

BIRDS OF THE KANSAS ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Galen L. Pittman

Experimental and Applied Ecology Program, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047-2906

There are 215 bird species that have been observed on Kansas Ecological Reserves (KER) lands, 82 of which are known breeding birds. The avifauna of KER is diverse (40 families) and is a reflection of the varied habitats that constitute KER. The KER tracts of the Tri-County area have second-growth woodland, grassland, open scrubland, and aquatic habitats that attract many "open country" and "edge" species as well as "water" birds. The KER tracts in Baldwin Woods have essentially one habitat type (mature eastern deciduous forest) and therefore a much less diverse avifauna than the Tri-County tracts. This single habitat produces a smaller and more specialized avifauna with several species that have very limited occurrence in Kansas (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler). Collectively, the area's birdlife represents a primarily eastern fauna, but is situated at or near the western range limit for many species.

Only about 20% of the birds that occur on KER are year-round residents. Another 10% are winter residents and about 25% are summer only residents. Nearly half (45%) of the birds encountered on KER are strictly migrants or temporary visitants and very few species are found in widespread locales throughout the tracts. Thus, the composition of a daily bird list recorded on KER is greatly influenced by the time of year and the particular location being censused.

The accompanying checklist of the birds of the Kansas Ecological Reserves was compiled from the field records of H.S. Fitch, R.L. Boyd, C.L. Cink, R.F. Johnston, and G.L. Pittman and covers the period 1948 - present. Particular attention was given to field surveys by the author from 1985 to the present. The nomenclature and arrangement used follows the Check-list of North American birds, 6th edition, American Ornithologists' Union, 1983.

The checklist contains the following notations for occurrence: BW = Baldwin Woods, TC = Tri-County area, "blank" = absent, "+" = present, and "*" = known breeding either past or present. The following notations are used for seasonal abundance: A = Accidental- extremely rare, not to be expected; extralimital in occurrence. R = Rare- few records, erratic in occurrence due either to very little suitable habitat or very low population densities. O = Occasional- irregular either during the seasons indicated or in annual frequency; present in low densities with records infrequent. U = Uncommon- present during the seasons indicated in low densities; regularly occurring but only in the appropriate habitat. C = Common- present in moderate to high densities and to be expected on almost any visit to the field during the seasons indicated. And finally, the notations for the seasons are as follows: Sp = Spring (March - May), Su = Summer (June - August), F = Fall (September - November), W = Winter (December - February).

BIRDS OF THE KANSAS ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Order/Family/Species	Common Name	Seasonal Abundance				Occurrence	
		Sp	Su	F	W	BW	TC
Podicipediformes							
Podicipedidae							
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	R	R	R			+
Pelecaniformes							
Pelecanidae							
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	American White Pelican	U		O			+
Phalacrocoracidae							
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	U		U			+
Ciconiiformes							
Ardeidae							
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	R					+
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	C		U		+	+
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron		U	O			+
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret		O				+
<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Green-backed Heron	C	C	O		*	*
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-Heron	R					+
Anseriformes							
Anatidae							
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	R		R			+
<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Snow Goose	C		C	O		+
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose	U					+
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck	U		U	U	*	*
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal	U		U	O		+
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck			R			+
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	U	U	U	U	+	+
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	O		O	O		+
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal	U	O	U		+	*
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	R	R				+
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall		O	O			+
<i>Aythya americana</i>	Redhead			O			+
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck	O		O	O		+
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser Scaup	U					+
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser			O			+
Falconiformes							
Cathartidae							
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	R	*	*
Accipitridae							
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	R		O			+
<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Mississippi Kite		A				+
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle			U	O		+
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	U	O	C	C		*
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	U			U	+	+
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	O	O	O	O	+	*
<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>	Northern Goshawk				R	+	+
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk	O	O	O	O		*
<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U		+	*
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's Hawk		U	U			+
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk			O	O		+
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle			R			+

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		Sp	Su	F	W	BW	TC
Falconiformes, cont.							
Falconidae							
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	U	U	U	U	*	+
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin			O			+
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie Falcon	R		R	R		+
Galliformes							
Phasianidae							
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant			R	R		+
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse		R		R	*	
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	*	*
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C	*	*
Gruiformes							
Rallidae							
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow Rail	R					+
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail	R		R			+
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	O		O			+
<i>Fulica americana</i>	American Coot	O		O			+
Gruidae							
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane			R			+
Charadriiformes							
Charadriidae							
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer	U	U	U	O	+	*
Scolopacidae							
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Greater Yellowlegs	O					+
<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O			+
<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O		+	+
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	O	O	O		+	+
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	O	O	O			+
<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Western Sandpiper	O					+
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Least Sandpiper		O				+
<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	White-rumped Sandpiper	O					+
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	O					+
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	U		O		+	+
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock	U	U	U		*	*
Laridae							
<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Franklin's Gull	O		U			+
<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Bonaparte's Gull	O					+
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull	O	O	O			+
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern		O				+
Columbiformes							
Columbidae							
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	O	O	O	O		+
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	*	*
Cuculiformes							
Cuculidae							
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	O			+
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	O		*	*
Strigiformes							
Tytonidae							
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Common Barn-Owl				R		+
Strigidae							
<i>Otus asio</i>	Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	*	*

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Strigiformes, cont.							
Strigidae, cont.							
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	O	O	O	O	+	+
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl				R		+
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl				R		+
Caprimulgiformes							
Caprimulgidae							
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	O	O	O		+	+
<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	Chuck-will's-widow	U	U	R		*	*
<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Whip-poor-will	C	C	O		*	*
Apodiformes							
Apodidae							
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	U	U	U		+	+
Trochilidae							
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U		*	*
Coraciiformes							
Alcedinidae							
<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher	U	O	U	O	+	+
Piciformes							
Picidae							
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	O	+	+
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	*	*
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	O	O			+	
Passeriformes							
Tyrannidae							
<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		+	+
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	U		*	*
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O				+	
<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	Acadian Flycatcher	R	R			*	
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher	U	O				+
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher	U	O			+	
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher	C	O	O		+	+
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe	C	C	U		*	*
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	U		*	*
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Western Kingbird	O					+
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird	C	C	O		+	*
<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	O	O				+
Alaudidae							
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark	O	O	O	O	+	*
Hirundinidae							
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin	O	U			+	*
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow	O		O		+	+
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	O	O		*	*
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow	O				+	+
<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow		U	O			+
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	C	C	U		+	*

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		Sp	Su	F	W	BW	TC
Passeriformes, cont.							
Corvidae							
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow	C	C	C	C	*	*
Paridae							
<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	*	*
Sittidae							
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch			U	O	+	+
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	*	*
Certhiidae							
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper	U		U	U	+	+
Troglodytidae							
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren	U	U	U	U	*	*
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren	U	U	U		+	*
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren			O	O	+	+
<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren	O	O	O			+
Muscicapidae							
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		O	U	+	+
<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		C	O	+	+
<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	O		*	*
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	U	*	*
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery	O		O		+	
<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		O		+	+
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Swainson's Thrush	C		U		+	+
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush	U		O	O	+	+
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush	C	C	O		*	*
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	C	C	C	U	*	*
Mimidae							
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird	C	U	O		*	*
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird	O	O	O	O	+	+
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher	C	C	O		*	*
Bombycillidae							
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing	U		O	O	+	+
Laniidae							
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	O	O	O	O	+	*
Sturnidae							
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling	U	O	C	U	*	*
Vireonidae							
<i>Vireo griseus</i>	White-eyed Vireo	R	R	R		*	*
<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Bell's Vireo	C	C	U		*	*
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Solitary Vireo	U		U		+	+
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O		+	
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Warbling Vireo	U	O	O		*	*
<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Philadelphia Vireo	O	R	O		+	+
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	U		*	*
Emberizidae							
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	R				+	
<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Tennessee Warbler	C	R	U		+	+
<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U		+	+
<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler	C		U		+	+
<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula	U	C	O		*	*

BIRDS OF THE KANSAS ECOLOGICAL RESERVES (cont.)

Order/Family/Species	Common Name	Seasonal Abundance				Occurrence	
		Sp	Su	F	W	BW	TC
Passeriformes, cont.							
Emberizidae, cont.							
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler	C		O		+	+
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O		+	+
<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler	O		O		+	+
<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Cape May Warbler	R				+	
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Black-throated Blue Warbler			R			+
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	O	+	+
<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O		+	+
<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Blackburnian Warbler	O		O		+	+
<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Palm Warbler	O				+	
<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Bay-breasted Warbler			R			+
<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Blackpoll Warbler	O				+	+
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	R				+	
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler	U	U	O		*	+
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart	U	O	O		*	+
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Prothonotary Warbler	O				+	
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Worm-eating Warbler	R				+	
<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Ovenbird	U	U	O		*	+
<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Northern Waterthrush	O		O		+	+
<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Louisiana Waterthrush	U	U			*	*
<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Kentucky Warbler	C	C	O		*	*
<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Mourning Warbler	U		O		+	+
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat	C	C	O		*	*
<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Wilson's Warbler	U		O		+	+
<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Canada Warbler	O		O		+	+
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U	O		+	*
<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Summer Tanager	U	U	O		*	*
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager	U	U	O		*	*
<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Western Tanager		A				+
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	O		*	*
<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	Blue Grosbeak	O	U	O		+	+
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting	U	U	O		*	*
<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Painted Bunting	O				+	+
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel	U	C	U		+	*
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Rufous-sided Towhee	U	U	U	U	*	*
<i>Spizella arborea</i>	American Tree Sparrow	C		U	C	+	+
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow	U	U	O			*
<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Clay-colored Sparrow	U		O		+	+
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow	C	C	U	O	*	*
<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		+	+
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Lark Sparrow	U	U			+	*
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow	U		O			+
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U		+	*
<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	LeConte's Sparrow	U		U			+
<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Fox Sparrow	U		U	U	+	+
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	U		U	U	+	+
<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	O	+	+
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Swamp Sparrow	U		U	O		+
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow	U		U	U	+	+
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	O	+	+

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		Sp	Su	F	W	BW	TC
Passeriformes, cont.							
Emberizidae, cont.							
<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Harris Sparrow	C		C	C	+	+
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C	+	+
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	C	U	*	*
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	U	*	*
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark			U	U		+
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird			O			+
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird	U		U	O		+
<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Great-tailed Grackle	O					+
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle	U	U	U	U	*	*
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	O	*	*
<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Orchard Oriole	U	U			+	+
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Northern Oriole	C	C			*	*
Fringillidae							
<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Purple Finch	U		U	U	+	+
<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Pine Siskin	U		C	C	+	+
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	*	*
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak	O			O		+
Passeridae							
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	*	*