

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Number 30  
June 1969

Twenty-first Annual Meeting of KOS

The twenty-first annual meeting of the K.O.S. was held at Bethel College, North Newton on 3 and 4 May 1969. The Local Committee is to be congratulated for a well-planned and smoothly run meeting. Dwight Platt presided over two paper sessions which included a variety of topics ranging from a study of nesting birds in the nearby Sand prairie Natural History Reservation to a collection of Himalayan birds, and study of Ruddy Turnstone migration in the Central Pacific. Papers were presented as listed in the program accompanying the last Newsletter with two changes. Orville Rice presented a report on a trip to Cozumel Island, Mexico (with his own bird photographs) and two papers by M. Akin and C. Ely were cancelled.

President Zimmerman presided at two business meetings and a luncheon meeting of the Board. Reports were presented as follows: 1) reading of minutes of the 20th annual meeting (Challans); 2) Treasurer's report: present assets are \$678.34, due in part to early payment of dues; Life Memberships now total 6 (2 paid full and 4 partials) and funds from these total \$328.51 (Rice); 3) membership during 1968 was 301 including 54 Sustainers; 58 members were dropped from the rolls and 5 deceased; 1969 membership totals 263 with 71 sustainers (35 of them new); about 70 regulars have still not paid their dues (Betts); 4) the Bulletin will feature a long article by Parmelee, et al. for the June and September issues and additional manuscript is on hand (Jackson); 5) the Newsletter will be issued in June if sufficient material is available (Ely). Dr. Zimmerman thanked C.W. Comer for his efforts on behalf of the Quetzal Conservation Project.

Stanley Roth, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, reported on several state bills of interest to members. The prairie dog eradication bill has passed. It can require land owners in Trego County to kill the prairie dogs on their property or if they refuse authorizes the County Commissioners to undertake such extermination. Members were asked to remain alert to another bill which would encourage removal of hedgerows in western Kansas. Conservation is a constant battle in Kansas as elsewhere. Several members pointed out that large amounts of money earmarked for land purchase by the Kansas, Forestry, Fish and Game Commission (some 5 million dollars) is being held in general fund by state politicians. Although it cannot now be used for other purposes, fear was expressed that as the fund increases in size, sooner or later the legislature may see fit to use it for other than its intended purpose. The state could use this money for land purchase and habitat improvement on a one-fourth/three-fourth basis with federal money earmarked for the same purpose. It was pointed out that land purchased and managed for game species is habitat for non-game species as well. The results obtained in Morton County are an excellent example of what can be done.

The following slate of officers for 1969 was submitted by the Nominating Committee (Marvin Schwilling and David Parmelee) and was elected by the membership present:

President - Dwight Platt  
Vice-President - Charles Ely  
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. A.R. Challans  
Membership Secretary - Miss Amelia J. Betts  
Treasurer - Eugene Lewis  
Editor of the Bulletin - Charles Ely  
Directors (2 year terms) - Mrs. Ralph White and Hierschal Gier  
Appointed Editor of the Newsletter - Max Thompson.

The 1969 fall field trip will be held at Pittsburgh 12 October at the invitation of Dr. T.M. Sperry. The 1970 spring meeting will be held at Southwestern College, Winfield with Max Thompson as Local Chairman. Details on these meetings will be circulated as more information becomes available.

The banquet address was presented by Marvin Schwilling, Kansas waterfowl coordinator. He is responsible for training personnel in waterfowl identification and for the waterfowl censuses on the 25 Kansas refuges and management areas in addition to his duties at the Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A. His address described

several waterfowl studies in the state including the following:

- 1) seasonal distribution of species are studied. The recent special teal seasons were based on evidence that the maximum numbers of Blue-winged Teal and fewest ducks of other species were available during the second week of September. He also commented that most hunters were not selective in shooting ducks but took whatever was available.
- 2) duck banding which had been unorganized is now done systematically. In the Central Flyway, for example, 1000 wintering mallards (500 of each sex) from each wintering flock in excess of 35,000 are banded during January and February. Band returns allow analysis of the harvest in future years. Immature females are most vulnerable to hunting, followed by immature males, adult females, and adult males in that order. Males, however predominate in the total population with probably four males to each female in Kansas. Selective hunting to take a higher ratio of adult males is therefore desirable.
- 3) waterfowl population studies were initiated in 1963 to determine the composition of the summering population at Cheyenne Bottoms. Many nestling ducks are banded, chiefly Blue-winged Teal. Banding showed that the young teal moved north to the Dakotas and Minnesota their first fall, then apparently back southeast down the Mississippi Flyway. In six years, 10 species of ducks have nested at the Cheyenne Bottoms: Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Mottled Duck, Gadwall, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Canvasback and Green-winged Teal (3). The numbers hatched has varied from 700 to over 8000.
- 4) three major surveys are conducted in the state: the midwinter, aerial surveys starting the first week in January; the Canada Goose surveys; the White-fronted Goose surveys. He commented that these surveys had produced a tremendous amount of information available in agency reports but not yet published for the interested public. In addition to waterfowl, special attention is given cranes and eagles.

Observers on the KOS Sunday field trip compiled a total list of 139 species as follows: Horned and Pied-billed Grebes; Great Blue, Green and Yellow-crowned Night Herons; American Bittern; Canada, White-fronted, Snow and Blue Geese; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Baldpate; Redhead; Lesser Scaup; Turkey Vulture; Mississippi Kite; Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Swainson's, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Upland Plover; Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers; Willet; Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs; Wilson's Phalarope; Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls; Forster's Tern; Rock and Mourning Doves; Screech and Horned Owls; Chimney Swift; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers.

Eastern and Western Kingbirds; Scissor-tailed and Crested Flycatchers; Eastern Phoebe; Least Flycatcher; Eastern Wood Pewee; Horned Lark; Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; House Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes; Eastern Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; White-eyed, Bell's, Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos; Black and White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll and Palm Warblers; Louisiana Water-thrush; Yellowthroat; Wilson's Warbler; American Redstart; House Sparrow.

Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Orchard and Baltimore Orioles; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Cardinal; Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks; Indigo, Lazuli and Painted Buntings; Dickcissel; Purple Finch; Pine Siskin; American Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah, Grasshopper, Vesper, Lark, Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Harris, White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows.

#### HELP WANTED

Mrs. Ruth D. Faulh, 1923 Ohio Street, Lawrence is interested in receiving nesting records and earliest arrival dates (in Kansas) of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

April-May 1969 - Camp Towanyak

Mary Louise and Jim Myers

(The Myers submitted a wonderfully detailed seven page report covering the spring migration at Camp Towanyak. I regret that space permits only this "cut version". ED.)

The following observations were made at Camp Towanyak (near Shawnee) or (where noted) at Shawnee Mission Park 8 miles to the southwest. Camp Towanyak comprises 94 acres (80% wooded) and includes two large, regularly mowed meadows. Surrounding Towanyak are woods, open grazing meadows and housing developments. During the peak migration from three to eleven hours (average of six) were spent in the field. Accompanying us at various times were Dr. Charles Clough, Dr. Donald Nepstad, Dr. Stanley Nelson, Dean and Elizabeth Cole, Felicia Bart, Josephine Isenbeger, Katherine Olson, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Kaul.

After three years of comparatively poor spring birding, Towanyak has redeemed herself in 1969 by producing the most fabulous day-by-day listing we have ever experienced! Both 1966 and 1967 produced the worse birding we had ever seen and 1968 was little improved but this year, by direct contrast, produced quantity, definite quality and a total of 33 warbler species for the spring season. It was a strange, exciting and mixed-up year.

The first wave arrived on 3 May -- a late date for some species; an early date for others. Golden-winged, Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warblers were here together with lingering Purple Finches and Harris' Sparrow. The Olive-sided Flycatcher, usually one of the last migrants to pass through was here on the 7th and as late as the 24th. Myrtle Warblers usually come and go early but this year were seen to the 24th along with Orange-crowns (usually early also). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were very numerous and were reported from all parts of the city. Veerys were seen fairly often compared to the one or two usually seen. Golden-winged Warblers were here by twos and threes instead of the usual single and were also found in the same vicinity several days in succession. Canada Warblers were unusually numerous (one of the most common species on 23rd and 24th) and on the 23rd Bernice Tatum picked up two exhausted birds in the downtown Kansas City, Kansas business district. One of these died. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was here two days. A Yellow-throated Vireo sang consistently for over a week and Philadelphias were nearly as common as Solitaries. A Poor-will was heard at close range at 10:30 p.m. on the 7th. The Swainson's Warbler was the second for this area, the first having been collected by Ben King and Elizabeth Cole in 1957. Cape May Warblers were seen on the 23rd (the only previous record at Towanyak is 21 May 1966). Other rare and uncommon warblers seen this year were Blue-winged, Pine, Prairie, Hooded, Yellow-throated, Black-throated Blue and Cerulean. An unusual flight of Purple Martins was observed by Elizabeth Cole on the 23rd when two flocks of several hundred each were seen at Shawnee Mission Lake and over nearby fields.

Weatherwise, this spring was fairly normal through the 15th of April. Rain moved into the region on the 17th, bringing a sharp drop in temperatures. We had freezes on the 18th and 21st, and frost on the 23rd and 24th. A warming trend through the 28th with light rains, produced a fairly good crop of morel mushrooms on the 26th, 27th and 28th. Another light freeze on the 29th was followed by rising temperatures to near 80 degrees on the 30th. The first week of May was warm, but cool weather and rain moved in on the 6th. It remained around 40 to 60 degrees till the 15th when skies cleared and temperatures rose. There was a constant cloud cover and frost on the 9th, 11th, and 12th. There was little or no wind during the entire migration period. I do not recall birding conditions ever being so good. During the first two weeks in May, leaves were small, partly developed, and birds were much easier to see. There were definite waves of new arrivals on May 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th. Overcast skies, colder than normal temperatures and rain held them up here, causing a pile-up.

On May 7 we had 83 species and 18 species of warblers; May 8th, 69 species, 16 warblers; May 9th, 67 species, 15 warblers; May 10th was the only day with heavy gusts of wind that made it next to impossible to see or hear the birds... we only got 51 species and 11 warblers. May 11th was a very good day (2nd best for the season) and we got 84 species and 20 warblers. On this day it was raw and cold and we spent the entire day afield wearing insulated suits and gloves! Clear skies and warmer weather moved the early migrants on northward and by the 15th

there was very little activity or song outside of the local nesting birds. Rain again moved in and temperatures in the lower fiftys brought another big wave on the 23rd, and this was the most outstanding day of my life...93 species, 23 warblers, most of which were sighted at Towanyak alone. There was little song this day, and most of them had to be located by sight only. The next day many of them had moved out, but we still had a list of 71 species, 16 warblers. Numbers were less and there seemed to be more females in the numbers we did count. Soaring temperatures and high humidity brought an abrupt end to birding here and by Tuesday, the 27th, everything was gone; not one warbler, nor thrush, nor empidonax remained. On May 31st, we heard a lone Swainson's Thrush singing a farewell song.

The following are dates of first sightings: April: 5 - Vesper Sparrow; 6 - Brown Thrasher, Lincoln's Sparrow; 7 - Broad-winged Hawk, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wood Duck (pair); 11 - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Shawnee Mission Park); 12 - Barn Swallow; 13 - Myrtle and Orange-crowned Warblers, Clay-colored Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker; 15 - Great Blue Heron; 16 - House Wren; 21 - Chimney Swift, Lark Sparrow; 23 - Parula Warbler; 24 - Whip-poor-will; 25 - Summer Tanager; 26 - Baltimore Oriole; 27 - Chuck-will's-widow; 29 - Chipping Sparrow; 30 - Indigo Bunting (male).

May: 1 - Crested Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler; 2 - Pine Siskin (none seen all winter); 3 - Swainson's Thrush, Catbird, Least Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, Dickcissel, Tennessee, Black and White and Yellow Warblers; 4 - Eastern Kingbird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanager, Painted Bunting (Shawnee Mission Park, same area where it nested last year), Blackburnian (2), Bay-breasted (1), Blackpoll (2), and Kentucky Warblers, Blue Grosbeak (Elizabeth Cole, at her place); 5 - Green Heron, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellowthroat, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Wood Pewee; 6 - Golden-winged (3), Chestnut-sided (2), Wilson's and BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush.

May: 7 - Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher (early date), Veery, White-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, Orchard Oriole, Bewick's Wren, POOR-WILL (first record), Magnolia, Mourning and Hooded Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Redstart; 8 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cerulean Warbler (saw and hear, C. Clough, M.L. Myers); 9 - Canada Warbler; 11 - Yellow-throated Warbler (Felicia Bart at Towanyak), White-crowned Sparrow; 13 - Yellow-crowned Night Heron; 15 - Cedar Waxwing; 20 - Black-throated Blue Warbler (1 female, unusual); 23 - Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1, rare), Swainson's, Cape May, Pine and Prairie Warblers.

The last sighting of Slate-colored Juncos (2 birds) was 14 April. An immature Bald Eagle was seen over the Kaw River Valley by Dean and Elizabeth Cole on the 20th. Chickadees, robins and Carolina Wrens were feeding young in the nest on the 27th. Two Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on Shawnee Mission Lake on 5 and 11 May by Elizabeth Cole. On 7 May six of the possible seven vireo species were seen (habitat for Bell's is lacking). C. Clough reported a wave of Myrtle and Yellow Warblers at Shawnee Mission Park on 11 May. On the 12th, the last Purple Finches were seen at Towanyak and Elizabeth Cole reported a Bobolink from Renner Road. Two Western Meadowlarks and 50 Black Terns were at Shawnee Mission Lake on the 13th.

(Lack of space prevents a daily listing of the Warblers reported but it was quite impressive. Golden-winged Warblers (up to three) were reported on four dates and on the 24th, nine Blackburnians were reported (seven in one tree). Prairie Warblers were reported for the first time in years although they formerly nested north of the camp. ED.)

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Best Birds of the Year

Charles A. Ely

The many interesting sightings presented for the "Best Birds of the Year" are summarized here. Two species were added to the state list on the basis of collected specimens. Dr. Robert Mengel collected a Black Skimmer over a fish pond, 3 miles North and 2 miles East of Lawrence on 24 May 1968. Dr. Ely's crew (specifically, Ronald E. Howard) netted four Common Bushtits near the Fort Hays State campus on 16 October 1968. Wally Champney reported a Boat-tailed Grackle

from the Oxford area on 29 April but no supporting specimen has yet been taken.

Three common species were reported "out-of-season". These were the Harris Sparrow observed in Riley County by Dr. Zimmerman on 24 July 1968; a Yellow-breasted Chat seen at Dodge City by Mrs. A.R. Challans on 1 January 1969 and Green-winged Teal reported by Marvin Schwilling as nesting (first record) at the Cheyenne Bottoms south of their usual range.

Other rare or unusual sightings were: Snow Bunting (2nd specimen in nearly a century), Surf Scoter and White-winged Scoter from the Cheyenne Bottoms by Marvin Schwilling; Cattle Egret sighted East of Stroud City by the Charles Edwards family; Gray-headed Junco and Sprague's Pipit at Wichita, Whimbrel at Cheyenne Bottoms and Dunlin at Neosho W.M.A., all by Jeff Cox; Golden-winged, Canada and Connecticut Warblers and Black-billed Cuckoo in Harvey County by Dwight Platt; Mourning Warbler, Bobolink, Painted Bunting and Oregon Junco all near Lowell by Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Qualls.

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#### Report of the Membership Secretary

Amelia J. Betts

K.O.S. membership totalled 283 by 22 May -- just five more than the total at this time last year. Membership in 1968 exceeded the 300 mark by December. One bright spot in this year's total is the 77 Sustaining members, 21 more than last year. Two members have taken Life Memberships -- Katharine Kelly and Carl S. Holmes. Four other members are making payments toward such.

The addition of 57 new members this year is balanced out by an almost equal number of members whose names have been dropped because of deaths, resignations, or non-payment of dues. Of the latter group, half had been members for only one or two years. The Society has special invitation and applications blanks to send prospective members. Just send their names to me.

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#### Short Notes

The Baldwin Bird Club recorded 112 species on its annual spring census 10 and 11 May. The Club count is conducted on a Saturday morning and on the following Sunday afternoon because no member can give a full day to the effort. Warblers made up a good share of the total -- 18 of a probable list of 24 were seen, including Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green Warblers. Two of the best finds were an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Philadelphia Vireo. Cuckoos seem to be more abundant than in recent years. Only the Yellow-billed was seen on the count but Black-billed Cuckoos have been seen since. The Painted Bunting was seen a few days after the count. A pair apparently has taken up nesting in a brushy, wooded yard right in town (our old residence!). Amelia J. Betts.

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Observations from Neodesha. On April 19, 1969, 55 species were noted within a five mile radius of Neodesha. The following waterfowl and wading birds were present at the Standard Oil dike pools: Pied-billed Grebe (1); Great Blue Heron (1); Black-crowned Night Heron (1); Blue-winged Teal (20); Gadwall (20); Baldpate (1); Shoveler (39); Redhead (1); Ring-necked Duck (7); Lesser Scaup (5); American Coot (100).

An early Black-throated Green Warbler was observed near Neodosha on 19 and 20 April. It was feeding in the upper story of elms at a roadside park at the west edge of Neodosha along the Fall river. Four Myrtle Warblers and a female Ruby-crowned Kinglet were also feeding in the area. Johnston (1965) gives migration dates of 30 April-28 May and Sutton (1967) gives inclusive spring migration dates for Oklahoma as 7 April to 18 May. The 19 April arrival for Wilson County, Kansas, though early is not unreasonable.

A Pileated Woodpecker was also observed on 19 April, flying west near a wooded creek one-half mile south of Neodosha. The species has been reported from the Neodosha area (within a five mile radius) on seven other occasions since September 1965 (11 September 1965); 2, 16, and 20 May and 29 December 1966; 4 February and 15 April 1967. Robert Neill.

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Udall-Winfield-Arkansas City News. The migration here was anything but spectacular this year. The warblers were never very common except for the Yellow which was abundant. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Udall was the first I have seen in this area. The shorebird migration was good except that the excess rain caused the birds to spread over a wide area instead of concentrating on the salt marsh south of Oxford. We did record a good number of species including Sanderling (several), Dunlin, both godwits and most of the small shorebirds. On our last trip to the marsh, 23 May, we saw large numbers of White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, two Dunlins and a Sanderling. On the same day, one of a flock of five gulls high over the marsh was definitely not a Franklin's. Although too high for positive identification it was black-headed and with dark wing tips, thus by elimination would be a Laughing Gull.

Persons in the southern and central part of the state should be watching for Boat-tailed Grackles. Kirk Downing found two nests in Wichita and Marvin Schwilling found two nests near Great Bend. There have been numerous other sightings as well. These nesting records will be written up for a future Bulletin. Max C. Thompson.

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Hays area. The spring migration was very gradual and dull until 20 May and then for four days of "bad" weather was interesting. During this period we had good numbers of Traill's Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Yellowthroats and thrushes. We banded 131 Swainson's, 10 Gray-cheeked, 7 Veerys and as usual saw no Hermits. Catbirds, Red-eyed Vireos, Orchard Orioles and Redstarts were much more common than usual. Warblers were in low numbers all spring and neither Myrtle nor Orange-crowned came through in decent numbers. We did find one Golden-winged Warbler (10 May), two Chestnut-sided Warblers and a Prairie Warbler (30 April) was spotted by a visitor from Washington, D.C., Roger Clapp.

A few Traill's Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, Yellowthroats and Redstarts remained until after 10 June. Other late departures were Song Sparrow (13 May) and Lincoln Sparrow (9 June). Dickcissels and Lark Buntings are both unusually common and on one census route Lark Buntings were 10 times the usual number. A pair of Wood Ducks was seen on several occasions during early May and ducklings (not yet identified) were captured by kids in town. A singing Brewer's Sparrow was seen on 9 and 11 May. Charles A. Ely

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#### Help Wanted

As most of you are aware, the "Official" Kansas list includes only those species supported by a specimen. I believe that this policy was set by Dr. Tordoff -- anyway it is a sound policy. As a result, however, some very good records are never reported and only a few have been given formal "hypothetical" status. This complicates things when a specimen is finally taken and the reporter wishes to summarize previous sightings, if any. A good case in point is the Vermillion Flycatcher for which at least one good early sighting has been lost. We are trying to keep this from happening in the case of the Boat-tailed Grackle.

Very good sight records exist for a number of species which will eventually be taken or photographed (two are the Golden-crowned Sparrow and the Black-headed Gull). Since there is now no clearing house for such information I am soliciting records of species of hypothetical status. These records will be filed and will be available to any worker who wishes to evaluate or use them. I am interested in those sightings of which you are positive but which are not yet given full status in Johnston's "Directory".

Incidentally, for those who oppose collecting unusual specimens I might add that such birds can sometimes be netted, banded and photographed. Almost any bander will go to considerable lengths to help in such cases -- just ask us. Charles A. Ely, Department of Zoology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays.

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The next issue of the Newsletter will be published at Southwestern College in October. Please send your news to Max C. Thompson, Biology Department, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, 67156 by October 1.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter during my short tenure. Editing the Newsletter has been a pleasure and I feel that as a result I have become better acquainted with many of you, at least on paper. My successor, Max Thompson, was one of the original organizers and editors of the Newsletter back in 1963 and is sure to keep the Newsletter active. Let's all help by sending him news. (ED.)

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### Cheyenne Bottoms Notes

Marvin D. Schwilling

Boat-tailed Grackles appear to have moved into Kansas in force this spring. Max Thompson reported boat-tails near Winfield and Wichita at the spring K.O.S. meeting. Shortly after this meeting we found them nesting just north of Great Bend. The first bird was seen, a male, about 1 May and again on 8 May. On 13 May a pair was seen at the west edge of the Walnut Hill Feed Yard - one and one-half miles north of Great Bend. Two pair were observed 14 May and one female was building a nest on the 15th. Dr. Ely kindly made a trip down to verify the birds on the 16th and a third female was seen 17 May. A second nest was located on 31 May when the female began feeding young. Both nests are in a heavy foliated elm tree and are 15 to 20 feet above the ground.

Lazuli Buntings were almost common in Barton County from 21 May to 1 June this year. Ed Martinez caught two males in mist nets near our house on 21 May. On the 23rd two males were observed feeding along a roadside at the Great Bend Feeding feed yard. Next day a single male was seen near the site of the mist net catch. On 25 May another male observed at the feed yard and two pair were seen there daily for the next four days.

A Cinnamon Teal hen with seven young was startled in pool 4 on 13 June by Ed Martinez. The alarm cries of the female brought the highly colored male to the rescue, in fact three males came in to harass the intruder and protect the young. One young was captured and appears to be about two weeks old. The City Park tried to raise the bird but it died the next day. It will be preserved and placed in the Emporia State Teachers College collection. A single Black-necked Stilt was seen in pool 5 Cheyenne Bottoms on 11 June, and a single Western Grebe in pool 2 on the 13th.

Hérons have three nesting areas established at the Bottoms this year. More than 80 nests of the black-crowns were observed in pool 2 on 7 June. Yellow-crowns had several nests in a colonized area adjacent to the black-crowns. Snowy Egrets had at least 12 nests and White-faced Ibis had at least 5 nests. A visit to the nesting colony in pool 5 on 11 June, added 15+ black crowned nests with many more under construction, as well as eight more ibis nests. About 20 pairs of Forester's Terns also nesting in this colony and several had young that was at least a week old. There are at least nine cattle egrets, four Little-blue Herons, two American Egrets and many Great-blue Herons also associated with the heronries.

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At a meeting that followed the KOS Spring Field Trip, the Kansas Sand Prairie Committee of The Nature Conservancy was dissolved since it had accomplished its purpose of preserving the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation. At the same time, a Kansas Committee of The Nature Conservancy was organized. This committee will encourage and help with natural area preservation projects throughout the state. Members of the Kansas Sand Prairie Committee will serve on the new committee temporarily until a reorganized committee can be formed. If you have suggestions for leadership of this new organization or if you wish to be on their mailing list, write to Dwight Platt, R.F.D. 2, Newton, Kansas 67114.