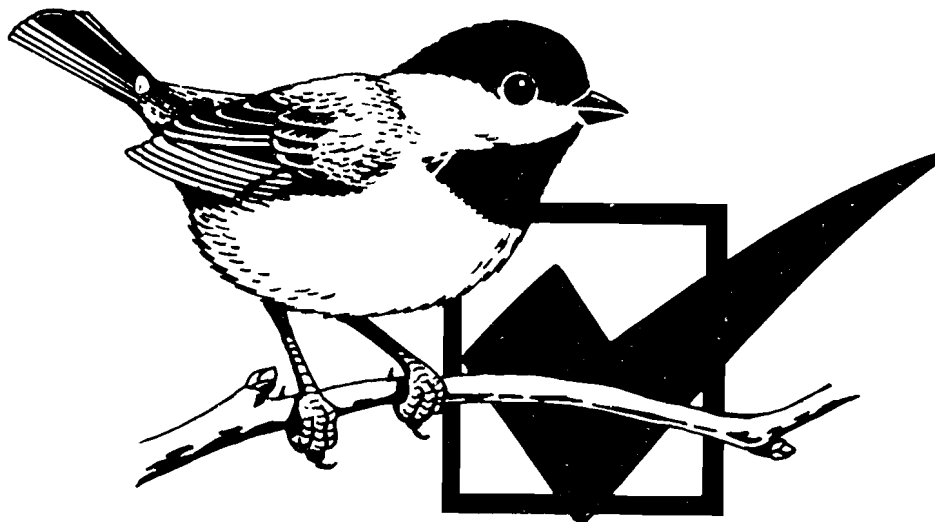


DO SOMETHING WILD!



**Mark your
state income tax form for
non-game wildlife conservation
in Kansas**

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who commented favorably on the last newsletter (I didn't get any poison pen letters). In return, I would like to respond with thanks for the many letters which included more notes for this newsletter. In the past it has been a struggle for the editor to receive enough material to put together the newsletter without writing half of it himself.

The next newsletter will be published in late April. Please have any news or bird related items to me by April 15. Due to the high cost of publishing the newsletter, I have been restricting what goes into it to information on Kansas or information that directly affects the society members. I did not publish some bird records this time as they seemed to be a repetition of known information. However, ALL RECORDS published or not, are forwarded to the information center at Fort Hays State University for Dr. Ely to incorporate into the master files for the Birds of Kansas book. So, just because I don't put them into the newsletter, don't think they are discarded. They are not and can be important as far as dates of occurrence, etc. If you can include with your observations, the importance of them such as first county record, earliest date of occurrence, latest date of occurrence, etc., it will be most helpful.

The next issue of the Newsletter will include a banding summary of the 1980 bird-banding season. ALL BANDERS TAKE NOTE. Please send me the summary of your banding records. Mary Louise Myers, Kathrine Kelley, Chuck Ely, and all other banders, please send those in as soon as possible. We will also publish your more exciting recoveries if you will send those in.

There are still field check-list available from the Treasurer or the Newsletter Editor. They are still the same cheap price: 25¢ each; 10/\$1.00; 25/\$2.00; 50/\$3.50; 100/\$5.00. Special prices on larger quantities. The check-list may be reprinted within the next year with virtually no changes. We can guarantee that the price won't remain the same. It was due to a misquote by the printer the last time that they were kept at this artificially low level.

If you have a drawing or some picture that could be camera ready for the cover of the newsletter, please write and let me know. This is the last time you will see the chickadee cover.

Let me again say thanks for your cooperation in getting me news, etc.

NEWS DUE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER BY APRIL 15
SPECIAL BANDERS EDITION

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'll try to bring you up to date on two developments of interest.

The KOS Constitution and Bylaws have been completely revised by Dr. Brockway and his committee (Margaret Boyd, Effie Edwards, Dwight Platt, Philip Meninger, Celia White and myself (ex officio)). The Constitution and Bylaws are now distinct entities which will allow us to operate more efficiently and legally. All articles were examined critically, several controversial areas were clarified (we hope) and some important changes were made. Several KOS members provided a great deal of input and these efforts are greatly appreciated even though not all suggestions were used.

I am now submitting the revision to all members of the Board for their consideration. Hopefully the revision will meet with their approval -- if not, back to committee. At any rate, I'm calling a special business meeting at the KOS spring field trip (2-3 May, Junction City) for the purpose of voting on the revised Constitution and Bylaws. Copies of the revision will be available before that meeting, probably in the April Newsletter. We would very much like to have this document approved BEFORE the fall meeting.

The Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council (KNWAC, of course) has had three meetings including one in Pratt with Director Hanzlick and staff members of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission. The council is completely separate from KF & G and was set up to assist and advise the Director in determining the direction of the nongame program and to provide advice and input on the use of nongame checkoff funds. We are soliciting ideas, opinions, advice, etc. from the public concerning any aspect of nongame wildlife. We represent the entire public not just our individual organization. Please feel free to send your input to ANY member of the council. Don't limit your attention to birds, we are concerned with ALL native nongame wildlife. (Three members of KOS, Dwight Platt, Steve Burr and myself are on the council and Marvin Schwilling is Nongame Biologist for KF & G).

I think the stated goals of KNWAC will interest you:

"All native nongame populations and their habitats in the state should be maintained for their own intrinsic values and to insure their perpetuation as viable components of their ecosystems. Efforts should be directed toward achieving self sustaining populations of all native species."

"There should be an aggressive program of public and interdisciplinary education aimed at developing an awareness of the importance and fragility of natural ecosystems and a concern for all wildlife."

Note that these goals are broad and deliberately cover ALL native nongame species AND their habitats, not just birds and the more popular groups. It seems likely, however, that during the early years of the program a number of highly visible programs will be undertaken.

The Council has moved slowly but is now completely organized (bylaws and all!) and I'm sure that our hours of discussion of goals, objectives and philosophies have provided a good basis from which to proceed. Plans are being studied for possible implementation when money (and the amount) becomes available.

Chuck Ely

PAID YOUR 1981 MEMBERSHIP DUES?

There are still some members who have not paid their 1981 membership dues. Please check to see if you are one of them. We urge you to pay right away so an individual reminder will not need to be sent. Addressing a lot of reminder envelopes takes up a great deal of valuable birding time, -- and it costs extra money. The dues schedule is as follows:

Regular -----	\$ 6.00	
Regular Family ----- First Two ----	10.00	each other \$4.00
Sustaining -----	12.00	
Sustaining Family -----	20.00	
Student (grade or high school) -----	2.00	
Life, Part payment \$31.25 -----	125.00	

Remember, persons who started life membership prior to 1981 are still on the old payment schedule, i. e. \$25.00 per payment; \$100.00 total.

For your information, any dues payments above the Regular and Regular Family schedule is considered a tax deductible donation to KOS. For instance, for a Sustaining membership payment of \$12.00, \$6.00 is considered a donation. KOS is on the list of approved organizations, compiled by the Internal Revenue Service, for which all donations are tax deductible. Life memberships do not qualify for this benefit, unless an amount above the stated amount is given. Tax exempt donations can be made in the form of money or land.

Send dues payments to:

E. R. Lewis
1285 MacVicar Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Jane Hershberger, membership secretary
Gene Lewis, treasurer

CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING 1980

The minutes erroneously listed Marvin Schwilling as chairman of the nominating committee. The minutes should be corrected to show Ruth Broderson as chairman.

Editor

ANNOUNCEMENT

Joint Annual Convention of the Western Field Ornithologists and Colorado Field Ornithologists will be held at Estes Park, Colorado, 26-28 June 1981. Meeting activities include presentation of papers dealing with bird identification and distribution. Field trips highlight tundra, montane, and grassland species. Convention details are available from Dr. Jeanne A. Conry, Biology Department, University of Colorado at Denver, 1100 Fourteenth Street, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA

A few months ago instructions were given in the Newsletter to help members find and visit the Dingus Natural Area. Included was a request to check in with Howard and Dorothy Wade at their home adjacent to the area at the northeast corner. To our sorrow, Howard Wade suffered a fatal heart attack in October. At the present time we are uncertain what Dorothy Wade intends to do with the farm. If you go to the area on weekends you might try to check in with her for the time being. She will not be available during the week.

At the annual meeting in October of 1979 the membership voted to accept title to the Dingus Natural area from The Nature Conservancy as soon as the current lease expired. This was a five year lease ending December 31, 1979, with a possibility of extension. In October of 1980 we finally received the papers transferring the Dingus Natural Area to KOS. No immediate changes are expected to be made but the Committee needs to examine carefully the boundary location especially on the north and northeast. The need to buy some additional land to include and protect the very interesting and fragile ferns, flowering plants and trees found at the north end of the area is a definite possibility. We will work with The Nature Conservancy to see what can be done and we may want to come to the membership for donations to help acquire the needed land.

Gene Lewis, Chairman
Dingus Natural Area Committee

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND DEAD OR CRIPPLED EAGLES

When a dead or crippled eagle (Bald or Golden) is found or you receive such a report, obtain information as to exact location of the bird but do not pick it up or move it - unless of course there is danger that the carcass will be destroyed or lost. Then contact an employee of the Fish & Game Commission, preferably your local Game Protector. In the event you do not know where to contact a Fish & Game employee report to your local Sheriff and ask him to relay the information on to the Game Protector. Law enforcement personnel will pick up the bird and transport it to personnel of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They in turn will Xray and autopsy the eagle in an effort to determine cause of death.

Marvin D. Schwilling

AN INTERESTING DEPRESSION

All summer it had just been a depression about a third the way up on the barkless trunk of our 27 foot elm tree stump. It was just a dark spot where a chunk of wood about the size of one's hand had fallen out. Then on the 27th of December 1980 as the last rays of the sun were moving up the stump that small dark depression was filled up--and it had changed color. Now it was a feathery brown with whitish streaks and on closer observation a small black eye was distinguishable.

Every evening at about 4:37 we would stand at our kitchen window and watch a little brown streaked bird land at the foot of the tree, poke its bill in this crack and that crack as it crept up and around the big trunk. Then in one sudden sidewise dart he wasn't on the trunk anymore. He was bedded down in the depression for the night.

You guessed it. A brown creeper was overnighting in our 'woodpecker-squirrel' tree stump only about 20 feet from our kitchen door.

Of course, we had to try taking pictures of this small bird. With a 135 telephoto lens I shot a picture from the ground about 15 feet away; then moved in closer for a 10-foot shot. The creeper never moved a muscle--just looked at us out of that one visible eye. Back into the house I went and returned with a 5-foot stepladder. Another picture. This time at about 8 feet and almost directly opposite the little bird. I moved the ladder closer, as close as my telephoto lens would focus about 4 feet. Our creeper still stayed quiet.

Every evening through Sunday, 4 January this creeper returned. It skipped Monday and re-appeared on Tuesday at 4:42 p.m. But for some reason by 5:00 it had disappeared. We were afraid we had seen the last of it. But that was not so.

Tuesday, 13 January, our creeper filled the depression again. We had refrained from having John try to band the bird for fear of frightening it away but John wanted to band it and we all thought this might be the last chance. About 10:00 p.m. John climbed to the top of the step ladder, butterfly net in hand. The net covered the depression area and John's hand crept in and encircled the small bird.

A commotion was noticed even in the darkness. John gasped. "There were two of them in there! There really was. One of them just flew away!"

Had there always been two? We don't know. We had always just accounted for one. Perhaps our photographs will help us decide. We also have a flash picture, we hope, of the brown creeper after it was banded.

We hope our creepers will return. We check for them each evening about sundown. But whether none, or one or two ever return it has been a most exciting birding experience for the Ottawa Brockways.

Dr. S. Martin Brockway, D.C.
429 Willow
Ottawa, KS 66067

WESTERN Tanager PIRANGA LUDOVICIANUS SIGHTING

This is a report of a sighting in Oak Park, a wooded city park in Wichita, Sedgwick County.

I arrived at the park on May 7, 1980, at approximately 6:15 p.m. Sitting in their car having an evening meal were Eddie and Savilla Stegal. After talking to them briefly, I entered the northwest section of the U-shaped woods alone. The vegetation of the trees was late in sprouting and the trees in this area were mostly bare.

Shortly after entering the woods, I noticed a Robin-sized bird sitting in a bare treetop with its back toward me. In this position I observed that the bird was yellow and black. In a slow movement it turned 90 degrees so that I had a side view. As it turned, its red face and tanager beak came into view. I identified it as a male Western Tanager. I observed the bird for a few minutes, entranced by its beautiful red, yellow and black markings.

I then hurried to seek the Stegals so that they might also see the Western Tanager. Interrupting their meal, Eddie and Savilla went with me as I returned to the location of my sighting. The bird was not there!

The Stegals and I separated to search for the bird, but we were unsuccessful. However, the Stegals reported that they had observed a male Black-headed Grosbeak that was a hybrid (it had a red spot on its chest). Interestingly, that was the second such sighting I had heard about that spring. At Harvey County Park West on April 26, 1980, Jane Hershberger, Rose Fritz, Jay Newton and I observed a similar hybrid, which had been seen earlier by Jane and Rose.

Donald Vannoy
2011 Porter Apt. 240
Wichita, Kansas 67203

BIRD NEWS FROM BALDWIN

After a winter in which we saw only two Purple Finch at our feeders-- and banded none--this winter is starting out faster than the 1976-77 winter when we banded our highest total of 390. That year we had banded only 30 by January 10-- this year 156. Six that we designated as "unknowns" in 1978-79 have been recaptured. Three are still striped, the other three colorful males. Another unknown from the 1977-78 winter has returned in full color.

Goldfinch were predominate at the feeders in November. Purple Finch came in mid-December in limited numbers. By late December, Pine Siskins built up to 1978 proportions so we started color marking their breasts. In less than a week, a green-breasted Pine Siskin was reported from Ottawa, about 12 miles south. A banded one had been reported in Wellsville a week before. But Purple Finch soon outnumbered both, and the large assembly has attracted two hawks--Sharp-shinned and Kestral--to visit our backyard, right in the middle of Baldwin. (For the first time in 39 years, Kestrels outnumbered Red-tailed Hawks on the winter count here.)

Another unusual bird visiting suet and walnut feeders is the Red-breasted Nuthatch. We have banded four of them--the first since 1963. Max Thompson as editor of the KOS Newsletter that year wrote--"The K.U. campus continues to be host to what appears to be an invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches. You are never out of hearing of their tinny yank-yank."

Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks have been reported in town, but not in our yard where they might get caught and banded!

That 1963 Newsletter had two other observations. First, Cattle Egrets and Great-tailed Grackles had been seen in Oklahoma, so Kansas birders should be watching for them. Second, the LaShelles had seen a large flock of Swainson Hawks in eastern Geary County on October 4. On October 5, just six years previous we had seen a flock of thousands in southeast Wabaunsee County, not very far from Geary. Has anyone seen large flocks like that since then in Kansas?

A. Betts and K. Kelley

EAGLES, EAGLE WATCHERS ARE TAX CHECKOFF BENEFICIARIES

PRATT--A gathering of eagles these days often means a gathering of eagle watchers isn't far behind. A recent eagle tour at Cheney Reservoir attracted around 700 persons wanting a closer look at the national bird. A similar tour was conducted several days later at John Redmond Reservoir.

"Apparently, watching and photographing a creature as wild and free as a bald eagle is appealing to a lot of people today," said Ross Harrison, information supervisor for Kansas Fish and Game. Since the 1960's and 70's, when plunging eagle populations in the U.S. prompted widespread public concern, more and more Kansans are appreciating the creature's real value by getting out to one of the reservoirs or wildlife areas for a first-hand look at the birds, Harrison noted. For a lot of Kansas residents, wintering eagles are just a short ride from their own driveways.

Fish and Game officials are expecting that growing interest in wildlife to show up again this year in a rather uncharacteristic place: state income tax returns. By checking a box on their 1980 state returns, Kansas residents can contribute any amount of money they choose to the state's Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund. The optional tax checkoff provides a new source of funding for greatly expanded wildlife conservation work.

In the past, sportsmen have been the only financial backers of wildlife in Kansas. Most of their contributions have gone into programs devoted to game species, although nongame wildlife has benefited as well.

The new program will focus specifically on those hundreds of species of nongame wildlife, including eagles, which are not sought by hunters or fishermen, Harrison explained. Development of urban habitat programs, acquisition of critical nongame habitat areas, stepped up research on endangered species, and development of public educational materials are just a few of the projects planned, he said.

"A handful of other states have similar nongame funding programs," Harrison said. "Taxpayers in each of those states already have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars for their nongame wildlife conservation efforts. We're hoping for a similar response here."

Kansas Fish and Game Release

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

New Distribution Records - Leavenworth County

Turkey (Eastern wild)
Loggerhead Shrike
Winter Wren
Oregon Junco 12/5/80

Mathew Nowak, Marvin Schwilling

New Distribution Records - Saline County

<u>Species and Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Peregrine Falcon (1)	14 Dec.	Observed by Roy Houff and LeAnn Ronsse in downtown Salina, chasing pigeons. Subsequently observed 15 Dec. by other Smoky Hills Audubon members. First record for Saline County

Observations from Western Kansas

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Injured bird to FHSU	9/16/80	Pawnee County
Virginia Rail	1st County Record	9/18/80	Rush County
Poorwill	1st County Record	9/18/80	Pawnee County
Bobwhite	Juveniles	9/18/80	Rush County
Barn Owl		9/23/80	Pawnee County
Golden Plover	3	9/26/80	Pawnee County

Red-breasted Nuthatch		9/28/80	Pawnee County
Black-headed Grosbeak		9/28/80	Pawnee County
Prairie Falcon	2	9/29/80	Pawnee County
Common Nighthawk	Flock of 200+	10/01/80	Rush County
Ferruginous Hawk	Including dark phase	10/09/80	Pawnee County
Lark Bunting		10/10/80	Rush County
Golden Eagle	Immature Eating Prairie Dog	10/11/80	Pawnee County
Eastern Phoebe		10/11/80	Hodgeman County
Eastern Bluebird		10/11/80	Ness County
Tree Sparrow	North Fork Walnut	10/11/80	Ness County
Sage Thrasher	Photographed	10/11/80	Trego County
Sandhill Crane		10/13/80	Pawnee County
"Harlan's Hawk	Dark phase	10/13/80	Pawnee County
Virginia Rail		10/15/80	Pawnee County
Harris Sparrow		10/25/80	Pawnee County
Eastern Bluebird		10/26/80	Norton County
Rough-legged Hawk		10/27/80	Norton County
Mountain Bluebird	Flock of 20+	10/31/80	Rush County
Prairie Falcon	11	October	Pawnee - Rush Counties
Prairie Falcon	15 sightings	November	Pawnee - Rush Counties
Cooper's Hawk		11/04/80	Pawnee County
Mountain Bluebird		11/12/80	Rush County
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		11/14/80	Pawnee County
Cedar Waxwing		11/14/80	Pawnee County
Merlin		11/21/80	Pawnee County
Short-eared Owl	4	11/24/80	Pawnee County
Peregrine Falcon	1 seen many times	December	Pawnee - Rush Counties
Prairie Falcon	16 sightings	December	Pawnee - Rush Counties
Saw-whet Owl		12/16/80	Pawnee County
White Pelican	5	12/31/80	Barton County
Bald Eagle	8 adults	12/31/80	Barton County
Brewer's Blackbird	Wintering		Pawnee County
Bald Eagle	Max. of 13A 3I	January	Barton County
Herring Gull	100+	1/28/81	Barton County
Common Merganser	1000+	1/28/81	Barton County
White Pelican	2 throughout	January	Barton County
Merlin	7	January	Western Kansas
Prairie Falcon	8	January	Western Kansas

Scott and Diane Seltman

Observations from South Central Kansas

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	1	10/01/80	Harper County
Ferruginous Hawk	1	11/03/80	Barber County
		(Seen by Eddie Stegall)	
Virginia Rail	1	9/03/80	Sedgwick County
		9/25/80	Sedgwick County
Western Kingbird	2	10/01/80	Kingman County
Long-billed Marsh Wren	2	10/23/80	Sedgwick County
Mountain Bluebird	6	11/03/80	Barber County
		(Seen by Eddie Stegall)	
Northern Oriole	1	10/09/80	Sedgwick County
		(Seen by Eddie Stegall)	

Steven Kingswood

New County Records - South Central Kansas

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observation</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1975, 1976, 1977	Observed at Elm Mills in Barber County during Midwinter Bird Counts for all three years. Observer - Wood
House Finch	1/25/78 thru 3/4/78 4/30/79	Female at feeder regularly, City of Pratt, Pratt County Female foraging in lawn, City of Pratt, Pratt County Observer - Wood
Cattle Egret	8/14/78	Single bird resting and foraging on Fish & Game Hatchery pond dike; 2E, 1S Pratt, Pratt County Observer - Wood
Blackburnian Warbler	5/26/79	Male and female foraging in small locust clump, Pratt City, Pratt County. Male well colored. Observer - Wood
Osprey	4/24/80	Single bird at Coldwater Lake, Coldwater, Comanche County Observers - Wood and Ken Brunson
Peregrine Falcon	12/13/80	Single bird, 2E & 2N Sawyer, Pratt County Sand Creek Drainage Observers - Wood, Kent Montei, Bill Peabody

American goldfinch
purple finch, common
crow, ruby-crowned
kinglet, snow geese,
song sparrow, tree
sparrow, red-headed
woodpecker, common
(yellow-s) flicker

11/29/80

Atchison State Fishing
Lake, Atchison County

Robert D. Wood

First County Records from Western Kansas

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1/10/81	Hodgeman County
		1/24/81	Scott County
Cooper's Hawk		1/11/81	Edwards County
Merlin	2	1/11/81	Edwards County
		1/22/81	Rush County
	2	1/24/81	Lane County
Long-eared Owl		1/11/81	Edwards County
"Red-shafted" Flicker		1/10/81	Hodgeman County
White-breasted Nuthatch		1/10/81	Hodgeman County
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1/24/81	Scott County
Brown Creeper		1/10/81	Hodgeman County
		1/24/81	Scott County
Mountain Bluebird	10	1/11/81	Edwards County
	2	1/24/81	Lane County
Townsend's Solitaire		1/10/81	Hodgeman
		1/24/81	Ness County
Cedar Waxwing		1/8/81	Rush County
		1/24/81	Ness County
		1/24/81	Gove County
Purple Finch		1/8/81	Pawnee County
House Finch		1/24/81	Ness County
Pine Siskin		1/24/81	Lane County
Rufous-sided Towhee		1/11/81	Edwards County
"Oregon" Junco		1/10/81	Ness County
Tree Sparrow		1/10/81	Hodgeman
		1/24/81	Lane County
White-crowned Sparrow		1/11/81	Edwards County
Lincoln's Sparrow		1/11/81	Edwards County
Lapland Longspur		1/11/81	Edwards County

Scott Seltman

Notes from Various Counties

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number & Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	5 on 25 Oct.	Jefferson	Lloyd Moore
	1 on 20 Nov.	Osage	Ed and Jean Schulenberg
Horned Grebe	1 on 20 Nov.	Osage	Schulenberg
Western Grebe	4 on 25 Oct.	Jefferson	L. Moore
Cattle Egret	1 on 16 Aug.	Osage	Schulenberg
Oldsquaw	1 female on 25 Oct.	Jefferson	L. Moore
Surf Scoter	1 on 1 Nov.	Johnson	Dave Hedges
Black Scoter	4 on 12 Nov. (shot by hunter)	Linn	fide Marvin Schwilling
Mississippi Kite	1 on 11 Sept.	Lyon	Dorothy, Lester and Richard Laird
Osprey	up to 3 (1 juv.) 9 and 15-26 Sept.	Lyon	Tom Mosher
	1 on 11 Nov.	Coffey	Schulenberg
	1 on 19 Nov.	Coffey	A. Tubbs Steve Williams
Prairie Falcon	1 on 19 Nov.	Lyon	A. Tubbs
Whooping Crane	3 on 11 Oct.	Barton	John Simpson Joe Bonfeldt
	1 on 7 Nov.	Barton	M. Schwilling
Red Knot	2 on 30 Aug.	Barton	L. Moore
Northern Phalarope	1 on 30 Aug.	Barton	L. Moore
Bonaparte's Gull	114 on 11 Nov.	Osage	Schulenberg
Sabine's Gull	1 on 30 Sept. first county record	Osage	Charles Hall
Caspian Tern	1 on 16 Aug.	Osage	Schulenberg
Short-billed Marsh Wren		Atchison	M. Schwilling, Dan LaShelle, Schulenbergs
	also birds nesting in	Jefferson	D. LaShelle
Rock Wren	1 observed	Lyon	Steve Stephens

Jean Schulenberg
Route 1, Admire, KS 66830

RENO COUNTY BIRD COUNT

Reno County, Kansas - 37°75'N 97°61'W, center 3 mi. S of Yoder.; elevation 1500 - 1540 ft.; habitat coverage: farmlands 55%, lakes and rivers 15%, riparian woods 5%, grasslands 15%, upland woods 10%. - Dec. 20; 5:30 am - 4 pm.; overcast. Temperature 13° - 19° F. Wind N-NE, 5-10 m.p.h. No snow cover. Water mostly open. Wild food excellent. Seventeen observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 48 (22 by foot, 26 by car); total party miles 281.5 (22.5 by foot, 259 by car).

* Great Blue Heron 8; Mallard 6; Pintail 12; Blue-winged Teal 4; Common Goldeneye 14; Common Merganser 3; Canada Goose 204; Hawk: Red-tailed 17, Ferruginous 1, Rough-legged 10; Bald Eagle 3 (2a, 1i); Golden Eagle 2; Marsh Hawk 14; Am. Kestrel 18; Bobwhite 15; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Turkey 4; Am. Coot 12; Killdeer 23; Herring Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 251; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 11; Belted Kingfisher 1; Common Flicker 39; Woodpecker: Red-bellied 14, Hairy 16, Downy 19; Horned Lark 1, 321; Blue Jay 129; Common Crow 2, 719; Black-capped Chickadee 110; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 475; Loggerhead Shrike 3; Starling 684; House Sparrow 1, 503; Eastern Meadowlark 229, Western Meadowlark 116; Red-winged Blackbird 6, 468; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Cardinal 31; Evening Grosbeak 1; American Goldfinch 50; Rufous-sided Towhee 5; Dark-eyed Junco 510; Tree Sparrow 1, 309; Field Sparrow 47; Vesper Sparrow 1; Harris' Sparrow 1, 636; White-crowned Sparrow 42; White-throated Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 32.

TOTAL, 55 species; about 18,170 individuals. - Byron & June Walker, Lorena Combs, Margaret Caldwell, Jim Smith, Patty Field, Mariam Miller, Ray Downing, Dan Downing, Bill Maben, Mark Rogers, Allen Hirst, Ed, Dan, and Anne Dyck, Randy & Mary Clark (compiler 1601 Arthur, Hutchinson KS 67501).

SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY - SALINE COUNTY
CHRISTMAS COUNT

Saline County, Kansas - 7 1/2 mile radius from Crawford & 9th, Salina. Clear. Temperature 20 - 30°.

Pied-billed Grebe 1; Canada Geese 14; Ducks: Gadwall 4, American Wigeon 6; Hawks: Sharp-shinned 1, Cooper's 1, Red-tailed 26, Harlan's (1), Rough-legged 2, Marsh 7, Prairie Falcon 4, Am. Kestrel 19; Greater Prairie Chicken 1; Bobwhite 83; Ring-necked Pheasant 26; Killdeer 1; Doves: Rock 1, 074, Mourning 2; Owls: Screech 3, Great Horned 4, Barred 3, Long-eared 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Woodpeckers: Common Flicker 18, Yellow-shafted (14), Red-shafted (4); Red-bellied 15, Yel.-bel. Sapsucker 4, Hairy 3, Downy 20; Horned Lark 142; Blue Jay 18; Common Crow 98; Black-capped Chickadees 307; Tufted Titmouse 3; Nuthatches: White-breasted 18, Red-breasted 14; Brown Creeper 21; Winter Wren 3; Thrashers: N. Mockingbird 1, Brown 1; American Robin 12; Golden-crowned Kinglets; Loggerhead Shrikes 5; Starling 605; House Sparrows 1, 116; Blackbirds, Orioles: E. & W. Meadowlark 240, Yellow-headed 25, Red-winged 40, Rusty 9, Common Grackle 11, Br.-headed Cowbird 18; Grosbeaks, Finches: Cardinals 114, Pine Siskin 1, Am. Goldfinch 89; Sparrows: Dark-eyed Junco 182, Tree 157, Harris 276, Song 5.

TOTAL, 57 species; 4,896 individuals

The following is a falconry bill that was passed by the Senate and has now been sent to the House. Debate in the House Committee may be the week of March 16, but this has not been set as of March 9. Please read the bill and send your comments to your representative as quickly as possible. Hopefully this newsletter will reach you in time for you to make your comments either pro or con.

of 1981

SENATE BILL No. 59

By Senator Werts

(By request)

1-21

0017 AN ACT authorizing falconry; requiring permits therefor and
0018 authorizing the adoption of rules and regulations relating
0019 thereto; prohibiting certain acts and declaring violations
0020 thereof to be a crime.

0021 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

0022 Section 1. As used in this act, the following words shall have
0023 the meanings respectively ascribed to them herein:

0024 (a) "Falconry" means the sport of taking quarry by means of
0025 trained raptors.

0026 (b) "Raptor" means any live migratory bird of the family
0027 Accipitridae, other than the bald and golden eagle, or the family
0028 Falconidae and great horned owls of the family Strigidae.

0029 (c) "Commission" means the Kansas fish and game commis-
0030 sion.

0031 Sec. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, capture, or
0032 possess or attempt to take or capture any raptors without a valid
0033 falconer's permit issued by the Kansas fish and game commis-
0034 sion, except as the commission by rule and regulation may permit
0035 for scientific, zoological, educational or propagation purposes.

0036 (a) Falconry permits shall be classified as an apprentice,
0037 general or master permit. No apprentice falconer's permit shall be
0038 issued to any person under the age of 16 years. No general
0039 falconer's permit shall be issued except to a person with a min-
0040 imum of two years hunting experience with raptors. No master
0041 falconer's permit shall be issued to a person without at least
0042 years experience in the practice of falconry at the general
0043 level or its equivalent.

0044 (b) Any person holding a Kansas apprentice falconer's p

0045 may take or possess not more than one native raptor. Species of
0046 raptors shall be designated by the rules and regulations of the
0047 commission.

0048 (c) Any person holding a general falconer's permit may take or
0049 possess up to two native raptors. Species of authorized raptors
0050 shall be designated by rule and regulation of the commission.

0051 (d) Any person holding a master falconer's permit may take or
0052 possess up to three native raptors. Species of authorized raptors
0053 shall be designated by rule and regulation of the commission.

0054 Sec. 3. (a) The fee for an apprentice falconer's permit shall be
0055 established by rule and regulation of the commission but shall
0056 not exceed \$50. Such permit shall expire on December 31 of the
0057 year in which it was issued. The annual renewal fee shall be
0058 established by rule and regulation of the commission but shall
0059 not exceed \$25.

0060 (b) The fee for a general or master falconer's permit shall be
0061 established by rule and regulation of the commission but shall
0062 not exceed \$75. Such permit shall expire on December 31 of the
0063 year in which it was issued. The renewal fee shall be established
0064 by rule and regulation of the commission but shall not exceed
0065 \$25.

0066 (c) All applications for renewal shall be accompanied by a
0067 report, accounting for all activities during license year as speci-
0068 fied by the commission.

0069 Sec. 4. Any person holding an apprentice falconer's permit,
0070 general falconer's permit or master falconer's permit and a valid
0071 Kansas hunting license may hunt native species of wild birds,
0072 wild animals and migratory game birds during any prescribed
0073 open season. Any nonresident or alien entitled to a nonresident
0074 hunting license may hunt with the aid of a validly held raptor for
0075 a period of five consecutive days upon payment of a fee of \$5.
0076 Unprotected species of wildlife may also be taken by means of
0077 falconry.

0078 Sec. 5. It shall be unlawful for any person to buy, sell, barter
0079 or exchange or offer to buy, sell, barter or exchange any raptors in
0080 this state.

0081 Sec. 6. All raptors captured, taken or possessed in this state

0082 shall remain property of the people of this state except for special
0083 privileges granted herein. Any person holding raptors under a
0084 valid falconer's permit permanently leaving the state shall file
0085 application with the commission for a special permit to transport
0086 said raptors out of the state.

0087 Sec. 7. The commission, to insure that the taking and pos-
0088 sessed for falconry purposes of such raptors be restricted to
0089 competent and experienced individuals, and to such numbers as
0090 are consistent with good management practices and the then
0091 current population status of the individual species or subspecies
0092 involved, may promulgate reasonable rules and regulations: (1)
0093 Prescribing the methods for the taking and possession of raptors;

0094 (2) establishing the time and area from which raptors may be
0095 taken and species that may be taken;

0096 (3) prescribing standards for possessing and housing of rap-
0097 tors held under a falconer's permit;

0098 (4) requiring annual reporting requirements and procedures;

0099 (5) prescribing eligibility requirements for any falconer's
0100 permit;

0101 (6) concerning the possession and care of crippled and in-
0102 jured raptors; and

0103 (7) providing conditions pertaining to the use of threatened
0104 species.

0105 Sec. 8. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
0106 necessary to effectuate the rules and regulations pertaining to
0107 federal falconry permits and standards adopted August 3, 1978,
0108 pursuant to the migratory bird treaty act (16 U.S.C. 704), and such
0109 other rules and regulations deemed necessary to administer and
0110 enforce the provisions of this act.

0111 Sec. 9. Any person violating any provision of this act or any
0112 rule and regulation of the commission authorized herein shall be
0113 deemed guilty of a class C misdemeanor and any raptors pos-
0114 sessed by such person shall be turned over to the commission for
0115 either placement or, where it appears that such raptor can survive
0116 in freedom, for release.

0117 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and
0118 after its publication in the statute book.

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