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Cheyenne Bottoms Report

Marvin D. Schwilling

A Great Blue Heron rookery with 46 nests or parts of nests was located in Stafford County 2.4 miles south of Hudson on March 23, 1968. This is just west of the Quivira NWR and is well hidden in a large grove of cottonwoods west of the road. Steve Stevens, myself and others have wondered for several years where the summering great blues nested in the Cheyenne Bottoms-Quivira area. This may not be the only nesting colony but it's a large one. A second new heronry find is in Chase County, 1/2 mile west of Strong City north of the prairie parkway (Hgw. 177). Nine nests were visible in two large sycamore trees on April 13.

Ed Martinez trapped a hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal at Cheyenne Bottoms on March 3. This is a male showing good characteristics of both species. The specimen is now in the Emporia State Teachers College collection. Most unusual record this spring was a kittiwake reported by Ed Martinez on April 9. It was in April last year that a kittiwake remained at this area several days. Ed also caught a Golden Plover in a mist net on April 9 - the earliest record on this area.

Late winter and early spring report (1968)
 Camp Towanyak, Johnston County

Jim and Mary Louise Myers

Our winter feeding and banding seemed a bit dull in contrast with other years . . . Purple Finches, Pine Siskins were missing completely and waxwings were seldom seen. Only one visited our feeder for about two days in contrast with other years when we have banded several hundred. Cardinals seemed unusually abundant and on Feb. 20, we counted 43 in the yard at one time. Twelve bluebirds wintered and fed daily along with 15 goldfinches. Woodpeckers seemed abundant, with Downys heading the list, Red-bellied second and Hairys third. A pair of flickers fed most of the winter. One lone Lincoln's Sparrow was seen all during January, was banded on Jan. 20 and was still here Mar. 30.

Several Harris' Sparrows came on Mar. 7 and stayed for about a week. March 9th brought our first cowbird, a banded male. On Mar. 15 a male sapsucker arrived and stayed that one day. Titmice seemed to be down in numbers this winter for some undetermined reason. Juncos were fairly abundant. Song and Tree Sparrows shunned this area for reasons unknown. On Mar. 18 two Mockingbirds moved right on through the area -- evidently new for they ignored the feeders completely and were not seen again. Mar. 19 brought the first (and only) Bewick's Wren and the 20th saw the first sizable flocks of Red-wings with some grackles. Two phoebes arrived Mar. 25 and two Purple Martins on Mar. 26. Turkey Vultures were first spotted Mar. 27. 63 Blue and Snow Geese arrived on the 28th; the first White-throated Sparrow on the 29th; the first Field Sparrow and a pair of towhees on the 30th.

Apr. 7 we first heard the beautiful song of the La. Waterthrush and also saw Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Chipping Sparrows. Robins are incubating by now. By the 11th our wintering Lincoln's Sparrow was gone but several others were present. The 14th brought the first Broad-winged Hawk, first Brown Thrasher and three La. Waterthrushes. The House Wren and Chuck-will's widow arrived on the 18th. This is the first year that we have known the Chuck to precede the Whip-poor-will which did not arrive until three days later. The 20th brought the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; the 21st, 2 Parula Warblers, 1 Indigo Bunting, 6 towhees and the Whip-poor-will. On the 25th there were many White-throated Sparrows, 2 Lincoln's, 1 White-crowned (first date), 1 Harris, and a pair of towhees feeding in the yard. A hike around the area revealed that the concentration was around the feeders. Several juncos were also observed on this date. Carolina Wrens seemed more abundant than in past winters with at least 8 wintering birds.

A Baltimore Oriole arrived on Apr. 26th and went immediately to the place where I kept an orange out for them last spring. I had not yet put one out this spring but he returned after I impaled an orange half on the usual nail. I think that the incidence of "returns" is unusually high this year. I know that birds do return to the same area year after year, but only by banding can we be certain they are the same birds. Last spring (1967) we banded 25 cowbirds, 9 Indigo Buntings, 3 thrashers, and 2 orioles among others. This year, so far, we have 5 banded cowbirds feeding, one banded Brown Thrasher and the

only Indigo Bunting we have seen to date, a male, is also banded. Although none of these have yet been re-trapped and bands verified, I KNOW they are our birds because of their feeding habits. Will probably trap them and be able to record returns soon. These are the kind of records that make banding invaluable and exciting to the bander. We have continuous returns of our residents.

Lawrence Notes

James D. Rising

In spite of the relatively mild weather here this spring we have not noted a great number of especially early avian migrants. Species are arriving at times that are in essential agreement with those published in the literature. We have notes on the following (Douglas County, unless otherwise indicated):

Pied-billed Grebe (arr. 3/23)	Bank Swallow (arr. 4/20)
Eared Grebe (arr. 4/20)	Rough-winged Swallow (arr. 4/14: Flint Hills; 4/7: Junction City; arr. 4/24: Lawrence)
White Pelican (ca. 150, 4/13)	Barn Swallow (arr. 4/14: Flint Hills; 4/13 Quivira MWR; arr. 4/21: Lawrence)
Common Egret (4/20)	Purple Martin (arr. 4/9: Lawrence; still not common (4/26))
Snowy Egret (4/13: Cheyenne Bottoms)	House Wren (arr. 4/16)
Turkey Vulture (3/24: 4 mi. ESE Bronson, Bourbon Co.)	Brown Thrasher (arr. 4/11)
Rough-legged Hawk (3/24: still present, SE Kansas)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (4/14 Flint Hills; 4/17 Lawrence)
Coot (arr. 3/23)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (common in early March)
Common Snipe (3/24: 1 mi S Mildred, Allen Co.; 4/11: Lawrence)	Cedar Waxwing (common)
Upland Plover (4/14: common throughout Flint Hills; 4/21: Lawrence)	Loggerhead Shrike (esp. common, late March)
Spotted Sandpiper (4/20)	Orange-crowned Warbler (arr. 3/29; more common after 4/24)
Baird Sandpiper (4/7: Cheyenne Bottoms)	Parsa Warbler (arr. 4/17, common)
Semipalmated Sandpiper (4/7: Chey. Bottoms)	Myrtle Warbler (arr. 4/14; 4/24, wave)
Avocet (4/7: Cheyenne Bottoms)	Louisiana Water-thrush (arr. 3/30)
Franklin Gull (4/7: Cheyenne Bottoms)	Yellow-headed Blackbird (arr. 4/20)
Ring-billed Gull (3/31)	Summer Tanager (arr. 4/21)
Whip-poor-will (arr. 4/15)	Lark Sparrow (arr. 4/21)
Chimney Swift (arr. 4/13)	Chipping Sparrow (arr. 4/1)
Red-headed Woodpecker (arr. 4/24)	Field Sparrow (arr. 3/23)
Eastern Kingbird (arr. 4/24)	White-throated Sparrow (wave, mid-April ?)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (arr. 4/14: Flint Hills)	Fox Sparrow (wave, late March)
Great Crested Flycatcher (arr. 4/10)	Lincoln Sparrow (common, mid April)
Eastern Phoebe (arr. 3/24: Baxter Springs, Cherokee Co.; arr. 3/29: Lawrence)	Savannah Sparrow (common, mid April)
Tree Swallow (arr. 3/30)	Smith's Longspur (small flocks, 4/14 Chase Co.)

Recent Sightings at Cheyenne Bottoms

Ed Martinez

Unless otherwise stated the following are the first dates on which I recorded the various species at Cheyenne Bottoms this spring:

March 7 Baird Sandpiper; Snowy Owl (late date)	April 6 Eared Grebe; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Common Gallinule
9 Killdeer	7 Forster's Tern
11 Ruddy Duck	9 Black-legged Kittiwake; Golden Plover; Black-bellied Plover
12 Lesser Yellow-legs	10 Marbled Godwit; Common Egret
14 Burrowing Owl; Greater Yellow-legs	11 Barn Swallow; Snowy Egret
15 Dowitcher	12 Black-crowned Night Heron
16 Double-crested Cormorant	13 Rough-winged Swallow
18 Pectoral Sandpiper; Avocet	16 Snowy Plover; Piping Plover
19 Bonaparte's Gull; Least Sandpiper; Semipalmated Sandpiper	20 Willett; Sanderling; Hudsonian Godwit; Northern Phalarope; Wilson's Phalarope
22 White Pelican	23 Tree Sparrow (still present)
26 Duck Hawk (not earliest date)	24 Semipalmated Plover
27 Water Pipit	26 Sandhill Crane (late date); Rough-legged Hawk (still present)

Ellis County Notes

Charles A. Ely

Migration through the Hays area has been slow and generally frustrating. High winds cool weather and the destruction of part of our campus study area reduced our netting and banding considerably. Despite an increase in the number of nets used the results were about 1/4 those of last year. We have started a new netting station on the Smoky Hill River about 13 miles southwest of Hays on the Harold Kraus property. Mr. Kraus (a birder and KOS member) has one of the best birding areas in the county so we are optimistic about the future.

The following observations were supplied by a number of local birders particularly Larry W. Anthony, Thomas R. Bowman, Marvin E. Rolfs and E. Kent Schrieber. Schrieber is studying area shorebirds and contributed many of the shorebird and waterfowl dates):

Pied-billed Grebe (arr. 4/15)	Tree Swallow (arr. 4/25)
Double-crested Cormorant (arr. 4/25)	Rough-winged Swallow (4/13; entering burrow)
Green Heron (arr. 4/17)	Barn Swallow (arr. 4/11)
Canada Goose (2/20 - 3/17)	Purple Martin (arr. 3/26; most have not arriv
Blue-winged Teal (arr. 4/10)	Blue Jay (4/5, straggler; 4/24, regular)
Shoveler (arr. 3/19)	Brown Creeper (3/13: last date)
Redhead (4/5: last date)	House Wren (4/5, straggler; 4/23, regular)
Ring-necked Duck (3/15)	Rock Wren (4/20 - 4/25)
Canvasback (3/5)	Brown Thrasher (wintered; 4/12, regular)
Bufflehead (3/15 - 4/15)	Robin (no migration peak; largest flock 12)
Ruddy Duck (4/8)	Eastern Bluebird (4/2)
Turkey Vulture (4/14)	Mountain Bluebird (3/28)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (4/16)	Townsend's Solitaire (3/27; 1st this spring)
Broad-winged Hawk (4/25, 4/26)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (4/13, 4/14)
Swainson's Hawk (3/17; regular after 4/12)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4/4; still not regular)
Bough-legged Hawk (4/24: still present)	Golden-crowned Kinglet (4/1: last date)
Golden Eagle (4/20: last date)	Water Pipit (arr. 4/15)
Bald Eagle (3/15: last date)	Loggerhead Shrike (arr. 3/27)
Marsh Hawk (few still present)	<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u> (4/16, netted; 1st for
Prairie Falcon (2/9: last date)	area.
Sandhill Crane (2/26 - 3/24: 1 on 4/14)	Orange-crowned Warbler (arr. 4/23)
Coot (arr. 4/13)	Myrtle Warbler (arr. 4/18; 4/26, regular)
Killdeer (wintered; regular after 3/8)	Audubon's Warbler (4/27, 1 netted)
Common Snipe (wintered; regular after 4/8)	Yellow-headed Blackbird (arr. 4/10)
Long-billed Curlew (arr. 4/8)	Red-wing (3/4 - 3/24 - starting territories)
Upland Plover (arr. 4/22 (?); 4/24)	Rusty Blackbird (2/24: last date)
Solitary Sandpiper (arr. 4/15)	Common Grackle (arr. 3/22)
Willet (4/23)	Cowbird (wintered; arr. 3/9)
Greater Yellow-legs (arr. 4/10)	Black-headed Grosbeak (arr. 4/26)
Lesser Yellow-legs (arr. 4/8)	Purple Finch (3/1 - 4/25)
Dowitcher (4/22)	House Finch (3/4, 3/29)
Dunlin (4/18, 4/19) 1st for area.	Pine Siskin (nesting; 1st 4/21)
Baird Sandpiper (arr. 4/10)	Rufous-sided Towhee (wintered; arr. 4/4)
Hudsonian Godwit (4/19) 1st for area	Savannah Sparrow (1st seen 4/19)
Avocet (4/22 (1); 4/24 (21))	Vesper Sparrow (arr. 4/4)
Wilson's Phalarope (arr. 4/24)	Lark Sparrow (arr. 4/21)
Franklin's Gull (arr. 4/16)	Slate-colored Junco (4/14: last date)
Burrowing Owl (arr. 4/14)	Oregon Junco (4/21: last date)
Short-eared Owl (4/24, 4/26; may nest?)	Tree Sparrow (3/30: last date; most gone 3/15)
Chimney Swift (arr. 4/16)	Chipping Sparrow (arr. 4/14)
Red-shafted Flicker (4/14: last date)	Clay-colored Sparrow (arr. 4/14)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3/29, 3/30)	Field Sparrow (arr. 4/5)
Western Kingbird (arr. 4/25)	White-throated Sparrow (arr. 4/25)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (arr. 4/14)	Lincoln' Sparrow (arr. 4/14)
Eastern Phoebe (arr. 4/7)	Chestnut-collared Longspur (3/28, 4/12)
Say's Phoebe (4/26)	Lapland Longspur (4/15: last date)

Western Kansas Notes

James D. Rising

In connection with a field trip initiated to study Horned Larks and meadowlarks in eastern New Mexico, David Miles, Ross Hale, and I drove through western Kansas on April 4, and again on April 12. The following ornithological notes may be of some interest to K. O. S. readers:

On the drive through Kansas on April 4 we saw numerous Bough-legged Hawks; on the return trip (April 12) we saw none, suggesting that a major migration had taken place in the

On the night of 11 April we camped along the Cimarron River north of Elkhart, Morton County. The following morning we noted the following birds before departing the area: along the river: Bobwhite (small covey); several of both flickers; Downy Woodpecker (1); Mockingbird (spring arrival, not known to winter in area); Bewick Wren (winters); Robin (8, migratory flock); Starling; Red-wing (flocks and territorial males); Western Meadowlark (singing); in grassland and xeric shrub: Swainson Hawk (2); Marsh Hawk; Horned Larks; W. Meadowlarks; Savannah Sparrow (probable); Vesper Sparrow (common); White-necked Raven (1)

We drove north from Elkhart to Coolidge, Hamilton County. En route, in Stanton County, we saw many Swainson's and Sparrow Hawks, White-necked Ravens (in open country), Ring-necked Pheasants and great numbers of horned larks and meadowlarks. In southern Hamilton County, we saw a pair of Scaled Quail along the road adjacent to xeric grassland and just south of Coolidge saw another pair and a crowing male (atop a rural mailbox). These latter birds were adjacent to xeric yucca-bunch grass. North of Coolidge, in short over-grazed prairie, Horned Larks were nesting and Western Meadowlarks were common.

On Hamilton County State Lake, about 2 miles North and 2 miles West of Syracuse we saw the following: Pied-billed Grebe (1); Eared Grebe (1); Mallard (1, male); Blue-winged Teal (4); Gadwall (1); Bufflehead (4, females); Ruddy Duck (20); Franklin's Gull (1); Coot (6); Killdeer (2); Pectoral Sandpiper (3); Baird Sandpiper (3); Lesser Yellow-legs (2); Greater Yellow-legs (18); Avocet (2); Flicker (cf. Red-shafted, 1); Water Pipit (1); Pheasant; Western Meadowlark (common); Horned Lark (common); Red-wing (common); Cowbird (1, male); White-crowned Sparrow.

We picked up a dead Ferruginous Hawk from the road 2 miles west of Lakin, Kearney County that was dehydrated and had apparently been dead for several days. At Lake Kinney, east of Lakin, we had just a few minutes before dusk to look over thousands of ducks, many of them too distant for identification. We did identify the following however: Great Blue Heron (5); Double-crested Cormorant (3); White-faced Ibis (8); Mallard (many); Pintail (many); Green-winged Teal (many); Blue-winged Teal (25+); American Widgeon (many); Gadwall (3+); Coot (3+); Long-billed Dowitcher (8, calls heard); Ring-billed Gull (4); Killdeer (1); Marsh Hawk (1, male).

Dues Reminder

Amelia J. Betts

Now is the time for all good K.O.S. members to come to the aid of their society and pay their 1968 dues, if they are among the almost 100 who have not yet done so! Student membership is holding up to last year's total but both sustaining and regular are lagging despite the fact that new membership is slightly ahead of last year.

A start has been made on a life membership roster. The offer is still good -- if you have already paid yearly dues for 1968, just deduct the amount you have paid and send the rest of the \$100.00 (or the \$25.00 fourth payment) to the treasurer and you too can be a charter life member. The Treasurer is Orville O. Rice, 1663 W. 28th St. Terrace, Topeka, Kansas, 66611. In case you've forgotten whether you have paid or not, I will have the file box handy and will look it up for you at the spring meeting.

Shawnee Notes

Dean and Elizabeth Cole

Unfortunately for bird reporting, we flew to California on an errand of mercy, leaving Mar. 27th and returning Apr. 10. We did get to see western birds -- swifts, California Jay, quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Acorn Woodpecker, bushtit, Audubon Warbler, Hooded & Bullock's Orioles, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows. A trip to Tucker Sanctuary gave us 4 hummers (Black-chinned, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's). No lifers.

But back to the midwest. Among our late dates were the following: Mar. 17: Common * Loon; Brown Creeper; Tree Sparrow (2); Smith Longspur (3); Lapland Longspur (40); Mar. 24: Snow Geese (300); Apr. 13: Bald Eagle. Some early arrival dates were: Feb: 15 - Harris Sparrow; 17 - Robin (3); 20 - Mourning Dove; Mar.: 17 - Song Sparrow; 19: Bewick Wren, Cowbird; Field Sparrow; 26: Vesper Sparrow; Apr.: 11: Lark Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; 12 - Brown Thrasher; towhee; 14: Chipping Sparrow; 15: Chimney Swift; Purple Martin; 18: Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 22: Myrtle Warbler; 25: Whip-door-will; 26: Baltimore Oriole. Harris Sparrows and Juncos are still here on April 26th. Bobwhites (9 males, 7 females) seemed to pair off around March 16th. A pair of Bluebirds had 6 eggs on April 20th (they had taken over the box prior to Mar. 26).

Good finds on Shawnee Mission lake on Apr. 17: Blue-winged Teal (2); Lesser Scaup (15); Shoveller (4); Mallard (8); Eared Grebe (8); Pied-billed Grebe (5); Coot (33); Bufflehead (4); Gadwall (3 pair); Common Loon (still present); Ruddy Duck (1). One Bufflehead; 1 Ruddy Duck; the pair of grebes and one Loon still present on April 23rd.

* Mar. 17 (typ error)