

Kansas Ornithological Society

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Bulletin

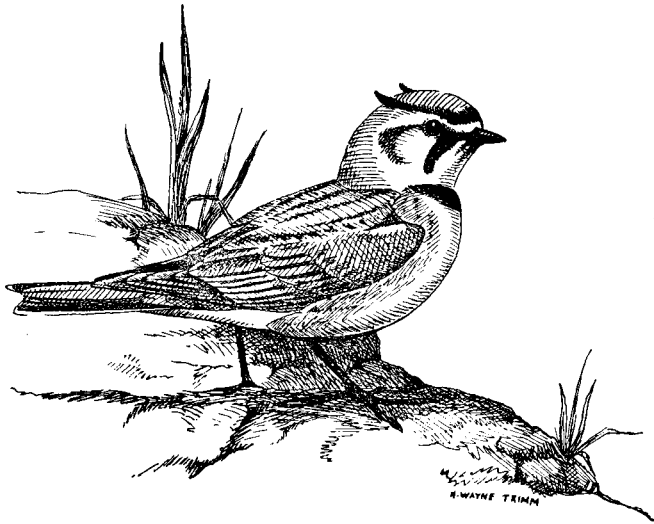
COUNSELORS

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Active Membership, \$1.00; Sustaining Membership, \$5.00.
Subscription to the Bulletin is included in either class of membership

The President's Message

During the K. O. S. dinner I overheard a very much ornithologically-minded mother bemoaning the fact that her own boys were going through that stage, through which most boys go, of shooting birds.

It reminded me of a case many years ago in which a mother here in Hays who was much disturbed by the fact that the boys of the neighborhood, her own included, were shooting birds. Some way or other she got her own boy interested in building a wren house. He built it; it was occupied; and from then on her boy defended his birds against all comers. His interest in his wrens transferred to all birds except English Sparrows which he did not like because they bothered his wrens.

I remember there was a period in my life, when I was about 10 years of age, that I shot a few birds with a sling shot. I think I was somewhat selective in my shooting but even then I recall a feeling of remorse when I killed a bird.

It's a stage in the life of boys and while not to be condoned can sometimes be directed into desirable and more satisfactory channels.

L. D. Wooster

The Emporia Convention

Program.—The fifth annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithology Society was held Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 1953 at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas, with Norton Science Hall as the center of the day's activities. All twelve speakers were present for the program as previously scheduled.

The first report was by Miss Amelia J. Betts, Baldwin, on the participation of the members of the Baldwin Bird Club in the lunar bird counting project last fall and in March of this year. The Baldwin group had also set up an exhibit of the equipment needed for moon-watching.

Thane S. Robinson, Lawrence, reported on the occurrence of Whooping Cranes near Wellington and Sharon during the fall and spring migrations and of the efforts made to save the crane that was found injured near Sharon.

Some of the birds that can be found in Big Bend National Park in Texas were related by Dr. Edward J. Ryan, Emporia, when he told of the 8-day trip he took there in February.

Richard H. Schmidt, Canton, used his mounted specimens to show how he presents bird study to children as a hobby.

The morning program closed with the showing of some kodachromes taken at the 1952 KOS annual meeting by L. D. Wooster, Hays.

Another Texas trip was the basis for the first afternoon report, "A Roadside Bird Census on a Christmas Vacation." by William R. Eastman, Jr., Hays, who used lantern slides to show photos he had taken.

Eugene W. Dehner, Atchison, showed some charts of the wing dimensions of Ground and Inca Doves and domestic and Band-tailed Pigeons, which he correlated with the flight habits of these birds.

Texas birds came up for their third discussion of the day when Orville O. Rice, Topeka, showed some ecological aspects of the coastal area.

L. D. Wooster used charts to show the variation, both in numbers and distribution, of the birds found on the 1951 Christmas census when there was no snow and that of 1952 with considerable snow on the ground. He also showed views of the cliffs along the Saline River, north of Hays, where the Hawk Owl was found last winter.

Charts had also been prepared by Henry S. Fitch, Lawrence, to show the faunal areas of Kansas and the distribution of 16 species of Icterids and Thraupids in relation to them.

Harrison B. Tordoff, Lawrence, demonstrated a new type of trap that he and others at the University of Kansas had perfected which had proved much safer and surer than pole or net traps and which had enabled him to trap as many as seven Sparrow Hawks in one day.

The last item on the afternoon program was the compilation of the best birds of the year by L. B. Carson, Topeka.

The banquet, which was held in the basement of the first Congregational Church and served by ladies of the church, was attended by about sixty KOS members and friends. Ben King was introduced to the group by Harold Hedges as the outstanding "birder" of the Kansas City area.

At 8:00 p. m. the Society moved to the Music Hall on the campus where a 16 mm. color film, "Bobwhite Quail Through the Year," was shown.

Business.—The morning business meeting was held in Norton Science Hall at 11:15 with President Ted F. Andrews presiding.

The treasurer, L. B. Carson, reported a balance on hand of \$196.43 as compared with \$82.00 at the end of last year. Receipts had totaled \$422.88 and disbursements \$319.19

The vice-president, L. D. Wooster, reported a paid membership for 1953 of 185, with about fifty other members still expected to pay their dues.

The editor, I. L. Boyd, reported that the KOS Bulletin had been published four times during the year in spite of high costs.

A motion to change article V, section 4 of the constitution to read as follows, "The president and vice-president may not be elected to their offices for more than two consecutive years. The other officers may succeed themselves indefinitely," was approved by more than the two-thirds majority needed.

At the afternoon business session, Harold Hedges, chairman of the seven-member research committee, stated that its work was mostly in the planning stage, with special interest centered on the distribuion of birds, migration trends, and nesting records. He reminded members that all specimens taken could be checked at the museum of the University of Kansas and that any persons having records along these lines should publish then in the KOS Bulletin.

H. T. Gier, chairman of the conservation committee (Roy Henry, Wm. R. Eastman, Jr., Theodore Sperry, and H. B. Tordoff), reported that it was planning a campaign to stop the killing of hawks and owls.

The officers elected for next year, as shown on the cover of this issue of the Bulletin, were presented by the nominating committee (R. F. Miller, chairman, Mrs. Eunice Dingus, and W. R. Eastman, Jr.), except for two that were suggested from the floor.

President Andrews appointed Maurice Baker, chairman, Thane Robinson, and Eugene Dehner as the committee to plan the fall field trip. Suggested localities for the fall trip included Lake Quivira, Frank Robl's game refuge, and the Atchison, Winfield or Concordia areas.

L. D. Wooster, the newly elected president, suggested that the 1954 KOS meeting be held at Fort Hays Kansas State College at the time of the meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science there, April 29 to May 1. This suggestion met with general approval.

Final business of the meeting took place at the banquet when the following resolutions, proposed by the resolutions committee (Mrs. I. L. Boyd, chairman, Willis Ratzlaff, and Richard Fredrickson), were adopted:

1. That the thanks of the KOS be extended to the Administration of KSTC and to Drs. John Breukelman and Ted Andrews of the Biology Department for their hospitality and facilities on the occasion of this fifth annual meeting.

2. That thanks be extended to the local committee on arrangements, composed of Ann Ross, Dwight Spencer, and Claire Schelske, for its work in preparing for the meeting.

3. That thanks be extended to Homer Stephens and Scott Smith for arranging the field trips.

4. That thanks be expressed to Mrs. John Breukelman and Nellie Stoeris's group of the First Congregational Church for providing the banquet and lunch.

5. That thanks be extended to Dr. Rollin Baker for procuring the film, "Bob-white Quail Through the Year," from the Missouri Conservation Commission and making it available to us.

6. That the officers be congratulated for the completion of a successful year and annual meeting.

Attendance Register.—ATCHISON, Rev. W. Dehner; ARKANSAS CITY, Willis Ratzlaff; BALDWIN, Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Katharine Kelley, R. F. Miller; BUSHONG, Mrs. Laura Marsh; CANTON, Richard H. Schmidt; CONCORDIA, Dr. John Porter; EDGERTON, Mrs. Frances McKaughan; EMPORIA, Ted F. Andrews, John Breukelman, Edw. J. Ryan, P. Scott Smith, C. F. Gladfelder, Dwight Spencer, LeRoy Baker, Homer A. Stephens, Roy M. Davis, Robt. Wimmer; GARDEN CITY, Marvin D. Schwillig; HALSTEAD, Maric Detwiler, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth, Edna Ruth, Mrs. A. R. Challans; HAMILTON, Mrs. C. H. Reser; HAYS, Wm. R. Eastman, Jr., L. D. Wooster; HILLSBORO, Roy W. Henry; KANSAS CITY, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Hedges; LAWRENCE, Henry Fitch, Richard Fredrickson, Milton C. Moore, Dwight Platt, Thane S. Robinson, Harrison B. Tordoff, Dennis Rainey; MANHATTAN, H. T. Gier, Ellis Lippincott, Scott Searles, Donald A. Gier; MOUND CITY, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus; NEWTON, Lucille Thomas; SHAWNEE, Ben F. King; TOPEKA, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Carson, Elizabeth W. Fisher, Mrs. W. A. Huxman, Robt. Kingman, Pearl M. Maus, T. W. Nelson, Louise Newbolt, Frank Kelley, David Pantle, Orville O. Rice, Mrs. Henry P. Thorne; WICHITA, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bayless; WINFIELD, Maurice Baker; LINCOLN, NEBR., Adrian C. Fox.

Field Trip—About forty K. O. S. members assembled at Peter Pan Park at 6:30 a. m., April 19, 1953, for the fifth annual spring field trip. Dr. Ted Andrews and other competent leaders directed the party from there to Lyon County State Lake and to Lake Kahola, in addition to several side trips. At 1:50 p. m. the group assembled at the First Congregational Church for lunch and for summarization of the bird counts.

The list of 125 species is as follows: Common Loon; Horned Grebe; Eared Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Great Blue Heron; Am. Bittern; Snow Goose; Blue Goose; Mallard; Gadwall; Am. Widgeon; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Blue-winged Teal; Shoveller; Redhead; Ring-necked Duck; Canvas-back; Lesser Scaup; Buffle-head; Ruddy Duck; Am. Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Swainson's Hawk; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Greater Prairie Chicken; Bob-white; Am. Coot; Semipalmated Plover; Piping Plover; Mountain Plover; Killdeer; Wilson's Snipe; Upland Plover; Willet; Greater Yellow-legs; Lesser Yellow-legs; Pectoral Sandpiper; Baird's Sandpiper; Least Sandpiper; Semipalmated

Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Hudsonian Godwit; Am. Avocet; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Franklin's Gull; Bonaparte's Gull; Black Tern; Mourning Dove; Horned Owl; Burrowing Owl; Barred Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Red-shafted Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-headed Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Phoebe; Say's Phoebe; Horned Lark; Tree Swallow; Rough-winged Swallow; Barn Swallow; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Am. Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Brown Creeper; House Wren; Bewick's Wren; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Am. Robin; Hermit Thrush; E. Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Am. Pipet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Common Starling; Red-eyed Vireo; Orange-crowned Warbler; Parula Warbler; Myrtle Warbler; Louisiana Waterthrush; House Sparrow; E. Meadowlark; W. Meadowlark; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red-winged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; Bronzed Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Cardinal; Purple Finch; Pine Siskin; Am. Goldfinch; Eastern Towhee; Spotted Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Leconte's Sparrow; Vesper Sparrow; Lark Sparrow; Slate-colored Junco; Chipping Sparrow; Clay-colored Sparrow; Field Sparrow; Harris's Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Lincoln's Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

General Notes

Spring Arrival Dates of the House Wren. Mrs. Frederika F. Hubbard of Ottawa, Kansas has recorded the spring arrival dates for the House Wren for 27 years. The dates, as tabulated below, indicate that April 15 is the average date of arrival.

1927, April 15	1934, April 14	1941, April 12	1948, April 16
1928, April 11	1935, April 22	1942, April 15	1949, April 19
1929, April 7	1936, April 15	1943, April 10	1950, April 16
1930, April 14	1937, April 17	1944, April 10	1951, April 26
1931, April 14	1938, April 15	1945, April 10	1952, April 23
1932, April 14	1939, April 22	1946, April 13	1953, April 20
1933, April 3	1940, April 20	1947, April 18	

Nesting Warblers in Kansas. I have records of warblers nesting in three counties of Kansas. In Riley County, I observed the Parula Warbler nesting May 9, 1947. An account of this was reported in *The Condor*, March-April, 1951, Vol. 53, No. 2, p. 100.

In my boyhood days I observed several nests of Yellow Warblers in Chase County, one mile northeast of Wonsevu. They were seen every year from 1933 to 1937, but the exact dates were not kept. I remember in particular one nest that was parasitized four times by Cowbirds. On each occasion the warblers enclosed and built over the previous clutch of eggs.

A nest of Yellow-breasted Chat was observed by me in Finney County on the Buffalo Game Preserve south of Garden City on June 27, 1951. The nest and the incubating female were both destroyed a short time later by a severe hail storm. The nest was located in a thicket of currant bushes and was about three feet above the ground. The male, apparently unhurt in the storm, stayed in the area about two weeks after the disaster.—Marvin D. Schwillig, Garden City.

Cinnamon Teal and Avocets at Lawrence. On April 25 I saw an adult male Cinnamon Teal in breeding plumage on the Kansas River just below the bridge at Lawrence. On the same date I also saw two Avocets in breeding plumage on the river about a mile west of this bridge.—Milton C. Moore, Lawrence.

Species Composition Of Winter Resident Hawks In Four Western Kansas Counties

By **OLIVER J. GASSWINT**
State Game Protector
Oakley, Kansas

The purpose of this study, made in Lane, Logan, Scott, and Wichita Counties, was not to attempt a discovery of new species but to enumerate the species of resident hawks seen and, specifically, to compare their relative numbers.

The study was conducted during the six-week period from January 10 to February 21 when it was assumed that the winter population would be relatively stable. This assumption was subsequently proved correct when the writer compared the weekly data and found no significant variation.

A total of 336 birds was seen and identified during the author's routine patrol activities. All types of habitat in the area were covered. Identifications were made during all hours of sunlight, with the use of 6x30 binoculars to insure accuracy, and only on days with good light intensity.

During the study a count of eagles was also taken, with Bald Eagles outnumbering Golden Eagles slightly better than two to one. Many of both species were immature birds.

The following table includes all data collected.

Species	Number	Percent of Total
Harrier (Marsh Hawk)	148	42.5
Am. Rough-leg (dark phase, 11)	116	33.5
Ferruginous Rough-leg	24	6.9
Prairie Falcon	41	11.8
Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk)	6	1.7
Red-tailed Hawk	4	1.2
Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)	1	1.2
Merlin (Pigeon Hawk)	2	0.6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0.3
Total Hawks	346	.
Bald Eagle	28	70.0
Golden Eagle	12	30.0
Total Eagles	40	

State Bird Notes

Notes from Hays Alex Richards of Hays reported seeing six Anhingas in a dead tree in a farm pond two miles south of Agra (Phillips County), on Thursday, April 16. He says he is entirely familiar with Anhingas having seen them many times in Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

William Eastman and his ornithology class on May 11, saw a Snowy Egret and a Green Heron along Big Creek back of the college campus.

Roland H. Vanderbilt of Inman, reported that there were 50 White Pelicans on Lake Inman, April 24 and that earlier in the week there had been approximately

500 on the lake. He said that they would leave early in the morning and return in the evening.

On April 24 I saw and photographed what I had long desired to photograph, namely Franklin Gulls following a tractor-plow. The gulls were up the Big Blue valley north of Manhattan. I have seen Franklin Gulls within the last two weeks, all the way from Wakeeney and Hays to Topeka and back.—L. D. Wooster, Hays, Kansas.

Notes from Halstead

On April 3 five of us saw our first Eared Grebe at Lake Marion. The only Hermit Thrush seen this spring was on April 13. Returning from Emporia April 19, we saw a flight of Turkey Vultures south of Strong City. On April 24 we saw a Summer Tanager which was a life bird for us. Where were the Pine Siskins this spring? We saw one! Beyond Alta Mill north of Harvey County Park on May 6, A Snowy Egret patrolled a small pond with no other waders near. Marie Dettweiler saw a Painted Bunting on May 7. This was a coincidence for the only other seen here was at Dettweilers May 7, 1944.

Warbler migration began with the Black and White Warbler on March 30. From our windows we noted 49 species, from Ruby-throated Hummingbird to Franklin Gull's. Most outstanding was another Summer Tanager, a Macgillivray's Warbler (the only previous record was September 7, 1944); Lazuli and Indigo Buntings, and both Blue and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. May 11 we saw our first Blackburnian Warbler; also seen May 18 and 19. A second wave of warblers began on May 17. To date we have seen 20 species of warblers this spring, including Ovenbird, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrush. The Parula Warbler seen April 3 and May 24 was a life bird for most of us. The Chestnut-sided Warbler seen on May 17 and the Magnolia Warbler seen on May 18 were new records for this area.

Probably our most fantastic birding experience for this season was when a Snowy Owl flew low over our heads on May 22. We cannot imagine what a Snowy Owl was doing here in May even though it was flying north, unless it had been down to Texas.—Edna Ruth, Halstead, Kansas.

Notes from Topeka

The Topeka birders have had a very good season so far. Both the Common and Red-throated Loons were seen. The latter was discovered by Phil Menninger. The Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes were all found this spring. Mrs. W. A. Huxman saw the Western Grebe on Lake Wabaunsee. Both the Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons were listed this season, also one record of the Little Blue Heron (by Olander).

All of the geese were seen and the usual varieties of ducks including Wood Duck at St. Marys (by Tom Hatrel). We have nothing unusual to report about the rails, sandpipers, gulls or terns.

We had the usual Alder and Least Flycatchers. On May 24 the Olive-sided Flycatcher was found. All of the swallows were seen except the Bank Swallow. The Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireos showed up but not the Yellow-throated.

We had what might have been called a wave of warblers this spring. T. W. Nelson listed 15 species in Central Park on one day during the peak of the migration. Twenty-six species were seen including Golden-winged (Mrs. Charles Blades), Black-throated Green (David Pantle), Blackburnian, Bay-breasted and Pine.

Three Lazuli Buntings spent a few days in Central Park. Both the Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were found in the Topeka parks.—L. B. Carson, Topeka, Kansas.

Notes from Kansas City

We had our annual "century run" on May 10. It was an extremely windy day. Some gusts reached 55 miles per hour. Dr. Henry Harford, Ben King and I started birding at Lake Quivira and continued from there to Sugar Lake and vicinity. Most of the ducks had moved on but we

saw 20 species of shorebirds. We were able to identify two subspecies of the dowitcher.

We netted our largest number of species in the warbler family. We had 23 species of which the Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers were probably the least common.

Our composite list for the day was 154 species and subspecies which far exceeded our goal of one hundred—Harold Hedges, Kansas City, Kansas.

Notes from Baldwin

Several species, besides the warblers and shore birds that seemed to merit separate stories, made unusual appearances this spring. Two Hutchin's and a Canada Goose stayed at Lone Star Lake from May 2 to 23. More ducks, both in individuals and species, were on this lake than anytime in the last several years, probably due to the poor condition of the lakes and ponds near Lawrence. The Broad-winged Hawk began its summer residence in the Big Hill region in April. Two Swainson's hawks were seen several times during the last three weeks of May a half mile north of town. The Stilt Sandpiper and the Least Tern were found in this region for the first time; the Stilt with the Wilson's Phalarope west of town and the Tern at Baldwin Lake on May 17. All five swallows, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff, were flying over this lake on April 26. The Willow Thrush (or Veery) was seen by a few birders on May 9. All six vireos appeared in April or May. Bobolinks were in two alfalfa fields near town, both north and south, from May 6 to 19. The south flock numbered at least thirty when it left. A pair of Scarlet Tanagers were building a nest May 24th in the Big Hill area. Painted Buntings have been seen or heard in four localities. Pine Siskins were unusually abundant in town from January to mid-May. A Leconte's Sparrow was found May 17, a month later than usual, on the shore of Baldwin Lake, in the same spot that one had been seen last October.—Amelia Betts, Baldwin.

Membership News

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans of Baldwin attended the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society which was held at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Texhoma Lake on April 18 and 19.

Five of our K. O. S. members attended the Wilson Ornithological Club meetings held June 14 to June 17 at the University of Michigan Biological Station, Douglas Lake, Cheboygan, Michigan. They were Harrison B. Tordoff, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewning, R. W. Frederickson of Lawrence and R. F. Miller of Baldwin.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The editor would like to thank Amelia Betts and Katharine Kelley for editing the greater part of this issue of the Bulletin. Illness in his family was the reason.