

Kansas Ornithological Society

BULLETIN

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Vol. 17

March, 1966

No. 1

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT FOR 1965

JAMES D. RISING

Nineteen mid-winter bird censuses were taken by members of the Kansas Ornithological Society between 23 December 1965 and 2 January 1966; 88,488 individual birds of 127 species were counted in the state. The total of 127 species represents a new high number for mid-winter bird counts and is considerably greater than previous high counts of 114 (1955), 113 (1953, 1962), and 112 (1959). Observers throughout the state could probably attribute their relatively high success to the clement weather that prevailed in Kansas through early January. Qualitatively, many species that are not normally reported in Kansas in winter were observed: Common Loon, White Pelican, Swainson Hawk, Black-bellied Plover, Inca Dove, Catbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Water Pipit, Pine Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, and Chipping Sparrow. Quantitatively, numbers of Killdeers (52), Common Snipe (12), Brown Thrashers (14), Robins (5,371), blackbirds (11,044 individuals of eight species), and Savannah Sparrows (30) reflect on the mildness of the weather prior to the counts. Table 1, which lists the numbers of certain songbirds that have been counted on the 13 Kansas mid-winter bird counts, emphasizes some of the numerical trends. Both the Robin and the Red-winged Blackbird are partially migratory, but winter in varying numbers that are somewhat influenced by the severity of the weather. On the 1965 counts, 5,371 Robins and 9,669 Red-winged Blackbirds were counted; these numbers are well above the average values obtained from 13 years of mid-winter counts, and the number of Robins is an all-time high. Three species of finches that are common on mid-winter bird counts, the Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, were seen in about average numbers, while two other species, the Pine Siskin and Harris Sparrow were seen in record numbers. All of the species mentioned above are migratory, or at least partially so, and annual variation in their numbers would be expected to be pronounced, depending on weather and on other conditions that

TABLE 1
Numbers of Certain Songbirds Reported From Thirteen
Mid-winter Bird Counts in Kansas

Year	Number of Stations	Robin	Red-winged Blackbird	Cardinal	Pine Siskin	Slate-colored Junco	Tree Sparrow	Harris Sparrow	Song Sparrow
1953	16	176	1,428	1,440	112	2,651	9,237	1,674	396
1954	15	1,655	4,721	1,111	868	4,550	5,610	1,488	1,136
1955	19	600	2,131	1,516	75	3,388	5,794	1,503	541
1956	20	485	4,426	1,155	5	2,777	5,301	1,852	625
1957	18	2,672	1,181	1,228	32	2,696	3,258	2,462	375
1958	20	624	9,814	1,755	51	3,807	6,517	2,662	284
1959	19	1,257	1,683	1,382	5	3,859	5,777	1,904	151
1960	18	960	719	1,416	116	2,001	2,795	1,347	245
1961	19	245	1,118	1,422	52	2,102	8,255	2,153	79
1962	19	4,367	4,401	1,484	193	3,497	7,147	1,719	278
1963	20	185	7,330	2,068	63	3,971	5,765	3,434	828
1964	18	609	4,392	1,442	2	2,682	5,374	2,906	436
1965	19	5,371	9,669	1,974	1,297	4,319	4,152	5,189	490
Mean		1,477	4,078	1,492	221	3,254	5,768	2,330	451

tend to influence population movements. The Cardinal, which is relatively sedentary, has shown much less annual variation in numbers. Many variables that do not reflect peculiarities in species' biology, such as the number and the proficiency of the observers, influence the number of individual birds counted on a mid-winter count, but clear trends are probably qualitatively real.

Several rare and unusual species of birds were reported in 1965, and the more interesting of these are discussed in detail beyond. It is hoped that by mentioning the details concerning the identification of these species it will be easier for future workers to assess the validity of the observations. It is desirable that great care always be taken in identifying any species that seems unusual, and, when possible, it is best that more than one experienced observer study the bird. For some species, especially, it is desirable to obtain a good photograph or a specimen to document the observation. Sight records are always somewhat open to question, and if they are all accepted and given equal emphasis it depreciates the value of the ones that are carefully taken. The following species reported on the 1965 mid-winter bird count seem especially worthy of mention:

Swainson Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The only Swainson Hawk reported on the 1965 count was from Lawrence (on 23 December) where Mr. and Mrs. Nelson saw one through a telescope. Often in the past all winter sight-records of this species have been automatically rejected because the species winters in South America. However, Swainson Hawks should not be easily confused with any other *Buteo*, and the frequency with which these hawks are reported indicates that at least a few do not complete their migration. All winter sight records would be more convincing if there were a winter specimen available to establish positively that Swainson Hawks do over-winter.

Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). A Black-bellied Plover, in breeding plumage, was seen by J. C. Johnson near Pittsburg on 28 December. Although this species normally winters along the coasts, there is at least one other winter record from Kansas, two individuals in winter plumage seen in December at Topeka (Orville Rice, personal communication).

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). A Glaucous Gull was seen by Marc Marcellus, David Parmelee, and Edward Ryan at the John Redmond Reservoir on 23 December. The Glaucous Gull was seen with both Herring and Ring-billed gulls, and differs from both by being larger and considerably more pallid. Parmelee knows this species well from his experiences in the Arctic, and the greater size precludes the possibility that the individual seen was merely an albinistic Herring Gull. This species is known from Kansas only by another sight record (Johnston, *A Directory to the Birds of Kansas* (Misc. Publ. No. 41, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.), 1965:25), and it is unfortunate that efforts to collect the present individual failed.

[Ringed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*). A Ringed Turtle Dove was reported from Wichita where an individual was seen almost daily by Nathan McDonald at his feeder. Mr. McDonald reports that several Ringed Turtle Doves have been in his neighborhood for about two years, and that a pair nested, unsuccessfully, in his garage in the summer of 1965. Carl Holmes, David Holmes, and Kirk Downing substantiated McDonald's identification of this species. I have not included the Ringed Turtle Dove in the over-all totals because it seems probable that these are escaped domestic birds, and are not established in Kansas.]

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*). An Inca Dove was seen every day in Wichita from 24 to 30 December by Mrs. Nathan McDonald at her feeder. Her identification of this species was substantiated by Carl Holmes, David Holmes, and Kirk Downing. There are previous sight records from Harvey County (November to January) and Shawnee County (June), and a specimen from Meade County (26 March 1957) (Johnston, *op. cit.*: 28).

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). The Catbird, reported from Topeka, had been in the neighborhood of 2149 Quincy all winter where it was seen daily by John Green of that address.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen by Bruce, Dean, Gene, and Mark Crane in a wooded and brushy area near Olathe on 31 December. The gnatcatchers were seen at a distance of six feet, and the observers are familiar with the species. Due to the mildness of the season, there were still insects in the area at that time upon which gnatcatchers could have fed.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). Eight Pine Warblers were seen in pines and oaks at Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan on 1 January by Phil Marvin. The Pine Warblers were seen with Myrtle Warblers, and the observer was able to see the streaked flanks and the white wing-bars that would help to distinguish the former species from the latter. Although there is but one specimen from Kansas, there are many previous sight records (one from winter: Johnson County, 28 November to 22 January; Easterla, Condor, 67, 1965:444-445).

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). A first-year male (or a female) Baltimore Oriole was seen in multiflora roses at the Kingman Game Management Area, Kingman County, on 29 December by Byron Walker. Mr. Walker's description of the bird as being "bright yellow and orange with a black throat patch" indicates to me that the bird was probably a first-year male "Bullock" Oriole although birds of this description cannot be definitely aged or sexed in the field. (Bullock Orioles are best considered to be conspecific with Baltimore Orioles: Sibley and Short, Condor, 66, 1964:130-150.) There is a previous winter sight record of the Baltimore Oriole in Kansas (Johnson County, 9 to 23 December 1961; Frank Throm, personal communication), and a first-year male was taken in Lawrence on 25 December 1953 (KU 31988).

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). A Common Redpoll was seen in a flock of Pine Siskins at Haskell Bottoms south of Lawrence by Clayton White. Mr. White, who has just recently spent three years in Alaska studying this species, says that the individual he saw was either a female or a first-year male.

White-winged Junco (*Junco aikeni*). A White-winged Junco was seen at Wichita by E. L. Clark, Don Ferguson, David Holmes, Ken Kaufman, and Ralph Wiley as it flitted about in a grove of pine trees. This species is uncommon or rare in Kansas, and most sight records and all specimens come from the western portion of the state (Johnston, *op. cit.*: 58). The White-winged Junco has been seen once previously at Wichita on a mid-winter bird count (Barlow and Thompson, Bull. Kansas Ornith. Soc., 15, 1964:2-7).

Among other interesting birds reported were: White Pelican (present through the autumn at Dodge City), Eared Grebe (Wichita), Red-breasted Merganser (Topeka), Mountain Bluebird (Fostoria), Townsend Solitaire (Fostoria, Wichita, and in count period, Baldwin City, Manhattan), Water Pipit (Lawrence), Northern Shrike (in count period at Junction City), Orange-crowned Warbler (Lawrence), Yellow-headed Blackbird (Junction City), Le Conte Sparrow (Lawrence), and Chipping Sparrow (Wichita). Twenty-seven Long-eared Owls seen at Baldwin City, 1,654 Robins seen at Baldwin City, and 1,210 Harris Sparrows seen in Kingman County represent exceptionally large numbers of these species.

Baldwin City (same as previous years). December 28; 9 hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated fields 5%, brush 40%, woodland 20%, lake 25%; temperature 40°F; cloudy all day, wind SW at 15 mph, ground 30% snow-covered, water areas 100% open; miles: 150 by car, 12 by foot; 17 observers in three parties: Mrs. L. E. Anderson, Barbara Boyd, Roger Boyd, Mr. I. L. Boyd, Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Mrs. R. G. Garrett, Mrs. Phebe Gates, Nancy Hey, Katharine Kelly, Mrs. Marno McKaughan, R. F. Miller, Tom Ruhlin, Dennis Stadel, Jim Wilson, Larry Wilson, Vernon Wilson, and Amelia J. Betts (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Gadwall, Townsend Solitaire.

Camp Naish (300 acre plot, 3 miles E Bonner Springs, Wyandotte County). December 30; 5 hours (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.); open grassland 10%, brush 30%, woodland 55%, lake and/or river 5%; temperature 63°F; cloud cover 90%, wind

— 4 —

	Baldwin City	Camp Naish	Clay Center	Coffey County	Dodge City	Fostoria	Halstead-Newton	Iola	Junction City	Kansas City	Kingman County	Lawrence	Longton	Manhattan	Marion	Olathe	Pittsburg	Topeka	Wichita	Total	
Common Loon										2										4	
Pied-billed Grebe	1									2	1	1	2	1				1	1	14	
Eared Grebe																				4	
White Pelican					1														1	1	
Great Blue Heron				1							2									4	
Canada Goose							85						6							116	
Snow Goose (white)																	25	25		25	
Mallard	118			28	23	10	10		308	318	77	36	12	375		182	40	600	37	2,174	
Black Duck										2										2	
Gadwall				4						16		1		30				10	12	73	
Pintail				1										6						24	
Green-winged Teal							34		4					50						37	
American Widgeon										1				30						33	
Shoveller														11					6	13	
Redhead	3			1										20				10		36	
Ring-necked Duck														2						25	
Canvasback												1		12				12		3	
Lesser Scaup	1									1				13						24	
Common Goldeneye										9				6						12	
Bufflehead														1						7	
Hooded Merganser						9								1						15	
Common Merganser	29			3,000					426	115	9	1		62						3,656	
Red-breasted Merganser																				1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1										4			2						8	
Cooper Hawk											2									6	
Red-tailed Hawk	27	4	16	8	3	13	15	8	51	19	5	3	5	29	3	18	23	10	20	309	
(*Harlan)																					7
(*Kriger)	2						1									1				3	
Red-shouldered Hawk																					3
*Swainson Hawk																					1
Rough-legged Hawk	2			1	11	1	5		2	3	5	5	2				3			41	
Ferruginous Hawk					1	2															1
Golden Eagle					2	2															4
Bald Eagle																					3
Marsh Hawk	4		1	6	16	5	8	1	18	1	3	8	8	6	1	3	15	4	5	116	
Prairie Falcon					2																3
Sparrow Hawk	10		6	3	2	1	11	2	16	9	1	2	6	14	3	3	10	8	19	137	
Greater Prairie Chicken				13	2	3			1				40							57	
Bob-white	41		22	8	20	23	61	1	20	20	38	18	25	214	5	39	9	25		589	
Ring-necked Pheasant					6		7				4			1					4		25
American Coot				2							6			1				15	29		53

— 57 —

Killdeer	2			3	1					1	2	2		12		8	11	1	9	52	
*Black-bellied Plover																	1			1	1
Common Snipe				3															6	12	1
*Glaucous Gull				1																	6
Herring Gull				3																	3
Ring-billed Gull				35					70	2	8			37						152	
Rock Dove (pigeon)			4		27		30	40	35	X				X	24		6	200	274	657	
Mourning Dove	18		3	2	3	77	9	6	16	1	2	55	11	144	10	19	15	10	7	408	
*Inca Dove																					1
Screech Owl							2		1	3									1	7	
Great Horned Owl					6	1	7	3	4	4			1	5		3	2	1	3	51	
Barred Owl	1						1		2					6			1			11	
Long-eared Owl	27																			27	
Short-eared Owl					3				1											4	
Belted Kingfisher	3				1		2		2		2			8	1				3	23	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	45	13	1	16	5	18	17	12	40	106	15	67	9	76	16	34	28	12	27	557	
Red-shafted Flicker	8			1	12		2		1		3			4	8	2			11	55	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	40	11	32	36		14	15	5	31	42	4	56	7	98	7	27	23	12	12	472	
Red-headed Woodpecker	79								2	1		20	3	13	1	18	14	4		155	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10								2	4		1	2	5		1		5		30	
Hairy Woodpecker	7			1		5	5		18	3	12	2	24	6	6	1	4		4	100	
Downy Woodpecker	29	8	6	18	7	18	12	15	25	65	4	36	6	85	7	40	20	6	17	424	
Horned Lark	96		10	60	2,273	52	202	30	171	27	52	23	30	60	15	20	2	6	360	3,489	
Blue Jay	100	10	18	4		16	37	8	70	170	15	107	17	200	4	100	61	25	21	983	
Black-billed Magpie					34															34	
White-necked Raven					2															2	
Common Crow	138		16	27	39	29	888	14	34	96	118	139	42	268	8	106	54	30	255	2,301	
Black-capped Chickadee	70	51	41	37	162	54	77	30	138	120	28	126	12	290	12	83	60	57	66	1,448	
Carolina Chickadee																					33
Tufted Titmouse	15	14	2	18		15	5	2	21	108	1	39	13	64		19	43	25	12	416	
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	1	10	2				2	16				3	19				1		60	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1	4	4	5		2		5	3			2	3					10	39	
Brown Creeper	2		1	1	2		14		9	1	1	3	2	8	2	2		1	8	57	
Winter Wren							1		3	1		1		1		1				8	
Bewick Wren									1				3							4	
Carolina Wren	9			4		2		3	3	14		7	2	12		2	9	1	3	71	
Long-billed Marsh Wren																				1	1
Mockingbird	20						1	3	3	9		17	13	6		10	10	5	7	104	
*Catbird																					1
Brown Thrasher					5						2					1	1	1	4	14	
Robin	1,654	10	39	400	1	96	57	4	937	234	53	705	241	374	95	252	103	50	66	5,371	
Eastern Bluebird	43	6		5		56	5	3	49	31	2	52	42	114	21	36	30	10	7	512	
Mountain Bluebird						1														5	
Townsend Solitaire						5														1	2
*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher																2				2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	1	5	9	11		21	2	8	37	2	7	2	45	2	5	5	6	9	199	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																				1	3
Water Pipit																					1
Cedar Waxwing	164		9						100	257			23	119		30	11	25		738	
Loggerhead Shrike	9		1	3		1	4		6	1		7	7	1		7	11	3	7	68	
Starling	847		100	70	633	153	547	130	339	648	76	1,872	19	1,568	69	886	621	1,000	6,714	16,292	
Orange-crowned Warbler																					2
Myrtle Warbler		1							6					4				4	13		36

	Baldwin City	Camp Naish	Clay Center	Coffey County	Dodge City	Fostoria	Halstead-Newton	Iola	Junction City	Kansas City	Kingman County	Lawrence	Longton	Manhattan	Marion	Olathe	Pittsburg	Topeka	Wichita	Total
*Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
House Sparrow	696	10	150	250	275	213	593	145	715	400	118	823	265	1,838	80	530	241	500	1,232	9,074
Eastern Meadowlark	45	1	-	-	-	8	62	-	26	11	128	6	90	28	-	3	77	25	3	513
Western Meadowlark	3	-	87	-	472	3	121	-	31	40	-	2	-	108	-	4	-	1	1	873
Meadowlark sp.	221	-	-	65	-	65	-	98	942	-	-	96	-	551	55	138	-	-	578	2,809
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	84	20	-	102	364	2	532	-	2,790	1,000	1,220	167	1	5	374	5	3,003	9,669
*Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rusty Blackbird	10	1	-	20	-	-	35	60	-	-	36	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	179
Brewer Blackbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	30	-	200	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	293
Common Crackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	173	1	-	191
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	-	-	45	-	18	41	-	87	1	2	-	50	73	-	4	269	28	2	642
Blackbird sp.	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Cardinal	174	19	20	75	-	56	62	40	166	90	40	227	44	353	15	164	68	200	161	1,974
Purple Finch	13	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	15	-	1	4	57	-	-	-	2	-	113
*Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	11
Pine Siskin	16	-	-	-	166	2	2	-	792	16	-	97	6	16	-	-	-	-	150	34
American Goldfinch	32	48	17	55	5	52	34	8	196	136	26	110	63	113	3	69	76	50	73	1,166
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	5	-	3	1	-	-	-	12	33
Savannah Sparrow	2	-	-	-	7	-	6	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	11	1	30
Le Conte Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*White-winged Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Slate-colored Junco	491	76	34	35	67	71	556	41	416	451	97	264	90	601	16	325	129	100	459	4,319
Oregon Junco	4	-	-	5	15	-	3	-	15	5	4	19	-	3	-	1	-	2	24	100
Tree Sparrow	282	-	71	95	73	312	191	60	338	22	324	356	245	1,059	14	455	16	200	39	4,152
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Field Sparrow	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	-	21	15	7	-	2	5	-	2	69
Harris Sparrow	332	-	24	180	223	33	592	53	353	3	1,210	482	120	719	15	151	49	150	500	5,189
White-crowned Sparrow	12	-	-	8	-	-	1	10	1	1	1	13	12	12	-	-	2	-	1	74
White-throated Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	21	-	-	29
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lincoln Sparrow	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	3	-	-	5	-	1	-	27
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	14
Song Sparrow	36	-	-	4	15	-	6	-	20	22	49	47	18	126	2	70	26	15	34	490
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	125	1,507	-	-	-	-	12	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,844
Number of Species	60	21	32	54	44	42	52	33	59	64	51	65	58	74	35	50	50	73	66	127
Number of Individuals	6,178	299	836	4,825	6,149	1,623	4,885	848	7,640	3,756	5,387	7,324	3,100	10,468	521	3,898	2,786	3,726	14,239	88,488

* Discussed in text.

S at 25 to 35 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 1 by car, 8 by foot; 4 observers in one party: Byron Berger, Bill Kerfoot, Dan Michener, and Stan Roth (compiler).

Clay Center (same as previous years). December 31; 6½ hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.); temperature 30 to 58°F; clear, wind NNW at 10 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 80 by car, 4 by foot; two observers in one party: Carol Anderson and Ted R. Anderson (compiler).

Coffey County (7½ mile radius, center midway between Hartford, Kansas, and John Redmond Dam). December 23; 30 party-hours (7:10 a.m. to 5:10 p.m.); open grassland 20%, cultivated fields 40%, brush 5%, woodland 20%, lake and/or river 15%; temperature 55°F; 60% cloud cover, wind S at 20 to 25 mph, light intermittent rain, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 59 by car, 15 by foot; three observers in one party: Marc Marcellus, David Parmelee, and Edward Ryan (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Mockingbird, Pine Siskin.

Dodge City (15-mile circle, center at St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City, Ford County). January 2; 34 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 30%, cultivated fields 30%, brush 10%, woodland 10%, lake and/or river 10%, towns 10%; temperature 26 to 58°F; light cloud cover, wind S at 5 to 30 mph, snow in depressions in ground, water areas 75% open; miles: 190 by car, 12 by foot; nine observers in four parties: Mr. Aubrey Ballard, Mrs. Aubrey Ballard, John Bruggeman, Martin Cordes, David Long, Joseph Long, John Polaha, Gary Post, and Mrs. A. R. Challans (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Cedar Waxwing.

Fostoria (Fostoria and Blue River area, Pottawatomie County). December 30; 8 hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 55%, cultivated fields 13%, brush 25%, woodland 5%, lake and/or river 2%; temperature 38°F; cloud cover 50%, wind SE at 30 to 35 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 48 by car, 6 by foot; three observers in one party: Rowena Plummer, Mabel Willis, and Eunice Webster (compiler).

Halstead-Newton (15-mile circle, center 5¼ miles NE of Halstead, Harvey County; chiefly along the Little Arkansas River, and Emmas and Sand creeks). December 31; 34 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated fields 20%, brush 2%, woodland 40%, ponds and rivers 22%, cemetery and town 6%; temperature 40 to 53°F; cloud cover 0 to 75%, wind S at 4 to 8 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 193 by car, 18 by foot; eight observers in four parties: Roy Auernheimer, Joan Challans, Kent Challenger, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Miss Alma Ruth, John Senner, Stan Senner, and Miss Edna L. Ruth (compiler).

Iola (20 square miles in Allen County). January 2; 8 hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 15%, brush 50%, woodland 33%, lake and/or river 2%; temperature 45°F; cloud cover 5%, wind S at 10 mph, no snow cover; miles: 23 by car, 3 by foot; two observers in one party: Spencer A. Gard, and C. Ora Smith (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Loggerhead Shrike.

Junction City (15-mile circle, center 3½ miles SW Junction City, Geary County). December 26; 14 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.); open grassland 45%, cultivated fields 10%, woodland 30%, lake and river 12%, juniper scrub and pines 3%; temperature 26 to 36°F; cloud cover 95%, wind variable at 0 to 20 mph, ground 75% snow-covered; water areas 100% open; miles: 263 by car, 17 by foot; 10 observers in four parties: Don Hettinger, Bob LaShelle, Gene Lewis, Tim Lewis, Phil Marvin, Tom Shane, Stan Soper, Ed Verbeke, Celia White, and John LaShelle (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Canada Goose, Northern Shrike.

Kansas City (Wyandotte and Johnson counties; same as previous years). January 2; 30 party-hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.); temperature 35 to 40°F; cloud cover heavy in morning, clear in afternoon, wind NNW at 15 to 25 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 183 by car, 22 by foot; 14 observers in four parties:

John Biewener, A. Dean Cole, Elizabeth Cole, Jo Isenberger, Phillip Kaul, Bob Lee, Jim Myers, Mary Louise Myers, Clarence Schutte, Bernice Tatum, Kay Wahl, and Ted R. Anderson (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Canada Goose, Red-shafted Flicker, Fox Sparrow.

Kingman County (Kingman County Game Management Area, Penolos, Kansas; center at the state quail farm). December 29; 9 hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 60%, cultivated fields 2%, brush 8%, woodland 10%, lake and/or river 20%; temperature 25 to 45°F; clear, wind S at 15 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 21 by car, 7 by foot; four observers in one party: John Boyer, Joseph Burkett, Danny Walker, and Byron Walker (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Cooper Hawk, Herring Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Rufous-sided Towhee, Lincoln Sparrow.

Lawrence (15-mile circle, center on US 40 W of Iowa Street, Lawrence, Douglas County). December 23; 52 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.); open grassland 15%, cultivated fields 5%, brush 20%, woodland 40%, lake and river 20%; temperature 55 to 62°F; cloud cover 99%, wind SW at 0 to 18 mph, $\frac{1}{4}$ " rain, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 239 by car, 20 by foot; 17 observers in eight parties: Mrs. Ethan Allen, Bert Chewning, Helen Chewning, Ann Condit, Martha Faulh, Ruth Faulh, Alice Fitch, Henry Fitch, E. Raymond Hall, Mary Hall, Trudy Kite, Ethel Martin, J. H. Nelson, Kathryn Nelson, Emily Turney, Clayton White, and Jim Rising (compiler).

Longton (15-mile circle, center Longton, Elk County). January 2; 12½ hours (7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.); open grassland 45%, cultivated fields 20%, brush 10%, lake and/or river 10%, town 5%; temperature 45 to 50°F; little cloud cover, wind N at 10 to 15 mph, no snow cover; miles: 55 by car, 3 by foot; two observers in one party: H. L. Albright and Sylvia Albright (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Cooper Hawk, Rock Dove.

Manhattan (15-mile circle, center Kansas State University Campus, including points in Riley and Pottawatomie counties). January 1; 43 party-hours (7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 35%, cultivated fields 5%, brush 30%, woodland 10%, lake and/or river 15%, town 5%; temperature 30 to 49°F; cloud cover 100%, wind E at 8 mph, less than 1" rain, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 213 by car, 32 by foot; 20 observers in five parties: D. Coppersmith, D. Derksen, L. K. Edmunds, H. T. Gier, N. Herrmann, D. Heyne, E. Heyne, L. Latschar, M. Latschar, J. LaShelle, Dan Marvin, Dave Marvin, Phil Marvin, D. Mitchell, G. R. Marzolf, M. D. Ruff, D. Schrock, T. G. Shane, P. Stover, P. Watt, and J. L. Zimmerman (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: "Harlan" Hawk, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Townsend Solitaire.

Marion (15-mile circle, center Marion County Court House). December 30; 8 hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated fields 10%, brush 15%, woodland 15%, lake and/or river 50%; temperature 40°F; cloud cover 60 to 80%, wind S at 30 to 40 mph, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 38 by car, 6 by foot; seven observers in two parties: Mike Bredemeier, Daryl Enos, Debra Enos, Phyllis Enos, Billy Finke, Terry Plenert, and D. Eugene Enos (compiler).

Olathe (15-mile circle, center Gardner Dam, Johnson County). December 31; 8½ hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.); open grassland 14%, cultivated fields 11%, brush 37%, woodland 33%, lake and/or river 8%; temperature 51°F; cloud cover 95%, wind NW at 3 mph, no snow cover; miles: 136 by car, 26 by foot; 15 observers in four parties: Ivan Boyd, Roger Boyd, J. Bradley, Bruce Crane, Dean Crane, Gene Crane, Mark Crane, Ethel Hower, Katharine Kelly, Frances McKaughan, Joe Sanders, Wilma Sanders, E. Scott, Dennis Stadel, and Ray Wackley (compiler).

Pittsburg (15-mile circle, center at Kansas State College at Pittsburg, Crawford County). December 28; 32 party-hours (6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open fields 20%, prairie 25%, weedy woodsides and hedgerows 15%, pits and wooded streams 35%, town 5%; temperature 23 to 50°F; partly cloudy, wind SW to 80 mph, no snow

cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 83 by car, 11 by foot; five observers in four parties: Gladys C. Galligar, J. C. Johnson, Virginia Kelting, Theodore M. Sperry, and Bessie Boso (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Oregon Junco.

Topeka (Gage Park, Shunganunga Creek, Lake Sherwood Estates, Shawnee State Lake, Lake Shawnee, Shawnee County). January 1; 23¼ party-hours (8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 20%, cultivated fields 20%, brush 10%, woodland 30%, lake and/or river 20%; temperature 49°F; cloud cover 100%, fog, no snow cover, water areas 100% open; miles: 118 by car, 2 by foot; 14 observers in three parties: L. B. Carson, John N. Green, Grace Holcombe, Mr. Carl Hultgren, Mrs. Carl Hultgren, Marvin Kuehn, Mr. A. J. McCallum, Mrs. A. J. McCallum, Clyde R. Morris, T. W. Nelson, and Orville O. Rice (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: "Kridler" Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken.

Wichita (15-mile circle, center at the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers, Sedgwick County). December 26; 9 hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated fields 20%, brush 10%, woodland 10%, lake and/or river 50%; temperature 29 to 41°F; no cloud cover; miles: 160 by car, 22 by foot; 22 observers in four parties: Galen Abbott, Ruth Abbott, Albert Briggs, Pearlanna Briggs, J. Walker Butin, Phil Butin, Rick Butin, Wallace Champeny, E. L. Clark, Kirk Downing, Don Ferguson, David Holmes, Connie Hornbeck, Fawn Hornbeck, Ken Kaufman, Dan Kilby, Geneva Kingkade, Nathan McDonald, Margaret Werner, Mary Wiley, Ralph Wiley, and Carl S. Holmes (compiler).

The Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 1 February 1966.

Records of the Fulvous Tree Duck in Kansas during 1965.—On 23 May 1965 two adult Fulvous Tree Ducks (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) were observed at Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County, by the ornithology class from Kansas State University. These same birds were apparently still present in June, and a male was subsequently obtained by Jim New in July. This specimen is in the collection of Kansas State Teachers' College at Emporia. Cheyenne Bottoms is the site of the only previously published specimen record of this species in Kansas, three birds killed about 35 years ago and examined by Frank Robl (Tordoff, Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 8, 1956: 314). Although this species has been reported as far north as Minnesota and on several occasions in Missouri (A.O.U., *Check List of North American Birds*, Fifth Edition, 1957: 69), it was most surprising when Wesley Sheets of Manhattan shot a second specimen on 28 November 1965, at the north end of Tuttle Creek Reservoir in the Spring Creek area, Pottawatomie County. This individual is a female and has been mounted by Jim New and will be given to the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Pratt, Kansas.—JOHN L. ZIMMERMAN, *Dept. of Zoology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 5 January 1966.*

Food of a Wintering Rough-legged Hawk in Western Kansas.—On 28 November 1964, a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) was found dead on a gravel road seven miles north of Kanorado, Sherman County, Kansas. This specimen, no. 47591 in the collection of The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, was a female with both right and left ovaries; she weighed 2¼ pounds.

Examination of her carcass revealed an entire Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) in the dilated lower part of her esophagus, and most of an immature Prairie Vole (*Microtus ochrogaster*) and all but the head and most of one wing of a Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) in her stomach. Measurements of the limb bones of the Horned Lark indicate that it represents one of the smaller races, probably *E. a. leucolema* which is common in western Kansas. The fact that fur and feathers were still intact on the food items supports a statement by Bent (*Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, part 1 (Bull. 167, U. S. Nat. Mus.), 1937:274) that Rough-legged Hawks do not pluck their victims. It is of interest that such a normally slow-flying species as the Rough-legged Hawk would be able to capture such active birds as the Tree Sparrow and the Horned Lark. It is probable that these birds were caught on the ground.

Fisher (U. S. Dept. Agr. Bull., No. 3, 1893:91) reports the complete absence of bird remains in 49 Rough-legged Hawks' stomachs taken between September and April in nine eastern and midwestern states. Bent (*op. cit.*, pp. 273-275) summarizes data on feeding habits of the species. His data include only two records of birds as food items, both taken by hawks during their breeding season, as well as some records of birds ingested as carrion. McAtee (U. S. Dept. Agr. Circ. 370, 1935:20-22) found the remains of only four birds in 99 stomachs examined, and suggested that most birds taken were probably found dead or crippled by the Rough-legged Hawks. The present record adds additional proof of the occasional bird-eating habits of this species. SANFORD R. LEFFLER, 1398 Geneva, San Carlos, California, 7 January 1966.

Notes on the Food of the Swainson Hawk.—The Swainson Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) commonly takes such foods as insects and rodents (Fisher, U. S. Dept. Agr. Bull., No. 3, 1893:72-79; McAtee, U. S. Dept. Agr. Circ. 370, 1935:19-20; May, *The Hawks of North America*, Nat. Assoc. Audubon Soc. (New York), 1935:46-51). Large flocks of Swainson Hawks pass through Kansas in September and October, and of some 30 individuals seen in central Kansas on 25 and 26 September 1965 two were collected for stomach analysis. The food contents of the birds collected are interesting as they correlate with the habitats in which the hawks were hunting.

An adult female, bearing The University of Kansas catalog number, KU 49817, was taken 10 miles east of Salina on 26 September, from an area that is extensively farmed. Several hawks were seen feeding and walking in recently plowed fields in the immediate vicinity. The crop contents of this individual weighed 69.5 grams (wet) and contained 98 crickets (*Acheta* sp.) and the stomach contents weighed 74.5 grams (wet) and contained 132 heads (presumably at least that many individuals) of crickets (*Acheta* ?). The hawk was taken at about 5:00 p.m. when feeding is most intensive.

Another adult female (KU 49816) was taken at about 11:00 a.m. from a field adjacent to Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Refuge on 25 September. By contrast, the crop contents weighed 40.5 grams (wet) and the stomach contents weighed 29.9 grams (wet). The combined contents contained the tongue of a teal (*Anas* sp.), several crickets (*Acheta* sp.), several oedipodnaeine grasshoppers, parts of a crayfish (*Cambarus* sp.), and the legs, pieces of the foot, and assorted feathers from a scolopacid shorebird. Raptors generally first eat the large muscle masses of freshly-killed prey, and since there were no large masses of flesh in the crop or stomach of this Swainson Hawk it can be assumed that the duck and the shorebird found were pieces of carrion.

The combined food remains in the first Swainson Hawk (230 crickets) corroborates Merriam's hypothetical figure (see Bent, *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, part 1 (Bull. 167, U. S. Nat. Mus.), 1937:229) of a possible capture of 200 grasshoppers per day by Swainson Hawks. The insect remains were identified by James Dick of this university. CLAYTON M. WHITE, *The Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 3 February 1966.*

OFFICERS

- President J. C. Johnson, Kansas State College, Pittsburg, Kansas
- Vice President
David F. Parmelee, Kansas State Teachers' College, Emporia, Kansas
- Secretary Carl S. Holmes, 1728 N. Sheridan, Wichita 12, Kansas
- Membership Secretary Amelia Betts, Baldwin, Kansas
- Treasurer L. B. Carson, 1306 Lincoln, Topeka, Kansas
- Editor . . . Richard F. Johnston, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- Associate Editor James D. Rising

Regular Membership, \$2.00 Student Membership, \$1.00 Sustaining Membership, \$5.00

Dues payable January 1 to the Treasurer

Subscription to the Bulletin is included in any class of membership

* * * * *

Published March 7, 1966