

## KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Southwestern College  
Winfield, Kansas 67156

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## ANNUAL MEETING AT LAWRENCE

The annual meeting was held at Lawrence on April 28-29. Paper sessions were on Saturday and field trips on Sunday. It was the 25th anniversary of the society. Minutes of the meeting will appear in a future issue of the Newsletter.

The field trips on Sunday found a delayed migration with only 112 species being seen. This was close to the lowest number ever seen on a spring count by the KOS. The list is as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret (seen near the lunch area on Sunday, immediately after everyone had left), Common Egret, White-fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Osprey, Am. Kestner (new name), Bobwhite, Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-Widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Humming Bird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, E. Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, E. Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, 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, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, E. Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, White Crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

## LOCAL ITEMS

Spring Season in Topeka--This spring was a humble spring compared with last year. Topekans found warblers - 24 of them, only 2 less than last year but there were not as many: 1 each of Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted, where there had been several of each last spring. Nonetheless, this spring must be counted as an exciting spring. Highlights include a male Lazuli Bunting photographed 29 April (Gene Lockhart), the count's first Cattle Egret 24 May (Woods), and a good sized colony of Henslow's Sparrows, first noted 24 May (Woods). A shockingly early Black-throated Green was found 2 April (Mrs. Beers). Other warblers included a Canada 21 May (Harry Conwell), a singing Hooded 30 May and a female Golden-winged 11 May (Woods). Numerous this spring were Ovenbirds and especially Parulas. Mourning Warblers peaked on 21 to 23 May. Both Marsh wrens again showed, and a Veery was still hanging around on 25 May (Woods). An impressive sight was a compact flock of 70 Double-crested Cormorants circling and soaring above Gage Park on 9 May (Woods). Poor-wills again returned to the County--I suspect they have always been here. My records show wee-bee-o type Traill's singing 11 to 25 May, and a fitz-bew type singing May 25. Also, I found a Franklin's Ground Squirrel near Topeka on 26 May, the first I've seen in Kansas...Woods.

Second annual weekend at Rock Springs: The weekend of 18-20 May about 65 members and friends of the Topeka Audubon Society gathered again at Rock Springs 4<sub>H</sub> camp in Geary County. We had 2 excellent and stimulating programs, 1 by Steve Frostwell on songbird conservation, the other by Jim Parker on Mississippi Kites. We found 101 species of birds in the area, and recorded a number of nests. Notable warblers included Blackburnian, Mourning, and many Parulas. Gnatcatchers were again quite common, 2 nests were found. In contrast to last year (see KOS Newsletter 44) both Chuck-will's Widows and Whip-poor-wills were rare, and only a few Poor-wills were heard. Barred Owls were numerous and seen by many. White-breasted Nuthatches were feeding fledged young. Also seen were a White-rumped Sandpiper, a late Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Wood Thrush, and a Philadelphia Vireo. Of special interest, I found an apparently territorial pair of buntings, the male Indigo and the female Lazuli... Woods

Harvey County Report-- It was a good spring for birdwatchers in the Newton area. Migrants seemed to be here in greater numbers and variety than usual, although this may be because the number of enthusiastic and competent birdwatchers in the area increased. Chronologically, some of our spring records were: 11 March, Fox Sparrow; Eastern Phoebe and Vesper Sparrow, 17 March; Pied-billed Grebe 1 April, Swainson's Hawk, 7 April, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 11 April; Barn Swallow, 14 April, Chipping Sparrow, 16 April, E. Kingbird, 17 April, Hermit Thrush and Myrtle Warbler, 18 April; Scissortail Flycatcher, 19 April; Chimney Swift, 22 April; House Wren and Western Kingbird 22 April; Lark Sparrow 25 April; Clay-colored Sparrow, 27 April; Worm-eating Warbler, 29 April; Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warbler, 30 April; Am. Redstart, 1 May; Least Flycatcher, 2 May; Bell's Vireo, 4 May; Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler and Dickcissel; Yellowthroat and Wilson's Warbler 6 May; Solitary Vireo, Magnolia, Blackpoll Warbler and Ovenbird 8 May; Catbird, 10 May; Wood Thrush and Nighthawk, 12 May; Chestnut-sided Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo, 15 May; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 17 May; Yellow-breasted Chat, 19 May; Traill's Flycatcher, 23 May.

This spring has also brought several notable nesting records. On about 8 May, an adult Carolina Wren with three fledglings was seen on the Bethel College campus, and have been seen many times since. Wood Ducks are probably nesting at Harvey Co. Park and just south of the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation, although these are unconfirmed by actual nest records. Wood Thrushes have been seen at Harvey Co. Park as recently as 16 June and may be nesting there. The abundance of water this spring has brought an increase of water-bird nesting activities to the area. For the first time we have confirmed nest records of Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, and Pied-billed Grebes on the reservation. American Bittern are also probably nesting just west of the Sand Prairie Reservation, but this is also unconfirmed.

The list of birds seen on or above the Sand Prairie Reservation is growing rapidly and is now at about 150 species. A few of the recent additions include: Ring-necked Duck, 21 March; Long-billed Dowitcher, 1 April; Rusty Blackbird, 7 April; Double-crested Cormorant, 11 April; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 12 May; and E. Wood Pewee, 23 May along with a Redstart.

Last fall and this spring we tried to do some mist-netting along Sand Creek (1/4 mi. E. North Newton) whenever we had time. Using from one to three nets, we banded about 100 individuals including 34 species. These included: 10 finches, grosbeaks and sparrows; 8 warblers; 3 blackbirds and orioles; 3 vireos; and 11 miscellaneous species. Stan Senner and Dwight Platt.

## ALASKA PIPELINE BILL

This week and the next could be extremely crucial as far as future fuel supply in the midwest is concerned. On July 9 the United States Senate begins consideration of Senate Bill S. 1081, the rights-of-way bill. If passed as it stands, this measure will permit construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline. Conservationists are recommending an amendment to the bill that would permit study of the Canadian route. Many environmentalists believe that there is time enough to permit a study of the Canadian route, since construction for either route is estimated to involve about the same amount of time.

Sen. Walter Mondale and Sen. Birch Bayh will propose a floor amendment to require a one-year independent study of all trans-Canada alternatives for transporting the North Slope oil to the "lower 48" states. On the basis of this impartial National Academy of Sciences study the final choice would be made by Congress.

The House is moving more slowly on the pipeline issue and their is still time to write your representative and urge him to vote for the Canadian study. This is a crucial vote and unless congress votes to study the Trans-Canada route, they will build the pipeline across Alaska, crossing many seismic zones, rivers (including the Yukon) mountains. Editorials in the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post have both urged Congress to look into the Canadian route first. Write your Senators and Representatives today.

### LEFTOVERS FROM THE LAWRENCE MEETING

1 pair of ladies glasses which was left at the KOS banquet. They have multi-colored frames. Write Marion Mengel at the Museum of Natural History to claim.

Copies of the group photograph are still available if anyone else wants to order one. They are \$3.50 plus mailing cost (I should say including).

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY NEWS

Ten new members joined KOS during the spring meeting at Lawrence. This brings the total for 1973 to 336, just 13 less than all last year.

Thirty-nine new members have joined this year, but 45 dropped for non-payment of dues and other reasons. With such a good start, this might be the year to get our membership up to the 400-mark. If you know of prospective members, just send their names to me at Baldwin City, Kansas 66006 and I will send them information and membership applications. Amelia J. Betts.

### BOARD MEETS WITH THE FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMM.

The Board met with Mr. Wetterstein at Pratt on 23 May to discuss what the Commission is doing about including non-game species in with the work they do with game species. The meeting lasted two hours with both sides asking and answering questions. An impromptu Board meeting afterwards indicated that most Board (KOS) members felt the Director was sympathetic to the cause of nongame species but wasn't really pushing to get in a nongame biologist now or in the immediate future. Since the Commission is funded by fish and game licenses they didn't feel it was proper to pay for a nongame biologist from such funds and that such a biologist would probably have to be funded from the State Legislature. The Board will discuss the meeting further at the December Board meeting and make recommendations to the membership. Max C. Thompson, President

KANSAS CHECK-LISTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR AT SOUTHWESTERN

1973-74 Officers  
are listed on the Bulletin