

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY  
SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE, WINFIELD, KANSAS 67156

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1090 PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

A major milestone was passed in bird conservation in Kansas as the Governor signed into law the bill to protect hawks and owls in Kansas. The following is how the bill reads:

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas: Section 1. K.S.A. 1970 Supp. 32-156 is hereby amended to read as follows: 32-156. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons within the state of Kansas, at any time, unless and except as permitted by regulations made as provided in this act, to hunt, shoot, take, kill, or catch or have in his or her possession, living or dead, any wild bird or birds, or purchase, sell or offer or expose for sale any such wild birds. No part of the skin, plumage or body of any bird protected by law shall be sold or kept in possession for sale, irrespective of whether said bird was captured or killed within or without the state. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons in the State of Kansas, at any time, unless and except as permitted by regulations made as provided in this act, to hunt, shoot, take or attempt to take, catch or kill, pursue, entrap or ensnare any game birds commonly known as geese, brant, and wild river or sea ducks, any rail, plover, or snipe, doves, quail, grouse, prairie chicken, chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge or pheasant: Provided, That this act shall not prevent any person from killing or possessing crows, starlings and English and European sparrow: And provided further, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the possession and sale of live canaries and parrots: And provided further: That persons holding game breeders' permits who are owners of domestic pheasants, after the owner or owners have first offered the surplus birds to the forestry, fish and game commission at the prevailing market prices, and in the event the forestry, fish and game commission shall not purchase said surplus pheasants, are privileged to offer the same for sale for breeding purposes or for eating purposes.....Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary or of any other provision of law to the contrary, it shall be lawful to exterminate crows, starlings, English and European sparrows and pigeons which have become or may become sanitation nuisances, health hazards or destructive to property or growing crops."

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

K.O.S. membership for 1970, as reported at the annual meeting, showed an all-time-high total of 325. This included three life members paid in full and four partly paid. Sustaining members totaled 101, 23 more than the previous high. There were 197 regular members and 20 students. Of the total, 53 were new members and of the original 139 charter members, 28 were still active. Forty-two names had been dropped during the year, mostly for non-payment of dues.

Membership for 1971 at the time of the meeting totaled 308, of which nine were fully- or partly-paid life members. Sustaining members had dropped to 93 (↓ hope that some regular members will contribute just \$3.00 more to become sustainers, so we can hit that 100 mark again!). Six new members joined KOS during the spring meeting. 46 names were dropped this month for failure to pay their 1971 dues.

Please remember that it is largely up to the members to increase the membership in KOS. Just ask for application blanks if you want to enroll new members or send the names of prospects to me and I'll send them a letter with application attached. I wouldn't mind handling a 400 membership, if you build it up to that!!!!: Amelia J. Betts, Secretary

KOS Spring Meeting, Manhattan

There were 85 registered for the Saturday meeting, about 90 at the banquet. Sunday morning, 75 attended the field trips. The following is a list of birds seen: Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture.

Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora Rail, Coot, Killdeer, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Forester's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Am. Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The minutes of the meeting were not received in time for inclusion. They will appear in the October Newsletter.

#### NOTES

Dodge City-- Birds have not been too numerous in our area this spring. Waterfowl, especially waders, have been unusually scarce. However, we have had some unusual and interesting land birds in addition to the usual species. Warblers were seen more frequently than usual. We saw Myrtles, Audubon, Orange-crowned and Black and White. On April 20, I had a Hooded Warbler in the yard all day. This was seen very clearly. We saw a number of Bewick's Wrens and on several occasions a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; this is unusual here. Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were spotted as well as Blue Grosbeaks. However, up to date we have seen no Black-headed Grosbeaks. Among the more usual species we have had Eastern Bluebirds, Baltimore and Bullock's Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scissortailed Flycatcher in small numbers. Kingbirds, thrashers, mockers and migrant sparrows occurred in quite large numbers; White-crowns, Chipping, Clay-colored. Lark Sparrows are now nesting. Lark Buntings have been seen since early May in unusually large flocks. On May 15 we saw our first Dickcissel and on May 17 the first Mississippi Kite for this region. Purple Martins were late. Other swallows seen are Bank, Barn, Rough-winged and a few Cliff Swallows. Joan Challans

Hays--The shorebird migration was spotty and poor. The passerine migration was, in general, the poorest since we began mist-netting five years ago. We had a cool, windy spring with above average rainfall, usually in the form of thunderstorms. The drizzly overcast conditions with light wind which have produced "fall outs" of migrants in the past did not occur. Mist-netting totals were only one-third of last May's total. Part of this was due to continued encroachment on our netting area but Rich Weber banding at Ellis, also had low numbers.

Some of our normally most abundant species occurred in very low numbers compared with last May. Among these were Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows and Orange-crowned Warblers. Most migrants were late, but often the first individual would appear at an unusually early date. It was a strange migration but with enough "good" birds to keep us interested. We had another good warbler year with 24 species, most in low numbers. The warbler migration started with a Black and White on 30 March and in-

cluded the following species (unusual for the Hays area): Prothonotary (2nd record); Worm-eating Warbler (at Ellis, Rich Weber[3rd]); Golden-winged Warbler (3rd); Magnolia; Audubon's (more than usual); Blackburnian (1st); Bay-breasted Warbler (4th); Kentucky (3rd); and Canada (3rd for spring).

Other unusual species were: White-faced Ibis, 26 April; Western(?) Wood Pewee (23 May) White-eyed Vireo (2-3 May, our 1st record); Philadelphia Vireo (30 May, 2nd record); Bobolink (17 May); Bullock's Oriole (R. Weber at Ellis); Scarlet Tanager (1st in spring R. Weber at Ellis, 17 May); Painted Bunting (22 May, Ellis, R. Weber, our 1st); Brewer's Sparrow (17 May). Several species were conspicuous by their absence, especially sparrows of most species. We did not see or handle a single Song Sparrow all spring. Migration ended with a thud on 31 May; we've handled only two migrants since. Charles A. Ely

Winfield--The spring migration was nothing to write home about but might be of some interest to the KOS. The warbler migration was a thud although a few goodies were seen. A banding station was operated on the Arkansas River west of Winfield from 7-31 May. Like Hays, our migration stopped abruptly on 31 May. However, on 1 June, Swainson's Thrushs were still singing in the woods. We handled 38 species of birds, the most notable being: Gray-cheeked Thrush 9 May (1st record); Veery 16 and 25 May (1st records); Mourning Warbler, 8 banded from 16 May-31 May (1st spring records although abundant in full); Canada Warbler, 23 May (1st Spring records). In addition, a Blackburnian was seen at the station around 20 May. A wave of Summer Tanagers went through the area in mid-May and a Scarlet Tanager was seen a week later. A Pine Siskin was still on campus 17 May and was much agitated by the presence of a Blue Jay. We searched for a nest but didn't find it. The shorebird migration was nil although large numbers of Avocets were present. Max C. Thompson

Wichita-- After last year's rather skimpy spring, this season was most satisfying. Due possibly to the warm weather many migrants arrived early, ~~as~~ indicated by the presence of four warbler species on 7 April. Due to no known factor, many wintering birds lingered late, as indicated by the presence of both juncos on 7 May. The result of this extended overlap, of course, was that more species were present at the same time. On the Wichita Audubon Society's annual "Roundup" count, 5 p.m. 7 May to 5 p.m. 8 May, I recorded 132 species--an increase of 7 over last year.

The duck migration in March was about average, with none of the "regulars" conspicuous for their abundance or absence. Cinnamon Teal were present at Cheney Reservoir on 20 March, and a few showed up at Wichita during the following week. Hooded Mergansers were seen a number of times between February and early May.

A Gray-headed Junco seen in Wichita 10-18 March was our second local record. Interestingly enough, it was found in the same city park where we have observed White-winged Juncos twice in the last decade. Not so exciting, but locally uncommon, Fox Sparrows were seen at Cheney Reservoir 20 March, and at Wichita on the 30th.

Baird's Sparrows may pass through the Wichita area every year, but as far as I know the two I saw on 6 April are among the first recorded here. A LeConte's Sparrow, locally uncommon, was near the same area southwest of town on 13 April.

Several Black-crowned Night Herons were present between 29 March and the end of April. Six Little Blue Herons west of Wichita on 11 May were quite early, as they usually don't appear in this area before July [many records this spring Editor].

The shorebird migration was about average, though I was disappointed by the lack of godwits. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper were somewhat early at Cheney Reservoir on 20 March. Best shorebirds of the season were

two Short-billed Dowitchers southwest of Wichita on 8 May. I approached to within ten yards and checked carefully for side-spotting, pale coloration, and heard the all-important call notes. The bill was short, too, but that is not much of a reliable field mark. No Long-billed Dowitchers were seen later than 3 May.

Lazuli Buntings were much more common than usual, seen from 2-20 May, with at least 3 present in Wichita on the 14th.

The warbler migration was quite good, with 27 species listed. Some of the more unusual species seen this spring were: Northern Waterthrush, 22 April; Pine Warbler, 29 April; Audubon's Warbler, 30 April; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 7 May; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 8-9 May (3 observers); Black-throated Green Warbler, 8-11 May; Blackburnian Warbler, 11 May; Canada Warbler, 14 May; Magnolia Warbler, 18 May; Mourning Warbler, 25 May; Bay-breasted Warbler, 27 May and Cerulean on the 28th. All of these were seen either in the Wichita city parks or along the Arkansas River just out of town.

Two unusual birds in the parks were a Veery, 21 May, and a Traill's Flycatcher of the "fitz-bew" song type on 25 May.

Species that were in above average numbers this spring included Bewick's Wren, Solitary Vireo and Louisiana Waterthrush. Birds that were conspicuously scarce included Franklin's Gull, Black and Least Terns, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Lark Bunting.

Wichita's earliest early record this season was a Wilson's Warbler, on 7 April (male). This exceeds the earliest published record for Oklahoma by 7 days, and for Kansas by 23 Days. Our latest record was a female Bufflehead, apparently able to fly well, but still hanging around southwest Wichita on 25 May. The latest previous date for Kansas is 30 April and for Oklahoma 13 May.

AWAY FROM WICHITA--On 18 April, Jeff Cox, Larry Gray and I saw a Sanderling at Quivira N.W.R. and a Black-necked Stilt at Cheyenne Bottoms. Also one interesting but strictly hypothetical sighting--a possible Olivaceous Cormorant at the Bottoms. The bird in question was with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants and appeared to be smaller by a third, more slender, small-billed, with a very dingy or dusky cast. On the Texas Coast I would have called it an Olivaceous, but since the only Kansas record I know of is from 1872, more details would be desirable. Did Schwilling or anyone else get a definite identification on this one? At any rate, Kansas birders should be on the watch for this species, as there are lots of recent records for Oklahoma. The most likely times of the year to look for it would be late summer (many sightings on Lake Texoma) or April (northernmost Oklahoma records, and only Kansas record). Kenn Kaufman

Great Bend--A White Ibis was seen at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge on 2 May by refuge personnel. It was later photographed by Marvin Schwilling. It was an adult bird and details will be published in the Bulletin. [This bird has since moved to Cheyenne Bottoms Editor]. Marvin Schwilling.

Baldwin-- Birds seem to be arriving about on schedule but a White-eyed Vireo got here 9 April, two weeks earlier than previously published. Amelia Betts.

Winfield--The Winfield City Lake was the proud carrier of a family of Canada Geese. A flock of seven remained at the lake and a pair hatched out two goslings. Officer Robert Berry, lake patrol officer reported the sighting. They moved to the upper portion of the lake where it is too shallow for boats. Max C. Thompson

FALL MEETING TO BE HELD AT JUNCTION CITY. SPRING MEETING TO BE HELD AT HAYS

Camp Towanyak--This report, as always, includes almost daily coverage of this area with occasional notations from other near-by areas. An average of 5 hours was spent in the field during the peak of migration.

There were numerous disadvantages to spring 1971 birdwatching; spring came early and leaves were well in advance from one to two weeks. Windy days, and gusty winds made for difficult locating of the birds in the dense foliage. There was no quantity and very little quality..what we DID get was like pulling needles out of a very dense haystack. The birds were not singing readily, and when they did sing, the song was sparse and incomplete. At times we were almost reduced to saying "that's the tree that had two Blackburnian Warblers in it last year" or "there's where we had a Bay-breasted Warbler in '69" etc. There were a few contradictions of course, such as Golden-winged Warblers on four different and not consecutive days, with good views for the entire group of half a dozen birdwatchers...also ample opportunity to learn his unusual, oft-repeated buzzy song. Then there was the non-singing, but most co-operative Palm Warbler (our first at Towanyak in many years) that slowly and meticulously combed the branches and leaves of the post oaks in a small area, allowing the party of 10-12 to view him with satisfaction. Black-throated Greens on several occasions put on a heart-warming display. However, it wasn't until May 19 after a fairly cold night, with temperatures in the early a.m. around 50 degrees, with a cold front to the north of us, that we had any degree of "bird" in the trees. Singing on this day was more like it should have been, and there was more activity than on any previous day. Wind was gusty, locating the singers was difficult.

Our birding was curtailed, somewhat on the 23-27 May by company and some of my daily records are incomplete. A few of these days I only recorded what birds were heard and observed from our yard. On the 26th, after a cold, raw, misty day, it finally cleared around 4:30 p.m. and the sun broke through..here we got our first real "waves" of warblers. In a short time we had 11 species, but more important, we had quantity of birds moving through the trees for the first time. They were moving and feeding in little waves of 15-20 birds, all different species, just moving in a general north-easterly direction, with very little song. Got the first Philadelphia Vireo of the season (and only one) on this date... also 5 female Redstarts in close proximity. Also on this date there were definite waves of Empidonax flycatchers, with numerous Acadian and Traill's. Solitary Vireos were scarce all season, as they were last year. Ovenbirds seemed more numerous than usual.

The following daily lists show some indication of movement: Our best day this year was 12 May with 67 species and 13 warblers. (Last year our best day was 16 May with 75 species, 18 warblers and in 1969--the famous year--our best was 93 species, 23 warblers on 23 May);

10 May	62 species, 11 warblers	20 May	60 species, 10 Warblers
11	55	21	51
12	67	22	52
13	55	23	52
14	58	24	6
15	66	25	5
16	64	26	67
18	11	27	8
19	11	28	4

Weather conditions, throughout the season, were, I suppose, near normal; although we had unseasonably warm weather from April 12-21. On 17-18 April we received light rain, which was badly needed, and on the 22nd it became much colder, dropping to 44 degrees. On 3 May we had a 30 degree early morning temperature with heavy frost in the low-land. Temperatures remained cool with another frost on 20 May when we saw our best bird of the year--a beautiful male Lazuli Bunting. A heavy squall line over a large area to the west may have accounted for this accidental appearance.

On 21 May, all birds seemed to be gone from the area, with the exception of the permanent and summer residents. It was very quiet with practically no activity. However, that

afternoon I got my first Blackburnian Warbler for the year..I had begun to doubt that we would have any at all. From 21-28 May it was cold and raw with termittent rain and cloud cover and early morning temperatures from 38-50 degrees.

A large flock of wintering goldfinch had been visiting the feeders continuousoy through early April, but began to disperse with the warm days and as their plumage became increaslingly more brilliant. We saw the last of the feeding flock on 27 April. Siskins came late this year wind there were only a dozen or so. They were gone before April. Our last Slate-colored Junco was seen 15 April. White-throated Sparrows were moving into the area by the middle of March. Only two White-crowned Sparrows, one on 2 April the other 10 May. The first Lincoln's Sparrow was 18 April; they were never abundant. Harris Sparrow were fairly common thru April. We found our first of a few batches of Moral Mushrooms on the 27th of April....Redbud was way past peak; mayapples in full bloom; violets, dutchman's breeches, toothwort all through blooming; ALL trees well leafed out; buckeye in FULL BLOOM. This in comparison to last year, same date, when I wrote "redbuds Not QUITE in bloom; mayapple in leaf only; violets and wood phlox Just starting to bloom, buckeyes and elms leafed out, but no other trees..".

Goatsuckers, as I predicted after the martin kill of last spring, were down in numbers and we do not hear the mixed serenades as of past years. Worthy of note, and unusual, is the difference in time of arrival between Whippoorwill and Chuck-wills-widow--a lapse of 20 days, where usually there is less or no more than one week. Perhaps the cold nights kept them from singing, our only way of knowing when they have arrived. Our martin house stands empty--agrim reminder of devastation by weather last year--there were no survivors or y ounge to return.

Thrushes were fairly common all spring, with more Gray-cheeked than usual and more singing. Our first nesting of blueb irds was successful, with the fledglings leaving the nest on 8 May. By the 15th, the male had four young at the feeder in our yard and continued to bring them often while the female began incubating her second clutch of eggs. By the time the second brood hatched, the first four were on their own, and still visit the feeder. Summer tanagers come in often for suet mix, and donuts. Five species of woodpeckers feed regularly on suet mix..Red-bellied, Red-headed, Downy, Hairy and Flicker. Colonel Thompson, who has a 72-room martin house in Leawood, reports it is 2/3 occupied and that the martins are eager for and carry away all the crushed eggshells he can provide on a tray below the house. He lost about 30 martins last year.

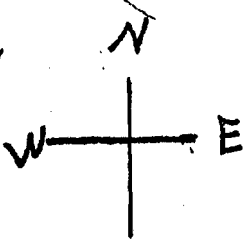
[The following have been excerpted from Myers total list due to the space limitations Editor]. Black and White Warbler, 28 April-26 May; Golden-winged Warbler, 5 May, 11-13 May (this last one sang song usually connected with one of the hybrids--four single buzzes on same pitch, but from all appearances was a regular Golden-winged. Tennessee Warbler, 4 May-26 May; Orange-crowned Warbler, 28 April-16 May; Nashville Warbler 17 April-19 May; Parula Warbler 22 April-31 May; Yellow Warbler 8 May-26; Magnolia Warbler 18-26 May; Myrtle Warbler 17 April-14 May; Black-throat ed Green Warbler 6-26 May; Cerulean Warbler 12-28 May; Blackburnian Warbler 21-26 May; Yellow-throated Warbler, 23 May [uncommon]; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10-22 May; Bay-breasted Warbler 10 May, Shawnee Mission Park Sandra Yeskie and Ardie Kestar; Blackpoll Warbler 9-21 May; Palm Warbler, 12 May; Ovenbird, 10 May-June 2; Northern Water-thrush, 2 June; La. Waterthrush 20 April, usually nests here--apparently didn't stay; Kentucky Warbler, 6 May (nesting); Mourning Warbler, 17 May-June 3, still here this warbler always last to leave [latest day on record, Editor]; Yellowthroat, 1 May; Hooded Warbler 23 May; Wilson's Warbler, 8-16 May; Canada Warbler, 18-24 May; Redstart, 18-24 May. Mary Louise and Jim Myers.

#### Nesting Card Scheme Participants

Dr. Robert Mengel at the University of Kansas Museum of Natuaral History, Lawrence, Kansas 66044 would like to have all persons helping out with the nesting record program to send your names t o him. This way he can forward you any information that comes from Cornell University.

THE EDITOR APPRECIATES THE TREMENDOUS VOLUME OF NOTES THIS ISSUE. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL COME OUT IN OCTOBER AND WILL COVER THE BREEDING SEASON. GOOD BIRDING.

1" = 5000'



TO MILFORD LAKE ↑  
77

JUNCTION CITY

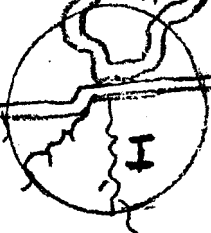
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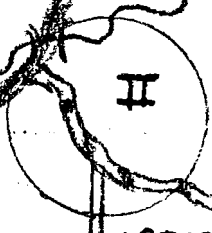
SMOKY HILL RIVER

CAMP WASHINGTON

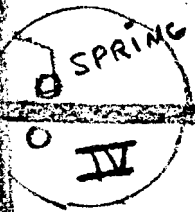
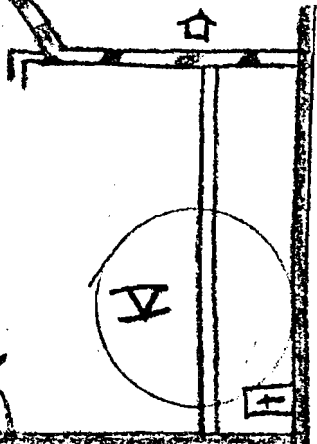


LYON CR

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STATE PARK



SPRING

TO ROCK SPRINGS, YH CAMP ←

Birding areas around Manhattan and Junction City. Submitted by Celia White.