

X. A CENSUS OF THE SONG AND INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY FOR 1924-25

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Oklahoma County, by reason of its central location in the state and the variety of its bird life, possesses unusual interest for the student of ornithology. Confined neither to eastern forms nor to those of a more western distribution, it is the home of many species of both divisions, as well as the home of many distinct sub-species.

The topography is nearly level, with low rounded hills which increase in size as one nears the eastern portion. Most of the county is drained by the North Canadian River, which crosses it in a meandering fashion, but in a general easterly direction. Deep Fork Creek drains much of the northern section. Both streams are bordered in places with heavy woods, principally cottonwood, elm and bur oak trees. The rainfall is moderate, thirty to thirty-five inches being the annual average. The low hills with their covering of native grasses, wild plum bushes, and dense thickets, abound with sparrows of many species and other birds that love such environments.

Due to lack of time for extensive field work, most of the material for this list was collected in the vicinity of Oklahoma City. Studies at Oklahoma City University took most of my time and the May examinations interfered greatly with my spring migration records. Despite this fact, an average of one short trip weekly was made during the past two years. The farm of C. F. Woodward and the A. J. Hare Estate, adjoining properties five miles north north-east of Oklahoma City, yielded the best results. The wood north-east of Edgemere Public School, Oklahoma City, and the heavy timbered and swampy region on the North Canadian River, seven miles east of Oklahoma City, also rewarded me greatly. Occasional longer trips to other portions of the county added many new species to my list.

As practically no specimens were taken, many sub species have escaped identification.

The following list includes ninety-eight species.

Road-Runner (*Geococcyx californianus*). An unusual resident. A single bird was seen on the farm of C. F. Woodward, northeast of Oklahoma City, throughout the winter of 1924-25.

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*). A

common summer resident in the wooded sections of the county. A nest was found July 3, 1925 on Ballard's farm three miles west of Oklahoma City.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon alcyon*). Common summer resident wherever there are large lakes or streams. Nest seen on North Canadian River, May 26, 1925, and few individuals winter here; one bird being seen during Dec. 1924 on Deep Fork Creek. On Nov. 29, 1925 one was seen on Deep Fork Creek on C. F. Woodward's farm.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus villosus*). A year-round resident but never common.

Southern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens pubescens*). Common resident in the wooded sections. Nest found on Deep Fork Creek, Hare's Farm, May 4, 1924.

Texas Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris symplectus*). Uncommon visitant. One was seen on Deep Fork Creek, May 22, 1925.

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius v. riis*). Occasionally seen during the winter. First one this year was observed November 15, on Deep Fork Creek near Hare's Estate, north of state capitol.

Red-Headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Common summer resident, especially along the larger streams. Nest found near Belle Isle Lake, four miles north of Oklahoma City, May 11, 1924.

Red-Bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*). Fairly common resident in wooded sections.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*). This is the commonest woodpecker in the county, being a resident throughout the entire year. Several nests were found on Deep Fork Creek and near Belle Isle Lake. Young were seen June 9, 1924.

Red-Shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*). Common winter visitant.

Chuck-Will's Widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*). Common summer resident. Its characteristic song may be heard almost any night during the summer.

Howell Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus howelli*). Common summer resident. During the warm months scores were seen and heard at dusk every evening flying over Oklahoma City.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Uncommon summer resident. A small flock remained near the Oklahoma City reservoir during the summer of 1924.

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Common summer resident but not numerous. A nest was found August 8, 1925, but the bird abandoned it eight days later. Upon climbing the tree and examining the nest it was found that it had been robbed.

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). Common summer resident. A pair nested in the cupola of the stock pavilion at the state fairgrounds in 1924.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). An abundant summer resident throughout the county.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Fairly common during the summer but never numerous. Several were seen near Belle Isle Lake, May 11, 1924.

Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Common summer resident, most numerous along the streams. A nest with a four-foot snake skin woven into it, was found in an elm on Deep Fork Creek, June 15, 1924.

Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). This little summer resident can scarcely be called common, although its song is heard occasionally in the wooded sections.

Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*). Summer resident, not numerous. Occasionally it is heard in the wooded sections along Deep Fork Creek and the North Canadian River.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*). Unusual summer resident. A pair nested in a swamp on the North Canadian River, six miles east of Oklahoma City during the past summer.

Desert Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris leucolaema*). Summer resident and seen occasionally during the winter.

Blue-Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*). Very numerous resident throughout the county.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). Common resident, especially in winter when they congregate by the thousands.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). Common summer resident. A flock of over five hundred was seen near Edmond, August 28, 1925.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Transient. These birds are seen occasionally on the larger lakes, usually in company with the red-wings. They were seen in the willows along Belle Isle Lake, April 5, 1924.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). Very common resident near the lakes and swampy parts of the

county. Scores of nests were found around the shores of Belle Isle Lake, 1924-25.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). Resident. Abundant in the fields throughout the county.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). This oriole is common but not numerous. It does not frequent the towns as much as *Icterus galbula* does.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Common summer resident. It is a common singer in Oklahoma City. Four nests were found in one city block, (1924).

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Winter visitant. Several were collected October 20, 1924.

Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). This bird, the western representative of *E. carolinus*, is an occasional transient and winter visitant. A small flock was seen north of Oklahoma City, May 1, 1924.

Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*). Common migrant and summer resident. These birds gather in Oklahoma City by the thousands during migration. Several were collected September 19, 1925.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*). This finch is an irregular winter visitant. Two were seen April 5, 1925 on Deep Fork Creek.

American Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*). Common resident. Much more numerous in winter than in summer.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). Irregular winter visitant. First seen this fall on Hare's Estate, October 18.

English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Resident. This sparrow is so numerous as to be a pest in the towns and outlying fields, and is gradually extending its range to the surrounding country.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*). The vesper sparrow is a common transient, more so in spring than in autumn. It is abundant from the first of March through the last of April.

Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*). Winter visitant. First seen this fall, October 4, near Hare's Estate.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*). An occasional summer resident.

Leconte Sparrow (*Passerherbulus lecontei*). Winter visitant.

Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*).

This species is a very common summer resident, being most abundant in the dry fields, and along the roadside.

Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). A very abundant winter resident, especially in heavy thickets along the roads and streams.

White-Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*). Although this bird is fairly common during migrations only a few winter here. Small flocks were seen November 16, 1924, during December 1924; January 1925 and February 15, 1925. They were seen first this fall on October 18.

White-Throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Uncommon transient and winter visitant. Small flock seen in thicket along North Canadian River, on April 10, 1925 and on C. F. Woodward farm, October 19, 21, 25, 1925.

Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola ochracea*). Usually a common winter visitant but never numerous. First seen this fall, October 19th, near Hare's Estate. This is the earliest I have seen them. Since the middle of November 1925 they have been especially numerous.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina*). Common transient. Many of these birds remain late, a few being seen on November 15, 1925.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla pusilla*). Common summer resident. Nest found May 10, 1925, on Hare's Estate.

Slate-Colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*). Common from latter part of October until April.

Dakota Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia juddi*). Common transient and winter resident. First seen this fall, October 4, 1925, near Hare's Estate.

Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*). This species is not uncommon during the migration, but few have been seen during the winter. A few were seen October 6, 11, 18, 21, 1925, near Hare's Estate.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Occasional transient and uncommon winter visitant. A few were seen during the winter along Deep Fork Creek.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*). Occasional winter visitant. First flock seen November 29, 1924.

Artic Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus arcticus*). Transient and common winter resident. Large flock was seen October 6, 1925, on Hare's Estate.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*). Abundant resident. A score of nests were found during the summer of 1925 near Edgemere Public School, Oklahoma City.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*). Single transient seen April 25, 1925, near Edgemere Public School, Oklahoma City. This bird is a rare transient in this country.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*). Uncommon summer resident. Several were seen May 11, 1924 near Belle Isle Lake.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Uncommon summer resident. Nest found near North Canadian River, June 12, 1924, in a low bush two feet above the ground. A cowbird egg was in the nest.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris ciris*). Uncommon transient. Two were seen May 8, 1924, at Jefferson Park, Oklahoma City.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). An abundant summer resident.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*). Rare transient. One was seen April 19, 1925 and another April 26, 1925 on Hare's Estate.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*). Rare summer resident and an uncommon transient. A pair nested in a scrub oak grove on Hare's Estate in 1925.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). Common summer resident, especially near the outskirts of Oklahoma City where there are many martin boxes.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*). Uncommon summer resident. A few nested near the Oklahoma City reservoir.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Fairly common summer resident along the North Canadian River and at Oklahoma City reservoir.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). Fairly common transient. These birds attract little attention so they are probably commoner than is supposed. Many more are seen in the spring than in the autumn. Twelve were seen on Deep Fork Creek, November 15, 1925. This autumn they have been especially numerous. On the three days, Nov. 27, Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 several hundred were seen daily.

White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*). Fairly common resident. A few were seen on every field trip perched on the fence or upon telegraph wires.

Red-Eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*). Occasional summer resident in the heavily wooded sections. Several were heard along the North Canadian River during the latter part of June, 1924.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireosylva gilva gilva*). Unusual visitant. One seen May 16, 1924 in Oklahoma City and another June 12, 1924.

White-Eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus griseus*). Unusual summer resident. One bird was seen April 26, 1925 in the heavy woods along the North Canadian River. Another was heard in the same locality July 8, 1925.

Bell Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*). Fairly common summer resident.

Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Occasional transient. One was seen in Oklahoma City, May 21, 1924.

Blue-Winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). Rare transient. One was seen April 26, 1925, near Belle Isle Lake.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*). Summer resident, not numerous. Nest found at Edgemere Public School, June 9, 1924.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Transient. Abundant in autumn.

Black-Throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). Rare transient. Two males were seen in the black-jacks on Hare's Estate, August 7-8, 1925 (this might have been the same bird both days.)

Louisiana Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). Uncommon transient. One was seen on the creek near Edgemere Public School, Oklahoma City, August 11, 1925.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). Rare transient. Several were seen October 6, 1925 near C. F. Woodward's farm.

Maryland Yellow-Throat (*Goethlypis trichas trichas*). This bird is a summer resident in the swampy and heavily wooded portions of the county. Six pair were counted in one-half hour on the North Canadian River, May 17, 1925.

Long-Tailed Chat (*Cateria virens longicauda*)... This chat is a fairly common summer resident in the thickets and woods along the streams, especially along the North Canadian River.

Wilson Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*). Occasional transient. A small flock was seen September 13, 1925, on Hare's Estate.

American Pipit (*Anthus pubescens*). Transient. The pipit was abundant in the fields on Hare's Estate during the spring migration of 1925. On April 3rd a flock of several hundred birds were seen at this place.

Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus leucopterus*). Very common summer resident.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Summer resident. Many

nest in Oklahoma City.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). The brown thrasher is common summer resident and well known singer throughout the country.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*). This is the most common wren in the county and its bubbling notes may be heard the year round in almost every patch of woods and along the streams.

Texas Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki cryptus*). These wrens are not very common residents, although a good many are seen during migrations. Several were heard and seen September 27, 1925.

Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*). Regular spring transient; irregular in autumn.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*). Common winter visitant. First seen this autumn on October 12, near Woodward's farm.

White-Breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*). Uncommon visitant. This species was seen May 14, 1924, on Deep Fork Creek, Woodward's farm. A few were seen during the winter of 1924-25.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*). Common resident.

Plumbeous Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis agilis*). Abundant resident throughout the year.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*). This bird is a fairly common summer resident in the wooded parts of the county. A nest was found May 6, 1925.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. One was heard July 7, 1925, on the North Canadian River, six miles east of Oklahoma City.

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata subsp?*). Uncommon transient. One was seen November 23, and 25, 1924, on Hare's Estate. Another was seen January 11, 1925 at the same place.

American Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*). Common resident. Although they are more numerous in winter when they gather into large flocks, their distribution is so local that individuals are seen with less frequency than in summer. Lessenger's Lake west of Oklahoma City is one of their favorite winter rendezvous, and they collect there by the hundreds. These gathering places are nearly always in woods, and they are therefore seldom seen by the casual observer.

Bluebird (*Sialis sialis sialis*). Common resident. This bird seems to be more abundant during the winter.