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The Birds of Southeastern Kansas, with Migration Dates

By HARRY H. HALL, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Kan.

For the past eight years the writer has undertaken a study of the birds of southeastern Kansas. Numerous trips have been made to the eleven counties which comprise this district. In Crawford county observations of rather painstaking character have extended throughout the period.

Habitats range from ponds, lakes, prairies, thickets to forests. There are thickets of plum, sumac, elder and thornapple. Along the streams may be found the maple-ash-oak association.

The mean annual temperature for the three summer months is 78° F.; for the three winter months, 35°. The mean annual precipitation is 40 inches. The average date of first killing frost, October 21; average date of last killing frost, April 10. The area has a growing season of 193 days.

In the list of birds here enumerated are the species which have been seen or collected by the writer during the period from September, 1927, to March, 1935. Permanent residents are designated and the average date of arrival and disappearance of the migratory species is stated. The nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist and its supplements has been followed.

The 208 species of birds which have been identified are distributed among the following seventeen orders: Gaviiformes, 1; Colymbiformes, 1; Pelecaniformes, 2; Ciconiiformes, 7; Anseriformes, 26; Falconiformes, 15; Galliformes, 3; Gruiformes, 6; Charadriiformes, 20; Columbiformes, 2; Cuculiformes, 2; Strigiformes, 8; Caprimulgiformes, 2; Micropodiformes, 2; Coraciiformes, 1; Piciformes, 7; and Passeriformes, 103.

Of the 208 species and subspecies, 28 are residents, either nonmigratory birds nesting in the southeastern part of Kansas or migratory birds occurring in both summer and winter; 79 are summer breeding species; 5 are winter visitants; 64 are spring and fall transients; and 32 are of casual occurrence.

WATER AND SHORE BIRDS

	Average time of arrival	Average time of departure
Common loon	Apr. 10	?
Pied-billed grebe	Mar. 20	Sept. 28
White pelican	Mar. 12	?
Double-crested cormorant	Mar. 22	?
Great blue heron.....	Mar. 29	Sept. 6
American egret	Apr. 12	?
Snowy egret	Apr. 3	?
Little blue heron	Apr. 12	?
Eastern green heron	Apr. 3	Oct. 28
Black-crowned night heron	Apr. 9	Oct. 4
American bittern	Apr. 6	Apr. 30
Whistling swan	Irregular	
Canada goose	Feb. 7	Mar. 25
Hutchins goose	Mar. 7	Apr. 18
American brant	Mar. 14	?
White-fronted goose	Feb. 25	Mar. 12
Lesser snow goose	Feb. 21	Mar. 4

	Average time of arrival	Average time of departure
Greater snow goose.....	Feb. 20	Apr. 1
Common mallard	Feb. 2	Apr. 20
Gadwall	Feb. 28	Mar. 29
Baldpate	Mar. 1	Apr. 2
American pintail	Feb. 1	Apr. 10
Green-winged teal	Feb. 27	Apr. 10
Blue-winged teal	Feb. 28	Apr. 7
Shoveler	Mar. 14	Apr. 12
Wood duck	Mar. 27	?
Redhead	Mar. 6	Mar. 28
Ring-necked duck	Mar. 29	Apr. 20
Canvasback	Feb. 20	Mar. 12
Greater scaup duck.....	Mar. 1	Apr. 1
Lesser scaup duck.....	Feb. 15	Mar. 29
American golden-eye	Irregular	
Bufflehead	Irregular	
White-winged scoter	Irregular	
Ruddy duck	Irregular	
Hooded merganser	Mar. 6	?
American merganser	Mar. 12	Apr. 12
Sandhill crane	Irregular	
King rail	Apr. 18	July 29
Virginia rail	Apr. 6	Aug. 12
Sora	Apr. 12	May 7
Florida gallinule	Apr. 1	Apr. 10
American coot	Mar. 2	Aug. 12
Semipalmated plover	Apr. 12	May 20
Killdeer	Feb. 18	Sept. 20
Golden plover	Apr. 8	?
Woodcock	Resident	
Wilson snipe	Mar. 5	May 25
Upland plover	Mar. 28	May 10
Spotted sandpiper	Apr. 10	Aug. 13
Solitary sandpiper	Apr. 7	May 12
Greater yellow-legs	Mar. 28	Apr. 20
Lesser yellow-legs	Mar. 27	May 25
Pectoral sandpiper	Apr. 27	June 14
Baird sandpiper	Apr. 12	June 15
Least sandpiper	Apr. 5	June 10
Semipalmated sandpiper	Apr. 1	May 29
Herring gull	Feb. 25	Apr. 12
Ring-billed gull	Mar. 2	?
Franklin gull	Apr. 10	Apr. 24
Forster tern	Apr. 7	?
Common tern	May 26	?
Black tern	Apr. 27	?

LAND BIRDS

Turkey vulture	Mar. 5	Oct. 28
Goshawk	Irregular	
Sharp-shinned hawk	Mar. 10	Nov. 16
Cooper's hawk	Mar. 7	Oct. 12
Eastern red-tailed hawk	Resident	
Red-shouldered hawk	Resident	
Broadwinged hawk	Apr. 12	Nov. 10
Swainson hawk	Apr. 20	Oct. 12
Ferruginous rough-legged hawk	Oct. 28	Mar. 20

	Average time of arrival	Average time of departure
American golden eagle.....	Aug. 12	?
Southern bald eagle.....	June 24	?
Marsh hawk	Mar. 7	May 25
Prairie falcon	Resident	
Duck hawk	May 20	?
Eastern sparrow hawk.....	Resident	
Prairie chicken	Resident	
Bobwhite	Resident	
Ring-necked pheasant	Resident	
Eastern mourning dove	Mar. 5	Oct. 28
Domestic pigeon; rock dove.....	Resident	
Yellow-billed cuckoo	Apr. 27	Sept. 28
Black-billed cuckoo	Apr. 25	Sept. 20
Barn owl	Resident	
Eastern screech owl	Resident	
Southern screech owl	Aug. 20	?
Great horned owl	Resident	
Snowy owl	Aug. 20	?
Northern barred owl	Resident	
Long-eared owl	Resident	
Short-eared owl	Oct. 7	Mar. 15
Eastern whippoorwill	Apr. 8	Oct. 27
Eastern nighthawk	Apr. 26	Oct. 2
Chimney swift	Apr. 8	Oct. 27
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Apr. 27	Oct. 6
Eastern belted kingfisher	Mar. 7	Nov. 20
Flicker	Mar. 29	Nov. 12
Pileated woodpecker	Resident	
Red-bellied woodpecker	Resident	
Red-headed woodpecker	Apr. 12	Nov. 15
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	Mar. 29	Apr. 15
Eastern hairy woodpecker	Resident	
Northern downy woodpecker.....	Resident	
Kingbird	Apr. 18	Sept. 26
Crested flycatcher	Apr. 29	Sept. 25
Phoebe	Mar. 9	Oct. 27
Wood pewee	Apr. 28	Oct. 13
Acadian flycatcher	May 1	Oct. 5
Least flycatcher	Apr. 27	May 20
Horned lark	Resident	
Blue jay	Resident	
Crow	Resident	
Bobolink	May 5	Aug. 12
Cowbird	Mar. 2	Nov. 25
Red-winged blackbird	Feb. 27	Nov. 26
Meadow lark	Feb. 28	Nov. 27
Orchard oriole	Apr. 12	Oct. 22
Baltimore oriole	Apr. 20	Oct. 28
Rusty blackbird	Mar. 1	Aug. 12
Bronzed grackle	Mar. 4	Nov. 8
Purple finch	Apr. 12	Aug. 12
Common redpoll	Mar. 26	?
Goldfinch	Resident	
Pine siskin	Irregular	
English sparrow	Resident	
Vesper sparrow	Mar. 6	May 12
Savannah sparrow	Mar. 12	Aug. 3
Lark sparrow	Apr. 2	Sept. 28

	Average time of arrival	Average time of departure
Grasshopper sparrow	Apr. 15	Nov. 2
Henslow sparrow	Apr. 18	Oct. 17
LeConte sparrow	Feb. 28	Mar. 5
Harris sparrow	Mar. 1	Sept. 26
White-crowned sparrow	Mar. 12	Aug. 12
White-throated sparrow	Apr. 1	Apr. 28
Tree sparrow	Nov. 1	Apr. 20
Chipping sparrow	Mar. 10	Oct. 25
Oregon junco	Apr. 2	May 20
Slate-colored junco	Nov. 4	Mar. 26
Song sparrow	Mar. 7	Apr. 28
Lincoln sparrow	Apr. 1	May 12
Swamp sparrow	Mar. 9	Apr. 27
Field sparrow	Mar. 7	Sept. 26
Fox sparrow	Feb. 27	Apr. 10
Towhee	Mar. 5	Oct. 26
Cardinal	Resident	
Rose-breasted grosbeak	Apr. 10	Oct. 20
Eastern blue grosbeak	Apr. 27	Oct. 5
Indigo bunting	Apr. 20	Oct. 16
Dickcissel	Apr. 14	July 3
Scarlet tanager	Apr. 29	Oct. 16
Summer tanager	Apr. 25	Oct. 12
Purple martin	Mar. 12	Oct. 24
Cliff swallow	Apr. 12	?
Barn swallow	Apr. 7	Oct. 2
Bank swallow	May 1	Sept. 27
Tree swallow	Apr. 10	May 4
Rough-winged swallow	Apr. 20	Sept. 27
Cedar waxwing	Apr. 12	June 12
Northern shrike	Mar. 12	Oct. 15
Loggerhead shrike	Mar. 25	Sept. 12
Red-eyed vireo	Apr. 17	Sept. 27
Warbling vireo	Apr. 9	Sept. 26
Yellow-throated vireo	Apr. 12	Sept. 20
Blue-headed vireo	Apr. 20	June 3
White-eyed vireo	Apr. 20	Sept. 25
Bell's vireo	Apr. 28	Sept. 27
Black-and-white warbler	Apr. 12	Sept. 24
Prothonotary warbler	Apr. 29	Sept. 28
Blue-winged warbler	May 12	?
Worm-eating warbler	Apr. 8	Sept. 19
Tennessee warbler	Apr. 9	Sept. 12
Nashville warbler	Apr. 20	May 20
Orange-crowned warbler	Apr. 20	May 20
Parula warbler	Apr. 8	Sept. 28
Yellow warbler	Apr. 9	Aug. 20
Myrtle warbler	Mar. 29	Oct. 28
Cerulean warbler	May 1	Sept. 10
Yellow-throated warbler	May 2	Sept. 18
Black-poll warbler	May 3	May 12
Oven bird	Apr. 28	Oct. 16
Louisiana water-thrush	Apr. 11	Oct. 1
Kentucky warbler	May 1	Sept. 2
Mourning warbler	May 3	July 3
Marvland yellow-throat	Apr. 16	Sept. 20
Yellow-breasted chat	Apr. 15	Sept. 17
American redstart	Apr. 23	Oct. 16

	Average time of arrival	Average time of departure
Mockingbird	Apr. 10	Oct. 17
Catbird	Apr. 27	Oct. 4
Brown thrasher	Apr. 1	Oct. 12
Carolina wren	Resident	
Short-billed marsh wren	Apr. 27	Sept. 25
House wren	Apr. 15	Oct. 2
Brown creeper	Nov. 10	Apr. 30
Red-breasted nuthatch	Apr. 20	May 25
White-breasted nuthatch	Resident	
Tufted titmouse	Resident	
Chickadee	Resident	
Golden-crowned kinglet	Apr. 12	Apr. 27
Ruby-crowned kinglet	Mar. 28	May 10
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Apr. 1	Sept. 12
Wood thrush	Mar. 20	Sept. 27
Gray-cheeked thrush	Apr. 1	June 1
Olive-backed thrush	Apr. 1	June 5
Hermit thrush	Mar. 20	Apr. 15
Robin	Feb. 1	Nov. 1
Bluebird	Feb. 1	Oct. 27