

# Kansas Ornithological Society

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Junction City, Kansas 66441



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## SHRIKE DISTRIBUTION CHRISTMAS 1973

Jean H. Schulenberg

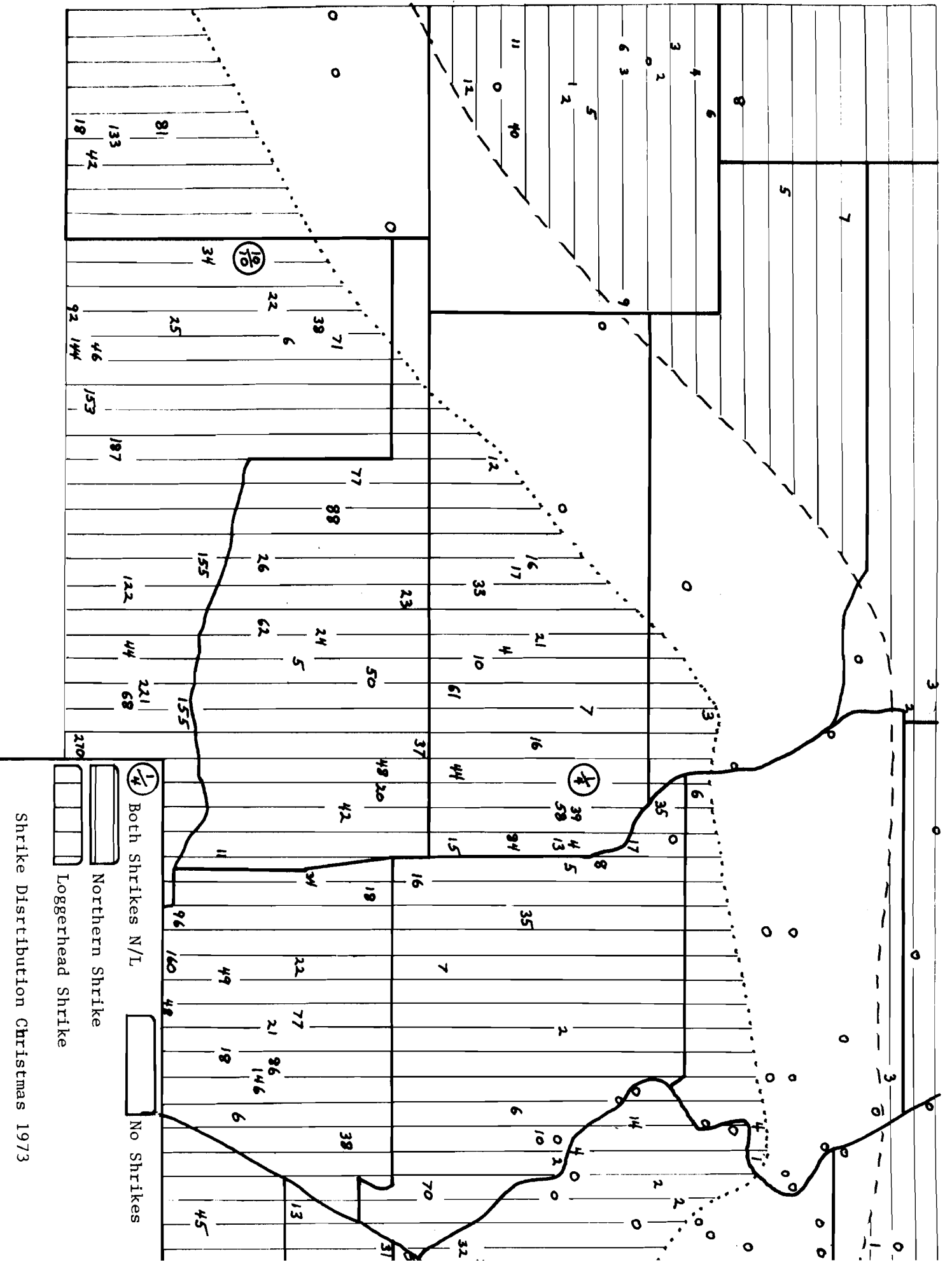
The Northern Shrike has always been a likely candidate for the Kansas Christmas Bird Count. A few sharp-eyed people located one for the Topeka count last year, which represents one of four sighted on Christmas Bird Counts during the last 12 years in Kansas. One other bird was sighted at Wichita in 1971 and two were found in Morton County in 1963.

I proceeded to use the 1973 data in American Birds, Vol. 28, No. 2, to plot the distribution of both shrike species for Kansas and surrounding states. The numbers on the accompanying map represent the number of shrikes per 100 party hours for each count. The interesting point about the distribution of both species here is the fairly consistent 200 mile wide hiatus.

Only two counts in Kansas did not report shrikes in 1973, Goodland and Hays. Goodland, a new count, has no previous years for comparison. Hays seems to get a Loggerhead Shrike about half the time; 1973-0, 1972-1, 1971-1, 1970-1, 1969-2, 1968-0, 1967-0, 1966-0, 1964-0, 1962-1. The only other counts made in western Kansas the last 12 years all reported Loggerhead Shrikes; 1967 Cheyenne Co.-1, 1967 Wallace Co.-3, 1963 Morton Co.-4.

The interesting count as far as Kansas is concerned in 1973 is just over the state line at Bonny Reservoir, Colorado. Five Northern Shrikes were located in 55 party hours. This undoubtedly presents the western Kansas birders with a fairly good challenge of following all shrikes until a positive identification is made. Most Kansas counts are at least 300 miles from the normal winter range of the Northern Shrike. However, the people at Hays, Dodge City and Goodland (and we hope in the future to have counts at Scott City, Bucklin, Bloom, Weskan, Quinter, Hoxie, Colby and LaCrosse) have always got a fair chance of turning up a Northern Shrike.





(10/10) Both Shrikes N/L  
 (1/4) Northern Shrike  
 ( ) Loggerhead Shrike

( ) No Shrikes

Shrike Distribution Christmas 1973

Highest Counts 1973-- Kansas was represented only three times in the "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals" for the 1973 Christmas Bird Count as listed in the April 1974 issue of American Birds.

Emporia had the most Tree Sparrows with 7324, Udall the most Harris' Sparrows with 1188, and Hays the most Lapland Longspurs with 6585.

Last year Kansas registered highest on six species.

Amelia J. Betts Baldwin

Oxford-- Another Rufous Hummingbird appeared at my residence August 30th this year. This time it was a male which fed on some of the wild red morning glories.

While traveling from Manhattan September 14th I found two Caspian Terns at Council Grove Reservoir.

Wallace H. Champeny

(See Thompson and Champeny 1969. Records of the Rufous Hummingbird for Kansas., Bull. Kansas Ornith. Soc., Vol. 20 No. 4, 25-26.---TS)

Admire--Birds observed in Lyon County Kansas; 12 Canvasbacks 5/4, 1 Osprey 4/25, 1 Broad-winged Hawk 4/24, 1 Ferruginous Hawk 4/9, 2 Cattle Egret 4/7, 1 Common Egret 4/21, 1 Snowy Egret 4/22, 1 Black-crowned Night Heron 4/22, 5 Sandhill Crane 4/16, 1 Purple Gallinule observed on 4/30-5/2 and 5/12, 25 Golden Plover 4/14, 1 Semipalmated Plover 5/1, 1 Pileated Woodpecker on 4/5 and 5/8, 1 Short-billed Marsh Wren 4/15, 2 Long-billed Marsh Wren 4/15, 18 Cedar Waxwing 5/15, 1 Willow Flycatcher 4/30, 1 Gray-cheeked Thrush 5/12, 1 Bells Vireo 5/1, 2 White-eyed Vireo 5/8, 1 Northern Waterthrush 5/1, and 5/2, Blackpoll Warbler 5/8, Mourning Warbler 5/11, 1 Blackburnian Warbler 5/15, 2 Black-throated Green Warbler 5/17, 1 Magnolia Warbler 5/17, Lark Bunting 4/29, 2 LeContes Sparrow 4/17.

Birds observed in Wabaunsee County; 1 Pigeon Hawk 4/15, Prairie Falcon 4/14, 143 Golden Plover 4/15, 75 Lapland Longspurs 4/15, 2 Smiths Longspurs 4/2.

1 Prairie Falcon also observed in Coffey County.

Jean Schulenberg

Quivira--While calling rails in a large spike rush field on the northwest edge of Quivira NWR I found a small colony of Bobolinks 7 males and 1 female were counted. Dickcissels and Red Winged Blackbirds were also common in the vicinity of the colony as well the surrounding areas. Tom Shane

Cassin's Sparrow-- 1974 seems to have been the year of the Cassin's Sparrow in Kansas. If you have any observations from this summer on the bird please send them along and I will put them all together in one note.

Tom Shane

The following is a letter to Max Thompson, dated August 7, 1974, from Major L. Boddicker, Extension 4-H Specialist in Outdoor Education.

"In October, the Kansas 4-H Department will introduce a new project called "Birds Around You", written by John Zimmerman of Kansas State University. F. Robert Henderson, Extension Specialist in Wildlife Damage Control, and I will be presenting this project and supporting materials to approximately 150 county Extension staff and county 4-H project leaders in five meetings around Kansas.

Since we wish to present the project in the most effective manner possible and, thereby, promote the project to large numbers of 4-H members, we need some assistance. Specifically, we need a list of all local groups in Kansas that are interested in birds and avian studies. We need printed materials like a Kansas bird check list and publications of Kansas groups with ornithological interests. We could use a list of names of people around Kansas that could help us identify local people who could serve as volunteer project leaders in Kansas communities. We are very much in need of a good series of slides of birds which we can present at the training programs.

Ron Klataske of the Audubon Society suggested that you might be willing to provide us with information and perhaps slides of 50-75 of the most common Kansas birds, which we could duplicate and return the originals. In addition, Henderson and I could use some assistance in presenting this project to these groups. If you could suggest names of people who might be interested in making this presentation, it would be very helpful.

Well, that is asking for a lot of help. Both Henderson and I would like to see 4-H get its resources and efforts behind projects oriented into these types of projects. Since this is one of the first attempts, we need to have our materials in order. It may lead to a lot of interest in birds by new people. We hope you will assist us with this effort."

If any KOS members are interested in helping with this 4-H project, please let me know. I would like to be able to send to Major Boddicker a rough estimate of the number of people interested. This does not obligate you to help in the future.

Dwight Platt, RFD 2, Newton, Kansas 67114

The September Bulletin is at the press and should be delivered sometime in October. Sondra Williamson will be mailing that issue to you since I will be in Mexico working with Dr. Ely. I will return from Mexico at the end of November. Please send me your fall migration notes by that time. I will begin to put together the November Newsletter as soon as I get back, and plan to have it in the mail by December 10th--hopefully with some information about the Christmas Bird Count.

Tom Shane