

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Division of Biology, Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506

Volume 6, No. 3  
July 1979

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TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR (May 1978-April 1979)  
Marvin D. Schwilling

Information used in choosing the top ten included the "best birds" reports plus a search of the Bulletin, Newsletter, Christmas Counts as well as in the "Unusual bird report cards", which was a new source this year. Consideration was given to previous state records or specimens, geographic location in the state, season of sighting, nesting, etc. as well as personnel judgment.

Contestants were:

from "Best Birds" report forms:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cape May Warbler      | 7. Chestnut-collared Longspur |
| 2. Common Redpoll        | 8. Golden Eagle               |
| 3. Audubon's Warbler     | 9. Bald Eagle                 |
| 4. Mississippi Kite      | 10. Least Bittern             |
| 5. Connecticut Warbler   | 11. Broad-tailed Hummingbird  |
| 6. Golden-winged Warbler |                               |

from "Unusual Bird" report cards:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12. Olivaceous Cormorant | 16. Lazuli Bunting        |
| 13. White-throated Swift | 17. Woodcock (Nesting)    |
| 14. Green-tailed Towhee  | 18. Golden-winged Warbler |
| 15. Mexican Jay          |                           |

from Bulletin, Newsletter, Correspondence and Telephone:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 19. Black Rail                               | 27. Steller's Jay                            |
| 20. Black-necked Stilt (nesting)             | 28. Scrub Jay                                |
| 21. Hooded Warbler                           | 29. Glaucous Gull                            |
| 22. Cerulean Warbler                         | 30. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper                   |
| 23. Brewer's Sparrow                         | 31. Mountain Chickadee                       |
| 24. Willet (June 28)                         | 32. Louisiana Waterthrush (nesting Lyon Co.) |
| 25. Canada Warbler                           | 33. Curve-billed Thrasher (nesting)          |
| 26. Black-throated Green<br>Warbler (Nov. 4) | 34. Red Bobwhite                             |

HONORABLE MENTION

1. Green-tailed Towhee - May 7, 8, 9, 10 Barton County, Laurel Dirks
2. Cerulean Warbler - May 17, Morton County, Marvin Schwilling
3. Connecticut Warbler - May 15, Lawrence, Sebastian Patti  
Camp Toawanyak, May Louise Myers
4. Hooded Warbler - May 3, Ellis County, Charles Ely

5. Black-necked Stilts (Nesting) - Quivira N.W.R., June 19, '78  
Bob Bartels - Probably three successful nests
6. Louisiana Waterthrush (nesting) - Lyon County, July 11, Marvin Schwilling
7. Golden-winger Warbler - May 7, Linn County, John Zimmerman & Joe Arruda
8. Willet - June 28, Sedgwick County, Steve Kingswood
9. Scrub Jay - December 29, Morton Co., Christmas Count
10. Black-throated Green Warbler - Nov. 4, Hays, Charles Ely et al.
11. Glaucous Gulls - Mid-December, Shawnee County, Orville Rice
12. Woodcock (nesting) - April 29, Lyon County, Tom Mosher
13. Curve-billed Thrasher (nesting) - Morton County, June 30 with 3/4 grown young,  
Al White and Mark Parts
14. Least Bittern - Harvey County (first county record), Dwight Platt
15. Canada Warbler - May 17, Franklin County, Steve Kingswood

#### MOST UNUSUAL

Red phase of Bobwhite quail - December 10, Douglas County, Vincent O'Neill.

#### -TOP TEN-

1. Mountain Chickadee - 13 birds, Christmas Count, Dec. 29, Morton County -  
first specimens
2. Broad-tailed Hummingbird - May 17, Morton County, first specimens, Max  
Thompson, Al White & Marvin Schwilling
3. White-throated Swift - Nov. 3, Riley County, first state report, Steve  
Fretwell, John Zimmerman, Elmer Finck and Martin  
Stapanian
4. Olivaceous Cormorant, two birds, May 2, Barton County, Cheyenne Bottoms,  
Ed Martinez
5. Black Rail - 26 July-31 Aug., Pawnee County, Scott Seltman (specimen salvaged)
6. Brewer's Sparrow (nesting) - May 16-17, Morton County, first nest record,  
Max Thompson, Al White and Marvin Schwilling
7. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - Cheyenne Bottoms, Ed Martinez (so similar to Pectoral,  
positive identification questionable)
8. Steller's Jay - Dec. 29, Morton County, Christmas Count, Al White and Marvin  
Schwilling
9. Cape May Warbler - Dec. 1, Baldwin, Katharine Kelley, Amelia Betts, Roger Boyd  
and Calvin Cink. Mist net capture, photographed, banded  
and released.
10. Mexican Jay - Dec. 2, 3, 4, Ford County, Joan Challans, Margaret Cole and  
Georie Cole - so similar to Scrub Jay that positive identi-  
fication is questionable.

#### TO ALL MEMBERS OF KOS:

If you know of persons who might be interested in joining this organization, please send their names and addresses to the new membership secretary, Jane Hershberger, 18 Circle Drive, Newton, KS 67114. The board plans that when the dues renewal envelopes are sent out in the fall, printed cards will be enclosed for you to send in the names of prospective members. Thus, the membership of KOS may be expanded.

Ruth Broderson  
Membership Secretary, 1977-79

## NEW KANSAS BIRD BOOK AVAILABLE

A Directory to the Birds of Cowley and Sumner Counties and the Chaplin Nature Center, authored by David E. Seibel, a member of KOS, has been published by the Wichita Audubon Society, Inc., and is available by mail for \$2.50 from the Wichita Audubon treasurer, Mrs. O. J. Selfridge, 830 N. Broadview, Wichita, KS 67208. The book was compiled as a master's thesis by Seiber directed by Max C. Thompson.

If purchased in Wichita, the book is \$2.00 and may be had by arrangement with Ruth Broderon, 2262 North Richmond, Wichita, KS 67204; telephone, 838-4914.

## KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY - APRIL 28, 1979

## REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, RUTH BRODERSON

MEMBER TOTAL FOR 1978 (closed September 1)		437
MEMBER TOTALS PAID FOR 1979 as of close of April 28, 1979)		
REGULAR		
Individual	198	
Library	25	
Family	<u>52</u>	
		275
SUSTAINING		
Individual	88	
Family	<u>52</u>	
		120
STUDENT (grade and high school only)		9
LIFE		
Fully paid	23	
Partly paid	<u>6</u>	
		<u>29</u>
		433

## LIFE MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY:

1. Katharine B. Kelley, Baldwin City, Kansas, 1968
2. Carl S. Holmes, Camano Island, Washington, 1968
3. Amelia J. Betts, Baldwin City, Kansas, 1970
4. Max C. Thompson, Winfield, Kansas, 1970
5. Philip G. Kaul, M.D., Shawnee Mission, Kansas, 1971
6. J. W. Butin, M.D., Wichita, Kansas, 1971
7. Charles H. Franklin, Jr., Independence, Missouri, 1972

8. Mrs. J. H. Nelson, Lawrence, Kansas, 1972
9. Mrs. Phebe B. Gates, Baldwin City, Kansas, 1972
10. Robert G. Barnhardt, Bucklin, Kansas, 1973
11. Robert M. Mengel, Lawrence, Kansas, 1973
12. Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin City, Kansas, 1973
13. Dorothy M. Ehart, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1974
14. Chandler S. Robbins, Laurel, Maryland, 1974
15. Richard H. Schmidt, Emporia, Kansas, 1974
16. Mrs. I. Mabel Willis, Blaine, Kansas, 1974
17. Jerome Jackson, State College, Mississippi, 1974
18. Mrs. T. M. O'Keefe, Dodge City, Kansas, 1976
19. Wallace Champeny, Oxford, Kansas, 1978
20. Margaret Boyd (Mrs. Ivan L.), Baldwin City, Kansas, 1978
21. Gordon C. Sauer, M.D., Kansas City, Missouri, 1978
22. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Wayne, Maine, 1978
23. Steve Burr, Salina, Kansas, 1979

Part-paid life members: Phyllis Henney, Sebastian Patti, Marvin Kuehn, Philip Menninger, Marion Mengel, Dr. Earl V. Carlson; last two began in 1979.

Ruth Broderon, Membership Secretary

#### HERSCHEL T. GIER

Herschel T. Gier, a charter member of the Kansas Ornithological Society, died recently in Oklahoma City and was buried in Hepler, Kansas on May 15, 1979. "Doc" Gier had been active until recently in the affairs of the KOS, serving as our initial vice-president and second president as well as being a director in 1953-54 and again from 1969 through 1972.

#### TOO MANY BLUE JAYS IN BALDWIN CITY?

Katharine Kelley reports the banding of her 110th blue jay of the year on May 13th, compared to an annual average of only 45 over the past seven years. One bird banded on April 1, 1972 was recaptured for the fifth time on April 25, 1979. Perhaps their longevity is related to the fact that they readily come to feeders during severe winters and thus survive quite comfortably until the supply of eggs and young from the open nests of such birds as the American robin are again available.

#### BALDWIN BIRDERS CONFIRM SCARCITY OF BOBWHITE AND CAROLINA WREN

For only the second time in the 31 years that the Baldwin Bird Club has conducted their annual May all-day count, have both the Carolina Wren and Bobwhite been missed. The first time was in 1973, due to the scarcity of birders that year rather than due to the scarcity of birds. This year, however, 30 club members and friends adequately covered the area on May 5, 1979 and sighted a total of 108 species. It is quite clear that both the Bobwhite and the Carolina Wren have suffered a drastic reduction in their population levels in eastern Kansas, probably as a result of the severity of the past winter. Katharine Kelley and Amelia Betts, Baldwin City, Kansas.