

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department of Zoology  
Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas, 67602

Number 26  
15 July 1968

Twentieth Annual K. O. S. Meeting

(extracted from the detailed  
minutes supplied by Carl S. Holmes)

The 20th Annual meeting of the K.O.S. was held in Dyche Hall at the University of Kansas, Lawrence on 4 and 5 May 1968 in affiliation with the Kansas Academy of Science. The meeting opened with the "Bird-watcher's Hour" at 1:00 p.m. President Zimmerman presided at the two business meetings. Amelia Betts reported 310 membership renewals, 230 new members and 99 delinquent past members. Beginning next year members who have not paid to renew their membership by 15 March will be considered delinquent and will be dropped from the mailing list.

Officers and Directors elected for next year were: President--John L. Zimmerman-Manhattan; Vice-president--Mrs Ralph White- Junction City; Secretary--Mrs. A.R. Challans- Dodge City; Membership Secretary--Miss Amelia J. Betts; Treasurer--Orville O. Rice- Topeka; Editor--Richard F. Johnston- Lawrence; Directors (to May 1970)--Philip S. Humphrey- Lawrence; Stanley D. Roth- Lawrence.

Dwight Platt presented the following motion. "The dues received from life Memberships will be placed in an endowment fund to be invested by the Treasurer, as directed by the Board of Directors. The income from the endowment fund will be used to further the objectives of the Society. Disposition of this income will be at the discretion of the Board and will be reported to the Society in the annual report of the treasurer." The motion was seconded and carried.

E. Raymond Hall reported that the State Legislature and Governor decided not to participate in the Federal Predatory Mammal Control System but had hired a man to assist Kansas State University in the operation of the present State Control Program.

The 1969 meeting will be at Bethel College in North Newton on 3 and 4 May following the meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science. Dwight Platt will be local Chairman. The 1968 fall Field Trip will be at the Cheyenne Bottoms with Marvin Schwilling in charge. It will start at 5 p.m., Saturday, September 28 and will end with the compilation of species following lunch on the 29th.

Mrs. Ralph White presided over the paper session which included papers by the following: Roger L. Boyd and Ivan L. Boyd (Nesting record of the Turkey Vulture near Baldwin, Kansas in 1967); R. F. Miller (Biographies of people for whom birds have been named); Marvin D. Schwilling (Some unusual plumages and hybrids in waterfowl); James D. Rising (Hybrid chickadees in Kansas); John L. Zimmerman (Dickcissel distribution in 1967), Charles A. Ely moderated a panel discussion on changes in Kansas bird numbers and distribution as reflected in the recent K.O.S. Field Checklist. Panelist were: Ivan L. Boyd, James Rising and Marvin D. Schwilling.

At the annual banquet the list of charter members was read and all those present were introduced to the gathering. Miss Amelia Betts noted that Miss Katherine Kelly is not only a Charter Member, but also our first Life Member. The banquet address was delivered by Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, Director of the Museum of Natural History and Chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of Kansas. His very interesting presentation (Ecology of Birds of the Amazon Basin) concerned ecological work at the Belem Virus Laboratory at Belem, northeastern Brazil. The study areas have been carefully gridded for easy reference and a wide variety of studies are underway. His particular study involves the movements and general ecology of birds in several different forest types using mist nets which sample the bird populations from various strata of forest from the canopy to the forest floor. His talk was illustrated with slides showing the area, work being conducted, and a variety of birds unfamiliar to most of us.

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KOS Field Trip

The May 5, 1968 KOS Field Trip in the Lawrence area produced the following species: Pied-billed Grebe, Great-Blue Heron; Green Heron; Common Egret; Snowy Egret; Mallard; Green-winged Teal; Blue-winged Teal; Shoveler; Wood Duck; Lesser Scaup; Turkey Vulture; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Bobwhite; American

Coot; Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; American Golden Plover; Spotted Sandpiper; Solitary Sandpiper; Willet; Greater Yellow-legs; Lesser Yellow-legs; Pectoral Sandpiper; Baird Sandpiper; Least Sandpiper; Dowitcher; Semipalmated Sandpiper; Western Sandpiper; Wilson Phalarope; Northern Phalarope; Ring-billed Gull; Black Tern; Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; Horned Owl; Chuck-will's widow\*; Whip-poor-will\*; Common Nighthawk; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Hairy Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker.

Eastern Kingbird; Western Kingbird; Great Crested Flycatcher; Eastern Phoebe; Least Flycatcher; Eastern Wood-pewee; Horned Lark; Tree Swallow; Rough-winged Swallow; Barn Swallow; Cliff Swallow; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; House Wren; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Swainson Thrush; Gray-cheeked Thrush; Eastern Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Yellow-throated Vireo; Solitary Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Warbling Vireo; Black and White Warbler; Prothonotary Warbler; Tennessee Warbler; Orange-crowned Warbler; Nashville Warbler; Parula Warbler; Yellow Warbler; Myrtle Warbler; Black-throated Green Warbler; Blackpoll Warbler; Ovenbird; Northern Water-thrush; Louisiana Waterthrush; Kentucky Warbler; Yellowthroat; Yellow-breasted Chat; American Redstart; House Sparrow; Bobolink; Eastern Meadowlark; Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red-wing; Orchard Oriole; Baltimore Oriole; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Scarlet Tanager; Summer Tanager; Cardinal; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Dickcissel; American Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Grasshopper Sparrow; Lark Sparrow; Chipping Sparrow; Clay-colored Sparrow; Field Sparrow; Harris Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Lincoln Sparrow.

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Help the Quetzal!

C. W. Comer

The Quetzal (ket-zhal), a bird of Middle America where it inhabits the cloud-forests, is in serious danger of extinction. The huge gum trees in these forests are being lumbered and irreplaceable Quetzal habitat is doomed. This national bird of Guatemala must have cloud-forest sanctuaries set aside for it today in order to insure its survival.

The Cleveland County Bird Club in Norman, Oklahoma, has spearheaded a drive to help save and protect some of the presently existing cloud-forest areas. They passed a resolution urging protection for the Quetzal and were followed in turn by the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. The Bird Club has written and printed a flyer "Q is for Quetzal" and is selling small quetzalitos (made of beeswax and dyed chicken feathers) for \$1.50 in order to raise funds for the purchase of cloud-forest preserves. These flyers and miniatures can be purchased from the Committee for Quetzal Cloud-forest Preserves, The Cleveland County Bird Club, P.O. Box 2666, Norman, Oklahoma, 73069.

We of the K.O.S. can support the worthwhile action taken by this Oklahoma organization by passing a resolution of our own. Persons interested in aiding in the drafting of such a resolution for K.O.S. may secure more information by contacting C. W. Comer, 401 West Seventh St. Avenue, Apartment 3, Emporia, Kansas, 66801.

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Best Birds for Kansas - 1967

J. D. Rising & C. A. Ely

The "ten best birds" seen in Kansas were not reported at the annual banquet because only a few nominations were made. JDR sent me the list of the "Six best" and asked me to arrange them in some sort of order.

Curve-billed Thrasher - Harold Kraus farm, 2 mi. W, 3 mi. S. Antonio, Ellis Co. 1 and 2 January 1968 by M. E. Rolfs, C. A. Ely and L. W. Anthony. This is the second specimen and the fifth sight record for Kansas (see also K.O.S. Bull. 19:14-15.)

Fulvous Tree Duck - Cheyenne Bottoms; M. D. Schwilling, E. F. Martinez, et al. There are a number of recent records from the Cheyenne Bottoms but it is rare there.

Glaucous Gull - Cheyenne Bottoms; M. D. Schilling, E. F. Martinez, et al.; now fairly regular at Cheyenne Bottoms - low numbers. (see previous newsletters). First sight record was at Topoka in 1951; others seen since.

Mottled Duck - Cheyenne Bottoms; M. D. Schilling, E. F. Martinez, et al.; nested twice in recent years; resident (?) flock present. Not known to occur regularly until recently but perhaps overlooked (see also: McHenry, 1968, Wilson Bull., 80:229-230).

Western Grebe - # 2 Lovewell Reservoir; 15 October 1967; Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Edwards. Rare transient, chiefly in western part of state. Has also been seen recently at Cedar Bluff Reservoir.

Townsend Warbler - Hays, Ellis Co. 18 May 1967; taken by C. A. Ely at netting station. All previous records are from the west especially Morton County where it may be a regular transient.

### Spring and early summer 1968 report - Camp Towanyak

Mary Louise and Jim Myers

(The Myers' well detailed report has been condensed due to space limitations. All species underlined are season "firsts." ED.)

On 27 April a male Summer Tanager arrived and went directly to the feeder for suet. Many White-throated, 2 White-crowned and half a dozen Lincoln's Sparrows were also observed. The 28th brought the hummingbird, Catbird, Myrtle Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker and Green Heron. We birded at Towanyak and Shawnee-Mission Park getting a combined list of 60 species. Myrtle Warblers were very abundant at S.M. Park (at least 50, and singing). Also noted were many Harris Sparrows in full plumage, 6 Lark, 7 or 8 Grasshopper and 1 Song Sparrows. A frost on the 29th apparently did no damage. On 30 April, Nashville (20) and Yellow Warblers (3), Crested Flycatcher (3) Swainson Thrush (2) and Gray-checked Thrush (1) arrived. Also seen were 10 Chipping Sparrows, 1 Arctic Towhee, 10 Orange-crowned Warblers, 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 House Wrens and a water-thrush.

Although many White-throated and Lincoln Sparrows had been feeding in and around our yard they were all gone on the morning of 1 May and the place seemed deserted. On 2 May we had several Nashville and Orange-crowned Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Indigo Buntings, a Black and White Warbler, a White-throat and a Least Flycatcher. On 3 May the temperature soared to 90 degrees and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Tennessee Warbler arrived. A Barred Owl serenaded that night -- the first at Towanyak for a number of years. On 4 May the temperature dropped to 39 degrees with a light frost but brought the Solitary Vireo and a lone Hairy Blackbird. We saw 53 species at Towanyak on the 5th including Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos, Dickcissel and Lark Sparrows. A new bunch of White-throats came and there were many along the edge of the woods. The 6th was cold, windy and cloudy but brought 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 3 orioles to the feeder. Two Wood Thrushes arrived and two male Scarlet Tanagers fed at the suet - returning again and again until 7:45 p.m. (D.S.T.). A pair of Louisiana Water-thrushes was found nesting along our creek. The 9th brought Orchard Oriole, Olive-sided Flycatcher (only date), Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, together with the first White-breasted Nuthatch we have had in many years (still visiting our feeders frequently on 10 June). At Shawnee Mission Park we saw Black-poll and Yellow-throated (not Sycamore) Warblers. Myrtle, Black and White, Nashville and Yellow Warblers and several Scissor-tails were still present. On 10 May we saw a Pine Siskin as it flew from a puddle in the road -- none were sighted in the area all winter long.

By 12 May, our morning birding began daily at the Nature Trail at Shawnee Mission Park which for some reason was more productive for warblers than Towanyak (2nd year in a row). On 12 May we saw 66 species (including 11 warblers) including Kentucky (Towanyak), Hourning and Wilson's Warblers, Ovenbird and Bell's Vireo, many Blackpolls (15 +), several Myrtle, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Nashville and 1 Black and White Warblers. Some areas seemed utterly devoid of birds, others almost alive with them. On the 13th (with the Coles at S.M. Park) we saw 64 species (12 warblers) including Redstart, Black-pollian (3) and Magnolia Warblers, Nighthawk and a lone Bobolink flying over. Black-polls had thinned out, there were no Myrtles. Next day (again accompanied by the Coles) we saw 63 species (13 warblers) including Chestnut-sided Warbler, Veery (E.C.) and 2 Western Meadowlarks (M.M.) and a lone Lincoln Sparrow. The Western Meadowlarks are still to be found along the road just east of S.M. Park entrance. The 16th was clear and sunny and we saw 63 species (11 warblers) including Yellow-throated Vireo,

and Black Terns at S.M. Park, lots of Least Flycatchers and a Philadelphia Vireo. May 17 was again cold and cloudy but birding was good -- 74 species (13 warblers) -- with Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bay-breasted, Pine and Blue-winged Warblers (the latter two most unusual). Yellow Warblers were common. The 18th brought another Philadelphia Vireo to Towanyak. On the 19th we saw 72 species (14 warblers) including Black-throated Green and Canada Warblers and an unusual warbler that must have been a hybrid - the nearest we could figure from the markings was a Red-start-Bay-breasted hybrid. May 20 was probably our best day (73 species with 15 warblers). On some of these dates we were accompanied by Dr. Charles Clough, Dr. Stanley Nelson, Dr. Don Nepstad and Mrs. Kay Wahl.

On 21 May we had a frost with a temperature drop to 34 degrees followed by 3 days of steady rain and cold. This proved disastrous to our Purple Martins and only one pair (of the 7 that had been here) survived and remained to nest. For almost a week we birded in heavy clothing until noon or later. During this period we had a great influx of birds at our feeders which continued to about 3 or 4 June when it tapered off. We had 7 Summer Tanagers (3 females, 2 adult males, 2 1st-year males), 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 5 male Indigo Buntings, 2 thrashers, goldfinches, 5 different Baltimore Orioles (by plumage), bluebirds, the nuthatch, a dozen cowbirds, and 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers plus the regulars such as cardinals, jays, titmice, chickadees, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, robins, etc. in a never-ending parade. They consumed more food than they do in the dead of winter (we filled feeders 4 or 5 times a day) consuming suet, currents, donuts, peanuts, sunflower seeds and an orange and an apple each day. It was a fascinating array and an exciting period of bird feeding. All the birds seemed unusually tame and campers and activity around the feeding area disturbed them very little. Cardinals seem unusually abundant. Young bluebirds left the nest around the 1st of June. Titmice and chickadees were successful in raising their broods and bringing young to the feeders by the latter part of May. Woodpeckers are busy feeding young still in the nest at this date (10 June). May 24 brought our first Wood Pewees and a pair of Wood Ducks to Towanyak. The latter seemed to be searching for a nest hole (we have 3 boxes on the creek) but we do not know whether they stayed. On the 25th we found a Blue Grosbeak and 45-50 Cedar Waxwings feeding on mulberries at an old farmhouse near S.M. Park. On the 26th we had 60 species (10 warblers) and Black Terns were still there. More rain in the next few days stopped our birding and when the weather warmed everything was gone. On the 31st we saw Black-billed Cuckoo and Blackburnian Warbler (1). Swainson's Thrushes were still here and Louisiana Waterthrushes and Parula Warblers were still singing. Many Cedar Waxwings were seen wherever there were mulberries including Shawnee, Merriam and Overland Park. The warbler season ended with a lone Mourning Warbler on June 1st.

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#### Waterfowl Notes

Marvin D. Schwilling

A pair of Hooded Mergansers nested in one of the wood duck nesting boxes on the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Management Area near Pleasanton. Barry Betts reported the nest on 3 April 1968. It was in Flathead Lake nest box 6-G and contained 11 eggs. Nine eggs hatched on 30 April, one was broken in the box and one was salvaged and is in my possession. Federal Game Agent Charles Graham reported a female Hooded Merganser with 3 young at the Neosho Waterfowl Management Area near St. Paul on 18 May 1966. This brood was later seen by other personnel on the area. So far as I know these are the only nesting records of this bird for Kansas.

Mr. C. W. Comer, of Emporia State Teachers College, reports a Great Blue Heron rookery in McPherson County (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  S-18, T-21S, R-5W). There were 9 nests on 20 April 1968. The Stafford County Heronry that had 46 nests on 23 March 1968 had increased to 66 nests on 13 May 1968.

I collected what I think is a Common Tern near the headquarters at Cheyenne Bottoms WMA on 27 May 1968. Shorter, whiter tail and darker wing primaries separate this tern, considered rare in Kansas, from the Forster's Tern that now nests commonly at Cheyenne Bottoms.

## Spring migration notes

Dodge City area: Dates of first sightings of a number of species were as follows: Bufflehead - Mar. 30; Ruddy Duck - Mar. 30; Hooded Merganser - Mar. 26; Turkey Vulture - Apr. 2; Mississippi Kite - Apr. 15; Swainson's Hawk - Mar. 30; Coot - Mar. 30; Killdeer - Mar. 9; Greater Yellow-legs - Mar. 31; Franklin's Gull - Apr. 10; Mourning Dove - Mar. 9; Burrowing Owl - Mar. 12; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - Apr. 23; Purple Martin - Apr. 16; Western Kingbird - Apr. 25; Mockingbird - Mar. 28; Sprague's Pipit - Mar. 30; Common Grackle - Mar. 26; Brown-headed Cowbird - Mar. 30; Vesper Sparrow - Apr. 23; Lark Sparrow - Apr. 25; White-crowned Sparrow - Mar. 5, Mrs. A. R. Challans.

Chase Co. State Lake: Reported by David Niles, Sievert Rohwer and James Rising on April 14: Pied-billed Grebe (3); Green-winged Teal (8); Blue-winged Teal (4); Mallard (5); Shovelers (11); Bufflehead (2 females); Scaup (63); Redhead (1 male); Coot (181); Marsh Hawk (1); Common Grackle; Savannah Sparrow (1).

Wichita area: Some dates of first sightings were as follows: Blue-winged Teal - Apr. 7; Shoveler - Mar. 23; Swainson's Hawk - Mar. 30; Coot - Mar. 23; Upland Plover - Apr. 20; Baird's Sandpiper - Mar. 23; Chimney Swift - Apr. 23; Belted Kingfisher - Apr. 6; Western Kingbird - Apr. 20; Eastern Kingbird - Apr. 20; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - Apr. 7; House Wren - Apr. 27; Brown Thrasher - Apr. 20; Barn Swallow - Apr. 7; Eastern Bluebird - Mar. 31; Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Apr. 20; Warbling Vireo - Apr. 27; Orange-crowned Warbler - Apr. 20; Myrtle Warbler - Apr. 28; Baltimore Oriole - Apr. 28; Vesper Sparrow - Mar. 31; Lark Sparrow - Apr. 6; Chipping Sparrow - Apr. 28; White-throated Sparrow - Apr. 28; Lincoln's Sparrow - Apr. 20. Carl S. Holmes.

Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation, Harvey County: In late May a spectacular wave of migrants was observed including the following unusual records: Rough-winged Swallow - May 18; Mourning Warbler - May 25; Magnolia Warbler - May 25; Golden-winged Warbler - May 28; Blackburnian Warbler - May 28; Canada Warbler - May 28; Yellow-breasted Chat - May 27 & 28.

In the period from May 18 to May 28 the following birds were more common on the reservation than usual: Black Tern; "Empidonax" Flycatchers; Swainson Thrush; Red-eyed Vireo; Warbling Vireo; Yellow Warbler; Redstart; Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Other uncommon migrants seen during this period near Newton in eastern Harvey county were: Ovenbird - May 25; Connecticut Warbler - May 25; Wilson Warbler - May 25; Rose-breasted Grosbeak - May 25; Black-billed Cuckoo - May 31. Dwight R. Platt.

Edmund F. Martinez had banded over 1300 shorebirds of 14 species at Cheyenne Bottoms by mid-May with the large White-rumped Sandpiper flight still to come. His bandings were as follows: Semipalmated Sandpiper (over 1104); Least Sandpiper (109); Baird Sandpiper (35); Semipalmated Plover (20); Western Sandpiper (10); Snowy Plover (6); Piping Plover (6); Common Snipe (5); Pectoral Sandpiper (5); Killdeer (4); Wilson Phalarope (3); Long-billed Dowitcher (1); Golden Plover (1); White-rumped Sandpiper (1). The amount of work and time involved is staggering but the potential results are equally great. The "Bottoms" is probably the best area in the interior U.S. for banding and studying transient shorebirds. He recovered one of his own Least Sandpipers banded last September and a Semipalmated Sandpiper banded by another group (at the bottoms) during April 1967. (Ed.)

April Notes - Shawnee Mission Park: Drs. Robert C. Lee, Dan Neustad, Stan Nelson, and Charles Clough reported the following species from Shawnee Mission Park, Kansas City on 20 April. The weather was clear, 55 degrees, and 58 species were seen during a morning's birding:

Among the more interesting species were: Eared Grebe (8); Great Blue Heron; Mallard; Gadwall; Blue-winged Teal; Redhead; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead (F); Ruddy Duck (F); Turkey Vulture; Broad-winged Hawk; American Coot; Killdeer; Chimney Swift; Belted Kingfisher; Eastern Kingbird (1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (6); Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin; Brown Thrasher; Eastern Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Myrtle Warbler (12); Dickcissel; American Goldfinch; Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows; Slate-colored Junco; Chipping, Field, White-throated and Lincoln Sparrows. On the 28th with similar weather conditions, 5 species were identified, including Green Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker; Tree Swallow; Catbird; Western Meadowlark; and Indigo Bunting.