

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Museum of Natural History
The University of Kansas, Lawrence

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The fall meeting of the KOS for 1963 was held at Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Phillips Co., on September 29. We felt that there was a good turnout of members, in view of the distance that had to be traveled by most. The meeting was met by the coldest weather of the season but by mid-morning the temperature had crawled up to a comfortable level. The following is a list of birds observed: Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Baldpate, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Avocet, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin Gull, Forrester Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-billed Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Leconte Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow

Some of the species we consider to be winter visitants are already moving into the state. Mr. E. Lewis from Keats, found a Red Crossbill on August 29. Phil Wells, of the Botany Department at the University of Kansas, saw a small flock near the carillon on September 25. The Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared on the KU campus around September 20. The warbler migration at Lawrence has been poor so far this year, and now some of the later migrants are coming in; it looks as if we won't get much more. The shorebird migration was also thin in this area. Jim Rising and Ted Anderson saw two Sanderlings at Lakeview, near Lawrence, in early September.

Again it is that time of year when the right conditions are occasionally present to cause migrating birds to crash into TV towers and into ceilometers at airports. The KANU radio tower at Lawrence (recently raised to 600') took a toll of eight birds on September 25. L. B. (Buck) Carson checked the towers at Topeka and found only one dead Yellow Warbler at the WIBW TV tower but upon checking the newer and higher tower at Maple Hill, 16 miles west of Topeka, they found 50

dead birds of at least 20 species. Some of the birds were badly decomposed. The Lawrence and Topeka tower kills this year added several birds to the list of those that have hit towers in Kansas* You people who live near TV towers, such as Hutchinson and Wichita, have a ready source of migration data and should take advantage of it. The only specimen record of the Connecticut Warbler from Kansas was taken in the big kill at Topeka in 1954. The Museum of Natural History at KU would be happy to hear about any large kills as soon as possible after it happens so that the birds can be processed before decomposition.

Each fall Scissor-tailed Flycatchers fan out from their established breeding range and turn up in otherwise marginal localities. Recent sight records from Kansas include two in Marshall County around September 25 and several in Phillips and Jewell counties on September 29.

R. F. Johnston is preparing once again to depart Lawrence to collect House Sparrows (project locally known as Coals to Newcastle), this time in Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia. R. M. Mengel is soon to return from a trip to the montane west; he reports the fishing is so-so.

Studies on birds at the Museum at KU include the following: behavioral studies on Vireos (Jon Barlow), learning abilities of House Sparrows (Margaret Gross), population ecology of Eastern Phoebes (Erwin Klass), relationships among certain songbirds (Sanford Leffler), behavior of Tree Sparrows (John Newman), local differentiation in physiologic characters in House Sparrows (Gary Packard), relationships in the Caprimulgi-formes (Marion Phillips), and the systematic position of the Bald-headed Wood Shrike (Max C. Thompson).

This is the first of the Newsletters to appear and the editors would like to invite all of you to send in your notes and news for the November number before October 25. The Newsletter will appear in January, February, April, May, ~~October and November~~. Without your notes and news, we will not have much to put out so send them in today. --Max C. Thompson, Assistant Editor--

*/ Great Blue Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Baltimore Oriole