

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

**BULLETIN**

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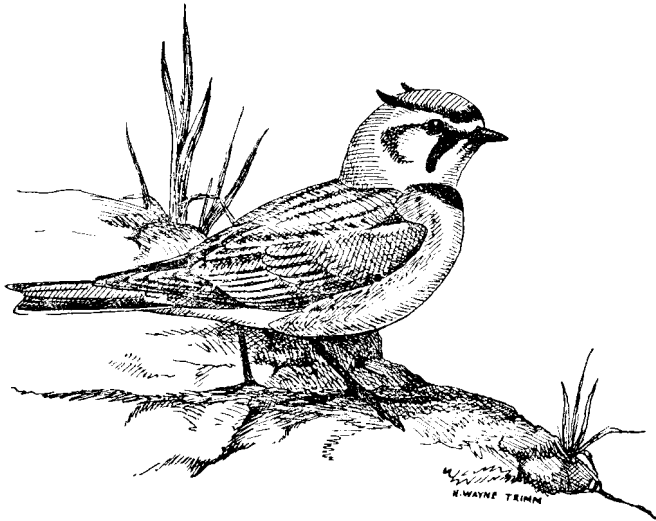
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## Notes from the President

This is the time to promote the idea of birdhouse building in our schools, among boy and girl scouts, and perchance, in our homes.

As most of us have noticed, the Kansas City Star for December 10, 1953, on the editorial page, contained an article on *Books for Lovers of Bird Life*, by Henry Harford. The drawing of a weather-vane bird feeder accompanying the article reminds us of the wonderful opportunities for bird observation which a bird feeder offers.

The writer here-of has a sister in Emporia who has a bird feeder in her backyard about 20 feet outside her window, where she can see the birds all through her kitchen-hours of the day. It is a delight even to help her do the dishes, when visiting there, with the opportunity which it offers for seeing the birds at her feeding station.

Such a feeding station is also a way of producing a constructive rather than destructive interest in birds among small boys.

L. D. Wooster

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## The 1953 Mid-Winter Bird Count In Kansas

The fifth annual mid-winter bird count under the auspices of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held December 25 to January 3, 1954. Although the number of censuses taken was less than last year the total number of individual birds counted far exceeded that in 1952 or that of any previous year. One hundred thirteen species and three subspecies were observed at the 16 stations participating. This was an increase of five species over the previous highest record. Six species of birds seen in the 1953 count were not recorded in any of the previous winter counts; they were Greater Scaup, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Arizona Scaled Quail, Ring-billed Gull, Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow.

The individuals seen totaled approximately 228,564. The congregation of Mallards reported at Lakin, just west of Garden City, far exceeded the total of all other species of birds seen. The Tree Sparrow ranked second with a total of 9,239, while the House Sparrow rated third with 4491 and the Horned Lark fourth with 3431.

Belvue and St. Francis birders participated in the count for the first time. Six areas covered in 1952 were not covered in 1953.

It continues to be difficult to determine what species seen were unusual for Kansas. Certainly, the Hawk Owl seen at Mound City, the Greater Scaup at Emporia and Kansas City (seen during week), the 3 White-necked Raven, the 11 Arizona Scaled Quail and the 67 Lesser Prairie Chicken reported from Lakin and the 15 Snow Bunting at St. Francis seem to be the most outstanding finds.

The Mound City group still continues to find the Pileated Woodpecker and deserves special credit for its continued success in locating this scarce Kansas bird.

The Starling, Crow, House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow were the only species to be reported at all of the stations, while the Harris's Sparrow, Bob-white, Yellow-shafted Flicker and Downy Woodpecker were listed in 15 of the 16 areas. At the other extreme, 25 species were listed but once in the tabulations. A composite list of the birds seen during the five winter counts is 126 species.

Worthy of mention are the three species not listed anywhere on the count report, that were seen during the week; namely, Stellar's Jay at Lakin; Pigeon Hawk at Halstead; Ring-necked Duck at Kansas City.

Lawrence had the highest number of high counts, 33. Lakin was second with 28. Linn County (Mound City) was third with 13. Kansas City was fourth with 11. Emporia was fifth with 8. Baldwin was sixth with 7. Halstead and Topeka tied for seventh with 5 each. All the rest of the stations had four or less high counts.

The names of the 142 observers and data on place, time and weather for each station are given below.

*Baldwin* (7½-mile radius centering 2 miles north of junction of U. S. Highways 50 and 59, and including Lone Star and Baldwin Lakes, Vinland cemetery region, and adjacent farm land and wooded areas; open farm land 30 percent, cedar grove 15 percent, lake shore 5 percent).—Dec. 26; 7:15 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. Clear; temp 28° to 40°; wind calm; ground covered with 8 inches crusted snow, drifts up to 6 feet, lakes mostly frozen. Ten observers in 3 parties and one at feeding station. Total party-hours, 22 (11 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 136 (11 on foot, 125 by car). Seen in the area during the week: Lapland Longspurs, 550. Observers: Clara Beach, Amelia J. Betts, Arthur Bridwell, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Katharine Kelley, Mrs. Geo. Marquardt, Mrs. Francis McKaughan, James Miller, R. F. Miller, Grace Preston (Baldwin Bird Club).

*Belvue* (½ mile south of Belvue to 1½ miles south of St. Marys and 2 miles north of St. Marys; town suburbs 3 percent, river bottoms 70 percent, wooded creeks 20 percent, pasture land 7 percent).—Dec. 30; 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 15° to 40°; wind NW, 5-25 m.p.h.; river 60 percent open, ponds solid. One observer. Total party-hours, 8½ (7½ on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 38 (6 on foot, 32 by car). Observer—D. Eugene Enos.

*Chase County* (7-mile radius, centering in northeast Chase County and ranging from Lake Kahola to south fork of the Cottonwood River near its junction with the Cottonwood; pasture 70 percent, lake 5 percent, wooded creek 20 percent, town 5 percent).—Dec. 27; 12:00 noon to 6:00 p. m. Partly cloudy; temp. 32° to 45°; wind north, 10-20 m.p.h.; creeks and lake partly frozen. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 6 (2 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 29 (4 on foot, 25 by car). Seen during week: Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Horned Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1.—Edward J. Ryan and Marc Marcellus.

*Cloud County* (7½-mile radius centering about 7½ miles northwest of Concordia and extending to salt marshes and State Lake north of Jamestown including some wooded land along Republican River. Open farmland 70 percent, wooded creeks and river 15 percent, marsh and lake shore 10 percent and coniferous cemetery 5 percent).—Jan. 3; 9 a. m. to 11 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. to 3:30 p. m.; temp. 18° to 49°, wind SE, averaging 9 m.p.h.; creeks and lakes 90 percent frozen, river 75 percent frozen. One observer. Total party-hours, 5 (2 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 80 (3 on foot, 77 by car). Seen during the week: Red-bellied Woodpecker and Red-winged Blackbird.—John M. Porter.

*Emporia* (Wooded areas 39 percent, open fields, fence and hedgerows 51 percent, aquatic areas 10 percent).—Dec. 19. Twelve observers. Total party-hours, 5; total party-miles, 143 (7 on foot, 136 by car).—Ted F. Andrews, LeRoy Baker, John Breukelman, Jack Carter, Bob Clarke, Tom Johnsten, Pat Martin, Keith Nixon, Norma Pohl, Maurice Roberts, Claire Schelske, Bob Wimmer. [Presumably the count was taken a week earlier than the prescribed time in order to have participation of college students who would have otherwise been on vacation.—Ed.]

*Halstead* (7½ mile radius centered 1 mile west of Halstead and including portions of Emma and Kissawa Creeks and Little Arkansas River, plus corner of Harvey County Park; wooded creeks and river 53 percent, hedgerows 12 percent, open farmland and meadow 28 percent, weedy slough 5 percent, town cemetery 2 percent).—Dec. 27; 8:10 a. m. to 5:40 p. m. Clear; temp. 27° to 46°; wind from N, 5 m.p.h. until 9 then 25 m.p.h.; muddy after 10:00 a.m.; creeks partly frozen. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 24 (14½ on foot, 9½ by car); total party-miles 103½ (7 on foot, 96½ by car). Seen during week: Field Sparrow, 1; Townsend's Sol-



ataire, 1; Albino Tree Sparrow, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Lapland Longspur, 1.—Joan Chalcans, Marie Dettweiler, Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth, Edna Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stein.

*Hays* (1. College Campus, wooded Big Creek, farm land,—cultivated and prairie; 2. Cedar Bluffs on Saline River,—wooded, limestone cliffs and wooded stream).—Dec. 29; 7:30 to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m.; temp. 30° to 40°; wind from N. at 20 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in one party. Total party-hours, 8½ (6½ on foot, 2 by car), total party-miles, 46 (10 on foot, 36 by car).—Joe Binder, Mark Dreiling, Harold Elder, Don Finney, Philip Lin, Ed Martin, Thomas Olson, Al M. Schenk, Alan Schenk, Guido Smith, Gerry Tomanek, L. D. Wooster, Kilian Zerr.

*Kansas City* (7½ mile radius centering at Turner; including Quivira Lake, Wyandotte Lake, Kansas and Missouri River Valleys and surrounding uplands; upland farm area 15 percent, marsh 5 percent, lakeshore 35 percent, wooded creek 4 percent, river bottoms 40 percent, conifers 1 percent).—Dec. 27; 6:45 a. m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 32° to 43°; wind S., 0-5 m.p.h.; Quivira Lake 5 percent open, Wyandotte Lake 75 percent open. Eleven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 19½ (16 on foot, 2½ by car, 1 by bicycle); total party-miles, 60 (12 on foot, 38 by car, 10 on bicycle). Seen during the week: Red-winged Blackbird, 8; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 13; Greater Scaup, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Harlan's Hawk, 1.—Harold Hedges, Walter Butin, Dick Dawson, Elizabeth Cole, Ben King, John Bishop, Marilyn Bishop, Jim Mariner, Henry Harford, Elliot Parker, Mrs. Major.

*Lakin* (6-mile radius centering 4 miles north and 3 miles east of Lakin, including Lake McKinney, Arkansas River between Lakin and Deerfield and sloughs; open farmland 60 percent, town suburbs 10 percent, wooded river 15 percent, lake shore 15 percent).—Jan. 1; 11:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 35° to 60°; wind SSW, 5 to 10 m.p.h.; lakes 10 percent open. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 5 (2 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 56 (3 on foot, 53 by car). Seen during week: Prairie Falcon, 3; Screech Owl, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Stellar's Jay, 5.—Preston Osborn, Marvin D. Schwilling.

*Lawrence* (same area as last year).—Dec. 27; 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 28° to 46°; wind NW, 1-5 m.p.h.; ground 50 percent covered with patches of 2-4 in. snow; ponds, creeks frozen, river 50 percent open. Thirteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 45 (25 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 214 (34 on foot, 180 by car).—James W. Bee, Bert and Helen Chewning, James S. Findley, Henry S. Fitch, R. W. Fredrickson, Miss Lenore French, Mrs. E. R. Hall, Miss Carol L. Martin, Miss Ethel M. Martin, Mrs. John H. Nelson, Harrison B. Tordoff, Mrs. Mable Willis.

*Linn County* (7½-mile radius centering 1 mile east and 3½ miles north of Mound City, including Boicourt Lake in NE, Marais des Cynes River along E., wooded hills in SW, prairies and Sugar valleys between; deciduous woodlands and along streams 80 percent, open fields and fence rows 14 percent, suburban 6 percent).—Dec. 27; 6:30 a. m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 32° to 40°; wind SW, 15 m.p.h.; streams frozen over, ground frozen, some snow. Ten observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 30½ (20½ on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 71¾ (11¾ on foot, 60 by car).—Wilson Dingus, Eunice Dingus, J. O. Dingus, M. Ellen Dingus, Lester Casteel, Zelma Casteel, C. O. Smith, Robert W. Weese, Frank Woods, Mary Alice Woods (Linn County Audubon Society).

*Manhattan* (7½-mile radius centered at Kansas State College campus; open fields and pastures 50 percent, wooded ravines and creeks 20 percent, shores and hills along Blue and Kansas Rivers 10 percent, roadsides 20 percent).—Dec. 26; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear; temp. 26° to 44°; wind SW, 2-4 m.p.h.; ground frozen and partly covered with snow, streams and rivers almost completely frozen over. Ten observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (13 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles 55 (18 on foot, 37 by car). Seen during week: Winter Wren, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 3.—E. K. Beals, James

Beals, H. T. Gier, Donald Gier, Keith Hooper, Charles Langford, Ellis R. Lippincott, Robert Moorman, Scott Searles, James Taylor.

*Olathe* (7½ mile radius centering at the junction of U. S. Highway 50 and Kansas Highway 7, including Olathe Lake and reservoir, Gardner Lake; wooded creeks and wasteland 75 percent, open fields and fence rows 20 percent, lake shore 5 percent).—Jan. 1; 7:45 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 36° to 51°; wind south, 5-10 m.p.h. creeks and lake frozen, patches of snow in fields and 2 foot drifts on leeward side. Thirteen observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 15½ (12¾ on foot, 2¾ by car); total party-miles, 61 (12 on foot, 49 by car).—Clarence Abell, Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd, Jim Clark, Jack Crane, Claude Kean, Katharine Kelley, Marno McKaughan, R. F. Miller, George Oliver, Virgil Oliver, Ray Wackly.

*Topeka* (7½-mile radius centering on State House, including Gage Park, Central Park, Rochester Cemetery, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Security Benefit grounds, Waterworks and adjacent area, City airport, Lake Shawnee, Shunganunga and Deer Creek water shed; farm land 50 percent, mixed trees 30 percent, lake shore 10 percent, blue stem pasture 10 percent).—Dec. 27; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear to overcast; temp. 24° to 45°; wind variable, 2-17 m.p.h.; snow most areas, water frozen except river and small open strip in Lake Shawnee. Thirty-two observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 52 (10 on foot, 42 by car); total party-miles, 90 (15 on foot, 75 by car). Seen during week: Herring Gull, 1; Long-eared Owl, 2; Kingfisher, 1; Red Crossbills, 12; White-crowned Sparrow, 1.—Mrs. Howard Anthon, Gladys Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blake, L. B. Carson, DeEtta Clark, Jess Eddy, Dean Fisher, Elizabeth Fisher, Roberta Foote, Charles L. Franklin, Charles L. Franklin, Charles H. Hogue, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Holmes, David Holmes, Denene Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Huxman, Mrs. Charles H. Martin, Pearl Maus, Florence McKinney, Mrs. Tyle Miller, David Miller, T. W. Nelson, David Pantle, Orville O. Rice, Marvin E. Rolfe, Margaret Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Thorpe, Harold C. Williams, Muriel Young.

*St. Francis* (7½-mile radius centering 17½ miles SW of St. Francis, and including the Crumly farm, intervening distance to Bonny Dam near the state line. Two observers in one party. Seen during week: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1.—Josephine Churchill, K. D. Crumly.

*Wichita* (5-mile radius centering at Santa Fe Lake 15 miles East of Wichita; wooded creeks 10 percent, lake shore 20 percent, open farmland 70 percent).—Dec. 26; 9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 30° to 45°; wind N, 1-5 m.p.h.; lake frozen except in center. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 7 (5 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 40 (4 on foot, 36 by car). Seen during week: Golden Eagle, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Brown Creeper, 6; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 22.—Frank and Norma Bayless.

## State Bird Notes

### Notes from Lakin

There has been an unusually large number of eagles using the roost about 5 miles east of Lakin on the Arkansas River and approximately one mile south of Lake McKinney. On the Christmas Count 18 Bald Eagles were seen. This number had increased to 30 by January 26. From three to five Golden Eagles were using the same roost. Probably the reason for the large number of these great impressive birds is the extremely large number of ducks that are over-wintering around Lake McKinney. The largest roost I had seen before this year was in 1951 when 18 Bald Eagles were roosting one mile southeast of Kendall, also on the Arkansas River.

For the past three months I have observed 50 to 60 Mountain Bluebirds southwest of Lakin. They are concentrated in an old cedar grove. I have seen occasional individual Mountain Bluebirds in Meade and Clark Counties.—Marvin Schwilling, Garden City.

## General Notes

**Spring meeting announcements.**—The Sixth Annual Meeting of Kansas Ornithological Society has been set for Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2 at Hays. Additional information concerning both the meeting and accommodations will be sent to each member at a later date.

Oklahoma Ornithological Society annual meeting will be held May 15 and 16 at Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

Nebraska Ornithologist's Union will meet at Valentine, Nebraska, May 21 and 22, for its annual meeting. Presentation of papers on the first day will be followed by a trip in the afternoon to Fort Niobrara Game Refuge. The all-day field trip the next day will be to Valentine National Waterfowl Refuge, an excellent opportunity to see what the Nebraska sandhill lake country is like.

South Dakota Ornithologists' Union annual meeting is planned for May 29, 30, and 31 somewhere in the Black Hills.

Wilson Ornithological Club's 35th Annual Meeting will be held at Cape May, New Jersey June 11-14, 1954.

**Snowy Owls in Kansas.**—Two Snowy Owls were seen four miles east of Lakin along the Arkansas River on January 22, 1954 by Marvin D. Schwilling. Only one could be found the following day and none have been sighted since.

This is the only definite information that has reached the Editor's desk. however, there were rumors of this wanderer being seen at Lake Elbow, near Manhattan. If you have records of Snowy Owls seen in the state please let us have them.

**Kansas' Record in the Audubon Christmas Count, 1947-1952.**—Since 1947 National Audubon Society has made a Summary of Largest Counts of Individuals seen each year on the Audubon Christmas Count. Kansas has scored each year with high counts varying from 1 to 7 species from 8 localities. The following table is a summary of the high counts for the eight localities during the last six years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Baldwin	1	1	1	1		2
Wichita		1				
Lawrence			1		5	1
Halstead				1	1	
Newton				1		
Topeka				1		
Hays					1	
Goddard						1

The reader may be interested in knowing which species in North America are concentrated in greater numbers in Kansas than anywhere else. Below is a tabulation of the 11 species with the total of each seen. Enclosed in parentheses is the area which is credited with the highest count.

1947—Lapland Longspur, 35 (Baldwin).

1948—Harlan's Hawk, 2 (Baldwin); Lapland Longspurs, 500 (Wichita).

1949—Harlan's Hawk, 5 (Baldwin); Leconte's Sparrow, 4 (Lawrence).

1950—Harlan's Hawk, 4 (Baldwin); Greater Prairie Chicken, 6 (Topeka); Horned Lark, 750 (Halstead); Harris' Sparrow, 269 (Newton).

1951—Red-tailed Hawk, 118 (Lawrence); Harlan's Hawk, 7 (Lawrence); Horned Owl, 17 (Lawrence); Tree Sparrow, 1561, (Lawrence); Lapland Longspur, 608 (Lawrence); Harris's Sparrow, 495 (Halstead); Prairie Falcon, (Hayes).

1952—Harlan's Hawk, 5 (Baldwin); Tree Sparrow, 2232 (Baldwin); Leconte's Sparrow, 2 (Lawrence); Smith's Longspur, 105 (Goddard).