

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department of Zoology

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October - November 1968

L. B. (Buck) Carson

Amelia J. Betts

Mention should have been made some time ago of the death of L. B. (Buck) Carson of Topeka last May 19. No member of K.O.S. had held office longer than Buck. A charter member, he was elected treasurer at the first meeting in 1949 and held that office until 1956 when he was elected president for two years. Thereafter he was a director for one year and then treasurer again from 1959 through 1966.

Mr. Carson was also active in the Topeka Audubon Society being its treasurer for many years and editor of the "Topeka Audubon News" for twenty years. He was author of a book, "Introduction to Our Bird Friends", and a member of many ornithological societies. He was a banker for almost fifty years, retiring in 1961. But he was more widely known as a birder and for his promotion of conservation and wildlife protection.

(Would someone who knew Mr. Carson well, please write a more detailed memoriam for Mr. Carson and also one for Mr. Nelson for the "Bulletin." Don't you agree that their efforts on behalf of K.O.S. deserve more lasting recognition than a note in the "Newsletter"? Ed.)

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K.O.S. Field Trip - Fall 1968

Amelia J. Betts

The fall trip of K.O.S. to the Cheyenne Bottoms on September 28 and 29 broke two records--the largest fall count and the most observers on either a fall or spring count! The species count was 131, seventeen more than the previous high of 114 in 1965--also at Cheyenne Bottoms. (This includes 14 species added by Marvin Schwilling and Ed Martinez the evening of 29 September. Ed.) The 113 names signed on the register were several more than ever signed up before, and several failed to register. Three species were added to the total list of species seen on all 19 fall trips. The Mottled Duck, Bell's Vireo, and Mourning Warbler brings the total now to 223--just 24 less than the total of all spring counts. One other "first" was the omission of any Robins from the count, which was probably a fault of the observers, not of the robins.

This is just the second time that a two-day field trip has been tried. Everyone seemed to approve of the combination Saturday night--Sunday morning count. Everyone also enjoyed seeing the various shorebird species "in the hand" that Marvin Schwilling and Edmund F. Martinez had caught in their mist nets. Also thoroughly enjoyed by everyone was the coffee and doughnut break that came at mid-morning on Sunday through the courtesy of the Schwilling family.

Species recorded during the field trip follow: Eared and Pied-billed Grebes; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue, Green and Little Blue Herons; Common and Snowy Egrets; Black-crowned Night Heron; American Bittern; White-faced Ibis; Canada and White-fronted Geese; Mallard; Black and Mottled Ducks; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal; Shoveler; Baldpate; Wood Duck; Redhead; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Hooded Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Mississippi Ki ; Red-tailed, Swainson's, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks; Osprey; Peregrine Falcon; Sparrow Hawk; Bobwhite; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; King and Virginia Rails; Sora; Coot.

Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers; Killdeer; Golden and Black-bellied Plovers; Ruddy Turnstone; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew (probably a very long billed Whimbrel, Ed.); Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers; Willet; Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs; Knot; Pectoral, White-rumped, Baird's, and Least Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher; Stilt, Semipalmated, Western and Buff-breasted

Sandpipers; Sanderling; American Avocet; Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes; Herring, Ring-billed, Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's, Common and Black Terns; Rock and Mourning Doves; Screech, Horned, Burrowing and Short-eared Owls.

Common Nighthawk; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers; Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers; Least Flycatcher; Horned Lark; Tree, Bank and Barn Swallows; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch; House Wren; Mockingbird; Brown Thrasher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Bell's Vireo; Orange-crowned, Myrtle and Mourning Warblers; Yellow-throat; House Sparrow; Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red-wing; Brewer's Blackbird; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Indigo Bunting; American Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Lark Bunting; Savannah and Vesper Sparrows; Slate-colored Junco; Field, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows.

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Report of the Membership Secretary

Amelia J. Betts

Membership in K.O.S. lacks three of coming up to the 300 mark set last year, in spite of the fact that we have 51 new members. The decrease was caused by the large number of drop-outs, almost twice the number we usually lose per year. At the same time, the treasurer reports that he has about ninety dollars on hand to pay over two hundred dollars due on the printing of the Bulletin and other expenses.

Members are therefore urged to do three things; First, pay their membership dues for 1969 as soon as they receive the reply envelopes with the December Bulletins. Second, increase their dues to the sustaining rate of \$5.00. Fifty-seven members were sustainers this year. Twice that many would help the financial condition considerably. Third, try to get new members by soliciting them personally or by sending their names to me. If you need application blanks, let me know.

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Notes from Udall and Winfield

Max C. Thompson

The fall migration started off with a few sparrows showing up earlier than ever recorded. The Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow were first seen on September 19 and September 22. Also on September 22, four Mourning Warblers were trapped in nets and banded. One of these was a full adult male. On September 14, an Operation Recovery Station was set up 4.5 mi. W. Udall, in Sumner Co. We are running 19 nets and operating as time permits. We have banded all weekends since then but have been unable to find help in running it during the week. The following species and numbers of each were banded through October 13: Goldfinch 102, Cardinal 54, Nashville Warbler 49, Orange-crowned Warbler 51, Rufous-sided Towhee 18, Wilson's Warbler 3, Carolina Wren 6, Tufted Titmouse 15, Black-capped Chickadee 18, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 11, House Wren 2, Indigo Bunting 2, Blue Grosbeak 1, Mourning Warbler 1, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Downy Woodpecker 5, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Yellow-shafted Flicker 3, Blue Jay 1, Robin 9, Traill's Flycatcher 1, Lincoln's Sparrow 5, Warbling Vireo 2, Myrtle Warbler 14, White-throated Sparrow 4, Olive-backed Thrush 3, Catbird 2, American Redstart 1, Brown Thrasher 3, Nighthawk 1, Yellow-throat 1, Eastern Bluebird 3, Chipping Sparrow 1, Ovenbird 1. The largest number taken in one day was on October 12 when we banded 132. Anyone interested in visiting the station and getting a first hand look at a banding operation and a chance to hold the birds before we let them go are welcome. We will be operating every weekend through about the middle of November at least.

An interested group of people recently formed the Winfield Natural History Society. We call ourselves a natural history society but most of us are primarily interested in birds. Anyone interested in attending our meetings are welcome. The next meeting is on November 6 but the regular meeting is the first Tuesday of each month.

Noted from Cheyenne Bottoms

Marvin D. Schwilling

WHOOPING CRANES, two and possibly three, stopped briefly at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area in October. Two flew directly over Larry Nossaman and alighted in the west edge of pool 2 on Sunday evening October 5. They were gone by daylight the next morning. On Tuesday October 7 Ed Martinez located a single whooper among several thousand cranes, again in the west edge of pool 2. Ed was good enough to report this bird to us at the headquarters so Floyd Palmer, Henry Lichter and I had a chance to look the bird over with binoculars and spotting scope. This was a fully adult bird and in excellent plumage, also the first whooper I had ever seen. This bird remained on the area until about 11:30 A.M. October 8 at which time it took off with a large flight of sandhill cranes and in typical circular flight pattern gained altitude and drifted off to the south.

A Spotted Sandpiper nest with four eggs was found in McKinley Park (a new city park in Great Bend) in the west edge of Great Bend on June 27, 1968. An employee of the park flushed the bird from the nest while mowing grass adjacent to the sandpit lake. Park Superintendent Jerry Tillery called me and I and others observed the nest regularly until it hatched. Duane Kerr and I have several color slides of the nest and birds. Supt. Tillery salvaged one egg that did not hatch. All previous Kansas nesting records are from extreme northeast.

A single Black necked Stilt was observed along the north dike road in pool 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms WMA on August 6 & 7, 1968 by Ed. Martinez. This is the only August record known to me.

A female Painted Bunting, with well developed brood patch, was captured in a mist net at the Cheyenne Bottoms WMA residence on May 30, 1968. Unfortunately the bird died in the net and is now in the collection of the Fort Hays Kansas State College. Other interesting birds taken in the nets operated by Ed Martinez include an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on May 29, 1968, three Black-headed Grosbeaks (1 female & 2 males) and two male Blue Grosbeaks.

An immature Sabine Gull was observed at Cheyenne Bottoms WMA just east of the headquarters along the inlet canal October 10. It was first seen about 8:30 A.M. and collected later that day. The specimen is now in the museum collection at Fort Hays Kansas State College. At least two Sabine Gulls visited this area in 1963. Both were immature birds seen October 11 and 17. A full plumaged adult was observed almost daily from September 23 to 27 in 1965.

Fall return dates Cheyenne Bottoms Walnut Creek Dam area (as determined by mist net captures). 1968

Slate-colored Junco	September 27
Lincoln Sparrow	September 30
White-crowned Sparrow	October 6
Vesper Sparrow	October 20
White-throated Sparrow	October 14
Song Sparrow	October 23

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Notes from Ross Natural History, Americus, Kansas, Fall 1968 - Banding at the Reservation has been on weekends and the following listing indicates dates selected birds were seen or taken within these limits. Our first cold front of the year moved through on 3 October, followed by a warming trend and then a second cold front on the 17th. A number of winter resident sparrows was noted after the second cold front. Among the interesting records were: Long-eared Owl - 1 adult, 4 Oct; Red-shafted Flicker - 1 seen, 6 seen, 6 Oct.; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 1 captured, 14 Sept.; 1 on 12 Oct.; Brown creeper - 2 captured on 19 Oct.; Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 captured, 27 Oct.; Eastern Meadowlark - 1 heard, 27 Oct.; Le Conte's Sparrow - 1 captured 19 Oct.; Slate-colored Junco - cap-

tured, 21 Sept. (no other juncos seen after this date until 19 Oct.); Tree Sparrow - 1 captured, 27 Oct. (none were observed by 20 Oct.; a small number by 27th); Harris' Sparrow - 1 captured, 18 Oct.; White-crowned Sparrow - 1 seen, 28 Sept.; 1 captured, 6 Oct.; Song Sparrow - 1 captured, 19 Oct. C. W. Comer

Cattle Egret in Chase County - While en route to the KOS meeting on September 28, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Edwards and Carl watched a Cattle Egret alight and feed among a herd of cattle about four miles east of Strong City.

Fall Shorebird banding at Cheyenne Bottoms - Nearly 2000 shorebirds were banded during the fall as follows; Least Sandpiper (over 978); Semipalmated Sandpiper (over 450); Western Sandpiper (over 434); Pectoral Sandpiper (over 100); Killdeer (57); Baird's Sandpiper (over 50); Sanderling (37); Lesser Yellow-legs (35); Stilt Sandpiper (over 33); Snowy Plover (24); Semipalmated Plover (20); Long-billed Dowitcher (14); Short-billed Dowitcher (6); Buff-breasted Sandpiper (12); Wilson's Phalarope (7); Northern Phalarope (7); Piping Plover (1); Golden Plover (1); Knot (1); Solitary Sandpiper (1). Also banded were 2195 Blue-winged Teal and 5 Cinnamon Teal. Edmund F. Martinez.

Hays Notes - As usual the 1968 fall migration differed from all previous ones, with first fall records for the Hermit Thrush (8 Oct.); Tennessee Warbler (20 Sept.); and Northern Water-thrush (16 Sept.); Redstarts were recorded regularly. Others rarely observed were: Poor-will (5 Oct.); Hummingbird, sp. (23 Sept.); Olive-sided Flycatcher (10 Sept.) and Solitary Vireo (27 Sept., 21 Oct.). Late departure dates included: Common Nighthawk (6 Oct.); Chimney Swift (13 Oct.); Red-headed Woodpecker (15 Sept.); Least Flycatcher (18 Oct.); Nashville Warbler (21 Oct.) and Swainson Thrush (23 Sept.). Among the fall arrival dates are: Red-shafted Flicker, (17 Sept.); Red-breasted Nuthatch (6 Oct.); Mountain Bluebird (30 Oct.); Cedar Waxwing (5 Sept.); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (23 Sept.); Golden-crowned Kinglet (23 Oct.); Myrtle Warbler (18 Oct.); House Finch (25 Oct.); Purple Finch (29 Oct.); Slate-colored Junco (6 Oct.); Oregon Junco (1 st on 13 Sept. - next record 1 Oct.); Tree Sparrow (18 Oct.); White-crowned Sparrow (1 Oct.); Harris Sparrow (18 Oct.); Song Sparrow (6 Oct.); Lincoln Sparrow (15 Sept.).

We operated an Operation Recovery Station from 8 to 30 October. An average of 15 nets was used with complete daylight to dark coverage. Results were considerably below last year, probably due to a combination of three factors: 1) changes in habitat (fewer tall weeds, hence less food and cover); 2) smaller bird migration in the area; 3) less manpower. We captured only 382 birds during 3244 net-hours for a poor average of only .11 bird per net hour. A total of 37 species was handled.

Charles A. Ely

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Dodge City Notes - Birds have not been too numerous here. We have had an unusually large number of Robins, especially during October. We have good numbers of Harris, White-crowned and Tree Sparrows and juncos. Also had Black-headed Grosbeaks, Rufous-sided Towhees, goldfinchs and large flocks of Red-wings and Brewer's Blackbirds. Hawks have been rare with a few Red-tails and Rough-legs. Migration of most species was early. Scissortails were rare during late September but two were seen on October 15. Mississippi Kites nested in town and were seen all summer. At least two pair raised young and we saw a flock of 17 in late September, beginning migration. Mrs. A. R. Challans