

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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### THE MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT OF THE KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The members of the Kansas Ornithological Society may be justly proud of the splendid showing made by its members during the period of the mid-winter bird census. The results are presented in tabular form as a part of this report. A brief description of census conditions at each station precedes the tabulation of forms seen. The enthusiasm and interest of observers working in fourteen distinct areas or stations within the eastern portion of the state more than made up for a certain lack of finesse in certain cases in reporting these observations, the first to be made under the auspices of the newly formed society. The tabulation lists approximately 19,000 individuals seen, representing some ninety species and races.

The stations reporting in this year's census cover the east-central section of Kansas, from Manhattan and Emporia north and east to Atchison and Kansas City. McPherson might be considered a nucleus for reports from McPherson, the Windom area, and Canton. Hays represents the westernmost station reporting, and Columbus, in Cherokee County, the most southeasterly.

It is to be hoped that, as experience is gained in taking the mid-winter census, a rather definite format may be employed in making future reports to the editor or secretary. The reports received from the Topeka, Lawrence and Baldwin observers follow the style suggested by the National Audubon Society for Christmas bird census reports. Because of the inexperience of many of our membership, the Society probably will submit more explicit directions with its requests for cooperation in the December, 1950, census.

A summary of conditions at the various stations follows:

**HAYS, ELLIS COUNTY.** College pasture, campus, half-mile of Big Creek adjoining campus. Pasture conditions, 85%; campus 10%; streamside, 5%. January 1, 1950, four hours in field. Fair, becoming hazy; temperature about 40° F. No snow. Observer: W. R. Eastman.

**WINDOM, McPHERSON COUNTY.** Two-mile hike towards and along Little Arkansas River, Rice County. Field and river-bank cover. December 28, 1949, chilly, some melting snow; January 2, 1950, cloudy, temperature moderate. Observer: Mrs. Faith C. Wilson.

**McPHERSON, McPHERSON COUNTY.** McPherson cemetery, hospital area, McPherson-Wichita highway. Daily, December 25, 1949—January 1, 1950. Clear, cold, as low as 15° F., wind sometimes strong; ground partially snow-covered. Observers: Scout Troop 130, under junior leaders and scoutmaster; reported by Dr. R. E. Mohler.

**CANTON, McPHERSON COUNTY.** About 15 acres of timber-lot in Marion County. January 2, 1950. Observers: R. H. Schmidt and son.

**MANHATTAN, RILEY COUNTY.** North on Highway 13 three miles, west on side road one mile. December 24, 1949, 8 to 12 a.m. Clear, 8° to 25° F., wind 10 mph NW., four inches snow. Observers: H. T. Gier, D. J. Ameal, Robert Boles, Don Gier. South and southwest between Kaw and hills, about three miles, December 24, 1949, 1 to 5 p.m. Clear, 30° to 35° F., wind 15 mph NW., snow melting. Observers: H. T. Gier, Don Gier, Robert Parrish.

# The Kansas Ornithological Society

## Mid-Winter Bird Count

	HAYS	WINDOM	McPHERSON	CANTON	MANHATTAN	WAMEGO	EMPORIA	LEBO	TOPEKA	LAWRENCE	BALDWIN	ATCHISON	COLUMBUS	KANSAS CITY	
Goose sp.									800	500	25			5300	6600
Mallard									1	2				11	14
Black duck									5						5
Gadwall									4						4
Baldpate									3	4				14	21
Pintail														8	8
Teal, green-winged														4	4
Teal, blue-winged														2	2
Shoveller														2	5
Redhead									3					1	4
Ring-necked duck									3					3	7
Lesser scaup									4					3	7
American golden-eye									7					8	15
Bufflehead									1						1
Hooded merganser									1					3	4
American merganser									150					2040	2190
Turkey vulture									1			1			2
Hawk sp.		1					4					2			7
Sharp-shinned hawk				1					1	1					3
Cooper's hawk			1		2			1	2	2	1				7
Red-tailed hawk					3			1	1	11	25	2		7	50
Harlan's hawk										2	5				7
Swainson's hawk				1						1	1				1
Rough-legged hawk					2					1	1			1	5
Bald eagle														3	3
Marsh hawk					1		1	3	1	3	9	7	3	2	30
Prairie falcon	1														1
Sparrow hawk					2				1	6	6	2	1	3	21
Prairie chicken								60							60
Bobwhite					16	9		25	14	16	6			10	96
Coot									9					3	12
Killdeer										1				2	3
Wilson's snipe														3	3
Herring gull									1						1
Mourning dove	7				6			15	2	31	22				83
Great horned owl			2	1	1				3	3	6	2			18
Barred owl									1	1	1				2
Belted kingfisher									1		1			5	7
Flicker sp.		1		3		2				10		4			20
Northern flicker					14				4		11		1	38	68
Red-shafted flicker	1				4				2		1			1	9
Red-bellied wdpr.					8		1		4	7	10			37	67
Red-headed wdpr.													2	1	3
Yellow-bel. spskr									1		1				2
Hairy woodpecker	3		1		2		4		3	4	10	1		2	30
Downy woodpecker	1			5	23	1	2		12	11	24	11	2	30	122

	HAYS	WINDOM	McPHERSON	CANTON	MANHATTAN	WAMEGO	EMPORIA	LEBO	TOPEKA	LAWRENCE	BALDWIN	ATCHISON	COLUMBUS	KANSAS CITY	
Horned lark ssp.	250	sev.			6					9	95				360+
Prairie horned lark									25					4	29
Blue jay					6				17	15	18	3	2	60	123
Crow		sev.	53	4	115	3			24	49	92	280	6	52	678+
Chickadee, blk-cpd	22	sev.	4		32	14	34	15	97	35	73	20	10	35	441+
Tufted titmouse					9	3	3		22	4	35	14	12	59	159
Nuthatch, w.-br.							11	2			2			3	18
Nuthatch, red-br.			3						2		4			1	10
Brown creeper	1		5		2		7		9	4	2		2	12	44
Winter wren									1		1				2
Carolina wren					2				3		8				13
Bewick's wren											1				1
Eastern mockingbird									1		3			1	5
Robin	11		3	1	30	500	1		25	34	6	5	1	2	619
Eastern bluebird					14			5	3	1	14	2		42	81
Kinglet, g.-crowned	1		14						1		1			7	24
Kinglet, r.-crowned												2		2	4
Cedar waxwing	10		3		21	100			62	16				40	252
Northern shrike											1		1		2
Migrant shrike									1	2	5			1	9
Starling		sev.	360	1	50		40		117	346	167	12		550	1657
English sparrow			430		100	24			570	132	190		13	40	1499
Meadowlark sp.	25	sev.	2		15					17				15	74+
Eastern meadowlark								18	13		178				209
Western meadowlark									7				1		8
Bronzed grackle									1						2
Cowbird														27	27
Cardinal	1	sev.	27	11	85	6	1		66	56	94	28	17	113	505+
Purple finch											8			4	12
Pine siskin	8		17						8						33
Goldfinch			1		44				5	2	21	5		20	98
Red crossbill									12						12
Towhee sp.					5					2					7
Arctic towhee									1		1				2
Lecote's sparrow										4					4
Junco, slate colored	10	sev.	32	5	160	14			206	80	82	86	5	245	925
Junco, Oregon									1	3					4
Junco, Montana															1
Tree sparrow		1	28		120			45	15	41	96	12		437	795
Field sparrow										1					1
Harris's sparrow	1	sev.	4	27	35		3	20	12	4	68			1	175+
W.-crowned sparrow										2	24				26
W.-throated sparrow															1
Fox sparrow									1		1			1	3
Lincoln's sparrow									1					1	1
Song sparrow					2				9	27	11	4		67	120
Longspur sp.	50	sev.													50+
Lapland longspur											75				75
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	403	3 plus	990	74	937	679	108	210	2382	1501	1543	505	79	9438	18852+
TOTAL SPECIES	17	12	19	11	33	12	12	12	62	42	49	22	16	57	92

WAMEGO, POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY. Cemetery and adjacent area. December 26, 1949, 2 to 5 p. m. Clear, slightly above freezing. Observers: Scout Troop 95, reported by Scoutmaster W. H. Knostman.

EMPORIA, LYON COUNTY. Wooded areas, Cottonwood River and Allen Creek. January 7, 1950, 1 to 4 p. m. Clear, calm, temperature 45° F. Observers: Ted F. Andrews, John Breukelman. January 13, 1950, 1 to 4 p. m. Cloudy, windy, temperature 20° F. Observers: Andrews, George Spencer, Willis Ratzlaff.

LEBO, COFFEY COUNTY. Slough area. December 27, 1949, 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m. Clear, calm, temperature 20° F. Observer: Ted F. Andrews.

TOPEKA, SHAWNEE COUNTY. (Lake Shawnee area; Washburn University Campus; Gage Park; Edgewood Park; Security Benefit Grounds; Shunganunga Creek from area north of Campus to Gage Blvd.; Timber 1½ miles west of SW corner Security Benefit Grounds; Lake shore 30%, open farm land 50%, mixed woodlots 15%, grassland 4%, evergreens 1 per cent) December 26, 1949, 8:00 a. m. to dusk; Fair, temperature 18° to 25° F.; wind south 15 mph; four inches snow and sleet; water frozen except riffles and 1% of Lake Shawnee. Ten observers in four parties. Total hours 46 (28 on foot, 18 in cars) total miles 60 (20 on foot, 40 in cars). (Same area visited January 1, 1950, by ten observers of Topeka Audubon Society, whose observations on 59 individuals of 17 species are included in the Topeka tabulation.) Observers: L. P. Dittmore, Paul Finninger, Elizabeth Fisher, Roberta Foote, Ruwal Freese, Grace Holcombe, Phil Menninger, T. W. Nelson, E. Maurice Nuss, and David Pantle.

LAWRENCE, DOUGLAS COUNTY. (Within 15-mile diameter, centering 2 mi. W. town; S 5 mi. to and along Wakarusa River; 10 mi. WNW along Kaw River to Lecompton; 5 mi. NNE to K. U. Natural History Reservation; est. through cultivated land 45%, woodland 25%, pasture and grassland 20%, City of Lawrence 10%). December 26, 1949, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear, 16° to 32° to 26° F.; calm, wind S, 1-7 mph., in early afternoon; 1-3 inches crusted snow; ponds and small creeks frozen over, Wakarusa and Kaw Rivers partly frozen. Six observers in one party. Total observer hours about 42, 18 on foot and 24 in car; total mileage 93 in car, and 2 (per person) on foot. Observers: Dr. Henry Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewnings, and others.

BALDWIN, DOUGLAS COUNTY. (South edge of town to point 13 miles NW, Lone Star Lake; open farmland 20%, town suburbs 20%, deciduous farm woodlots 40%, lake shore 20%.) December 28, 1949, 7:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Clear, 17° to 26° F., wind SW, 2-4 mph. Water frozen except for open spots center Lone Star Lake. Nine observers, two parties. Total hours 48 (22 on foot, 26 by car); total miles 90 (15 on foot, 75 by car.) (On January 1, 1950, nine members of Baldwin bird club saw 32 individuals of 5 species, which are included in the Baldwin tabulation.) Observers: Amelia Betts, Clara Beach, Mrs. George Boicourt, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans, Katherine Kelley, and R. F. Miller.

ATCHISON, ATCHISON COUNTY. Mount Pleasant Road to eight miles south of city, east to Highway 73, Missouri River, north to Atchison. December 29, 1949, 10 to 12 a. m., 1 to 4:45 p. m. Clear, 36° to 46° F. Observers: Rev. Eugene W. Dehner, Hubert W. Blocker, Rev. Cyprian Nordhus. (Tabulation includes 282 individuals of 8 species seen by E. W. Dehner on December 24, 1949 between Lancaster and Bendena, Kansas and on December 26, 1949 between Wathena and Doniphan, Kansas)

COLUMBUS, CHEROKEE COUNTY. Two acres of wooded land 2 miles W. and 2½ miles S. of town, December 28, 1949, 2 to 3 p. m.; clear, 55° F. Semi-wooded area along Brush Creek, 2 miles S. and ½ mile E., December 30, 1949, 10 to 11 a. m., cloudy, 50° F. Observer Charles C. Fuller.

KANSAS CITY, WYANDOTTE COUNTY. Lake Quivira, Wyandotte County Lake. Artificial lakes surrounded by woodland 75%; open field 10%; weedy thickets 15%. Clear, 10° to 30° F., two inches ice on ground. 17 observers, 33 miles (16 by car, 17 on foot). Observers: Harold Hedges, Dr. Henry Harford, Dean Cole, Elizabeth Cole, Jim Meyers, Mary Louise Meyers, Mrs. E. H. Lohman, Esther O'Connor, Bernice Tatum, Mark Tuttle, John Reid, Earl Newton, John Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hanley, and Kathleen Hanley.