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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT FOR 1972

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Members of the Kansas Ornithological Society made a record 23 mid-winter birds counts between 16 December 1972 and 1 January 1973. The 371,146 individuals reported is exceeded only by the very large counts of the last three years. The lower number this year is due primarily to the absence of any large blackbird roosts during the count period.

The 128 species officially accepted equals the previous high (1971) with at least three wild species reported for the first time: Cinnamon Teal (Wichita), Harris's Hawk (Great Bend), Clark's Nutcracker (Dodge City and Ellis County). Two others (Long-billed Dowitcher, Manhattan; Henslow's Sparrow, Pittsburg) are included in Table 1 with reservations since both are unlikely species and neither was supported by photograph, specimen or subsequent confirmation. The Budgerigar (Junction City) is omitted from the species total because it is an obvious escape. Three additional species were reported during the count period: Sora (McPherson), Mountain Bluebird (Great Bend), Chestnut-collared Longspur (Topeka); three others (all from Topeka) after count period: Hermit Thrush, Northern Shrike, Pine Grosbeak.

Manhattan produced a new state high with 87 (or 88) species, followed by Junction City (73) and Emporia (71). The number of observers varied from 48 (in 9 parties) at Manhattan to two at Baxter Springs, Elk City and Kingman. Topeka, however, topped all counts in actual time of coverage with "Woods" starting an owl hunt with taped calls at 1:00 a.m. His efforts resulted in one Great Horned Owl (responding to a Screech Owl call) and one Screech Owl (just outside count area).

Most of the 1972 counts were marked by extreme cold and snow but numbers of some "open winter" species were above normal. An added bonus was the invasion of several northern species. The lower numbers and variety of waterfowl (compared with 1971) were undoubtedly due to frozen water conditions on most count days. Drastic changes in waterfowl populations due to ice were reported at Cheyenne Bottoms and Junction City. Numbers of Coot, Killdeer and Common Snipe were generally below normal.

Numbers of most songbird species were above normal, probably due in large part to more observers, better organization and better coverage. For example, concentrated effort in choice habitat at Lawrence resulted in a total of 22 Swamp Sparrows. (This area has since been totally destroyed by the Corps of Engineers.) Among the species showing marked increases were Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both nuthatches, Brown Creeper and Brown Thrasher. Nuthatches and similar species were unusually common in Topeka all summer and fall and Orville Rice suggests that the high incidence of dead elms might have been responsible. At Topeka, "Woods" reported that no less than 27 species (of 64) reached new highs including Carolina Wren, Mockingbird and Cardinal, species which are often adversely affected by severe winter weather. He also noted that the two Catbirds present were NOT at feeders as in previous years.

Several species were unaccountably low on a statewide basis. Robins approached the all-time low (176) of 1969 and Common Grackle numbers were down for the

second consecutive year. Other species showed appreciable local changes. Harris Sparrows were uncommon at Udall-Winfield which usually has the state (and sometimes national) high but were unusually common at Dodge City all winter. Juncos, Horned Larks and longspurs were also unusually common at Dodge City. At Hays, Lapland Longspurs were abundant through mid-December then almost completely absent for six weeks, probably due in part to a cold wave and snow. The Tree Sparrow population at Hays was also unusually mobile with considerable population "turnover."

Longspurs appeared on about half of the counts with several observers indicating the probability of several species being involved. Smith's Longspurs were reported from Dodge City and Chestnut-collared Longspurs from Topeka (after the count). Accurate determination of the relative distribution and numbers of the various longspur species would be a very worthwhile project for Kansas birders.

Once again the compilation of the mid-winter counts demonstrated the need for better confirmation and critical follow-up of rare or unusual species and more complete records of the less exciting but equally important common species. We probably know more about the winter distribution of "invasion species" (especially in eastern Kansas) than we do about such species as the Tree Sparrow.

Supplemental information on some of the more interesting species follows:

Snow Goose. The breakdown by color phase (first number is blue, second white) was as follows: Coffey-Lyon (700:1300), Elk City (1800:6000), Emporia (500:1000), Great Bend (0:1), Kansas City (13:12), Linn County (60:20), Wichita (4:0).

Cinnamon Teal. New for the count. One was seen at Wichita on 16 December.

Wood Duck. Rarely reported. Two at Manhattan were the first on a count in 24 years; also reported at Junction City.

Goshawk. The Goshawk invasion seems to be the greatest since 1916-17. Emporia and Manhattan each reported two birds on count day. Also reported during count period or later at: Junction City (John LaShelle), Kingman, Kirwin (Keith Hanson), Lawrence, Topeka (see "Woods" note, this issue) and in the Kansas City area.

Harris Hawk. New for the count. First observed by Ed Martinez on 11 December in woods two miles south of the Cheyenne Bottoms WMA headquarters building. It was seen on the count day and regularly until 7 January, often in the same trees from one to three miles east of the headquarters.

Eagles. Golden Eagle numbers were about normal; the 68 Bald Eagles was a new high with most of the birds on three counts (Coffey-Lyon, Great Bend, Manhattan).

Sora. Not yet reported on a count; one reported during period at McPherson.

Long-billed Dowitcher. Questioned due to lack of hard evidence. Becky Finney saw one on an open stream near Manhattan; same bird reported by Perry Conway as "not a snipe."

Budgerigar. A green "budgie" was seen near a pond in Junction City but was not found on two later trips and was "perhaps recaptured by its owners."

Scrub Jay. Reported for fourth year. Seven birds are wintering in Dodge City and some regularly visit feeders and bird baths; still present on 12 February.

Black-billed Magpie. One seen on Gypsum Creek near McPherson was apparently the first for the area.

Clark's Nutcracker. Probably the most interesting invasion of the year. Single birds were reported on the Dodge City and Ellis County counts. Birds appeared in Ellis on 20 October and soon after in Hays and LaCrosse. Later birds were reported in Topeka and Kansas City area. The Dodge City bird remained until late January; the Hays birds were still present on 20 February.

Long-billed Marsh Wren. Rarely recorded. Three at Cheyenne Bottoms (Martinez).

Catbird. Rarely reported. Two were seen at Topeka on and after the count day.

Bohemian Waxwing. Reported on Ellis County and Topeka counts and during count period at Dodge City and Junction City. Dates of first arrival and maximum numbers are: Dodge City—31 December, 50; Hays—16 December, 45; Topeka—24 November, 50.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. Reported for fifth year—two at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Boat-tailed Grackle. Reported for second year—two at Cheyenne Bottoms. A female was photographed during a four-hour stay at the Kingman Game Area on 24 December.

Dickcissel. Reported for second consecutive year. A female, with House Sparrows, at Manhattan; observed for previous week as well, by Fretwell and others.

Evening Grosbeak. Reported on Great Bend and Manhattan counts and during count period by Ellis County, Halstead-Newton, Junction City and Topeka. Also briefly reported at Kingman (9 on 10 December) and Baldwin (male, then female, 9–12 December, Katharine Kelley). Birds were still present in Hays and Topeka in mid-February.

Red Crossbill. A widespread invasion; reported on four counts [Ellis County, Great Bend, McPherson (first for area), Wichita]. Halstead-Newton and Topeka reported birds during the count period and Dodge City had birds earlier in the fall.

Henslow's Sparrow. Questioned due to lack of hard evidence. Theodore Sperry reported two at Pittsburg. He reported that the birds had bright rufous on the wing with distinctive dull olive head, more like a Lincoln's than a LeConte's, but without the streaked buffy breast of the former. The species is rarely reported on Christmas counts and normally winters on the Gulf coastal plains.

White-winged Junco. Single birds were reported from Great Bend (Larry Nossaman) and Junction City (also a later report). "Woods" reported an unidentified junco with white wingbars in Topeka on 17 December.

Snow Bunting. Two reported from Manhattan—their second count sighting in 24 years. Sondra Williamson and Marge Davidson flushed the birds repeatedly and reported seeing all field marks.

Baldwin City (15-mile circle, center junction of Highways 56 and 59, Douglas County). December 30; 33 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.); open country 10%, brushland 35%, woodland 35%, lakes 10%, urban 10%, partly cloudy; temperature 36–32°F; wind W, 25 mph; lakes partly frozen, ground muddy; miles: 184 by car, 17 on foot; 20 observers in 4 parties: Ivan and Margaret Boyd, Craig Cyr, Susan Davidson, David Embrey, Pat Jardon, Tom Johnson, Katharine Kelley, Eugene and Eulalia Lewis, Marno McKaughan, Ray Miller, Victor Nelson, Mike Nutt, Barbara and Martin Pressgrove, A. T., Mary, and Tom Swan, and Amelia Betts (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Red-shafted Flicker, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-throated Sparrow.

Baxter Springs (15-mile circle, center at Riverton, Cherokee County). December 24; 8½ party-hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); open grassland 25%, cultivated field and roadside 25%, bottomland brush and thickets 25%, lake and river 20%, upland oak woods 5%; cloud cover 100%; temperature 32–60°F; wind S, 0–10 mph; no snow cover; lake 80% open; miles: 30 by car, 6 on foot; 2 observers: H. Bentley and J. Rising (compiler).

Camp Naish (500-acre reservation, 3 miles E Bonner Springs, Wyandotte County). December 27; 8 party-hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.); open grassland 10%, cultivated field and brush 30%, woodland 55%, lake and river 5%; clear, sunny; temperature 35–52°F; glazed snow cover; wind S, 10 mph; miles: 3 by car, 13 on foot; 3 observers: Craig Duncan, Craig Gordon, Marc Thiry (Stan Roth, coordinator and compiler).

Coffey-Lyon Counties (15-mile circle, center midway between Hartford and Redmond Reservoir). December 23; 9½ party-hours (7:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.); open grassland 5%, cultivated field 30%, brush 15%, woodland 30%, lake and river 20%; temperature 32–40°F; wind N, 10–15 mph; miles: 60 by car, 19 on foot; 3 observers: Marc Marcellus, Lyle Stemmerman and Edward Ryan (compiler).

Dodge City (15-mile circle, center 2 miles E St. Mary of the Plains College). December 16; 25 party-hours (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); fields and pasture 65%, wooded areas 30%, urban 5%; temperature 5–24°F; wind NW, 5–10 mph; snow cover, water frozen; miles: 183 by car, 11 on foot; 8 observers in 3 parties: Maurice Bleumer, Duane Boyd, Joyce Davis, Dora Renick, Ernest and Shirley Vieux, Judy Young, and Joan Challans (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing.

Elk City Reservoir (15-mile circle, center Card Creek, 7 miles W Independence). January 1; 9½ party-hours (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); wheat fields 25%, impounded water and shore 20%, river bottom woodlands 35%, pasture and grassland 20%; clear; temperature 28–40°F; wind NW, 15–25 mph; miles: 12 by car, 1 on foot; 2 observers: Hilbert Albright and Sylvia Albright (compiler).

Ellis County (15-mile circle, center 6 miles S, 3 miles W Hays). December 16; 13 party-hours (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.); open grassland 30%, cultivated fields 40%, woodland 20%, lake and river 5%, urban 5%; temperature -2 to 30°F; clear; wind W-NW, 5-15 mph; 2 inches old snow; lakes frozen, some flowing water open; miles: 106 by car, 8 on foot; 5 observers: Ken Brunson, Richard Hill, Marvin Rolfs, Jerry Wilson, and Charles Ely (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch.

Emporia (15-mile circle, center 1 mile S Lang). December 17; 75 party-hours (5 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.); pastures and cultivated fields 60%, deciduous riparian woodlands 25%, streams and ponds 10%, residential 5%; clear; temperature 19-45°F; wind SE-SW, 10-25 mph; water frozen; snow cover with ice glaze; good seed crop; miles: 714 by car, 44 on foot; 18 observers in 9 parties: Alan Bosomworth, John and Ruth Breukelman, Anne Emerson, Larry Herbert, Dorothy Laird, Jacob Miller, Curtis and Winona Rhoades, Edward and Helen Ryan, Edward and Margaret Schulenberg, Tom Shane, Jim Shields, Janet Spencer, Rita Woodworth and Jean Schulenberg (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: White-fronted Goose, Prairie Falcon, Ring-billed Gull.

Fostoria (15-mile circle, Fostoria northwest to Blue River, Pottawatomie County). December 16; 8½ party-hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.); open grassland 50%, cultivated fields 13%, brush 30%, woodland 6%, lake and river 1%; clear; temperature 6-25°F; wind NE, 12 mph; miles: 49 by car, 2 on foot; 5 observers: Bernard and Rowena Plummer, Howard Webster, and Eunice Webster and Mabel Willis (compilers). Additional species seen during count period: Greater Prairie Chicken, Rock Dove.

Great Bend (15-mile circle, center Barton County Community Junior College). December 16; 20 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.); grassland 10%, cultivated fields 30%, brush 20%, woodland 10%, lake and river 30%; overcast; temperature 7-9°F; wind S-SW, 3-7 mph; 100% snow cover, water areas 98% frozen; miles: 146 by car, 12 on foot; 16 observers in 3 parties: Nadine Ameringer, June Arends, Charles Brown, Bruce Christiansen, Laurel Dirks, Duane Forbes, Mickey Frownfelter, Paul Holmes, Edmund and Jim Martinez, Larry Nossaman, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Nystrom, Christine Nystrom, Frank Robl and Marvin Schwilling (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Common Goldeneye, Ring-billed Gull, Screech Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Mountain Bluebird.

Halstead-Newton (15-mile circle, center 5½ miles NE Halstead). December 16; 57 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.); hedgerows and farmland 35%, woodland and wooded stream 42%, farmyards, town and cemetery 12%, shrubby prairie and pasture 5%, prairie and pasture 3%, marsh, pond and river 3%; clear; temperature 7-28°F; wind, E, 0-11 mph; 2 inches frozen snow over most of ground; rivers and ponds frozen; miles: 220 by car, 40 on foot; 24 observers in 7 parties: Roy Auernheimer, Marion Deckert, Thaine Dirks, Keith Funk, Barb Goering, Steve Hetzke, Lisa, Paul and Peter Jantzen, Leona Krehbiel, Janet Moyer, Jay Newton, Chris Nye, Wesley Pauls, Dwight, Kamala and Richard Platt, Robert and Steve Regier, Kent Stucky, Myron and Nada Voth, Brian Warkentine, and Stan Senner (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-crowned Sparrow.

Junction City (15-mile circle, center I-70 roadside park W Junction City). December 31; 27 party-hours (5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); deciduous woods 25%, grassland 35%, evergreen woods 5%, cultivated fields 25%, lake and stream 10%; clear; temperature 20-32°F; wind NE, 5-15 mph; no snow cover; miles: 195 by car, 19 on foot; 13 observers in 3 parties: Lorena Combs, Steve Fretwell, Bob Kruger, John LaShelle, Eugene and Eulalia Lewis, Doris Marx, Jean and Margaret Schulenberg, Tom Shane, Celia White, Brent York, and Bob LaShelle (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Golden Eagle, Barred Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Common Grackle, Evening Grosbeak.

Kansas City (15-mile circle, center near Morris, Wyandotte County). December 16; 40 party-hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); woodland 10%, lakes and rivers 5%, open grassland 20%, cultivated fields 15%, brush 5%, suburban 45%; sunny; temperature 10-20°F; wind NW, 3-5 mph; most water frozen, moderate snow cover; miles: 255 by car, 17 on foot; 19 observers in 5 parties: Bob Clark, Elizabeth Cole, Tim Hickok, Philip Kaul, Ardy Kester, Robert Lee, Robert Means, Ruth Michaels, Mary Louise and Jim Myers, Stan Nelson, Don Nepstad, Isabel and Rebecca Rohrer, Marilyn Schweder, Kevin Sink, Bernice Tatum, Sondra Yeskie, and Jananne McNitt (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Gadwall, American Widgeon, Common Goldeneye, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark.

Kingman (15-mile circle, center Kingman Game Management Area headquarters). December 29; 8 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); open grassland 70%, cultivated fields 2%, brush 8%, woodland 10%, lake and river 10%; cloudy, clear visibility; temperature 25-38°F; wind S, 5-10 mph; miles: 23 by car, 6 on foot; 2 observers: June Walker and Byron Walker (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Pied-billed Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark, Robin, Townsend's Solitaire, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle.

Lawrence (15-mile circle, center National Guard Armory). December 23; 67 party-hours (5 a.m. to 8 p.m.); grassland 12%, cultivated fields 10%, brush 20%, woodland 40%, ponds and rivers 15%, urban 3%; clear to partly cloudy; temperature 27-40°F; wind SW, 0-2 mph; miles: 146 by car, 38 on foot; 25 observers in 9 parties: M. Anderson, C. Baird, Wendy and W. Balfour, B. Bradley, B. and H. Chewing, C. Clinton, C. Duncan, H. Fitch, A. Moates, K. Nelson, Jane and J. Parker, J. Robins, S. Roth, H. Sherman, M. Trillich, E. Turney, K. and P. Von Achen, P. Wedge, L. Williams, G. Worthen and Ruth Faulh (compiler).

Linn County (15-mile circle, center 1½ miles E, 3 miles N Mound City). December 17; 17 party-hours (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.); wooded streams and lakes 55%, fields and brushy fencerows 45%; mostly cloudy; temperature 16-30°F; wind SE, 15 mph; sleet, ice cover, most water frozen; miles: 145 by car, 5 on foot; 5 observers in 3 parties: Margaret Boots, Mabel Concannon, Ivan Sutton, Frank Wood and T. T. Concannon (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Pileated Woodpecker, Common Grackle.

Manhattan (15-mile circle, center Kansas State University campus). December 16; 85 party-hours (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.); grassland 35%, forest edge 35%, lakes and rivers 10%, deciduous forest 10%, cultivated fields 5%, urban 5%; scattered clouds; temperature 8–23°F; wind N, 0–5 mph; 3-inch snow cover; most water frozen; miles: 399 by car, 153 on foot; 48 observers in 9 parties: Fred Bartel, Dan Bowen, Dave Bremer, Wayne Byrnes, Perry Conway, Marge Davidson, L. K. Edmunds, Annetta Esser, Clyde and Lena Ferguson, Becky Finney, Steve Fretwell, Francis and Leonard Fuller, H. T. and Marge Gier, Bob Glazier, Debbie Cood, Grover Icenogele, Lowell Johnson, T. S. Jones, Sam Kruckenburg, Don Lee, Gene and Eulalia Lewis, Brad Martin, Dick Marzolf, Elton Michal, Kelly, Paige, and Mary Bess Molholland, Vic Moss, Curtz Nimz, Bill Pursley, Mike Quinlan, Bill Rudolph, Tom Shane, Connie Shaplund, Chris Smith, Betsy Stevenson, John Tatsch, Mitch Taylor, Keith Tillotson, Doug Wallace, Sondra Williamson, Paul and Stephen Zimmerman, and John Zimmerman (compiler).

McPherson (15-mile circle, center 1 mile E, 6 miles N McPherson). December 16; 69 party-hours (7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.); open farmland 20%, brushland and hedgerows 30%, pastures 15%, riparian timber 20%, town 10%, marsh and ponds 5%; partly cloudy; temperature 10–28°F; wind NE, 0–7 mph; 75–80% snow cover, all water areas frozen; miles: 197 by car, 7 on foot; 10 observers in 3 parties: Nelda Ikenberry, Allan and Jeffery Jahn, Delbert, Loren and Merwin Johnson, Ronald Little, Victor Peterson, Kendall Shaw and Stephen Capel (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Mallard, Sora.

Olathe (15-mile circle, center intersection of Highways 56 and 7, Johnson County). December 30; 14 party-hours (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.); grassland 30%, cultivated fields 30%, deciduous woods 25%, lakes 5%, streams 5%, urban 5%; cloudy; temperature 32–24°F; wind NW–W, 20–30 mph; dry, high humidity; miles 105 by car, 15 on foot; 9 observers in 2 parties: Barbara Bradley, Dean, Mark and Mary Anne Crane, Ethel Hower, Robin Mills, Michael Perry, Ray Wackley, and James Bradley (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Mourning Dove, Brown Creeper, Robin, Rufous-sided Towhee.

Pittsburg (15-mile circle, center Kansas State College, Pittsburg). December 22; 29 party-hours (6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.); riparian woods 20%, fields and pastures 63%, brushy hillsides 32%, urban 5%; clear; temperature 21–48°F; wind SW, 0–8 mph; heavy frost in a.m.; soil moist, remnants of snow and ice; streams full, open; ponds full, frozen; miles: 54 by car, 14 on foot; 3 observers in 3 parties: Bessie Boso, Gladys Calligar, Theodore Sperry. Additional species seen during count period: Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch.

Topeka (15-mile circle, center State Capitol Building). December 23; 101 party-hours (1 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.); prairie and fields 30%, cultivated land 20%, deciduous woods 20%, urban 25%, lakes and rivers 5%; rain in a.m. and p.m., clear midday; temperature 30–48°F; wind E, 8–17 mph; small ponds and lakes 95–100% frozen, rivers and streams 85% frozen; miles: 547 by car, 45 on foot; 23 observers in 4 parties (plus 21 at feeders): Andrew, Linden and Peggy Barber, Charles and Florence Beeks, Ray Chancellor, Med and Dorothy Christensen, Duncan Friend, Paul and Pauline Givens, Antoine Grayib, Gwen Haegert, William and Tillie Happe, Phyllis Henney, Grace Holcombe, Carl Hultgren, Scottie Johnson, Tom Johnson, John LaShelle, Eugene, Eulalia and Tim Lewis, Gene and Virginia Lockhart, Woodie Maus, Aubrey and June McCallum, Esther Miller, Edna Neher, Paul Newbolt, Maxine Phillips, Jeanette and Roderick Runyan, Jean and Margaret Schulenberg, Mildred and Robert Sutherland, E. P. and Joyce Thompson, Thelma Vogel, Grace White and Orville Rice (compiler). Additional species seen during count period: Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Udall-Winfield (15-mile diameter, center water tower, Winfield State Training School). December 23; 36 party-hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.); pastures and fields 65%, river and streams 30%, lakes 5%; clear; temperature 42–55°F; wind S, 10 mph; miles: 247 by car, 13 on foot; 14 observers in 4 parties: Wallace Champeny, Janet Laws, Michael Lesan, David and Kent Seibel, Agnes, Phyllis and Ross Williams, Donna, Lee, Tammy and Vicky Wilt, and Max Thompson (compiler).

Wichita (15-mile circle, center confluence of Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers). December 16; 33 party-hours (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.); fields and pastures 50%, parks, cemeteries and woodlands 10%, urban and suburban 35%, lakes, ponds and rivers 5%; clear; temperature 9–29°F; wind S, 0–10 mph; 3-inch snow cover, water 95% frozen; miles: 177 by car, 20 on foot; 15 observers in 4 parties: John, Phil and Walker Butin, Don Ferguson, Larry Gray, Dan Kilby, Mike Lesan, Glen and Vivian Roberts, Elizabeth Stafford, Eddie and Savilla Stegall, Donald Vannoy, Ralph Wiley and Wallace Champeny (compiler).

Some noteworthy sight records in Shawnee County, Kansas.—The 1972 fall and winter season produced the following noteworthy Shawnee County sightings:

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)—On 25 October at the Menninger Foundation West Campus, Topeka, I flushed an adult Goshawk from a pine tree. It flew low in front of me and only about 15 feet away and was easily recognized by its blue-gray color (which extended over the rump), the white stripe above the eye, dark crown and other field marks. Judging from its small size, I believe the bird was a male. About 15 minutes later I flushed this or another Goshawk from a hedgerow about a quarter mile from the first location. Also, I saw one or more Goshawks at West Campus on 19 November and 3 and 17 December.

There are only two previous Goshawk records for Shawnee County: a specimen, now at the University of Kansas, was taken 18 November 1916, and I saw a single adult on 30 December 1967. Apparently Kansas is experiencing the largest Goshawk invasion since the great invasion of 1916–17.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*)—The afternoon of 31 October was rainy and foggy. As I walked down one of the roads at West Campus, my thoughts turned inward by the weather, it was not until I was just four feet away from them that I noticed three Clark's Nutcrackers foraging calmly along the road beneath a row of pines. They were darkish gray birds with fairly long, pointed black bills and were distinctly larger than Blue Jays. The feathers around the base of the bill were whitish. The legs and feet were black. The wings and tail were also black, except for the white secondaries and outer tail feathers which were especially apparent when the birds flew. They remained silent.

Although I have seen many nutcrackers before, I have never seen them so fearless. I stamped my feet on the pavement, yet they would not fly but continued foraging. When I would approach within four feet of one it would fly ahead two or three feet and resume foraging by slowly walking and visually examining the ground. Occasionally one flew up to a low pine branch. Thinking they might have been former captives, I examined them closely for bands and abnormal feather wear, but I noted none. Perhaps 20 minutes after I found them they left and I was unable to locate them again.

This is the first Shawnee County record; there have been numerous reports from other Kansas counties this winter. One such report from St. Mary's, Pottawatomie County, about 16 December, is unverified and is still open to question. Another Shawnee County report by three observers was actually a Mockingbird.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)—While observing a flock of foraging Red Crossbills at West Campus on 23 October, my attention was drawn to call notes overhead which reminded me of the flight call of the White-winged Crossbill, which I have heard previously many times. Although the calling bird remained unseen, its calls led to and stopped at a row of planted cedars nearby. As I approached I saw a female white-wing at the top of one of the cedars. I clearly noted the two prominent white wingbars (not narrow as occasionally seen on Red Crossbills), the yellowish color, and the bright yellow rump. The bird left almost immediately; at no time was it with the Red Crossbills. The White-winged Crossbill is a rare, irregular winter visitant to Kansas (Johnston, 1965:56). There are two previous county records: January 1920 (Gunthorp, 1920:62); December 1965 (Ruth Green, pers. comm.).

White-winged Junco (*Junco aikeni*)—On the afternoon of 31 October I closely observed a flock of from 65 to 80 juncos feeding on a hillside at West Campus. One bird was a White-winged Junco, the others were Slate-colored Juncos. The white-wing was larger than the accompanying slate-colored with lighter gray coloration. The tips of the middle and greater coverts were white, these white spots forming two very narrow wingbars, the lower one being quite long. I was unable to note the extent of white in the rectrices. There was a slight brownish wash on the back and nape. I have seen the species previously in Wyoming and South Dakota.

There is at least one previous record for Shawnee County—a bird seen 24 October 1966 by Orville Rice. This species is very rarely reported from eastern Kansas, in part, I believe, because many observers are unable to identify it. Many white-wings show no white at all in the wings (yet 3% of Slate-colored Juncos show wingbars). White-wings are larger than slate-colored, but not always larger than Oregon Juncos. Most white-wings show more white in the tail than most slate-colored but this varies with both species. The white-winged is usually but not always paler gray than slate-colored. Thus white-wings must be identified with care; for this reason this species may be overlooked in eastern Kansas.

Gunthorp, H. 1920. White-winged Crossbill at Topeka, Kansas. *Wilson Bull.*, 32:62-63.

Johnston, R. F. 1965. A directory to the birds of Kansas. *Univ. Kans. Mus. Nat. Hist., Misl. Publ.*, 41:1-67.

Rice, O. O. 1961. Pine Grosbeaks in Topeka. *Kans. Orn. Soc. Bull.*, 12:2-3. "Woods,"¹ 615 West 17th St., Topeka, Kansas 66612.

¹ Robert Sutherland prefers to be known as "The man who walks in the woods" or "Woods."