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SOME NEW RECORDS OF BIRDS FOR SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

In the period from 1954 to 1956, while preparing a collection of bird skins from this area for Southwestern College, I recorded the following birds which seem worthy of notice. These are sight records unless otherwise indicated.

Bartramia longicauda. Upland Plover.—On May 6, 1956, I found a nest of this species containing three eggs, one mile north and two miles east of Udall, Cowley County, Kansas. On June 6, 1956, I noted another nest containing four eggs, one-fourth mile south of the first nest. A downy young and one adult were also present nearby. This nesting area was in a 360-acre pasture of mixed grasses. Cowley County is the southernmost county of Kansas for which there are nesting records of this species, according to Tordoff's recent check-list (1956. *Univ. Kans. Publs., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 8:324).

Dryocopus pileatus. Pileated Woodpecker.—On three occasions I have observed this species along the Arkansas River three and one-half miles west and one and one-half miles south of Udall, in Sumner County, Kansas. I also saw one along the Arkansas River three and one-half miles west of Udall, in Sumner County. These observations were recorded on the following dates: for the first locality, December 10, 1955, March 17, 1956 and November 10, 1956. For the second area: November 22, 1956. An examination of tree trunks in the first area showed signs of the diggings of these birds in the cottonwoods and mulberries. No nest was found. This record extends westward the known range of the species in Kansas (*op. cit.*:332).

Thryomanes bewickii. Bewick Wren.—Although this species is common in southern Kansas in migration, there are no nesting records for Cowley County. A pair of Bewick Wrens nested in a bird house on the Ridgeway farm, eleven miles south and two miles east of Udall, Cowley County, in July, 1956.

Anthus spragueii. Sprague Pipit.—I have recorded this species in both spring and fall migration, one mile north and two miles east of Udall, Cowley County, Kansas, and obtained the first specimen there on March 29, 1956. On April 27, 1956, several more specimens, now in the University of Kansas collection, were collected at the same locality by Harrison B. Tordoff and John William Hardy. This species seems to be a transient only. It is not seen in this area between November and March.

Ammodramus bairdii. Baird Sparrow.—On October 7, 1956, a female of this species was taken by me one mile north and two miles east of Udall, Cowley County, Kansas. This specimen is now in the Southwestern College collection (SC 127). This is the fourth known specimen from the state. The first specimen was taken in Lane County in 1897 by J. A. Loring (*op. cit.*:351). The second and third specimens were taken by Harrison B. Tordoff on April 27 and 28, 1956, one-half mile north of the Cowley County area where I obtained the fourth specimen.—MAX THOMPSON, *Department of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, November 24, 1956.*

NOTES ON THE MIGRATION OF DUCKS AND GEESE IN SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

THANE S. ROBINSON

This paper summarizes my observations of migratory waterfowl, made from September, 1951, through April, 1953, in south-central Kansas. All observations were made on a study area of 640 acres (Sec. 34, T.31S, R.10W) approximately three miles north and one mile east of Sharon, Barber County. Included in the study area were eight man-made lakes with a total surface area of 16 acres.

In the following accounts of species I have listed the extremes in dates when each species was present at the study area. These dates may represent the duration of migration for each species in south-central Kansas. Because a few species of ducks and geese are residents at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, and fly back and forth over the study area throughout the year, it was difficult to determine the inclusive dates of migration for these species. In such cases, each indicated by an asterisk (*), I have recorded dates that, from my observations, seem to represent the actual duration of migration.

*Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)—A common migrant in both spring (February 10 to April 10) and autumn (September 29 to November 18).

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)—A regular migrant, although seen in only small numbers, in both spring (March 20) and autumn (October 26).

*Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)—A common migrant in both spring (January 19 to April 10) and autumn (September 8 to December 2).

*Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 12 to April 15) and autumn (October 2 to October 29).

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 3 to April 15) and autumn (September 7 to November 18).

*Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 3 to April 15) and autumn (October 18 to November 18).

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 16 to May 4) and autumn (August 31 to October 21).

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)—Only two were seen, these on April 13, 1952.

*Baldpate (*Mareca americana*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 3 to April 15) and autumn (October 1 to October 29).

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 15 to April 14) and autumn (October 12 to October 28).

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)—A regular migrant, seen only in small numbers, in both spring (April 6) and autumn (October 5 to October 21).

Redhead (*Aythya americana*)—A common migrant, arriving in large flocks, in both spring (March 7 to March 29) and autumn (October 21 to October 28).

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 7 to April 15) and autumn (October 7 to October 25).

Canvas-back (*Aythya valisineria*)—A regular migrant seen in large numbers in spring (March 7 to April 10), and in small numbers in autumn (October 12 to October 29).

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)—A common migrant in both spring (March 16 to May 3) and autumn (October 7 to November 23).

American Golden-eye (*Bucephala clangula*)—One female seen on November 18, 1951.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)—A regular migrant, seen in small numbers, in both spring (March 9 to March 30) and autumn (October 28 to November 11).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)—A common migrant both in spring (March 7 to May 26) and autumn (October 3 to October 25).

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)—A regular migrant seen in small numbers in both spring (March 20 to March 31) and autumn (November 22).

American Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)—Regular in late winter (February 2 to March 30).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)—A regular migrant, but seen only in autumn (October 29 to November 23).—*Department of Zoology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, October 15, 1956.*

NOTES ON COLONIES OF GREAT BLUE HERON IN KANSAS

TED F. ANDREWS AND HOMER A. STEPHENS

INTRODUCTION

In 1956, we reported on the colonies of Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in Kansas as of December 31, 1955 (Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., 59:279-308). At that time there were 57 colonies consisting of 1616 nests distributed among 26 counties, most of which were in east central Kansas. During December 1956, and January of 1957, these colonies were visited by Stephens, who found that 12 colonies showed an increase of a total of 61 nests, 34 colonies showed a decrease of a total of 321 nests, 7 colonies, including 35 nests, were abandoned (nests had not been used in 1956 nesting season), and 4 colonies remained unchanged.

From January to December, 1956, there was a loss of 295 of the 1616 nests in the 57 colonies which were listed in our previous study.

Fourteen new colonies with a total of 184 nests were found during 1956. Six of these colonies were in the western half of the state, 7 in east central, and 1 near the eastern border. Ten of these colonies were in counties in which heron colonies had not been reported previously. They were: one each in Ford, Linn, Marion, Morris, Ottawa, and Sumner; and 2 each in Gove and Hodgeman. Two of the 14 colonies were found in Butler and one each in Chautauqua and Wallace counties where other colonies were reported previously. The colony in Crawford County is abandoned now.

As of January, 1957 we have records on 64 active colonies consisting of 1505 nests distributed among 33 counties.

RESULTS

BUTLER COUNTY

S8-T28S-R7E

On January 4, 1956, a colony consisting of 22 nests was found on Little Hickory Creek on the Oliver Sontag farm. A dead elm tree, the limbs of which were among those of the sycamore, contained 10 nests, a dead oak 2 nests, and 3 sycamores 6, 3, and 1 nests each. In December of 1956 there were 19 nests counted. Twelve of the nests were in sycamores, 5 in the dead elm, and 2 in the dead oak. A Great Horned Owl was observed at the colony on both visits. The owner of the farm reported that the colony had been there for about 20 years.

S23-T29S-R6E

A colony of 8 nests in 4 sycamore trees was found on Rock Creek in December, 1956. The number of nests per tree ranged from 4 to 1. We now have records on 6 colonies in Butler County.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

S11-T34S-R12E

On December 15, 1956, a colony of 12 nests was found on Middle Caney Creek. Six of the nests were in a sycamore, 5 in a hackberry, and 1 in a cottonwood. The farmer believed the colony had been there for 20 years or longer. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were observed near the colony.

FORD COUNTY

S25-T27S-R23W

On December 6, 1956, a colony of 15 nests was found adjacent to the Arkansas River. The nests were scattered among 8 cottonwoods along the river for more than 0.5 of a mile. No tree held more than 6 nests.

GOVE COUNTY

S6 and 8-T12S-R30W

A small colony consisting of 2 nests in each of 2 cottonwood trees was found on North Branch Hackberry Creek on December 8, 1956. These two trees were at least 0.5 mile apart. Another heron's nest was found in a cottonwood tree about 3.5 miles south. Since trees are few and widely scattered in this part of Gove County, these 5 nests may constitute a widely scattered colony.

S7-T15S-R28W

On December 8, 1956, another heron colony was discovered on Plum Creek in Gove County. There were 5 nests scattered among 5 cottonwood trees which were in a small grove. Two of the trees were dead.

HODGEMAN COUNTY

S34-T21S-R26W

A colony of 11 nests in 5 cottonwood trees was found on a tributary of Pawnee Creek in December, 1956. No tree held more than 6 nests. Roy Venders, owner of the farm on which the colony was found, reported that the colony had been there for more than 20 years.

S30-T21S-R24W

In December, 1956, a second colony was found about 10 miles farther east on a tributary of Pawnee Creek. There were 11 nests scattered among 7 cottonwood trees. A Bald and a Golden Eagle were observed in the trees with the heron nests.

LINN COUNTY

S15 and 16-T22S-R23E

On December 17, 1956, a colony of 29 nests scattered among 16 sycamore trees was visited in south central Linn County on a tributary of Elk Creek. According to the owner of the farm, the colony has been there for many years. Marvin Schwilling, manager of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge, showed us the colony.

MARION COUNTY

S35-T20S-R4E

A colony of 7 nests distributed among 4 sycamore trees was visited on the Cottonwood River on December 2, 1956. It was first observed April 20, 1956, but the nests were not counted until December. Mr. Soper, owner of the farm on which the colony is located, stated that the colony had been there for about 15 years.

MORRIS COUNTY

S10-T17S-R9E

On December 20, 1956, a colony of 29 nests was found on the Neosho River. The nests were distributed among 4 sycamore trees. One tree had 14 nests, another 13, and each of the others 1 nest each. The colony, which was reported to be about 20 years old, is on the Bill Young farm.

OTTAWA COUNTY

S30-T9S-R2W

A small colony of 6 nests in a dead cottonwood tree was found on November 17, 1956, on East Pipe Creek. We have no previous records on this colony.

SUMNER COUNTY

S26-T32S-RIW

On December 28, 1956, a colony of 14 nests was found on Slate Creek. Four nests were in 3 hackberry trees, 9 nests in 5 oak trees, and 1 nest in a dead honey locust. We have no previous records on this colony. Two Red-tailed Hawks were sailing around the vicinity. An old hawk nest was a short distance south of the colony.

WALLACE COUNTY

S24-T13S-R40W

A widely scattered colony of 14 nests in 11 cottonwood trees was located on the Smoky Hill River on December 7, 1956. This is the second heron colony on which we have records in Wallace County. This colony is about 6 miles from the other Wallace County colony which has been getting smaller during the last 3 years.—*Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia; Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Pratt, Kansas, January 16, 1957.*

Saw-whet Owl in Linn County.—While squirrel hunting in a heavily wooded area near my home, in Mound City, my brothers spotted a small owl-like bird perched in the top of a tree. They returned to the house as quickly as possible to tell me of the bird. With my interest aroused, we returned to the tree to find the owl still there. My brother climbed up the tree to try to capture the bird. The bird sat perfectly calm, but as my brother reached for him, he flew off through the timber in his galloping flight. From all my reference material and observation, I have no doubt but what it was a Saw-whet Owl.—*RICHARD WURTZ, Mound City, Kansas, November 26, 1956.*

Halstead notes.—Our drought continues, which makes for slow birding. We have been puzzled why western birds are in evidence more than usual. October 6, 1956, on our way to Salt Plains Refuge, close to the Oklahoma border above Amorita, the three Ruths and J. C. found a Mountain Bluebird; again one was seen October 28 near Harvey County Park, and November 22 in Halstead Cemetery by the Ruths. For the area our previous record for Mountain Bluebird had been November 16, 1953, 11 miles southwest of Halstead (the Ruths and M. D.)

Townsend's Solitaire was seen by E. L. R., R. R. and Mrs. Goode east of Halstead Riverside Park September 29, 1956; at Harvey County Park November 12 (the Ruths, Faith Wilson of Windom and Eliz. Hodges of Kansas City); again in Harvey County Park November 22 (the Ruths); and December 27, same place by M. D.; and in Halstead Cemetery November 22 and 23 by the Ruths. Last year there had been only one sight record of the Townsend's Solitaire by J. C.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is also rather unusual here—seen here at home November 16 and in Halstead Cemetery November 22. We have been having both Pink-sided and Grey-headed Juncos feeding in the yard but no Oregon Juncos with the Slate-colored Juncos. Heretofore we have had no record of the Grey-headed Junco in this area. [The occurrence of the Gray-headed Junco (*J. caniceps*) in Kansas has not yet been substantiated by a specimen. Every effort should be made to do so.—*Eds.*]

Our past records show only one White-breasted Nuthatch, seen in Harvey County Park, September 9, 1944, by the three Ruths and M. D. This fall, one was found in Harvey County Park by the same group who saw the Townsend's Solitaire that day (November 12), and one came to our yard December 6; has been here several times since and feeds at Philbricks.

The second record of an Osprey in the area was September 13 in Harvey County Park (the Ruths); the first record was October 2, 1954, the Ruths and Leona Smith in Riverside Park. The Prairie Falcon, rare here, was seen December 21 by A. and E. Ruth; also on the Christmas Count, December 26. A new record for Halstead was the Bohemian Waxwing picked up November 25 across the street and brought here for identification November 26; due to digestive tract difficulties he survived only three days.

Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets are as scarce as last year. A Mockingbird was seen November 22 by the three Ruths at Farmer's Corner north of Halstead. Likewise a late Brown Thrasher has been seen at Harvey County Park November 5, December 2, December 19, December 21 by the Ruths, M. D. and L. T.

Lifers for the Ruths were two Roadrunners they and J. C. found east of Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, on October 7, 1956. All thrushes were scarce this fall, the lone Hermit Thrush seen October 15 was not in Kansas but seen from a

woody path near Bennett Springs State Park, Mo., and though we did not get to the fall K.O.S. meeting to see the Pileated Woodpecker, we found ours, a lifer, October 17 across the stream at Hahatonka Springs below Camdenton, Lake of the Ozarks, in Missouri.—EDNA L. RUTH, 302 West Second St., Halstead, Kansas, December 28, 1956.

Nesting record of the Song Sparrow in Kansas.—The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) is recorded as a common transient and winter resident throughout Kansas (Tordoff, 1956. Check-list of the birds of Kansas. *Univ. Kans. Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 8:353). N. S. Goss (1886. "A revised catalogue of the birds of Kansas," p. 44) lists the Song Sparrow as a rare summer resident. He later retracts this (Goss, 1891. "History of the birds of Kansas," p. 471), stating that the evidence upon which this statement was based was unreliable, and that the Song Sparrow seldom nests in its western range much if any south of latitude 41 degrees. There is no evidence of the Song Sparrow nesting in Nebraska (Haecker, Moser, and Swenk, 1945. Check-list of the Birds of Nebraska, *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 13, p. 40 of "revised reprint," November, 1945).

I found 5 skins of immature Song Sparrows in the ornithological collection at the University of Kansas while working on a taxonomic study of the species.

KU No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector
8517	female	Scandia, Republic County, Kansas	Sept. 30, 1911	Bunker and Rocklund
8518	male	Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas	Oct. 9, 1911	Bunker and Rocklund
1802	female	Walnut Creek, Lane County, Kansas	Oct. 3, 1912	Bunker and Rocklund
12465	?	Walnut Creek, Lane County, Kansas	Sept. 28, 1912	Bunker and Rocklund
12476	male	Pendennis, Lane County, Kansas	Sept. 30, 1912	Bunker and Rocklund

The specimens listed above were all in the process of molting and from appearances would have been incapable of migration.

On February 3, 1956, the 5 specimens were sent to Dr. George M. Sutton at the University of Oklahoma, for his appraisal and an opinion as to their status. In a letter from Dr. Sutton, February 14, 1956, he states: "All of these are in the midst of the postjuvinal molt, 8517 having one still-undropped full-length juvenal rectrix on each side; 12476 two (only) such rectrices on the left side; the others no full-length rectrix of any sort. . . In every specimen of the five some juvenal body plumage is left, especially on the chin, throat, upper chest, back, and middle of the belly. The greater, median, and lesser secondary wing coverts are molting extensively throughout the series, but the greater primary coverts appear to be quite without sheathing at the base and are, in my opinion, of the juvenal plumage despite their being quite firm in texture."

He further adds: "I have no specimen in my collection which even suggests the possibility that this species migrates while in juvenal feather, so in my opinion these five molting individuals are fair proof that the Song Sparrow nested in Cloud and Republic counties in 1911, and in Lane County in 1912."

Republic County is in north-central Kansas on the Nebraska-Kansas border. Cloud County is directly south of Republic, and Lane County is in west-central Kansas approximately 100 miles from the Nebraska boundary. It seems improbable that these birds could have undertaken an extensive journey in their condition. The area in question certainly warrants further investigation despite the lapse of time since juvenal birds have been collected.

The 5 specimens at the University of Kansas should in any event constitute a nesting record of the Song Sparrow for the state of Kansas.—HERBERT E. HAYS, JR., *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, September 15, 1956.*

Notes on birds at St. Marys in fall, 1956.—In August an American Egret, a Snowy Egret (twice), and a Little Blue Heron all showed up along the Kaw—the first fall visit here in four years. Ducks and geese were scarce as usual. A Hooded Merganser (female) was the first here in three years. A Rough-legged Hawk on November 26 was the first I have seen at St. Marys. Shorebirds were scarce. Red-shafted Flickers didn't show up here till December 6. There was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at a pond near the river on August 13. A pair of Winter Wrens on December 4 were the first seen here since 1953. This is the first year I have seen Mockingbirds in the fall (November 8 and September 8). Mountain Bluebirds appeared here (in the cemetery) for the first time since 1951 on November 18. They were still here on December 11. Townsend's Solitaire showed up on the campus for a few minutes on Thanksgiving Day. A Swamp Sparrow in November was the first seen here since November, 1954. Smith's Longspurs were back on their favorite ridge in early November.—THOMAS A. HOFFMAN, *St. Marys, Kansas, December 11, 1956.*

Miscellaneous records of birds in Kansas.—The following observations made in various parts of Kansas are here reported because of their distributional interest.

Turkey vulture nest found 6 miles north of Lyndon, Osage County, summer 1956. Another pair nested in an old house in 1955, 2 miles southeast of geodetic center in Osborne County. I was there too early to see them, but a farmer told me later that they nested there in 1955.

I saw two Pileated Woodpeckers on December 15, 1956, 2 miles northeast of Peru, Chautauqua County.

Magpie nest found on May 13, 1953, on the Holt farm, 2 miles east and 1 north of Oak Hill in Clay County. Twelve magpies were seen on November 17, 1956, 4 miles west and 2 south of Delphos in Ottawa County.

Mountain Bluebird seen December 22, 1956, at Lyon County State Park, Lyon County. Flock of about 15 Mountain Bluebirds seen November 19, 1956 in a cemetery, 5 miles north and 6 east of Minneapolis, Ottawa County.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher nest was collected on May 23, 1953 (now at Emporia State Teachers College). An egg was previously taken from nest, 6 miles north and 1 west of Lyndon, Osage County. I watched a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher building a nest on April 17, 1954 on Fancy Creek, 6 miles northwest of Randolph, Riley County.—HOMER A. STEPHENS, *Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Pratt, Kansas, January 2, 1957.*

Bird notes and nesting records from the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Refuge and surrounding area.—The following observations are from my notes for 1956.

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck.—Nine nests on refuge. Four on April 18, all in nesting boxes, nests contained 23, 16, 2, 2 eggs respectively. Three more nests were observed in boxes on May 14 and 15. Two broods, not from the above mentioned nests, were observed in June. Several other nesting attempts were broken up by predators.

Buteo jamaicensis. Red-tailed Hawk.—A nest on the refuge contained its full clutch, three eggs, when located on March 15. Two snowfalls fell on the incubating bird after this date.

Buteo lineatus. Red-shouldered Hawk.—Two nests observed, both on refuge, one on March 26, contained four eggs when located. The second nest was found on March 29.

Dryocopus pileatus. Pileated Woodpecker.—Nest located along Sugar Creek, ¼ mile west of Linn County Fairgrounds, Mound City, Kansas, by Wilson Dingus and Harrison B. Tordoff. I checked the cavity with a mirror on April 13, but could see no eggs. However, when I again checked the cavity on May 14, it contained two well-developed young. These young were photographed while being fed by parent bird on May 20 by Orville Rice. I believe three other pairs attempted nestings on the waterfowl refuge although the nests were not located.

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird.—First nests reported in Linn County. Two nests; June 17, western Linn County on Hoag ranch, and July 1, two miles south of Pleasanton on Williams farm.

Muscivora forficata. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—First nests reported in Linn County; June 9, three miles southwest of Pleasanton, June 13, one mile north of Marais des Cygnes Refuge, June 15, ¼ mile south of Marais des Cygnes Refuge, and Eunice and Wilson Dingus knew of another nest near Farlinville. I also saw three nests in Bourbon County and two nests in Cherokee County.

Parus atricapillus. Black-capped Chickadee.—Nest contained three eggs on March 25, in our backyard bluebird box, Pleasanton, Kansas. This seems very early in season to me.

Sitta pusilla. Brown-headed Nuthatch.—Observed feeding in cottonwoods and elms along the south bank of the Marais des Cygnes River, 25 yards northwest of intake for Unit A on the Marais des Cygnes Refuge, March 30, 1956. First observation for state.

Protonotaria citrea. Prothonotary Warbler.—Common in water areas on refuge. Three nests observed; June 7, six eggs, June 15, and July 1.

Oporornis formosus. Kentucky Warbler.—One nest located on refuge, June 5. The young left the nest the same day.

Piranga olivacea. Scarlet Tanager.—Nest located June 3 on refuge along third flight lane in Unit B.

Piranga rubra. Summer Tanager.—Appeared abundant on refuge. Four nests located in Unit B, June 6, 7. Eight nests located during season.—MARVIN D. SCHWILLING, Pleasanton, Kansas, November 5, 1956.

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