Bird Feeding. John V. Dennis. The Audubon Workshop, Inc., 1501 Paddock Dr., Northbrook, Illinois 60062. 136 pages. Illustrated. Soft cover. \$9.95, postpaid. ISBN 0-962001-0-8.

The greatest value of this little book is to dispel the myths about feeding birds in summer that may have kept you from doing so. It not only goes into great detail about species you might expect to attract in various regions of the country and what to offer them, it gives practical hints on how to avoid the special problems of summer feeding. Additional sections provide encouragement to expand the scope of your bird-feeding experience: most notably observation of behavior and creation of backyard habitat. Much of the information in this book comes from the author's own knowledge and experience, but this is augmented by survey responses of 725 summer-feeders in 49 states. This compilation of information from many sources is not only valuable, but quite interesting. You may be able to find other books with more about several of the individual topics covered in this book, but I don't think you'll find one with the interesting diversity of *Summer Bird Feeding*. The life-like, action-packed illustrations by Irene Brady are a bonus. Recommended.

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