

# Kansas Ornithological Society

# NEWSLETTER

Box 36, Nekoma, Kansas 67559

April 1987

Vol. 14, No. 3

## WINTER BIRD SUMMARY/ Dec. 86 - Feb. 87 / by Scott Seltman

The winter of 86/87 was a disappointment to many Kansas birders as there were few rarities and even expected species were present only in small numbers. Most observers attributed the scarcity of birds to the weather. The severe cold spell in late November pushed many birds out of our state and probably killed many of the half-hardy birds that remained. But by mid-December the weather moderated and the balance of the season was relatively mild. Snowfall was light in December and January throughout most of the state and February seemed more like March in western Kansas. Southcentral Kansas received locally heavy snow in late February, making life miserable for humans but probably having little effect on birds. During the winter months many northern birds were conspicuously absent from Kansas as a lack of snow cover and mild temperatures on the northern plains probably allowed many birds to winter far to our north. 'Asio' owls, several sparrow species, and longspurs were very scarce. In contrast, Pine Siskins were abundant and Red Crossbills made a good showing statewide. Bohemian Waxwings staged a minor invasion into western Kansas in January then retreated back north with the arrival of warmer temperatures. Many of the season's better sightings occurred during Christmas Bird Counts and have already been summarized in the March issue of the Bulletin. This report does include several entries from the Chautauqua County portion of the Hulah Reservoir CBC which is centered in Oklahoma.

Western Grebe	Perry Res.	G. Pittman R. Rucker	12-06-86	Jefferson	
Mute Swan	Hillsdale Res.	Mike Muehler	1-24-87	Miami	
(As feral Mute Swans continue to increase in the Great Lakes region Kansas birders should not forget this species when encountering swans in the east.)					
Trumpeter Swan	4	Bob LaShelle	12-18-86	Morris	
Trumpeter Swan	3	Mike Rader T. Cable	12-20-86	Saline	
Oldsquaw	2 on Cedar Bluff	S. Seltman	1-24-87	Trego	
Oldsquaw		Bob Gress m.ob.	1-03-87	Sedgwick	
Merlin	Richardson's n. Seward	S. Seltman	2-05-87	Stafford	
Merlin		Sebastian Patti	12-31-86	Kearny	
Wild Turkey	70 at Cedar Bluff	S. Seltman	1-10-87	Trego	
Whooping Crane	Imm. seen with Sandhills at Quivira. This bird retreated to Oklahoma until 3-18.	Jim McCollum	2-10-87	Stafford	
Thayer's Gull	2 below Tuttle	Ted Cable	1-02-87	Riley	
Glaucous Gull	1 below Tuttle	Ted Cable	12-05-86	Riley	
Glaucous Gull	Junction City landfill		12-29-86	Clay?	
Eastern Screech-Owl	Ness City park	S. Seltman	1-24-87	Ness	
Snowy Owl	Quivira Big Salt Marsh	Gary Sullivan	1-06-87	Stafford	
Barred Owl	6	Don & Bo Verser	12-19-86	Chautauqua	
Long-eared Owl	Roost containing as many as 18 different birds.	Versers, Droege to	12-19-86	Chautauqua	
Yellow-bellied Sap.	2 on Hulah CBC	Don & Bo Verser	1-01-87	Chautauqua	
Yellow-bellied Sap.	definitely 'varius'	S. Seltman	12-19-86	Chautauqua	
Scrub Jay	2 on Ark. R.	S. Seltman	1-24-87	Ness	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ness City	Sebastian Patti	12-31-86	Hamilton	
Mountain Bluebird		S. Seltman	1-24-87	Ness	
Mountain Bluebird	2 in Larned	S. Seltman	December Chase	2-03-87	Pawnee

Varied Thrush	This male which visited a feeder near 95th & Roe was seen by many area birders. Length of stay unknown. Donna Snider m.ob.		1-16-87 Johnson
Curve-billed Thrasher		Jay & Verna Miller	12-01-86 Reno
Bohemian Waxwing	1 in Lakin Cem.	Sebastian Patti	12-31-86 Kearny
Bohemian Waxwing	4 in Ness City Cem.	S. Seltman	1-10-87 Ness
Bohemian Waxwing	5	Don & Fran Vannoy	1-11-87 Ness
Bohemian Waxwing	1 with 8 Cedars	Dave Bryan S. Seltman	1-17-87 Ness
Bohemian Waxwing	5-10 with 300 Cedars	S. Seltman	1-26-87 Pawnee
Northern Shrike		S. Seltman	12-25-86 Rush
Northern Shrike	adult along Ark. R.	Vannoys & Seltmans	1-04-87 Hamilton
Northern Shrike		S. Seltman	1-13-87 Pawnee
Painted Bunting	Male which visited a feeder in Lawrence was seen by many area birders. Outside dates of occurrence unknown. Jan Conrad nw. of McPherson		1-07-87 Douglas
Green-tailed Towhee		Allen Jahn	1-18-87 McPherson
"White-winged" Junco		Ted Cable	1-19-87 Pottawatomie
Brewer's Blackbird	1 on Hulah CBC	Don & Bo Verser	12-19-86 Chautauqua
Purple Finch	14 on Hulah CBC	Don & Bo Verser	12-19-86 Chautauqua
House Finch	100+	Sebastian Patti	12-31-86 Kearny
House Finch	sev. in Hutchinson	Jim Smith	January Reno
Red Crossbill	2 fem.	S. Seltman	1-24-87 Ness
Red Crossbill	15-30 in Larned	S. Seltman	February Pawnee
Red Crossbill	several flocks in Wichita	Pete Janzen	1-26-87 Sedgwick
Evening Grosbeak	1 in Ness City	S. Seltman	to 2-10-87 1-25-87 Ness

Editors Note: This is the first in a series of seasonal summaries to be printed in the Newsletter. This feature was created to provide a forum for the prompt and accurate reporting of unusual bird sightings in Kansas.

The reporting periods will correspond with those used by American Birds making it convenient for birders to mail copies of their records to that publication as well as the Newsletter. While the editor will edit the material carefully it should be noted that many of the entries will be sight records that are undocumented and uncorroborated.

All of the records printed here are subject to review by the Records Committee. Before assuming that a bird's official status has changed within Kansas or any Kansas county readers and researchers should await a decision from the committee. Material will be gathered from reports made to the editor and from the Kansas Rare-Bird-Alert. Since your March Newsletter arrived after the deadline date I had set a month earlier some of you may have felt it was too late to mail me your report. Be assured that all reports of unusual birds will be accepted for publication regardless of timeliness. Our purpose here is not to punish procrastinators or those unfamiliar with our publication but to arrange bird records into an interesting and standardized format. The next reporting period stretches from March to May 87. Compilation will occur about June 10.

#### BREEDING BIRD SURVEY VOLUNTEERS

John Zimmerman, state coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey, is looking for able bodied birders to take responsibility for some of the routes. There are immediate openings available for the route in Ottawa County and another in Norton/Phillips counties.

Some of the veteran surveyors are about ready to retire, or at least drop some of their more distant routes. Those who have never conducted a Breeding Bird Survey are certain to find it challenging and fun, especially when several years have gone by on the same route. Interested parties are urged to contact John Zimmerman, Div. of Biology, Ackert Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

#### KOS BIRD SLIDES

At the KOS Midwinter Board Meeting the need was expressed for ready-made slide programs of Kansas birds to be used by teachers, other workers with youth or just about anyone who wants to present a program on birds. Consequently the Board voted to use the Amelia Betts Memorial Fund to finance several sets of programs each of which will be equipped with a written narrative and a prepared audio tape. As a beginning it is planned that two different programs will be designed with several sets of each program to be made available.

To make this project successful we need your help. Please share your high quality bird slides with us by sending the original (preferably) for duplication. The slides will be returned to you unless you indicate otherwise. If you are unsure whether your slides are good enough send them anyway. We'll decide if they can be used. Send the slides to any of the task group working on the project:

Donna Cooper  
2906 Walnut  
Hays, KS 67601

Gerald Wiens  
Chaplin Nature Center  
Route One  
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Gene Lewis  
1285 MacVicar Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN ORNITHOLOGY CLASS

This summer Phillips University of Enid, Oklahoma plans to offer a field ornithology course at its Colorado Field Camp located in the San Juan Mountains of southcentral Colorado. The weeklong class, lasting from May 30 to June 6, is designed for the semi-novice birder who has a developing interest and a desire to receive concentrated instruction to enhance their field identification skills.

The course is open to all persons with a pair of binoculars, a bird guide, and a desire to learn. Max Thompson, accomplished birder and Professor of Biology at Southwestern College, will be the instructor. Tuition is half price for those who audit the class. For details about enrollment contact: Jeff Burkhardt, P.O. Box 2000 University Station, Dept. of Biology, Phillips University, Enid, OK 73702.

#### PURPLE MARTIN COLONY REGISTRY PROGRAM

The Colony Registry Program of the newly formed Purple Martin Conservation Association seeks the help of all persons in locating and registering Purple Martin colonies throughout all of North America in preparation for several projects designed to help this man-dependent species which is experiencing long-term declines. If you know of someone who has a martin colony or is trying to attract one, or if you wish to start a colony yourself write to: P.M.C.A., P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, PA 16412.



REPORT FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE / by Marvin Schwilling, Chairman.

The following records have been reviewed and approved by the Records Committee.

NEW COUNTY RECORDS

Pacific Loon	Geary	Ted Cable, et. al.	11-15-86
Pacific Loon	Lyon	Jean Schulenberg, Jim & Margaret Ptacek	11-27-86
White-faced Ibis	Edwards	Sebastian Patti	9-21-86
White-faced Ibis	Norton	Jim Mayhew	5- -84
White-faced Ibis	Lyon	Jim Mayhew	9-25-86
Trumpeter Swan	McPherson	Allen Jahn	11-24-85
"Blue" Goose	Phillips	Scott Seltman	11-22-86
Oldsquaw	Rooks	Scott Seltman	11-22-86
Oldsquaw	Trego	Tom Shane, et. al.	11-16-86
Hooded Merganser	Rush	Scott Seltman	11-04-86
Red-breasted Merganser	Rooks	Scott Seltman	11-22-86
Mississippi Kite	Osage	Jim Mayhew	9-16-86
Northern Goshawk	Nemaha	Kevin Church	1-13-87
Northern Goshawk	Chase	Marvin Schwilling	12- -86
Golden Eagle	Chautauqua	Steve Capel	12-02-86

Wild Turkey                      The Fish & Game Harvest Report for Spring 1986 reports hunter success with turkeys constituting new county records for the following counties: Allen, Atchinson, Brown, Cherokee, Clay, Cloud, Crawford, Dickinson, Doniphan, Gove, Jackson, Johnson, Lane, Lincoln, Labette, Marshall, Mitchell, Montgomery, Nemaha, Neosho, Ottawa, Republic, Scott, Thomas, Wabaunsee, and Wilson.

(Turkey records are still needed for Greeley, Wichita, Washington, Wyandotte, Haskell, Franklin, Anderson, Miami, and lowly Rush. - - Ed.)

Virginia Rail	Scott	Sara Norman	12-08-85
Common Moorhen	Jefferson	Richard Rucker	10-20-86
Sandhill Crane	Chase	Bob Clarke	9-30-86
Whooping Crane	Saline	Kevin Church	10-10-86
Whooping Crane	McPherson	Jerry Almquist	11-04-86
Willet	Pawnee	Scott Seltman	4-16-86
Spotted Sandpiper	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
White-rumped Sandpiper	Wichita	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Rush	Scott Seltman	9-10-86
Laughing Gull	Sedgwick	Duane Mitchell	7-15-86
Bonaparte's Gull	Trego	Tom Shane	11-16-86
Sabine's Gull	Jefferson	Wayne Hoffman, Richard Rucker, et. al.	10-19-86
Monk Parakeet	Sedgwick	Duane Mitchell	9-22-86
Eastern Screech-Owl	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Eastern Screech-Owl	Pottawatomie	Ted Cable	-86
Rufous Hummingbird	Sedgwick	Ralph Wiley	8-11-86
Willow Flycatcher	Cheyenne	Scott Seltman	7-12-86
Hammond's Flycatcher	Morton	Scott Seltman, et. al.	9-20-86
Vermilion Flycatcher	Meade	Mark Goldsberry	Spring 85/86
Tree Swallow	Pawnee	Scott Seltman	9-16-86
Violet-green Swallow	Morton	Ted Cable	9-26-86
Scrub Jay	Hamilton	Sebastian Patti	12-31-86
White-breasted Nuthatch	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
White-breasted Nuthatch	Cheyenne	Scott Seltman	7-12-86

Rock Wren	Saline	Bob, Dan & John LaShelle	4-07-85
Bewick's Wren	Finney	Larry Herbert	4-05-86
Sedge Wren	Sedgwick	Christmas Count	12- -86
Sedge Wren	Morton	Mick McHugh, et. al.	9-19-86
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Kearny	Sebastian Patti	1-01-87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Trego	Scott Seltman	1-12-86
Hermit Thrush	Barber	Bob Wood	12-21-86
Curve-billed Thrasher	Reno	Jay & Verna Miller	12-05-86
Sprague's Pipit	Pawnee	Scott Seltman	10-09-86
Bohemian Waxwing	Kearny	Sebastian Patti	1-01-87
Bohemian Waxwing	Ness	Scott Seltman	1-10-87
Bell's Vireo	Gove	Scott Seltman	6-07-86
Warbling Vireo	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Red-eyed Vireo	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Yellow Warbler	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Northern Cardinal	Thomas	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Finney	Larry Herbert	5-10-85
Indigo Bunting	Gove	Scott Seltman	6-07-86
LeConte's Sparrow	Trego	Scott Seltman	10-18-86
White-throated Sparrow	Trego	Scott Seltman	10-25-86
Cassin's Sparrow	Wichita	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Eastern Meadowlark	Hodgeman	Scott Seltman	6-06-86
Rusty Blackbird	Trego	Seltmans and Corders	11-08-86
"Bullock's" Oriole	Gove	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
House Finch	Wichita	Scott Seltman	5-31-86
Red Crossbill	Trego	Seltmans and Corders	11-08-86
Evening Grosbeak	Stafford	Champaney, Goodrick, Kilby, Seltman	12-18-86

Correction: Delete Sage Thrasher from Jackson County, Kansas.

#### KOS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

KOS passed the following resolution: Whereas Mrs. Charles Blades of Topeka, Kansas was the prime mover in the successful attempt to persuade the Topeka City Commission to discontinue use of DDT in a Dutch Elm Disease control program, therefore be it resolved that the Kansas Ornithological Society, meeting at Wichita, Kansas, May 5-6, 1962, extends to Mrs. Blades its sincere appreciation for and commendation of her tireless efforts and canny perception in carrying out this work in the name of conservation and for the public benefit.

KOS passed the following resolution: Whereas large white birds include Whooping Cranes, two species of swans, and the Ross' Goose, as well as Snow Geese, and whereas all of these species are occasionally shot by hunters who consider them all to be Snow Geese, and whereas most white birds killed in the Central Flyway are taken west of a line approximated by U.S. Highway 81, therefore be it resolved that the Kansas Ornithological Society press through appropriate agencies for a prohibition of hunting large white birds west of U.S. Highway 81 in the central United States.

#### KOS THIRTY YEARS AGO

At the Ninth Annual Meeting of KOS in Manhattan on May 4, 1957 auditors Hoffman and Menninger found a fifty cent error in the Warrant Book which was corrected. They then approved the Treasurer's Report.

## KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1987 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The KOS will hold it's annual spring meeting at the Tri-County Baptist Camp on May 1, 2 and 3 southwest of Pittsburg in Cherokee County. Following the precedent set in 1974 the meeting will start on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch.

The Tri-County Baptist Camp is located about two miles west of Weir. The entrance has two red brick pillars at the top of a hill on the south side of the road. There are no signs but we will have a temporary KOS sign to identify the camp.

The camp is located on 80 acres with strip pits on much of it. Habitat is much varied with walking trails that provide excellent birding. There are also numerous (12) units of Fish and Game owned public lands within two to nine miles of the camp. Schermerhorn Park is about 30 miles S.E. Accomodations are group cabins. A bed is provided but you must bring your own sheets, blankets and pillow as well as soap and towel. Meals will be prepared in the dining hall and costs are provided on the registration form.

You may bring your own camper or your own tent as space is available.

The field trips are being coordinated by the Southeast Kansas Audubon Society, and students from Pittsburg State University (PSU). They will include trips to strip pit areas. The PSU Raptor Reach Area, and Schermerhorn Park. Final field trip itineraries will be available at the camp.

Friday evening is left open as a social evening at the Camp. No meal will be served but snacks will be provided.

Advance Payment and Registration is required. The camp needs to know how many persons are going to attend the meeting so preparations can be made. We ask that you have your registration and payment in by April 24. You may select any combination of meals and lodging.

For more information or clarification, call Marvin Schwilling, 316-342-0658 during weekdays or 316-342-1985 after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends.

Make plans now for an exciting super warbler, woodland and water bird weekend.

(Be sure to order good weather.)

RETURN THIS PORTION  
By April 24, 1987

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

	AMOUNT	HOW MANY	AMOUNT ENCLOSED
Registration Fee	\$2.00	_____	\$ _____
Lodging			
Friday Night	\$4.50	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Night	\$4.50	_____	\$ _____
Meals			
Breakfast Saturday	\$3.00	_____	\$ _____
Lunch Saturday	\$3.50	_____	\$ _____
Dinner Saturday	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Breakfast Sunday	\$3.00	_____	\$ _____
Lunch Sunday	\$3.50	_____	\$ _____

SEND REGISTRATION TO:

Marvin D. Schwilling  
1407 College Drive  
Emporia, KS 66801  
316-342-1985

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The Kansas Ornithological Society