

Immature White Ibis in Harvey County

On Friday evening, August 26, 1977, I observed an immature White Ibis at Harvey County East Lake (6 miles east of Newton) along with a Great Egret and an immature Little Blue Heron. They were roosting in a dead tree at the edge of the lake. To prove to myself that I wasn't having delusions, I called Rose Fritz who went out with me the next morning (Saturday, August 27, 1977) at 6:30 AM. At that time we saw it leave its roost and fly north. It had, for company, several immature Little Blue Herons and one mottled blue Little Blue Heron.

Then on Saturday evening, August 27, 1977, about 6PM Rose, Steve Caple, and Bob and Vernetta Regier joined us and Bob and Steve attempted to get pictures of it. The following two days several Wichita and other Newton KOS members saw it too.

It stayed in the area through Monday evening (August 29, 1977) at which time we saw it with several Great Egrets 14 immature Little Blue Herons, one mottled Little Blue Heron, several Great Blue Herons, and some Snowy Egrets. Not too far away were four Double-Crested Cormorants. An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and four Black-Crowned Night Herons were also seen.

At another area of the lake, I observed a Solitary, Le-st, Semipalmated, Western, and Spotted Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, and Killdeer.

Harvey County East Lake is a new lake, filling up this summer for the first time. It is fast becoming a good birding spot.

Jane Hershberger

Editor's note: All KOS members who would like to share any art work are welcome to send it to the Newsletter editor. I'll take anything that is a black-and-white line drawing (or the equivalent) and has to do with birds !

All articles and art work should be sent to me:

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Threatened and Endangered Species

As KOS members, we should all give our support to Marvin Schwilling as the non-game biologist of the State of Kansas Threatened or Endangered Species. A more knowledgeable man could not have been chosen for this post with the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

On 31 August 1977, Marvin and the Commission approved a list of endangered and threatened vertebrates and invertebrates in Kansas. This list will be considered by the state legislature, and, if approved, will become law on 18 May 1978.

The list of threatened or endangered birds and regulations of Article XV follow. Listed as endangered throughout the state are:

Peregrine Falcon	(<u>Falco peregrinus anatum</u>)*
Whooping Crane	(<u>Grus americana</u>)*
Eskimo Curlew	(<u>Numenius borealis</u>)*
Bald Eagle	(<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>)*

Listed as threatened throughout the state are:

Prairie Falcon	(<u>Falco mexicanus</u>)
Least Tern	(<u>Sterna albifrons</u>)

The regulations state that it is unlawful to:

- (1) Export any threatened or endangered species of wildlife from this state;
- (2) take any threatened or endangered species of wildlife within this state, except that species as designated as threatened or endangered in limited portions of their total range can be taken by legally described methods outside of such designated areas;
- (3) possess, process, sell or offer to sale, deliver, carry, transport, or ship, alive or dead, by any means whatsoever except as specified by state law any threatened or endangered species of wildlife.

The above information was excerpted from Article XV, and is not the complete list and article.

*designates those species which also occur on the Federal list.

1977 Summer Birding Odds-and-Ends

Barton Co.-- Cheyenne Bottoms, 4-5 Sept.: Least Tern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow. Lloyd Moore.

Ellis Co.-- Smoky Hill River, 28 Aug.: Red-headed Woodpeckers in groups of 2-6, migrating in hundreds; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-and-white Warbler. Earl Carlson.

Saline River, 2 Sept.: Red-breasted Nuthatch. Earl Carlson.

Hays, 2 Sept.: Black-and-white Warbler. Harold Wisner.

Hays, late Aug.: Magnolia Warbler. Pat Latas.

Linn Co.-- Marias des Cygne, 10 July; Louisiana Heron, Prairie Warbler. John Parrish and students.

Lyon Co.-- McKinney Marsh, 10 July: Black-billed Cuckoo.

24 July; Rufous-sided Towhee. Marvin Schwilling.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos more numerous than usual. Jean Schulenberg.

Mitchell Co.-- Lake Waconda, 9 Sept.: Cattle Egret, Great Egret. Eastern Kingbird. Lloyd Moore.

Osage Co.-- Molverne Reservoir, 17 July: Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Black Tern. J. Schulenberg.

24 July: Little Blue Heron. J. Schulenberg.

Osage, Lyon, and Coffey Cos.-- Red-headed Woodpeckers on the increase.

Snowy Owl Perches

Twice within the last three years I observed a snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) fly to a perch with which its color blended completely, thus making the bird practically invisible. I then tabulated all of my 15 Kansas snowy owl sightings as to the type of perch where the bird was first seen, or where it perched after being flushed. None of the sightings were made when there was snow on the ground.

Six of the 15 perches were white or light-colored objects. They included a 12-foot white plastic post, a silver-white highway guard-rail post, limestone rocks

on a lake shore, and the root of a fallen weathered dead tree. The owl which flew to the dead tree was grayish in color; droppings below the perch indicated it had been there at least several times. The other sightings involved two individual birds which were reddish mottled.

Like other animals which breed in the Arctic, the snowy owl has evolved cryptic coloration which camouflages it in snowy and rocky areas. My sightings may indicate that this species tends to continue use of the coloration during winter migration to areas where the terrain is darker colored. Frank S. Shipley suggested the coloration may be of value to the owl in hunting, concealment from prey, as the species has few predators in the Arctic.

To test these two hypotheses, an experiment was started with a tethered snowy owl held by Becky Rose under a permit to the Audubon Society. Six perches of various types and colors were placed at the perimeter of the bird's tether and observations were started. The tether soon became entangled in one of the perches; and for the bird's safety, the experiment was discontinued.

KOS members are invited to send me any data they have on these subjects.

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Snowy owl perch at Milford Lake, 13 Feb. 1977.
(drawn from a photograph by Bob LaShelle)

Lonely prairie falcon--

Born too late in time to know
That the land above which you soar
Was once as free as you should be.

Bless you falcon, for your wings
Have stirred memories longer than life;
Of prairie winds and sounds,
Of stifling heat warming green blankets
Of life;
Of freedom.

