

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department of Biology
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas 67156

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PLEA FOR PAPERS

As of 15 April, the Local Committee for the spring convention had only five papers in hand for the papers session on 2 May. Due to the lateness of the March Bulletin, many of you did not have your meeting announcements by the deadline of April 1. This deadline is being extended to 30 April. The papers that have come in so far are going to be interesting if the titles mean anything. We would like to also ask that you send in your preregistration forms so that we can have an idea of how many are going to attend.

We have received only one set of 10 best birds of the year. We know of more than this so lets get those papers in also.

We would also like to know how many people are bringing canoes and how many that do not have canoes are planning on taking the float trip.

We look forward to seeing you in Winfield on May 2-3. If there is anything we can do for you in advance, don't hesitate to ask. Max C. Thompson
Chairman, Local Committee, Southwestern College.

Midwinter Bird Report From Camp Towanyak

This was winter when reports of northern species came from just about everywhere--Red Crossbills, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins frequented just about every feeder in town and by comparison the winter report from Towanyak may seem dull. Perhaps what we lacked in unusual visitors was made up in numbers of the commoner species. Our "best" was a flock of 15 bluebirds which fed regularly from 20 January through 1 March. But, then, we always have a flock of from 10-30 that stay with us throughout the winter. The flock gradually increased from half a dozen on 11 December to 15 on 20 January. Around 1 March, the birds apparently paired off and broke up the flock. A pair still comes occasionally for currants. A week of zero and subzero temperatures in early January brought birds to the feeders in droves. On 12 January, during a heavy snowstorm, we observed a flock of 300+ Pine Siskins feeding on weed seeds in a nearby field. Goldfinches increased at our feeders from 6 on 11 December to 75 on 1 March. Juncos seemed down in numbers. A lone White-throated Sparrow fed daily from 28 December. On 1 January, the area below Black Swan Lake dam (dense with multiflora rose) produced 1 Swamp Sparrow, 4 Song Sparrows, 10 White-throated Sparrows and 50 Tree Sparrows. Six Harris Sparrows were seen also. On 5 January we had five Purple Finches and by 1 March at least 100 were at the feeding tray. Three Robins appeared on 5 January. Cardinals seemed abundant with 54 on 19 January. On 17 January, during a snow and sleet storm, a lone female cowbird fed with the other birds/ On 18 January, with six degree temperatures, two females and one male came to the feeder. On 2 January and 7 February, a male Sharp-shinned Hawk circled our feeders at close range and settled for a brief time in a small tree. The first Chipmunk braved the cold on 11 February for a cheekpouch of sunflower seeds. Jim and Mary Louise Myers.

Southeastern Kansas Notes

We live in a small town of Lowell, Kansas, where two Ozark streams flow together, Spring River and Shoal Creek. A small dam at this point backs up a small lake about three miles long and is only 300 yards wide. This area is only 800 feet above sea level and has a mild climate compared to the rest of Kansas.

This winter we had very few Harris and White-throated Sparrows, Yellow-breasted Sapsuckers and Purple Finches. One Red-breasted Nuthatch fed daily. Two Bald Eagles were seen over the lake on 15 February. On 14 February, Mrs. Iva Howard called and reported one Pileated Woodpecker in her yard. On 18 January a sleet and snowstorm occurred. We saw two Fox Sparrows then. They fed at the feeders on 19 January (3), 20th (2), 21st (1) and 23rd (1).

On January 17 during freezing rain and sleet, a Slate-colored Junco was at our ground feeder. It had the coloring of a Slate-color but had a pure white throat and necklace of white feathers that formed a circle around his neck. He fed around the outer edges as other juncos fought him and run him away. He was there for three days

On 2 February, Oregon Juncos started coming to the feeder. February 14 brought a large flock feeding on our front lawn. This is the most we have seen in our area. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Qualls.

A message from south of the United States border this week said that the Mexican government is starting an eradication program in the northeast and northwest parts of Mexico. They intend to kill thousands of doves and ducks that are "gobbling up farmers' crops". Of course this is in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916. A change-over in government is due shortly after the national elections this spring. Presumably, the head of the flora and fauna division will be out. He had proposed earlier utilizing native birds for food and clothing. A backward step to say the least. Editor.

As stated in a past Newsletter, we intend to start with this Newsletter, giving you locations of the better birding spots in Kansas. This month, we are going to feature the salt marshes south of Oxford Kansas. The largest marsh can be reached by traveling straight south of Oxford for eight miles and then turning right on a dirt road. This road is impassable in wet weather without a four-wheel drive vehicle. Even with dry weather, one should use caution. The road comes out one mile west and you can also come in from that area and it is a better road. An oil field road comes into the west side and has been oiled but is still bad. If there is any doubt, walk. From the largest portion of the marsh on the south, the marsh stretches northwest for three more miles. It ends at the Winfield Gun Club Lake (which isn't actually part of the marsh but is good for ducks and geese in spring). The best time of year to visit this area in late April for shorebirds and early March and April for waterfowl. A few of the birds seen last year were: White Pelican, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Dunlin, Sanderling, Avocet and nearly all the ducks and geese that are seen regularly in Kansas. Most of the common shorebirds that you see at Cheyenne Bottoms can also be seen here but in smaller numbers. The map that follows will help you to locate the area. Max C. Thompson

I apologize for the short newsletter this time, but again, the files were empty. The next Newsletter will come out in early June and will be the last until October. This will give you time for your spring migration news to reach me. Editor.

N

↑ To Oxford

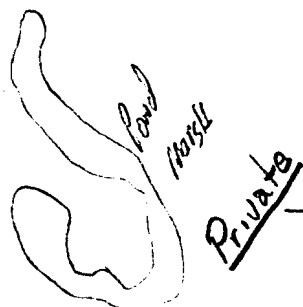
Oxford Salt Marsh

Winfield Gun Club
Entry okay except
during hunting season

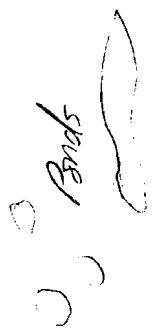
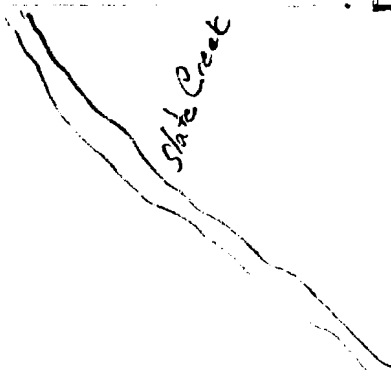


Excellent for
Shorebirds, Waterfowl
and Herons (summer).

2" = 1 mile



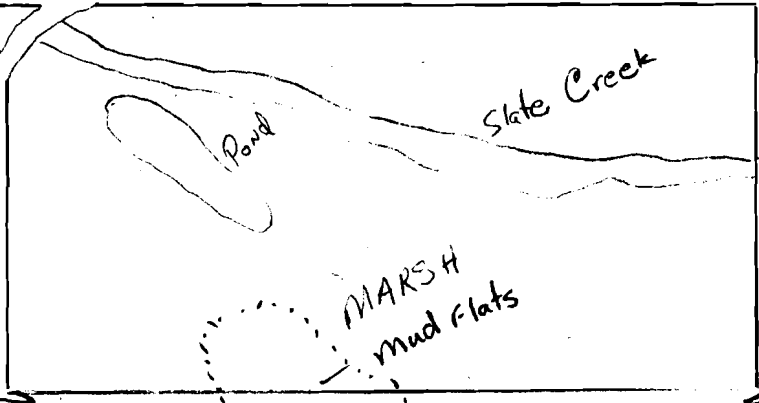
Get permission
at house



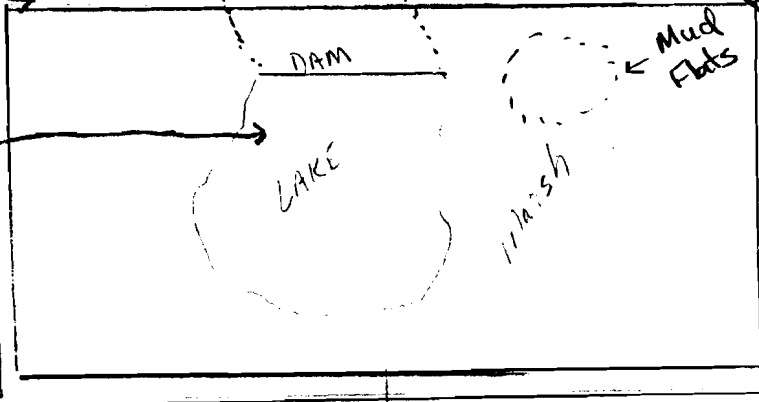
Black Top

Road impassable
in wet weather
Caution at all
times

Use this entrance
if wet. Oiled part
way & easier walking



Owned By
Slate Valley
Sportsman Club
Entry okay except
during hunting
season



Frame Dog
Town

↓ To Gauda
Springs