

Ten Best Birds of the Year (May 1976 - April 1977)

Marvin D. Schwilling

Information used in choosing the top ten included the "best birds" reports plus a search of the Bulletin, Newsletter, Christmas Counts, etc. Consideration was given to previous state records or specimens, geographic location in state, season of sighting, nesting, etc. as well as personal judgement.

1. Black-headed Gull - Ed Martinez - Barton County.

Adult male observed March 29, 1977 at Cheyenne Bottoms; also several observations during the following few days; no specimens.

- *2. Yellow Rail - Allen W. Jahn - McPherson County.

SE of Inman in ditch with grass. No specimens (actually several) and photograph from Cheyenne Bottoms.

3. Western Bluebird - Earl V. Carlson - Ellis County.

Along Smoky Hill River; no specimens.

4. Little Gull - Lloyd Moore and Ed Martinez - Barton County.

March 20, 1977, Cheyenne Bottoms; immature observed for several days. No specimen but photos from John Redmond Res., Nov. 1974.

5. Bushtit - Morton and Barber County Christmas Counts.

Four on Morton County Count. One bird by Jim Norman, Barber County Count. Has been mist-netted at Hays.

6. Arctic Loon - David Seibel - Cowley County.

Winfield City Lake on November 23 and 26, 1976 by Max Thompson, Mrs. Chapman, Wrs. White and Kent Seibel. One specimen, Wilson Reservoir.

7. Black-legged Kittiwake - David A. Easterla & Jean Schullenberg - Coffey County.

Immature at John Redmond Reservoir, November 24, 1976; 1 specimen.

8. Varied Thrush - Sebastian Patti - Kansas City area, Jan. 16, 1977.

9. Cape May Warbler - David Seibel - Cowley County.

August 31, 1976. Listed as rare transient in East; 1 specimen (was number 7 last year).

* actually several specimens (MDS)

10. House Finch - Katherine Kelly and Amelia Betts - Douglas County.

Mist-netted and banded February 22, 1977 and seen daily until March 11. Far eastern record; has nested in Decatur County the last two years, March 24, 1976 and April 4, 1977, Mary Lohofener.

HONORABLE MENTION

1. Rock Wren - Sebastian Patti - Kansas River. Christmas bird count; far east; winter record; common nester in west.
2. Lark Bunting - Morton County Christmas Bird Count. Flocks wintering in Morton County. One previous winter specimen.
3. Brewer's Blackbird - Gene and Eulalia Lewis - Mitchell County. Flock of 200 birds observed several days in June a few miles from Glen Elder Reservoir; no breeding records.
4. Poor-will - Neil Johnson - Barber County Christmas Bird Count; single bird flushed; also seen by Milt Martin and Marvin Schwilling.
5. Parasitic Jaegers - Coffey County Christmas Bird Count; Finney County by Marvin Schwilling and Al White, November 1.
6. Curve-billed Thrasher - Marvin Schwilling - Kearny and Morton Cos. Pair observed constructing nest in Cholla Cactus in Kearny County, April 14, 1977. Old nest in Cholla in Morton County, April 27, 1977. Crissal (?) Thrasher - Joan Challans - Dodge City, September 1976.
7. Ferruginous Hawks - Marvin Schwilling - Meade and Clark Counties. Nests with five eggs in Meade (Apr. 14) and Clark (Apr. 28) cos.
8. Black Scoters - Bob LaShelle and Marvin Schwilling - Riley and Pratt Counties (Milford Reservoir, and Fish and Game Headquarters fish ponds - Oct. 20, 1976).
9. Scrub Jay - Joan Challans - Ford County - two birds; also Cowley County (Winfield City Lake) by David Seibel.
10. Snow Bunting - John and Bob LaShelle - Riley County. Milford Reservoir on February 13, 1977.

Other entries were: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Katherine Kelly and Amelia Betts); Pinon Jay in Wichita Co. (Charles Ely and Renne Lohofener), and in Pratt Co. (Larry Tiemann); Albino Blue Jay (Clare E. Redding); Great-tailed Grackle (Gene and Eulalia Lewis and John Zimmerman); Lazuli Bunting (David E. Seibel); Saw-whet Owl (Joan Challans) Ford County and Jean and Margaret Schulenberg, Lyon County.

IT'S DUES-PAYING TIME AGAIN

Fall migration brings thoughts to the KOS membership secretary of the migration of 1978 dues to the treasury! A dues envelope will be enclosed with the September Bulletin to make this necessary payment easy for you. Dues for 1978 are payable now and are due by January 1.

The amounts remain the same for one more year: \$3.00 regular membership; \$6, sustaining; \$1, student (grade and high school); \$100, Life. Life memberships may be paid all at once or in four consecutive annual payments of \$25. Twenty-one persons have chosen the life option; each receives a KOS life pin.

Perhaps you can also enroll a NEW 1978 member. Dues paid by these persons after September 1 bring a bonus of the rest of 1977 free. Let's increase our membership in 1978. It stands at 433 in August, 1977.

Two valued members have resigned. One is Mrs. Ida Faddis, Iola, who at 98 years is no longer able to enjoy reading the publications. She was our eldest KOS member. The other is Dale L. Taylor of Sterling College, who invites any KOS members visiting Everglades National Park to stop by and see him after August 15. His address is Research Division, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida 33030.

Send your dues to the treasurer, Eugene R. Lewis, 1285 MacVicar, Topeka, Ks. 66604 but send your address changes to me! Permit mail publications are not forwardable. Returns by the post office cost KOS needless expenditure of funds. Remailings are not possible if addresses are unobtainable. Don't miss your publications in this way.

Ruth Broderson, Membership Secretary, 2262 North Richmond, Wichita, Ks. 67204

KOS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 1977

Jeff Cox, Secretary

The 29th annual spring meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held at Bethel College, Newton, Kansas on 30 April and 1 May 1977. Registration in the Fine Arts Center was followed by the morning session. Carol Holzrichter of the Harvey County Parks and Recreation Department and Marion Deckert, Dean of Instruction, Bethel College, welcomed the group to Harvey County and Bethel College, respectively. President Jean Schulenberg responded on behalf of KOS.

The morning session was shared by John Zimmerman in the absence of Vice-President Steve Fretwell. A short business meeting followed:

Gene Lewis reported a treasury balance of \$4409.47 as of 30 April 1977 and distributed as follows: checking balance \$1187.05; savings passbook (tied to checking) \$524.69; savings passbook (Savings and Loan) \$1502.02); savings certificate \$1195.71.

Membership Secretary Amelia Betts gave her final report before retiring. We had 420 members in 1976 and thus far in 1977 have 50 new members and 20 remaining charter members. The classes of membership are now distributed as follows: 18 Life + 3 making payments; 111 Sustaining; 258 Regular; 12 Student. The average payment per member was \$3.75. Frank Robl and Robert Runyan passed away during the year.

The March Bulletin was sent to all Christmas Bird Count participants but few responded. The Merit Award was given last fall to Wilson and Eunice Dingus.

Lunch was followed by the Birdwatcher's Hour, the Board Meeting and the afternoon paper session. Among the items discussed at the afternoon business session were the following:

There is a continued need for manuscripts for the Bulletin and for news of any sort for the Newsletter. Send to Charles Ely, Fort Hays State University, Hays, 67601.

Address changes should be sent to Mrs. Ruth Broderson (see article on p. 3 of this issue).

Claims for unreceived Bulletins should be sent to the Librarian, Mrs. Ruth Fauhl, Dyche Reading Room, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, 66045.

Copies of the KOS Check-list and KOS decals (.25 each) are available from the Treasurer.

KOS will be listed in the KACEE directory which is to be sent to all public schools in the state.

Newly elected officers for 1977-78 are: President - Jean Schulenberg; Vice-President - Steve Fretwell; Treasurer - Eugene Lewis; Secretary - Jeff Cox; Membership Secretary - Ruth Broderson; Librarian - Ruth Fauhl; Editor - Charles Ely; Board Members - Bob Spencer and Sebastian Patti.

The next spring meeting will be at Salina on 29 and 30 April 1978 with Steve Burr in charge of local arrangements. The 1977 fall meeting will be at Cheyenne Bottoms, 24-25 September with Ed Martinez in charge.

Jean Schulenberg presided at the evening banquet at the Ramada Inn. Marvin Schwilling presented the "ten best birds." Richard Baldauf of the Kansas City Museum of Science and Technology presented an excellent program entitled "Listen to the Earth."

A constitutional amendment to Article 8, Section 4, erecting a new family membership category, was approved by the membership. Article 8, Section 4, now reads as follows: The annual membership dues for regular members shall be \$3.00, for sustaining members - \$6.00 and for student members (grade and high school only) - \$1.00. Family memberships shall be available as follows: (with only one copy of each publication for each family) regular - \$3.00 plus \$2.00 for each additional member, sustaining - \$6.00 plus \$4.00 for each additional member. (The first \$3.00 for either regular, sustaining or family membership goes for subscription to the KOS Bulletin.) Members may contribute to the general or to special funds of the Society at any time. Amelia Betts moved that this amendment would not take effect until 1 January 1979. The motion also provided that a committee would be appointed to revise the membership forms and have them ready by September 1978. The motion carried.

The Resolutions Committee (Dr. John Breukelman and Dr. Ivan Boyd) presented the following resolutions:

Be it resolved that :

1) KOS is opposed to the establishment of a new state agency for the specific purpose of eradication of any species of avifauna, and supports the continuation of control of nuisance birds by the State Wildlife Extension Service.

2) KOS does not endorse the legislation of falconry in Kansas.

3) KOS endorses the Alaska Public Interest Lands - House Bill 39 and Senate Bill 500, and that the Corresponding Secretary make this endorsement known to the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

4) KOS expresses its gratitude to Bethel College and the Harvey County Parks Department and especially to Dwight Platt and Mike Janis and their committee for this excellent meeting.

5) KOS thanks Steve Fretwell for setting up an excellent program and John Zimmerman for presiding over the meeting.

6) KOS expresses its sincere appreciation to Amelia J. Betts for her long period of service as secretary.

7) KOS thanks Richard J. Baldauf for sharing with us "Listen to the Earth."

KOS SPRING BOARD MEETING

(This is a brief summary of minutes supplied by Jeff Cox, Ed.)

Members present were Jean Schulenberg, Gene Lewis, Amelia Betts, Jeff Cox, Ruth Fauhl, Charles Ely, Ed Martinez, Ivan Boyd, John Breukelman, Max Thompson and Steve Burr.

The President appointed a committee to revise present KOS forms and literature (Ruth Broderson, Amelia Betts, Gene Lewis, Steve Burr).

Max Thompson suggested establishing KOS Archives at the University of Kansas. Ruth Fauhl will check on storage space at Dyche Museum.

Rules and regulations concerning use of Dingus Natural Area are still available through Gene Lewis. Max Thompson suggested production of a color brochure similar to the one for Chaplin Nature Center.

The possible acquisition of more wildlife land by KOS was discussed and Pres. Schulenberg will look into this.

Pres. Schulenberg announced that she had been unable to find anyone who would talk to the group concerning the falconry issue. It was also generally agreed that conservation activities on the state level are chiefly taken care of by the various Audubon organizations. KOS can take a stand but there is no need for duplication.

Several resolutions were suggested, discussed and presented to the committee.

An Adventure in Hawaiian Birding

Bob Powell

My wife and I had the pleasure of spending our vacation this year in the Hawaiian Islands. We were in the Islands from 7 to 20 May 1977. In the course of our visit we birded on four of the major islands -- Oahu, ³Ku²ai, Maui and Hawaii. In spite of frequently inhospitable weather, we observed 65 species of birds, including many endemic endangered species or subspecies, and one species observed in the state for the first time.

Preparing ourselves with literature from the Hawaii Audubon Society (see below) we geared our trip to combining birding with playing tourist. For the most part the combination proved successful. In spite of what the locals bemoaned as a late spring bringing with it quantities of rain, we usually managed to be on the go during daylight hours. The mountainous nature of the islands is such that rain may fall on only one side of the island or only in the mountains, leaving areas dry for such as us.

Poor weather and a lack of time did prevent us from reaching two areas where native birds persist -- the Alakai Swamp on Kauai and the far side of Haleakala Crater on Maui, both accessible only by extended hikes.

Although armed with literature and excellent (and most welcome local advice) we found all outings to be a learning experience and would approach any further trip in a much different manner. If any birders are planning a trip to Hawaii in the future I would be most willing to share my experiences and offer some advice. I may be contacted by writing or calling at: 1514 South Pleasant, Independence, MO 64055 (816) 833-2151; or Avila College, Biology Dept., 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City MO 64145 (816) 942-8400.

Literature available at modest cost from the Hawaii Audubon Society P.O. Box 22832, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 includes: Hawaii's Birds (96 p. illustrated field guide with maps); "Guide to Hawaiian Birding" (maps and lists of recommended birding sites. Field Check-list of Birds of Hawaii.

(Mr. Powell included a carefully detailed listing of all species seen and I have extracted the following. Ed)

Marine birds: 11 species including terns, Laysan Albatross, tropic-birds, boobies, frigate and the endangered, native Dark-rumped Petrel.

Water and shore birds: 12 species including the endangered Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Gallinule and Hawaiian Duck; also the first known sighting of Eared Grebe (on Kauai) for the state.

Urban species: 17 introduced species.

Upland Birds: 11 species, mostly introduced but including the endemic and endangered Hawaiian Goose and Hawaiian Hawk.

Forest birds: 14 species; 9 endemics and most endangered; included 'elepaio, Hawaiian Thrush and "honey creepers" with such exotic names as: 'amakihi, 'anianiau, 'akepa, 'o'u, palila, 'apapane, 'i'iwi.

Short Notes

Wilson Reservoir, Russell County: The highlight of the season was the Black Skimmer found by Tom Cannon and Charles Hall on 28 June and later seen by others (see Sept. Bulletin). Other observations include: White Pelican (6), Black-bellied Plover (2), Long-billed Curlew (1), Caspian, Forster's and Black Terns, all on 5-6 July by Lloyd Moore. Also, Caspian Tern, 30 June-8 July; Dunlin, 15-16 July, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (2), 4 August; Northern Phalarope, Knot, Tree and Bank Swallows, White-fronted Goose, 26 August; Prairie Falcon, 5 August, Snowy Plover, nested (chick seen). (Tom Cannon and Charles Hall).

Cheyenne Bottoms: Ed Martinez saw a Black Skimmer on 27 and 30 July and 1 and 2 August. Other sightings: Mottled Duck, female with brood on 4 July by Jean Schulenberg; Savannah Sparrow, 5-6 July; 60 White-faced Ibises and Tufted Titmouse on 3 May -- all by Lloyd Moore.

Ellis County: First recorded nesting of Black-billed Cuckoo. This year for the first time two kite nests were found -- the "old" pair fledged a single young, the "new" pair began incubation on 31 July and the nest was deserted or the contents died (?) at about the time of hatching. A Groove-billed Ani was found on Big Creek by Mark Ports on August 28. It remained at least all afternoon and was seen by most local birders.

KOS FALL FIELD TRIP

24-25 September, Cheyenne Bottoms

Pied-billed Grebe	Semipalmated Plover	(Broad-t. Hummingbird)
White Pelican	Snowy Plover	Belted Kingfisher
Double-cr. Cormorant	Killdeer	Yellow-shafted Flicker
Great Blue Heron	Am. Golden Plover	Red-shafted Flicker
Green Heron	Black-bel. Plover	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Little Blue Heron	Common Snipe	Downy Woodpecker
Cattle Egret	Long-billed Curlew	Horned Lark
Great Egret	Spotted Sandpiper	Tree Swallow
Snowy Egret	Solitary Sandpiper	Bank Swallow
Black-cro. Night Heron	Willet	Rough-winged Swallow
Yellow-cro. Night Heron	Greater Yellow-legs	Barn Swallow
American Bittern	Lesser Yellow-legs	Cliff Swallow
White-faced Ibis	Red Knot	Blue Jay
Canada Goose	Pectoral Sandpiper	Black-billed Magpie
Snow Goose	White-rump. Sandpiper	Common Crow
Mallard	Baird's Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	Least Sandpiper	House Wren
Pintail	Dunlin	Gray Catbird
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Blue-winged Teal	Western Sandpiper	American Robin
American Wigeon	Sanderling	Water Pipit
Northern Shoveler	Short-billed Dowitcher	Loggerhead Shrike
Wood Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Starling
Redhead	Stilt Sandpiper	Orange-crowned Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Marbled Godwit	Common Yellowthroat
Turkey Vulture	Hudsonian Godwit	Wilson's Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ruddy Turnstone	House Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	American Avocet	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-shouldered Hawk	Wilson's Phalarope	Western Meadowlark
Swainson's Hawk	Northern Phalarope	Yellow-head. Blackbird
Rough-legged Hawk	Herring Gull	Red-wing
Golden Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	Great-tailed Grackle
Bald Eagle	Franklin's Gull	Common Grackle
Marsh Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Brown-headed Cowbird
Peregrine Falcon	Forster's Tern	American Goldfinch
Merlin	Least Tern	Rufous-sided Towhee
American Kestrel	Black Tern	Savannah Sparrow
Bobwhite	Rock Dove	Vesper Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mourning Dove	Clay-colored Sparrow
King Rail	Great Horned Owl	Lincoln's Sparrow
Sora	Poor-will	Song Sparrow
Common Gallinule	Common Nighthawk	Swamp Sparrow
American Coot	Chimney Swift	Scissor-t. Flycatcher

Misc. Sightings - Marvin Rolfs

Carolina Wren - Russell Co., July 26; Wild Turkey - brood in Seward Co., Aug. 18; Cliff Swallow - still feeding young in nests, Gove Co., Aug. 17; large resting, migrating flock near Topeka, Shawnee Co., Sept. 9. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hays, Aug. 28; House Finches in Hays during July.