

Fort Hays Kansas State College  
Hays, Kansas 67601

Volume 3, No. 2  
February 1976

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This issue has two items of special importance to all members. First, please check the mailing label on your Newsletter. If a red X is present you are in arrears for dues. This notice, rather than a special reminder card, is being used to save time for our Secretary and money for KOS. Please send dues to Eugene R. Lewis, 1285 MacVicar Ave., Topeka, 66604.

Also please check the latter pages of this issue for news concerning the spring meeting at Winfield. Please consider presenting a paper or bringing your slides or at least plan on attending the meeting.

New Newsletter Editor

Renne Lohofener will be assuming the duties of Newsletter Editor beginning with the next (April) issue. Ren is a Fort Hays graduate student from Oberlin. Please send your news to Renne Lohofener, Dept. Biology, FHKSC. Hays, 67601.

Winter notes

Lawrence

Jeff Cox

After reading over newsletters from the other Audubon Societies around the state I get the impression that most other counts had better results than we did (68). I don't know why we did not do better; weather was good, coverage was good, the birds just weren't there.

The most exciting birds around here are the Bald Eagles. The location of their roost near Lawrence is a jealously guarded secret to which I am not privy but I have been told that at least six adults and four immatures have been seen there at one time. They are seen periodically at Perry Reservoir. Probably the best way to see them is to drive along the Lecompton river road along the Kaw River from Lawrence to Lecompton.

A Yellow Warbler (Orange-crowned ??? Ed.) was seen in the backyard of Phyllis Legler around 1 January by Ms. Legler and Cynthia Clinton. A Baltimore Oriole was in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kappel, from at least 27 December to 1 January and probably longer. It was confirmed by Mrs. Mary Hall and had lots of orange in the plumage, apparently a male in full plumage. It came several times of their bird bath and "messed around" the feeder a few times. Brad Williamson saw a Townsend's Solitaire at the Nelson Tract north of Lawrence on or about 21 January. Sebastian Patti reported a Glaucous Gull at the power plant lake near La Cygne this past weekend (late January). Pine Siskins are abundant but no redpolls.

Highlights for the C.C. were: Lark Sparrow, seen in the Wakarusa River flood plain, west of Lawrence by Richard Johnston, and M.J. Mensie; Golden Eagle, 6 miles North of Lawrence by Bob Gorton, Cynthia Clinton and Ruth Ann Paddock; Common Redpoll, 2 mi. S. Williamston by Phyllis Legler and Cynthia Clinton; Osprey, 1 mi. S, 1 mi. E. Williamston by Cynthia Clinton and Phyllis Legler. Ospreys have been observed previously at Sandpits NE of town, not hunting the water, but instead hunting the surrounding fields. The day after the count Ruth Fauhl, Polly Trillich, Cynthia Clinton, Andy Finfrock and I searched unsuccessfully for the redpolls using a Screech Owl tape. We did hear a Screech Owl reply, however!. We also saw a Prairie Falcon.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were first seen in town (by myself) on 31 September and have been in 2 or 3 places in town ever since. Sebastian Patti reported a flock of Evening Grosbeaks the first week of November.

#### Topeka

#### Orville Rice

A Brown Thrasher was seen on 29 January near Gage Park; they have been in Topeka for several winters. There are still no longspurs in our vicinity but a notable increase in Robins occurred around 15 January. Cedar Waxwings are also present in good numbers. This year was the highest C.C. ever for Topeka (since 1919) even with the demotion of some birds to race and form. The relatively warm weather, open water and good participation by qualified observers made some difference in the count I'm sure. But what happened to the longspurs? We have begun to expect them with regularity in several parts of our area. The waxwings may have been late in arriving since good numbers have appeared since the count. We have the best honeysuckle berry crop in many years. I later saw at least one of the Savannah Sparrows originally seen by the Gene Lockhart party.

#### Morton Co.

#### Sebastian Patti

I was really impressed by the absence of birds. SW Kansas has had a mild winter thus far and this may well account for the lack of large concentrations of larks, longspurs and raptors. I must confess, however, that it was nice counting in 50 degree weather.

The single Burrowing Owl was seen in late afternoon north of Wilberton by Schulenbergs and Garrett. It was perched on a yucca stalk within 30-50 feet of the road. The single Curve-billed Thrasher was in a farmyard 4 miles N of Elkhart and was actively feeding on what seemed to be dead sunflower. We found no Brown Towhees at the Soil Conservation Work Area north of Elkhart where three individuals had been seen in late November but Jean Schulenberg did see one at Point-of-Rock. Johnson and I saw the bird also. Interestingly this was the only bird found at this locality!

We then visited the Black Mesa area in Oklahoma where we saw only one Curve-billed Thrasher but did see a female Pyrrhuloxia -- the first from anywhere near the mesa.

Manhattan

John Zimmerman

First records for Christman count; Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck (single male); Turkey Vulture, ; second records: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, LeConte's Sparrow; third: Double-crested Cormorant, fourth: Black Duck. New highs: Bald Eagle, Ring-billed Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Robin, Red-wing, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird and Pine Siskin. Also highest number of counters. Number of observers, excellent food supply and previously mild weather combined to make the count a record.

Kansas City

Jananne McNitt

The Western Grebe on the C.C. was seen on Wyandotte County lake by Philip Kaul, Kevin Sink, Lloyd Moore and Bernice Tatum. It had been seen several times during December and I and others saw it on 5 January. The Water Pipits were seen at 15 yards in a turnip field by Kelly Hobbs and Richard arker. Field marks, bobbing tail and calls were observed. Mary Louise Meyers had a Brown Thrasher coming to her feeder since 12 November and banded said bird on 13 December.

In general, blackbirds and sparrows (except Tree and Harris) seemed to be low in numbers. Its a great year for Pine Siskins, a few Purple Finches are around and there are scattered reports of Evening Grosbeaks and redpolls. Red-headed Woodpeckers are plentiful.

Comanche Co.

Stan Roth

I saw the feathers of a turkey and a magpie in Swartz Canyon during the weekend of 17 January. Both had been plucked by some predator. We failed to see the usual flock of Mountain Bluebirds but did see very large flocks of robins. A roadrunner was seen crossing US 160, 1 mi. E. Medicine Lodge. We also saw 18 Pronghorns about 25 mi. SW Medicine Lodge, Barber Co.

Elk City

Sylvia Albright

We had difficulty seeing foot and bill colors on the swan seen on the count. Several people saw it later and the Fish and Game men reported that it appeared to have a neck band. (Marvin Schwilling reports that someone did neck band some whistlers in Alaska Ed.) We've also seen as many as seven Bald Eagles in the reservoir area since the count.

Our patio cafeteria has produced more interesting and unusual birds than usual. We've had a Palm Warbler since December. It disappeared either the day before the temperature dropped to zero or that day, about a week ago (mid-January). Others were: Red-shafted Flicker, about 50 Purple Finches; a female Evening Grosbeak for five days in early December; a Field Sparrow and Myrtle Warblers. We have been bringing in cedar limbs full of berries and have had bluebirds, flickers and others that won't eat grain. Our back yard adjoins a small city park and we even had a Pileated Woodpecker in a tree near the patio.

Camp Towanyak

Mary Louise Myers

The siskin flock is building up daily (10 Jan.); we have banded about 250 since the beginning of December. Got my second return for a Harris Sparrow today--he was the one just a year ago that was my very first Harris Sparrow return. That was exciting! Also got two others that were banded just a year ago. We still have our Brown Thrasher and the beautiful male Oregon Junco. A few reports of Evening Grosbeaks at feeders in Johnson Co. -- not many birds, just a few. Also the first report of a redpoll yesterday.

Kingman Game Area

Byron Walker

Short-eared Owls seem to be stopping here more regularly as five were on the area from 30 January to 3 February 1975 and were here again in December 1975; no nest records though. A Roadrunner was seen on 21 August and on four other occasions through 11 January. Hairy Woodpecker are seen less and less often with only one record for 1975 (10 August).

Fourteen Evening Grosbeaks were in the yard on 11 November and two Black-headed Grosbeaks were here on 26 and 30 July. On 20 October we counted 23 species of birds from our picture window overlooking our feeding station. I have banded 2100 Harris Sparrows at this station since December 1967. They are quite prompt in fall arrival, around 20 October, and depart around 15 May. By then all have molted and have developed the full black markings. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was here from 11 to 30 November -- the first live one we have seen here. One killed itself flying into a window several years ago. A Fox Sparrow was seen regularly from 29 October to 24 November.

Two unusual color variations were a Red-wing with white wings and a Common Grackle with a white head. We had an interesting sighting on 11 September when 470 Eastern Kingbirds were congregated on the telephone lines and tall cottonwoods along U.S. Hgw 54. The temperature was 95 degrees on the 10th, 72 on the 11th and 45 on the next morning and the birds were gone.

Baldwin

Amelia Betts

No new species were added to the count this year but the 61 species and 2 races is only the second time that the total has exceeded 60. Our species-plus-races list averages about 50; the total for all Baldwin counts is 103. Birds seem extra scarce but we've had no big snows to bring them in. Hedgerows in the country are practically wiped out and our tax money helped do it. Banding has been very poor lately but Kay did band over 800 in 1975 -- the most ever for her.

Dodge City

Joan Challans

Little of interest; birds have been unusually few in number. We have a Carolina Wren in town, seen first on 2 January and on most days since. We have had a few Cedar Waxwings and a pair of Mockingbirds at the bath most days. On 18 January a group went down to Clark Co. Lake and saw seven Whistling Swans (1 adult, 6 immatures). They have since been seen by others of our group. Several hundred ducks, chiefly Mallards, with some Pintails, Black Ducks and Lesser Scaup and several Snow Geese were also on the lake. Meade Co. had a large flock of Canada Geese and some ducks.

WichitaSusan Jehle

The Inca Doves included on the Christmas Count were seen at the Nathan and Geula McDonald home since 11 November. They are small (between House Sparrow and Cardinal in size), brownish-gray doves with scaled markings on the back and sides. They have long tails edged with white and reddish markings on the wings.

They were observed by Mrs. McDonald on 30 days between 11 November and 20 December. The high temperatures on these days ranged from 19 to 77 degrees. The doves fed on milo and on 25 and 26 November were observed feeding in the snow. They were also observed as follows: 16 November, Mr. and Mrs. William Jehle; 7 December, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vannoy; 13 December, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Broderson; 20 December, Wallace Champeny, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lesan, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Briggs, Mr. Tucker, and Mr. and Mrs. Jehle. Photographs were taken on some of these days.

Oxford AreaWallace Champeny

I have seen the movies of the Inca Doves taken in Wichita by Nathan McDonald. Something has evidently happened to one of them as only one has been coming in to feed the past 10 days or so (21 Jan.). The Western Bluebird was seen at Ark City by Dan Kilby, and Mike and Nancy Lesan. They said it had a blue throat and brown on the neck or back. It was a single male drinking from a little spring-fed stream. The Lesans have seen them in the West. I have gone down three times but have seen nothing but Eastern Bluebirds in this Spring Hill golf course area. I was at the Salt Plains, Oklahoma on Saturday and they reported a Western Bluebird on their count.

I did have better luck seeing a mature, male Varied Thrush along the Arkansas River bluff about a mile north of the Chestnut River bridge west of Ark City on 11 January. David and Kent Seibel had found it, I believe the Saturday before Christmas. This was the fourth time I had been down to look and was about to leave when it came in to drink from a small spring-fed stream. I never expected to see a Varied Thrush in Kansas. I will also check out a report of an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in the vicinity of 53rd North and the Little Arkansas River. Walter Broderson looked for it yesterday without success. We will let you know if anything develops.

I never did report a male Yellow-throated Warbler in Oxford along U.S. Hgw 160 on 8 May 1975. It was singing and working around some cedar and elm trees and remained in the area while I went home for binoculars. We saw an immature Common Yellowthroat at Great Salt Plains Saturday -- had seen an adult male there several years ago during first week in February with four-five inches of snow on ground. Also flushed an Old-squaw from the dam spillway.

Finally saw my first Roadrunner anywhere --at Great Salt Plains. I returned home via Hardtner to Medicine Lodge looking for Mountain Bluebirds along the gyp hills road. The N.H. Whites of Ark City nearly always see them in winter on that road, 3 to 5 miles south of US 160. I had no luck (it was nearing 5 p.m.) but did see my second Roadrunner, about a mile west of Medicine Lodge at the north edge of the highway.

EmporiaJean Schulenberg

The only new species on the C.C. was the Blue-winged Teal seen by Janet Spencer, Alan Bosomworth and Yogi Gilliland. We also had a Merlin (Winona Rhoades) and LeConte's Sparrow (Dennis Rinsse). The latter was present all fall.

Oldsburg

Becky Finney

Three Sandhill Cranes flew over my house on the afternoon of 23 December, headed south and "honking" all the way. I live in the Flint Hills, Pottawatomie Co., along Carnahan Creek south of Oldsburg (E. side of Tuttle Reservoir). Surprised me; Perry Conway was with me and heard and saw them also.

Lyon Co.

Ed Ryan

It was necessary for us to take our count two days early. The Western Grebe was seen at length by all four observers. The Myrtle Warbler was particularly satisfying since it was the first I have seen on a count.

Helen Ryan saw two Common Redpolls on the afternoon of 20 January and both of us saw 3 on the 21st and a flock of seven on the 22nd. In each case they were feeding on catkins on a white clump birch on the patio. Each day they arrived about 3:30 p.m., fed for 35-40 minutes and then departed. Saw 14 more in the same tree on 1 February.

Short notes

A couple of Black-billed Magpies have been staying at Quivira NWR all winter. Charles Darling.

We had a Carolina Wren around our house (Newton) all fall and winter through 4 February). Dwight Platt.

Leonard Jirak and Ken Brunson reported a Long-tailed Jaeger from Lovewell Reservoir, 17 September 1975.

We saw over 80 Bald Eagles at Squaw Creek NWR in late January. They had a high count of 222 at end of December. Sebastian Patti.

Six Canada Geese with neck collars indicating they were from Waubay NWR, South Dakota, were at Cheyenne Bottoms in late January. There are also two white -BARNYARD- geese (pigmented eyes and feet and bill, otherwise all white) here with the Canadas. This happens occasionally. Marvin Schwilling.

## REGISTRATION

The meeting will be held at Darbeth Hall, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. Exact directions will be given in the April Newsletter. Accommodations are listed at approximate prices. A limited number of beds are available to men in Reid Residence Hall on Southwestern campus, at \$2.00 per night, payable at the registration desk.

The motels in town are usually very full and another convention is being held in Arkansas City. Therefore, if you intend to stay at a local motel, notify us of your needs as soon as possible:

Town House Motel -- \$9.00 single, \$12.00 double, \$13.50 twin;

Camelot Motor Inn -- \$13.00 single, \$16.00 double; rooms with 2 double beds available;

Sonner Motel -- \$12.00 single, \$16.00 double; rooms with 2 double beds available.

For those of you who want to camp or bring your own camper or trailer, Island Park has a limited number of spots, and The Cowley County Fairgrounds has numerous places with electrical hookup for \$1.00 a night. It is on the Walnut River. Let us know how many want these accommodations (also which spot.)

SEND REGISTRATION TO: Max C. Thompson  
Southwestern College  
Winfield, KS 67156

---

## REGISTRATION SHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make accommodations for me at \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_, Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure: \_\_\_\_\_.

You may pay in advance or at the registration desk.

Registration Fee:	\$ .75
Banquet	3.50
Sunday Lunch	1.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 5.75

( ) Enclosed

( ) I will pay at registration desk.