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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT FOR 1969

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Twenty-one mid-winter bird counts were taken by members of the Kansas Ornithological Society between 20 December 1969 and 6 January 1970. This is about average coverage for the past ten years. However, the total number of individuals recorded (2,720,085) was more than ten times the previous high of 228,564 in 1953. The presence of large blackbird roosts at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area (Great Bend) and at Kingman State Lake (Kingman) were largely responsible for the high 1969 count. Most count groups fortunate enough to miss bad weather reported higher count totals than in recent years.

The total number of species recorded (126) also exceeds the previous high of 125 in 1965. Counts for the past ten years have averaged about 111 species (excluding Harlan's Hawk) and have varied from 98 in 1961 to 125 in 1965. [This average was calculated from corrected totals published previously some of which were in error or inconsistent in handling of species, Ed]. Eight species were recorded on the mid-winter count for the first time: Whistling Swan (Junction City); Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Boat-tailed Grackle, Avocet (all Great Bend); Sprague's Pipit (Udall); Dickcissel (Lawrence).

As in 1965 the unusually high numbers were probably the result of unseasonably warm weather and open water at the beginning of the count period. Groups making counts near the end of the period generally had bad weather and less success. Topeka, for example, recorded 45 species on count day but missed 17 other species seen during the count period. Great Bend had the largest number of species (72), the most individuals and five of the eight species new to the count. The unusual conditions responsible for this were described by Marvin Schwilling as follows:

"Generally speaking we had an abnormally open fall. No ice of consequence covered the marsh in Cheyenne Bottoms WMA until January 1. A few shorebirds of several species remained until that date. The large concentration of blackbirds and starlings that used the cattails in the marsh as a roost declined considerably in numbers with the very cold weather of January 7 and 8. Still thousands seem determined to spend the winter, particularly starlings. It appears that the two large commercial feed lots about six miles west of the marsh provides a dependable feed source.

"Water level in the marsh is about five inches deeper than normal. This deeper water may be the prime factor that has kept small water areas open in the marsh. As the marsh did not completely ice over more than 30,000 Canada geese and 5 to 10,000 ducks, mostly mallards, are staying the winter. Close observation of this wintering raft of geese on January 16 revealed one albino giant Canada goose, one snow goose, one blue goose, 22 white-fronted geese and two Atlantic brant."

Most compilers reviewed their counts with care and few "questionable" or "unlikely" species were submitted. Two species reported without supporting details are listed as questionable in Table 1. Among the more unusual sightings for Kansas mid-winter counts were the following:

White Pelican (Great Bend). Five at Cheyenne Bottoms; last previous report (also at Great Bend) in 1967.

Whistling Swan (Junction City). New for the count. An adult and an immature were first seen on the Geary County State Lake on 28 December. They were seen again on the 30th by Rush Lang, sitting on the ice of the then frozen lake.

Turkey Vulture (Udall). One; last previous report (Topeka) in 1960.

Lesser Yellowlegs (Great Bend). New for the count; nine at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Least Sandpiper (Great Bend). Fifteen at Cheyenne Bottoms; only previous report (Wichita) two in 1968; identified by Ed Martinez.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (Great Bend). New for the count; nineteen at Cheyenne Bottoms; identified by Ed Martinez.

Western Sandpiper (Great Bend). New for the count; one at Cheyenne Bottoms; identified by Ed Martinez.

Avocet (Great Bend). New for the count; two at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Catbird (Great Bend, Lawrence). Single birds. The Lawrence bird came regularly to a feeding station at the J. H. Nelson residence and was still present on 21 January. A third bird was observed at a feeder in Topeka (Arnold Johnson residence) on 28 December.

Hermit Thrush (Udall). One; last previous report (Baldwin) in 1962.

Sprague's Pipit (Udall). New for the count; one in lightly grazed pasture regularly used during migration (Max Thompson).

Orange-crowned Warbler (Baldwin). Two seen by Roger Boyd; three previous reports (Wichita, Lawrence) on last ten counts.

Boat-tailed Grackle (Great Bend). New for the count. Marvin Schwilling saw one at his residence on 26 December and the next day saw one (presumably same bird) in the yard of the Cheyenne Bottoms WMA. [A pair nested successfully near Great Bend in 1969, Ed.]

Pine Grosbeak (Halstead, Manhattan). Four were seen at Harvey County Park on 20 December by Stan Senner and Stephen Capel and the next day Dwight Platt and Robert Regier saw them at the same location. Twelve were seen in the Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan. Others were reported at Hays and Dodge City during the count period. The only previous reports on mid-winter counts were in 1962 (Manhattan) and in 1960 (Hays).

Dickcissel (Lawrence). New for the count. One was reported on 20 December and was verified by Bert and Helen Chewning. It was subsequently reported by Ruth Faulh, "Still feeding daily with House Sparrows at a site on the north edge of town."

Le Conte's Sparrow (Baldwin, Lawrence). One was seen at Baldwin by Roger Boyd and a single was reported at Lawrence. Previous sightings (both single birds) were in 1965 (Lawrence) and in 1963 (Udall).

The great number of variables affecting the mid-winter counts permits only a very general state-wide analysis. In general the high waterfowl counts reflected areas of open water during the count period except at Hays where an estimated 18,000 ducks (from Cedar Bluff Reservoir) were feeding in corn fields. Goose numbers reached an all time high with the wintering of some 22,000 birds at Cheyenne Bottoms WMA. Hawk numbers were about the same as in recent years. Single Harlan's Hawks were reported from Great Bend and Lawrence and a Krider's Red-tail was reported from Kansas City. Numbers of wintering blackbirds were far above normal. The mild weather and abundance of food resulted in very high numbers of Robins and Cedar Waxwings. Most species were present in normal or above normal numbers, among them the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. A few species such as the Short-eared Owl were unexpectedly scarce. No positive Northern Shrikes, Redpolls, or Evening Grosbeaks were reported although all were present in the state earlier in the winter. Red Crossbills were widespread with 51 birds reported on four counts (Halstead, Hays, Olathe, Topeka). Other reported localities (not on count day) included Dodge City, Manhattan and Udall.

Baldwin City (15-mile circle, center at junction of highways 56 and 59, Douglas County). December 27; 40 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 15%, cultivated field 10%, brush 40%, woodland 15%, lake 15%, urban 5%; temperature 31–33°F; wind SE at 15 mph; drizzle all day; ground muddy; lakes partly frozen; miles: 239 by car, 16 on foot; 28 observers in 5 parties: Barbara Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Roger Boyd, Stanley Braun, Kirk Brown, Alan Bruner, Mike Donahue, Mrs. Marshall Fauhl, Martha Fauhl, Charles Ford, David Ford, David Embrey, Earl Franc, Mrs. Phebe Gates, Eric Ikenberry, Tony Ikenberry, Katharine Kelly, Mrs. Marno McKaughan, R. F. Miller, Martin Pressgrove, Scott Richards, Dana Rockers, Alice Ruhlen, Tom Ruhlen, Miles Stotts, Danny Toler, and Amelia J. Betts (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Mallard, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Screech Owl.

Baxter Springs (15-mile circle, center Baxter Springs airport, Cherokee County). December 27; 8 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.); open grassland 25%, cultivated field and roadside 25%, brush 25%, lake 20%, woodland 5%; temperature 33–37°F; wind, trace; cloud cover 100%; no snow cover; water open; miles: 87.5 by car, 2.5 on foot; 1 observer in 1 party: James D. Rising (compiler).

Camp Naish (500 acre reservation, 3 miles E Bonner Springs, Wyandotte County). December 30; 8 party-hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated field and brush 30%, woodland 55%, lake and river 5%; temperature 14–20°F; cloud cover 100%; wind N at 10 mph; 2 in. snow; ground 100% covered; no precipitation; miles: 4 by car, 12 on foot; 3 observers in one party: Miles Coiner, Craig Duncan, and Stan Roth (compiler).

Coffey-Lyon Counties (15-mile circle, center midway between Hartford, Kansas and Redmond Reservoir). December 20; 10 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 5%, cultivated field 30%, brush 15%, woodland 30%, lake and river 20%, temperature 22–33°F; wind SE at 10–20 mph; miles: 59 by car, 24 on foot; 4 observers in 1 party: Marc Marcellus, David Parmelee, Lyle Stemmermann, and Edward Ryan (compiler).

Dodge City (15-mile circle, center 1 mile East of St. Mary of the Plains College, including Duck Creek to 5 miles north, Ford County Park, Arkansas River, Good Samaritan Home grounds, old air base, Fort Dodge Cemetery and Dodge City). December 20; 28.5 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); field and pasture 70%, farmyard 2%, wooded area 25%, urban 3%; temperature 30–42°F; cloudy; wind 7–15 mph; no snow cover; water areas partly frozen; miles: 277 by car, 12.5 on foot; 8 observers in 4 parties: Aubrey Ballard, Maurice Bleumer, Duane Boyd, Joyce Davis, John Felder, Richard Koch, Dora Rennick, and Joan Challans (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill.

Ellis County (15-mile circle, center 6 miles S, 3 miles W Hays, including Rohr-Jacobs Lake, Harold Kraus farm, Big Creek near Hays, Smoky Hill River). January 6; 10 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 30%, cultivated field 40%, woodland 20%, lake and river 5%, urban 5%; temperature 2–25°F; clear to partly cloudy; wind NW at 5–15 mph; no snow cover; water areas 1% open; miles: 140 by car, 10 on foot; 4 observers in 1 party: Ronald Howard, Marvin Rolfs, Elton Schroder, and Charles Ely (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Bald Eagle, Bobwhite, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Grosbeak.

Fostoria (Fostoria, northwest to Blue River in Pottawatomie County). January 1; 8 party-hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); open grassland 50%, cultivated field 13%, brush 30%, woodland 6%, lake and river 1%; temperature 15–20°F; wind N at 8–10 mph; foggy with visibility to ¼ mile until 2:30 p.m.; snow cover 100%; most water frozen; miles: 41 by car, 1 on foot; 5 observers in 1 party: Mrs. Florence Gould, Rowena Plummer, Howard Webster, and Eunice Webster and Mabel Willis (compilers). Additional species seen in count period: Ring-necked Pheasant.

Great Bend (15-mile circle, center at Barton County Community Junior College and including Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area). December 27; 18.5 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated field 30%, brush 20%, woodland 10%, lake and river 30%; temperature 19–38°F; wind N at 15 mph; sky 100% overcast; no snow cover; water areas 90% open; miles: 116 by car, 9 on foot; 21 observers in 5 parties: Mrs. Loren Amerine, Bill Bahr, Larry Blanchard, Mrs. W. W. Coonrod, Duane Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Al Flock, Brad Gunn, Don Humphreys, Edward Martinez, Larry Nossaman, Sherman Nystrom family, Robert Polsen, Frank Robl, Gary Schwilling, Shirley Thorton, Jerry Tillery, and Marvin Schwilling (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Double-crested Cormorant, Snow Goose, Black Duck, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Downy Woodpecker.

Greenleaf (15-mile circle, center at Greenleaf, Washington County). January 4; 5.5 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.); grassland 15%, cultivated land 60%, woodland 25%; temperature 20–29°F; wind SW at 5–10 mph; fair skies; snow cover; most water frozen; miles: 55 by car, 1 on foot; 4 observers in 1 party: Ed Augustine, Robert Lashelle, Steve Wilgers, and Dick Funk (compiler).

Halstead-Newton (15-mile circle, center 5¼ miles northeast of Halstead, to include Little Arkansas River, Sand Creek and Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation). December 20; 40 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); hedgerow and farmland 35%, woodland and wooded stream 42%, farmyard, town, and cemetery 12%, shrubby prairie and pasture 5%, prairie and pasture 3%, marsh, pond, and river 3%; temperature 28–35°F; wind SE at 0–6 mph; cloudy; trace of snow; no snow cover; most water open; miles: 225 by car, 24 on foot; 21 observers in 5 parties: Roy Auernheimer, Greg Bartel, Dirk Bender, Merle Bender, Stephen Capel, Daniel Conrad, Peter Janzen, Leona Krehbiel, Harold Nofziger, Norman Pankratz, Marvin Pauls, Kamala Platt, Richard Platt, Robert Regier, Steven Regier, Ruth Rose, Stan Senner, Gunhild Sollid, Mrs. Bill Voth, Mark Wiens, and Dwight Platt (compiler).

Junction City (15-mile circle, center I-70 roadside park W of Junction City). December 28; 16 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); deciduous wood 25%, grassland 35%, evergreen wood 5%, cultivated field 25%, lake and stream 10%; temperature 20–26°F; wind NW at 5–20 mph; clear to 100% cloud cover; light snow cover 5%; water 95% open; miles: 120 by car, 10 on foot; 7

	Bald-win City	Barter Spgs. Camp Naish	Coffey-Lyon Cos.	Dodge City	Ellis Co.	Fos-toria	Great Bend	Green-leaf	Hal-stead	Junction City	Kansas City	King-man	Law-rence	Linn Co.	Man-hattan	Marion	Olathe	Pitts-burg	Topeka	Udall	Total
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Great Blue Heron	1	-	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	23
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Canada Goose	-	-	30	-	-	-	22,000	-	13	-	-	-	-	18	19	-	-	-	22	-	22,102
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Snow Goose	-	1,084	4,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,086
Goose sp.	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Mallard	-	24	19,000	2	18,000	2,000	580	-	23	1,070	2,587	1,234	154	10	6,286	20,000	2	-	29	104	71,105
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	375	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	447
Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	480	-	-	5	17	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	514
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,300	-	-	1	1	49	-	-	132	-	-	29	-	-	6,482
Blue-winged Teal (?)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	630	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	634
American Widgeon	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	66
Redhead	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	18
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	11	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	15	-	-	-	-	-	28
Canvasback	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Scaup	9	4	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	6	7	-	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Common Goldeneye	6	13	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	42
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	138	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
Hooded Merganser	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Common Merganser	-	-	330	-	-	-	980	-	-	-	2	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,318
Duck sp.	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	7
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Red-tailed Hawk	27	30	1	11	12	7	12	8	31	20	7	5	62	19	70	16	19	15	13	34	423
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Rough-legged Hawk	4	2	-	2	23	3	2	10	8	3	1	2	1	1	4	-	-	-	4	1	71
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	1	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	21
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	5	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Bald Eagle	1	-	16	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	28
Marsh Hawk	14	4	-	11	34	26	4	26	4	20	17	-	9	20	20	17	3	5	9	6	265
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sparrow Hawk	8	9	-	3	24	1	9	11	1	20	10	1	3	21	7	32	6	6	4	11	212
Gt. Prairie Chicken	-	-	15	-	-	-	14	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	90
Bobwhite	45	-	7	60	15	-	116	32	3	66	64	4	46	53	49	352	10	52	15	12	1,001
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	13	1	-	9	9	3	20	1	-	1	17	10	7	-	-	-	5	50
American Coot	2	-	-	-	-	-	226	-	-	-	-	13	17	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	273
Killdeer	1	14	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	1	20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	21	77
Common Snipe	2	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Herring Gull	-	20	-	100	-	-	48	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	220
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
Franklin's Gull (?)	-	287	2	15	85	109	5	42	11	98	50	-	350	-	128	16	-	4	25	4	1,231
Rock Dove	64	25	-	8	-	1	132	1	-	200	36	4	13	39	-	72	46	7	17	-	666
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Horned Owl	4	1	-	1	2	6	2	1	3	11	3	2	3	6	1	2	1	3	-	6	58
Barred Owl	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	15
Long-eared Owl	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	1	1	-	3	3	3	1	1	3	-	4	6	1	10	1	1	3	2	48
Yellow-shafted Flicker	87	46	8	15	23	17	19	14	10	24	28	50	13	68	19	152	5	26	26	16	706
Red-shafted Flicker	1	-	-	29	14	1	4	-	-	3	4	-	7	3	-	14	-	-	-	-	87
Flicker sp.	-	-	-	7	8	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
Pileated Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	60	16	12	13	-	1	26	4	7	12	16	17	1	70	8	114	3	7	18	12	440
Red-headed Woodpecker	17	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	15	9	-	4	36	2	1	107
Yellow-bell Sapsucker	2	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	2	-	7	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	23
Hairy Woodpecker	15	3	2	5	-	6	2	-	14	5	7	-	8	8	22	-	2	-	6	3	109
Downy Woodpecker	39	30	9	6	4	5	6	3	23	7	22	12	35	6	73	10	15	11	9	11	336
Horned Lark	126	3	-	3,062	249	80	437	3	428	19	-	6	53	28	51	20	1	7	14	33	2,620
Blue Jay	68	52	9	30	11	2	23	12	12	109	18	56	1	113	42	106	11	38	92	34	881
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	43	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Common Crow	154	37	2	20	34	63	201	449	18	839	140	15	70	115	151	132	22	41	73	48	2,843
Black-capped Chickadee	83	-	32	18	74	14	65	8	2	111	125	45	11	140	23	309	20	67	62	37	1,246
Carolina Chickadee	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	-	7	66
Tufted Titmouse	17	1	17	2	-	9	-	1	9	5	18	-	7	39	74	-	6	24	4	30	263
White-brst'd. Nuthatch	6	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	17	1	42	-	1	-	1	2	79
Red-brst'd. Nuthatch	2	2	-	-	21	-	-	5	3	2	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	52
Brown Creeper	4	2	4	-	2	-	-	1	5	3	7	-	12	1	10	-	2	2	-	1	56
Winter Wren	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	15
Bewick's Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Carolina Wren	8	14	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	5	-	14	4	18	-	2	12	-	9	98
Mockingbird	28	5	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	1	11	2	9	16	5	-	10	12	1	5	112
Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Robin	2,396	28	1	270	94	90	108	5	13	33	60	5	18	122	490	3,179	172	38	3	8	7,856
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	61	3	8	1	-	5	35	-	3	14	40	16	-	85	20	119	-	11	7	-	453
Townsend Solitaire	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	1	-	20	21	10</															

observers in 2 parties: Darlene Augustine, Ed Augustine, Vic McLeran, Tom Shane, Ed Verbeke, Celia White, and Robert Lashelle (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Killdeer, White-breasted Nuthatch.

Kansas City (15-mile circle, including Shawnee Mission Lake and Park, Lake Quivira, Camp Towanyak, Wyandotte Lake, Bonner Springs). December 27; 40 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); open grassland 15%, cultivated field 20%, brush 5%, woodland 15%, lake and river 30%, roadside 15%; temperature 26–34°F; cloudy, very poor visibility; wind N to NW at 10–15 mph (gusts to 30 mph); intermittent freezing rain; some open water; miles: 55 by car, 15 on foot; 17 observers in 5 parties: George Creighton, Phil Creighton, Fred Hart, Terry Hoyland, Josephine Isenburger, Phillip Kaul, Robert Lee, Carol McMillan, Helen Muncie, James Myers, Stanley Nelson, Donald Nepstad, Virginia Salt, Robert Strohmeier, Bernice Tatum, and Charles Clough and Mary Louise Myers (compilers). Additional species seen in count period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow.

Kingman (15-mile circle, center Kingman County Game Management Area, Penalosa). December 31; 9 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 70%, cultivated field 2%, brush 8%, woodland 10%, lake or river 10%; temperature 10–39°F; wind N at 3–5 mph; cloudy; light snow cover, 75% gone by 5:00 p.m.; miles: 23.5 by car, 6.1 on foot; 3 observers in 1 party: Danny Walker, June Walker, and Byron Walker (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Ring-billed Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike.

Lawrence (15-mile circle, center Sweeney's Meat Market, Highway 40 west of Lawrence, Douglas County). December 20; 62 party-hours (6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.); open grassland 17%, cultivated field 5%, brush 20%, woodland 40%, lake and river 20%; temperature 22–35°F; wind NW at 1–3 mph (quiet by noon); miles: 220 by car, 32 on foot; 36 observers in 12 parties: Mervin Anderson, Jan Bishop, Allen Bjelland, Ivan Boyd, Michael Cain, Bert Chewning, Helen Chewning, Jan Conrad, Anne Conrad, Julie Conrad, Martha Faulh, Henry Fitch, Chester Fitch, Helen Garrett, E. Raymond Hall, Hubert Hall, Mary Hall, Dana Hobson, Eric Ikenberry, Jerome Jackson, Dorothy Koch, Fritz Koch, Rebecca Leibengood, Ethel Martin, Marion Mengel, Robert Mengel, Katherine Nelson, James Parker, Rowena Peoples, Jerome Robins, Stanley Roth, Kathy Schott, Polly Trillich, Emily Turney, Steve Workman, and Ruth D. Faulh (compiler).

Linn County (15-mile circle, center 1½ miles E, 3 miles N Mound City Post Office). December 21; 19 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); wooded stream and lake 55%, field and brush fence row 45%; temperature 26–36°F; cloudy; wind N at 15 mph; water open; no snow cover; miles: 168 by car, 4 on foot; 10 observers in 3 parties: Elva Bacon, Julius Bacon, Cecil Boots, Margaret Boots, Mabel Concannon, Ivan Sutton, Lucille Vavak, Frank Wood, Margaret Wood, and T. T. Concannon (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Mourning Dove, Common Grackle.

Manhattan (15-mile circle, center Kansas State University campus). December 20; 45.5 party-hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); grassland 35%, forest edge 35%, lake and river 10%, deciduous forest 10%, cultivated field 5%, urban 5%; temperature 22–33°F; wind SE at 0–5 mph; overcast; no snow cover; most water open; miles: 314 by car, 34 on foot; 26 observers in 5 parties: D. Adejunmbi, G. W. Blankespoor, M. Border, R. Case, D. Coppersmith, M. Davidschar, L. K. Edmunds, G. Ferguson, H. T. Gier, N. Hermann, L. B. Johnson, L. Latschar, M. Latschar, G. R. Marzolf, D. Peacock, K. Roberts, P. Salmon, T. Shane, C. E. Smith, J. L. Tatschl, F. Vogler, M. Vogler, M. Walker, C. White, S. J. Zimmerman, and J. L. Zimmerman (compiler).

Marion (15-mile circle, center Court House Square, Marion, Marion County). January 2; 8 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.); open field 10%, brush and timber 40%, stream and lake 50%; temperature 10–28°F; cloud cover 10%; wind NW at 15 mph; 1½ in. snow; lakes 100% frozen; miles: 91 by car, 2 on foot; 6 observers in 1 party: Daryl Enos, Mike Jackson, Doug Krause, Roger Schmidtberger, Donnie Smith, and Eugene Enos (compiler).

Olathe (15-mile circle, center at intersection of highways 56 and 7, Johnson County to include Mill Creek, Cedar Creek, Gardner Lake, Olathe Lake and Saddle Club Lake). January 1; 20 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); grassland 15%, cultivated field 35%, deciduous woods 15%, lake and stream 10%, brush 20%, urban 5%; temperature 18–22°F; wind NNW at 5–15 mph; light snow cover; water areas partly frozen; miles: 107 by car, 9 on foot; 11 observers in 3 parties: Ivan Boyd, Margaret Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. James Bradley, Bruce Crane, Gene Crane, Mark Crane, Ethel Hower, Mamo McCaughan, Ray Wackly, and Dean Crane (compiler).

Pittsburg (15-mile circle, center at Kansas State College at Pittsburg, Crawford County). December 24; 26 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); deciduous streamside woods 33%, open field (mostly plowed) 33%, brushy roadside 29%, urban 5%; temperature 28–36°F; cloud cover 100%; wind NE at 1–6 mph; light sleet in a.m., light rain shower in p.m.; miles: 53 by car, 12 on foot; 3 observers in 3 parties: Gladys Galligar, Theodore Sperry, and Bessie Boso (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Snow Goose (both white and blue), Killdeer, Horned Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Townsend's Solitaire, Purple Finch, Oregon Junco.

Topeka (15-mile circle, center at Gage Park to include Lake Shawnee and Sherwood Lake). December 27; 26 party-hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); prairie and field 30%, cultivated land 20%, deciduous woods 20%, urban 25%, lake and river 5%; temperature 27–31°F; wind NW at 5–10 mph; most water frozen; overcast in a.m.; rain and snow in p.m.; miles: 298 by car, 2 on foot; 7 observers in 4 parties: Scott Bergmeier, Mrs. Arnold Johnson, Pearl Maus, Aubrey McCallum, June McCallum, Jean Schulessberg, and Orville Rice (compiler). Additional species seen in count period: Pintail, Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Killdeer, Horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Western Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin.

Udall (15-mile circle, center 2 miles S Udall city limit, to include Arkansas and Walnut Rivers). December 20; 27 party-hours (4:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); deciduous woods 40%, field and pasture 50%, roadside hedge 10%; temperature 32–50°F; wind SE at 5 mph; skies clear; ground bare; most water open; miles: 270 by car, 5 on foot, 100 by airplane; 5 observers in 3 parties: Wallace Champeny, Janet Laws, Ross Williams, Donna Wilts, and Max Thompson (compiler).

A second definite nesting record of the Painted Bunting, and notes on the species in Kansas.—On 27 May 1968 I noticed a female Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) beginning construction of a nest approximately three feet up in the center of a large Paul's Scarlet rose just south of a six-foot redwood board fence in front of my house near the northwest corner of Lawrence, Douglas County. She started with numerous pieces of an old kite string which had been caught well up in a nearby elm tree, making seven or eight trips in an hour or so. She also incorporated small bits of cleaning tissue into the early stages of the nest. On 28 May she was working again both in the morning and afternoon. On this day she incorporated several twigs in the structure.

At this point I left on an extended trip after arranging to have Brigitte (Mrs. Sievert A.) Rohwer check the progress of the nest. A condensed résumé of her observations (which I herewith acknowledge with gratitude) follows.

June 6: nest completed and female sitting on it (incubating?) at 1230 hours. Female flushed accidentally but nest not examined.

June 7: female on the nest at 1410.

June 8: female evidently incubating at 1800. She was flushed. The nest contained three eggs of the Painted Bunting and one egg of a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) identified by Sievert A. Rohwer.

June 12: nest contained one Painted Bunting egg and one egg of a Brown-headed Cowbird at 1200. Female not seen.

June 13: nest completely empty; one Painted Bunting egg found unbroken beneath the nest.

June 15: nest taken, being obviously deserted.

The finished nest (now in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History) is a well made affair much resembling the nest of an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). It consists of dried grasses of various widths, herbaceous twigs, rootlets and bark lining, small leaves, and silky fibers perhaps from dandelion heads. Its approximate measurements are (outside) 90 × 80 × 55 (depth) and (inside) 60 × 50 × 35 mm.

The Painted Bunting is regular in summer at various localities in Douglas County, especially around Lawrence. From one to three males have maintained territories on the north-facing hillside where I live continuously since 1954, the first spring I was there, and I have several times seen females gathering nesting material.

Indeed, according to all available evidence it seems that this species of edge and shrubby openings is and probably long has been rare to fairly common in summer (but local and rather inconspicuous) at many localities to the south and east of an arc extending, roughly, from somewhat north of Kansas City and Manhattan southwest at least to the vicinity of Hugoton, Stevens County. This being the case, it is remarkable that, in the first 20 years of the *Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin*, the first mention of a Painted Bunting appears to be in Vol. 20 (p. 15, second Kansas breeding bird survey, 1968), 1969.

It is almost as remarkable that there seems to be only one definite nesting record prior to the present one. This also is for Douglas County, where a brood of four was successfully reared in Lawrence in the spring of 1918 (Bessie D. Reed, *Auk*, 39, 1922: 269). There is one other record which is almost certainly authentic. On 21 June 1959 Jon C. Barlow found a nest 18 inches up in a coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) on a shrubby hillside just west of Lawrence. This nest, which contained two eggs of the owner and one of the Brown-headed Cowbird, was in the center of a known Painted Bunting territory and fitted published descriptions of the nest of that species. It was seen by R. F. Johnston and me on 22 June but was deserted and the owner was never seen at the nest. No Indigo Buntings were known to have territories in the immediate vicinity and the eggs were rather heavily speckled (Indigo Bunting eggs are very lightly speckled to immaculate).

Because of the scarcity of published information on the breeding and general distribution of the species, I provide herewith the minimal data concerning Kansas specimens presently in the collections of the Museum of Natural History. *Wyandotte County* (1): ♂ "1880" (KU 9753); *Douglas County* (5): im. ♂ ♂ 10 May 1956

(33696), 20 May 1951 (30310), 21 May 1955 (32587); ♂♂ 5 May 1968 (61562), 17 May 1948 (24791)—all but the last have data on their labels suggesting breeding status; *Bourbon County* (2): ♂♂ 11 May 1957 (33695), 10 June 1957 (34298); *Labette County* (3): im. ♂♂ 7 (10183), 14 (10180), and 23 (10187) July 1915; *Montgomery County* (4): im. ♂♂ 28 July (10184) and 3 August (10186); ♂ 9 August (10185); ♀ 4 August (10182)—all 1915; *Comanche County* (2): ♂♂ 6 June (45650) and 19 July (45614) 1964; *Stevens County* (1): ♀ 7 June 1967 (57865). The westernmost specimens are those from Comanche County, taken respectively by Jon C. Barlow and James D. Rising, and the bird from Stevens County, taken also by Rising. The last was obtained eight miles west of Hugoton, hence only about three miles from the boundary of Morton County, the southwesternmost Kansas County. The Barlow specimen had testes with the large dimension 12 mm and was not fat. On 6 June it was probably a breeding specimen. The Rising specimens may or may not have been breeding birds. The male from Comanche County on 19 July had testes still measuring 9×6 mm but weighed 19.5 g and had "heavy fat." The female from Stevens County had granular ovaries (of unstated size) and no brood patch on 7 June.

In the species file of Kansas birds at this Museum, finally, is a terse note in H. B. Tordoff's hand dated 10 April 1955 and acknowledging a verbal communication from Scott Searles to the effect that Painted Buntings occur at Manhattan, Riley County. These are all the data that I am currently able to locate in the Museum.

There is, however, an additional specimen in the Fort Hays Kansas State College collection at Hays (no. 1575), a female with little fat, brood patch, and ovary measuring 6×4 mm taken four miles north of Great Bend, Barton County, by Ed Martinez on 30 May 1968. This is the first individual either Martinez or Marvin Schwilling has yet seen in the area. I am indebted to Dr. Charles Ely for this information and further for assurance that the species is not known to occur at Hays only 45 miles (airline) from the Great Bend area.

While the Painted Bunting is probably rare and very local as one approaches the northern, and particularly the western, parts of the range, the western records here cited and the general picture of distribution suggest that statements in the literature limiting the species to the southeastern third of Kansas (e.g., R. F. Johnston, "A directory to the birds of Kansas," *Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist., Misc. Publs.*, 41, 1965) are somewhat too restrictive. Data in other museums, or in the files of Kansas ornithologists, that substantially augment those presented herewith would seem to be eminently publishable. —ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.*

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