

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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### MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT FOR 1977

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The 1977 count continued the recent trend of setting new records in most categories. Twenty-nine counts were received for a new high. Included were a new count from Wilson Reservoir and the first in recent years from Clark County. Most counts were carefully prepared but a few compilers seemed reluctant to question unlikely species and numbers.

The number of participants (496) was slightly larger than last year but the average group size (17) was lower. The Manhattan group was again largest with 82 participants and Lawrence was a distant second with 46. Camp Naish and Wilson Reservoir had two participants each. The highest species counts were reported at Manhattan (91+3 races) followed by Junction City (87+2) and Wichita (81+3). The total number of individuals, 14,714,194, slightly exceeded the previous high of 1975.

A total of 141 species (+ 1 form and at least 5 races) was reported, greatly exceeding the previous high of 135 in 1973. If we add the two unlikely species for which documentation was supplied (Snowy Plover and Franklin's Gull), the total (143) is even more impressive. Although the total is 6 higher than in 1973, only 2 (or 3) species were new to the count: Palm Warbler (Morton County); Snowy Plover (Quivira); Dunlin (Great Bend and Wichita). Palm Warblers occasionally winter in the state and the Dunlin is not unexpected but the Snowy Plover is apparently the first reported Kansas winter record. Snowy Plovers winter from the Gulf Coast southward.

Three additional species were reported during the count period: Turkey Vulture (Topeka); King Rail (road kill, Halstead-Newton); Snowy Owl (Junction City). Species deleted (or withdrawn) from the counts were: Mississippi Kite (Great Bend); Swainson's Hawk (Salina); Wood Thrush (Camp Naish); Solitary Vireo (Udall-Winfield); Chipping Sparrow (Lawrence).

Circumstances were nearly ideal for a combination of lingering summer birds and fall transients, northern invasion species and local permanent residents. Also coverage was unusually good with several counts in the south-west where characteristic birds of that area were cooperative. Three species, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lark Bunting and Sage Sparrow were reported for only the second time and a fourth species (Scaled Quail) was found in unprecedented numbers. Ducks, blackbirds, and sparrows were generally more abundant than usual and were widely distributed. And larch played a part as well. At Salina, two Pine Grosbeaks were seen briefly (and photographed) during the count but have not been seen since. Bohemian Waxwings were similarly reported in Ellis County.

New highs (number of individuals) were reached for 51 of the species reported. Moderate increases would be expected with the additional counts and good weather but increases for some species were unexpectedly large. For example, the Great Blue Heron showed an increase from the previous high of 26 to 93. Others showing major increases were: Herring Gull, 46 to 132; Ring-billed Gull, 1664 to 7474; Robin, 7856 to 18,867; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 84 to 166 (including a flock of 40 at Elk City); Rusty Blackbird, 1568 to 12,048 (including a flock of 11,000 at Udall-Winfield); Common Grackle, 31,813 to 503,659 (I suspect that this total is inflated); Lincoln Sparrow, 27 to 110.

Most stations reported the wild food crop as good to excellent, a factor probably contributing to the high numbers of seed-eating birds. Some species, however, continued to display their unexplained fluctuations in numbers. The Harris Sparrow which showed such a spectacular high in Morton County last year (957, compared to the usual 3-5) was back down to a more normal 33. The major difficulty reported by compilers was high winds on some counts. In Ellis County, 35 mph winds lasted from dawn to nearly dusk and despite otherwise nearly perfect conditions the count was below normal.

Some of the more unusual species recorded were:

Common Loon: 1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake; reported for only the fifth year.

Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 at Junction City; reported on only two previous counts, Barton County and Quivira.

Turkey Vulture: 1 was seen near Topeka on 16 December by Arlene and Bob Delker.

Bald Eagle: a new high of 149; previous high, 126 in 1973.

Peregrine Falcon: reported from Great Bend, Manhattan and Pomona Res.

Snowy Plover: 2 reported at Quivira by Carl Marks and Wayne Dale.

Dunlin: 1 was present near Wichita for at least a week (Don Vannoy and Sue Jehle); Ed Martinez saw 2 on the Great Bend count (Cheyenne Bottoms).

Franklin's Gull? reported near Topeka by Priscilla Budge and Mable Willis; Orville Rice had seen two flocks in Topeka area during the first week of December.

King Rail: 1 found dead on road by Bob Regier and Emerson Wiens on 18 December; there are few documented winter records.

Snowy Owl: 1 near Junction City during count period; apparently the only report for Kansas this winter.

House Wren: rarely reported in winter but the two sightings from Baldwin City and Udall-Winfield are convincing.

Rock Wren: 2 from Morton County are not unexpected but the one from near Junction City is unexpected.

Curve-billed Thrasher: 1 from Morton County; 1 in Ellis on 3 December.

Northern Shrike: This is not an invasion year for northerns but the reports from Kingman and Morton County are convincing.

Palm Warbler: the single bird on the Morton County count was feeding with juncos along the Cimarron River (Jean Schulenberg and Sebastian Patti).

Evening Grosbeak: reported on Baldwin City and Lawrence counts and during count period at Ellis County and Manhattan. Since reported from Baxter Springs.

Pine Grosbeak: 2 seen at Salina by Jay Bailey are among the few documented Kansas records.

"White-winged" Junco: 4 were reported on the Godland count.

Sage Sparrow: 1 on Morton County count by Marvin Schwilling and Byron Berger.

Arkansas City: Center, intersection U.S. 77 and Arkansas River, as described 1975. Habitat coverage: open farmland 40 per cent, streambanks and woodland 35 per cent, pastures 20 per cent, residential 5 per cent. Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; light mist; temperature 42-44 deg. F; wind S at 5-15 mph. Fifteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 34 (14 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles 211 (13 on foot, 198 by car). Carolee and Louis Busejaeger, Hazel Chaplin, Dan Kilby, Mike Lesan, Laura McCann, Catharine Penner, Marilyn Penner, Gerald Rook, David and Kent Seibel, Don Vannoy, Lena White, David Zeh, and Wallace Champeny (compiler). Seen during count period: Brown Thrasher.

Baldwin City: Center, jct. Hgws 56 and 58, as described 1974. Habitat coverage: brushland 30 per cent, lakes 30 per cent, open country 20 per cent, woodland 15 per cent, city 5 per cent. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; hazy to clear; temperature 22-49 deg. F; wind S at 5-15 mph; lakes mostly frozen; ground dry, no snow cover. Twenty-six observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 56 (18 on foot, 38 by car); total party-miles 432 (16 on foot, 416 by car). Ivan, Jan, Margaret and Roger Boyd, John, Johnny and Martin Brockway, T. A. Church, Calvin Cink, Evelyn and Irene Davis, Dorothy Duncan, L. E. Eberwein, Margaret Gay, E. R. and Mary Hall, Katharine Kelley, E. M. and E. R. Lewis, Marno McKaughan, Todd McMillan, Martha Pankratz, Barbara and Martin Pressgrove, Mary Swan, and Amelia Betts (compiler). Seen during count period: Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren.

Camp Naish: Wyandotte co., as described 1974. Dec. 29; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; partly cloudy to clear; temperature 25-40 deg. F; wind NW at 2-5 mph; water with patchy ice; no snow cover or precipitation. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8.5 (6.5 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles 12 (7 on foot, 5 by car). Pat McWilliams and Larry Williams (Stan Roth, compiler).

**Clark Co.:** Center, 3 miles S and .5 mile E of Bloom, to include Minneola, Bloom and Clark County Fishing Lake. Habitat coverage: cultivated fields 37 per cent, riparian woods 25 per cent, farmyards 15 per cent, grassland 10 per cent, lake 10 per cent, urban 3 per cent. Dec. 28; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear to mostly clear; temperature 22-45 deg. F; wind NW at 0-15 mph; no snow cover; water partly open; wild food crop good. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 20 (5 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles 188 (5.5 on foot, 182.5 by car). Byron Berger, Jeff Cox, Joyce Davis and Galen Pittman (compiler). Seen during count period: Savannah Sparrow, McCown's Longspur.

**Coffey-Lyon cos.:** Center, point midway between Hartford and John Redmond Dam, as described 1974. Habitat coverage: grassland 60 per cent, woodland 20 per cent, stream and reservoir 20 per cent. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temperature 27-38 deg. F; wind NW at 5 mph; no snow; water 15 per cent open; wild food crop excellent. Six observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (6.5 on foot, 2.5 by car); total party-miles 74 (24 on foot, 50 by car). Gilbert and Marie Leisman, Michael Long, Christopher and Helen Ryan, and Edward Ryan (compiler). The count is dedicated to Marc Marcellus (a count participant for 25 years) who died last October.

**Dodge City:** Center, 2 miles E St. Mary of the Plains College, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: cultivated fields and pastures 50 per cent, woodland 25 per cent, streams and lakes 12 per cent, residential 13 per cent. Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; temperature 35-50 deg. F; wind NW at 10-15 mph; no snow; water open; wild food crop good. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 38 (12 on foot, 26 by car); total party-miles 293 (10.5 on foot, 282.5 by car). Maurice Bleumer, Ayleene Brajj, Mr. and Mrs. George Cole, Julia Oehrle, Joyce Davis, Janelle O'Keefe, Carrolanne Shultz, Judy Young and Joan Challans (compiler). Seen during count period: Mockingbird.

**Elk City:** Center, Card Creek, 7 miles W Independence, as described 1973. Habitat coverage: cropland 50 per cent, woodland 20 per cent, lake 20 per cent, grassland 10 per cent. Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; overcast all day; temperature 39-41 deg. F; wind S-SE at 5-10 mph; water almost completely frozen; wild food crop good. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (2 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles 54 (2 on foot, 52 by car). Hilbert Albright, Dennis Knuth and Sylvia Albright (compiler). Seen during count period: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle (a); Bobwhite.

**Ellis Co.:** Center, 3.5 miles S, 4 miles W Hays, as described 1976. Habitat coverage: riparian 40 per cent, farmland 30 per cent, grassland 20 per cent, lakes and ponds 5 per cent, suburban 5 per cent. Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; overcast in a.m.; mostly clear in p.m.; temperature 34-48 deg. F; wind NW at 5-35 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop good. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 20 (15 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles 161 (15 on foot, 146 by car). John Applegarth, Donna Cooper, Virginia Kraus, Patricia Latas, Mrs. Richard Mermis, Marvin Rolfs, Roger Snodgrass, Annie Laurie Steele, and Charles Ely (compiler). Seen during count period: Bobwhite, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak.

**Emporia:** Center, 1 mile S Lang, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: as described 1972. Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear; temperature 26-54 deg. F; wind variable at 0-5 mph; no snow; water partly open. Twenty-four observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 125 (71.5 on foot, 53.5 by car); total party-miles 824 (75 on foot, 749 by car). John Breukelman, Randy Clark, Denise and Phyllis Flott, Yogi Gilliland, Charles Hall, Mary Headrick, Larry Herbert, Marvin Kuehn, Dorothy and Lester Laird, Dorothy Milsap, John Parrish, Curtis and Winona Rhoades, Edward and Helen Ryan, Edward and Margaret Schulenberg, Marvin Schwilling, James Shields, Kathleen Tabor, Allen Tubbs, and Jean Schulenberg (compiler). (Ruddy Turnstone Audubon Society).

**Fostoria:** Center, Fostoria, as described 1974. Habitat coverage: open grassland 50 per cent, brush 30 per cent, cultivated fields 13 per cent, woodland 6 per cent, river 1 per cent. Dec. 29; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; mostly clear; temperature 22-50 deg. F; wind S-SW at 5-6 mph. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (1 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles 47 (1 on foot, 46 by car). Ina Eisenbach, Esther Greenegard, Mabel Willis and Eunice Webster (compiler). Seen during count period: Great Blue Heron, Bobwhite, Red-shafted Flicker.

**Goodland:** Center, 4 miles S of I-70 and 2 miles W of K-27, as described 1976. Habitat coverage: cultivated fields 50 per cent, streamsides 20 per cent, residential 15 per cent, windbreaks 10 per cent, parks 5 per cent. Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temperature 10-33 deg. F; wind N-NW at 20-34 mph. Thirteen observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24 (9 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles 245 (7 on foot, 238 by car). Richard Brown, Fred Duell, Bret Endsley, Terry Flageolle, Rick Fletcher, Jackie Fixsen, Eric Gray, Troy Lake, Eric and John Palmquist, Tom Shane, Brad Shores, and Ronnie Barkley (compiler). Seen during count period: Golden Eagle.

**Great Bend:** Center, Barton Co. Community College, as described 1974. Habitat coverage: cultivated fields 30 per cent, lakes and rivers 30 per cent, brush 20 per cent, open grassland 10 per cent, woodland 10 per cent. Dec. 17; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear in a.m.; mostly clear in p.m.; temperature 35-40 deg. F; wind NW at 20-35 mph; wild food crop excellent. Twelve observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 11 (4 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles 103 (3 on foot, 100 by car). List of participants not received.

**Halstead-Newton:** Center, 5.75 miles NE Halstead, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: woodland and wooded streams 50 per cent, hedgerows and farmlands 26 per cent, shrubby prairies and pastures 12 per cent, prairies and pastures 7 per cent, farmyards, towns and cemeteries 3 per cent, marshes, ponds and rivers 2 per cent. Dec. 17; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; mostly cloudy; temperature 37-51 deg. F; wind WNW at 5-30 mph. Twenty-eight observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 64 (44 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles 246 (42 on foot, 204 by car). Bud Akin, Roy Auernheimer, Marion Deckert, Diane Harris, Paul Jantzen, Willie Kaufman, David Kinkaid, Mark and Scott Matthies, Janet Moyer, Adam Mueller, Bill and James Nelson, Jay Newton, Norman Pankratz, Richard Platt, Bob Regier, Sherry Regier, Tyron Stucky, Diane and John Torline, Paul



TABLE I

Table with columns for locations (Arkansas City, Baldwin, Camp Nash, Clark Co, Coffey, Dodge City, Elk City, Ellis Co, Emporia, Fortoria, Goodland, Great Bend, Harstead, Junction, Kansas City, Kingman, Lawrence, Linn Co, Manhattan, Morton Co, Olathe, Pittsburg, Pomona, Quivira, Salina, Topeka, Udall, Wichita, Wilson Res, Totals) and rows for bird species (Downy Woodpecker, Red-back Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-cap. Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Wh.-breast. Nuthatch, Red-breast. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Lg.-bill Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, N. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Curve-bill. Thrasher, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Townsend Solitaire, Gold-cr. Kinglet, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Unid. Kinglet, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Loggerhead Shrike, Stirling, Yel.-rump. Warbler, Palm Warbler, House Sparrow, East. Meadowlark, West. Meadowlark, Unid. meadowlark, Yel.-head. Blackbird, Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-l. Grackle, Common Grackle, Br.-head. Cowbird, Unid. blackbirds, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Amer. Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Ruf.-side. Towhee, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, LeColes's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-winged, Slate-colored, Oregon, Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Wh.-cr. Sparrow, Wh.-th. Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Unid. sparrows, McCown's Longspur, Laidlaw Longspur, Chest.-col. Longspur, Unid. longspur, Total Individuals, Total Species).

Unrau, Myron Voth, Nada Voth, Wilma Voth, Brian Warkentine, James Wulf, and Dwight Platt (compiler). (Harvey County Natural History Assn.). Seen during count period: King Rail (road kill), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Fox Sparrow.

**Junction City:** Center, as described 1974. Habitat coverage: cultivated 35 per cent, grasslands 25 per cent, water 20 per cent, deciduous 15 per cent, evergreens 5 per cent. Jan. 2; 5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; clear; temperature 11-33 deg. F; wind SE at 5 mph; no snow cover; water 20 per cent open; wild food crop good. Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 40 (17 on foot, 23 by car); total party-miles 363 (33 on foot, 330 by car). Cecil Best, Eudora Bunker, Pat Butcher, Lorena Combs, Elmer Finck, Steve Fretwell, Joe Hawes, Dan and John LaShelle, Bonnie Loeb, Marvin Schwilling, Frank Shipley, Chris Smith, Mary Swihart, Celia White, John Zimmerman, and Bob LaShelle (compiler). Seen during count period: Snowy Owl.

**Kansas City, Kans.:** Center, near Morris, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: wooded floodplains 30 per cent, ponds and lakes 25 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, wooded uplands 15 per cent, urban 10 per cent. Dec. 26; 3 a.m. to 5 p.m.; clear in a.m.; mostly clear in p.m.; temperature 10-34 deg. F; wind W-NW at 5-10 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop good. Thirty observers, 25 in 9 parties plus 5 at feeders. Total party-hours 67 (31 on foot, 36 by car) plus 6 at feeders. Total party-miles 643 (35 on foot, 608 by car). Patricia Devine, Hazel Dietrick, Craig Duke, Ruth Faulh, Harry Gregory, Julia Halford, Christopher Hobbs, Mary Kay Huggins, Nancy Johnson, Nanette Johnson, Phillip Kaul, Jane Lippincott, Dave Majure, Cleona McGuire, Ruth Michaels, Lloyd Moore, Terry Morgan, Jim and Mary Louise Myers, Richard Parker, Paul and Walter Ross, Ruth and Forrest Roulund, Marilyn Schweder, Sam Sinderson, Kevin Sink, Polly Trillich, Mike Wilson, and Sebastian Patti (compiler). Seen during count period: Canada Goose, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle.

**Kingman:** Center, Kingman Game Mgt. Area Hdqts, as described 1963. Habitat coverage: woodland 40 per cent, grassland 40 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent. Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; cloud cover all day; fog until 10 a.m.; temperature 20-51 deg. F; wind N at 0-3 mph; ground clear; some open water. Seven observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles 44 (4 on foot, 40 by car). John Boyer, Wilma Hawkins, Eugene Krehbiel, Steven Sorensen, Harold Schmidt, June Walker, and Byron Walker (compiler). Seen during count period: Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Bald Eagle, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Fox Sparrow.

**Lawrence:** Center, 2 miles N, 2 miles W, jct. U.S. 59 and U.S. 40, to include Lawrence, Lecompton and Clinton Dam. Habitat coverage: riparian and second-growth woods 24 per cent, prairie and pastures 22 per cent, oak-hickory woods 16 per cent, urban 13 per cent, cultivated fields 11 per cent, rivers and lakes 9 per cent, cedar woods 5 per cent. Dec. 17; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; light rain a.m.; overcast p.m.; temperature 37-43 deg. F; wind S-NW at 5-25 mph; no snow cover; water open; wild food crop good. Forty-six observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours 91 (29 on foot, 55 by car, 7 on bicycle); total party-miles 556 (43 on foot, 488 by car, 25 by bicycle). Mary Allen, Kerry Altenbernd, Rosetta Arrigo, Byron Berger, Ivan Boyd, Jim Cane, Bert and Helen Chewing, Calvin Cink, Cynthia Clinton, Elizabeth Cole, Bill Deacon, Ruth Faulh, Andy Finrock, Henry Fitch, Margaret Gay, John Grula, Phil Hedrick, Jeff Johnson, Richard Johnston, Katharine Kelley, Alike and Roger Laushman, Peter Lowther, Bruce MacGillivray, Marno McKaughan, Pat McWilliams, Mary Jo Mensie, Kevin Mulder, Kathryn Nelson, Gard Otis, Sebastian Patti, Jan Perry, Marge Perry, Galen Pittman, Sandy Rakestraw, Darren Rorbaugh, Stan Roth, Ann Spitz, Caryn Stahman, Barbara Stark, Polly Trillich, Katherine Underwood, Penny von Achen, Larry Williams, and Jeff Cox (compiler). (Jayhawk Audubon Society). Seen during count period: American Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Purple Finch.

**Linn Co.:** Center, 1.5 miles E, 3 miles N of Mound City P.O., as described 1973. Habitat coverage: woodland 45 per cent, farmland 40 per cent, streams and waterfowl refuge 10 per cent, residential 5 per cent. Dec. 17; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; cloudy; temperature 38-55 deg. F; wind SW at 1-10 mph; no snow; water open; food crop excellent. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 21 (4 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles 224 (3 on foot, 221 by car). Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Roger Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Concannon, Marsha Patterson, Loren Reynolds, Don Stout, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pressgrove (compilers).

**Manhattan:** Center, Anderson Hall, K.S.U. campus, as described 1973. Habitat coverage: forest edge 55 per cent, grassland 15 per cent, deciduous forest 15 per cent, lake and rivers 10 per cent, cultivated fields 4 per cent, residential 1 per cent. Dec. 17; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; intermittent rain, a.m.; mostly cloudy, p.m.; temperature 35-45 deg. F; wind NNW at 5-25 mph. Eighty-two observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 166 (106 on foot, 60 by car); total party-miles 768 (125 on foot, 643 by car). Joe Arruda, Roxy Becker, Sharon Bennett, Cecil and Patsy Best, John Bode, Marty Burke, Charles Carney, Andrew and Dave Cox, Bill Craig, Tim Craig, Robert Cullentson, Rosemary Deineinger, Michael Donnelly, L. K. Edmunds, Sandy Elliott, Chamblee, Clyde, Maria, Marilena and Robert Ferguson, Elmer Finck, Steve Fretwell, Francis and Leonard Fuller, Marion Gray, Carol Hahn, Neil Hanson, Carolyn Hax, Betsy Holmes, Doug Hosney, Lowell Johnson, Claudia Kale, Ann Kerr, Gary and Duane Kerr, Scott Klingler, Robert Kingswood, Steve Kingswood, Dana Komarek, Tom Larcher, Carl, Eric and G. Richard Marzolf, Tom Mikkelson, Marge Muenzenberger, Ron Munger, Doug Murphy, Rebecca O'Donnald, Norm Peck, Mike Peterman, Gene and Nancy Peterson, Mike Quinlan, Gary Radke, Laura Richards, Dave Roeder, Marguerite and Oliver Russ, Dave Sampson, Olive Scwab, Frank and Terri Shipley, Ted Socolofsky, Chris Smith, Peggy St. Clair, Marty Stapanian, Dean Stramel, Dave Temme, Dan Terry, Michael Thomas, Norm Thorton, Harvard Townsend, Dale Trott, Kim Walker, Michael Wang, Malia Weide, Marsha Williamson, Jerry Wilson, Kathy Zeleznak, and John Zimmerman (compiler). Seen during count period: Bufflehead, Evening Grosbeak.

**Morton Co.:** Center, 7 miles N, 2 miles E Elkhart, as described 1976. Habitat coverage: wooded floodplain 40 per cent, grasslands 15 per cent, cultivated fields 15 per cent, urban 15 per cent, ponds 10 per cent, rocky slopes 5 per cent. Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear in a.m.; mostly clear, p.m.; temperature 29-53 deg. F; wind SW at 5-

20 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop excellent. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 33 (17 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles 304 (21 on foot, 283 by car). Byron Berger, Jeff Cox, Nanette Johnson, Earl McHugh, Galen Pittman, Jean Schulenberg, Marvin Schwilling, and Sebastian Patti (compiler). Seen during count period: Bald Eagle (3 a), White-breasted Nuthatch.

**Olathe:** Center, jct. U.S. 56 and Kans. 7, as described 1973. Habitat coverage: lakes and streams 25 per cent, pastures and grassland 20 per cent, residential 20 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, woodland 15 per cent. Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; overcast with intermittent light rain all day; temperature 38-48 deg. F; wind SW at 1-3 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop excellent. Nine observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (5 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles 97 (9 on foot, 88 by car). Ivan and Roger Boyd, Steven Brockway, Calvin Cink, Curt Creighton, Mary Anne Crane, Ethel Hower, Marno McKaughan, and James Bradley (compiler). Seen during count period: Purple Finch.

**Pittsburg:** Center, Pittsburg State University, as described 1977. Habitat coverage: farmland 50 per cent, woodland 30 per cent, strip pits 12 per cent, streamside woods 6 per cent, urban 2 per cent. Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; light rain a.m., cloudy p.m.; temperature 38-44 deg. F; wind W at 10-20 mph; water open; water depth moderate; food supply good. Five observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 28 (19 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles 90 (10 on foot, 80 by car). J. C. Johnson, Kent Neubert, T. M. Sperry, Kevin Watt and Bessie Boso (compiler). Seen during count period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rusty Blackbird.

**Pomona Reservoir:** Center, intersection U.S. 75 and Dragoon Creek, as described 1977. Habitat coverage, as described 1977. Dec. 28; 5:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; clear; temperature 16-45 deg. F; wind SW at 4-10 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop excellent. Twenty-seven observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 66 (45 on foot, 21 by car); total party-miles 342 (48 on foot, 294 by car). James, Mary Jo and Michael Chapman, Bob Culbertson, Cynthia, Mary Ann and William Gilbert, Diane Panton, Mike Pterman, Ken Redman, Steve Rousey, Bob and Mobe Tucker, Mohammed Shadrou, Tim Skinner, John Smardo, Eddie Stegall, Carol Stout, Charles Taylor, James Thurman, Ed West, and Steve Kingswood (compiler).

**Quivira N.W.R.:** Center, Refuge sub-headquarters, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: pastureland 50 per cent, farmland 30 per cent, water 20 per cent. Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; clear in a.m.; cloudy in p.m.; temperature 22-38 deg. F; wind NW at 20 mph; no snow; water 20 per cent open; wild food crop adequate. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 17 (2 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles 169 (2 on foot, 167 by car). Wayne Dale, Carl Marks, Dan Zehr, and Charles Darling (compiler). Seen during count period: Herring Gull.

**Salina:** Center, intersection Crawford and 9th Sts., as described 1976. Habitat coverage: woodland 25 per cent, parks 25 per cent, cultivated fields 25 per cent, pastures and roadsides 15 per cent, streamside 10 per cent. Dec. 18; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; temperature 26-47 deg. F; wind SE at 5-10 mph; no snow; water open. Thirty-seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 40 (20 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles 359 (20.5 on foot, 338.5 by car). Ken Baker, Jay Bailey, Ira Lee and Ken Barnard, John and Karen Black, Steve Burr, Dave and Nancy Clark, Ann and Dick Courter, Marie Gruver, Steve Hetzki, Wyman Hobson, Dan and Sarah Jackson, Allen Jahns, Ruth Laubengayer, Alice Marks, Carrie, Charles and Ivy Marsh, Brian McCullick, Doug Nemacheck, Gail, Scott, Steve and Sue Palmer, Diane and John Simpson, Dave and Patty Smith, John Schwartz, Teri Williams, Lester and Lois Zerbe, and Virginia Hobson (compiler). Additional species: Chukar.

**Topeka:** Center, State Capital Building, as described 1972. Habitat coverage, as described 1974. Dec. 17; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; overcast in a.m. with intermittent light rain; mostly cloudy in p.m.; temperature 38-44 deg. F; wind W at 10 mph; no snow cover; fresh water open; wild food crop excellent. Twenty-five observers (22 in 7 parties, 3 at feeders). Total party-hours 51 (18.5 on foot, 32.5 by car) plus 4 at feeders) total party-miles 614 (24 on foot, 590 by car). Andrew and Peggy Barber, Priscilla Budge, Arline and Robert Delker, Cecilia Giebler, Robert Glazier, Harriet Graham, Scotty Johnson, Carolyn Kelley, Kay Kelly, Marge Konopaska, Dan Larson, Robert Lawson, E. M. and E. R. Lewis, Woodie Maus, Sarah Merrill, Dave Ranney, Eric and Joanna Robinson, Eugene Willette, Mabel Willis, Paul Willis, and Orville Rice (compiler). (Topeka Audubon Society). Seen during count period: Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle.

**Udall-Winfield:** Center, water tower at Winfield State Hospital and Training Center, as described 1972. Habitat coverage: pastures and fields 65 per cent, rivers and streams 30 per cent, lakes 5 per cent. Dec. 17; 4:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; partly cloudy; temperature 43-54 deg. F; wind N at 15-20 mph; ground dry. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 43 (12 on foot, 31 by car); total party-miles 367 (12 on foot, 355 by car). Robert Hamilton, David Herrin, Ken Kraus, Janet Laws, Max Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Williams, Donna and Tammy Wilt, Robert Wimmer, and David Seibel (compiler).

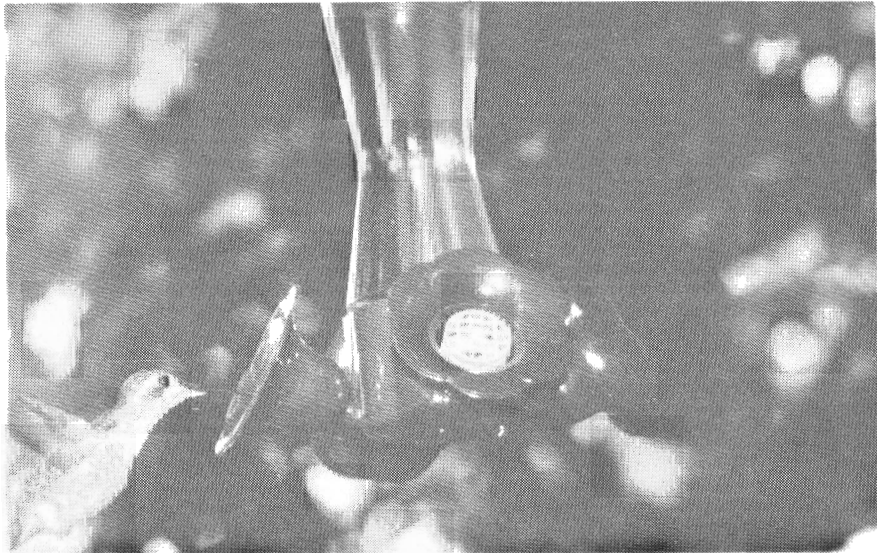
**Wichita:** Center, confluence of Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers, as described 1955. Habitat coverage: cultivated fields 35 per cent, residential 25 per cent, parks and woodlands 20 per cent, streamside and ponds 20 per cent. Dec. 17; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; clear in a.m.; partly cloudy in p.m.; temperature 38-53 deg. F; wind NW at 10-30 mph; no snow cover; water open; wild food crop good. Twenty-two observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 32 (21 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles 253 (28 on foot, 225 by car). Walter Broderson, John, Richard and Walker Butin, Don Ferguson, James Fisher, Sue Jehl, Dan Kilby, Mike Lesan, Eric, Mary and Merle Manlove, Nathan McDonald, Jerry Rook, Eddie and Savilla Stegall, Durward Tucker, Don Vannoy, Mary and Ralph Wiley, David Zeh, and Wallace Champeny (compiler).

**Wilson Reservoir:** Center, 5 miles N Dorrance, Russell County and including all of Wilson Reservoir. Habitat coverage: lake 30 per cent, grassland 30 per cent, cropland 15 per cent, streamside 15 per cent, shelterbelts 10 per cent. Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; overcast; cold front went through about noon (light mist in a.m., snow in p.m., with 0.02 in. ppt.); temperature 22-41 deg. F; wind SW at 10 mph in a.m., NW at 30 mph in

p.m.; trace of snow cover; lake 90 per cent open; streams 70 per cent open; wild food crop good. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (4 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles 98 (5 on foot, 93 by car). Tom Cannon and Charles Hall (compiler). Seen during count period: Great Blue Heron.

Sawyer: Center 2 miles N of Sawyer, as described 1976. Habitat coverage: farmland 73 per cent, prairie pasture 15 per cent, streambanks 10 per cent, lake 2 per cent. Dec. 19; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; partly clear; temperature 20-30 deg. F; wind NW at 15 mph. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 63 (21 on foot, 42 by car); total party-miles 115 (20 on foot, 95 by car). Great Blue Heron 6, Canada Goose 2, Mallard 21, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 21, Rough-legged Hawk 10, Ferruginous Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 1, Marsh Hawk 18, American Kestrel 8, Bobwhite 77, Ring-necked Pheasant 11, Turkey 75, Killdeer 5, Common Snipe 3, Rock Dove 16, Mourning Dove 30; Roadrunner 2, Great Horned Owl 5; Barred Owl 2, Belted Kingfisher 16, Common Flicker 16, Red-shafted Flicker 20, Yellow-shafted Flicker 40, Red-bellied Woodpecker 49, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 7, Downy Woodpecker 30, Horned Lark 4819, Blue Jay 3, Common Crow 129, Black-capped Chickadee 98, Carolina Chickadee 25, Tufted Titmouse 32, White-breasted Nuthatch 10, Brown Creeper 4, Winter Wren 1, Carolina Wren 1, Mockingbird 1, American Robin 64, Eastern Bluebird 33, Golden-crowned Kinglet 5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4, Loggerhead Shrike 2, Starling 14426, House Sparrow 400, Western Meadowlark 558, Red-winged Blackbird 2854, Rusty Blackbird 20, Brewer's Blackbird 60, Brown-headed Cowbird 187, Cardinal 44, Pine Siskin 18, American Goldfinch 26, Rufous-sided Towhee 12, Dark-eyed Junco 443, Tree Sparrow 759, Field Sparrow 4, Harris' Sparrow 358, Song Sparrow 11, Lapland Longspur 220. Sixty species (+ 1 race), 26127 individuals. Tom Brungardt Sr., Chris Madson, Jim Norman, Jane Queal, Bob Wood, Marvin Schwilling and Bill Hlavachick (compiler).

**Rivoli's Hummingbird in Linn County, Kansas.**—In early May of 1977 I received a report from Barbara and Martin Pressgrove that they had seen, on several occasions, a very large female hummingbird, possibly a Rivoli's Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*). The bird was with as many as 20 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) visiting four large feeders belonging to Harry Town of Boicourt. Mr. Town had been seeing "Big Boy" since the female ruby-throats had arrived on 18 April. The description of the bird indicated that it appeared to be twice as large as the others, had a dark grey breast and belly, fine stripes under the chin, only a small amount of white in the tail, and a very prominent white line extending behind the eye. Despite examination of several field guides we were unable to make a positive identification. A number of trips were made in late May to observe the bird but without success. Martin Pressgrove was able to take an excellent photograph of the bird on 29 May at his home about ¼ mile to the north. From this photograph (Figure 1) it is possible to positively identify the bird as a female Rivoli's Hummingbird. Identification was confirmed (from the photograph) by Allan R. Phillips. Mr. Town last saw the bird on 10 June.



**FIGURE 1. Female Rivoli's Hummingbird, Linn County, Kansas, 29 May 1977. Photo by Martin Pressgrove.**



This is the only known record of Rivoli's for the state of Kansas. Orville Rice (pers. comm.) reported a sighting of a "large hummingbird" from the Topeka area in 1965. Sutton (Oklahoma Birds, Norman, 1967) does not list any records for Oklahoma. Bailey and Niedrach (The Birds of Colorado, Vol. II, Denver, 1965) report several sightings of Rivoli's in Colorado and a nesting pair in Boulder County in 1965. Roger L. Boyd, *Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City 66006*.

**Western and Acadian Flycatchers in Ellis County, Kansas.**—Dr. Allan R. Phillips recently examined the empidonaces in the Fort Hays State University collection and found two individuals which represent noteworthy Kansas - distributional records.

**Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*):** One mist-netted along Big Creek .5 mi. E. of Ellis by Richard Weber on 5 September 1971 is apparently the third Kansas specimen and the first outside Morton County. The Grabers took two there on 3 and 5 September 1952 (Graber, J. W., *Wilson Bull.* 66:150, 1954). There is also a recent Oklahoma record from Cimarron County, 6 September 1974 (Weske, *Auk* 93:655, 1976). The present specimen (FHKSC 2389) is an immature female (?) and was very fat, weighing 11.9 gms.

**Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*):** One mist-netted on Big Creek at Hays on 27 July 1971 is apparently the first to be taken or critically examined in the hand, west of Sumner County. One previously reported from Ellis County (Ely, *Fort Hays Studies, Sci. Ser.*, No. 9, p. 64, 1971) is actually *E. trailli* (ARP). The present specimen (FHKSC 2399, originally identified as *E. trailli*) is a male with partly-ossified skull, little fat and traces of postjuvinal molt on the throat. Light-tipped juvenal feathers are present on the crown, neck and back.

The difficulty of identifying empidonaces in the hand as shown by these three birds, underscores the need for rejecting ALL sight records not involving singing birds. On casual examination (but at very close range) the Western and Acadian Flycatchers mentioned above seem to disappear into series of Yellow-bellied and "Traill's" Flycatchers respectively.

The late date of the Acadian illustrates another problem in dealing with Kansas empidonaces—extended migration periods very similar to those of some shorebirds. On several occasions breeding of various empidonaces in western Kansas has been suggested due to the collecting of post-breeding adults moving southward at an early date. "Traill's" Flycatchers, for example, are migrating south by 23 July a bare three weeks after the last spring migrant has moved northward.

The distribution and migrations of Kansas empidonaces can not be determined without additional specimens and/or data from netted birds that are carefully measured and examined by persons familiar with the various species. ANY *Empidonax* found dead should be preserved for a museum collection. I thank Dr. Allan R. Phillips for re-examining specimens and for comments leading to this note. Charles A. Ely, *Department of Biology, Fort Hays State University, Hays 67601*.

**Occurrence of the Great-tailed Grackle in Cowley County, Kansas.**—The extension of range by the Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*, into Kansas has been well documented. However, its establishment in Cowley County lagged considerably behind its advance in other areas. The first known sighting was on 22 July 1968, near Arkansas City, by Mr. and Mrs. N. H. White, Jr. The frequency of occurrence has gradually increased since that time. By 1976 this grackle was still only a rare, irregular transient and visitant to Cowley County. The species was well established by this time in other areas to the north and west of Cowley County, notably in Sedgwick County.

On 7 and 25 June 1977, I observed lone males near Strother Field Airport, 6 miles north of Arkansas City. I returned to the area with my brother Kent on 27 June and searched the area for nests. The colony was discovered just southeast of Strother at the junction of U.S. 77 highway and old U.S. 77. The colony was in rows of young

cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) and willows (*Salix sp.*) bordering a series of fish ponds.

All the nests were well hidden by foliage, seriously hindering attempts to estimate colony size. However, judging by the number of adults, there were probably at least 17 nests in various stages of activity. Most nests were 2.1-3.7 m above ground, in 4.6-4.9 m willows.

Family groups and flocks of young were observed around the colony through 23 August. The grackles left the area shortly thereafter. *David E. Setbel, 601 N. 3rd St., Arkansas City, KS 67005.*

#### BOOK REVIEW

Fifty Common Birds of Oklahoma and the Southern Great Plains. George M. Sutton. The University of Oklahoma Press (Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069). 113 pp. including 50 color plates by the author. Hard Cover. \$7.95.

In his foreword Dr. Sutton discusses the difficulty of choosing the 50 common species to be included in this work. Most are widespread throughout Oklahoma as nesting species but a few are transients and one (Harris Sparrow) is a winter resident. All of the species are also common (at least locally) in Kansas and the selection could apply very well to our state.

Each painting is faced by a one page descriptive account which discusses such things as distribution and migration in Oklahoma, nest and eggs, habitat and interesting habits. These are all written in an easy-reading, popular style. Dr. Sutton states "The book aims at informing readers, in a painless way . . ." In this he succeeds, the text is informative, interesting and filled with anecdotes and observations from a lifetime of carefully observing living birds. He includes a surprising amount of interesting information, describing "typsy" sapsuckers and a Northern Oriole feeding on bagworm larvae. He also includes hints on distinguishing the two meadowlarks and the four *Catharus* thrushes. At the end of the book is a list of all bird species reported from the state.

The paintings are characteristically Sutton; each is a portrait of a bird (or birds) in a natural pose in a natural setting. All are realistic but I especially like the pose of the male Brown-headed Cowbird—no field guide pose here! My favorite painting, however, is the Eastern Phoebe—the bird watches you from the page.

My only criticism of the book is the poor reproduction of the color plates (at least in my copy). Some of the plates are too pale; in others the dark backgrounds produce a diffuse effect which I find unattractive. In my copy the reds are very poor, especially in the Painted Bunting (male) and the Northern Oriole—the latter is nearly dark enough to be an Orchard Oriole. In other plates, especially the brown birds (wrens and sparrows) and the Nashville Warbler, the colors seem accurate. I have seen enough Sutton originals to know that those are accurate but the reproduction does not do them justice. It appears to be a repeat of the problem with "Georgia Birds."

Despite this criticism I still recommend the book for all personal libraries. The birds included are also Kansas birds; the text is informative and delightful reading; and the color plates are Sutton paintings. I keep turning to page 41 and am thankful that "Doc" is again sharing his paintings and experiences with us. *Charles A. Ely.*