

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Museum of Natural History

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, 66045

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Spring migration exclusive of ducks and geese got underway in early March this year. Some of the dates in which you might be interested are as follows: Purple Martin, March 12, Topeka and Lawrence; Franklin Gull, March 13, Topeka; Eastern Phoebe, March 13; Chimney Swift, April 6; Turkey Vulture, March 13; Sanderling March 14; Greater Yellow-legs March 15, Udall; Lesser Yellow-legs, March 21; Common Snipe, March 15; Semipalmated Sandpiper, March 21; House Wren, March 13; Bewick Wren, April 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, April 8; Lark Sparrow, April 6; Rough-winged Swallow, April 5; Barn Swallow, April 1; Whip-poor-will, April 9; Baird Sandpiper, March 14; Pectoral Sandpiper, March 12; Parula Warbler, April 11; Louisiana Water-thrush; April 2; Vesper Sparrow, March 22; Solitary Sandpiper, March 27; Water Pipit, March 15; Hermit Thrush, March 23, Baldwin. All of the dates not marked to locality are from Lawrence, Kansas. If you will take your Directory to the Bird-life of Kansas by R. F. Johnston and check the dates of these arrivals, you will find that many early dates have been established this year. The KU Botany Department tells us that according to the flowering plants, the spring is twelve days late but apparently the birds don't think so.

Some unfinished winter business is still on the assistant editors' desk. Mrs. Bessie Boso sent in some interesting banding returns. Carolina Chickadee banded January 1961, returned on January 1962, November 1963; Cardinal banded November 1962, returned January 1964; Tree Sparrow banded January 1961 returned January 1962, January 1964; Tree Sparrow banded December 1960 returned January 1962, February 1964; Mockingbird banded December 1962, returned February 1964; White-crowned Sparrow banded December 1962, returned February 1964. She adds that a number of birds returned from six months to a year after being banded.

Jock LaShelle from Junction City reports sighting two Goshawks there this winter. We don't have many reports of this bird, as it is a sporadic winter visitor. Another sporadic winter visitor to the eastern part of Kansas is the Mountain Bluebird. Jock sighted one of these in a grove of cedars on March 1.

The spring meeting will be held at Emporia on May 2-3. We hope that you will attend and take part in the program. The request for space on the program should have been in by April 13 to Dr. J. C. Johnson, Jr. program chairman, Department of Biology, Pittsburg State College.

Dr. James Chapin, eminent ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History, passed away earlier this month. He was known for his work on African birds.

Secretarys' Report--Less than twenty members paid their 1964 dues during March, leaving about 75 still delinquent. Sustaining memberships have increased to thirty, five less than last year, and only half of what the Society needs to balance each student membership with a membership that pays enough more to make up for the deficit incurred in \$1.00 memberships. From those members who are unable to make the jump from \$2.00 to \$5.00, any additional payment of less than that is always welcome and needed. The membership appeal letter will be distributed at the annual meeting in Emporia, May 2-3. However, the secretary has a supply on hand and will be glad to mail

them out to any prospects whose names you mail to her.

Treasurer Carson has been on a trip to California. KOS officers hope he is swamped with dues payments when he returns.

The secretary has received a letter from Charles A. Ely asking that he be replaced on the KOS Board because he will be away from his teaching duties at Fort Hays Kansas State College until the fall of 1965. He writes "I have taken a two year leave of absence from my teaching duties to accept a temporary position with the Smithsonian Institution. I am field director of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program in the Central Pacific and am having a very exciting time. We are studying the various species both on their breeding islands and also at sea with emphasis on distribution and ecology. Needless to say we are finding volumes of new information in this little worked area. After studying prairie birds it seems rather strange to be handling boobies, tropicbirds, frigates, shearwaters, petrels and the like." Dr. Ely's family has joined him in Honolulu.
--Amelia Betts, Secretary--

The Smithsonian Institution is at present circulating a number of traveling exhibitions, some of which may be of particular interest to ornithologists. Interested institutions or individuals should write for folders and itineraries to Mrs. John A. Pope, Chief, Traveling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.

The New York State Library has surplus copies of Bumps's "The Ruffed Grouse". These are available for distribution to libraries and institutions interested in the field of ornithology. Institutions desiring complimentary copies should apply to: New York State Library, Gift and Exchange Section, Albany, New York.

We note sadly the death of Rachel Carson on April 14. Death always seems inappropriate, and it is especially so with Miss Carson, who had over the past several years assumed a real leadership of people interested in life and living. Her death is even more inopportune at present, for it seems that we are about to witness part of her work coming to fruition: persistent contamination of the Mississippi River basin is now so serious that legislation must be enacted to correct it. The profound ecologic imbalances in the Mississippi at present are a result of inordinately minute amounts of toxic chemicals in the water; that these compounds were even look for, much less found to be causally related to the incredible fish kills, is probably a direct result of the attention focussed on potential pesticide dangers by Miss Carson only two years ago.

We shall remember Miss Carson's abilities as artist and scientist, but we ought not forget her understanding of man's relationships—esthetic, moral, and humanitarian—toward the world in which he lives; it is this that gave her work its characteristic symmetry.--R.F.J.--

Please do not forget the annual meeting at Emporia State Teachers College on May 2-3. We will be looking forward to meeting old friends and hearing what other birders in the State are doing.

The next newsletter will be somewhat delayed probably so as to catch as much migration news as possible, since the May issue will be the last one until October. I hope to hear from some of you by May 25.
Max C. Thompson, Assistant Editor.