

Fort Hays Kansas State College
Hays, Kansas

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Birding in Morton County

I am having a fantastic time birding out here in Morton County. I've seen so much I thought I would forward my sightings to you. Only those I'm absolutely sure of will be included. The time span is from April 11 to April 16.

Long-billed Curlew
White-crowned
Sparrow
American Goldfinch
Turkey
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
White-breasted
Nuthatch
Pine Siskin
White-throated
Sparrow
Great-crested
Flycatcher
Grasshopper
Sparrow
Barn Owl
Lark Bunting
Yellow-headed
Blackbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Cinnamon Teal
Scaled Quail



BOBOLINKS in Morton County

On two separate occasions Bobolinks have been seen on the Cimarron National Grasslands. On April 2, 1977 Lorena Combs (of Hutchinson) and I identified six Bobolinks (4 females and 2 males) along the north edge of the Points Pasture in the park.

On the afternoon of April 16 I observed six Bob the North Lowe Pasture. These were observed from 30 feet as they set on a fence and the forked tails along with the distinguishing colors were noted.

We seem to have had days when certain species are very common and then suddenly disappear. One weekend we had a virtual invasion of Say's Phoebes, I have seen none since. Vesper Sparrows have seemed to increase rapidly the first half of the month and the Great-crested Flycatchers apparently arrived the past several days in fair numbers.

- Bob Kruger, Rolla, Ks.

A Report From Kingman County

The following are sight records from Kingman County. I feel sure that the following information is correct as much as sight records can be.

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Common Loon	02/08/71 11/75	Rare
Whistling Swan	Winter of 71, 74 & 77	Rare
Old Squaw	04/18/62	One female
Goshawk	04/16/73	
Black Rail	08/54	Rare
Common Tern	04/16/69	
Caspian Tern	08/26/64	
Rufous Hummingbird	08/09/63	Two birds, a close observation.
Pinion Jay	07/31/66 01/??/77	In town
Wood Thrush	04/29/73	Observed closely in a wooded draw.
Sprague's Pipit	04/27/66	
Philidelphia Vireo	05/17/70	In town
Yellow-throated Warbler	06/12/65	
Kentucky Warbler	09/13/64	
Scarlet Tanager	05/30/68	
White-winged Crossbilss		Date is unknown, five or six birds in a park in Kingman.
Baird's Sparrow	07/??/71	Rare, one group of 16 birds.
Leconte's Sparrow	09/18/71 10/25/71 05/05/74	All observations in a grassland type of habitat.

- Byron Walker, Kingman Game Area

Notes From McPherson and Other Areas

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>DATE, 1977</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>
Purple Finch	01/14 03/7-11	McPherson
Bald Eagle	01/16	near McPherson
Townsend Solitaire	01/28	McPherson
Boat-tailed Grackle	01/29	near Claflin
White-crowned Sparrow	02/20	Marion Reservoir
Franklin's Gull	02/26	Kanoplis Reservoir
Cedar Waxwing	03/7-11	McPherson
Carolina Wren Common Snipe	03/20	Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County
Bewick's Wren Boat-tailed Grackle	03/27	McPherson

- Allen Jahn, McPherson Ks.

Do You Know Any Greensburg, Indiana Voters?

For those readers who subscribe to the Purple Martin News (published by the Nature Society, Griggsville, Ill.) the following account will be old news. However, for those who do not receive this paper the following should prove to be informative.

It seems that last fall roosting Purple Martins were causing some residents of Greensburg a degree of inconvenience. In order to prevent this federally protected songbird from affecting human comfort, the Mayor of Greensburg instructed three public employees to shoot the Purple Martins. More than 3000 martins were killed (estimates by federal biologists).

Suit was filed in federal court and resulted in Mayor James Ryle being fined 50 dollars. The three employees who did the actual shooting were not fined. Thus, Mayor Ryle paid approximately 1.6 cents per bird for violating a federal law.

One would consider this a victory for Mayor Ryle, at least Tom Coulson, editor of the Purple Martin News, does. At any rate, after the furor over the incident one would think that Mayor Ryle would be content to let the matter be forgotten, right? Not so. The March 28 issue of the Purple Martin News contained the following letter which is quoted verbatim with the kind permission of Editor Coulson.

(continued)

"Dear Sir:

For the last several months I have received numerous letters from your readers, in regard to the dispersing of birds from downtown Greensburg. I am truly sorry that some bird houses will be empty this summer, our method did solve OUR problem, I feel your readers should see that this does not happen again by coming up with a solution if they do not like my method.

We are satisfied to let Griggsville be the Martin Capital, so if your readers will educate these pests to stay away from Greensburg, I am sure we will not have another "bird shoot", but be assured that if we have the same problem, that we had last year, we WILL be taking your fine Feathered Friends to the City Landfill.

I really do read with amusement some letters from your readers, also several of your readers recognize the problem and I want to thank them for their sincere interest. I hope we missed their birds.

Best regards,
Mayor Jim R yle
Greensburg, Indiana 47240"

As editor Coulson stated; "keeping nature alive while we are thrashing about in its midst-that's the challenge". Not simply removing those aspects of nature which conflict with an individual's comfort.

Hopefully the next mayor of Greensburg will have a higher degree of environmental awareness and greater ability to solve problems by means other than killing than does the present mayor.

- ED.

House Finches Again Nesting in Oberlin

At least five pairs of House Finches are nesting in conifer and cedar trees in the immediate neighborhood. A pair are again nesting in the planter on the porch, four eggs were being incubated on May 5. This is considerably later than last year as this year's pair seemed to have trouble getting started. Many other House Finches are in Oberlin as their singing can be heard daily.

Also in Oberlin on May 14 were: Bewick's Wren, Barn Owl and Orange-crowned Warblers.

- M. Lohofener, Oberlin, Ks.

Sherman County Birds

The following were recorded from April 9 to 12, 1977. Parula Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Cinnamon Teal.

- J. Palmquist, Goodland, Ks.

Recent Hays Notes

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, Wilson's Warbler,
Nashville Warbler, Black-crowned Night Heron- M.E. Rolfs
Water Pipit, Chipping Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Rock Wren,
Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler,
Field Sparrow- Ornithology Class
Parula Warbler, Upland Plover, Chimney Swift-C.A. Ely
Broad-winged Hawk- C. Hall
Golden-winged Warbler-D. Cooper
Cliff Swallow, Tree Swallow- T. Flowers
Audubon's Warbler- R. Lohoefer

- ED.

Another Note From Morton County

On April 17 I observed a Curve-billed Thrasher in the Richfield Kansas Cemetary. The bird seemed unusually tame as I frequently walked within 10 to 15 feet and didn't seem to bother him at all.

The Richfield Cemetary is a very well dept place with lots of cedars and 12 to 15 foot tall Chinese Elms. A water source is present. To the east is a cornfield; south is a grazed pasture; and north is a "ravine" - called the North Fork of the Cimarron River.

-B. Kruger, Rolla, Ks.