

Kansas Ornithological Society

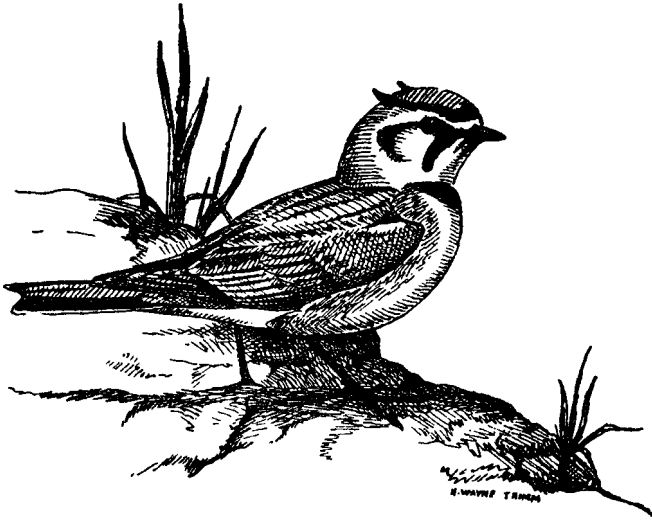
BULLETIN

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No. 1



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Regular Membership, \$1.00;

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Dues payable January 1 to the Treasurer

Subscription to the Bulletin is included in either class of membership

A Word From The Editor

The editor wishes to express his appreciation of the patience of the members relative to the long delay in getting out this issue of the Bulletin. For the past several months he has been unable to do more than the essentials of his bread and butter job. In the meantime some news items and notes have accumulated and he is now trying to get out two issues, one rather soon after the other. Vacation time is upon him, however, and it will probably be a month before the next issue is out.

The next issue will be composed of one short article, one note and whatever news is on hand. After that there will still be on hand for publication one short article and nothing more. Some of the members that contribute regularly to the News section of the Bulletin, seem to feel that they are making a nuisance of themselves in so doing. Nothing could be further from the truth. News items are not only welcome, but they are an essential part of the Bulletin. If the material sent in is not used in its entirety, it is because each issue must be made up to fill as nearly as possible a certain amount of space.

Most of our news is contributed by a few regular contributors. This is a logical arrangement where there is an organized group of birders. In such places the secretary or some other one person can handle all the news. In the recently organized Linn County Audobon Society the secretary reports regularly. Where there is no organized group anyone interested in birds should feel free to contribute to the News.

However, news is not enough to make up a worthwhile Bulletin. Ideally, each issue should be made up of from half to three-quarters of longer articles. If this type of material were available we could regularly publish an eight-page Bulletin. It is possible to reprint articles from outside sources, but it is probably better to use original material from the members. The editor is reasonably certain that there is enough potential material in our various colleges in Kansas, if the members associated with these colleges would promote the interests of the Society in this respect. It is recognized that the Bulletin is not an adequate outlet for articles of a major nature, but it is a ready outlet for minor papers, particularly first efforts of students.

Other than News and longer articles, there are the Notes. Notes are contributed by many members as items that are more than just news-worthy. These should be a page or more typewritten on one subject. On occasions, the editor has rescued such material from news items that were sent in.

Articles, Notes and News—these are the makeup of a worthwhile Bulletin. The editor hopes he gets caught up and can stay that way and also that when the time for each issue approaches, there will be plenty of material for the eight page Bulletin we should have.

The 1954 Christmas Bird Count

By the Editor

A total of 13 stations in Kansas reported to the editor of the Bulletin for the 1954 Christmas Bird Count. The counts were made in the period from December 19, to January 1. One hundred and thirty-seven birders acted as observers at these 13 stations. The number of observers per station varied from 2 to 28. This total number of observers includes, perhaps, six persons who reported from two stations.

Observers. The list of participating observers follows. For each station, the name of the person first listed is that of the compiler. **Baldwin.** Amelia J. Betts, George Boicourt, Mrs. Geo. Boicourt, I. L. Boyd, Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Robert Danley, Vernon Danley, Jim Deel, Phoebe Emery, T. A. Evans, Gary Fundis, Michael Horn, Karl Johnson, Bill Kapelle, Katherine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Danny Rogers and Bruce White.

Chase County. Edward Ryan, Ted Andrews, Marc Marcellus and Michael Ryan (all from Emporia).

Emporia. Ted Andrews, Don Barb, Mrs. Don Barb, John Breukelman, Ed. Calkins, Bob Clarke, Bill Davis, Pat Finney, John Frey, Mac Homan, Clifford Moburg, Norma Pohl, Carl Prophet, Claire Schelske, LeRoy Schelske, Homer Stevens.

Garden City. Marvin Schwilling and John Edwards.

Halstead. Edna L. Ruth, A. R. Challans, Mrs. A. R. Challans, W. M. Dettweiler, Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth.

Hays. L. D. Wooster, Eldon Becker, Charles Choguill, Harold S. Choguill, Bob Helton, Ted L. Jury, Edwin P. Martin, Thomas Olson, Al. M. Swenk, Emmet Stopher, John Stopher, Gerald Tomanek, Wes Wikoff and Chris Woelk.

Kansas City. James Lubkin, John Bart, Mrs. John Bart, A. D. Cole, Mrs. A. D. Cole, Donald Hall, Evelyn Hall, David Hedges, Harold Hedges, Raymond Miller, James Meyers, Mrs. James Meyers, Andy Randolph, Bernice Tatum, H. R. Wahl and Mrs. H. R. Wahl.

Lawrence. Bert Chewning, Mrs. Ethal Allen, Mrs. L. E. Anderson, Rollin H. Baker, Helen Chewning, Henry S. Fitch, Richard W. Frederickson, Wess Hunn, Barbara Hunn, Ethel M. Martin, Robert M. Mengel, Robert L. Quinsey, Harrison B. Tordoff and South G. VanHoose.

Linn County. Eunice Dingus, John Carr, M. Ellen Dingus, Wilson Dingus, Ruth D. Fauhl, Gary Stone, Ivan Sutton, Robert Weese, Frank Wood and Mary Alice Wood.

Manhattan. H. T. Gier, Robert Bohn, Bernd Boyd, John Buzenberg, Robert Johnstone, Ellsworth Gerritz, Charles Langford, Karl Stacey, Jerry Stoncking and James Selby.

Olathe. Ray Wackley, Ivan Boyd, Mrs. Ivan Boyd, R. I. Miller, Katherine Kelley, Amelia Betts, and Jack Crane.

Pittsburg. Ted Sperry and Ernest Nelson.

	Baldwin	Chase Co.	Emporia	Garden City	Halstead	Hays	Kansas City	Linn Co.	Lawrence	Manhattan	Olathe	Pittsburg	St. Mary's	Topeka	Wichita	Total
Mallard		13	46	330	8		4173	530						2500	7	7,607
Gadwall							13									13
Am. Widgeon							24									24
Green-winged Teal				6										5		11
Am. Goldeneye							11									11
Am. Merganser			10				1,026							230		1,266
Red-tailed Hawk	10	12	14	5	22		4	19	30	5	5		11	4	7	148
Harlan's Hawk	3								3							6
Am. Rough-legged Hawk				12	10			2	1					1	5	31
Marsh Hawk	2	4	16	22	8	1	1	11	6	1	1		4	5	3	85
Sparrow Hawk	3	2	8	7	13	2	2		31	1	4		4	4	7	88
Greater Prairie Chicken													1	23		24
Lesser Prairie Chicken				23												23
Bob-white	13		9	18			27	28	21	17	1	26		35		247
Arizona Scaled Quail				36												36
Ring-necked Pheasant				4	4	24									5	37
Am. Coot							8							9		17
Killdeer				1			3		5					1	12	22
Mourning Dove	29			2	2		35	4	107	3	45	1	36	21	3	286
Great Horned Owl	2	1	2	2	8	3	1	3	15	2	1	2	6	3	2	53
Barred Owl		2						1			1	1			1	6
Belted Kingfisher	1	2				1				1	2	1	2	4	15	29
Yellow-shafted Flicker	25	1	17	1	19		19	26	64	3	5	12	36	5	12	255
Red-shafted Flicker			3	3	1	6		1		1	2		5			22
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	7	14		9		18	29	70	4	9	5	19	9	8	225
Red-headed Woodpecker	8		2				1	10	3				1			25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			2				1	3	1					1		8
Hairy Woodpecker	8	6	1	1	9	2	7	5	7	1	3		3	3	10	76
Downy Woodpecker	27	21	37		26	4	27	28	54	12	14	14	17	11	18	310
Horned Lark	59	140	41	196	592	42	100	41	55	11	118	30	36	27	25	1,511
Am. Magpie				39		1										40
American Crow	65	9	82	71	802	9	50	197	177	20	34	44	39	46	47	2,092
Blue Jay	67	1	8		1		46	25	74	3	26	12	9	19	3	291
Carolina Chickadee												6			30	36
Black-capped Chickadee	83	45	196		63	35	55	76	254	17	40		103	17	71	1,055
Tufted Titmouse	27	10	14		24		74	50	36	9	11	16	19	10	25	325
White-breasted Nuthatch	3		8			1	3	5								20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2				1		2	1			2	1		6	1	16
Brown Creeper	5				4		2	1	3	1	1		5	4	7	33
Winter Wren	1										2			4	1	8
Carolina Wren	21	5	15		7		32	33	32	6	12	9	4	3	7	186
Mockingbird	7				1			15	4	1	2					30
Robin	424	9	232	2	9	15	151	80	397	250	21	7	194	44	14	1,655
Eastern Bluebird	38	3	46		1		123	31	84	5	16		26	19	11	471
Townsend's Solitaire					1	3									1	5
Golden Crowned Kinglet	1				13		10	1	6	8	1		1	3	14	58
American Pipit			15													15
Cedar Waxwing	143		4			25	395	29	12					23	36	667
Loggerhead Shrike	2	5	8		3		1	10	15		1	2		3	4	54
Common Starling	410	7	573	433	470	18	57	291	660	3	194	37	29	500	3000	6,652
House Sparrow	334	290	909	23	613	300	55	107	902	62	367	101	79	350	670	5,162
Eastern Meadowlark							18	111	1			30	4	7	1	172
Western Meadowlark		20		194	126	57			3	3			6	8	3	320
Meadowlark Sp.	129		165						195		60		29	17	200	795
Red-winged Blackbird	100		86	1150	1177		500	780	101		6	660	1		160	4,721
Brewer's Blackbird	110	2	125											55	37	329
Rusty Blackbird	1	700	1					107	4							813
Cowbird	10	7	6											7		30
Cardinal	155	33	90		79	2	81	152	181	26	119	52	66	33	42	1,111
Purple Finch	7						10	2	3			1				23
Am. Goldfinch	328	20	78	3	83		135	214	251	36	53	56	41	69	74	1,441
Pine Siskin	5			1	12		2		809				18	21		868
Red-eyed Towhee			6				1		5					1		13
Spotted Towhee	7	16					8		11	1			17	72	7	139
Savannah Sparrow	6							3	25		5					39
Leconte's Sparrow									18							18
Vesper Sparrow						4								1		5
Slate-colored Junco	624	33	383		415	72	872	225	702	300	257	179	153	91	244	4,550
Oregon Junco			1	5	3		4	6	6		1		3		5	34
Tree Sparrow	262	200	540	1300	508		337	88	1186	108	255		342	350	134	5,610
Field Sparrow	1		2				2	12	3			2	1	3		27
Harris' Sparrow	118	50	188	4	421		9	44	163	36	88	5	186	31	145	1,488
White-crowned Sparrow	16			18				110	94		10		2	1	15	265
Gambel's Sparrow				32												32
White-throated Sparrow	2						4		18			2		1	1	28
Fox Sparrow	3							7			8			1		19
Lincoln's Sparrow				2					1	1	4			4		12
Swamp Sparrow	1													6		7
Song Sparrow	53	25	15	17	46	10	278	31	260	2	181	19	37	48	14	1,136
Lapland Longspur			268	493			2,000		120		11		92			2,984
Smith's Longspur			770										1			771
Total Number at Station	3790	1666	5100	4492	5621	649	10,711	3563	7297	1032	2004	1334	1691	5900	6044	60,894
No. of Observers	19	4	13	2	7	15	16	11	14	9	6	2	3	27	28	Grand
Number of Kinds Seen	53	36	47	46	40	28	58	49	57	33	45	31	41	67	52	Total

St. Mary's. T. A. Hoffman, D. Eugene Enos and James Mullogan.

Topeka. L. B. Carson, Mrs. H. S. Blake, Elizabeth Fisher, Roberta Foote, Charles L. Franklin, Grace Holcombe, Carl Holmes, David Holmes, Mrs. Walter Huxman, Florence McKinney, Helen Meister, Mrs. Nyle Miller, Betty Marion, T. W. Nelson, Orville O. Rice, Franklin Rose, Hugo Rolf, Marvin Rolf, Leland Rolf, Bea Swenson, Joyce Thompson, Margaret Thompson, L. G. Thorpe, Mrs. L. G. Thorpe, Nan Van Doren, Harold Williams and Muriel Young.

Wichita. Frank Bayless, Norma Bayless, Gerald Bjork, Albert Briggs, Pearlanna Briggs, J. Walker Butin, Betty Belle Butin, Alice Davis, Kirk Downing, James Dresser, Jean Dresser, Dick Elving, Dorothy May Hutson, Dan Kilby, Mrs. Ray Kingshade, A. T. Mueller, Helen Mueller, Lyman Mueller, Willard Peters, Kay Peters, June Rynders, Paul Schweinfurth, William Stark, Rita Stogsdill, Jennibelle Watson, Ralph Wiley, Elmer Woolsey and Louise Woolsey.

Geographical Distribution of Stations. Only two of the thirteen stations were from the western half of the state. More stations in the western half would give a much more balanced report.

Birds Observed. The table summarizing birds seen during the count is presented on the center spread. It was impossible to include all birds seen, therefore those kinds of which fewer than 5 were seen are not included in the table. The totals shown at the bottom of the table include all birds seen at each station. The totals do not agree with the figures in the table for this reason.

The total number of birds observed was 60,894, ranging in number per station from 649 to 10,711. The total number of kinds of birds seen was 109, with the kinds per station ranging from 28 to 67. Kinds of birds that were seen in numbers less than five are listed below. The number in parenthesis following the name of the bird indicates the number of stations reporting that bird. These birds were: Common Loon (2), Pied-billed Grebe (1), Black Duck (1), Pintail (1), Redhead (1), Lesser Scaup (1), Bufflehead (1), Hooded Merganser (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Cooper's Hawk (4), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (2), Sainson's Hawk (1), Bald Eagle (1), Prairie Falcon (2), Woodcock (1), Wilson's Snipe (1), Ring-billed Gull (2), Short-eared Owl (1), White-necked Raven (1), American Magpie (1), Mountain Bluebird (1), Brown Thrasher (2), White-rumped Shrike (1), Pink-sided Junco (1) and Chipping Sparrow (1).

On the day of the census, but not in the census area, the Linn County group observed White-winged Crossbills. No other birds were reported seen during the week of the census that are not included in the above list or in the table.

NEWS

Linn County At the December 14 meeting of the Linn County Audobon Society in Mound City, Ivan Sutton showed two reels of his own making, one of "Birds of Kansas," which included about 40 Eastern and Western Kansas birds, and the other a trip through our northwestern national parks. "Birds of the Month" reflected the unusual weather conditions by including the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shafted Flicker and Winter Wren, as well as American Pipits, Great Blue Herons and Myrtle Warblers. The Great Blue and the Myrtle were seen about Dec. 9. Grain had been donated to the society and was distributed among members for use at winter feeding stations.

Although we felt we were pioneering when we organized the LCAS here in Eastern Kansas, it has become quite an active organization. It is now only a little over a year old and has 31 active members. Our monthly meetings are regularly attended by from 25 to 50, and we think we have some excellent programs.—Eunice Dingus, Sec. LCAS.

Halstead Area This winter we saw our first melanistic Red-tailed Hawks during January and February. We also saw several Harlan's Hawks this winter. A Prairie Falcon was found west of Harvey County Park several times in January and February. A Long-eared Owl was seen on a nest in a hedgerow northwest of town on March 1. Blue Jays, rare in winter here, were seen frequently.

Cedar Waxwings have been less in evidence than usual and Brown Creepers have never been so rare. Pine Siskins, however, were more common than usual. With only one previous winter record we were surprised to find Field Sparrows on nine occasions and Vesper Sparrows, with no previous winter record, were seen on five occasions. This is the first time that no Spotted Towhee was found on "the count"; only two glimpsed since.

From February 7 to 13 Horned Larks were abundant and never have we seen so many Lapland Longspurs. The peak numbers were on February 13 when whirling flocks were everywhere. The following day, only a few flocks were seen and thereafter only a few individual Horned Larks were found.

With prolonged drought we felt fortunate to see White-fronted Geese quite often—from six to forty—otherwise very few waterfowl were seen. Highlight of the late fall birding in 1954 were the White-winged Crossbills seen on five dates. There were from one to at least four birds feeding on giant ragweed seed on the banks of the Little Arkansas River in two areas on November 7 and November 26. Edna Ruth, Halstead, Kansas.

Manhattan Area We have an unprecedented number of robins in the vicinity of Manhattan. They are eating hackberries and cedar berries, both of which are plentiful. There are 50-200 robins visiting most of the cedar and hackberry groves in the vicinity regularly, and some groves seem to have their own flocks. We have up to 100 a day in our yard where we keep water available. Some days they actually drink over a gallon of water a day.

December 27, 1954, I drove from here to Pittsburg, and back on December 31. Hawks were extremely scarce. On the entire round trip, I saw only two marsh hawks, 4 red tails, 2 roughlegs, and three unidentified Buetos and only 4 sparrow hawks. On previous years, I have seen several times this number on the trip at the same time of the year, and in 1950 I saw more hawks in a 10 mile stretch on any part of the trip than I saw on this entire 400 mile trip.

On December 18 a snowy owl was brought to me that had been shot near Herrington on December 17. I have heard rumors of others in that area but have been unable to locate the birds or the source of the rumors. H. T. Gier, Manhattan, Kansas.