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Source: *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science (1903-)*, Vol. 35 (Apr. 14-16, 1932), pp. 85-92

Published by: [Kansas Academy of Science](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3624421>

Accessed: 03/05/2013 14:38

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CREVECOEUR'S NOTES ON BIRDS IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS

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After the death of one of Kansas's most versatile self-trained scientists, F. F. Crevecoeur, many of his notes and materials of purely scientific import came to Kansas State College through the courtesy of the administrator of the estate. Well over one hundred pages of paper bore records on bird migration, time of singing, nesting sites, and other data. These sheets came into the hands of the present writer, who, with other members of the Kansas State staff, deems it advisable that the valuable portion of these notes be preserved. The following paragraphs and tables represent an attempt to edit these varied notes.

It is somewhat difficult to select the most valuable material from the array of penciled and inked notes from the hand of Crevecoeur. The writer has chosen to record some of the data in brief paragraphs, and some of the more extensive material in tables appended hereto.

In arranging the birds for tabulation, the writer has chosen to group them into families, the family names and sequence following the naming and order as published by Chapman (1932). Within each family the birds are arranged in numerical order as assigned in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. Check-List. In general, Crevecoeur left no doubt as to the exact species of bird referred to by him, but some question might be raised as to the specific or sub-specific identity of a few forms. These questionable forms are so noted in the tabulations.

An attempt has been made in Table I to condense notes taken over a period of 24 years dealing with the spring migration of birds. It will be noted that many of the birds are recorded but once, others a few times, and some regularly throughout all the years of study. The earliest date as given should not imply that the birds normally arrive at that time, but that they may be expected at any time thereafter, as evidenced by past observations. In many cases, the latest date of arrival as recorded simply indicates the spread of time that may occur due to possible meteorological and food conditions governing the speed of migration.

Table II is recorded data pertaining to the time of singing with reference to the sunrise. From one to 64 observations were made on different species over a period of five years. The notes indicate that observations were made at all seasons of the year, and under

all types of weather conditions. The figures as recorded should not imply that the birds normally sing at the earliest time indicated, but that they have been heard to sing at that time. In few cases are there enough observations to give value to the figures in the average column. The time indicated in the average column should imply only that the bird customarily sings at about this time in relation to the break of day.

Some few notes were present in the collection of pages dealing with the time of evening song. The writer was unable to master the manner by which Crevecoeur entered his data, nor were they apparently of sufficient extent to warrant transcribing directly into this paper.

Table III is a table completing the list of birds known by Crevecoeur to reside in or pass through Pottawatomie County, Kansas, supplementing the preceding tables.

In addition to the material arranged for publication in tabular form, Crevecoeur noted the number of nests of various species of birds on certain acreages of his property. Records were present covering the occurrence of nests of 50 species throughout the years 1914 to 1930 inclusive, with exceptions of 1919 and 1922. As this data undoubtedly is covered more fully in other literature on Kansas birds it is omitted from the present record.

It is interesting to note that Crevecoeur was in correspondence with the Bureau of Animal Industry, which resulted once in the establishment of a series of traps to ensnare "Chicken Hawks". The available notes show the capture and destruction, over a period of 11 years, of 41 hawks of three species as follows: Cooper's Hawk, 33; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 6; Goshawk, 2. None was killed in the months of February, July and August. Most of the captures were made in the months of April and October.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Christine Goodrich in checking these data as recorded.

TABLE I: Tabulation of Spring Migration Dates,

Bird	Arrival Earliest	Arrival Latest	Records Number of
Colymbidae			
Pied-billed Grebe -----	4-18	4-29	5
Ardeidae			
Great Blue Heron -----	4-27	5-10	2
Green Heron -----	4-28	6-6	21

1. Data taken through the years 1904 to 1927. First numeral in date signifies month, second numeral the day of month.

Bird	Earliest Arrival	Latest Arrival	Number of Records
Anatidae			
Canada Goose -----	4-1		1
Lesser Snow Geese -----	1-11	3-26	3
Mallard -----	2-17	3-25	9
Baldpate -----	4-9		1
Blue-winged Teal -----	3-2	5-5	18
Shoveller -----	3-21	5-1	11
Redhead -----	3-5		1
Lesser Scaup Duck -----	4-4	4-9	2
Bufflehead -----	5-9		1
Cathartidae			
Turkey Buzzard -----	3-28	5-19	23
Falconidae			
Sparrow Hawk -----	3-10	4-27	21
Gruidae			
Sand Hill Crane -----	3-18	4-5	10
Rallidae			
Sora -----	5-13		1
Coot -----	4-4	5-22	15
Charadriidae			
Killdeer -----	2-22	3-29	17
Scolopacidae			
Wilson's Snipe -----	4-26	5-11	3
Upland Plover -----	4-9	5-4	20
Spotted Sandpiper -----	5-2	5-23	15
Yellowlegs -----	5-9		1
Pectoral Sandpiper -----	5-6	5-24	4
Least Sandpiper -----	5-9		1
Phalaropodidae			
Wilson's Phalarope -----	4-29	5-9	2
Laridae			
Franklin's Gull -----	4-19	5-19	13
Forster's Tern -----	6-7		1
Black Tern -----	4-28	5-28	12
Columbidae			
Mourning Dove -----	2-20	4-25	20
Cuculidae			
Cuckoo (Yellow-billed?) -----	5-6	5-25	24
Caprimulgidae			
Whip-poor-will -----	4-25	5-15	2
Poor-will -----	4-11	5-19	22
Nighthawk -----	5-2	5-29	22

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Bird	Earliest Arrival	Latest Arrival	Number of Records
Micropodidae			
Chimney Swift -----	5-3	6-7	20
Trochilidae			
Hummingbird -----	5-17	6-5	5
Alcedinidae			
Kingfisher -----	4-8	5-6	5
Picidae			
Red-headed Woodpecker -----	4-22	5-18	23
Tyrannidae			
Kingbird -----	4-22	5-14	24
Arkansas Kingbird -----	4-24	5-25	16
Crested Flycatcher -----	4-27	5-13	24
Phoebe -----	3-9	4-7	24
Wood Pewee -----	5-12	6-12	5
Hirundinidae			
Tree Swallow -----	4-28	5-15	2
Rough-winged Swallow -----	4-26	6-5	7
Barn Swallow -----	4-12	4-30	24
Cliff Swallow -----	4-23	5-21	12
Purple Martin -----	3-28	5-20	10
Corvidae			
Blue Jay -----	3-8	5-2	24
Troglodytidae			
House Wren -----	4-18	5-10	24
Short-billed Marsh Wren -----	5-13		1
Mimidae			
Catbird -----	4-30	5-13	22
Mckingbird -----	4-25	6-1	11
Brown Thrasher -----	4-12	4-30	24
Turdidae			
Robin -----	1-15	3-18	20
Wood Thrush -----	4-29	5-31	21
Grey-cheeked Thrush -----	5-1	5-7	2
Bluebird -----	2-16	3-2	6
Sylviidae			
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher -----	4-17	5-2	2
Motacillidae			
American Pipit -----	5-2	5-5	2
Laniidae			
Loggerhead Shrike -----	3-16	5-11	23

Bird	Earliest Arrival	Latest Arrival	Number of Records
Bell's Vireo -----	5-2	5-19	23
Vireonidae			
White-eyed Vireo -----	5-21		1
Yellow-throated Vireo -----	5-10		1
Red-eyed Vireo -----	4-29	5-21	17
Warbling Vireo -----	4-24	5-29	24
Compsothlypidae			
Black-and-white Warbler -----	5-6		1
Tennessee Warbler -----	5-26		1
Orange-crowned Warbler -----	4-26	4-30	4
Yellow Warbler -----	4-26	5-18	21
Myrtle Warbler -----	4-28	5-1	2
Yellow-throat -----	4-28	6-15	18
Oven-bird -----	5-12		1
Louisiana Water-thrush -----	5-9	6-12	2
Kentucky Warbler -----	5-6	5-21	5
Yellow-breasted Chat -----	4-28	6-27	17
Redstart -----	5-6		1
Icteridae			
Bobolink -----	5-5	5-15	7
Meadowlark -----	2-11	3-15	5
Yellow-headed Blackbird -----	4-10	5-8	19
Red-winged Blackbird -----	2-27	3-30	23
Orchard Oriole -----	4-27	5-10	24
Baltimore Oriole -----	4-24	5-7	24
Rusty Blackbird -----	2-20	3-29	13
Brewer's Blackbird -----	2-26	3-30	12
Bronzed Grackle -----	3-15	4-3	24
Cowbird -----	1-23	4-7	23
Thraupidae			
Scarlet Tanager -----	5-9	5-30	5
Fringillidae			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak -----	4-29	5-30	22
Blue Grosbeak -----	4-27	6-25	20
Indigo Bunting -----	5-5	6-26	13
Dickcissel -----	4-26	5-14	23
Towhee -----	2-21	5-16	21
Lark Bunting -----	5-17	6-15	2
Savannah Sparrow -----	3-23	4-20	8
Grasshopper Sparrow -----	4-20	5-28	20
Leconte's Sparrow -----	3-25	5-7	6
Vesper Sparrow -----	2-23	4-26	13

Lark Sparrow -----	4-7	5-3	24
Clay-colored Sparrow -----	4-9	5-13	10
Field Sparrow -----	3-17	5-8	23
White-crowned Sparrow -----	4-18	5-17	9
White-throated Sparrow -----	4-16	5-4	4
Lincoln's Sparrow -----	3-31	5-18	18
Song Sparrow -----	2-25	4-11	22

TABLE II: Tabulation of Time of Bird Calls in Minutes Before (-) and After (+) Sunrise.¹

Bird	Earliest	Average	Number of Observations
Ardeidae			
Green Heron -----	-12		1
Perdidae			
Bob-White -----	-76	-43	34
Phasianidae			
Domestic Fowl -----	-255	-93	22
Meleagridae			
Turkey -----	-41	-32	3
Columbidae			
Mourning Dove -----	-135	-40	53
Cuculidae			
Cuckoo (Yellow-billed?) -----	-205	-79	18
Caprimulgidae			
Nighthawk -----	-71	-50	3
Picidae			
Flicker -----	-18	-01	4
Red-headed Woodpecker -----	+40		1
Hairy Woodpecker -----	-22	-16	2
Tyrannidae			
Kingbird -----	-75	-27	24
Great Crested Flycatcher -----	-11	+07	4
Phoebe -----	-11	-09	2
Wood Pewee -----	-56		1
Alaudidae			
Prairie Horned Lark -----	-31	-28	2
Hirundinidae			
Barn Swallow -----	-79	-30	25

1. Notes taken by Crevecoeur at intervals extending over a period of five years, made at all seasons of the year, and under many types of weather conditions.

Corvidae			
Blue Jay -----	-45	-26	32
Crow -----	-65	-30	64
Paridae			
Chickadee -----	-40	-09	7
Tufted Titmouse -----	-23		1
Troglodytidae			
Wren (House?) -----	-40	-20	35
Mimidae			
Catbird -----	-115	-43	35
Brown Thrasher -----	-55	-24	38
Turdidae			
Robin -----	-61	-33	35
Wood Thrush -----	-45	-19	4
Bluebird -----	-57	-28	5
Vireonidae			
Bell's Vireo -----	-25	-05	8
Warbling Vireo -----	-50	-11	5
Compsothlypidae			
Yellow Warbler -----	-25	-03	6
Yellowthroat -----	-22	-05	4
Yellow-breasted Chat -----	-127	-83	3
Ploceidae			
English Sparrow -----	-30	-11	11
Icteridae			
Orchard Oriole -----	-58	-21	33
Baltimore Oriole -----	-37	-15	35
Bronzed Grackle -----	-30	-12	6
Cowbird -----	+02		1
Fringillidae			
Cardinal -----	-63	-31	47
Blue Grosbeak -----	-10	+19	7
Dickeissel -----	-70	-45	6
Goldfinch -----	-50		1
Towhee -----	-03	-03	2
Grasshopper Sparrow -----	-33		1
Lark Sparrow -----	-53	-25	7
Field Sparrow -----	-75	-35	15
Harris Sparrow -----	-50	-22	16
Lincoln's Sparrow -----	+02		1
Song Sparrow -----	-65	-34	4

TABLE III. Tabulation of Birds in Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Not Included in Preceding Tables.

- Pelecanidae**—White Pelican
Ardeidae—Bittern (American?)
Anatidae—Hooded Merganser
Accipitridae—Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk.
Tetraonidae—Prairie Chicken
Rallidae—King Rail
Strigidae—Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl.
Picidae—Red-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker.
Sittidae—White-breasted Nuthatch
Certhiidae—Brown Creeper
Troglodytidae—Long-billed Marsh Wren
Sylviidae—Golden Crowned Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet.
Bombycillidae—Cedar Waxwing
Compothlypidae—Blue Winged Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler.
Fringillidae—Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur

1. From "Birds of Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas", an anonymous list of 125 birds found in the Crevecoeur papers.

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