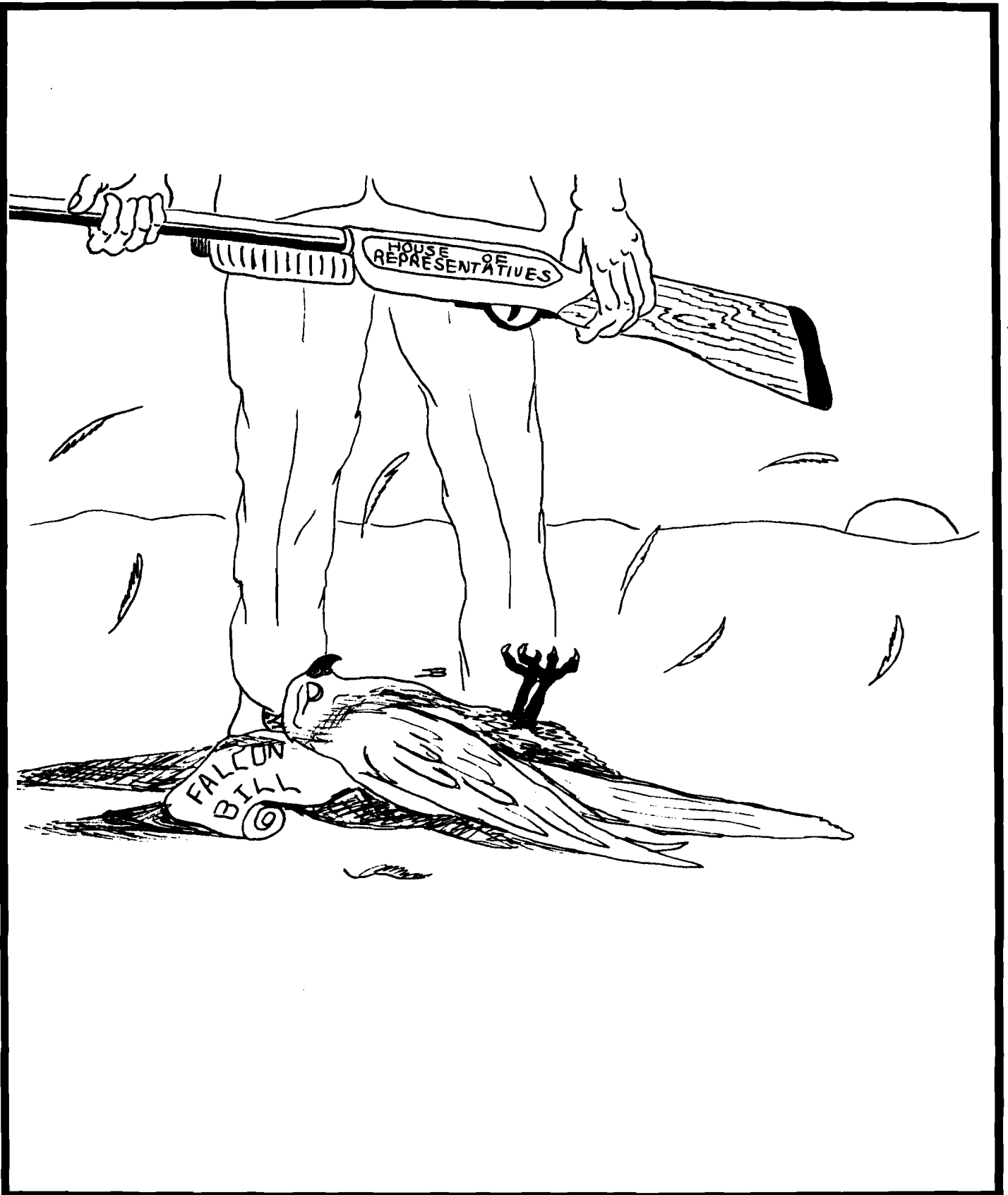


KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Department of Biology, Southwestern College  
Winfield, KS 67156

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## RECORDED MESSAGES WILL TRACE STATEHOUSE ACTION

PRATT--Kansans interested in keeping track of fish and wildlife-related bills in the 1982 Kansas Legislature should remember this number: (316) 672-3158.

That's the telephone number to dial, beginning Jan. 15, for a recorded message on the status of legislation directly related to Kansas Fish and Game. The report will be updated at 11 a.m. each Friday throughout the legislative session. The recording will comprise a brief review of new bills introduced and report any change in status of bills already introduced or carried over from the 1981 session.

Kansas Fish and Game Commission  
News Release

January, 1982

### NONGAME WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS PROGRAM

FY'83 (July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983)

About \$128,000 were contributed on the 1980 state income tax returns for the nongame wildlife fund. At this time it looks very likely that between \$50,000 and \$60,000 will not be obligated before July 1, 1982. These unobligated funds will be available for FY'83. Assuming an equal contribution from the 1981 returns (other states have experienced a doubling of such contributions the second year), there would be nearly \$206,000 available for use in FY'83. This report outlines the programs and projects that are being planned for FY'83. Some of these were instigated in FY'82 and will continue into the coming fiscal year. It should be pointed out that we are not locked into only these projects. If a good new program or project becomes available, we can still undertake that item.

At this time, we are planning to obligate up to 90% of the available funds for FY'83. The remaining 10% would be left for reserve. For FY'83, major emphasis will be directed toward the following (individual projects are listed later in this document): 28% of the budget will be for nongame wildlife habitat improvements, interpretive centers and trails; 21% for nongame wildlife educational materials; 28% for species reintroduction and special investigations; 16% for a new position and supportive equipment; 3% for promoting tax checkoff program; and 3% for administrative support.

The Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council (KNWAC) has been formed and is functioning to aid the agency in developing and carrying out the nongame program. The Council is composed of the following organizations: Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Academy of Science, Kansas Advisory Council for Environmental Education, Kansas Ornithological Society, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Wildflower Society, Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and Kansas Audubon Council. This budget request has been reviewed and approved by this Council.

Through FY'82 and into FY'83, one main function will be the development of sound long range plans and goals for the nongame program. During this period, efforts will be directed toward insuring the formulation of a complete well-rounded nongame program. The following is a list of programs and projects that will be undertaken in FY'83.

1. Provide nongame wildlife habitat at rest homes: This is a continuation of a pilot project started in FY'82. Objectives of this project are to 1) provide and enhance nongame habitat around rest homes and 2) provide enjoyment to senior citizens. This habitat will be in the form of nesting sites, feeding sites, and tree and shrub plantings.
2. Make nongame wildlife habitat materials available to various groups: This is a continuation of a program started in FY'82. Objective of this program is to provide materials (lumber, shrubs, etc.) to any group (4-H, Cub Scouts, JC's, Audubon, etc.) that needs financial support with a nongame wildlife project. Examples of some projects would be nature trails, interpretive centers, park enhancements, bluebird nest box routes, etc.
3. Least tern management: This project is a continuation of one started in FY '81. Objectives of this project are to 1) provide information for improved management, 2) provide information so species can be removed from Kansas' threatened and endangered list, 3) determine nesting areas in Kansas, 4) determine wintering areas in Texas, and 5) determine critical habitat in Kansas.
4. Peregrine falcon reintroduction: This is a continuation of a program started in FY '82. Objective of this program is to return the peregrine falcon to its ancestral nesting sites in Kansas. Transplants will be made only if good nesting re-introduction sites are available; this will be determined in FY '82.
5. Nongame wildlife bundles: This is a continuation of a program started in FY'82 in cooperation with the State and Extension Forestry at KSU. Objectives of this program are to 1) provide plant stock for nongame wildlife habitat, 2) to offset part of the cost for this plant stock, and 3) increase

nongame wildlife habitat in Kansas. A 15-plant bundle of various evergreens and shrubs that benefit nongame wildlife is available to those interested in providing habitat. The nongame fund will underwrite about 20% of the cost of the bundles with the individuals obtaining the bundles responsible for the other 80%.

6. Menninger nature trail and interpretive center: This is a continuation of a project started in FY'82. Objectives of this project are to 1) provide a nature trail near Topeka, and 2) provide photographic display describing the nongame wildlife and its habitat that can be found on the Menninger grounds.
7. Educational materials: This is a continuation of a program started in FY'82 and enlarged in FY'83. Objectives of this program are to 1) provide nongame wildlife informational materials for school use, 2) provide materials for the general public, 3) prepare nongame wildlife programs for various medias, and 4) help solve nongame problems through educating the public. This educational material would be available to schools, groups, or individual requests (films would be reserved for school or group use only).
8. Regional habitat program: Objectives of this program are to 1) provide habitat for nongame wildlife, and 2) provide materials to individuals. An allotment of funds will be provided to each of the six agency regional offices. Much of this program will be handled through the Fish & Game's WHIP activities. Individuals (mainly rural landowners) will be provided plant stock and other materials that would improve nongame wildlife on this land. Other projects could also be undertaken (ex. bluebird box routes, interpretive nature trails, observation areas on public lands, etc.).
9. Gray bat management: The gray bat is a nationally endangered wildlife species; and the objective of this project is to 1) provide information so management in Kansas can be improved, and 2) determine population limiting factors.
10. Develop habitat for Bald Eagles: The objective of this project will be to 1) improve habitat around Kansas reservoirs, and 2) allow more observation of bald eagles by the public. Kansas winters a large number of bald eagles around our reservoirs. Some of these reservoirs could be improved as far as eagle habitat is concerned. Observations of these eagles could also be greatly improved. This project will be directed at both of these problems.
11. Mountain Plover reintroduction: This program is a cooperative venture with the nongame program in Colorado. Its objective is to return the mountain plover to its ancestral nesting sites in Kansas.
12. Improve habitat at select highway rest stops: After working with the Transportation Dept., a few highway rest areas will be selected to improve nongame habitat on these areas. Improvements could be actual vegetation plantings, bird house and nest construction, or interpretive trails and displays.

13. Nongame wildlife specialist: Currently this agency has one nongame wildlife specialist (paid out of Fish and Game fee fund) assigned to manage nongame wildlife activities. With the check-off fund program now getting underway, it is obvious that one individual can not adequately handle the entire program. The addition of one position will allow us to carry on the program and provide more benefits to nongame as well as to the public. Areas that this position will benefit: 1) long range planning and formulation of a complete program, 2) local government's dealings with zoning, planning, parks, and green areas, 3) public land's management of nongame wildlife, 4) private land's management of nongame, 5) investigations on nongame species, 6) informing the public, and 7) educational services. Of most importance is that this position is needed to provide Kansas citizens the best possible nongame program that their donated funds can generate.
14. Shallow-tailed kite reintroduction: This is a continuation of a project started in FY'82. Objective is to re-establish shallow-tailed kites in Kansas. This is set up as a three-year project.
15. Ernie Miller Park (Olathe) nature area: Talks underway in FY'82 with the Johnson County Parks administrators hopefully will develop into a firm commitment for FY'83. The Ernie Miller Park is going to develop a nature area that would feature trails and observation points. Funds would be given to the park to help with this development. This project is not yet firm.
16. Clinton Reservoir nature trail: Plans are being reviewed that would improve an existing old trail crossing some of the Clinton Reservoir's public land. Funds would be used to improve wildlife habitat, improve the trail and establish observation points. This project is not yet firm.

Kansas Fish and Game Commission  
Information

#### NONGAME WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS PROGRAM

FY'82 (July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1983)

January Update

Six months are now behind the new nongame wildlife program and major progress has been made although we had hoped to do more. Although authority to spend almost \$100,000 of the \$128,000 donated was granted, the restrictions on use and elimination of an additional position greatly reduced our capabilities to instigate the program. Nevertheless, the following list of projects show that the program has gotten off to a good start even with only one field position to coordinate activities:

1. Provide wildlife habitat at rest homes: Objectives of this pilot project are to 1) provide and enhance wildlife habitat around rest homes in Newton-Wichita area and Emporia and 2) provide enjoyment to senior citizens. This habitat

will be in the form of nesting sites, feeding sites, and tree and shrub plantings. Status: Purchasing problems delayed ordering of bird feeders and birdbaths although half the order has been received and the remainder should be in any day. Identification books have been purchased for the rest homes, volunteer groups have been lined up to place the feeders etc. at the homes, and a good supply of bird seed has been collected. Rest homes have been very receptive to this project.

2. Least tern management: Objectives of this project are to 1) provide information for improved management, 2) provide information so species may some day be removed from Kansas' threatened and endangered list, 3) determine nesting areas in Kansas, 4) determine wintering areas in Texas, and 5) determine critical habitat in Kansas. Status: This year's work is completed and a final report has been received. Field work for 1982 will be contracted this spring.
3. Peregrine falcon reintroduction: Objective of this project is to return the peregrine falcon to its ancestral nesting sites in Kansas. Status: Contacts have been made with personnel in Colorado for determining the potential of available release sites in Kansas. Plans call for having a contract ready by this spring to evaluate release sites.
4. Nongame wildlife bundles: Objectives of this joint project between us and the State and Extension Forestry at KSU are to 1) provide plant stock for nongame wildlife habitat, 2) to offset part of the cost for this plant stock, and 3) increase nongame wildlife habitat in Kansas. Status: One thousand 15-plant bundles of various evergreens and shrubs that benefit nongame have been made available to those interested in providing habitat. The fund will pay \$2 of the \$10 bundle with the individual obtaining the bundle responsible for the remaining \$8. News releases have been made and orders are being received for the bundles.
5. Amphibian management: Objectives of this project are to 1) collect distribution, population, and habitat data on Strecker's chorus frog, northern spring peeper, northern green frog, and eastern narrowmouth frog, and 2) use these data to determine status and develop possible management schemes. Status: This agency has been petitioned to add these species to the threatened and endangered list but available information is lacking for making a determination. Contracts to collect this data have been let and will terminate by June 1, 1982.
6. Menninger nature trail and interpretive center: Objectives of this project are to 1) provide a nature trail near Topeka, and 2) provide photographic display describing the wildlife and its habitat found on the Menninger grounds. Status: A contract will soon be let to an individual that will develop a brochure for the trail, develop a list of wildlife and plants on the area, develop a photographic display, and develop an extensive plan for the trail. This will be accomplished by August 1, 1982.

7. **Educational materials:** Objectives are to 1) provide wildlife informational materials for school use, 2) provide materials for the general public, 3) prepare wildlife programs for various medias, and 4) help solve wildlife problems through education. Status: This project has been slow to get started because of our spending limitations. The fund has obtained 11 films (16 mm) and 65 film strips that are now available to the schools. Negotiations are also underway to contract for line art work to be used in a weekly series of articles going to newspapers. The art work would depict Kansas nongame wildlife and would be accompanied by written data on the featured wildlife.
8. **Threatened & Endangered fish management:** Objectives are to 1) assimilate life history data, critical habitat and limiting factor information on the Neosho madtom and Arkansas darter, 2) determine distributional status of the Arkansas darter, and 3) develop management schemes from these data to improve these fishes status. Status: Field work has been completed and final report has been received.
9. **Sedgwick County Zoo nature trail:** Objectives are to 1) establish a wildlife area along the zoo's nature trail, 2) attract wildlife to this area, and 3) allow for observation of this wildlife. Status: The zoo's nature trail includes a wildlife area, prairie, sense garden, experimental garden, tree identification and a marsh area. The fund has provided a donation to be used in developing the wildlife area of the trail.
10. **Bird management in SW Kansas:** Objectives are to determine species occurrence, status and habitat requirements of birds in four southwest Kansas counties. Status: Field work has been completed and final report has been received.
11. **Raptor Rehabilitation Center:** Objective is to help the Smoky Hill Audubon Society establish a raptor rehabilitation center by providing materials to construct holding cages and pens. All injured raptors within this region can be taken to this center for treatment. Status: Funds have been sent to the group so work could begin.
12. **Bald eagle observations:** Objective of this project is to allow more observation of the bald eagles around our reservoirs (Cheney and John Redmond) by the public. Status: Eagle day observances are scheduled for early February.
13. **Observation tower for Cheyenne Bottoms.** Objective is to allow for better observation of this important marsh and available wildlife. Status: A tower has been located and we are in the process of contacting the owner concerning acquisition.
14. **Chapman Nature Center pond:** Objective is to provide a habitat type that is now lacking at the Center. Status: Their plans are being reviewed at this time. The general feeling is that the project should be done but further negotiations need to be done concerning the cost of the project.

15. Swallow-tailed kite reintroduction: Objective is to re-establish swallow-tailed kites in Kansas. Status: A project proposal has been received and is being reviewed. Indications are that it would make a good project to undertake but need additional discussions on cost. Project would cover three years.

Kansas Fish and Game Commission  
Information

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
THE CHICKADEE CHECKOFF AND THE NONGAME PROGRAM

The advisory council met several times since the last Newsletter. In late January we met with the House Ways and Means Committee and made a short presentation of council activities and some of our problems. I don't know how successful it was, but it was an education for me! We also had an "open house" to which five representatives and no senators came.

As tax time approaches we hope that you will encourage your friends and contacts to participate in the Chickadee Checkoff. Quite a bit was accomplished by the nongame program during the last six months despite some severe limitations imposed by the legislature and the problems of working a new and "different" program through an old bureaucracy. About 15 projects are currently underway plus others being done with regular funds. When you consider that almost all of the planning, paper work, coordination and follow-through are done by one person (Marvin Schwilling) that's a pretty good accomplishment. Incidentally, one of the top priorities of the council is to lobby for the hiring of a nongame wildlife specialist to shoulder part of the load and to expand the educational programs for schools and the public.

The projects underway are deliberately varied to involve as many people and groups as possible. Pilot projects and programs that can be started with a minimum of processing predominate now but there are a number of larger, long term projects in the planning stages. One pilot project is the supplying of bird feeders, houses, and identification guides to rest homes in the Newton and Emporia areas. This is receiving a tremendous response and will undoubtedly be expanded next year. Volunteer groups install the feeders and maintain them. Wildlife plantings are also available for homes requesting them. The Chickadee Checkoff also partially subsidizes (\$2.00 per bundle) the wildlife bundles provided as a joint project by Kansas Fish and Game, the state and Extension Forestry at KSU.

Funds have been used to purchase 11 films and 65 film strips which are available (loan from Kansas Fish and Game) to schools on request. In the future (as spending limitations are lifted) the nongame program will produce much of its own educational material. For example, in the near future you should see a weekly series of articles on nongame wildlife in your newspapers. Funds have also been used to partially subsidize a color brochure on endangered Kansas amphibians and the recent book on Kansas mammals.



Other projects include contributions for an interpretive wildlife area at the Wichita Zoo, an interpretive nature trail at the Menninger Hospital grounds, and a raptor rehabilitation center at Salina. Also being considered are the construction of a pond at the Chaplin Nature Center and nature trails and/or interpretive areas for Johnson County, the Clinton Reservoir and at interstate rest stops.

Among the research projects are special studies of rare frogs in southeastern Kansas, a study of the endangered Gray Bat, the possible reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons, Mountain Plovers and Swallow-tailed Kites, and assessments of breeding bird populations in north central and southwestern Kansas. Fishes and invertebrate studies are underway or planned. Most of you are familiar with the Least Tern study by the Schulenbergs which is now near the management stage.

Most of these studies have not been given the publicity they deserve-- partially because it is a full time job just getting the programs going and partly because the Information and Education Division of Kansas Fish and Game is having major personnel changes. Hopefully things will go much smoother next year. I suspect that we need politicians erecting bird feeders or planting shrubs under the glare of TV cameras to really get things going!

As a council member I get VERY frustrated at times but we do believe that the Chickadee Checkoff is a good program and worthy of your continued support.

Charles A. Ely

#### PINE SISKINS IN BALDWIN

During the 1977-78 "invasion" of Baldwin by Pine Siskins--when a total of 6,767 were banded by the four banders in this city--the first ones appeared at our feeding-banding station on December 18 and by the end of the month we had banded 33. This winter this species showed up just one day earlier than in 1977, but by the 31st we had banded 90. We hoped this was another invasion and, since Katharine had asked for permission to color-mark when she renewed her banding license, she began "concocting" green-breasted Siskins at once.

The aluminum bands used by banders is difficult to see unless the sun happens to hit them. Even the green breast is not noticeable always--hence some feeder-watchers have suggested that she color their backs also. We soon heard that our marked Siskins were being seen over much of the Baldwin area. We got an inquiry from Lawrence (15 miles north of here) in mid-January from a birder who remembered our effort of four years ago. A letter-to-the-editor in the Lawrence daily soon afterward has brought us several more sightings.

This January produced many more Siskin bandings than the previous high-count four years ago--458 against 262. This increase cannot be due to any extra feeding effort on our part and there are probably more feeders elsewhere in Baldwin than there were four years ago.

Although we have banded over three thousand Siskins since 1966, only two returned and were caught in our yard in a succeeding year. However, one was caught by a bander on Great Gull Island (off the east end of Long Island) two years and seven months after we had banded it.

Purple Finch frequently return after a year or more. But the record breaker is #850-17899 which was a second-year male when banded in March 1975 and has returned every year, save one, since then. The miss was in 1977-78 when Siskins were monopolizing both feeders and traps. The Audubon Encyclopedia says their average life-span is two years, so this one is an old-timer, or at least a Senior Citizen.

It is just in the last six of our 20 years of banding that Pine Siskins and Purple Finch have gotten into the top four species for each year. They come to thistle and small sunflower seed. Which came first? Did they come because of the change of food--or did we buy thistle (and feeders) because they came? We cannot remember!

Katharine Kelley and Amelia Betts

#### PLANTS FOR NONGAME WILDLIFE

What can a person do to help nongame wildlife? Plant a diverse habitat structure. Trees and shrubs, vines with nearby open areas of native grasses and flowering plants provide an important source of food and cover for nongame wildlife.

A Nongame Wildlife Bundle, fifteen plants selected for wildlife consideration--not landscape consideration, is available at nominal cost. The bundle can serve as a nucleus of food and cover around which you can further develop your wildlife planting. The Nongame Wildlife Bundle is a cooperative effort between the Kansas Fish and Game Commission and State and Extension Forestry, Kansas State University. The cost of the bundle is partially financed by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission from contributions to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff on your State Income Tax form.

The bundle consists of 3 eastern redcedar, 2 firethorn, 1 honeysuckle, 2 fragrant sumac, 2 Peking cotoneaster and 5 rock cotoneaster. All of the plants are 1 or 2 year old seedlings or rooted cuttings. The cost to you is \$8 (freight included). Application forms are available from the County Extension Office or Kansas Fish and Game Commission.

The bundle can be planted in a space 50 feet long, but it does not contain sufficient plants to meet all of the needs of nongame wildlife. You can further enhance an area for nongame wildlife by buying from your local nurseryman a selection of other plants that are beneficial to wildlife. A list of some plants that are attractive to nongame wildlife are available from the County Extension

Office. Technical help in selecting plants from professional wildlife biologists is available through the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, Route 2, Box 54A, Pratt, KS, 67124, or through Kansas Extension Wildlife Specialist, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

### FALCONRY BILL FAILS

Senate Bill 59 which would have legalized falconry in Kansas was defeated by the House 50 to 65 after passing the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee by a clear majority. A good number of KOS members provided input by providing testimony or by writing and calling individual representatives. A majority of the KOS Board approved the following resolution and copies were sent to each committee member.

WHEREAS the Kansas Ornithological Society, the leading Ornithological organization in Kansas, is committed to the promotion of the scientific and educational aspects of Ornithology, the promotion of the recognition and appreciation of birds by the general public, and

WHEREAS the Kansas Ornithological Society at its annual meeting on 3 October 1981 empowered its Board of Directors to evaluate falconry bills and to respond to proposals to legalize falconry in a manner commensurate to the goals of the Society, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors discussed Senate Bill 59 and found it deficient in numerous respects and not in the best interests of either the resource (the birds of prey) or the general public

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Ornithological Society strongly oppose Senate Bill 59 and the legalization of falconry in Kansas.

Board of Directors,  
Kansas Ornithological Society  
(Names listed)

As usual we had very little advanced notice about the hearings and I was not able to contact all board members in the short time available. Apparently we will always have a problem of advanced notification. I'm sure a new bill will be introduced in the near future so it would be advantageous for all persons who are interested in the issue (pro or con) to get their materials ready for mailing or for oral testimony.

I'm preparing a "position paper" on falconry and welcome input from all KOS members who are interested. This is a very emotional issue but we need more facts to support either position. For example, does anyone have solid information on changes in numbers of hawks in the state over the last few decades? We all have impressions or feelings but we need something more solid. I personally think we should be most concerned with the breeding populations since these would presumably be most affected by falconers. Even here, however, the facts can be interpreted several ways. For example, after Stan Roth's work with nesting Ferruginous Hawks some people feel that the species has increased while others feel that it's just a matter of now knowing where most of the nests are located. Please be thinking about the falconry issue and send in your ideas. I'll have a draft of the paper by spring meeting unless a new bill forces faster action.

Charles Ely

COOPERATIVE WHOOPING CRANE TRACKING PROJECT  
(September - December 1981)

Whooping crane migrations are monitored spring and fall of each year. Sighting reports are forwarded to the Area IV Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pierre, South Dakota, by private individuals, Audubon, other organizations, State and Federal Conservation Agencies, and Canadian Wildlife Service and their cooperators in Saskatchewan and adjacent provinces.

Cooperation throughout the whooping crane flyway continues to be excellent. The identification of color-marked birds is providing new information each migration. We can't overemphasize the importance of looking closely for the colored leg bands. In 1981, three young were marked and radio tagged, and two of these are wintering at Aransas. One radioed young bird died after striking a power line in Canada.

Whooping crane arrivals at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, a sighting report summary, a map of degree-block sighting locations, and a map showing the migration route of two radio-tagged young birds and their parents, are included with this narrative resume. Repeat sightings, of the same birds at the exact same location during a stop-over period, are not included when known to be repeats. Sightings classified as unconfirmed, based on whooping crane recovery plan criteria are not shown in the report; only Canadian sighting reports classified as "accepted" are shown. All reports received are on record in the Pierre, Area Office and are available upon request.

Arrivals at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge occurred from October 22 through December 2. A total of 73 whoopers are wintering at Aransas (survey 12/2/81). This total includes 71 adults and subadults and 2 young-of-the-year. Seventy-six whoopers departed for the breeding grounds last spring, and one

summered in Texas. Three young were known to start the fall 1981 migration. Six adult plumaged cranes and one young, of the total anticipated, have not arrived at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge as can be determined as of 12/29/81.

Recorded observations of migrant whooping cranes started August 30 in Canada, and September 29 in the United States. The last sighting report was on December 10. Sightings were reported from Alberta, Canada (3), Saskatchewan, Canada (16), Montana (1), North Dakota (6), South Dakota (3), Nebraska (6), Kansas (6), Missouri (1), Oklahoma (8), and Texas (8). A total of 58 confirmed and probable sightings were recorded. Thirty-three sightings of color-marked birds were reported.

#### WILSON RESERVOIR MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

This letter will detail the unusual sightings as marked on the sheet. This was Wilson's 5th count, and our 66 species exceeded the previous high of 1980 (59 species). I'm sure the excellent weather afforded by holding the count two weeks earlier than in past years was responsible. Too bad these earlier counts don't truly reflect "winter" populations. Unusual sightings include:

Merlin - A male was observed for several minutes by Mike Watkins, Bunnie Baca and Louie Banker on the ground (prairie) in Wilson State Park. The bird was definitely a Falcon by wing shape after it flew. The lack of rufous eliminated kestrel and lack of bold facial markings eliminated peregrine. Black bands on tail were noted. I observed a female on north side of lake on 12/21/81 as well as a male eight miles north of Bunker Hill on 1/11/81, so sighting was not a surprise to me although it was new for our count.

Blue-winged Teal - 10 birds were reported by Louie Banker flying over Hell Creek Cove of the lake. He saw them through binoculars at a distance of 50-60 yards and reported seeing the powder-blue forewing. This is a later date than any of my records (since 1973) for Russell County.

Long-eared Owl - One bird was seen by six observers flying out of a cedar row in a 45-year-old shelterbelt. I had seen 10 birds on December 9, 1981; many at close range including lengthwise streaking, ears, etc. Nine birds were again seen on 21 December 81. Where were they on the 19th?

Mountain Bluebird - A female was observed by myself, Mrs. Cannon and Jane Holland in a mowed area of West Minooka Park. This is the second year in a row for this species. All field marks were noted at 30 feet.

Marsh Wren - Bunnie Baca and Mike Watkins saw and heard a single bird in a small marsh (cattails) below Wilson Dam. One was observed by me in the same vicinity on 12/13/80.

Townsend's Solitaire - One bird was seen in the above mentioned shelter belt by myself and five observers. Eying, white in tail, wing patches were noted. It was still there on 12/21/81. New for count but a fairly common visitor here.

Say's Phoebe - I have had many November records for this species since 1973 in Russell County. One bird was seen on the count day with several Harris' and tree sparrows along a dike covered with heavy growth of Kochia (Firebush) above the Saline River just below Wilson Dam by Mike Watkins. The flycatcher shape and rusty breast were noted as he observed it for about a minute or less. Followup search by him and Bunnie Baca was unsuccessful in the heavy cover. This is quite believable to me due to the following earlier sightings by me and others.

October 17, 1981 - One on Bur Oak Nature Trail among large sandstone rock outcrops.

November 14, 1981 - One along sandstone ledge above river outlet at Wilson Dam.

November 17, 1981 - Same bird apparently in locust trees at Corps office below dam.

December 1, 1981 - Bird at office again.

December 2, 1981 - One at Sylvan Park - Also seen by Louis Banker.

December 3, 1981 - One seen below overlook at west end of Wilson Dam along the guardrail, still feeding on insects.

December 10, 1981 - One at office, feeding on wasps.

December 11, 1981 - One at office.

December 13, 1981 - One at overlook

December 16, 1981 - One at overlook.

Cold temperatures of 5° on night of 16th, 3° on 17th, and 5° on 18th occurred and frequent checks of office and overlook couldn't locate the phoebe. He had apparently moved from sparse cover of previous areas to heavy cover near the river. He hasn't been located again since the 19th.

## THE BIRDS RECORDED IN SEWARD COUNTY IN THE SUMMER OF 1980

As an outgrowth of a summer Ornithology class instruction, "Breeding Birds of Southwest Kansas", a list of the birds observed was compiled. This Seward County field work may be of some value to those KOS members who are gathering data for the forthcoming book on birds in our state.

Four biological communities were birded. These areas and the hours of observation time are noted here (Table 1).

Table 1. Areas where birds were observed in Seward County and the observation time in hours.

AREAS OBSERVED	HOURS OBSERVED
McCoid Lake and shore	8
parks and residential	6
woodland corridor and river	3
Sagebrush and grassland	2

Parks and residential included the cemetery in the northwest part of town, a city park at 11th and Lincoln Street, and another park located at 8th and Calhoun. The helium plant was visited briefly on one date. It is 12 miles northeast of Liberal near the Cimarron River and has park-like grounds.

McCoid Lake is located two miles north and 1 1/2 miles east of the city. It generally has about 130 acres of water plus a couple of settling ponds. It is an enclosed basin and all flow into the lake eventually evaporates or percolates into the soil. The water source is the city waste-water treatment plant effluent and a beef packing company's water treatment plant effluent and runoff from the land surrounding the lake.

The woodland corridor is the Cottonwood-Tamarisk-deciduous community located along the Cimarron River. The most convenient access is at the rest area on highway 54 about 12 miles northeast of Liberal.

Sagebrush and grassland covers the majority of Seward County land. It was birded the least amount of hours during this class however due to a shortage of time.

A total of 78 species were observed during the summer study (Table 2).

Table 2. A list of the birds recorded in Seward County during June, July and August of 1980.

Eared Grebe	Rock Dove
Pied-billed Grebe	Mourning Dove
White Pelican	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Blue Heron	Burrowing Owl
Black-cr. Night Heron	Common Nighthawk
Mallard	Chimney Swift
Pintail	Belted Kingfisher
Blue-winged Teal	Common Flicker
Northern Shoveler	Red-headed Woodpecker
Redhead	Eastern Kingbird
Lesser Scaup	Western Kingbird

Ruddy Duck	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Turkey Vulture	Horned Lark
Mississippi Kite	Barn Swallow
Swainson's Hawk	Cliff Swallow
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay
Common Bobwhite	White-necked Raven
Ring-necked Pheasant	Common Crow
Wild Turkey	House Wren
American Coot	N. Mockingbird
American Avocet	Brown Thrasher
Semipalmated Plover	American Robin
Killdeer	Starling
Marbled Godwit	Warbling Vireo
Upland Sandpiper	Common Yellowthroat
Greater Yellowlegs	House Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Western Meadowlark
Willet	Great-tailed Grackle
Spotted Sandpiper	Common Grackle
Wilson's Phalarope	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Snipe	Orchard Oriole
Long-billed Dowitcher	Northern Oriole
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Cardinal
Western Sandpiper	Blue Grosbeak
Least Sandpiper	House Finch
Baird's Sandpiper	Lark Bunting
Stilt Sandpiper	Grasshopper Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Lark Sparrow
Black Tern	Chipping Sparrow

Included here are comments on some of the more noteworthy sightings:

Eared Grebe	- group of 6 present at McCoid Lake on 6-14-80.
White Pelican	- a single individual on 6-14-80 60 present on 6-21-80 at McCoid Lake
Mallard	- brood observed.
Pintail	- brood observed.
Blue-winged Teal	- brood observed.
Redhead	- a single drake seen through June.
Lesser Scaup	- a pair observed through June at McCoid Lake.



- Ruddy Duck - a flock of at least 10 present in June at McCoid Lake.
- Mississippi Kite - common summer resident in the city parks.
- Marbled Godwit - two individuals seen at McCoid Lake on 7-6-80, four more observed on 8-5-80.
- Great-tailed Grackle - two pairs seen at helium plant on 6-15-80.
- House Finch - abundant resident in the city, several nests observed.

Lawrence Herbert  
Department of Biology  
Seward County Community College  
Liberal, KS 67901

Present address: RR #2, Box 116  
Olpe, KS 66865

#### CHECKOFF 'VOLUNTEERS' FUND IMPORTANT WORK

PRATT--Wildlife lovers throughout the state are putting out the call for volunteers to help fund an important new program in Kansas. The 'volunteers' are the thousands of taxpayers who last year contributed a total of \$127,000 to the Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund.

The program offers Kansas residents a chance to contribute by simply checking a box on their state income tax forms. Some 24,000 Kansans took part in the "chickadee checkoff" last year, the first year of operation for the Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund. Kansas was one of the first states to implement the program, said Marvin Schwilling, nongame project leader. Several other states have since devised similar means of fund-raising for nongame wildlife.

Use of the funds contributed by taxpayers is overseen by a nine-member advisory council which assists Kansas Fish and Game in determining how the money should be spent, Schwilling explained. Some of last year's contributions to the fund have been devoted to researching the status and needs of many species of nongame wildlife found in Kansas. Research on threatened and endangered species has been greatly enhanced. Preliminary work to establish nature parks and trails in urban areas has begun. A pilot project to improve wildlife observation potential around nursing homes is underway. The money also has helped defray the cost of tree and shrub seedlings being offered for sale to individuals throughout the state who want to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

The Kansas Fish and Game Commission invited Kansas taxpayers to consider joining the thousands who already have shown their support for nongame wildlife. By "checking off" on state income tax forms, taxpayers may dedicate any amount they choose to the nongame fund. Wildlife enthusiasts throughout the state are hoping more will join the effort during the current income tax preparation season.

Kansas Fish and Game Commission  
News Release

Dr. Robert Waltner is organizing another Himalayan trek for the summer of 1982 (10 June - 22 July). He has lived in India for 17 years and studied the altitudinal ecology of a rock lizard in the western Himalayas for his dissertation. Nepal treks in which he has participated have resulted in new records of birds not previously recorded from that country. He is presently teaching at Wichita Collegiate School.

The trip should be of interest to students as well as adults who especially enjoy photography, hiking, and wildlife. The trip features:

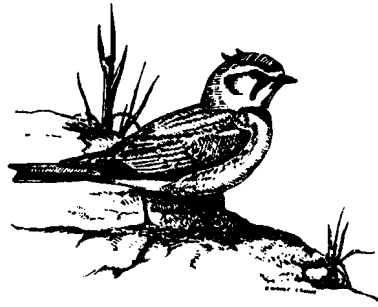
1. Views of 20,000' peaks from a distance of 5 miles.
2. Camping in subtropical, temperate, and alpine habitats.
3. Crossing passes in excess of 13,000'.
4. Leisurely pace carrying only day-packs; porters or pack ponies carry tents, food, etc.
5. Tour leader who speaks Hindi and is an ecologist with research experience in the Himalayas.
6. Opportunity to see up to 200 species of birds.
7. Visits to more 'normal' tourist attractions such as the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur, and Red Fort.

Total cost is \$2875 for the six week trip (based on current air fares and monetary exchange rates). Group size is limited to 5 - 10 participants. Minimum recommended age is 15. If limited by time, it will be possible for adults to take in just the Kashmir portion of the trip (July 1 - 22).

For further information contact:

Dr. Robert Waltner  
2216 E. 51st. St. South  
Wichita, KS. 67216  
PHONE        day (316) 684-0263  
              night (316) 524-3016

# Kansas Ornithological Society



## Treasurer's Report

Balance October 3, 1980	(checking)	\$921.53
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### Receipts

Dues	\$2500.01
Checklists & decals	96.65
Bulletins	30.00
Annual meeting refund	91.20
Total receipts	\$2717.86

### Disbursements

Bulletin	\$1324.63
Newsletter	627.91
Postage, Duplicating, phone	364.82
Safe Deposit Box	5.00
Secretary of State	5.00
Checks	4.21
Treasurer's Bond (2 years)	50.00
Dingus Natural Area (liability ins. & phone)	256.73
Total disbursements	\$2895.90

Balance October 1, 1981	\$743.49
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### Savings Accounts

Cert. No. 837871	\$1187.34	Maturity 11-14-83
Cert. No. 5031271	\$1017.82	10-07-83
Cert. No. 885298	\$1154.09	10-20-82
Cert. No. 607455	\$1099.65	12-31-82
Passbook Savings	721.33	
Bank Savings (checking)	508.41	
Bank Savings (Dingus NA)	926.04	
		Total
		\$6614.68