

Kansas Ornithological Society

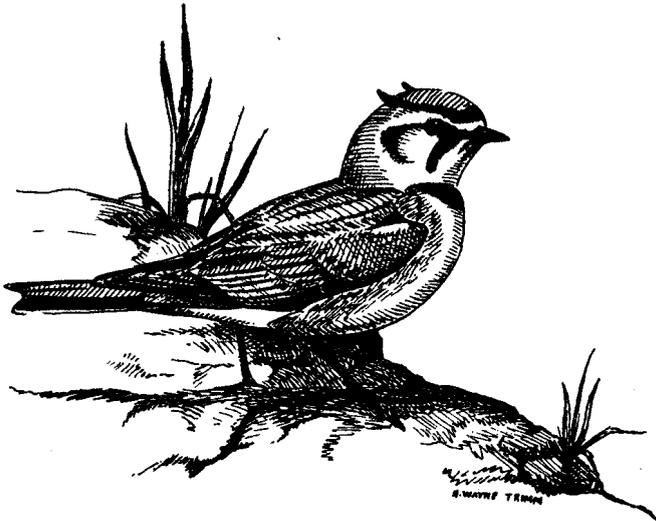
BULLETIN

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Regular Membership, \$1.00;

Sustaining Membership, \$5.00

Dues payable January 1 to the Treasurer

Subscription to the Bulletin is included in either class of membership

The Hays Convention

Program—The sixth annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held Saturday and Sunday May 1 and 2, 1954 at Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays Kansas. Registration for the meeting was at 8:00 a. m., Saturday at Science Building on the campus where the day's program was given.

The morning session opened at 9:30 with the vice-president, Eugene Dehner, presiding in the absence of President L. D. Wooster, who was ill in Hadley Hospital at Hays. The Welcome was extended by William Eastman, Chairman of the local Arrangements Committee.

The first report was by Marvin Schwilling, of Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Garden City on "Bird Population in southwestern Kansas. In his observations since 1951 he included 36 species, giving their status in abundance and nesting records, supplemented with slides.

Harrison B. Tordoff, University of Kansas, Lawrence, reported on "Social Behaviour of Red Crossbills", with data gathered from observing a group of twelve birds in captivity. In the preliminary report of this study the establishing of the peck order and roosting habits were noted.

A study of "Nesting of the Mississippi Kite in northeast Barber County, Kansas was presented to the group by Thane Robinson, Lawrence. The first egg was laid June 4. The young were fed chiefly grasshoppers, bullfrogs and dragonflies. Apparently no attempt was made by the parent birds to defend the territory from other kites. Photographic slides were used showing stages of growth of the young birds under observation.

"Some Observations on Nesting Mourning Doves in Lyon County, Kansas, 1953" made by Bob Wimmer of Emporia was given by Ted Andrews, Emporia. In this particular locality more nests were found in red cedar trees than in any other species. In the nests examined 51 doves hatched and 22 of these were survivals. For some unexplainable reason a greater survival occurred in August than in the three previous months.

A very complete report was given by Homer A. Stephens, Manhattan, on 30 of the Great Blue Heron colonies of Kansas. The colonies visited by Mr. Stephens occurred in 17 counties and comprised about 1024 nests.

The morning session closed with an interesting account of "Bird Literature at the University of Kansas given by Robert Mengel, Lawrence, in which he elaborated on the scientific, literary, and artistic values of the Ellis Collection of ornithological literature.

The afternoon session opened with an excellent film shown by Frank Robl that he had taken of his bird refuge near Ellinwood. Mr. Robl has maintained this refuge at his farm pond for many years where he has fed, protected, studied and banded thousands of waterfowl.

Roger Olmsted, Lawrence, gave an account of his observation of a pair of Starlings and nesting activities as viewed through a peep-hole in the nesting box. Nesting started on February 24 and continued for 37 days. Incubation was from 11 to 14 days. The first nestling to take flight was 22 days old.

An article written by Elizabeth Schnemayer and read by Orville Rice, Topeka, in the absence of Miss Schnemayer gave the history of the Topeka Audubon Society. The society which started 10 years ago with six members has grown to a membership of 220. Suggestions and reasons were given to encourage and urge other communities throughout the state to provide similar opportunities for group participation in the field of nature study and birdwatching.

Glen Woolfenden of Lawrence followed with his paper entitled "Spring Molt of Harris's Sparrows".

In his study of "Relation of Coyotes to Birds", H. T. Gier, Manhattan, related that of the 1250 coyote stomachs examined it was found that the food content was 57% rabbit. Birds and chickens made up a lesser amount of the contents. Dr. Gier remarked that many of these birds were taken after severe storms and may have been injured or dead when captured by the coyotes.

L. B. Carson submitted a list of the "Best Bird Finds of the Year" having compiled the list from records supplied by birders in various areas of Kansas.

Jere Hodshire, Kansas City introduced by his instructor Wallace Good, told of the "Activities of the Wintering Duck Population at Wyandotte County Lake."

The concluding number of the session was an excellent film presented by Ivan Sutton, Pleasanton, on the "Nesting of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Florida". This is the first record of photographing this bird at its nest.

Conducted tours to the museum were available following the afternoon session and preceding the morning field trip.

The annual banquet which was held in the basement of the Methodist Church and served by the ladies of the church was attended by about seventy-five KOS members and friends. The tables were attractively decorated with miniature bird arrangements. Colored slides were shown of activities at the previous meeting.

At 8:00 p. m. the group moved to Picken Hall Auditorium on the campus where the feature of the evening was a "Grab-bag of Western Birds" by Orville O. Rice of Topeka. This was an illustrated lecture with kodachrome slides of western birds photographed on a trip by Mr. Rice with his family to California and through the National Parks of the West.

Business—The business meeting of the morning was held in the Science Building with Vice-president Eugene Dchner, presiding.

The treasurer, L. B. Carson, reported a balance on hand of \$312.62.

Membership Committee Chairman, Eugene Dchner reported that we had a total of 191 paid members. Of these 163 were renewal memberships and 28 were new ones. Eighteen members pay sustaining dues.

Editor Ivan Boyd reported that since the last meeting four issues of the K. O. S. Bulletin have appeared. The cost of printing and mailing was \$237.09.

The Officers elected for next year, as shown on the cover of this issue of the Bulletin, were presented by the Nominating Committee Chairman, R. F. Miller.

Vice-president Dchner appointed two committees: Resolution Committee, Amelia Betts, Roger Olmsted and John Breuchelman; Fall Field Trip Committee, Harold Hedges, Dean Cole and Orville Rice. At the afternoon session of business Harold Hedges, reporting for his committee, stated that the Fall Field Trip would be held at Quivira Lake on Sunday, October 10, 1954.

The spring meeting of 1955 was discussed. Members from both Atchison and Lawrence issued invitations.

A motion was carried that the Kansas Ornithological Society go on record as being against private landgrab of National Forest lands in western states and the innundation of Dinosaur National Monument by Echo Park Dam.

A motion was carried that the council study and select a committee to study the possibility of giving an annual award to some outstanding high school student interested in ornithology.

Maurice Baker moved and Ted Andrews seconded that authors of papers presented at the annual meeting need not publish (except by title) their contribution in the K. O. S. Bulletin. Carried.

Final business of the meeting took place at the banquet when the following resolutions, proposed by the Resolutions Committee, were adopted:

(1) That the thanks of KOS be extended to the administration of Fort Hays Kansas State College for its hospitality and facilities and to Drs. L. D. Wooster and W. R. Eastman for their arrangements for this sixth annual meeting.

(2) That thanks be extended to all participants of the Saturday program and to Mr. Eastman and Frank Robl for their leadership for tomorrow's field trip.

(3) That thanks be extended to Mrs. Eastman for the decorations and to the ladies of the Methodist Church for serving the annual banquet.

(4) That the officers of the society be congratulated for the completion of this successful year, including the annual meeting.

Field Trip.—About fifty KOS members assembled in spite of the rain on the Fort Hays State College Campus at 5:30, May 2, 1954 for the sixth annual spring field trip. Birding was conducted on the Campus until 7:00 a. m. after which the group was guided to the Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge by Frank Robl. Lunch was obtained at cafes in Hoisington. A compilation by the group showed that 93 species of birds had been seen. The list is as follows: Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, Ruddy Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Ringnecked Pheasant, American Coot, Snowy Plover, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Black-headed Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow.

Attendance Register.—ATCHISON, Eugene Dehner; BALDWIN, Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Katharine Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller; BUSH-TON, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Gilfillan, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Volkland; CONCORDIA, John Porter; ELLINWOOD, Frank Robl; EMPORIA, Ted Andrews, John Breuchelman, E. J. Ryan; GARDEN CITY, Marvin Schwilling; HALSTEAD, Mrs. A. R. Challans, Marie Dettweiler, Mrs. Eunice Goode, Ethel Philbrick, Eva Philbrick, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth, Edna Ruth; HAYS, Mrs. Allen Bertram, Billie Bertram, Jennie Bertram, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Eastman, A. M. Shenk, L. D. Wooster; HILLSBORO, Roy Henry; KANSAS CITY, Wallace Good, Jack Gorelick, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hedges, Jere Hodshire, Lucille Holcombe, James Mariner, Raymond Miller, Chipper Ruthledge; LAWRENCE, Rollin Baker, Henry Fitch, Robert Mengel, Roger Olmsted, Dennis Rainey, Thane Robinson, Harrison Tordoff, Glen Wolfenden; MANHATTAN, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Gier, Donald Gier, Homer Stephens; McPHERSON, Mrs. Harold Beam, Mary Fee, Virginia Harris, Edna Neher; NESS CITY, Leo Klameth; PEABODY, Claire Schelske; PLEASANTON, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Sutton; SHAWNEE, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dean Cole, Ben King; TOPEKA, L. B. Carson, J. A. Eddy, Grace Holcombe, Mrs. Walter Huxman, Pearl Maus, Phil Menninger, Orville Rice; WALDO, Ward Faulkner; WINFIELD, Maurice Baker.

Annual Report of the Best Bird Finds for Kansas

by *L. B. Carson*
Topeka, Kansas

Every year since the organization of K. O. S. an annual report has been made of the best or most unusual birds seen in the state. The species reported are considered the best bird finds for the areas in which they are recorded. These may or may not be unusual records for other localities in Kansas. Only the species seen since the previous annual meeting are included. Species listed are in the same order as in the most recent A. O. U. check-list.

White-faced Glossy Ibis, May 14, 1953 at Republic County State Lake by John M. Porter.

European Widgeon (pair); April 16, 1954 at Lake Shawnee by Carl and David Holmes.

Ferruginous Rough-leg; December 7, 1953 in the Kaw River Valley near Kansas City by John Bishop and James Lubkin.

Whooping Crane; March 14, 1954 southeast of Perry 1½ miles seen by Katharine Kelley, Amelia and Donald Betts. Two were reported north of Topeka, 6 a. m. April 22, 1954 by Mrs. Reid Green.

Purple Gallinule; April 4, 1953 (no previous record for the state). Seen on the Kansas side of the Missouri River near Kansas City by Bill Buckingham.

Florida Gallinule; June, 1953 at Ellinwood by Frank Robl.

Piping Plover; April 8, 1954 at Lyon County Lake by Mrs. Walter Huxman, Dean and Elizabeth Fisher.

Snowy Plover; April 8, 1954 at Lyon County Lake by Mrs. Walter Huxman, Dean and Elizabeth Fisher.

Ruddy Turnstone; Aug. 9, 1953, seen at Cheyenne Bottoms by Elizabeth Fisher. Also seen by L. B. Carson September 19, 1953 at Lake Shawnee.

Laughing Gull; April 4, 1953 at Lake Shawnee by Orville Rice.

Caspian Tern; May 14, 1953 at Republic County State Lake by John M. Porter.

Snowy Owl; May 22, 1953 at Halstead by Edna Ruth. Two seen January 22, 1954 in Kearney County near Lakin by Marvin Schwilling. Two seen February 10, 1954 at Lake Elbow, reported by H. T. Gier.

Hawk Owl; Linn County Christmas Census by Robert W. Weese [this was the only Hawk Owl reported in United States in the Audubon Christmas Count of 1953.—Ed.]

Stellar's Jay; September 26, 1953 in Kearney County and January 6, 1954 in Mortan County both by Marvin Schwilling.

Clark's Nutcracker; October 15, 1953 on the Fort Hays State College Campus by William Eastman

Sprague's Pipit; April 17, 1954 at Lake Shawnee by Orville Rice.

Black-headed Vireo; June 18, 1953 at Manhattan by Scott Searles.

Blue-winged Warbler; May 10, 1953 at Baldwin by Katharine Kelley and Amelia Betts.

Golden-winged Warbler; May 11, 1953 at Baldwin by Kelley and Betts.

Black-throated Blue Warbler; September 13, 1953 at Halstead by Edna Ruth. Two females seen on September 17, 1953 in Finney County by Marvin Schwilling and one male, October 22, recorded in Kearny County by Schwilling.

Audubon's Warbler; no date given, seen at Topeka by Cliff Olander.

Magnolia Warbler; May 18, 1953 at Halstead by Edna Ruth.

Chestnut-sided Warbler; May 17, 1953 at Halstead by Edna Ruth.

Black-throated Green Warbler; October 14, 1953 at Concordia by John Porter.

Macgillivray's Warbler; May 10, 1953 at Halstead by Edna Ruth.
Canada Warbler; May 10, 1953 at Baldwin by Betts and Kelley.
Lazuli Bunting; May 5, 1953 at Topeka by Carson.
Evening Grosbeak; April 29 at Topeka by Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans.
Pine Siskin; nesting April 13, 1954 at Concordia seen by Porter.
House Finch; February 26, 1954 at Concordia by Lillie and Ida Cook.
Snow Bunting; St. Francis Christmas Census by Josephine Churchill and K. D. Crumley.

Presented at the annual meeting May 1, 1954.

Great Blue Heron Colonies Of Kansas

by Homer A. Stephens, Manhattan

This study of the Great Blue Heron colonies was begun in 1953 and continued into the spring of 1954. It was not intended to be a complete study. Difficulty arose when attempts were made to count the nests when the foliage was on the trees. On the other hand if counting was delayed until after the leaves fell many nests had been destroyed by wind.

The colonies observed were distributed among 17 counties. Four were in each of Pottawatomie and Riley Counties; three were found in Finney County. Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Osage and Wabaunsee Counties each had two colonies. Seven counties namely Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Kearney, Lyon, Sedgwick, Wallace, Washington and Woodson had one colony each. Colonies in Cloud and Madison Counties had been abandoned.

In the 30 rookeries visited there were 1024 nests. When making the count no distinction was made as to whether or not the nest construction had been completed and successfully used. The average number of nests per colony was 34.13. Sedgwick County had the largest colony with 187 nests, while Woodbine (Dickinson County) was second highest with 119 nests. Three nests comprised the smallest colonies and were found at Pierceville and Pottawatomie Co.

Very few egg counts were made. At Maple Hill it was found that 10 nests had a total of 30 eggs ranging from two to four in each nest.

Eight species of trees were used by the herons for the location of their nests. The sycamore far exceeded the other species by containing 722 nests. The other species were as follows: cottonwood, 252 nests; elm, 31; oak, 10; hackberry, 5; walnut, 2; catalpa, 1 and coffee bean, 1.

The colony situated in Sedgwick County was dispersed among 67 different trees. Six species of trees, the greatest variety in any one heronry, were used in the colony near Concordia. The colonies located in Woodson, Pottawatomie and Coffey Counties occupied a single tree per colony with 21, 15 and 14 nests respectively.

Interesting associations of other species of birds with the herons were discovered. In two cases Horned Owls were found in the vicinity of the colonies and one of these owl nests was in the same tree with the herons' nests. A Barred Owl's nest was located in a hollow tree 50 feet from a heron nest. Four nests of Red-tailed Hawks were built near heron rookeries and in one instance the hawk nest was in the same tree as the heron nests. Turkey Vultures were often seen flying near the heronries. Frequently Baltimore Orioles nested in the same trees and just as frequently English Sparrows nested in the base of heron nests.

Very little information could be obtained on how long the colony sites had been in use. Usually local residents would say "It's been there as long as we've been here". Some colonies moved without apparent reason. One moved because the trees had been cut.

Below is the list of the colonies observed and their locations.

County	Township	Range	Section	Location
Chase	22	9	3	Upper Verdigris River
Chase	18	8	7	Fox Creek
Cloud	6	4	35	Wolf Creek (old colony in S14)
Coffey	20	13	35	Eagle Creek
Coffey	23	14	10	Dinner Creek
Dickinson	14	5	6	Lyon Creek
Ellsworth	17	8	4	Ash Creek tributary
Finney	26	31	10	Arkansas River
Finney	22	30	22	Pawnee River tributary
Finney	22	28	14	Pawnee River tributary
Greenwood	22	12	22	Halderman Creek
Greenwood	24	12	21	West Creek
Kearney	24	35	18	Arkansas River
Lyon	17	13	15	42-mile Creek
Osage	15	15	12	110-mile Creek
Osage	15	14	29	Plum Creek
Pottawatomic	7	9	31	Wilson Branch
Pottawatomic	6	8	8	Spring Creek
Pottawatomic	8	7	12	Carnahan Creek
Pottawatomic	7	9	12	East Fork
Riley	10	7	8	Wild Cat Creek
Riley	11	8	11	Deep Creek
Riley	7	5	1	Fancy Creek
Riley	6	5	29	North Branch Fancy Creek
Sedgwick	25	2	19	Arkansas River
Wabaunsee	13	13	6	Mission Creek
Wabaunsee	11	13	31	Dry Creek
Wallace	13	39	25	Smoky Hill River
Washington	4	5	36	Coon Creek
Woodson	23	15	27	Turkey Creek

The Organization of a Local Bird Club

by Elizabeth Schnemayer, Topeka, Kansas

Have you considered organizing a bird club in your community? Starting a bird club is no different from organizing any other kind of club. First of all there has to be someone who is so vitally interested in his subject that he is willing to take on himself the responsibility and, if necessary, any amount of work to make the thing go.

Moreover, I believe that in practically every town there are people interested in birds or some other phase of the outdoors. Some have perhaps had a course in botany or a kindred subject; others might be interested in photography or what not. You never know where you will find the right people, but your job is to find them.

Most everyone owns an automobile. When they go out for a drive, what do they do when they get there? Do they just turn the trolley-pole around and start back to town as the street car motorman used to do? Or is there some attraction there that will make them get out of the car and stay awhile? Birding is the answer and belonging to a bird club means that you have associated yourself with a group of kindred spirits all interested in those intriguing little creatures, birds. In this centennial year when old things have come into their own, we may fittingly quote the old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together." True, you can and do bird alone, but there is much pleasure in pointing out a bird to someone or having someone point one out to you. Then there is the matter of numbers—in numbers there is strength. If a problem comes up that needs correcting or improving, the voice of a group always carries more weight

than a lone voice. We all know that there are many other advantages in being organized, whether for bird study or for any other purpose.

All these things I have learned from experience since the job of organizing a bird club was so-to-speak thrust upon me ten years ago. At that time there came into my hands an announcement of a bird lecture together with a suggestion that one try organizing bird clubs. The material was handed to me with the remark, "It would be nice to have a bird club here! Why don't you go ahead and start one?"

Now I could see many reasons for not going ahead with it, the chief one being that I had no idea how to begin or what to do. Another reason was that I thought I was plenty busy as it was. But I wanted very much to have such an organization in our city and so I looked around for others who might be willing to help take on some of the work.

Since I was in the school business, I turned naturally to school men in more or less supervisory positions, but got no encouragement. After attempt to interest various other persons, I remembered noticing some editorials in a local newspaper that must have been written by someone interested in birds and things of the outdoors. Upon learning the writer's identity, I called on him in his office. He was interested enough that he agreed to be temporary president. My object in looking around beforehand for presidential timber was in line with my conviction that the idea of a bird club would appeal to more people, especially to men, if the president were a man rather than a woman and a school teacher at that.

A little announcement in both papers inviting anyone interested in organizing a Bird Club in Topeka to attend a meeting at a certain place and time, brought out a group of about 20 people. But although everyone was thrilled with the lovely bird program provided for this organization meeting, only six enrolled for membership. However, we elected the temporary officers planned and adjourned. Nothing further was done or suggested by anyone until several months later. In the spring, as the weather moderated, I called our little group together for an outing at a local park. Everyone enjoyed this outing so much that we, then and there, set the date for another one. It was an attractive private place to which we were invited on this occasion and we were careful to announce the gathering in the papers. The result was several new members—a total of ten members now.

From there on, it was as Thomas A. Edison put it, 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. I kept no record of the telephone calls I made or the notes I wrote or what I said in the sales talks that I gave people, but I know that I spent an enormous amount of time and energy in the effort to increase our membership. In those days many people would say, when I called to invite them to join our club, "A what kind of a club did you say?" Today, we never meet that question. Interest in birds and related subjects has increased noticeably in our city. I do not get nearly so many complaints about boys shooting birds. We have made an impression on the community. The club is now ten years old and has a membership of about 220.

Our organization is a branch of the National Audubon Society. We feel that belonging to the National Society gives a certain stability to our local group. When a puzzling question arises one can turn to the National Society for the answer. Moreover, it gives one much satisfaction to know that one is supporting the cause which the National Audubon Society represents.

But whatever plan you adopt, call it a Bird Club, a Nature Club, or an Audubon Society, try starting one. The size of your town is not the all-important factor as is proved by the fact that Clay Center has been on the Audubon Screen Tour circuit for the last two years. Other clubs of the state are the Baldwin Bird Club (organized in 1944), the Linn County Bird Club (organized, 1953) and the Burroughs Club (Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas, organized, 1919). Any type of bird or nature organization will give you much personal pleasure and will be an asset to your town.

State Bird Notes

Notes from Garden City

The spring migration in this area apparently brought nothing out of the ordinary unless it would be the absence of warblers and the abundance of sparrows. Clay-colored and Gambel's Sparrows came through in high numbers along with many Lincoln's, Chipping, Swamp and others.

The early part of the nesting season was very favorable for an area so dominated by wind and weather. The White-necked Ravens have hatched well and most nests contain 6 to 7 young as compared to 1 to 3 last year. The Avocets are incubating on their usual island in Ackley Lake. Twelve nests were observed on June 9. The island also harboured a Pintail Duck nest containing seven eggs. The Lark Buntings are again nesting in large numbers in Finney County after an absence of two years. A nest of the Cassin's Sparrow was found on the Buffalo Game Preserve south of Garden City on May 24; it contained two young and a pipped egg. This is one of the few sparrows to lay a white egg. They are very secretive around the nest and four visits were made before the birds were observed. They are abundant in the sagebrush of this area and the male has a very pleasing song as he "skylarks" into the air to settle near the place he left.

On May 29 a Ferruginous Rough-leg nest was located in Logan County west of Russell Springs. The nest is in a typical situation located directly atop a spherical rock along a chalk bluff, making it inaccessible to predators. It contained three young at that time. Also while in Logan County I located the nest of a Rock Wren at the site of the new Logan County State Lake. The elaborate pairing of small flat stones leading to the nest placed well back beneath a flat rock is different but characteristic of this bird. Along this same chalk bluff a Say's Phoebe had its nest and three pointed white eggs tucked in a small niche of the cliff. The Cliff Swallows too were building their gourd-shaped nests under an overhanging rock.

Mr. Ivan Sutton has been in the Garden City area for sometime photographing the birds. He took movies of the Avocets, Ferruginous Rough-leg, Say's Phoebe, Cliff Swallows, Ravens, Scissortail Flycatchers and several others even though the weather has been anything but right for photography.—Marvin Schwilling, Garden City.

Notes from Kansas City

Because of the drought very few good places were available for rails but Trimble Lake proved to be good, producing lots of Soras, several Virginia, a King Rail and a Florida Gallinule. The shore bird migration was nothing short of spectacular this year, 29 species being observed and some very large numbers of the rarer ones. Two Piping Plovers were seen by James Lubkin and I at Bean Lake, Missouri on May 8 when the two of us recorded 136 species. Another Piper was seen at Trimble. The Reverend Terrence Rhodes and I found a Ruddy Turnstone at Bean Lake on May 24. One or two Sanderlings were seen on every trip to Bean Lake during the first three weeks of May. Harold Hedges and I found a Woodcock at Quivira on February 28. The Bishops saw a flock of 15 Marbled Godwits at Sugar Lake on May 8. This is one of the largest flocks of this species recorded here.

On May 16, when the shorebirding was at its peak, Harold Hedges, Harrison Tordoff, James Lubkin and I held our "Century Run." We covered Quivira, Bean, Sugar and Trimble Lakes and found a record breaking number of species, 165, which included 21 species of shore birds. About 75 Hudsonian Godwits were seen. Usually one or two of this species is seen here in a season. We saw 25 Red-backed Sandpipers (another bird that is oftentimes missed in a year. They were rather common this year. Other flocks were, 30 at Trimble on May 18 and 25 and several at Bean Lake on May 8). White-rumped Sandpipers were common this year, 1000 of them being observ-

ed on the Century Run. The best find so far this year was three Red Phalaropes at Trimble on the Century Run.

Bill Buckingham saw several Saw-whet Owls near his home in Kansas City, Kansas this winter. Two pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are nesting closer to Kansas City this year than ever before. One pair of them is about 8 miles southwest of Shawnee and the other is near Lee Summit, Missouri. Elizabeth Cole and I made the first Missouri record of the Townsend's Solitaire on January 10 at Mt. Washington Cemetery.

The warbler migration was rather poor and late this spring but nevertheless we found some rather unusual ones. James Lubkin and I discovered a Hooded Warbler at Quivira on May 11, 18 and 19. Henry Harford found one at Cliff Drive on May 12. A pair has been seen and possibly nesting at Swope Park, also at Trimble. The only Bay-breasted Warbler seen on the Kansas side this spring was a female which I saw at the Shawnee Cemetery. I sighted a Golden-winged Warbler at Quivira on May 18 and Mary Louise Myers found one the next day at Shawnee Cemetery. I observed a Worm-eating Warbler at Swope Park on May 12.

Reverend Terrence Rhodes and I made the first spring record of a Nelson's Sparrow on May 24 at Trimble. Other good finds this spring at Kansas City were the Cinnamon Teal, Bonaparte's Gull, several Caspian Terns and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—Ben King, Shawnee.

Notes from Halstead From April 14 to 18 the Hermit Thrush stayed around our yard. As Burrowing Owls are scarce, we are pleased with the pair we found southwest of town, April 16. The burrow seems to be freshly dug, no sign of prairie dogs about. That day we also saw our first American Mergansers (11) south of Patterson Lake. We saw, that day, a large flock of American Pipits on an alfalfa field along the Little Arkansas River; several were on the banks. Three male Bobolinks in an alfalfa field southeast of town on May 9 were first sighted by Mrs. Challans and Mrs. Stein; the birds remained long enough for the car to make two trips to town, so we all got to see them.

Though not a warbler spring like in 1953, we saw 17 species including Oven bird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Magnolia and Macgillivray's. The male Lazuli Bunting was seen May 11 and a female on May 16. Wilson's Phalarope was seen near Newton (L. T.), on May 15 southwest of Halstead (M. D. and the Ruths) and a flock near Hudson (J. C.), a lifer for all of us. The Great Blue Heronry was visited three times between May 15 and June 6. On the last dates many trees with nests were no longer active. We saw a flock of 80 north of the heronry; we were unable to determine whether they were in shallow water or just in meadow. Eight American Egrets were with them. The Chuck-will's-widows we heard northwest of town June 10 and 16 is a new record for here. They had been heard for two weeks previously.—Edna Ruth, Halstead.

Notes from Mound City Our proudest achievement at present is the organization of Linn County Audubon Society. We have a lively membership of 30 members. We have interesting monthly meetings and have had some fine field trips. Speakers, films and bird study provide program material for our meetings.—Eunice Dingsus, Mound City.

Notes from Baldwin A female Evening Grosbeak was observed eating pop corn which had been thrown out upon the ground at the C. W. Grisby home on January 16, 1954. It made just this one short visit.—Amelia J. Betts, Baldwin

General Notes

Changes in editorship of Bulletin.—The September issue of the Bulletin will be edited by Dr. Maurice Baker, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. News notes, articles etc. should be addressed to him. This issue was assembled by Ivan L. Boyd, retiring editor.

Correction in the 1953 Christmas Bird Count.—Through a misunderstanding on the method of counting and an error in identification on the part of one of the members in the Lawrence census, changes should be made. Please make corrections in the Lawrence tabulations entered in the March issue to read as follows:

Swainson's Hawk	none
Black-capped Chickadee	242
Tufted Titmouse	74
Cardinal	237
Slate-colored Junco	438
Tree Sparrow	732
Harris's Sparrow	60
Total species	59
Total individuals	5506

All of the other species observed at Lawrence were correct as listed. This of course changes the Kansas total species list to 112 instead of 113 and the Kansas total individuals count to 220,761. Lawrence should be given credit for 28 highest counts instead of 33. Other corrections made necessary by the above changes we will leave to the discretion of the reader.

Fall meeting at Quivira Lake.—The fifth annual Fall meeting and Field Day of K. O. S. will be held October 10 at Lake Quivira near Kansas City. Make plans now to attend.

Hudsonian Godwit snagged by clam.—An unusual incident occurred on April 20, 1954, at Lake Kahola northwest of Emporia. Two of my students, Bob Clarke and Bob Wimmer were watching shore birds along the lake. They were observing a godwit through the glasses, as he worked along the shallow water, all of a sudden the godwit tried to take off; he flew up out of the water a few inches and fell back to the water. They retrieved the bird from the water to find attached to his foot a fair-sized clam. They pried the clam loose and brought in a beautifully plumaged Hudsonian Godwit, which we photographed and released. This kind of an experience may have been had by lots of persons, but it was a new experience for me.—Ted Andrews, Emporia.

Sparrows that are Summer Residents of Kansas.—A careful study of the records indicate that Kansas has only four or five species of sparrows that nest within its boundaries. The Grasshopper, Lark, Chipping and Field Sparrows are summer residents of most of the state. The Cassin's Sparrow is reported to breed in the extreme western part. Do other sparrows remain within our limits during the summer? N. S. Goss in "History of the Birds of Kansas" and A. L. Goodrich in "Birds of Kansas" state that the Henslow's and Vesper Sparrow are rare summer residents.

Do you have nesting records of any of the sparrows or can you cite recent literature that gives evidence of such breeding activities? Send your information to the editor.

Best Bird Finds in the Kansas City area for 1953.—Here are some “best bird finds” for the Kansas City area submitted by Ben King. The majority of the species on this list are on the Missouri side.

Greater Scaup, December 31, 1953 at Wyandotte Lake by Walter Butin and Ben King.

Ferruginous Hawk, November 7, 1953 on the Kansas side of the Missouri River by John Bishop and James Lubkin.

King Rail, October, 1953 at Trimble Wildlife Refuge, Missouri by Ben King.

Virginia Rail, October, 1953 at Trimble Wildlife Refuge by Ben King.

Red-backed Sandpiper, October, 1953 at Trimble by Ben King.

Golden Plovers, seen almost every field trip between September 13 and November 2 along the Kaw River by Ben King.

Northern Phalarope, September 26, 1953, at Trimble by Ben King.

Nelson's Sparrow seen from September 19 to October 19, 1953 at Trimble by Ben King and others.

Smith's Longspur, November 15, 1953 a few miles west of Quivira by Ben King.

Chestnut-collared Longspurs, November 7, 1953 on the Kansas side of Missouri River by John Bishop and James Lubkin.

Kansas records in the Christmas Count.—There were 469 species of birds reported in the 54th Christmas Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The highest count for four of these species had the distinction of being in Kansas; the Harlan's Hawk at Baldwin, the Greater Prairie Chicken at Topeka, Hawk Owl in Linn County and the Harris's Sparrow at Halstead. It is unfortunate that the 67 Lesser Prairie Chicken seen at Lakin, Kansas were not reported to the National Audubon society as this species was seen nowhere else in North America. In fact it is doubtful if this species of prairie chicken has ever been included in the National Audubon Count. A summary of previous high count records for Kansas appeared in the March, 1954 issue of K. O. S. Bulletin.

Spring meeting of K. O. S.—Definite plans have not been made for the annual spring meeting but invitations have been presented by Atchison and Lawrence. The decision will be made by the executive committee.

Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska O. U.'s in joint meeting.—Plans are now being made for the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and Nebraska Ornithologists' Union to hold a tri-state meeting at Sioux City, Iowa in May, 1955. There are many advantages in joint meetings of this kind. Possibly the Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri societies should make similar plans sometime in the future.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to our publication under my editorship. Only with your support has there been material available for each issue.—Ivan L. Boyd, retiring editor.