Kansas Ornithological Society

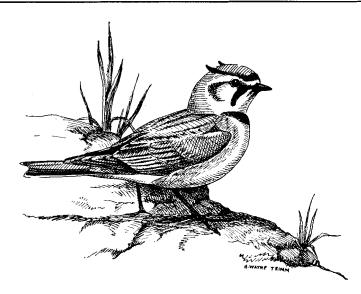
BULLETIN

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No. 1



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CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1956

JOHN WILLIAM HARDY

The 1956 Christmas Census was one of the more successful year-end bird counts in the history of the K.O.S. from the point of view of total species seen (104), numbers of individuals seen, rarities recorded (e.g. Cathirds, Brown Thrashers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Snow Buntings), number of counts received and number of participants. Because of the sum of these factors considerably more time was required in preparation of the census for publication. Most of the rare birds recorded were carefully identified by more than one observer, and in a majority of the cases the editor received (either verbally or in detailed written notes appended to the census forms) comments concerning the identification. In a few cases it was regrettably necessary to omit certain species for which no comments were received, and which are considered as accidental in winter in Kansas. Among such species were the Swainson's Hawk and the Chipping Sparrow. The occurrence of these two forms in Kansas in winter must be substantiated by specimens or by some other kind of positive evidence (photographs, observation by several qualified observers, etc.) before they can be accepted in the Christmas count. It was decided that except for "Meadowlark sp." all counts of this sort (Buteo sp., Blackbird sp., Goose sp.) would be omitted since except for the Meadowlark, these identifications could refer to more than two species or even genera. Spotted Towhee counts were retained even though the Spotted and Eastern forms are now considered races of the same species. The two are certainly separable in the field and in future years knowledge of the comparative numbers of them at localities in the region of winter overlap may be of value to ornithologists. The same might be said for Harlan's and Red-tailed Hawks. In future Christmas censuses greater accuracy can be attained and quicker publication achieved if the following suggestions will be heeded: Check carefully your species and individual totals. A majority of the totals were wrongly computed in the present count! In several counts Eastern, Western, and Meadowlark sp. were counted as *three* species instead of two. In others faulty addition alone was responsible. Four censuses failed to list the English Sparrow. We may hope that the cause was that species' absence, but this seems unlikely. When in doubt concerning the possibility of a species occurring in your area, check the known range in some authoritative source (your Peterson Guide will usually suffice). One count listed ten Carolina Chickadees 150 miles north of their northernmost known distribution in Kansas, and at the same time listed no Black-capped Chickadees. (The editor took the liberty of changing this to the latter species.) It may be discouraging to count such things as English Sparrows and Starlings but an indication of their numbers such as "too many" leaves us no alternative but to designate their presence with an "X." So please estimate numerically. Be sure that your information concerning weather, size of area, localities covered etc. are accurate. Many counts gave the velocity of the wind but did not state its direction! Consult a copy of the Christmas census in Audubon Field Notes for the method of preparing this important information.—J.W.H.

Baldwin (7½ mile radius centering 2 miles north of junction of U.S. Highways 50 and 59; open grasslands 25 per cent, cultivated fields 15 per cent, brushland 20 per cent, woods 30 per cent, lake or river 10 per cent).—December 27; 8½ hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to cloudy; ground muddy; temperature 35° to 50°; wind S, 2 to 10 m.p.h. Observers 12; miles covered 191 by car, 15 on foot. Observers: Amelia J. Betts (compiler), Dr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Barbara and Roger Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans, Mrs. C. W. Gates, Katharine Kelley, Mrs. Francis McKaughan, Dr. R. F. Miller, Grace Preston.

Chase County (7½ mile radius in eastern Chase County; open grassland 59 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, brushland 10 per cent, woods 10 per cent, lake or river 1 per cent).—December 30; 6½ hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; ground very dry; temperature 45°to 60°; wind 20 m.p.h. in gusts. Observers 2; miles covered 60 by car, 4½ on foot. Observers: Marc Marcellus, Edward J. Ryan (compiler).

Ellinwood (Frank W. Robl Game Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms; open grassland 90 per cent, cultivated fields 10 per cent).—December 27; 6 hours, 11:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. Clear; ground bare; temperature 55°; wind 0–5 m.p.h. Observers 2; miles covered 50 by car, [number of miles by foot not given.—Ed.]. Observers: Frank W. Robl (compiler), Frank W. Robl, Jr. and "4 teachers" (!).

Emporia (Emporia and vicinity in Lyon Co.; open grassland 45 per cent, cultivated fields 10 per cent, brushland 15 per cent, woods 15 per cent, lake or river 15 per cent). December 23; 5½ hours, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Overcast with rain and mist; ground bare; temperature 40° to 47°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Observers 13; miles covered 238 by car, 10 on foot. Observers: Ted F. Andrews (compiler), Bob Clarke, Bill Davies, Virgil Dowell, Ed Gardner, Clyde Goulden, G. A. Leisman, Kenneth Minter, Carl Prophet, Stan Roth, H. A. Stephens, Bob Trublicka, Con White.

Halstead (7½ mile radius centering 1 mile west of Halstead, chiefly along Little Arkansas River; open grassland 14 per cent, cultivated fields 16 per cent, hedgerows 5 per cent, wooded river bottoms 65 per cent). December 26; 9 hours, 7:20 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Clear, bright; ground mostly bare; temperature 33° to 50°; wind NNW, 12 m.p.h. Observers 6; miles covered 114 by car, 9 on foot. Observers: Mrs. A. R. Challans, Marie Dettweiler, Annabelle Dyck, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Alma K. Ruth, Edna L. Ruth (compiler).

Hays (College Campus Experimental Station, to Saline River; open grassland 10 per cent, cultivated fields 10 per cent, brushland 25 per cent, river bottom woods 30 per cent). December 27; 8 hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; ground dry; temperature 27° to 62° ; wind N. Observers 9; miles covered 15 by car, 10 on foot. Compiler: L. D. Wooster.

Kansas City (from Fairfax Bridge, north along Missouri River; brushland 75 per cent, woods 25 per cent). January 1; 4 hours, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; ground bare, frozen; temperature 30°; wind 0 to 5 m.p.h. Observers 2; miles covered 10 by car, [miles on foot not given.—Ed.]. Observers: Fr. Terence Rhodes, Mrs. John Mahoney.

Lawrence (same as in past years). December 27; 8½ hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; ground dry and bare; temperature 38° to 58°; wind NW, 8 to 12 m.p.h. Observers 11; miles covered 179 by car, 20 on foot. Observers: Mrs. Ethan Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Chewning (compiler), Henry S. Fitch, Norman L. Ford, R. W. Fredrickson, Lenore French, Wess Hunn, Ethel Martin, Mrs. John H. Nelson, Harrison B. Tordoff.

Linn County (same as in past years). December 30; 11 hours, 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; ground bare; temperature 25° to 65°; wind S, 0–15 m.p.h. Observers 6; miles covered 28 by car, 13% on foot. Observers: Wilson Dingus, Eunice Dingus (compiler), Ruth D. Fauhl, Marshall Fauhl, Frank Wood, Richard Wurtz (The Linn County Audubon Society).

Manhattan (north, west and southeast of Manhattan; open grassland 40 per cent, cultivated fields 15 per cent, brushland 15 per cent, woods 25 per cent, lakes or river 5 per cent. December 24; 9 hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; ground 3 inch snow; temperature 20° to 30°; wind WNW, 20 m.p.h. Observers 5, in 2 parties; miles covered 6 by car, 24 on foot. Observers: E. K. Beals, Don Gier, H. T. Gier (compiler), Eugene Lewis, Philip Marvin.

Olathe (circle including the Gardner Lake, the old and new Olathe lakes and Olathe reservoir; open grasslands 25 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, town 3 per cent, woods 32 per cent, lake or river 20 per cent). January 1; 8% hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear to cloudy; ground moist, temperature 28° to 32°; wind 10 m.p.h. Observers 11 in 2 parties; miles covered 145 by car, 7 on foot. Observers: Amelia Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd (compiler), Barbara Boyd, Roger Boyd, Harold DeShazer, Jerry DeShazer, Katharine Kelley, R. F. Miller, Mrs. Francis McKaughan, Miadell McKaughan.

Parsons (Altamont, Parsons, Oswego in Labette Co., Lake McKinley in Neosho Co.; open grassland 40 per cent, cultivated fields 40 per cent, brushland 10 per cent, woods 5 per cent, lake or river 5 per cent). December 26; 7 2/3 hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Mostly clear; ground damp; temperature 29° to 55°; wind S. Observers 3; miles covered 69 by car, 1½ on foot. Observers: Irene Nevins, Lucille Blackburn, Fern Monroe

	Bałdwin	Chase Co.	Ellinwood	Emporia	Halstead	Hays	Kansas City	Lawrence	Linn Co.	Manhattan	Olathe	Parsons	Lake Quivira	St. Mary's	Topeka	Trading Post	Udail	Wheaton	Welda	Wichita
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Pintail	_			1					4		-	2	_		2		—	—	_	
Green-winged Teal Canvas-back	5					_	_		2	_	_				7	_	_			_
Lesser Scaup Duck	_	—			6		_	2			-				2	—	—			-
American Golden-eye Hooded Merganser			_	_				_			_		3 1		1 3					
American Merganser	10		11			—	_	—	—	-		_	97	—	$\frac{100}{2}$		—		<u> </u>	-
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Harlan's Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk	7		_						$\frac{2}{1}$	_				_		1	1			4 1
American Rough-legged Hawk			$\frac{1}{2}$	3	13	_	_	_	3	—	2	-			1			1	1	
Ferruginous Rough leg Golden Eagle	_	_	1		_	_						_	_	_	_	_		_	_	
Bald Eagle	11		1 6	16		$\frac{1}{2}$	_	18	54	2	<u></u>	11		_	2	<u> </u>	2	3	7	6
Marsh Hawk Prairie Falcon	·	8 1	0 2	10 	3 1	<u> </u>	_	18	J4 			<u> </u>		_		_		ъ —	—	
Duck Hawk	-								—		_		_	—	$\frac{2}{1}$					
Pigeon Hawk Sparrow Hawk	$\frac{-}{12}$	2	1	15	6	5	_	20	4		8	8	_	2	4			1	1	18
Greater Prairie Chicken	52	_		14 62		_	 30	 35	$\overline{12}$	55	7			27 50	60 45	—		_	47	<u> </u>
Bob-white Ring-necked Pheasant	53 —		5	_	13	19	30	33 —	12	55 				50 1	45 1	_	25		11	2
American Coot			_	2			_				2	26 1			7	—			_	2
Killdeer Wilson's Snipe								7									5			11 10
Herring Gull		—	30			-				—		16		-			-			-
Mourning Dove Rock Dove	28	_		2 374	4 18			8	35 		92	16 19	_	56 —	35 350	_			17	\mathbf{x}^{2}
Barn Owl					_	-	—	1	—		—	_				.— •••	_	—		
Screech Owl					_			_	1			_	1					_	_	_
Great Horned Owl	5	_		4	6	3		15	11 1	3	4		1	1 1	4		4	1 1	1	4 1
Barred Owl Long-eared Owl	$\frac{1}{2}$	_		1		_	_	_	_			_		-	_	_				
Short-eared Owl		—	—	2		$\frac{2}{1}$	1	1	<u> </u>		-		1	1	2	$\frac{-}{1}$	-	—	3	
Belted Kingfisher Yellow-shafted Flicker	21	1	_	63	12	4	3	38	13	2	25	3	5	2	3			6	1	6 8
Red-shafted Flicker	1			—	5	—	—			—	—		-	2			1			5
Pileated Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker	28	7	_	23		_	1	24	3 20	9	9	3	6	16	6	1	1 3	2		6
Red-headed Woodpecker	27			ī				12	31		1	1	_		4	6			1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Hairy Woodpecker	1 5	1		4	2	7		1 7	 4	6	4			1 3	1 3		1	1	_	$1 \\ 10$
Downy Woodpecker	23	17		15	34	2	2	31	19	13	9	5	6	8	7	5	7	9	1	17
Horned Lark Blue Jav	271 103	25 6		$\begin{array}{c} 171 \\ 24 \end{array}$	270	28 	_	71 65	35 40	24 70	264 36	$\frac{50}{12}$	35	20 4	75 18	5	85 —	8 8	20	16 3
Crow	156	6	75	92	1333	253		184	21	80	315	49	5	39	15	6	71	13	2	536
Black-capped Chickadee Carolina Chickadee	179	14		93 —	31	21	10	115	61	26 	71	5	10	27	23	28	13	37	3	$\frac{145}{5}$
Tufted Titmouse	83	8	-	19	26	-	1	39	42	11	18	40	25	8	13	24	10	1	1	21
White-breasted Nuthatch Brown Creeper	7	1		2	3	5		1	6 1	1	_	_			2			1	1	
Winter Wren	1	1		—	6			1	—	-	1				$\frac{1}{2}$	-	1		—	3
Bewick's Wren Carolina Wren	7			2			2	1 7	13		2	1	6	1	1		3	2		1 3
Long-billed Marsh Wren		_	—	_	_	—	_	_			_				—	—	_		—	1
Mockingbird Catbird	8	_	_					$\frac{3}{1}$	6	1	_	3	_		$\frac{2}{1}$					1
Brown Thrasher				-		_	_	1	_	_	_		_		$\overline{2}$				—	
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Mountain Bluebird	15			1							-					-		<u> </u>		<u>12</u>
Townsend's Solitaire Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	3	_	1	2	9	_	2	_	1				2	2			_		5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u> </u>		_	_	<u> </u> -			2	_		_		_	_	$\frac{2}{1}$		_			ъ
American Pipit Cedar Waxwing	2			_		2		6 1							52					
Loggerhead Shrike	15	2	_	1	2	_		20	9		15	22	—	2	3	1	3	1	1	10
Starling	$1718 \\ 1002$	320 815	25 X	1478	211 207	300 100	2	653 413	724 44	40 60	414 1370	46 238	20	53 79	470	_	119	85	30	1500
English Sparrow Eastern Meadowlark	57			214	1	-		2	44 39		12	238 132			$345 \\ 12$	_	105	555	4	600 7
Western Meadowlark	131	65	19	-	334	29		53	1	70	17		—	143	14					3
Meadowlark sp.	67			_	-			243	199	—	245	_	_		70		92	131		240

Wichita	$\begin{array}{c} 199\\ 100\\ 110\\ 110\\ 110\\ 112\\ 112\\ 112\\ 112$
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Lawrence	$\begin{array}{c c} 30\\ 30\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56\\ 56$
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Emporia	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
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	Yellow-headed Blackbird Red-wing Rusty Blackbird Brows-te Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird Brown-headed Cowbird Cardinal Purple Finch Pine Siskin Eastern Goldfinch Red-eyed Towhee Spotted Towhee Spotted Towhee Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Field Sparrow White-throated Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Eastrow Fizz Sparrow Uncoln's Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Song Sparrow Lapland Longspur Total Species

(compiler). [A census covering much of the same area as the one above was taken on December 28 by F. E. Willsie, but has been omitted because of space limitations.]

Lake Quivira (lake and surrounding marshland and woodland; brushland 25 per cent, woods 25 per cent, lake or river 50 per cent). December 23; 3 hours, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Overcast; ground wet with snow; temperature 30°; wind NE, 10 m.p.h. Observers 5; miles covered 6 by car, 2 on foot. Observers [names not given except that of compiler]: Harold C. Hedges.

St. Marys (7½ mile radius centered in St. Marys; open grassland 20 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, brushland 30 per cent, woods 25 per cent, lake or river 5 per cent. Overcast to partly cloudy; ground bare and damp; temperature 35° to 45° ; wind WSW, 0 to 4 m.p.h. Observers 2; miles covered 66 by car, 6 on foot. Observers: D. Eugene Enos, Rev. Thomas A. Hoffman (compiler).

Topeka (circle centering on the State House; open grassland 25 per cent, cultivated fields 25 per cent, brushland 15 per cent, woods 10 per cent, lake or river 25 per cent. December 29; 9 hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy to clear; ground bare; temperature 31° to 57°; wind 0 to 17 m.p.h. Observers 18; miles covered 454 by car, 29 on foot. Observers: John Atkinson, L. B. Carson (compiler), Roberta Foote, Ben Franklin, Charles Franklin, Dr. Gerard Haigh, Mrs. Walter Huxman, Florence Mc-Kinney, Mrs. Charles Martin, A. Pearl Mause, Mrs. Nyle H. Miller, T. W. Nelson, Orville O. Rice, Lee Rolfs, Marvin Rolfs, Mrs. L. G. Thorpe, Raymond Willett, Harold C. Williams.

[A census covering an area adjacent to the one above was taken on December 28 by Carson, B. and C. Franklin, Nelson, and Willett, but is omitted here because of space limitations.]

Trading Post (40 acres of Caboose Club land; brushland 8 per cent, woods 10 per cent, lake or river 82 per cent. December 31; 2¼ hours, 12:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Cloudy; ground bare; temperature 45°; wind NW, 7 m.p.h. Observers 3; miles covered "40 acres on foot." Observers: Gordon C. Sauer (compiler), Marvin Schwilling, Shirley Schwilling.

Udall (7½ mile radius centering in the town; open grassland 25 per cent, cultivated fields 10 per cent, brushland 10 per cent, woods 25 per cent, lake or river 30 per cent. December 28; 9 hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; ground wet; temperature 35° to 46° ; wind NW, 30 m.p.h. Observers 3; miles covered 30 by car, 5 on foot. Observers: Kirk Downing, Max Thompson (compiler), Ross Williams.

Welda (circle centering 2 miles south Welda; open grassland 75 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, brushland 5 per cent. December 25; 2 hours, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; ground bare; temperature 50°; wind S. Observer 1; miles covered 2 on foot. Observer: William R. Brecheisen.

Wheaton (7½ mile radius, centering 1 mile west of Pottawatomie County Lake; grassland 38 per cent, cultivated fields 23 per cent, brushland 27 per cent, woods 10 per cent, lake or river 2 per cent. January 1; 6 hours, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; ground damp to dry; temperature 12° to 35°; wind 8 to 11 m.p.h. Observers 3; miles covered 55 by car, 0 on foot. Observers: Mrs. James Walsh, Judy Willis, Mrs. Mabel Willis (compiler).

Wichita (7½ mile radius centering at junction of Big and Little Arkansas rivers; open grasslands 50 per cent, cultivated fields 20 per cent, brushland 20 per cent, woods 5 per cent, lake or river 5 per cent. December 30; 10 hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; ground bare and dry; temperature 51°; wind SW, 12 m.p.h. Observers 20; miles covered 150 by car, 27½ on foot. Observers: Kathleen Blum, Walker Butin, Kirk Downing, Pauline Downing, Dick Elvin, Don Ferguson, Carl Holmes, David Holmes, Dan Kilby (compiler), Geneva Kinkade, Barbara Stafford, Elizabeth Stafford, Bill Stark, Bob Stark, Corky Stark, Max Thompson, Jennibelle Watson, Louise Watson, Mary Wiley, Ralph Wiley.

A second specimen of the Golden-winged Warbler from Kansas.—On May 11, 1957, we secured a Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera) two miles north of Baldwin, Douglas County, Kansas. The bird was a female, weighed 10.7 grams, and had the ovary slightly enlarged (approximately 5×6 millimeters). The bird was feeding with a male of the same species along a roadside in the understory of deciduous forest. Although there are several sight records of Golden-winged Warblers in Kansas, this is only the second specimen from the state (see Tordoff, 1956. Check-list of the birds of Kansas. Univ. Kans. Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., 8(5):342). The first specimen was a female (KU 12700) collected by E. R. Hall on May 2, 1921, 3 miles south of Lawrence, Douglas County (Hall, 1921. Auk, 38:607). The newly acquired individual is in the University of Kansas collection.—JOHN WILLIAM HARDY AND NORMAN L. FORD, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, May 22, 1957.

The Kansas Ornithological Society has a serious problem; its present financial condition prohibits increase in size of the *Bulletin* and may in fact force us to curtail our publication. We think that most of the members of this society agree that continued publication of the *Bulletin* is necessary to the existence of the organization in a formal and significant sense. We hope that you, as members, will act now to strengthen the society financially. There are several pathways open by which this can be done: enlistment of new members, encouragement of former members to rejoin the society, girts of money, and increase of numbers of sustaining members. Unless we act now, we may be forced to the next alternative—increase of regular membership dues to two dollars.—Eds.

Several members and subscribers have recently expressed interest in completing their files of the Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin. One source of confusion is that volumes 1 and 2 contained fewer than four numbers. Presented here is a list of all issues published to date. Back issues are available for 25 cents per number. Please send orders to the Editor.

Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2 Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2, 3 Vol. 3, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 Vol. 4, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 Vol. 5, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 Vol. 6, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 Vol. 7, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 (comb.), 4 Vol. 8, No. 1 (this issue)

Last year lack of material made it necessary to combine K.O.S. Bulletin Nos. 2 and 3 into a single issue. We hope to avoid doing this again. Please send us papers, notes, and news. We can guarantee prompt and accurate publication—the former is a luxury that major ornithological journals cannot always furnish. Reprints of articles can be ordered by the author (in quantities of 100 or multiples of 100), provided that the reprint order accompanies the manuscript.—H.B.T.

Published June 10, 1957