

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department of Biology
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas 67156

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K.O.S. BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Kansas Ornithological Society met at 1:15 in the College cafeteria at Roy Smith Student Center May 2, 1970. The President Dwight Platt presided at the meeting. Members present were Dwight Platt, Charles Ely, Amelia Betts, Eugene Lewis, Max Thompson, Mrs. Ralph White, John Zimmerman and Joan Challans.

Max Thompson reported that he could have name plates made at the College for \$113.00 at a saving to K.O.S. over present method of address. Moved by Eugene Lewis that Thompson be asked to have the name plates made. Motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Ely was asked to check with Allen Press on a possible reduced cost for printing of the Bulletin, and to report back to the Board. He reported the cost of printing of the last Bulletin as \$316.00.

Max Thompson moved that a fee of twenty five cents be charges for participants in the K.O.S. Christmas Bird Count. Motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Zimmerman reported on Youth Activities in Environment. He suggested that a chairman of youth activities be appointed who would contact Youth Groups, and that resource people might be provided by K.O.S. and that lists of names of persons willing to serve in Youth groups might be published in 4-H Literature. The Board requested Mr. Zimmerman to report on his suggestions on Youth activities at the afternoon business meeting.

It was announced that the 1971 spring meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science would be held at Manhattan. Charles Ely moved that the spring K.O.S. meeting be held in Manhattan following the Academy of Science meeting with John Zimmerman as general chairman. Motion was seconded and carried.

Eugene Lewis moved that the fall Field trip be held at Cheyenne Bottoms with Marvin Schwilling in charge, time to be determined later. Motion was seconded and carried.

The President Dwight Platt reported on his meeting with representatives from other Organizations interested in conservation. Represented at the meeting were representatives from the Kansas Wild Life Federation, Kansas Academy of Science, Kansas Biology Teachers and Outdoor Writers of Kansas, in addition to K.O.S. He reported that a tentative Kansas Environmental Council had been set up.

Charles Ely announced that he would have space in the September Bulletin for an article on conservation if desired.

Meeting closed at 2:00 p.m.--Joan Challans, Secretary

SPRING MEETING

The Afternoon meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held in Messenger Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. with the President Dwight Platt presiding. The president reported on the Board of Directors meeting held at noon. He announced that the K.O.S. fall field trip would be held at Cheyenne Bottoms, time to be decided later, and the spring meeting at Manhattan May 1 and 2. Dr. Zimmerman reported on Youth Activities and routes of involvement with youth. He stated that there was a demand for Naturalists in Youth Activities and recommended the appointment of a Youth Activities Director for K.O.S. He suggested also that material on upgrading wild life conservation and Ecology be handed out which might include the names and addresses of persons willing to get out with youth in nature. It was announced that a sheet of paper would be provided at the Literature table for people willing to participate in this work to sign. Moved by Orville Rice that a Youth Activities Director be appointed for K.O.S. Motion seconded and carried.

Dean Cole reported the Auditing Committee found the Treasurer's books to be in perfect balance. Report accepted.

Amendments to the constitution of K.O.S. presented by the Board of Directors were read: Amend Article V Section 1 to read: The Governing body shall be a board of Directors, consisting of the immediate past President, Vice-president, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and four Directors-at-large and the following appointive officers: Editor of the News Letter, and chairman of standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity and the Kansas Check List.

Of the four directors-at-large two shall be elected each year to serve two years, due consideration being given to obtain representatives from areas not otherwise represented on the board.

Amend Article VII, section 1 to read: The President shall preside at all meetings and he shall be empowered to call special meetings. The president shall appoint standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity and the Kansas Check List and such other ad hoc committees as he may deem necessary to serve during his term of office. He shall be ex officio member of all committees and shall perform such other duties as may properly come within his province. He shall be a member of the Board and during his term of office shall act as chairman of the Board.

Amend the last sentence of Article VII section 6 to read: The Editors of the K.O.S. Bulletin and of the News Letter shall be members of the Board. Moved by Orville Rice and seconded that these amendments be adopted. Motion carried.

Dwight Platt reported on two state-wide meetings of representatives from Organizations interested in conservation held in Topeka and Lawrence and the formation of a Coordinating Council composed of representatives from the various organizations. It was announced that a State Ecology Council had been appointed by the Governor. The President suggested that members might want to write to Senator Pearson to oppose any further appropriation for the building of Supersonic Transports. The report of the Nominating Committee was presented. The President called for nominations from the floor. Dean Cole moved the acceptance of the Nominating Committee report. Motion was seconded and carried.

The President Dwight Platt expressed his appreciation and thanks to Max Thompson, Chairman, and to Southwestern College and all who took part in the K.O.S. program. Max Thompson announced the Social Hour to be held at the Barnhart home at 5:30 and the meeting adjourned at 4:15.--Joan Challans, Secretary

WICHITA NOTES

As I have mentioned before, nesting success was excellent. Cardinals and Robins were triple-brooded, and Catbirds were double-brooded. A Poor-will was heard throughout the summer a few miles south of Silverdale, Cowley County, by Larry Gray. You may have heard this already, but the Chaplin's reported a pair of Lesser Goldfinches all summer at their sanctuary by Geuda Springs. I guess you realize the significance of this report if it's true, which it may well be.

There was an excellent Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration through town approximately from August 17 to September 6. Warbler migration, and migration in general, has been excellent so far this fall. The most common types of warblers in Wichita have been Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, and Wilson's. If waves can occur in fall, one did on September 13, when tremendous numbers of flycatchers, thrushes, wrens, and warblers of several species were pushed south by one of the many cold fronts which have been typical of this fall.

An Osprey was seen at El Dorado Lake on September 13. I also have reports from Kingman Co. St. Lake of an Olive-sided Flycatcher on September 27-28, and a Peregrine Falcon and a Pigeon Hawk on September 30.--

First a couple of spring sightings that I neglected to include in my last communique: At Clark Co. State Park on April 17, I saw a flying female Common Goldeneye, and the next day Larry Gray and I saw an adult Little Blue Heron. Neither are real spectacular, but I think they're rather interesting.

The first half of June was rainy and cool, but it didn't seem to affect nesting success any. The rain was followed by the worst drought since 1954, but it didn't seem to affect the local bird-life, either.

A Song Sparrow I saw a few miles west of Mound City on June 21 suggests possible breeding in a new locality for the state.

Warbling Vireos were quite common this summer, at least in the southwest corner of Wichita.

The first Black Terns appeared in the City on July 20.

Mississippi Kites appear to frequent the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project (commonly known as the Big Ditch) around the west side of Wichita, apparently as a feeding area, because there are practically no trees around it.--Jeff Cox

Migration--The spring migration started out looking good despite the fact that we had snow as late as April 4th. During the first half of April there were large numbers of siskins and Red Crossbills in town. Savannah, Vesper, and White-throated sparrows were all in better numbers than usual. On April 8th, I saw Long-eared and Barn owls, both of which are uncommon in the Wichita area. Starting April 16th there was a large movement of Orange-crowned warblers lasting about a week.

The rest of the migration could be summarized as LATE and POOR. Thrushes were extremely scarce. Warblers were low in numbers and, except for Wilson's and Orange-crowned, averaged about a week later than usual. The Shorebird peak was also about a week late, and their numbers were noticeably low. Reversing the general trend, Indigo and Painted Buntings were more common than usual. A small warbler wave came through on May 13th, and with it I noticed a Hybrid Oriole (Bullock's X Baltimore). The last wave was May 26th, mostly Wilson's Warblers and Redstarts.

Big Day--Wichita Audubon held its annual 24-hour count from 5 p.m. May 8 to 5 p.m. the 9th. The total count was 162 species--lower than last year's, and another indication of the poor migration.

Jeff Cox, Larry Gray and I traveled in a loose group. Among our better birds were: Avocet and Hudsonian Godwit at the Oxford Salt Marshes, Sanderling and both Godwit species at Cheney, and Prairie Falcon, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting at Wichita. I got one up on the other two guys by going out after rails Friday night, so my list of 125 was highest for the count. Cox, however, pulled off the real Coup D'etat: At the compilation site, well after the official end of the count, he looked up at a nearby tree and casually identified an Audubon's Warbler that was feeding there. For us it was just another meeting with an old and familiar friend, but when we left everyone else was still staring in amazed wonder at Coxie's discovery.--Ken Kaufman

JUNCTION CITY NEWS

An unusual concentration of barn owls is reported from Wilson reservoir in Russell county. J. C. Morgan, state game protector, said eight pairs of barn owls nested near the reservoir this spring. They use the sandstone rock outcroppings for their nests. He estimated each pair raised three young.

A Junction Citian cleaned out his metal martin house this fall and found the birds were using metal as part of their nests. Ed Augustine said five nests contained some of the zip openers now found on metal beer and pop cans.--Bob LaShelle

NEWS OF BIRDS IN LINN COUNTY

Ed Schmidt's nighthawk returned May 10 this year, nearly a week later than last spring. This has been an erratic migration, the first time in the Dinguses' 20-year birding history that we have failed to list a yellow warbler. For that matter, most of the migrating warblers, the golden-crowned kinglet, warbling and Swainson's vireos, and olive-sided flycatcher are missing from our local records in 1970.

A few olive-backed---pardon, "Swainson's"---thrushes came through on schedule, but I did not see a gray-cheeked until May 16, after what I considered the end of the migration period. A black-billed cuckoo was calling along Little Sugar Creek May 20. Then the resident yellow-billed cuckoo appeared the following day for the first time this spring.

Scissortail flycatchers are seen frequently in this area now, but the only painted bunting was seen north of Farlinville by Ruth Dingus Faulh May 30, and there has been no western kingbird reported yet.--Eunice Dingus

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership for 1970 for the Society reached 324 in August, with 53 of this number being new members. Since then eleven members have joined, with their membership credited to 1971.

Fall is a good time to join K.O.S., because membership is credited to the next year, with the remainder of the present year free of charge.

Reminder envelopes for 1971 will be mailed with the September Bulletins. The Board voted last January to send out the dues reminders earlier in the hopes of getting the bulk of the dues in before the new year starts on January 1st.

However, membership receipts may not be as prompt as usual because the last three months of the year are the busiest for me!--Amelia J. Betts, Membership Secretary

1970 SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting at Winfield broke two records--the largest number at a KOS banquet and the most ever on a spring field trip. It was also the second largest registration and the second largest bird count.

Three species were seen for the first time on a spring trip--the Whimbrel, Pileated Woodpecker, and the Red Crossbill.

The total number of species seen on KOS spring counts is now 251.

WINTER COUNT OBSERVERS' CHARGE

The Society voted at the fall meeting at Cheyenne Bottoms to adopt the Board's recommendation that a 25 cent per observer charge be made on the winter bird count. This charge is necessary because of the extra expense of publishing the results in the Bulletin.

LETTER FROM CARL

Please change our address on the KOS Newsletter mailing list to Route 4, Box 1190, Camano Island, Wash. 98292.

We have found what we think is the most wonderful place for us. To the south we look across Saratoga Passage to Whidbey Island. Forest is on the other three sides. We see both water birds and land birds from our windows. Piliated Woodpeckers are in our yard every few days. On clear days we can see Mount Rainier from our windows and the Olyapic Mountains from our yard. We have a switch back trail down to the beach, and we enjoy walking along the beach when the tide is out.

We enjoyed the last newsletter very much.--Carl S. Holmes

BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR

The best Kansas bird records for 1969-1970 were selected by the K.O.S. Checklist committee consisting of Max C. Thompson (Chairman), Wallace Champney, Charles A. Ely, Richard Johnston, and Orville Rice. More than 70 species (involving nearly 100 individual sightings) were nominated by about 30 KOS members. Undoubtedly numerous other sightings were not reported.

The six "best birds" are species added to the Kansas list since the 1969 meeting:

Boat-tailed Grackle -- (1st specimen and 1st breeding) near Great Bend, 16 May 1969 -- (5 seen; at least 1 successful nesting); Cheyenne Bottoms, 22 December 1969 (1 collected) Marvin Schwilling; Wichita -- 22, 26 January 1970 -- Jeff Cox and Ken Kaufman.

Band-tailed Pigeon -- (1st specimen) Meade, 9 October 1969 seen by Edwin Gebhard and later collected by Marvin D. Schwilling.

Black-legged Kittiwake -- (1st specimen) Cheyenne Bottoms, 27 October 1969 Marvin Schwilling.

Ross Goose -- (1st Specimen) Brown Co., 18 October 1969 --shot by Roger Fagre and identified by Marvin Schwilling.

White Ibis -- (1st sight record) Lake View, NW of Lawrence, 16 August 1969 -- Ivan and Roger Boyd, Mrs. Bert Chewing, Katharine Kelley and others.

Rufous Hummingbird -- (sight records) Oxford, Wallance Champney and Max Thompson.

Rufous Hummingbird -- (sight records) Oxford, Wallace Champney and Max Thompson.

Choice of the next four "best" birds was as difficult as deciding what criteria determine a "best" bird. These four species are noteworthy anywhere in Kansas.

Cape May Warbler -- Emporia County Club Lake, 10 May 1969 --Walter Boles and David Parmelee (2nd Kansas Specimen); Camp Towanyak, 23 May 1969 -- Mary Louise and James Myers.

Swainson's Warbler -- Camp Towanyak -- seen and heard 23 May 1969, Mary Louise and James Myers. The only Kansas specimen was taken $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from this spot in 1957.

Pine Grosbeak -- second invasion of Kansas in this century: Harvey County -- Dwight Platt; Dodge City -- Mrs. Joan Challans, Hays -- Marvin Rolfs and Charles Ely.

Yellow-throated Warbler -- Emporia, 12 April 1970 -- David Parmelee; Camp Towanyak, 11 May 1969 -- Felicia Bart.

The following species were also nominated: some are unusual in the state; some are unusual in the area seen or at the time seen; and others are sentimental favorites or "best" for other reasons.

- Goshawk -- 1 April 1970 -- Shawnee -- Elizabeth Cole
Cattle Egret -- 30 June 1969 -- near Galena -- Mrs. W.H. Qualls
Whistling Swan -- 28 December 1969 -- Geary Co. State Lake -- Robert LaShelle
Canada Goose -- January 1970 -- Upper Milford Res. -- Robert LaShelle
March 1970 -- Manhattan -- John Zimmerman
Black Brant -- 6 April 1970 -- Shawnee Mission L. -- Elizabeth Cole
Green-winged Teal X Pintail (Hybrid) -- 10 March 1970 -- Cheyenne Bottoms
Marvin Schwilling
Greater Scaup -- 22 March 1970 -- Kingman Co. State Lake -- Jeff Cox
American Goldeneye -- 29 March 1970 -- Marion Reservoir -- Effie Lou and Charles Edwards
Old-squaw -- 31 March 1970 -- Shawnee Mission L. -- Elizabeth Cole
Red-br. Merganser -- 5 May 1969 -- Shawnee Mission L. -- Elizabeth Cole
Killdeer -- 9 January 1970 -- Richmond -- Effie Lou and Charles Edwards
Buff-breasted Sandpiper -- 11 November 1969 -- Cheyenne Bottoms -- Walter Boles
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher -- 23 May 1969 -- Shawnee Mission L. -- Elizabeth Cole
23 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louis and James Myers
Olive-sided Flycatcher -- 7 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Elizabeth Cole
Raven -- 6 April 1970 -- Shawnee Mission -- Elizabeth Cole
Philadelphia Vireo -- 23 May 1969 -- Shawnee Mission L. -- Elizabeth Cole
Prothonotary Warbler -- 19 April 1969 -- Shoal Creek -- Mrs. W.H. Qualls
Parula Warbler -- 12 April 1969 -- Shoal Creek -- Mrs. W.H. Qualls
-- Blue-winged Warbler -- 6 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Catherine Olson, Mary Louise and James Myers, Josephine Isenburger
Golden-winged Warbler -- 6, 11 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise Myers
Black-throated Blue Warbler -- 20 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise and James Myers
Bay-breasted Warbler -- 10 May 1969 -- Wichita -- Jeff Cox
Pine Warbler -- 23 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise Myers
Hooded Warbler -- 7, 14 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise Myers
Yellow breasted Chat -- North Newton -- Dwight Platt
Ruby-crowned Kinglet -- 14 April 1970 -- Richmond -- Effie Lou and Charles Edwards
Northern Shrike -- Nov. 1969 and 21 March 1970 -- near Americus -- C.W. Comer and Dan Larson
Painted Bunting -- 10 May 1969 -- near Lowell -- Mrs. W.H. Qualls
Common Redpoll -- January 1970 -- Dodge City -- Mrs. Joan Challans
Red Crossbill -- widespread invasion from late August through present: Shawnee Mission -- Elizabeth Cole; North Newton -- Dwight Platt; Dodge City -- Mrs. Joan Challans; Olathe, Baldwin, Lawrence -- Ivan and Roger Boyd, Mrs. Bert Chewing), also other localities.
White-winged Crossbill -- 14 December 1969 -- Emporia -- Walter Boles

Black-throated Sparrow -- 1969 -- Morton Co., -- Ed Martinez
Sage Sparrow -- 1969 -- Morton Co., --Ed Martinez
LeConte's Sparrow -- December 1969 -- Baldwin -- Ivan and Roger Boyd, Mrs.
Bert Chewing
Lazuli Bunting -- Newton -- Dwight Platt; SW Lyon County -- April 1970 --
Anabel Bijjani
Cardinal -- January 1970 -- Manhattan -- John Zimmerman
Hermit Thrush -- 24 January 1970 -- Lawrence -- J.D. Robins
Prairie Warbler -- 23 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise and James Myers
American Woodcock -- 2 December 1969 -- Richmond -- Effie Lou and Charles Edwards
Black-necked Stilt -- 17 August 1969 -- Cheyenne Bottoms -- Jeff Cox
Laughing Gull -- 15 June 1969 -- Cheney Reservoir -- Ken Kaufman
Poor-will -- 7 May 1969 -- Camp Towanyak -- Mary Louise Myers
(Ringed Turtle Dove -- July 1969-late Nov.; March 1970 -- Dodge City, Mrs. Joan
Challans; Lawrence, Ivan and Roger Boyd, Mrs.
Bert Chewing.)
Bonaparte's Gull -- 20 April 1970 -- Garnett -- Charles S. Edwards
Bald Eagle -- Douglas Co. State Lake -- Ivan and Roger Boyd, Mrs. Bert Chewing
--Charles A. Ely

NOTES FROM HAYS

I have help only on weekends this fall so we've been concentrating our netting on weekends. Fortunately our big fallout started on a Sunday. As usual the fallout was associated with low clouds, rain and miserable weather. When the weather cleared birds moved out.

The first flight was on the 13th (149 birds) and with a second peak on the 16th; the flight was over on the 17th. The second flight began on the 22nd (107) and lasted through the 25th. The remarkable thing is that both flights were almost entirely warblers and vireos. Flocks of warblers were all over town, on campus and along the creeks. With more manpower we could have netted hundreds per day. Our netting area probably sampled a half acre and I never did get a chance to go birding outside the immediate campus area. What birds were stacked up two miles away? The two flights were quite different in dominant species; the first was decidedly eastern; the second, "normal" for Hays. During the first wave we banded 150 Wilson's, 76 Nashville and 4 Orange-crowned. During this second wave we had higher winds and the fallout wasn't sampled very well. Nashvilles and Orange-crowned were much more common than Wilson's but the nets in tall weeds weren't operating well.

We totalled 19 warbler species and approximately the following species totals:

Wilson's	212	Tennessee	4
Nashville	149	Chestnut-sided	2
Orange-crowned	107	Canada	2
Yellow	35	Magnolia	2
Mourning	12	Black-thro. Green	2
Yellowthroat	12	Black-poll	2
Am. Redstart	8	N. Waterthrush	1
Yellow-b.	4	MacGillivray's	1
Black and White	4	Golden-winged	1
		Ovenbird	1

Our previous four year total for Wilson's and Nashville were 115 and 95 respectively. The Golden-winged was our second record and first for the fall. The vireos were unusually common in September with 11 Red-eyed; 4 Bell's; 11 Warbling; 21 Solitary (about 5 times previous totals). New species for the area were: Scarlet Tanager (1); Black-billed Cuckoo (2); Acadian Flycatcher (at least 1); Philadelphia Vireo (1). Then to break the monotony of eastern birds were two Western Wood pewees and a Hammond Flycatcher.--Charles A. Ely

DR. WETMORE RECEIVES ALLEN AWARD

At its meeting in May, the Administrative Board of Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology voted to award the fourth Arthur A. Allen Medal to Alexander Wetmore of Washington, D.C.

Over the years many honors have come to Dr. Wetmore in recognition of his far-reaching and innovative contributions to world ornithology. The Laboratory of Ornithology welcomed the opportunity to award him the Allen Medal, especially for his influence in widening popular interest in birds through his long association with the Smithsonian Institution and the National Geographic Society, and for his giving generous encouragement and thoughtful assistance to so many aspiring ornithologists, both professional and amateur.

Dr. Wetmore received the medal at a dinner in his honor at the Statler Inn of Cornell University on the evening of October 17.

Editor's Note--Dr. Wetmore received his B.S. degree at K.U. in 1912.

QUETZAL GRANTED FURTHER PROTECTION

At the fall meeting in 1968, the members of KOS adopted a resolution urging that measures be taken for the protection of the Quetzal and the establishment of cloud-forest preserves in Guatemala.

On April 14, 1970, a congressional decree signed by the Guatemalan president, imposes a three-year prison term on anyone caught hunting the Quetzal. The Quetzal is Guatemala's national bird and is listed on the world bird endangered species list.

Other birds protected by the decree were the Horned Guan, Atitlan Grebe and Double-striped Thick-knee. All of these have a two-year prison sentence as punishment for those persons caught hunting them.

The idea of establishing cloud-forest preserves in the natural habitat of the Quetzal was presented in August 1970 by Dr. Anne LeBastille of Cornell University at the Zurich meeting of the Survival Service Commission. She was encouraged to formalize the idea on paper for future consideration and is doing so now.

A number of organizations world-wide are collecting and holding funds that will be donated to the Guatemalan government at a future date for the establishment of cloud-forest preserves. Perhaps, KOS should establish a small donation fund in order that we, too, may play a role in saving this endangered bird species.--C. W. Comer and Jean Schulenberg, KOS Quetzal Conservation Committee

1970 SPRING MIGRATION REPORT--CAMP TOWANYAK

This report, as always, includes almost daily coverage of this area and sometimes includes Shawnee Mission Park (notation made when it is included) which is 8 miles SW of this location.

Hours spent afield during the peak of migration were from 3 to 7, with 5 or 6 being the average. We were accompanied in the field at times by Dr. Chas. Clough, Dr. Stanley Nelson, Dr. Donald Napsted, Dean and Eliz. Cole, Felicia Bart, Mrs. Ed McNitt.

First dates, when known, are noted and underlined>. Last dates are shown when known.

As anticipated, this 1970 migration, did NOT equal the fantastic listings of 1969. However, in looking over the totals, it could not be considered a POOR year. Even so, strangely missing were a number of species that we usually see every spring.

In 1969, we had 33 species of warblers; in 1970 we had 24!

Weatherwise, this 1970 season was fairly normal. Started out on April 1st with an appreciable snow of 5" and another 2" on the 2nd. First really good snowfall of the year. A large new movement of slate colored juncos came in on the wave of this storm, along with our first Red-headed Woodpecker. As a general rule dates were somewhat later in 1970 than in 1969, but in some species just the opposite was noted.

Many pine siskins and goldfinch were visiting the feeders all through early April. On the 7th we had many white-throated sparrows, Harris's and Fox feeding in brush piles in the meadow area where we had scattered mixed grain. Unseasonably warm on April 8 and 9 with temperatures soaring to 80+. Rains on the 18th and 19th, clearing skies on the 22 with 83 degree temperature, then a sharp drop to 38 degrees on the 23rd and more light rain. We found our first Morel mushrooms on the 24th--mayapples were in leaf, redbuds not quite in bloom, wood phlox just starting to bloom, violets and toothwort in full bloom. Buckeyes and elms leafed out, but no other trees. Wood ferns up, wild strawberries not yet in bloom.

Purple finches noticeably thinned out on April 25 and there were lots of white-throats and a few Lincoln's and Harris's. April 27, 28 and 29th were hot (80-90), windy, and very humid. The first caroline wrens left the nest on this day. April 30 it was cooler and rained. . .continuing into the 1st of May and dropping to 42 degree temperature. On May 2 we had a freeze and heavy frost. . .another cold front and rain on the 14th and several good little waves of warblers. It stayed cool and cloudy, dropping to 38 degrees on the 16th of May and clearing in the night. On the 18th it was as if a vacuum had sucked up all the birds. No song and no activity. The 16th was our BEST DAY for warblers and total list. . .75 species and 18 warblers. (Last year our best day was the 23rd, with 93 species and 23 warblers.) Leaves were out full size earlier than last year, and more days in 1970 were windy--both of these conditions in direct contrast to last year.

Crossbills which were abundant all over the K.C. area (none at Towanyak) were still appearing at a feeder in Raytown, Mo. (12 birds on May 21st.) Siskins dwindled down to a few birds on May 28 and the final date for a single siskin was June 5 at one of the feeders.

Purple martins arrived on the same date as last year (04-06) and one pair began nesting in our martin house around May 10. Heavy rain moving into the area May 29th, clearing only for a short while on the 31st, and a continuous downpour day and night from June 1 through the 4 took its toll--we lost our pair on the 4th--found the female down and dying, extremely emaciated. We did not find the male, but he did not return and we can only assume he dropped somewhere out of sight. They had five eggs in the nest. Other reports of martin casualties poured in from all over the area...with losses not only of adults but of newly hatched young as well. One house in Johnson county had 14 young birds dead on the ground where the adults apparently had tossed them out after they had died. At this same house, where there had been seven pair, only 5 or 6 adults survived. Since the rain was quite widespread, the martin population was undoubtedly severely hurt. Probably swallows, swifts and geatsuckers also suffered heavy casualties.

Probably our best bird for the season was the Bullock's (or hybrid) on 04-21. It was about 5 p.m. when I heard a rather loud, unfamiliar scold note in the back yard. It flew to the oak on the front lawn and I saw this bright orange oriole with LARGE white wing patches. Song sounded oriole-like, but different somehow. I was unable to see the face or cheeks before it flew, but the song, scold and white wing patch were very different from the Baltimore.

There were definite movements of birds on April 21 through May 1 with new species noted each day, but the first waves of warblers came on May 3 and 4th. The following daily lists show some indication of movement:

05-03	61 species	7 warblers
05-04	63	12
05-05	66	7
05-06	53	9
05-07	59	10
05-10	68	14
05-11	76	14
05-13	61	8
05-14	64	16
05-15	64	17
05-16	75	18
05-17	67	12
05-27	69	5

best day in 1970

There were No species that seemed abundant, and some were actually missing altogether. In 1969, Golden-winged warblers were seen in twos and threes and on several different days; This year there were none listed at all. Canada warblers were unusally abundant last year, but in 1970 we did not list a single one. On 05-16 Eliz. Cole and I thought we heard one, but were unable to verify it by sight. Yellow warblers were difinitely down in numbers, as were Tennessees. All the vireos were scarce...only two solitary for the entire season; one very early Yellow-throated vireo(04-25) and he was here for just a part of ONE day. By contrast last year he came on 05-04 and sang for an entire week. Two Philadelphia were spotted, one very late date 05-27. Least flycatchers seemed less numerous than usual, although they were on the daily list almost every day after 04-27, but just in ones or twos. Only one Acadian on 05-21 and no Traill's. Wood peewees seemed more numerous than usual. No Olive-sided flycatchers were sighted. Swainson's and gray-checked thrushes were about normal in numbers, but were singing less. Two willow thrush sightings, one on 05-22, 2 birds, and a single late day 06-01.

PEREGRINE FALCON

ITHACA, N.Y. -- The fast-vanishing Peregrine Falcon, a world-wide victim of DDT, may be saved from extinction by a project being launched by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology.

The principal goals of the project are to produce a self-perpetuating captive population of these birds of prey and to reintroduce captive-produced Peregrines to areas where the species is now extinct as a breeding bird. Another long-term goal of the breeding project is to supply falcons for scientific research, education, and recreation.

Although Peregrine Falcons have been bred in captivity twice before, nobody has yet shown that the species can be bred consistently.

Tom J. Cade, research director at the laboratory, said the first step in the project is construction of a special breeding facility. The building, 50 feet wide and almost as long as a football field, will be the largest of its kind in the country, and possibly in the world, Cade said. It will contain 40 cage areas for all types of birds of prey, particularly the Peregrine Falcon, and will include special windows and lighting fixtures, one-way mirrors for observation purposes and heated observation corridors.

Construction is expected to begin this week on a tract owned by the University across Sapsucker Woods Road from the laboratory. The building is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Cade said the project will require about \$25,000 a year to operate. He said he hopes to establish a "Peregrine Fund" to handle the raising of money for this purpose.

Breeding populations of the Peregrine Falcon in North America and Europe have declined drastically since the advent of DDT usage in the late 1940's, Cade said.

"Studies made since 1965," he said, "show that the disappearance of breeding pairs at long known nesting sites has continued westward and northward on the North American continent. Only remnant populations remain in the Rocky Mountains, in Alberta, and along the West Coast from Washington south into Lower California. Even some remote arctic Canadian and Alaskan populations have declined in the last three years."

The loss of breeding Peregrine Falcons in the settled parts of North America, he added, has resulted in greatly increased human attention to the falcons that still survive in wilder parts. With modern systems of transportation, even remote arctic nesting sites are readily accessible and have been repeatedly visited since 1965.

"Falconers, pet keepers, egg collectors, wild life photographers and research biologists have all taken a toll that threatens to continue increasing at an exponential rate, unless this species receives the fullest possible protection." Cade said.

To start the first phase of the project--the breeding in captivity of Peregrines--Cade has eight of the falcons acquired as nestlings from Alaska.

"Getting the right birds will not be an easy task," Cade said. "To find out what birds might be available is a task in itself. And now with increased protective legislation for the Peregrine and a decreasing supply of falcons, falconers will be loathe to part with their birds."

Special breeding techniques will be used in the project, including the possibility of artificial insemination and inducing production of more than the normal four eggs a year.

"A project such as this," Cade said, "will require much more than just placing the pairs in their breeding cages and waiting for results. The attempts to date have shown this approach to be frustratingly slow and largely unproductive. All that is needed at the outset, however, is to produce fertile eggs which can be incubated artificially and the young reared by hand or given to foster parents."

The Laboratory of Ornithology, already well established as a world center for the study of birds, is an excellent site for the new facility, Cade said, because of the presence at Cornell at the New York State Veterinary College, a Department of Conservation and a Department of Poultry Science.--Cornell University News