

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Museum of Natural History

Number 15

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045

January 28, 1966

Snow Bunting at Cheyenne Bottoms

On December 29, 1965, Marvin Schwilling saw a single Snow Bunting (Plectrophenax nivalis) at Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge. Later that day he and Steve Stevens were able to collect the bird which proved to be an immature female. The specimen is now in the collection at Emporia State Teachers College. The bunting was not with any other birds. The Snow Bunting is an extremely rare and irregular winter visitant in Kansas. Johnston [Directory to the Birds of Kansas (Misc. Publ. No. 41, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.) 1965:60] writes that no specimens have been taken from Kansas since 1879; the only specimens from Kansas in the collection at K. U. are two females and a male taken at Lawrence on February 12, 1874, and the location of any specimens taken in 1879 is, at present, unknown to me.

Color Marked Birds

Walter D. Graul, a student at Kansas State Teachers College, is studying Harris and Tree sparrows on the Ross Natural History Reservation near Emporia, Kansas. Part of his research involves dying sparrows of these two species various colors (violet, orange, black, crimson, yellow, and green), and he would appreciate it if anyone seeing a peculiarly colored Harris or Tree sparrow would write him: Walter D. Graul, 2026 Gloria, Emporia, Kansas.

Common Redpolls Seen at Halstead

Carl Holmes write that on December 12, 1965, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Goode saw seven Common Redpolls (Acanthis flammea) in the Halstead Cemetery. The redpoll is a rare and irregular winter visitant in Kansas, and any records are worthy of mention. On December 23, 1965, Clayton White saw one Redpoll south of Lawrence on the mid-winter bird count, so this may be an invasion year. Bird-watchers in Kansas should look for this species with Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches.

Dean R. Love of Wichita writes that on October 3, 1965, he saw a female Black-throated Blue Warbler at Wichita, thus making another record of this rare species from the first week of October [see NEWSLETTER No. 14]. Mr. Love also mentions seeing flocks of eight (Oct. 3) and six (Oct. 10) immature Cedar Waxwings in the wichita area.

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Please send in your winter observations and general bird notes for the February NEWSLETTER, --- J. D. Rising, Assoc. Ed.