

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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## The Crossbill Invasion Of 1950-51

By HENRY M. HARFORD  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

East-central Kansas has enjoyed an invasion of Red Crossbills this winter. Unfortunately, lack of space precludes detailed records and the credit due many observers.

The earliest report was from Lawrence, November 1, where four crossbills were seen. The invasion really began in earnest during the weekend of Thanksgiving, or perhaps, birders began searching in earnest when holidays permitted. At this time, numbers of crossbills were discovered at Topeka, Kansas City, Kansas, and at several points a few miles over the state line into Missouri. During early December, they were found in or near Halstead, Newton, Baldwin, Garnett and Neosha Falls and have been seen at these points on several occasions since. However they have been seen with greatest regularity at Lawrence, Kansas City, and Topeka. In fact, crossbills have been available whenever persistent observers sought them.

Although, as many as sixty birds at one time have been reported, usually the flocks number twenty or slightly fewer. Habitually, Red Crossbills are very restless. After a short period, the entire flock will take off to distant parts, but, within an hour, another flock will appear suddenly. The number will be different and there is no way to determine whether the second flock is the same as the first plus or minus a few stragglers. Occasionally only one or two individuals will appear. Does a series of flocks composed of 20, 32, 10, 18, and 5 birds, seen at one point during one day, indicate that there are 85 crossbills in the region or merely 32? We can not estimate whether the crossbills in eastern Kansas are numbered in hundreds or in thousands.

Crossbills rarely are found far from coniferous trees, although flocks will rest in nearby deciduous trees for short periods. They have been seen eating weed and sunflower seed at Baldwin, and tree buds at several places, but Dr. Tordoff reports that all crops examined have contained pine seed only and that the birds seem well nourished.

One single record of the White-winged Crossbill was reported in February. This species was observed in Swope Park, Kansas City. Taxonomists have identified six subspecies of the Red Crossbill in previous invasions of Kansas. But it is impossible for the average observer to say just which of these are present now. Perhaps we can induce Dr. Tordoff to give us a thorough report when the invasion is complete.

As to the cause of these irregular invasions, there are two plausible theories which are convenient rather than provable. These are (1) shortage of pine cones in the north or west and (2) extremely severe weather early in the season. It is noteworthy that the winter of '50-'51 has produced other rarities, the Evening Grosbeak, Townsend's Solitaire, and Mountain Bluebird none of which are dependent on the cone supply but are subject to weather. But one swallow does not make a summer nor several grosbeaks a tenable theory.

Specimens in the collection at the University of Kansas are dated 1885, '91, '98, 1906, '10, '19, '31, '44, and '50. However, it is definitely known that crossbills were present in each of the four past winters. Dr. Goodrich had a sight record at Manhattan in '47. It seems probable that a few crossbills winter in Kansas each year. In a recent

issue of the Audubon Field Notes (Vol. 5, No. 1) the migration of the Red Crossbill was the most extensive that it has been for many years. This species was reported from Quebec, Ontario, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and Minnesota.

A new factor is becoming more evident. The number of competent and well equipped observers has increased greatly. Each loyal member of K. O. S. must be alert for the "last seen" date. Crossbills have been reported as late as May.

## The 1950 Mid-Winter Bird Count In Kansas

The second annual bird count under the auspices of the Kansas Ornithological Society was quite successful. Although the number of censuses taken was less than last year the total number of individual birds counted far exceeded that in 1949. Ninety-one species were tabulated by the eleven stations participating. A few species listed probably were questionable. The Rock Dove, or domestic pigeon, should not be listed unless proof is submitted that it is living in the wild state.

Of the fourteen species seen during mid-winter this year but not seen in the count in 1949, perhaps the Golden Eagle, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pileated Woodpecker, Long-eared Owl, Magpie, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire and Swamp Sparrow were the most welcome if not the most unusual finds.

Thirteen species that were listed last year were not seen in this count. The Purple Finch and the Lesser Scaup were two of those that were missed that seemingly should have been observed some place in Kansas. The Sparrow Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Crow, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal and Slate-colored Junco were observed at all of the stations. Twenty-four species were reported from one station only, and 13 species from two stations only.

Weather conditions were extremely variable throughout the count period. Comparatively mild weather prevailed until after December 25. The temperature soared to 62 degrees during the Mound City count and was down to 10 degrees with a wind at the start of Baldwin count. Hats and dust were flying in a gale 60 m. p. h. at Topeka when the birders were out for their annual mid-winter census.

The names of the 82 observers and data on place, time and weather for each station are given below.

**BALDWIN, DOUGLAS COUNTY.** (7½-mile radius centering 1 mile north of junction of U. S. Highways 50 and 59, and including Lone Star Lake, Sand Pits, and Craig's cedar woods; open farmland 20%, town suburbs 20%, wooded creeks and wasteland 30%, coniferous farm woodlot 10%, lake shore 20%).—Dec. 26; 7:30 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Clear; temp. 10° to 28°; wind north, 15-25 m. p. h.; creeks partly frozen and Lone Star Lake 30% open. Total party-hours, 105 (74 on foot, 31 by car); total party-miles, 134 (41 on foot, 93 by car). Fourteen observers in 3 parties. Observers: Edward Ayers, Clara Beach, Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Boicourt, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd, Arthur Bridwell, Jack Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans, Katharine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Don Thomas (Baldwin Bird Club).

**EMPORIA, LYON COUNTY.** (south of Emporia, at Peter Pan Park and near Cottonwood River at Soden's Grove, also about 1 mile S and ½ mile SE of Emporia, 4 miles east to East Lake and Camp Alexander, 4 miles N and NE from Emporia following Neosho River closely; wooded areas 77%, open farmland 5%, hedgerows 3%, ungrazed land or prairie areas 15%).—Dec. 29; 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 25° to 45°; ground very dry, rivers open, lakes, ponds and some creeks frozen. Total hours, 7; total miles, 10 (on foot). Eight observers in 2 parties: William Bailey, Virgil Boatwright, Virgil Dowell, Donald Hanifan, Robert Hodge, Elizabeth Koch, Lois Redmond, Evelyn Rees (Beta Beta Beta, biological society).

**HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY.** (5 mile radius centering in Halstead, 5 miles northeast to West Emma Creek and 5 miles south-east of Halstead to main Emma Creek; wooded creeks 65%, hedgerows 12% open wheatland 14%, ungrazed upland 7%, town 2%).—Dec. 30; 8:50 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Clear; temp. 34° to 54°; wind S, 5 to 20 m. p. h.; frost, ground open, creek partly iced. Total party-hours, 7:25 (6 on

	Baldwin	Emporia	Halstead	Hays	Kansas City	Lawrence	Manhattan	McPherson	Mound City	Newton	Topeka	Species Total
Mallard	1				10500	20		15	50		800	11,386*
Duck, Black					14							14
Gadwall					29							29
Baldpate					2							2
Pintail					12						20	32
Teal, Green-winged					3							3
Golden-eye, American	2				4							6
Merganser, American					80	1					2	83*
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	2				4							6
Hawk, Cooper's	1					5						6
Hawk, Red-tailed	14	1			9	46	1	4	4		2	81
Hawk, Harlan's	4											4
Hawk, Rough-legged	1			2	2				1	2	1	9
Eagle, Golden	1			3								3
Eagle, Bald				1					1			2
Hawk, Marsh	11	3	1	2	1	4	2		2	4	4	34
Hawk, Duck												1
Hawk, Sparrow	2	2	4	2	5	14	1	2	4	1	3	40
Chicken, Greater Prairie											6	6
Bob-white	39	37				45	50	3	10		31	215
Pheasant, Ring-necked			2	1						10		13
Coot, American					1						4	5
Killdeer					1							3
Snipe, Wilson's					2	1						3
Gull, Herring											3	3
Dove, Rock		3									3	6
Dove, Mourning	8					10				3		29
Owl, Screech	1					2				1		4
Owl, Horned	4	1			1	6	2		3	7	2	26
Owl, Barred	2	1				3					1	7
Owl, Long-eared	7					1						8
Kingfisher, Belted	1		1		1							3
Flicker, Yellow-shafted	18	19	1		35	26	5		21	1	5	131
Flicker, Red-shafted	3			5							2	10
Woodpecker, Pileated									1			1
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	17	5	2		9	30	2		11		4	80
Woodpecker, Red-headed	7				1	11			9		5	33
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied					1							1
Woodpecker, Hairy	8	2	1		4	5	2		2	8	1	33
Woodpecker, Downy	18	12	4	3	18	47	10	3	5	21	4	145
Lark, Horned	35		750			6				135	1	927
Jay, Blue	28	16	1		77	53	6		8	7	42	238
Magpie, American				10								10
Crow, American	177	65	93	15	42	614*	25	50	16	219	33	1349*
Chickadee, Black-capped	107	135	27	14	80	222	52		10	74	25	746
Titmouse, Tufted	39	11	2		15	38	10		10	7	7	139
Nuthatch, White-breasted	4				1				2			7
Nuthatch, Red-breasted			1			2					1	4
Creepers, Brown	2	8			3	3	11		2		4	33
Wren, House		1										1
Wren, Winter	3		1									4
Wren, Carolina	3				3	4	2		5		3	20
Mockingbird	2		1						1			4
Thrasher, Brown			1							1		2
Robin, American	20		8	12	5	53	2		27	103*	11	241*
Thrush, Hermit	1											1
Bluebird, Eastern	25				8	2	15		10		3	63
Bluebird, Mountain	3											3
Solitaire, Townsend's	2			1								3
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	10				14	8	10		2		14	58
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned										3		3
Waxwing, Cedar	206				1	10				2	50	269
Shrike, Northern									3			3
Shrike, Loggerhead	1		1			6	1	3			1	13
Starling, Common	75	31	50	1	76	101	9	60	14	57*	28	502*
Sparrow, House	400*	300*	42	10	175	365	130	sev.	10	96	45	1573*
Meadowlark, Eastern					1	5*				2		8*
Meadowlark, Western			3	12	40	151*				120		326*
Meadowlark, sp.	141	27					125		10		4	307
Blackbird, Red-winged		13				7			45			65
Blackbird, Rusty		100										100
Blackbird, Brewer's	30								25		1	56
Cowbird, Brown-headed			1									1
Cardinal	93	35	30	2	70	197	42	6	50	91	38	654
Siskin, Pine											3	3
Goldfinch, American	78		20		53	65	45		10	18	4	293
Crossbill, Red					22	8					90	120
Towhee, Red-eyed							9					9
Towhee, Spotted	1		9			5				8	3	26
Sparrow, Vesper		3										3
Junco, Slate-colored	801*	18	18	30	140	508*	90	20	14	108*	47	1794*
Junco, Oregon												1
Sparrow, American Tree	645*	87	118		500	753*	250		15	419*	17	2804*
Sparrow, Field				2		2	21		6			12
Sparrow, Harris's	24	14	95	3	1	52	22		3	269*	6	489*
Sparrow, White-crowned	9	3				28			6			46
Sparrow, White-throated					1	3						4
Sparrow, Fox				3								3
Sparrow, Lincoln's						1			2			3
Sparrow, Swamp						1						1
Sparrow, Song	2	8	8		45	95	20		3	30	5	216
Longspur, Lapland						58				6	23	87
Total Species	52	29	30	21	48	50	31	11	42	31	46	91
Total Individuals	3138	1961	1296	134	1213	3704	1954	166*	437	1841	1409	26,153*

\* Indicates estimated counts

foot, 1:25 by car); total party-miles, 21 (6 on foot, 15 by car). Four observers in two parties: Mrs. Ross Challans, Marie Dettweiler, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Edna Ruth.

HAYS, ELLIS COUNTY. (15-mile diameter from Hays to Cedar Bluffs on Saline River, and including college campus with wooded creek, along highway through prairie and cultivated fields, cedar bluffs along Saline River; wooded campus and stream 40%, along highway 10%, cedar bluffs along river 50%).—Dec. 29; 8:45 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Cloudy and light sprinkle to partial clearing by noon; temp. 35° to 49°; wind NW, slight breeze. Total hours, 7 (5½ on foot, 1½ by car); total miles, 36 (6 on foot, 30 by car). Two observers together: L. B. Wooster and H. H. Elder.

KANSAS CITY, WYANDOTTE COUNTY. (Lake Quivira, Wyandotte County Lake. Artificial lakes surrounded by woodland 75%, cultivated fields 20%, coniferous grove 5%).—Dec. 24; 7:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Partly cloudy; temp. 30° to 40°; wind S, 0-10 m. p. h. Five observers: John Bishop, R. L. Brown, Bill Buckingham, Harold Hedges, Ben King (Burrough's Nature Club members).

During the week these additional birds were seen, Ring-billed Gull, Screech Owl, Horned Lark, Brown Thrasher and Oregon Junco.

LAWRENCE, DOUGLAS COUNTY. (7½-mile radius centering at Brackett School 2 miles west of city, and including University of Kansas Natural History Reservation, Lakeview Lake, Kansas River to Lecompton, Wakarusa River to Clinton; open farmland 50%, town suburbs 5%, deciduous farm woodlots 25%, grassland 10%, water front 10%).—Dec. 24; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Partly cloudy; temp. 36° to 47°; wind NNW, 1-7 m. p. h., no snow; lake 99% frozen, rivers open. Total party-hours, 66 (26 on foot, 40 by car); total party-miles, 197 (33 on foot, 164 by car). Nine observers in 3 parties: James W. Bee, Bert S. Chewing, Helen M. Chewing, James S. Findley, Henry S. Fitch, Richard W. Fredrickson, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hobson, H. B. Tordoff.

MANHATTAN, RILEY COUNTY. (Across prairie and wooded ravines, north 3 miles, east 1 mile, south into town, southwest between river and wooded hill 3 miles; open grassland 50%, woods 30%, brushland 20%).—Dec. 23; 8:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. Hazy; temp. 30° to 55°; wind SW, 5-10 m. p. h.; ground dry. Total hours, 6; total miles 12 (on foot). Six observers together: A. L. Goodrich, Ray Fort, Donald Gier, Ronald Gier, Harold Gier, H. T. Gier, Dave Rathbone, Charles Wittenborn.

The high lights of the day were: a flock of over 100 Meadowlarks (mixed Eastern and Western) in conversational chatter like Red-wings; 8 Towhees in one brush pile; and a Duck Hawk that came back over, allowing for very close observation. H. T. Gier (compiler).

MCPHERSON, MCPHERSON COUNTY. (Plains west of town and Kanopolis Lake 35 miles NW).—Dec. 26; 2:00 to 4:00 p. m. One observer: R. E. Mohler.

MOUND CITY, LINN COUNTY. (In timber along a creek west of Mound City, in weed patches and light timber northeast of Mound City and by car to Boicourt Lake, through woods and marsh to the lake on foot; woods 45%, marshy lake 10%, hedgerows and open fields 45%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Fair, with light haze; temp. 37° to 62°; wind SSW, 10-15 m. p. h.; ponds frozen, lakes and creeks partially frozen. Total hours, 8¾ (4 on foot, 2¾ by car, 2 spent motionless near Pileated Woodpecker diggings); total miles, 17 (4 on foot, 13 from woods to lake by car). Two observers together: Eunice and Wilson Dingus.

We left the house in the dark and got settled beside where I had seen one of the Pileated Woodpeckers go to roost previously and waited until daylight. Finally, I thought I glimpsed one of them through the trees to the west, and we soon heard his familiar calls. Two-thirds frozen, we stalked him but he eluded us. So we went on with the rest of the territory we wished to cover, and came back about 4:00 p. m. and settled down where we had heard him that morning. As we had given up seeing him, here he came, noisy as ever. He flew all around us and Wilson finally got a very good look at him. Then he came back, peered into a diggings in a sycamore just in front of us, and entered it for the night.—Eunice Dingus (reporter).

NEWTON, HARVEY COUNTY. (Area 5 miles north of Bethel College campus along Sand Creek, and including some adjacent fields and hedgerows; wooded creek 57% open creek 3%, hedgerows 14%, upland groves 5%, open fields 15%, farmyards 6%).—Dec. 23; 7:55 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Clear; temp. 35° to 65°; wind SW to SSW, 2-15

m. p. h.; ground unfrozen, dry, no snow; water not frozen. Total party-hours 8:45 (8:15 hours on foot, 0:30 hours by car); total party-miles, about 22 (about 15 on foot, 7 by car). Eight observers in one party: Elbert Esau, Dr. Robert L. Gering, Lester Harms, Leta Larrew, W. M. Larrew, Dwight Platt, Jim Rich, Norman Seibel (Bethel College Biology Seminar).

TOPEKA, SHAWNEE COUNTY. (Gage Park-Rochester Cemetery; Security Benefit Grounds; Mount Hope Cemetery; Chunganunga Creek; pastureland west of Topeka; Lake Shawnee; Municipal Airport; wooded section east of Topeka along Kaw River—Dec. 31; dawn to dusk. Temperature 29° to 55°; wind 40 to 58 m. p. h. Twenty-three observers in eight parties: L. B. Carson, L. P. Dittmore, Paul Finninger, Roberta Foote, Charles Franklin, Ruwal Freese, Richard and Jean Graber, Grace Holcombe, Carl and David Holmes, Mrs. Walter Huxman, Mrs. Charles Martin,, Phil Menninger, Mrs. Nyle H. Miller, Clyde and Dale Morris, T. W. Nelson, David Pantle, Dorothy Rosebrough, Harold Williams.

Eleven additional species found in this area during the census period included: Black Duck, Am. Golden-eye, Ruddy Duck, Duck Hawk, Mourning Dove, E. Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, E. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, White-crowned Sparrow.

## Juncos Of The Kansas City Region

By HAROLD C. HEDGES

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

The purpose of this report is to summarize briefly the status of the Genus Junco in eastern Kansas near Kansas City, particularly in Johnson County where some collecting has been done the past several years; to bring out that Shufeldt's Junco is no longer a valid Kansas bird; to bring out Cassiar Junco, a new subspecies.

The Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*), breeds from the Arctic coast in Alaska southeastward to Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New England, northern areas of New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. This junco is an abundant winter resident over this entire area, especially so eastward. All bird students are familiar with this junco during its season here—seeing it in its usual dark gray and white plumage of the male, and the brownish gray and white of the female. There are many variations of the plumage of the Slate-colored Junco, from the adult male and female to the young males and females in their first winter plumage.

Westward, near the eastern slope of the Rockies, the Slate-colored Junco merges rather suddenly into the black-headed races of the Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*). Many confusing plumages are found on and near the borders where the ranges of these juncos come together. This is due to intergrading and hybridizing of *hyemalis* and *oreganus* on their breeding grounds. In winter, as these juncos range eastwardly with the many variations of the Slate-colored, they prove puzzling to the bird student in Kansas. In the field, students very frequently refer to these as Shufeldt's, Pink-sided, Oregon, or Montana Juncos. For the records, these sight identifications are of little value.

Dr. Alden H. Miller of the University of California in his treatise on "Speciation In The Avian Genus Junco" published in 1941, describes in great detail the newly recognized race of *Junco hyemalis cismontanus* (Cassiar Junco). This new race is a result of stabilization and hybridization between *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* and *Junco oregonus*. Typical examples of this Cassiar Junco are to be found in small numbers in Kansas. More commonly found, are examples of intergrades and intermediates that are not typical Cassiar nor Slate-colored.

Dr. Miller has shown that *Junco oregonus shufeldti* (Shufeldt's Junco) is a junco of costal British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. It does not migrate nor wander to the great plains in winter. All birds of this Kansas region tagged "Shufeldt's" should now perhaps be referred to the "Cismontanus" race, or the "Montana" race (*Junco oregonus montanus*). Typical examples of this latter race are to be found rarely in eastern Kansas. It is this Montana Junco that probably most Kansas bird

students see as a "Black-headed" Junco, with the very dark gray of the head set off sharply from the brownish back and the pinkish sides.

Since 1941 I have operated a bird banding station at my home at Lake Quivira in Johnson County, Kansas. Each winter from 50 to 150 juncos are handled through my traps. Thus I have an excellent opportunity to study the variations in plumage of the Slate-colored Junco, and to select for collection any junco appearing to be of a more western form. During this time, several typical **Junco oregonus montanus** (Montana Junco) and several typical **Junco hyemalis cismontanus** (Cassiar Junco) have been collected. Other "cismontanus-like" juncos have been taken. All of these skins have been critically examined and determined by Dr. A. H. Miller.

As to the White-winged Junco; white wing-tips on the coverts of juncos occur more frequently in the Slate-colored Junco than any other form, except, of course, the White-winged Junco (**Junco aikeni**) itself. Dr. Miller has examined supposed White-winged Juncos from eastern Kansas and proved them to be Slate-colored Juncos. Records of this bird in eastern Kansas should definitely be supported by skins critically determined by an expert.

Further, any claim to a record of the Pink-sided Junco (**Junco oregonus mearnsi**), or Gray-headed Junco (**Junco caniceps caniceps**) should also be supported by skins.

For those not familiar with the aforementioned Cassiar Junco—this Junco of hybrid origin breeds in Canada from Yukon Territory south through interior British Columbia. The Cassiar Mountains, from which this bird receives its common name, lies within this area. In winter this junco ranges south most commonly to the southern Rocky Mountains, west to California and east nearly to the Mississippi. In Kansas it constitutes but a small fraction of the wintering juncos.

As to the plumage of the Cassiar Junco, the color areas concerned are the head, sides and back; the head, or hood, of the male Cassiar Junco averages darker than the head, or hood, of the male Slate-colored Junco. The head of the Cassiar Junco is usually set off from the back by a definite neck line, contrasting a dark head with a lighter gray back or slightly brownish back. The sides of the Cassiar Junco are of a lighter gray and pinkish brown. In any case, the sides are usually set off from the darker gray of the hood, thus giving the lower margin a convex appearance. In male Slate-colored Juncos, the gray color of the sides and the hood are never sharply set off; that is, the colors being of the same intensity of gray, gives the lower hood margin a concave appearance. There are great variations in the plumage of the Cassiar Junco which makes the bird extremely difficult to distinguish in the field. On its wintering range it should be identified only from a skin in hand.

Summary: Juncos in Kansas (eastern) are sometimes very puzzling to field students. Other than naming the Slate-colored in the field, the questionable juncos might well be left for the collector taxonomist to work out, especially for our state lists. The Cassiar and Montana Juncos do occur in eastern Kansas in very small numbers. Other races of juncos probably occur here too, but field identification is very hazardous and is not recommended for the average bird student.

#### STATE BIRD NOTES

##### Notes from Halstead

A number of birds usually seen in the area were missed on the Christmas Bird Count. Townsend's Solitaires wintered here the current and past year. Of special interest was the flock of 6 Red Cross bills seen here December 10, 1950. A flock of 40 Cedar Waxwings was in the area for a week previous to the Christmas Count. The Carolina Wren, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet also missed being listed.—EDNA RUTH, Halstead, Kansas.

##### Notes from McPherson

I would like to report to you an experience I had with an unusually large American Bald Eagle which was brought to me alive early in January. It had been captured near Quinter, Kansas in a trap that had been set near a dead animal. I would like to have placed this bird in the McPherson College Museum, as was the purpose of the person who brought it to me. I did not have a collector's permit and furthermore

I was aware of the respect that many bird lovers have for this bird and the protection given it by the United States Government. There seemed to be but one thing for me to do, and that was to release the bird.

I have not checked with any records that I have on hand, but I am wondering if there are any reports of eagles of this species having been captured or killed east of Gove County. I have seen this species in other states but not in Kansas.—R. E. MOHLER, McPherson, Kansas.

(Numerous reports, chiefly sight records, of the Bald Eagle are available from observers at Lawrence, Topeka, Kansas City, Mound City, Fort Hays, Lone Star Lake and Wabaunsee Lake.—Ed.)

**Notes from  
Topeka**

A Prairie Falcon was observed under excellent conditions 1½ miles west of Lake Shawnee February 22. It was compared in size to a Crow, Marsh Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk. This is the first time I have listed this falcon this side of Manhattan.

A flock of six Red Crossbills was found at Gage Park on November 24, 1950.

The first fall record of the Evening Grosbeak was made by Maurice Nuss on December 1, 1950. This rare visitant was feeding in the evergreens west of Security Benefit Hospital.

T. W. Nelson and I found a Townsend's Solitaire on Feb. 17. It was feeding on the seeds of a Red Cedar at the Catholic Cemetery which is just west of Gage Park. We also saw a Gambel's Sparrow just west of the south end of Lake Shawnee. That is my first Kansas Solitaire and second Gambels.

On Feb. 4 I spotted a Barn Owl in Montgomery County, 1 mile north of Liberty.

Probably the biggest find was the Glaucous Gull on Jan. 21 at Lake Shawnee. It was injured and stayed around at least until Feb. 4.—L. B. CARSON, Topeka, Kansas.

**Notes from  
Baldwin**

On January first a group from Baldwin Bird Club saw a Goshawk about one mile south of Lawrence on Highway No. 59 near District No. 6 School House. Other sight records were made from the Lawrence area.

Mountain Bluebirds were seen February 5, about 3 miles east of Vinland by Amelia Betts and Katharine Kelley, who relayed the news to the various members of Baldwin Bird Club. The birds were seen in approximately the same pasture every day for a week by scouting parties. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewning of Lawrence were successful in locating this same flock of rare visitants. Twelve were the most seen at any one time. Three individuals were seen on the Christmas Bird Count but with less opportunity for study.—M. BOYD, Baldwin, Kansas.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulation to the Oklahoma Ornithological Society! The January Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 1 reports news of an active group of bird watchers in their state. Dr. D. M. Arvey, a former member of K.O.S., was its president until his call to active duty in the Service in November.

Burroughs Nature Club compiled a list of "Birds Of The Kansas City Area for 1950" in a very attractive booklet. John Bishop was the compiler and the cover design was by Mae Liddell. The list names 263 species in a 100 mile radius. Ten "best finds" of the year were given, naming the crossbills as the "Bird of the Year."

Dr. H. T. Gier, President of K.O.S. early in November sent out a request for information on Kansas records of the following birds: Prairie Warbler; Painted Bunting; Parula Warbler; Townsend's Solitaire; Bohemian Waxwing; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Red Poll; Eastern and Western Robin; Eastern and Western Meadowlark; Scissortailed Flycatcher; Lark Bunting; Red-shafted Flicker; Mountain Bluebird; Black-headed Grosbeak and breeding records of Cedar Waxwings; Chuck-will's-Widow and Mississippi Kite.

To date only three persons have replied to Dr. Gier's request. Information on these birds should be sent to H. T. Gier at Kansas State College, Manhattan or Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin, Kansas.

At the K.O.S. Early-winter Field Day held on December 10, 1950, thirty-four

K.O.S. members and three guests enjoyed a bird outing compiling a list of 45 species. The group met at Lake Quivira at 8:00 a.m. About 300 Mallards, 150 Am. Mergansers, 3 Golden-eyes and several Gadwalls were sighted on the lake which was partly frozen over.

After a mid-morning snack of doughnuts and coffee at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hedges, the caravan of 10 cars started off for Wyandotte County Lake. Here were seen thousands of Mallards and hundreds of American Mergansers. Two Hooded Mergansers were of special interest to the most of the observers.

A delicious meal was served to the hungry crowd at the Hedges home.

Those persons participating in the outing were: Maurice Baker, Rollin Baker, Richard Fredrickson, Harrison Tordoff, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewing of Lawrence; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus of Mound City; Eugene W. Dehner of Atchison; L. B. Carson, Paul Finninger, Ruwal Freese, Grace Holcombe, Mrs. W. A. Huxman, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Martin, Phil Menninger, T. W. Nelson, David Pantle of Topeka; Amelia Betts, Mrs. George Boicourt, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Art Bridwell, Katharine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Grace Preston of Baldwin; John Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cole, Henry Harford, Wallace Good of Kansas City; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hedges of Lake Quivira.

One of the prime values and purposes of a State Bulletin is to keep members informed of the bird life in the various areas of the state. This can be done only with the full cooperation of the members. When you have an interesting bird experience, why not share it with your fellow K.O.S. members by writing a card to the editor of the K.O.S. Bulletin.

## Spring Convention To Be Held At Manhattan, April 21 and 22

### Tentative Schedule of Events

#### SATURDAY

- 9:00 Registration, Chemistry Lecture Room
- 10:00-12:00 Papers and Committee Reports
- 12:00- 1:30 Lunch at the College Cafeteria
- 1:30- 5:00 Papers and Business Meeting
- 6:00- 7:00 Banquet at Wareham Hotel
- 7:30- 8:00 Illustrated Lecture

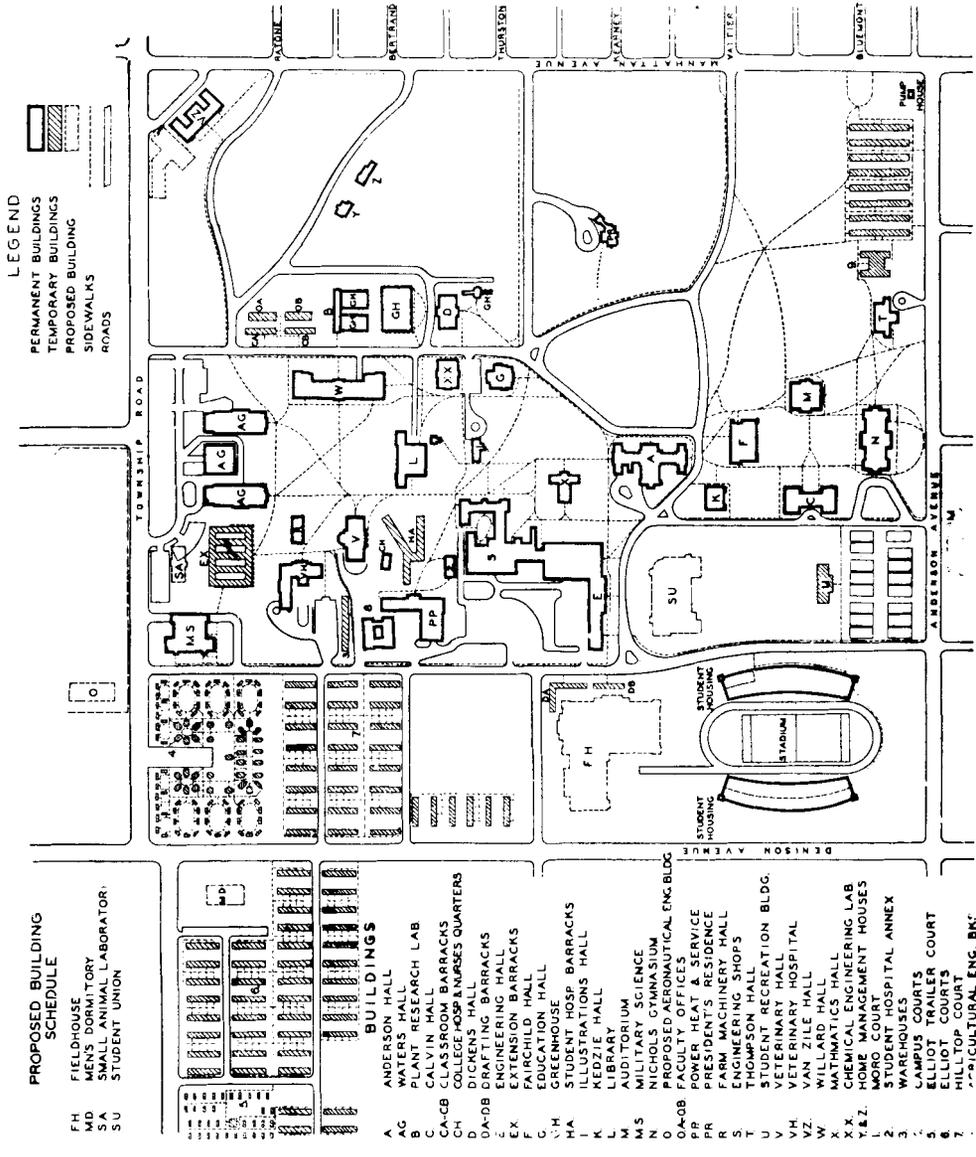
#### SUNDAY

- 5:00- 6:00 Field trips to be arranged to meet
- and 7:00 popular demand under competent leaders.
- 12:30- Sack Lunch at Wabaunsee Lake
- Compilation of bird list.

Reservations may be sent to Dr. A. L. Goodrich or arranged directly.

Housing accommodations and rates are listed below:

Gillett Hotel, double rooms .....	\$2.50-\$3.75
Wareham Hotel, double rooms .....	\$2.75-\$6.00
Hillcrest Cottages, W. on U. S. No. 24 .....	\$3.50-\$6.50
Jernigans Motel, 622 N. Third .....	\$5.00-\$6.00
Blue Haven Tourist Court, 109 S. 17th .....	\$5.00-\$8.00
Montroy Tourist Court, U. S. No. 40 .....	\$2.50-\$6.00
Tourist rooms available	



**LEGEND**

- PERMANENT BUILDINGS
- TEMPORARY BUILDINGS
- PROPOSED BUILDING
- SIDEWALKS
- ROADS

- PROPOSED BUILDING SCHEDULE**
- FH FIELDHOUSE
  - MD MEN'S DORMITORY
  - SA SMALL ANIMAL LABORATORY
  - SU STUDENT UNION

- BUILDINGS**
- A ANDERSON HALL
  - AG WATERS HALL
  - B PLANT RESEARCH LAB
  - CA CLASSROOM BARRACKS
  - CA-CB COLLEGE HOSP BARRACKS QUARTERS
  - C DICKENS HALL
  - DA-DB DRAFTING BARRACKS
  - E ENGINEERING HALL
  - EX EXTENSION BARRACKS
  - F FAIRCHILD HALL
  - G GREENHOUSE HALL
  - HA STUDENT HOSP BARRACKS
  - I ILLUSTRATIONS HALL
  - K KEDZIE HALL
  - L LIBRARY
  - M AUDITORIUM
  - MS MILITARY SCIENCE
  - N NICHOLS HALL
  - O PROPOSED AERONAUTICAL ENG BLDG
  - OA-OB FACULTY OFFICES
  - PP POWER HEAT & SERVICE
  - PR PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE
  - R FARM MACHINERY HALL
  - S ENGINEERING SHOPS
  - T THOMPSON HALL
  - U UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
  - VH VETERINARY HOSPITAL
  - VZ VAN ZILE HALL
  - W WILLARD HALL
  - X MATHEMATICS HALL
  - XX CHEMICAL ENGINEERING LAB
  - Y HOME MANAGEMENT HOUSES
  - Z ZIMMERMAN HALL
  - 1 STUDENT HOSPITAL ANNEX
  - 2 WAREHOUSES
  - 3 CAMPUS COURTS
  - 4 ELLIOT TRAILER COURT
  - 5 ELLIOT COURT
  - 6 HILLTOP COURT
  - 7 AGRICULTURAL ENG. BLDG

Bring this map, of the Kansas State College campus, with you to the annual meeting April 21-22, 1951