

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

**BULLETIN**

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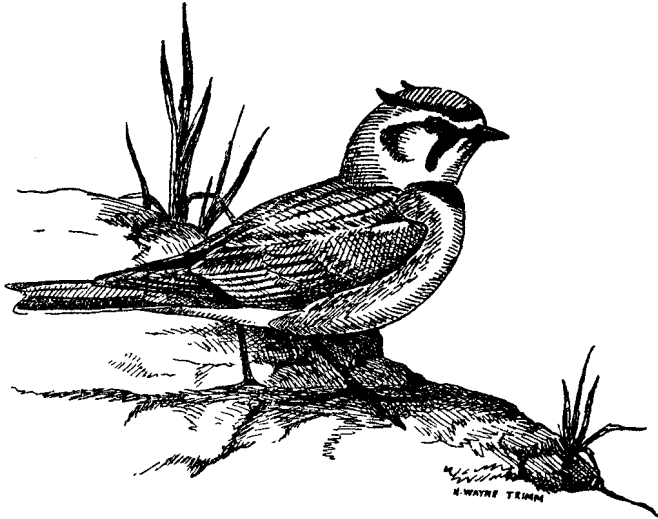
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# The 1955 Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Count was conducted in the period December 23, 1955 to January 3, 1956. A total of 19 stations reported 114 different kinds of birds. Inasmuch as both recognized species and subspecies were reported, the term kinds is used in lieu of species. Due to the large number of participants and stations, and the large number of different kind of birds seen, it is impractical to summarize in tabular form as has been done in the past. The data from each station is summarized in paragraph form. This is followed by a list of birds seen. In each paragraph the information is given in the following order: name of town (station), location of census area, list of participants with compiler's name first, total party-hours in the field, number of birds seen, the total number of species seen, birds of special interest seen during the week not on list.

**Altamount.** Seven and one-half mile radius southeast of Altamount; Violet Von Holten, Lucille Blackburn, Fern Monroe, Irene Nevins; 5 and one-third party-hours; 493 individuals; 23 kinds.

**Ashland** and a radius of two miles around; Leo Brown, Burt Brown, Bob Rethorst; 158 individuals; 30 kinds; 2 scaled quail during week.

**Baldwin.** Seven and one-half mile radius centered 2 miles north of junction of U. S. Highways 50 and 59; Amelia J. Betts, I. L. Boyd, Mrs. I. L. Boyd, T. A. Evans, Mrs. T. A. Evans, Katherine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Mrs. Francis McKaughan, boy scouts Billy Betts, Roger Boyd, Bob Broadfoot, Darrel Craig, Jim Deel, Johnny Harrison, Michael Horn, Merl Johnson, Bill Kapelle and Virgil Rice; 24 party-hours; 5804 individuals; 59 kinds; Ring-necked duck seen during week.

**Burlingame.** Eight mile radius between Burlingame and Harveyville; Daniel Swick, Robert Swick; 4 party-hours; 442 individuals, 28 kinds, 10 Short-eared Owls seen during week.

**Chase County.** Seven and one-half mile radius in eastern Chase County; Edward J. Ryan, Ted Andrews, Marc Marcellus; 7 party-hours, 1364 individuals, 38 kinds.

**Ellinwood.** Robl Game Refuge, Cheyenne Bottoms and Arkansas River; Frank Robl, Gertrude Robl, Frank W. Robl Jr.; 12 observer hours; 2019 individuals; 15 kinds; party-hours not reported.

**Emporia** and vicinity; Ted Andrews, Ed. Calkins, Robert Clarke, Bill Davis, Gil Leisman, Evan Lindquist, Ron McChristy, Carl Prophet, Claire Schelske, Robert Trendel, Cornelius White; 5 party-hours; 3589 individuals; 41 kinds.

**Halstead.** Seven and one-half mile radius centered one mile west of Halstead; Edna L. Ruth, Mrs. A. R. Challans, Marie Dettweiler, Mrs. Walton Goode, Ruth Rose, Alma Ruth, Mrs. Will Stein; 26 party-hours; 6,152 individuals, 39 kinds; Evening Grosbeak and Mockingbird seen during week.

**Hays.** Hays and vicinity; Edwin P. Martin, Charles Choguill, Harold Choguill, Mrs. Ralph Edwards, Bob Henderson, A. M. Schenk, Guido Smith, Emmett Stopher, John Stopher, Gerald Tomanek, Jess Vague, Myril Walker, Wesley Wikoff; 10 party-hours; 1324 individuals; 38 kinds; Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow seen during week.

**Kansas City.** Lake Quivera in Johnson County and Wyandotte County Lake and adjacent areas; Harold Hedges, John Bart, Mrs. John Bart, Elizabeth Cole, David Johnson, Gary Johnson, Ben King, John Mahoney, E. Major, Jim Myers, Mary Louise Myers, Jim Myers Jr., Carol Preston, Father Terence Rhoades, Marion Stein, Bernice Tatum, Fletcher Taylor; 33½ party-hours; 20,566 individuals; 62 kinds.

**Lawrence.** Vicinity of Lawrence, 7½ mile radius centered at Brackett School, 2 miles west of city; Bert S. Chewning, Mrs. Ethan Allen, James W. Bee, Helen M. Chewning, Henry S. Fitch, R. W. Frederickson, Lenore French, Mrs. E. R. Hall, Barbara Hunn, Wess Hunn, Carol Martin, Ethel

Martin, Mrs. John H. Nelson, Judy Willis, Mrs. Mabel Willis; 49 party-hours; 4837 individuals, 57 kinds.

**Manhattan** and vicinity. H. T. Gier, E. K. Beals, Frank Block, Phillip Callahan, John Costello, C. M. Fowler, Donald Gier, Dick Hobson, Bob Iwamoti, Philip King, E. R. Lewis, Jim O'Fallon, Milton Ouye, Mrs. Milton Ouye, Scott Searles, Tim Tjerandsen, Joe Ward, John Waslberg; 30 party-hours; 1887 individuals, 46 kinds.

**Mound City.** 7½ mile radius centered one mile north and ¼ mile east of Mound City; Eunice Dingus, John S. Carr, Wilma Carr, M. Ellen Dingus, Wilson J. Dingus, Ruth D. Fauhl, Blanche McCaslin, Wallace McCaslin, John H. Morse, Mary Morse, Marvin D. Schwilling, Rosetta Stevenson, Frank Wood, John Wood; 46¾ party-hours; 19,026 individuals; 61 kinds; Broad-winged Hawk, Barn Owl, and Winter Wren seen during week.

**Olathe.** 7½ mile radius centered at junction of highways U. S. 50 and K-7; Ray Wackly, Amelia Betts, Barbara Boyd, Ivan L. Boyd, Margaret F. Boyd, Roger Boyd, Robert Broadfoott, Jack Crane, James Deel, Katharine Kelley; 16 party-hours; 7336 individuals, 46 kinds.

**Pittsburg.** Cow Creek west and south of Pittsburg; Theodore Sperry; 9½ party-hours; 1333 individuals, 38 kinds.

**St. Marys.** 7½ mile radius centering at junction of highways U. S. 24 and K-63; Thomas A. Hoffman, D. Eugene Enos, James A. Mulligan; 14½ party-hours; 2119 individuals, 37 kinds; Smith's Longspur seen during week.

**Topeka.** Topeka and surrounding area; L. B. Carson, Elizabeth Fisher, Roberta Foote, Charles Franklin, Mrs. Charles Franklin, Richard Harder, Thomas Hoffman, S. J., Mrs. Charles Hogue, Charles H. Hogue, Grace Holcomb, Carl Holmes, David Holmes, Robert H. Kingman, Esther Miller, T. W. Nelson, Orville O. Rice, Beatrice Swenson, Joyce Thompson, Harold C. Williams, Mabel Willis, Muriel Young; 101 party-hours; 6,099 individuals; 60 kinds; Red Crossbill, Lesser Canada Goose, and Krider's Hawk seen during week.

**Udall.** Six square miles along and east of Arkansas River, west of Udall; Max Thompson, Maurice Baker, Ross Williams; 6 party hours, 1000 individuals, 33 kinds.

**Wichita.** 7½ mile radius centered at junction of Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers; Daniel Kilby, Ed Beals, Barbara Bullock, Dr. Butin, Mrs. Davis, Kirk Downing, Jim Dresser, Mrs. Jim Dresser, Richard Elving, Margaret Hayes, W. R. Moore, Mrs. W. R. Moore, June Rynders, Mrs. Stogsdill, Jennibelle Watson, Louise Watson; 11 party-hours; 3,476 individuals, 51 kinds; Ring-billed Gull seen during week.

In the list of birds reported, the name of the bird is followed by (1) under the heading "frequency" the number of stations reporting that bird, (2) under heading of "specials" are listed the names of the stations reporting a given kind of bird when only one or two stations reported that bird, and (3) the total number of individuals of that kind reported from all stations combined.

A summary of the observations indicates a total of 5 species more than were seen in 1954 and a total of almost 60 per cent more individual birds seen. For this reason a comparison of the two counts is given below. In this summary, the first figure in each instance is that for 1954 and the second for 1955. There were 15 and 19 stations reporting, 137 and 181 observers, 109 and 114 kinds of birds reported and a total of 60,894 and 88,742 individuals reported. The greater number of stations and observers would tend to account for the greater number of species and individuals. Furthermore one of the new stations was at Ashland, in southwestern Kansas, which would also tend to increase the number of kinds seen. It seems most likely that the increase was due to the greater number of observers, and not to a greater number of birds. Summarized by the EDITOR and MAX THOMPSON.

# Summary of 1955 Winter Count

Name	Frequency	Specials	Total
Great Blue Heron	1	Baldwin	1
Canad Goose	4		1,370
Mallard	13		37,422
Black Duck	1	Kansas City	12
Gadwall	1	Lawrence	4
Pintail	6		24
Wood Duck	1	Mound City	3
Lesser Scaup	1	Lawrence	4
American Golden-eye	3		9
American Merganser	3		214
Red-breasted Merganser	2	Ellinwood, Kansas City	12
Ducks sp.			200
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4		7
Cooper's Hawk	8		11
Red-tailed Hawk	16		235
Harlan's Hawk	3		11
Red-shouldered Hawk	5		11
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Pittsburg	1
Swainson's Hawk	1	Chase County	2
American Rough-legged Hawk	13		50
Ferruginous Rough-leg	1	Ashland	1
Golden Eagle	2	Ashland, Ellinwood	4
Bald Eagle	3		6
Marsh Hawk	17		114
Prairie Falcon	2	Ashland, Hays	3
Duck Hawk	1	Mound City	1
Pigeon Hawk	2	Emporia, Topeka	2
Sparrow Hawk	15		80
Greater Prairie Chicken	5		174
Lesser Prairie Chicken	1	Ashland	7
Bobwhite	10		389
Ring-necked Pheasant	6		36
American Coot	2	Kansas City, Mound City	9
Killdeer	2	Olathe, Wichita	6
Wilson's Snipe	3		20
Herring Gull	1	Wichita	1
Tern sp.	1	Topeka	1
Mourning Dove	10		394
Screech Owl	4		6
Great Horned Owl	15		67
Barred Owl	6		14
Long eared Owl	4		14
Short-eared Owl	6		11
Belted Kingfisher	8		16
Yellow-shafted Flicker	15		308
Red-shafted Flicker	12		28
Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker Hybrid	1	Udall	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1	Mound City	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	15		275
Red-headed Woodpecker	8		155
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5		7
Hairy Woodpecker	14		107
Downy Woodpecker	18		444
Horned Lark	15		5,121
Northern Horned Lark	1	Topeka	4

Blue Jay	14		510
American Magpie	1	Ashland	2
Crow	19		2,082
Black-capped Chickadee	15		1,209
Carolina Chickadee	4		28
Tufted Titmouse	16		526
White-breasted Nuthatch	9		42
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5		6
Brown Creeper	16		54
Winter Wren	4		11
Carolina Wren	14		142
Long-billed Marsh Wren	1	Wichita	1
Mockingbird	7		12
Catbird	1	Wichita	1
Brown Thrasher	1	Mound City	1
Robin	15		600
Hermit Thrush	1	Lawrence	1
Eastern Bluebird	13		261
Townsend's Solitaire	3		3
Golden Crowned Kinglet	10		82
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Hays, Mound City	3
Cedar Waxwing	6		111
Loggerhead Shrike	15		107
Starling	19		4,997
English Sparrow	18		4,296
Eastern Meadowlark	8		456
Western Meadowlark	12		555
Meadowlark sp.	7		494
Red-wing	15		2,131
Rusty Blackbird	3		1,568
Brewer's Blackbird	6		1,110
Bronzed Grackle	3		161
Cowbird	5		160
Cardinal	18		1,516
Purple Finch	4		53
House Finch	1	Ashland	2
Pine Siskin	9		75
American Goldfinch	15		1,463
Red Crossbill	2	Hays, Wichita	28
Red-eyed Towhee	7		34
Spotted Towhee	6		16
Savannah Sparrow	2	Mound City, Topeka	12
Vesper Sparrow	1	Wichita	11
Lark Sparrow	1	Hays	2
Slate-colored Junco	17		3,388
Oregon Junco	7		37
Tree Sparrow	15		5,794
Chipping Sparrow	2	Hays, Mound City	11
Field Sparrow	6		101
Harris's Sparrow	16		1,503
White-crowned Sparrow	8		66
White-throated Sparrow	8		82
Fox Sparrow	4		39
Lincoln's Sparrow	3		7
Swamp Sparrow	2	Baldwin, Topeka	2
Song Sparrow	16		541
McCown's Longspur	1	Wichita	108
Lapland Longspur	8		4,675
Chestnut Collared Longspur	1	Burlingame	6
Snow Bunting	1	Burlingame	15
		Total	88,742

# State Bird Notes

## ROADRUNNER IN EASTERN KANSAS

The Roadrunner, *Geococcyx californianus* (Lesson), has been observed in Anderson County, Kansas, about seven miles north of Kincaid. The cover in this area is mostly native prairie grass with a few brushy thickets along water courses. The area in which these birds are known to range is approximately six square miles; two miles east and west and three miles north and south. One individual Roadrunner has been seen regularly four miles north and one and one-half miles west of Kincaid. Three have been seen in the road as a group several times seven miles north and one half mile west of Kincaid. I checked the area on December 14, 1955 and observed one of the birds in the area seven miles north of Kincaid. It jumped out of the road ditch and ran ahead of the car up the road until the car was within twenty or twenty-five feet of it, then it went into the opposite ditch, under the fence and out into a pasture. I stopped the car and backed it up so I could observe the bird. The Roadrunner had gone about ten feet through the fence and taken cover behind a clump of grass, sumac and coralberry. After I watched it for several minutes the bird ran further out into the pasture into better cover. WILLIAM R. BRECHELSEN, Welda, Ks. January 16, 1956.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace McCaslin have been hearing reports of Roadrunners north of Kincaid for years, and they and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus have tried unsuccessfully several times to find this rare bird.

Finally, on Saturday afternoon, January 21, this year, Mr. and Mrs. McCaslin and Mr. and Mrs. Dingus found Roadrunner-like tracks in the snow on the Dean Spillman farm, northeast of Kincaid. The next day Mr. and Mrs. McCaslin and Miss Rosa Edwards went back to the Spillman farm and observed the bird at length.

Monday, January 23, 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Dingus and Marvin D. Schwilging went to the Spillman farm, and found the Roadrunner huddled in brush beside the road. When they got close to it, it leaped, and flew and ran across the snowy field into Mr. Spillman's feedlots.

Since all observers were able to get within 6 feet of the bird before it took flight, there was no doubt of its identification, and in flight it seemed to be in a healthy condition.

Mr. Spillman reports that it hung about his feedlot for several days after that, and then disappeared. However, since as high as three Roadrunners have been reported to the McCaslins at one time, this rarity will surely show up again this far out of its natural range. EUNICE DINGUS, Mound City, Feb. 21, 1956.

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## News

**Halstead** The continued severe drought undoubtedly accounts for the scarcity of many species. Olive-backed Thrushes were few this fall although the more rare Hermit Thrush visited our yard twice. The Spotted Towhees vanished by the end of October. Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins were seen only a few times; even Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets are scarce. Bewick's Wren, rather unusual here, called on us November 11 and 21. Very few White-crowned, White-throated, Field and Vesper Sparrows were seen, and no Fox Sparrows at all.

The only Townsend's Solitaire this fall was the one seen by Jo Chalan, November 6, near County Park. Jo also had the first Halstead record of an Evening Grosbeak at her place northwest of town on November 13. That we three should also see an Evening Grosbeak about 7 miles northeast of town on December 25, is a strange coincidence. Could it have been the same one? EDNA L. RUTH, January 13, 1956.

**McPherson** On November 19, 1955, while driving through the cemetery, four Evening Grosbeaks were seen in a bare decid-  
1955. Again on February 19, 1956, Edna Neher saw three of the grosbeaks in the same general vicinity in which the four were seen on November 19, 1955. Again on February 19, 1956, Edna Neher saw three of the Grosbeaks in a cedar tree in the cemetery.

On January 1, 1956, Bertha Beam saw for the first time this winter a Townsend's Solitaire in the cemetery. The Solitaire was seen later on January 14 and February 7. A Solitaire wintered in this area during the winter of 1954-1955.

A flock of approximately 20 Cedar Waxwings has been seen in the cemetery several times during February. No Bohemian Waxwings were in the flock this year. Last winter, during December and January, a large flock of waxwings stayed around the general area of the McPherson College campus. In the flock were approximately 10-12 handsome Bohemian Waxwings. VIRGINIA HARRIS, February 21, 1956.

**Manhattan** Birding in and around Manhattan has been quite dull all winter, with woodpeckers, wrens, and kinglets relatively scarce. Red-shafted Flickers and Oregon Juncos have been unusually hard to find. Meadowlarks and Prairie Horned Larks wintered here in about normal numbers, and Robins were here in fair numbers. I have seen few Short-eared Owls, which normally winter here in considerable numbers. The Greater Prairie Chicken is numerous, with approximately 150 flushed during one coyote hunt. A flock of seven Redpolls frequented my feeding station almost daily from January 26 to March 19. Six Red Crossbills, four in full male plumage, were seen on the Kansas State College campus March 18. Mrs. Ed Dailey of Junction City reported a flock of approximately twenty Evening Grosbeaks coming to her feeding station from February 7 through March 19, and a Golden Eagle wintered in the McDowell Creek valley southeast of Junction City. H. T. GIER, March 29, 1956.

**Udall** This winter has been a rather uneventful one here in South Central Kansas. We had four species show up which are worth mentioning. While driving around Cowley County on January 21, we saw a Golden Eagle east of Arkansas City. It is the first one we have seen in this area. Two Prairie Falcons were seen north of Udall on January 15, one at the Cowley County State Lake on January 21 and two west of Grenola in Elk County on February 12. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen north of Winfield on February 12. Among the sparrows, the only newcomer was a Fox Sparrow seen on February 19. MAX THOMPSON, Udall, Kansas, March 1, 1956.

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### URGENT NEED FOR BANDING MOURNING DOVES

The Fish and Wildlife Service is faced with a lack of specific information needed in its management planning to assure adequate protection of the Mourning Dove. The only remedy to this situation will be a great increase in dove banding definitely associated with nesting areas over the entire breeding range. The most effective procedure appears to be to organize the banding of dove nestlings on a large scale.

Persons over 18 years of age, who are able to recognize Mourning Doves, and who are interested in obtaining a banding permit of their own and in keeping the necessary records themselves, may apply to the **Bird Banding Office, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland**. Individuals or organizations interested in helping find nests but not in the responsibility of actually placing the bands and keeping the records according to prescribed form are encouraged to assist licensed banders with this essential "nest scouting." Condensed from a mimeo released by Fish & Wildlife Service.

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held at the University of Wichita, April 28 and 29, 1956.

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Have You Paid  
Your Dues for  
1956?

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The Checklist of the Birds of Kansas, by Harrison B. Tordoff, is now available from the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas.

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