

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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## Bulletin

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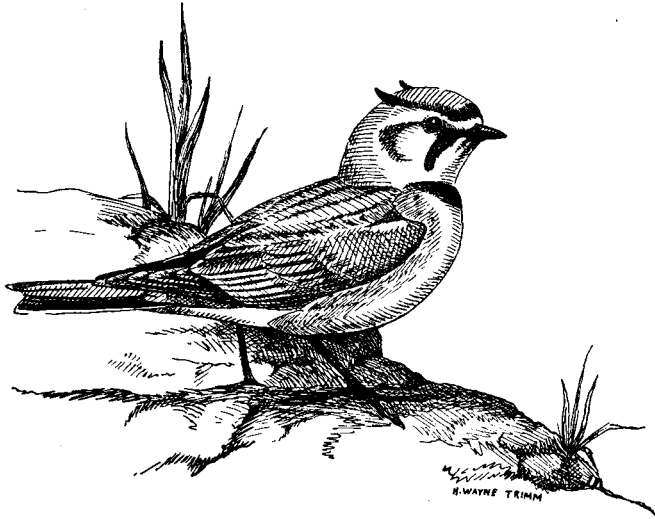
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## The 1951 Mid-Winter Bird Count In Kansas

The number of species reported on the third mid-winter bird count in Kansas again reached an all-time high. Excluding those questioned editorially, 97 species were reported from nine stations. There were 91 species listed in 1950 and 87 species in 1949. One station included a Purple Martin in the count but this was deleted from the tabulation since insufficient data were sent to substantiate the record. No record of this swallow has been recorded in the Audubon Christmas Counts, at least not in recent years. Other species that seemed out of their expected range were White-winged Junco and Inca Dove. The Inca Dove was observed at Halstead every day for at least two months. Almost every possible characteristic field marking was noted on this dove before it was reported to the editor. In cases where the subspecies Montana Junco was reported it was placed with the Oregon Junco since the Oregon is the full species.

There is satisfaction in calling the reader's attention to the Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl observed at Lawrence. At least 3 additional Barn Owls and 15 Short-eared Owls have been reported since the Christmas count. The Mound City group deserves special credit for locating two Pileated Woodpeckers. No Purple Finches were discovered in 1950 but they were reported at three stations in 1951. Six groups failed to find Cedar Waxwings with the remaining groups having a total of 19 for this species as compared to 269 waxwings for the previous year.

A grand total of 32,019 individuals was counted or estimated at the nine stations. The names of the 96 observers (where supplied) and data on place, time and weather for each station are given below.

**BALDWIN, DOUGLAS COUNTY** (7½-mile radius centering 2 miles north of junction of U. S. Highways 50 and 59, and including Lone Star Lake, Sand Pits, and Craig's cedar woods; open farmland 30 percent, town suburbs 20 percent, wooded creeks and wasteland 25 percent, coniferous farm woodlot 20 percent, lake shore 5 percent.— Dec. 26; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. cloudy; temp. 13° to 26°; wind northwest, 15 m. p. h.; creeks partly frozen, Lone Star Lake 10 percent open. Eleven observers,, 3 parties. Total party-hours, 20½ (16 on foot, 4½ by car); total party-miles, 107 (8 on foot, 99 by car). Seen in the area during the week: Mallard, 13; Screech Owl, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; Purple Finch, 3; Field Sparrow, 1) Observers: Clara Beach, Amelia Betts (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Boicourt, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd, Katharine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Grace Preston, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans (Baldwin Bird Club).

**EMPORIA, LYON COUNTY.** (Peter Pan Park, Horseshoe Bend, hedgrows, wooded areas, wheat fields, prairies and Lyon County State Lake). — Dec. 22; 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Cloudy in morning; clear in the afternoon; not much wind; temp. about 16°. Observers: Virgil Dowell, Lois Redmond, Robert Hodge, Elizabeth Koch, Dwight Spencer, Lottie Beulah McWherter and Ted F. Andrews (compiler).

**HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY.** (6½ mile radius centering a half mile west of Halstead, area same as last year but including Riverside Park, and southwest to Pete's Refuge: wooded creeks 58 percent; hedgerows 12 percent; town suburbs 14 percent; 7:45 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 28° to 56°; no wind; creeks almost iced shut; open farmland 9 percent; ungrazed upland 5 percent; park 2 percent.) Dec. 29; — frost; ground frozen, surface thaw in p. m. Five observers chiefly in two parties. Total party-hours 14½ (10½ on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles 41½ (6½ on foot, 35 by car). A Winter Wren was seen Dec. 30. Observers: Mrs. J. M. Cathcart, Miss Marie Dettweiler, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Miss Alma Ruth, Miss Edna Ruth (compiler).

	Baldwin	Emporia	Halstead	Hays	Kansas City	Lawrence	Manhattan	Mound City	Topeka
Grebe, Pied-billed									1
Goose, Canada									
Goose, Snow		530	1	9	3				
Mallard			2	5175*	424			115	2500*
Druck, Black			142	8					5
Gadwall				26					
Baldpate				23					
Pintail				2					
Teal, Green-winged		18		2				2	2
Canvas-back				2					
Seaup, Lesser				6					
Goldeneye, American				4					
Merganser, Hooded				1					
Merganser, American				1					
Hawk, Sharp-shinned				1					6
Hawk, Cooper's				2000*	16				1
Hawk, Red-tailed				1	4			1	1
Hawk, Swainson's				4	16			5	5
Hawk, Swainson's				1	1			2	2
Hawk, Rough-legged				1	7			8	8
Hawk, Ferruginous				6	5			2	2
Hawk, Bald				1	1			3	3
Eagle, Golden				1	1			2	2
Hawk, Marsh				1	1			1	1
Hawk, Sparrow		20	32	17	9			4	9
Falcon, Prairie				2	3			2	1
Chicken, Prairie				2	1			12	7
Bab-white				2	2			2	1
Pheasant, Ring-necked				3	3			7	25
Coot, American				5	5			39	7
Shipe, Wilson's				13				1	5
Gull, Herring				1	1			1	1
Dove, Mourning				1	1			2	2
Dove, Inca				8	4			7	3
Owl, Barn				1	1			2	3
Owl, Screech				1	1			1	1
Owl, Horned				2	1			2	3
Owl, Barred				1	17			1	3
Owl, Long-eared				2	2			3	1
Owl, Short-eared				2	1			1	1
Kinrisher, Belted				3	3			1	1
Flicker, Yellow-shafted				8	8			8	6
Flicker, Red-shafted				4	2			2	2
Woodpecker, Pileated				4	1			2	2
Woodpecker, Red-bellied				18	5			4	4
Woodpecker, Red-headed				5	6			5	8
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied				2	2			4	2
Woodpecker, Hairy				7	3			3	2
Woodpecker, Downy				17	9			6	2
Lark, Horned				1	114			14	6
Jay, Blue				5	10			45	2
Magpie, American				39	5			13	9
				6	44			17	

	Baldwin	Emporia	Halstead	Hays	Kansas City	Lawrence	Manhattan	Mound City	Topeka
Urov, American	86	34	184	7	67	519	13	37	17
Chickadee, Black-capped	83	36	50	12	73	280	72	29	8
Titmouse, Tufted	41	1	6	6	31	56	5	25	5
Nuthatch, White-breasted	3							2	2
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	1								4
Creeper, Brown	2	34	2	2	3	8	1	2	1
Wren, Winter	1								
Wren, Carolina	9	3			9	6	3	14	2
Mockingbird	2							1	1
Robin, American	11	3	34	200	34	170	280	1	16
Buebird, Eastern	3			12		56		17	2
Solitaire, Townsend's									2
Thrasher, Brown	2								2
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	5	6	7	11	3	15	4		5
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned									
Waxwing, Cedar									
Shrike, Loggerhead	1	2	16	2	1	4	7		1
Starling, Common	215	66	32	6	225*	582	18	12	3000*
Warbler, Myrtle	1								
Sparrow, House	308	127	111	25	509*	268	140	31	77
Meadowlark, Eastern		19	1		23				16
Meadowlark, Western			80	50	30	239	14	22	
Meadowlark, sp.	34					239		146	
Blackbird, Red-winged		1	48	2	1	74			
Blackbird, Rusty			94	1					
Grackle, Brown-headed									1
Cowbird, Brown-headed	84	6	44		70*	296	49	51	6
Cardinal		32			40*	1			11
Finch, Purple									
Siskin, Pine						9			
Goldfinch, American	24	5	5		40*	77	36	34	23
Towhee, Red-eyed						2			
Towhee, Spotted	2		3		1	14	5		
Sparrow, Vesper									1
Sparrow, White-winged		12	128	29	360*	869	245	78	28
Junco, Slate-colored	304								
Junco, Oregon		229	1320	3	225*	1561	250	171	1
Sparrow, American Tree	1054				4				94
Sparrow, Field	29	21	495		4	55			33
Sparrow, Harris's	1					21			12
Sparrow, White-crowned	1				1				
Sparrow, White-throated	1								
Sparrow, Fox				2					2
Sparrow, Lincoln's									2
Sparrow, Swamp					1	20			6
Sparrow, Song	4	3	5		50*	87	4	6	8
Lonespur, Lapland						608			40
Total Species	461	38	38	30	62	55	27	44	5
Total Individuals	2513	1398	2581	420	9248	7322	1289	1957	5991
Total Kansas List	97								

\* Indicates estimated counts.

HAYS, ELLIS COUNTY. (College Campus, including wooded creek and Cedar Bluffs on Saline River). — Dec. 26. Observers: S. V. Dalton, George Danielson, Harold Elder, Pete Felton, Jr., James McNeill, L. D. Wooster (compiler).

KANSAS CITY, WYANDOTTE COUNTY (Lake Quivira, Wyandotte County Lake).— Dec. 23; 7:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 10° to 25°; wind 0 to 5 m. p. h. (Additional species seen during week: Mockingbird, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 15; Lapland Longspurs, 37; King Rail, 1). Observers: John Bishop (compiler), Charles Denesha, Ted Denesha, Kenneth Echternacht, Henry Harford, Harold Hedges, Jess Hodshire, Ben King, Elliot Parker, Jerry Russell, Bob Smith, Frank Stoerman, Bob Thomann, Larry Underwood.

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; deciduous farm woodlots 50 percent, pastures 25 percent, weed areas 10 percent, water front 15 percent). Dec. 23; 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Partly cloudy; temp. 12° to 31°; wind N, 8 to 12 m. p. h.; 2 to 4 in. snow; lake frozen, rivers 10 percent open. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (24 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 202 (27 on foot, 175 by car). — Observers: Maurice F. Baker, James W. Bee, Bert S. Chewning (compiler), Helen M. Chewning, James S. Findley, Henry S. Fitch, Richard W. Fredrickson, Paul J. Spangler, William B. Stallcup, H. B. Tordoff.

MANHATTAN, RILEY COUNTY. (across prairie and wooded ravines northwest three miles, east one mile, south to town. Southwest between wooded hillside and river. Open grassland 50 percent; woods 30 percent; brushland 20 percent).—Dec. 24, 8:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. Cloudy, temp. 12° to 35°; wind NW to NE, 5-10 m. p. h., ground covered with 1-3 in. snow. Ten observers together. Total hours, 9; total miles, 12 (on foot). (Additional species seen during the week: Red-winged Blackbird, 150; Brewer's Blackbird, 1; Duck Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk; Hairy Woodpeckers; Loggerhead Shrikes; Brown Creepers. Harris's Sparrow and Mourning Doves seem to be absent from the Manhattan area this winter). Observers: E. K. Beals, James Beals, Donald Gier, Harold Gier, H. T. Gier (compiler), Ronald Gier, James Langford, Dave Rathbone, Reginald Painter, John Painter.

MOUND CITY, LINN COUNTY. (7½-mile radius centered 3 miles north of Mound City and including Little Sugar Creek and hills west of town, Boicourt Lake, and wooded areas 40 percent, hedgerows 25 percent, lake 5 percent, wooded suburban 30 percent). — Dec. 29; 6:30 a. m. to 4 p. m., partly cloudy to clear; temp. 27° to 56°; wind SW, 8 m. p. h.; ground frozen, partly thawed, lakes and ponds frozen. Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 16½ (14½ on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 44½ (7½ on foot, 37 by car). Observers: Eunice Dingus (compiler), J. O. Dingus, M. Ellen Dingus, Wilson Dingus.

TOPEKA, SHAWNEE COUNTY. (7½-mile radius centering at State House). Dec. 30; 7:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Temp. 26° to 37°; fair to overcast, calm; ground and water frozen. The Bald Eagle ate one of the Coots soon after it was tabulated. Twenty-nine observers in 4 parties (Topeka Audubon Society).

# Flooded Fields Attract Birds

By HELEN CHEWNING

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

"'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," so they say, and the very ill wind that blew destruction and loss to the Lawrence region last summer in the form of a flood, blew a bit of good to the bird watchers of the vicinity. The lakes and ponds and marshes formed by the high water, and generously stocked with fish and crustaceans brought in by the overflow, enticed many shore and water birds to the area.

Shortly after the peak of the flood waters had passed, American Egrets and Great Blue Herons found feeding good in these newly formed pools. These stately birds could easily be seen from the highway (10) east of Lawrence. As reports of their presence spread, bird watchers made good use of their leisure time. One Sunday afternoon in particular brought rich returns for a few hours spent along the highway, even though heavy traffic made the project hazardous. While still a fair distance from the inundated cornfields, the white of the egrets made a distinct pattern against the water and the background of grass and weeds. We began to count them as we came nearer. One swing of the binoculars netted twenty-seven American Egrets. Here and there on small islands and peninsulas about eighteen smaller birds of similar shape could be seen warily keeping one eye on us and the other, presumably, on an unsuspecting frog. The presence of these smaller white birds meant more concentration of effort in attempting to identify them. By focusing a 20x telescope on a spot in the mud or water from which one of them might be expected, eventually, to extract his foot so that the color of it might be determined, we concluded that about four of them were Snowy Egrets and the remainder were immature Little Blue Herons.

Then the Great Blue Herons demanded our attention. There they stood, twenty-three of them within the range of our binoculars, statue-like until a darting movement of the head provided for the owner an unsavory-looking bit of nourishment. Five or six Little Green Herons completed the color scheme, either flying over or perching on fence posts.

Five kinds of herons in one area would seem to be a good score, but more were to be found. A Black-crowned Night Heron cast a wandering eye over one large pond from a stump near the edge of the water, and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron stalked through mud and short grass in an inviting swamp north of the airport.

To continue the census of the fields east of town we would like to mention the Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted-Pectoral-Least-Semipalmated-Western-Stilt-and-Red-backed Sandpipers, Pied-billed Grebes Coots, Willets, Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer (85 in one field at one time), Gadwalls, Blue and Green-winged Teal, and an Osprey. Six large white birds had us puzzled one afternoon until, maneuvering for better light on the subjects, we identified them as Caspian Terns. Mr. Richard Fredrickson verified this identification, and was able to report a Least Tern, a Forster's Tern, and many Black Terns on or near the same tiny island. This completed the list of terns for Kansas with the exception of the Common Tern.

The last week of October brought more thrills. Mr. H. B. Tordoff reported fifteen Golden Plovers in a wheat field and eight or nine Red-backed Sandpipers near the water. (We had seen the Red-backed Sandpipers near Perry the previous week.) We reached the place in time to see a few of the plovers and a flock of fifteen White Pelicans. Several days later, in the hope of seeing the Golden Plovers again, we happened upon a flock of nine Black-bellied Plovers in the same general area. One Golden Plover was still in the vicinity on November 11 and one Franklin's Gull appeared about the same time.

An additional report on the marsh north of the airport completes our "flood count" up to November 14. On several occasions fifteen to eighteen Dowitchers were seen, and at one time three Willets were there with the usual variety of the common sandpipers. A few days later the Dowitchers were replaced by twenty-seven Wilson's Snipes—churning up the mud in search of their Sunday dinner. We had found five of them east of town earlier in the day—total, thirty-two. One lone Belted Kingfisher, on the side line completed the picture.

## General Notes

**Woodcocks at Lake Quivira.**—Five Woodcocks were flushed at Lake Quivira on November 4 by Ben King. He was able to see the long bills and the mottled coloration of their backs. The flushing notes were a rapid twittering unlike that of a Wilson's Snipe. Ben is one of our youngest members and has very intense interest in birds.

**Woodcocks and Pileated Woodpeckers at Mound City.**—Last fall near Mound City a flock of Woodcocks was identified by Wilson and Eunice Dingus. They observed these birds on two occasions. At least five individual Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen in the past year near Mound City by the Dingus's. Anyone wishing to see these woodpeckers probably could do so by contacting these birders. Of course it would be necessary to reach the woods before daylight and be situated near the trees where these birds are known to hide out.

**Shore and water birds at Cheyenne Bottoms.**—Dr. Ted F. Andrews and nine of his students observed many birds when they were on a field trip October 5. In the Cheyenne Bottoms they saw one Least Bittern, several hundred American Bitterns and Black-crowned Night Herons, dozens of American Egrets and Great Blue Herons, one Yellow Rail, one Wilson's Snipe, one Eared Grebe, one Osprey, six Greater Yellowlegs and one Ring-billed Gull.

On October 7, at Moreland, on their return trip they counted over 180 Swainson's Hawks in about 11 minutes. Before they first began to count them as they crossed the highway going south, they could see specks in the sky to the south of the road, indicating they had been crossing through that area for several minutes prior to the time that Dr. Andrews and his group started to count them.

**Reprints of articles on Kansas Birds available.**—"Feeding Habits of the Great Horned Owl" and "A Spring Record of the Woodcock in Kansas" both in the Auk are available as reprints by writing Roger O. Olmstead, 818 Alabama St., Lawrence, Kansas.

**Spring meeting announcements.**—An invitation has been extended to members of K. O. S. to attend the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union spring meeting to be held at Hastings on May 9 and 10. Mr. W. E. Eigsti of the Museum of Hastings is chairman of the local committee.

The Wilson Ornithological Union will hold its annual meeting April 25-26 at Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

**December issue of the K. O. S. Bulletin omitted.**—Because of the lack of funds the December issue of the society was not printed and for the same reason this issue has been shortened. It is hoped that plans can be made at our next meeting so that this very necessary organ of our society will not be curtailed.

**Resolution concerning the use of 1080 in Kansas.**—Whereas, there is growing sentiment in parts of Kansas to reduce coyote numbers, without due regard to other form of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, certain counties in the southwest part of Kansas already have planned programs for the use of **Compound 1080**, and

WHEREAS, certain of our members have reported that by their own observations and discussions with other zoologists in areas where 1080 has been previously used, they are convinced that the killing effect of 1080 continues beyond the coyotes to hawks, vultures, fur-bearing mammals, chipmunks, and all other meat-eating animals in the area,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the use of 1080, and other indiscriminate poisons in Kansas be discouraged if not prohibited; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the recipients of similar resolution passed by the Kansas Academy of Science, May 5, 1951.

(Passed unanimously by the members present at the called meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society, in Topeka, November 4, 1951 and later signed by all of the members of the K. O. S. Council).

**Late-fall field day at Topeka.**—The annual K. O. S. Field Day of late fall was held at Topeka on November 4, 1951. The Topeka Audubon Society as host arranged for a shelter house in Gage Park where the State birders gathered at 8:00 a. m. to find a warm reception, hot coffee and doughnuts awaiting them. During the morning trip some scouting for prairie chickens was done west of Topeka but in vain.

The group returned to the shelter house for the noon meal after which a short business session was conducted by the president, Harold C. Hedges. A resolution passed as to our stand on the use of 1080 poison will be found elsewhere in this issue. The afternoon tour, around Shawnee Lake, concluded with the group compiling a list of 66 species for the day.

The twenty-two members and nine guests participating in this second annual fall outing were: Ted Andrews, Emporia; Maurice F. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewning, H. B. Tordoff of Lawrence; Virgil Dowell of Lebo; John Garrett, Harold Gier, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Gier of Manhattan; T. J. Hatel, S. J., of St. Marys; L. B. Carson, Elizabeth Fisher, Grace Holcombe, David Pantle, Clyde Morris, T. W. Nelson, Harold Williams of Topeka; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hedges of Kansas City, Kansas; Amelia J. Betts, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd and children, Katharine Kelley, L. F. Kohlman, R. F. Miller of Baldwin; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hawksley of Warrensburg, Missouri.

# **Spring Convention – April 19-20**

## **Bethel College – North Newton, Kansas**

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### **SATURDAY**

- 9:00- Registration, Student Union Room
- 9:45-10:45 Papers and Committee Reports
- 10:45-11:15 Business Session
- 11:15-12:00 Tour of Museum and bird exhibits
- 12:00- 1:30 Luncheon, College Dining Hall
- 1:30- 2:50 Papers and Reports
- 2:50- 3:00 Intermission
- 3:00- 4:00 Papers and Reports
- 4:00- 4:45 Business Sessions
- 4:45- Group picture
- 6:00- 7:00 Banquet at College Dining Hall
- 7:30- 9:00 Illustrated Lecture

#### **SUNDAY**

- 6:00 a. m. Field trips to be arranged.
- 1:00 p. m. Sack lunch in field.
- Compilation of bird list.

Those wishing to present a paper or report at the spring meeting should send the title and length of the presentation to the president, Harold C. Hedges, R. F. D. No. 2, Kansas City, Kansas or to the secretary, Rev. Eugene Dehner, St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas.