

Fort Hays State University  
Hays, Kansas 67601

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Pine Siskin Update

Editor's note: A report of colored Pine Siskins came to me just a little after the last Newsletter went to press. The following articles hopefully will fill you in and bring you up to date on the Baldwin City Siskins!

The last two winters have been exciting for the birders in the Baldwin area. Last winter we experienced a large invasion of Purple Finches and Goldfinches. This year it has been Pine Siskins. The four banders in Baldwin have banded about 900 since Christmas (Calvin Cink about 400; Katherine Kelley, 325; Roger Boyd, 136; Margret Boyd, 43). We have been color-marking these birds on the breast with the hope of studying their movements. We are using red, green, blue, and orange. Already we have recieved reports of two of these birds in Lawrence.

Also of interest was the banding of two Common Red Polls in my yard 28 January. Evening Grosbeaks have been at my feeders every day since 26 December 1977. Two were seen as early as 2 December.

Another unusual sighting was a House Wren that I found on the Christmas count 28 December. I had a very good look at it and no doubts about its identification; in fact, I tried very hard to make it a Winter Wren, because I knew there would be no doubters about a Winter Wren!

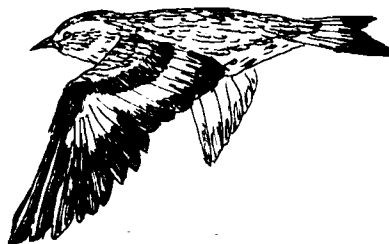
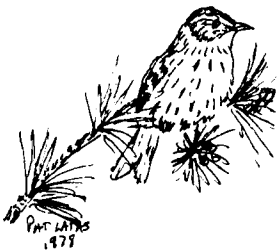
--Roger Boyd, 2 February

Red, green, blue, and orange breasted Pine Siskins have now been reported as far away as Boicourt, Garnett, Overland Park, Oskaloosa, and Topeka. Over a hundred sightings have come in by mail or telephone.

As of 15 March, over four thousand Siskins have been banded in Baldwin, by the use of drop traps, maze traps, and nets. Most of the birds were weighed, measured for wing and tail length, fat scored, compared for yelowness of tail, and crop fullness noted.

If you see a colored Siskin, please write me at: Box 43, Baldwin City, Kansas, 66006; or phone 913-594-6857.

--Amelia J. Betts, 15 March



KOS Spring Meetings

Don't forget the coming spring meetings in Salina! The paper sessions will be held on Saturday, 29 April, at the Science Hall on the Kansas Wesleyan campus. Registration tables will be at the Holiday Inn, and memberships will be available from Ruth Broderson at either the hotel or at the Science Hall.

Birding trips will originate from the Holiday Inn on Sunday, 30 April.

Nominations for the KOS Merit Award should be sent to:

Dr. Ivan Boyd  
Box 182  
Baldwin City, KS 66006

Names need to be submitted immediately for the award to be presented at the spring meeting.

--PJL

A symposium "The Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie: Preserving Its Heritage" will be held at Ottawa University, Saturday, 8 April 1978. It promises to be an exciting and unusual day.

--William H. Gilbert

Aquisition of Critical Habitat

In a recent letter from Marvin Schwilling we are advised that the Carter Administration has set aside monies to be used to purchase, lease, or otherwise protect wildlife habitat threatened with destruction or in need of protection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have available from \$10 to \$13 million to acquire critical habitat in Kansas. These funds are earmarked for Kansas without competition from other states. The U.S F.&W. could purchase such lands and then turn them over to responsible agencies for preservation and management.

Marvin Schwilling has been preparing a list of prime areas for Kansas. We would like the KOS to contribute to the setting of priorities; KOS needs to be involved. Send questions or suggestions to: Jean Schulenberg, Route 1, Admire KS 66830.

-- Jean Schulenberg

New Member

KOS would like to welcome Mr. Mike Moulton to the organization! Mike is a student at Fort Hays State, and happens to be the president of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. New members mean new ideas; our society is enriched with the addition of people like Mike.

--PJL



KOS winter report  
1 December to 28 February

prepared by:  
Mrs. Jean Schulenberg

Horned Grebe	2 on 12/24	Ed Schulenberg	Lyon
Double-crested Cormorant	2 on 1/18	Jean Schulenberg	Coffey
Black Duck	2 on 2/9	Allen Tubbs	Coffey
Hooded Merganser	2 on 1/22	J. Schulenberg	Coffey
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 on 1/29	J. Schulenberg	Coffey
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 on 1/15	Allen Tubbs	Coffey
Bald Eagle	throughout winter		Coffey
Prairie Falcon	1 on 12/12	J. Schulenberg	Lyon
Merlin	1 on 2/19	J. Schulenberg	Wabaunsee
Black-bellied Plover	1 on 12/2	Charles Hall	Greenwood
Barred Owl	1 at Ross Natural History Res.	Anne&Tom Hutton Randy Clark	Lyon
Long-eared Owl	6 in mid December	Anne&Tom Hutton	Lyon
Carolina Wren	scarce		Lyon
Winter Wren			
Cedar Waxwing	32 on 12/4	Ed Schulenberg	Lyon
Purple Finch	scarce		Lyon
Common Redpoll	1 on 1/27-29 3 on 1/29 3 on 1/29 20 on 2/11	Schulenburgs Marvin Schwilling Schulenburgs John Parish	Lyon Lyon Coffey Lyon
Pine Siskin	up to 75 @ feeder numerous in area	Schulenburgs	Lyon
White-winged Crossbill	1 found dead 12/8 5 on 12/9-10	Clarence Gladfelder Marvin Schwilling	Lyon ESU
Savannah Sparrow	15 on 2/10	J. Schulenberg	Lyon
Fox Sparrow	7 on 1/29 9 on 2/10	J. Schulenberg J. Schulenberg	Coffey Lyon
Linclon's Sparrow	1 on 1/22	J. Schulenberg	Coffey

## Birding in Southcentral Kansas

Despite the long, cold winter and heavy snowfall, I think it was one of the better birding winters in a few years. Abundant precipitation during the previous summer and fall provided a good wild food crop in the areas I birded. Taking advantage of this were many of the fringillids ...Pine Siskins, Rufous-sided Towhees, Savannah Sparrows, and White-crowned and White-thoated Sparrows. Other relatively abundant species were Brown Creepers, American Robins, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Golden-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and Purple Finches seemed scarce, but those most affected by the cold weather were Red-headed Woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens. The following list includes some of the sightings I made the past winter.

American Green-winged Teal	5	10 Jan.	Sedgwick
Ring-necked Duck	1	24 Jan.-2 Feb.	Sedgwick
Lesser Scaup	1	4-10 Jan.	Sedgwick
	8	1-2 Feb.	Sedgwick
	4	16 Feb.	Sedgwick
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	26 Jan.	Sedgwick
	2	9 Feb.	Cowley
Cooper's Hawk	1	16 Feb.	Sedgwick
Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan's)	1	26 Jan.	Sedgwick
Bald Eagle	4	7 Jan.	Reno
American Coot	1	4 Jan.-16 Feb.	Sedgwick
Herring Gull	5	7 Jan.	Reno
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	9 Feb.	Cowley
Hermit Thrush	3	19 Jan.	Cowley
	2	9 Feb.	Cowley
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	8 Dec.	Cowley
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	9 Feb.	Cowley
Rusty Blackbird	30	9 Feb.	Cowley
	1	16 Feb.	Sedgwick
Great-tailed Grackle	3	26 Jan.	Sedgwick
	1	17 Feb.	Sedgwick

Savannah Sparrow	6	21 Jan.	Sedgwick
	5	25 Jan.	Butler
	6	9 Feb.	Cowley
Swamp Sparrow	1	7 Feb.	Sedgwick
Lapland Longspur	100	18 Jan.	Cowley
	5	21 Feb.	Reno

--Steve Kingswood

#### Four New Life Members

Four new life members in 1978 bring the number of this elite KOS group to 22. The new "lifers" are Wallace Champeny of Oxfprd, Margret Boyd of Baldwin City, Dr. Gordon C. Sauer of Kansas City, Missouri, and Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., of Wayne, Maine.

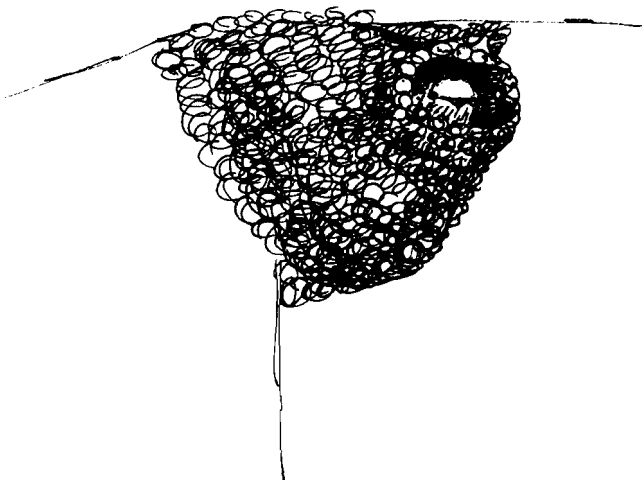
Life memberships in KOS cost \$100, payable all at once or in four, consecutive annual installments of \$25. Four are now using the installment plan. A life membership pin is presented when payment is complete.

Regular membership dues for 1978 are \$3; sustaining, \$6; student (grade or high school), \$1.

Notices have been sent to all who have not paid the 1978 dues. These persons will be dropped from the roll of members and from the mailing list after 1 May. Payment may be made at the spring meeting, if necessary, but it is preferred that you send your dues now to the treasurer, Eugene R. Lewis, 1285 MacVicar, Topeka, Kansas 66604.

In other matters regarding membership or changes of address, write to Ruth Broderson, 2262 North Richmond, Wichita, Kansas 67204.

--Ruth Broderson, membership secretary

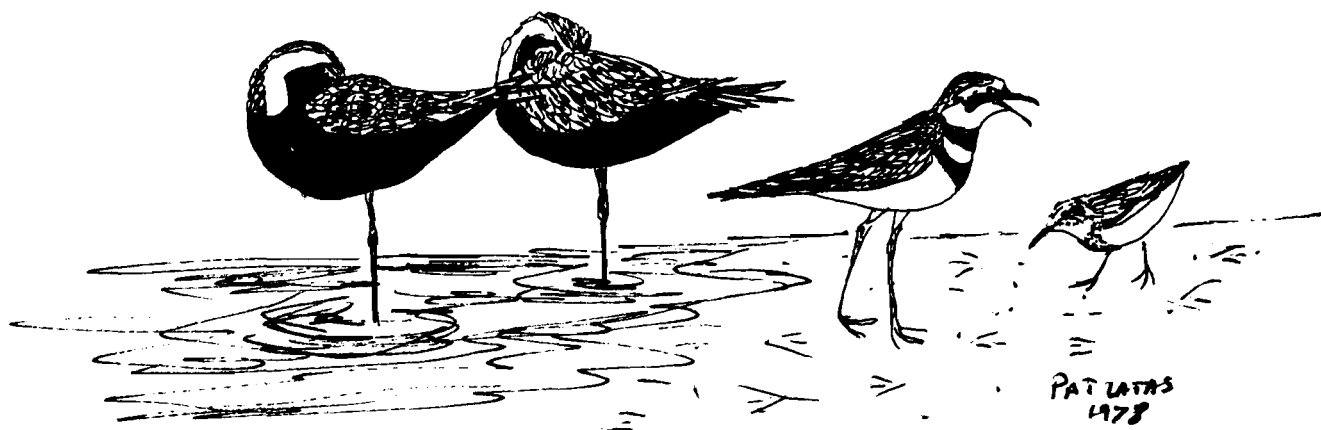


## Bird Distributions

The Colorado Field Ornithologists have recently published a helpful guide to bird distributions in Colorado. This publication would be particularly useful to birders in western Kansas. It includes state-wide distributions of birds by seasonal and breeding status, as well as information regarding habitat preference. The Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study is available at the price of \$2.00 from:

Judd Sundine, Treasurer  
Colorado Field Ornithologists  
5325 Garland  
Arvada, Colorado 80002

—PJL and Mike Moulton



## Canadian Researcher Needs Your Help

Ms. Nancy Flood of the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories of the University of Toronto needs information regarding the Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles in Kansas. She specifically wants information concerning the arrival of the males, to help explain the delayed maturation of plumage in first year males. The following page is a form summarizing the information which Ms. Flood has asked us to provide. The form may be mailed to her at the address listed at the top of the form. As she said in a letter to the editor: "...on my own I can collect only a limited number of observations from a very few localities. Any assistance you can give me would be thus greatly appreciated."

—PJL

## KOS SPRING MEETING

Registration, Peter Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan	\$2.50
Noon Lunch - Saturday, April 29. Pay at KWU Cafeteria	1.85
Banquet - Saturday, April 29. Holiday Inn	7.00
Lunch - Sunday, April 30 at Thomas Park	2.00

## ACCOMODATIONS

Holiday Inn, 827-5533, Half block north of Crawford on Broadway	
Single, tax included	\$16.48
Twin, tax included	23.69
Travel Lodge, 827-9351	
Single	16.75
Twin	20.75
Vagabond II, 825-7265	
Single	15.00
Twin	20.00

## CAMPGROUNDS

KOA, I-70 between U.S. 81 and I-35

Thomas Park, U.S. 81, 1/2 mile south I-70

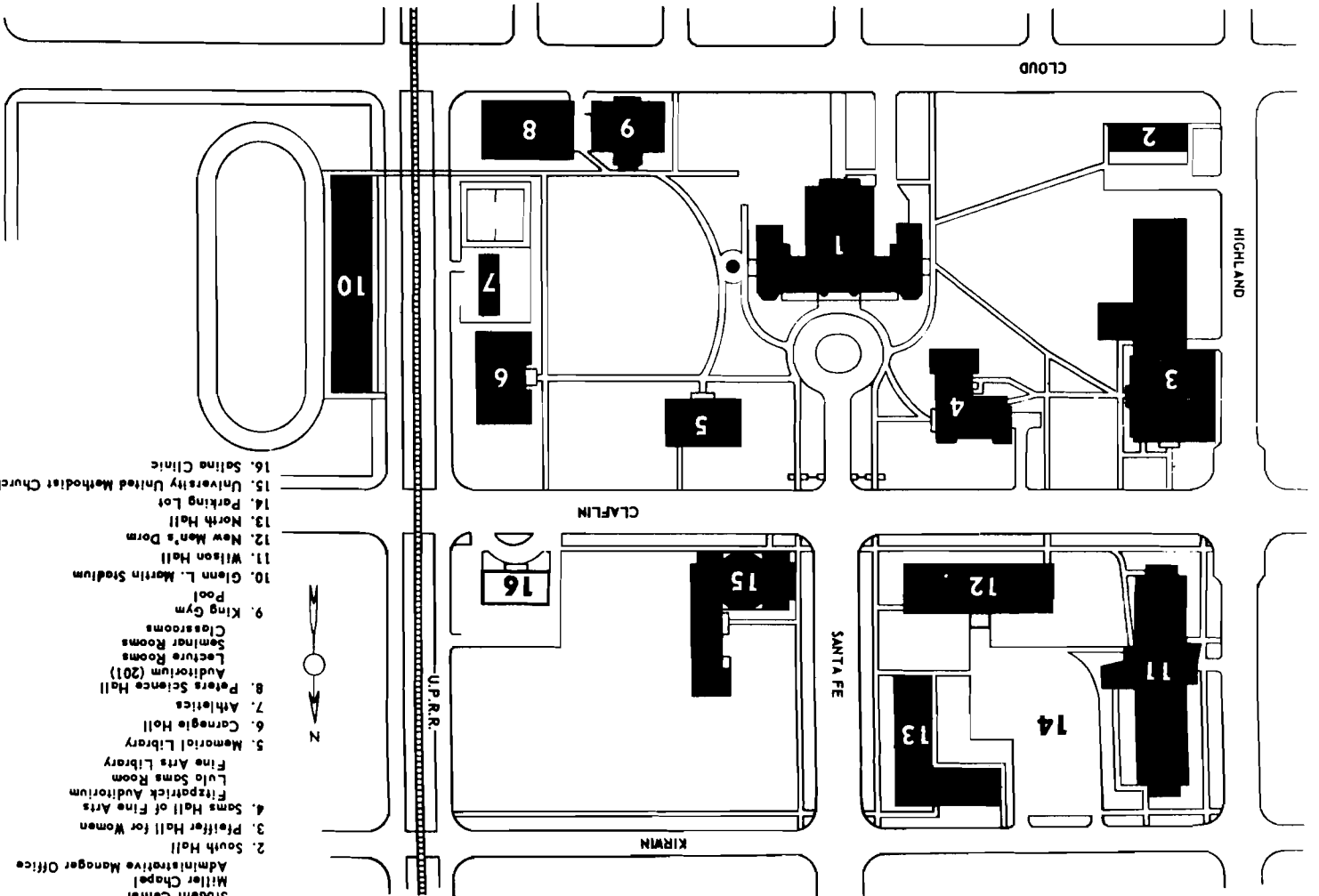
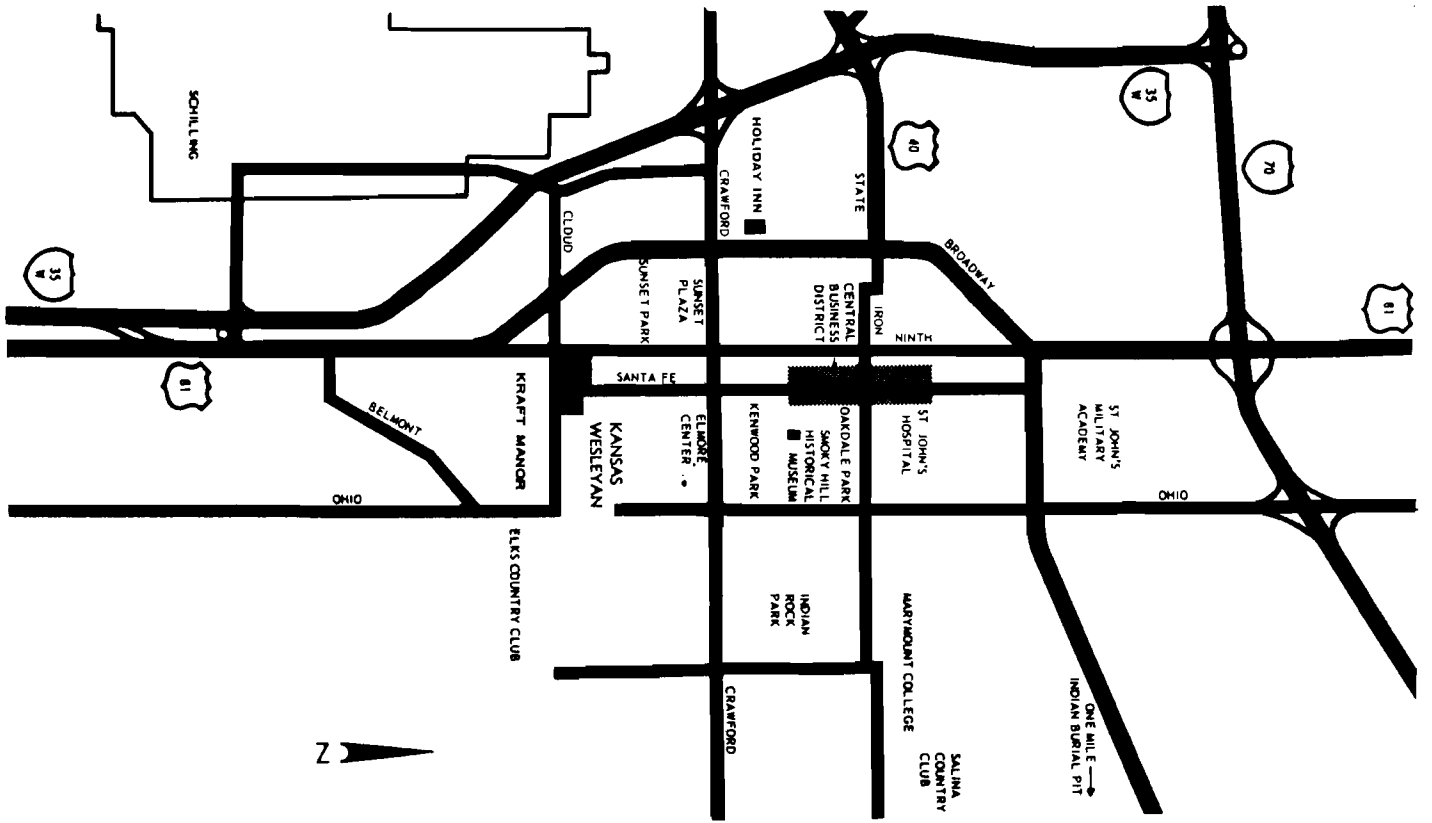
Registration is between 8-9 a.m. on April 29 at Peter Science Hall on Kansas Wesleyan University Campus at the extreme south end of Santa Fe Avenue. The science building is located on the SE corner of the campus.

For those early arrivals, a social gathering will begin at 6 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Bring your slides and show them then.

Speaker for the banquet Saturday night will be Wes Jackson. Time will be announced at the meetings.

The compilation of the bird list will be held Sunday at Thomas Park at 1:00 p.m.

# MAP OF SALINA



1. Pioneer Hall
2. South Hall
3. Pfeiffer Hall for Women
4. Sams Hall of Fine Arts
5. Fitzpatrick Auditorium
6. Lulu Sams Room
7. Fine Arts Library
8. Memorial Library
9. Carnegie Hall
10. Arthritis
11. Piers Science Hall
12. Auditorium (2011)
13. Lector Rooms
14. Classrooms
15. King Gym
16. Pool
17. Glenn L. Martin Stadium
18. New Men's Dorm
19. North Hall
20. Parking Lot
21. University United Methodist Church
22. Salina Clinic





Mail to: Ms. Nancy Flood  
 University of Toronto  
 Ramsey Wright Zoological Laboratories  
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
 M5S 1A1

First individuals of the species below (observations on only one or two of the species welcomed) seen in Kansas before May 10, 1978.

species	date	Location*1
<u>Baltimore Oriole</u>		
1. first adult male	_____	_____
2. first female	_____	_____
3. first 1st year male*2	_____	_____
4. How many (or approx. how many) adult males were seen before observing any female or 1st year male birds?	_____	

<u>Bullock's Oriole</u>		
1. first adult male	_____	_____
2. first female	_____	_____
3. first 1st year male	_____	_____
4. How many (or approx. how many) adult males were seen before observing any female or 1st year male birds?	_____	

<u>Orchard Oriole</u>		
1. first adult male	_____	_____
2. first female	_____	_____
3. first 1st year male	_____	_____
4. How many (or approximately how many) adult males were seen before observing any female or 1st year male birds?	_____	

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\*1 county and nearest town  
 \*2 i.e. those males with duller, often female like plumage which are in their first potential breeding year. adult males are those 2 years or older in full breeding plumage. If uncertain whether a dull colored bird is a female or young male, please specify by a (U) after the date entry.

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_