

## 1967 Breeding Bird Census

John L. Zimmerman

The Kansas Ornithological Society has been complimented by the Fish and Wildlife Service for its participation in the 1967 Breeding Bird Census conducted by the Migratory Bird Populations Station at Laurel, Maryland. On two separate occasions both Ted Van Velzen and Chandler Robbins asked me to thank all the participants for their excellent coverage. For the first run they thought it was quite remarkable.

If you remember June, it was quite a rainy, blustery month (but then, what June in Kansas is not?). As weekend after weekend of violent weather passed, I began to wonder whether any censuses would be taken, particularly since, according to the rules, counts could not be made in high or even moderate winds or during prolonged rains. Indeed some counts could not be completed because of the weather, while other routes had to be altered due to washed-out bridges and impassable roads. Yet KOS members and friends did complete their routes - 26 out of the 35 scheduled - and with a considerable amount of effort and perseverance, the extent of which the rest of us will probably never know. I just wonder what time Mrs. T. M. O'Keefe of Towner, Colorado had to get up in order to arrive one-half hour before sunrise at the starting point of her two routes that averaged over 50 miles away from her home, or T. R. Mollhagen, who had three of the routes that he completed starting from points over 60 miles from Hays.

Even though the censuses were conducted by car, all the participants I heard from wrote that it was hard work, but interesting work - for example, comments from such active birders as Tom Shane of Junction City that he never realized that Yellow Warblers were so abundant in June. I'm sure that everyone gained a better understanding of the summer birds of Kansas through their census efforts. And the great thing about the whole business is that this information can be shared with others so that a continent-wide understanding of species occurrences can be obtained for a given season as well as the chance to relate population changes from year to year.

I would like to thank the following persons personally as well as on behalf of our society for their effort in the 1967 census. Not all of them were able to complete their routes, but all of them agreed to try. Unfortunately I do not know the names of all the people who helped these people, but we owe them too an equal debt of thanks. Known 1967 participants: Mrs. A. R. Challans, Dave Coleman, Charles A. Ely, W. I. Harrison, Mrs. Ivan E. Herrmann, M. Gary Hosket, Carl S. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Hunt, J. C. Johnson, Mrs. Arnold Latscher, Wilfred A. Meier, T. R. Mollhagen, Mrs. T. M. O'Keefe, David F. Parmelee, Orville O. Rice, Joseph C. Saunders, Marvin D. Schwilling, Thomas G. Shane, C. O. Smith, T. M. Sperry, Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Volkland, and Mrs. John C. Willis. Again, my thanks.

By the way, if you live close to any of these people, please feel free to offer your help, I'm sure they will accept it. It really takes more than one person to conduct each route; there are so many things to do at once. Also, two routes, one in Clark County and another in Comanche County were not assigned. Any volunteers? Let's have complete coverage next year. What is the status of the Dickcissel in Clark County anyway?

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## Summer 1967 Report from Camp Towanyak \*

Mary Louise and Jim Myers

After a spring migration that proved to be the poorest one in our 13 years at the camp, summer moved in and appeared to follow the same pattern. During the cold, wet, weeks of early June and up into July some of the migrants tarried later than usual.

June 1 - small warbler wave (2 Mourning, 2 Kentucky, 1 Yellow-throat, 1 Louisiana Water-thrush); Swainson Thrush (12); Empidonax Flycatchers - 10 (1 positive Alder); Bluebird (male brought 4 fledglings from first brood to feeding tray).

\* Camp Towanyak is in Shawnee, Kansas, 11 miles west of the Kansas City Country Club Plaza district and is always included in the Kansas City region bird seasonal reports.

- June 2 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo (first for season); very late date; scarce all summer; Mourning Warbler (Last date).  
 5 - Cedar Waxwing (35, rather late date).  
 6 - Bewick Wren (first date) moved on.  
 10 - House Wren - first appearance at nesting box; present a week then left; apparently unable to locate a mate.
- July 1 - Bluebirds - second clutch left nest; all disappeared (usually have third or fourth nesting).  
 9 - Carolina Wren - second brood left nest.
- Aug..11 - Carolina Wren - started nesting again.  
 24 - Purple Martin - last date, at Towanyak.  
 25 - Carolina Wren - chicks hatched; Robins - 25 or more congregated under lawn sprinkler.

Chickadees and titmice seemed to have fair nesting success and brought fledglings to the feeders as did Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Robins and jays did fairly well. Cardinals seemed to have some difficulty with no young observed all summer. Wood Thrushes, vireos, water-thrushes, and Parula and Kentucky Warblers did not remain to nest as usual. Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows seemed about as usual.

Five pairs of Purple Martins tried nesting but I am not sure of the outcome. I think the unseasonably cold early summer was very hard on the martins and those that had arrived earliest and begun their nesting, I feel sure, lost their young, for there just was nothing flying for them to feed on. The adults became so thin and emaciated they could scarcely fly, but we did not find any dead.

Tanagers were scarce - - with perhaps only two pairs of Summer and one pair of Scarlet and I am not sure the latter stayed. Cowbirds were abundant and came to scattered grain, along with many Indigo Buntings early in the summer (the latter part of May) but in spite of this I did not see a single bird of any species feeding Cowbird young. I removed one Cowbird egg from the nest of our only pair of meadowlarks, coming upon the nest quite by chance in June. Cowbirds completely dispersed by August 1.

Wood pewees, Crested Flycatchers and Mourning Doves nested but in greatly reduced numbers. Orioles were fairly common in late May, but thinned out completely by the middle of June. Two pairs of Phoebes began nesting, but I do not believe they were successful. Towhees did not stay to nest. We used to have chats but have not had one for several years.

The complete clearing and scalping of over 100 acres of woodland directly east of Towanyak was a low blow this summer and will no doubt have quite an adverse effect on future bird reports from this area. In addition to this complete denuding of the land, removal of important food supplies for many species, the creek which runs through our place was cut off, dozed in and filled. Although this was mainly a wet weather creek, it always had some water in it and usually ran enough to keep it from becoming stagnant. This will mean an end to our creek at Towanyak, as future rains will only wash in and deposit silt and fill it up. Our birds and other wildlife will suffer from the loss of their water supply. Have you ever watched a beautiful woodland die? It is not a pleasant or pretty sight or sound. It will haunt me the rest of my days.

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KOS - NOS Fall Meeting

Marvin Schwilling

The joint fall meeting of the KOS-NOS was held at Lovewell Reservoir on October 14 and 15, 1967. Sixty-four persons attended -- 26 from Nebraska; 37 from Kansas; 1 from Texas. Saturday afternoon was warm with partly cloudy skies; Sunday was cloudy with rain during most of the morning. At least 92 species were recorded as follows:

Horned Grebe; Western Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Canada Goose; White-fronted Goose; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Blue-winged Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Wood Duck; Redhead; Ring-necked Duck; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Swainson Hawk; Rough-legged Hawk; Bald Eagle; Marsh Hawk; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Sandhill Crane; Bob-white; Ring-necked Pheasant; American Coot; Killdeer; Lesser Yellow-legs; Baird Sandpiper; Dunlin; Sanderling; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Franklin Gull; Mourning Dove; Horned Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Red-shafted Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-headed Woodpecker; Hairy Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Horned Lark; Barn Swallow; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-billed Magpie; Black-capped Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; House Wren; Robin; Eastern Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing;

Starling; Orange-crowned Warbler; Myrtle Warbler; House Sparrow; Eastern Meadowlark; Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red-winged Blackbird; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Cardinal; American Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Grasshopper Sparrow; Vesper Sparrow; Lark Sparrow; Slate-colored Junco; Oregon Junco; Tree Sparrow; Field Sparrow; Harris Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Lincoln Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

The list of participants with home towns follows: NEBRASKA: Aurora - Mr. and Mrs. Kermit S. Swanson; Beatrice - Kent Fiata; Bradshaw - Mr. and Mrs. Loc Morris; Crete - Bill Huntley; Mr. and Mrs. Everett W. Gross; Hastings - Mrs. A. M. Jones; Mrs. Wanda Snyder; Hyannis - Mrs. R. R. Bilstein; Lincoln - Florence Wilson, Dorothy Wilson, Florence Blacketer, Mrs. C. J. Best, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harrington; Roseland - Mrs. Helen Goble; Superior - Marian Day, Mrs. Earle Lionberger; Sutton - Mr. and Mrs. Elden Percival. TEXAS: Big Sandy - Tony Heskit. KANSAS: Admire - Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schulenberg; Baldwin City - Amelia J. Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd; Roger Baker, Jan Hoch, Katharine B. Kelley; Great Bend - Marvin Schwilling, Gary Lee Schwilling; Junction City - Celia White, Robert L. La Shelle, Jo Dailey; Lawrence - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Garrett, Byron E. Berger, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Fahl; Manhattan - John L. Zimmerman, Phil Marvin, David Marvin, Thomas Shane; Mankato - Merle Guy Hesket; Olathe - Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wackley, Sherri Sanders, Joe Sanders; Quinter - Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Meier; Richmond - Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Edwards; Carl Edwards; Topeka - Mr. and Mrs. Rod Runyan; Wichita - Mr. and Mrs. Carl Holmes, David W. Holmes.

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Fall Report      Camp Towanyak      Shawnee, Kansas

Jim and Mary Louise Myers

We have spent very little time afield this fall and most of our notes comprise sightings made on the camp grounds during the course of duties. Many times a little warbler was caught us without binoculars.

Sep 4	Wood Thrush; Kentucky Warbler Whip-poor-will (1st in a long time) Chimney Swifts (many) Nighthawks (10 or 12)	Oct 2	Solitary Vireo; Summer Tanager Yellow-billed Cuckoo Orange-crowned Warbler (banded) *Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)
5	Red-eyed Vireo (singing) Chestnut-sided Warbler (full plumage) Nighthawks (migrating - hundreds)		Grackles and robins very numerous Yellow-shafted Flicker (5)
6	Nighthawks (many hundreds) Carolina Wren (young left nest today) Rufous-sided Towhee	3	Bluebirds (3); Barn Swallows (3) Cardinals (4 or 5 juveniles) Warbling Vireo (1) Chimney Swifts (2); Flickers (6)
12	Scarlet Tanager	5	Nighthawks (10)
15	Scarlet Tanager ) both singing Summer Tanager ) Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	White Pelicans (2 big flocks, 350, 76, around noon) Nashville Warblers (3) Black-throated Green Warbler Myrtle Warbler (2) Ruby-cro. Kinglets (3 or 4) Chimney Swifts and Barn Swallows still here. Robins and grackles fewer now Monarch Butterflies migrating very high, could pick them up with binoculars.
16	Whip-poor-will Nighthawks seem to have gone		
19	Carolina Wren (another brood left nest today, late date?; 5 nestings of Carolinas that we KNOW of. Yellow-billed Cuckoo Wood-pewees (2); Summer Tanager Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2) Robins (100's, woods full of them)	9	Grackles (huge flock of 3000 at 7:30 a.m.) Ruby-crowned Kinglets (7) Yellow-throat; Flickers (4) Hummingbirds (2) Chimney Swifts still here
21	Myrtle Warbler (2); Grackles (100's) Blackpoll Warbler (1) Several unidentified warblers Yellow-billed Cuckoos; Flickers (2) Summer Tanager; Flickers (2) *Waxwings (heard flock of about 7)		
23	Bluebirds (first in long time) Grackles and robins (hundreds) Chimney Swifts (still here)	11	*Golden-crowned Kinglet
24	Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (on way to Osawatomie, Kansas) Ruby-cro. Kinglet (6); Bluebirds (40) Several unident. vireos (on grounds of state hospital)	12	Golden-crowned Kinglets (4)
27	Orange-crowned Warbler Summer Tanager	14	Brown Creeper; Myrtle Warbler (2) Golden-crowned Kinglets (5)
28	House Wren (3)	15	Orange-crowned Warbler Myrtle Warbler (2)
29	Nighthawk (1st since Sept 7)	16	Cedar Waxwings (5)
30	Chimney Swifts still here	17	Ruby-crowned Kinglets (2) *Slate-colored Juncos (20)
		18	* White-throated Sparrow (1) Canada Geese (48)
		25	Juncos (6, second bunch)

Oct 25	*Vesper Sparrow; Towhees (2)	Nov 1	Grackles, redwings & mixed black-birds (many thousands flying due NE, 4-5 p.m.; one continuous cloud almost covered sky; 10,000 probably a conservative estimate)
	Brown Creeper (2)		
	White-crowned Sparrow (6)	2	*Harris Sparrow; Bluebirds (65)
	Ruby-cro. & Golden-cro. Kinglets		Golden-crowned Kinglet (fewer now)
	Myrtle Warblers (2)		Grackles, redwings, etc. huge flocks
	Orange-crowned Warbler (1)	3	White-throated Sparrow (15)
	Caspian Terns (5, in Overland Park)		Lincoln Sparrow (2); Juncos (6)
26	Golden-crowned Kinglets (numerous)		Blackbird flocks again.
	Ruby-crowned Kinglets (4)	11	Loons (2, Shawnee Lake)
	Myrtle Warblers (2); Juncos (4 - 5)	12	At Shawnee: Loons (2); Shovelers (14); Ruddy Ducks (32); Mallards (30); Gadwall (5); Blue-winged Teal (5); Killdeer (5). At Towanyak: Golden-crowned Kinglets (6).
29	Golden-crowned Kinglets (14)		
30	White-throated Sparrow (6)		
	*Lincoln Sparrow (1)		
31	White-throated Sparrow (25)		
	Golden-cr. Kinglets (everyplace)		

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## Seward County Notes

James D. Rising

The following list of birds was recorded 10 miles NNE of Liberal, Seward County on May 4-6, 1967. All observations were made on the ranch of Maurice Barr, and his family, to whom I am grateful for their cooperation. Intensive field work was done in riparian woodland along the Cimarron River at that locality, in stands of cottonwood-willow-tamarisk, the cottonwoods being the conspicuous arboreal vegetation away from the river, being largely replaced by willow along the river, either being interrupted with scattered thickets of tamarisk. Scattered observations were made in sage-shortgrass pastures. A total of 77 specimens was recorded. Several specimens (e.g., the Empidonax) were collected for positive identification.

Great Blue Heron (2-4); Green Heron (2-4); Mallard (2); Blue-winged Teal (4&20); Turkey Vulture (2); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Sparrow Hawk (4); Bobwhite (many pairs); Ring-necked Pheasant (2); Killdeer (2); Least Sandpiper (15-25); Spotted Sandpiper (3&6); Franklin Gull (30-40); Mourning Dove (flocks & pairs); Horned Owl (2); Burrowing Owl (2, in sage); Common Nighthawk (1-5/4); Chimney Swift (2-5/4); Belted Kingfisher (2); Flicker (y.-s.?) (several pairs); Red-headed Woodpecker (2); Hairy Woodpecker (2 pairs?); Downy Woodpecker (8-10 pairs?); Eastern Kingbird (pairs & flocks); Western Kingbird (pairs? & flocks); Crested Flycatcher (many singing); Dusky Flycatcher (1); Western Wood Pewee (1); Olive-sided Flycatcher (2); Tree Swallow (3); Rough-winged Swallow (several); Barn Swallow (several); Cliff Swallow (several); Blue Jay (several; a few perhaps nesting); Black-billed Magpie (several pairs); Common Crow (several); Black-capped Chickadee (1); Carolina Chickadee (1) (these two apparently paired); House Wren (many); Bewick Wren (6-8); Long-billed Marsh Wren (1); Mockingbird (many); Catbird (1); Brown Thrasher (many); Robin (1); Hermit Thrush (1); Swainson Thrush (2); Gray-cheeked Thrush (2); Eastern Bluebird (several pairs); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3); Starling (3 or more pairs); Warbling Vireo (2); Orange-crowned Warbler (abundant); Myrtle Warbler (abundant); Audubon Warbler (2, incl. 1 hybrid); Black-throated Green Warbler (2); Ovenbird (1); Yellowthroat (5); Chat (1); Wilson Warbler (4); American Redstart (1); Western Meadowlark (many); Red-wing (many); Orchard Oriole (3); Baltimore Oriole (& Bullocks, many); Brown-headed Cowbird (many); Cardinal (ca. 5 pairs); Black-headed Grosbeak (3); Blue Grosbeak (1); Lark Bunting (flocks in sage); Grasshopper Sparrow (1, in sage); Vesper Sparrow (common in sage); Lark Sparrow (flocks); Cassin Sparrow (singing in sage); Chipping Sparrow (abundant); Clay-colored Sparrow (abundant, especially in sage); White-crowned Sparrow (gambels, 6).

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## Short Notes

The following records of fall migrants on the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation in Harvey County are not common in my experience and may be of interest to readers. Wood Duck -- from October 7 to at least October 21 and possibly one or two weeks longer; LeConte's Sparrow -- October 27 and November 5; Fox Sparrow -- November 4; Oregon Junco -- November 10. We had unusually large numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows this fall from September 30 through October 27. Dwight R. Platt.

I apologize for the extended delay in the appearance of the NEWSLETTER. However, we now expect to remain on schedule so please forward any contributions that you may have. We could not include all contributions in this issue so concentrated on those pertaining to the late summer and fall season and tried to include several parts of the state. For the next issue we are particularly interested in late fall and winter activities, other than the "Mid-winter counts" which will appear in the Bulletin.  
Charles A. Ely (Editor)