

SOCIETY LOSES TWO MEMBERS

Dean Cole passed away in mid-October at his home in Shawnee Mission. Dean was active in Society affairs and will be missed greatly.

Mrs. Galen Abbot passed away at her home in El Dorado in early October. Mrs. Abbot was a member of the Society and active in the garden clubs of El Dorado.

FALL MEETING 1971

The fall meeting was held at Cheyenne Bottoms on September 25-26, with Marvin Schwilling hosting the meeting. The field trip yielded a total of 125 species, second only to 1970 fall trip which had a total of 133 (also at Cheyenne Bottoms). Three new species were added to the fall count composite list: Sabine's Gull, Laughing Gull and Baltimore Oriole. The total species seen on fall counts since records have been kept is 232. The following were seen at the Bottoms: Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Redhead, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Flacon, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Knot, Pectoral, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, W. Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The fall meeting of the Board of Directors was also held. This will appear in the Newsletter as soon as the Editor receives the minutes (last spring also).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS FROM BALDWIN

KOS membership for 1971 reached 322 in August--two less than in August 1970. Of these, 93 were sustaining members, 9 were life, 206 were regular, 14 were grade and high school students. New members totaled 27, just half of last year.

Fall is a good time to invite new members to join because their dues are credited to next year with the remainder of this year thrown in for good measure.

Dues reminder envelopes for 1972 were mailed with the September Bulletin. Please mail it in promptly. Only a little more than half the membership was paid up for 1971 when dues fell due on January 1, 1971. LET'S DO BETTER THIS FALL!!!!!! Amelia J. Betts

Southeastern Kansas Notes--May 2, a pair of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was observed by my husband and me. They were seen near Jayhawk Lake, about 5 miles north and 2 miles east of Lowell. Overflow water from the lake runs into a stream for one quarter mile and then into Spring River. The area is heavily wooded.

In this same area on May 5, we saw a male Hooded Warbler. This is our first record. We saw the bird twice. Mr. Qualls and Frances Qualls from Ardmore, Penn. also saw the bird.

We noticed very few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the feeders this year. Last year feeders had to be filled almost daily, and this year they were used little. Two nests were found where we usually find 8-10.

Pileated Woodpeckers are around the house often, drumming on the nearby telephone post.

Some interesting data on Yellow-billed Cuckoos: They nest late, 20-40 feet high. The female remains at the nest site and the male brings all the nesting material. The male feeds young and also helps incubate. This year they were building as late as August 28. Mrs. W. H. Qualls

Notes from Hays--Selected Fall Records from Ellis County:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird- 6 records (2 adult males) 28 September-6 October.
Mississippi Kite- "Pair" in Hays all summer; building nest on 17-18 July (MER).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher- 5 September at Ellis (RW); 22 September at Hays.
Hammond Flycatcher - Singles, 8 and 29 September at Hays (4th and 5th for State).
Western Wood Pewee- Immature netted at Hays on 14 September.
White-breasted Nuthatch- Noted occasionally during summer at Hays.
Red-breasted Nuthatch- 6 September at Ellis (earliest fall date) RW.
Carolina Wren - 17 July; 1 singing in Hays; so far left; 1st local record (CAE).
Rock Wren- Still present north of Ellis on 5 October.
Hermit Thrush- 3 netted at Hays 5-9 October (rare)
Philadelphia Vireo- 1 netted at Hays on 1 October (3rd record).
Solitary Vireo- Common for second consecutive fall (12 netted, 11 September-3 October).
Tennessee Warbler- Singles at Ellis 12 September; Hays on 17-18 September.
Orange-crowned Warbler- 1st major movement on 29-30 September.
Northern Waterthrush- 1 at Ellis, 6 September (3rd fall record)
Mourning Warbler- Singles netted at Hays on 8 September, Ellis on 18th.
MacGillivray's Warbler- Singles netted at Hays on 2 and 5 September; at Ellis on 7th.
Wilson's Warbler- 1st seen on 10 September at Ellis, early date.
Black-headed Grosbeak- Pair nested at Ellis; last Hays date 29 September.
Lazuli Bunting- Male netted at Ellis on 20 August (1st fall record RW).
House Finch- 5 October, 2 at Hays, early date.
Brewer's Sparrow- 1 netted at Hays on 14 September.
Charles A. Ely, Richard Weber and Marvin E. Rolfs.

Notes from Winfield--A banding station was set up in mid-August on the Arkansas River. The only surprises that we have had has been the lack of birds. When we banded in 1969, we banded about 450 Nashville Warblers. This year the total was less than 25. This goes for nearly every species. Hays reported much the same conditions. Warblers were extremely scarce.

The only bright light to report is the abundance of Hleated Woodpeckers in the area. I heard three calling at one time at the banding station and although they are not always seen everyday, they are always heard. The station and woods is 14 miles straight south of Udall, Kansas on the Arkansas River. Max C. Thompson

The Board of Directors voted to not support the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers proposed Hillsdale Lake. A letter stating the opinion of the board was sent to Colonel R. L. Anderson, Jr. in Kansas City, by Stan Roth, Jr., Conservation Committee Chairman. The board also sent a telegram to the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission hearings in Pratt concerning cyanide guns. The Commission did not change the laws which was a plus for conservation efforts. (Dean Cole and Elizabeth attended as observers for the KOS).

A new checklist of the birds of Kansas will be off the press in the near future. This checklist published by the Society is a new checklist with ALL of the birds that have been recorded in the State listed. The old checklist just had the common birds. The rare birds on the new checklist will be marked. When they are available for distribution, we will publish it in the Newsletter.

A History and Distributional List of Ellis County, Kansas, Birds, by Charles A. Ely is available now. The publication is science series no. 9 and was published in June 1971. It is 115 pages long and has alot of information in it about the county.

SHEEP INDUSTRY CHARGED WITH "DRENCHING WEST IN POISON".

Powerful wool-growing interests aided by federal government bureaucrats are drenching the American West with deadly poisons, a major article in the August Reader's Digest has charged. The incredibly destructive campaign has brought several wild-animal species to the edge of extinction and is even threatening human life and health, says author Jack Olsen, a Colorado writer who has written a number of conservation-minded books and articles.

Citing eye-witness reports, Olsen shows that in attempting to protect their industry by wiping out predators, the sheepmen, often abetted by field trappers of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have violated the law by spreading poison on public lands. They have also resorted to such deceptions as placing sheep wool in the stomachs of trapped wild animals to "prove" that a high percentage of bears and coyotes are sheep killers.

Using modern equipment - planes, trail bikes, snowmobiles and pickup trucks - the poisoners cover the land with such lethal chemicals as cyanide, arsenic, strychnine and thallium. One of the most widely-used poisons is sodium fluoroacetate, or "1080", on ounce of which is toxic enough to wipe out 20,000 coyotes - or 200 men.

In one case history cited by Olsen, a Colorado hunting guide discovered that 1080 had been used to lace sheep carcasses as bait for predators. Twice in two weeks the trapper saw snow cover the carcasses, then melt into a nearby stream-- from which

it might eventually reach human consumers.

So powerful are the sheepman, says the Digest, that legislation aimed at control of the poisoning invariably goes down to defeat, as do some legislators who oppose the formidable wool-growers lobby.

When one Montana state legislator introduced a bill that would merely have required the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obey its own poisoning regulations, the Montana Wool Growers Association immediately mounted a successful campaign to defeat the bill.

Ironically, says Olsen, there is evidence that the frenzied efforts to wipe out predators may actually be having an opposite effect. Colorado naturalist Alfred Etter asserts: "Where we have starved the coyote, indiscriminately killing its food supply, we have uniformly encountered increasing reports of predation. By keeping the coyote population harassed and in a constant state of flux, we disrupt his territorial habits and make him, in effect, into a different animal—desperate, itinerant, a potential sheep killer. But if he had been left undisturbed, we would probably never have heard from him. The same applies to other predators."

The poisoning has devastated some of America's once-great wildlife species, says Olsen. "There are broad areas in California where the coyote has been completely eliminated. Black Bears and foxes are gone in some areas. The Kit Fox, a master controller of rodents, has vanished from thousands of square miles of the prairie. The Black-footed Ferret is about to flicker out as a species. One of the very few surviving California Condors fell to 1080-treated grain. Even the Mountain Lion, officially listed as an endangered species, is specifically and mercilessly being killed."

Can the slaughter be stopped? "If there is a logical point of attack," writes Olsen, "it would seem to be at the poisoning programs on government land."

So far, neither state legislatures nor the United States Congress have paid much attention to the problem. Concerned citizens, writing to their state and federal representatives, could help bring about a constructive change in attitude.

If you are changing addresses, don't forget to write and tell us. We spent \$2 on the last mailing for return postage. We also appreciate getting a permanent address. One person had three address changes in three weeks. That meant three plates were made and discarded.

The Board of Directors agreed to establish a KOS library for our exchange publications. You will be hearing more about this at a later date. Also we will publish a list of exchange publications plus a membership roster which hasn't been done for several years.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES TODAY IF YOU HAVEN'T

SPRING MEETING AT HAYS ON APRIL 29-30

PLEASE GET YOUR NEWS IN FOR THE NOVEMBER LETTER