

were virtually non-existent, but White-winged Crossbills were widespread in moderate numbers. The highest count was noted on the Jamestown CBC Dec. 19, where 58 were tallied. It was a very good year for redpolls in the Dakotas, but very few were seen in Montana. As usual, a few Hoary Redpolls were noted, the southernmost Jan. 28 in *Deuel*, SD (BKH). The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were from the more regular wintering areas of North Dakota, the Turtle Mts. and the Pembina Hills.

CORRIGENDA

In *Field Notes* 51:1014, the 21 Baird's Sparrow nests at Bowdoin were found by Paule Grouse, Julian Wood, Jeane Hamond, and Michele Anderson, not by Steve Dinsmore.

Cited observers (area editors in boldface):

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 160.

southern great plains region



JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

This was a generally mild winter. The reporting showed it with a broad taxonomic selection of half-hardies, no-hardies, and fool-hardies hanging a little farther north. These included a number of ground-foraging seed-eaters, small omnivores, and a few of those "mud-poking" shorebirds. There were also some large groups of geese and cranes which maintained high numbers in central Kansas, and Common Mergansers in Nebraska, which simply didn't have to move farther south this season.

Some diving ducks can annually be forced down by local conditions, and risk less in doing this than many dabblers who may want only to risk average expectations. Larger bodies of water are always temporary foraging options for divers, even if conditions become really bad very quickly, not to mention the buffer of their fat reserves. So their numbers can be largest at their northern limits. Dabblers may be more sensitive, as a bad scene which freezes shallow water solid will not necessarily cause them to move. Many erring in their

choice of winter haven may die—a selective process favoring those making a better choice, particularly for smaller species with limited ability for fat reserve.

So, too, with the smaller landbirds. Only a relatively few will play their fall journey short; the long process of recovering from a severe winter parallels the process of larger numbers wintering farther north. Mild winters proliferate only scattered numbers.

Gulls have become a dominant and outstanding part of the winter report. Lake McConaughy has become a southern plains "mecca" for many vagrants which go astray. This season, Lake Waconda (Mitchell County) in Kansas was not far behind. These observations likely reflect a population boom for this taxon. To some extent, it is incredible—literally!!! Gull plumages being what they are, all is not what it appears, but at least some of it is, and even some of this season's reporting is incredible—figuratively. Ten years ago, I doubt anyone would have predicted counting Lesser Black-backed Gulls, seeing more than one Mew Gull for the season, much less at a time, or seeing several of the 13 species

recorded this season *in a single season!* Niagara Falls gull-watchers may read, weep, and envy. The mild weather this season, however, may have kept most north of Oklahoma.

As I look back, it also surprises me to see how the status of some other species have changed. They sprinkle the following pages, and form much of the purpose of assembling these accounts. With time, the number of observers has increased. Birders are better equipped, and, mostly for the better, have better information. Hot-lines and Web links have likely heightened awareness and interest, and sparked some competition. Documentation has also improved, but probably not at the pace of activity. The options and immediate social "carrots" of posting have probably softened some of the perceived desire for long-term credibility, and likely weakened some of the merits of what follows, but, all in all, still an intriguing time of change for birds and birders alike.

Abbreviations: K.B.R.C. (*Kansas Bird Records Committee*); McConaughy (*L. McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); North Platte (*North Platte N.W.R., Scotts Bluff Co., NE*); O.B.R.C. (*Oklahoma Bird Records Committee*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Sooner Lake (*Noble/Pawnee Cos., OK*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Red-throated Loon was noted in *Russell, KS, Dec. 16 (MR)*; a possible Red-throated in *Cherokee, OK, Nov. 24 (JM)* will undergo review by the O.B.R.C. Pacific Loon, almost unheard of 20 years ago, continues its annual (now almost seasonal) appearances with birds seen Dec. 6 at *Hitchcock, NE (SJD)*; Dec. 20 in *Russell, KS (MR)*; Dec. 21 in *Cowley, KS (MT, GY)*; and at *McConaughy Jan. 2–15 (SJD, m.ob.)*. Common Loon numbers usually dwindle to nothing by late January; one in *Linn, KS (SR)*, and two at *Sooner L. Feb. 7 (JWA)* were unusual.

One–two Red-necked Grebes Dec. 7 & 18 and Jan. 3–4 at *McConaughy (SJD, m.ob.)* were the first recorded in January for Nebraska; others were seen in *Tulsa, OK, Dec. 6–9 (BC, PS)*, and *Mitchell, KS, Dec. 13 (MR, SS)*. Late was an Eared Grebe Dec. 18 at *Lincoln, NE (SJD)*; several were noted into January in *Oklahoma City (JAG)*. Western Grebes wintered at *McConaughy* with 342 noted Jan. 3 (*SJD, BP, LP*), along with one to three Clark's Grebes (*SJD*). Other Westerns were reported from *Lincoln, NE (LK)*, and *Douglas, KS (AP)*, Jan. 2. A Clark's was also observed in *Mitchell, KS, Dec. 13 (MR, SS)*.

An Am. White Pelican wintered in *Lincoln, NE (SJD et al.)*, with another in *Riley, KS, Jan. 13 (DR)*. A Double-crested Cormorant Feb. 3 at *North Platte* was also farther north than most (*LK*). Braving the odds, but probably not the outcome, was a Great Egret lingering to Dec. 20 in *Tulsa (JWA et al.)*.

The assumption of swan species in the Region as Tundra is no longer reasonable. Three Tundra Swans were reported from *Keith, NE, Jan. 14–Feb. 7 (SJD, m.ob.)*, with another at *Dakota, NE, Feb. 25–28 (BFH)*. Eleven Tundra Swans were present in *Sumner, KS, Feb. 19–27 (SP, GY)*, with 5 other reports of seven birds from *Kansas (fide LM)*. Now more common, but still noteworthy, Trumpeter Swans wintered in *Keith, NE (up to 18 Jan. 14–15; SJD)*, and three were in *Miami, KS, Dec. 8 (V&RO)*; five in *Jefferson, KS, Dec. 10 (RR)*; three in *Douglas, KS, Jan. 25 (AP, DT)*; one in *Omaha Feb. 7 (BP, LP)*; and one in *Meade, KS, Feb. 23 (TF)*. Only one was found in *Oklahoma, that Feb. 16 in Blaine (S&CR, JS, JM)*.

A Greater White-fronted Goose Jan. 19 in *Scotts Bluff (SJD)* was the first mid-winter report for the Nebraska panhandle. The 98,000 White-fronteds, 60,000 Snow, and 381,000 Canada geese counted by Quivira staff in late December exemplified the season's mild conditions. The rare blue morph of the Ross's Goose was observed with two white-morph birds Feb. 26 at *Stanton, NE (DH)*. Reports of Ross's have increased in recent years, especially for the e. and c. portions of the Region, but still for small groups of <10 birds. A **Brant** of the eastern *bernicla* subspecies was documented in *Kearney, NE, Feb. 22 (LR, RH)*.

Daringly north was a Wood Duck Dec. 20 in *Scotts Bluff, NE (AK)*; a possible early migrant appeared Feb. 22 in *Keith-Garden, NE (SJD)*. American Black Ducks, less frequently reported in the recent decade, were noted Dec. 15 at *Sarpy, NE (BP, LP)*; Dec. 16 in *Wagoner, OK (JH, JM)*; Dec. 25 at *Lancaster, NE (JS)*; and Feb. 15 in *Osage, KS (GP)*. The high counts for Mallards were 64,000 at *North Platte Jan. 5 (LK)*, and 60,000 at *Lincoln, NE, Jan. 1 (SJD)*. Northern Shovelers, considered as rare during winter not so long ago, were regular across *Oklahoma, with 11 lingering to at least Jan. 1 in Otoe, NE (LF, CF)*; 13 in *Keith, NE, Jan. 14–15 (SJD)*; and one at *Scotts Bluff, NE, Jan. 14 (SJD)*. Among early migrants were two Cinnamon Teal Feb. 27 in *Sumner, KS (GY)*.

Having myself a 20+-year history of

looking for Greater Scaups in flocks of scap in *Oklahoma, and mostly not finding them, the recent observations of 50+ reflect a status change for the Region. A clear reservoir of choice is now Sooner Lake, where counts of 80+ were made Dec. 10 (JAG, DE) & 13 (JWA)*; 55+ counted in *Oklahoma Dec. 28* were present into January (*JAG*). Four Greaters were reported from *McConaughy Dec. 7 (SJD)*; seven from *Douglas, KS, Jan. 1 (PW)*; two–three at *Scotts Bluff Jan. 15 & 19 (SJD)*; and six from *Coffey, KS, Feb. 6–15 (BF)*. Several were reported from *Tulsa and Creek, OK (fide JL)*, with three from *Muskogee, OK, Jan. 21 (JM)*. Usually in smaller groups, the 1500 Ring-necked Ducks in *Creek, OK, Feb. 11 (JL, MK)* marked a concentration or possible movement in this species.

A few more than normally reported were the Oldsquaws (mostly singles) observed Dec. 7–18 at *Scotts Bluff, NE (SJD)*; Dec. 13–Feb. 13 in *Tulsa (4 locations; m.ob.)*, Dec. 27 at *Sooner Lake Dec. 30 (JWA)*, in *Seward, KS (SP)*; Jan. 1 in *Lincoln, NE (SJD)*, Jan. 2 in *Geary, KS (fide LM)*; Jan. 11–Feb. 1 in *Sedgwick, KS (TH, m.ob.)*; Jan. 14–Feb. 7 at *McConaughy (SJD, m.ob.)*; and Jan. 23 in *Alfalfa, OK (GL, JLa, LS)*. The rarest of the scoters in the Region, the Black Scoter, was represented by two birds Dec. 7–Jan. 4 in *Keith, NE (SJD)*.

Only one Surf Scoter, the most frequently reported, was found, shot by a hunter in *Cowley, KS, Dec. 14 (fide LM)*. White-winged Scoters were located in *Douglas, KS, Dec. 26 (PW)*, and *Oklahoma Dec. 28 (JAG)* through January (*m.ob.*).

Barrow's Goldeneyes also seem to be having an upsurge, with 2 pairs present Feb. 6–7 below *Kingsley Dam, Keith, NE (SJD)*, a pair in *Lincoln, NE, Dec. 18 (SJD)*; and one–two in *Tulsa Dec. 19–Feb. 13 (JL, JWA, m.ob.)*. There were 48,000 Com. Mergansers counted in *Harlan, NE, Dec. 14 (JGJ)*, and 10,000 in *Mitchell, KS, Dec. 13 (MR, SS)*. Although only five Red-breasted Mergansers were found in *Nebraska (fide WRS, JGJ)*, and nine Jan. 23 in *Cowley, KS (MT, GY)*, over 100 were counted at *Sooner Lake Dec. 10 (JAG, DE)*, with reports in double-digits in *Oklahoma Dec. 28* through January (*JAG*).

RAPTORS THROUGH OWLS

Turkey Vultures managed to find their way north to *Jefferson, KS (GP)*, and *Johnson, KS (NC)*, Feb. 25. An Osprey again wintered in *Tulsa (JL, m.ob.)*. One N. Goshawk was reported for *Nebraska (WM)*, while six were seen in *Kansas (fide LM)*. Golden

Eagles at *Dakota*, NE, Feb. 22 (BFH), and *Richardson*, NE, Feb. 7 (JS) the easternmost reported. Merlin reports have been increasing in recent years, with 17 from Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ), three from Kansas (*vide* LM), and four from Oklahoma (*vide* JL, JAG). Two Peregrine Falcons were near a nest box in Topeka, KS, Feb. 15 (JB). A **Gyrfalcon** was documented in *Mitchell*, KS, Feb. 12 (CH, SP, MR).

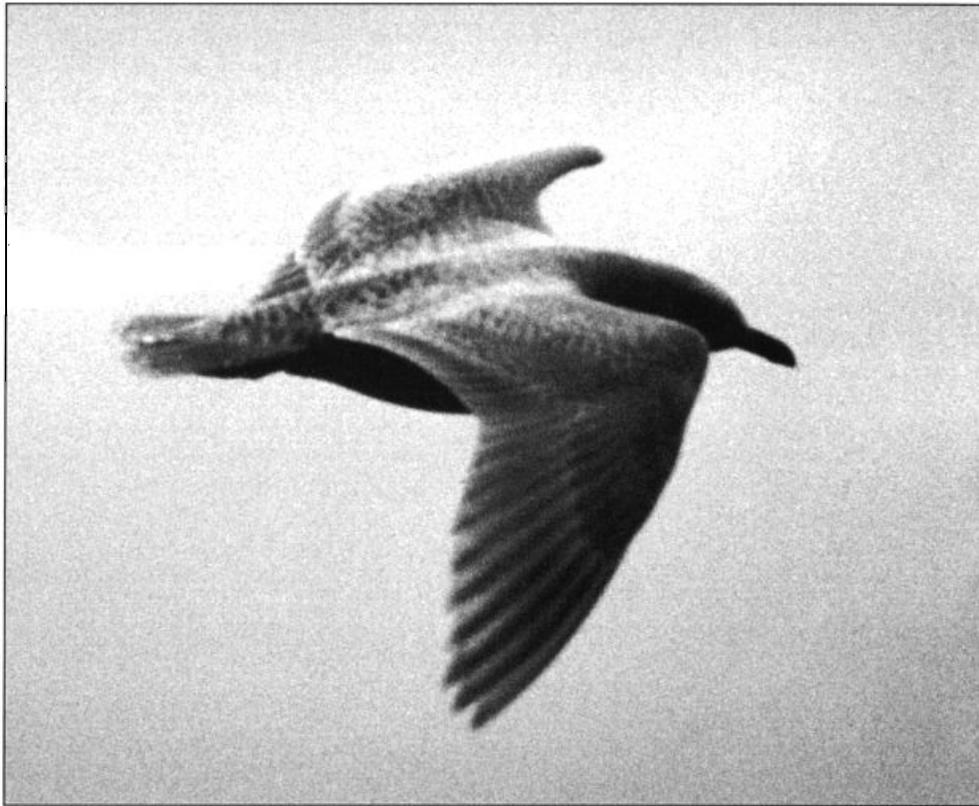
The winter status of Virginia Rails continues to be clarified, with ten in *Keith-Garden*, NE, Feb. 2 (SJD); other reports of one-three birds came from 2 locations in Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ), and 2 in Kansas (*vide* LM). Very unusual was a Whooping Crane Feb. 15 in *Hall*, NE (*vide* WRS, JGJ), with another Feb. 19 in *Meade*, KS (USF&W). Usually farther south, the 25,000 Sandhill Cranes at Quivira in late December seemed exceptional.

Killdeer were reported across the Region, with three at North Platte and two in *Sioux*, NE, during mid-January (HKH). A Greater Yellowlegs was noted Jan. 16 at Sooner Lake (JWA), and the 48 yellowlegs present in *McCurtain*, OK, Jan. 25 (BH) may predict expected winter status. Among unexpected/less-expected wintering shorebirds were a Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin Jan. 16 at Sooner Lake (JWA), and a Dunlin Feb. 28 in *Dakota*, NE (BFH). Probably an early migrant was a Long-billed Dowitcher Feb. 15 in *Sequoyah* (JH). At least a few Com. Snipe wintered in Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ). Six Am. Woodcock were displaying in *Wyandotte*, KS, Feb. 20 (LW), and one arrived at *Douglas*, NE, Feb. 22 (*vide* WRS, JGJ).

Normally south of the border, three Franklin's Gulls were present in *McIntosh*, OK, Jan. 9 (LH); *Coffey*, KS, Jan. 18 (MM, GP); and *Sedgwick*, KS, Feb. 3 (JN, ST). A "migrating flock" of 34 Franklin's was observed at Sooner Lake Feb. 7 (JWA). The only Little Gull reported was an adult Feb. 14 in *Sequoyah*, OK (SB).

Mew Gull is big, big news for the Region; McConaughy produced a grossly unexpected two adults and one first-winter bird Feb. 7-22 (SJD et al.). Also documented were ad. Mew Gulls at *Sedgwick*, KS, Jan. 14-18 (TH, PJ, m.ob.), and *Riley*, KS, Feb. 1-14 (JR, GS, DR), with a 2nd-winter bird in *Mitchell*, KS, Jan. 29 (MR, SS).

McConaughy hosted up to 78 California Gulls (SJD), a record 1500 Herring Gulls (SJD), and at least (perhaps!) 20 Thayer's Gulls (including six-eight adults, one 3rd-year, and up to 11 first-year birds; SJD). Outside McConaughy, single California



Although many out-of-range reports of Thayer's Gull are hard to interpret, this appeared to be a real one. It was on the Arkansas River in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, on January 31, 1998.
Photograph/ James W. Arterburn

Gulls were reported Dec. 18 in *Lincoln*, NE (SJD), and from 4 locations in Kansas (*vide* LM); eight were seen Dec. 22 in *Cowley*, KS (MT, GY), and nine were counted in *Sedgwick*, KS, Jan. 16-Feb. 13 (m.ob.).

Without good documentation, it is difficult to comment confidently about this season's flurry of Thayer's Gull reports, except to admit that perhaps their migration routes are developing into the Plains region, and/or that it takes less to convince birders in claiming an identification. However, some reports were documented! Perhaps 10 first-winter Thayer's Gulls were counted in *Mitchell*, KS (MR, SS), with two adults documented in *Riley*, KS, Jan. 10-11 (GS, m.ob.). Three other reports of one-four birds were listed for Kansas (*vide* LM), and at least four for Oklahoma (JWA). Still another notch up the spectrum of paleness from pale Herring Gulls were a first-winter **Iceland Gull** Feb. 7 at McConaughy joined by an adult of the Kumlien's type Feb. 22 (SJD et al.), one ad. and one first-winter Iceland documented in *Russell*, KS, Jan. 24 (MR, SS), and two others reported in *Sedgwick*, KS, Feb. 13 (SP, m.ob.), and *Barton*, KS, Feb. 15 (CO, MR). A soft "wow!"

Adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also present at McConaughy Jan. 14-Feb. 22, with an amazing six noted Feb. 7 (SJD). One-two (first- and 2nd-winter) Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed Dec. 3-20 in *Lancaster*, NE (BP, LP, JS), with a 3rd-winter bird in *Sedgwick*, KS, Dec. 4-10 (PJ, m.ob.), a 3rd- and 4th-winter bird there Jan. 24-28, and a first-winter bird present Feb. 13 (SP, m.ob.). One adult was also noted Dec. 20 (PM et al.) & 28 (JAG) in *Oklahoma*.

Other outstanding finds were a 2nd-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** in *Sedgwick*, KS, Jan. 24 (MM, m.ob.), and an adult in *Riley*, KS, Feb. 5 (GS), perhaps the 3rd and 4th records for the Region. The former was accepted as the first for Kansas, and the latter is under review by the K.B.R.C. Also exceptional were first-winter Great Black-backed Gulls documented at *Sedgwick*, KS, Jan. 16-17 (MC, TH) and *Barton*, KS, Feb. 15 (SP, SS, CO).

Up to 12 Glaucous Gulls were at McConaughy (SJD et al.), with nine present in *Mitchell*, KS, Jan. 24 (MR, SS). Three other Glaucous Gulls were reported for Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ), at least 14 from Kansas (*vide* LM), and two from Oklahoma.

I almost left out our Black-legged Kittiwakes, this season noted in *Coffey*, KS, Jan. 1–27 (AS, m.ob.) and *Riley*, KS, Feb. 15 (CO, JO), both in first-winter plumage. Not to be “lingered out” were a Forster’s Tern Dec. 13 in Tulsa, eight+ Dec. 27 in *Sequoyah*, OK (JM, LH), and 15+ Feb. 18 in *McIntosh*, OK (JM, JH).

A Eur. Collared-Dove that appeared in *Dawes*, NE, Nov. 29 (LR, RH) was present through the period; two were present in *Shawnee*, KS, Feb. 21 (DK). The status of these birds will likely remain elusive, as there is a likely pattern of expansion from a Florida population intermixed with known releases, sometimes of several hundred birds. Inca Doves Dec. 1–Jan. 30 in Tulsa (JB, m.ob.) and Jan. 4 in *Kay*, OK (LL, GL et al.), were, surprisingly, the only reports for a species with a recent surge.

Snowy Owls, not reported every year, included an injured bird picked up in *Burt*, NE, and brought to a rehabilitation center (JS); another was spotted in *Russell*, KS, Jan. 6 (GR, MR). There have been many years when this winter account has not bustled with reports of owls. This season, 40 and 30

Long-eared Owls were counted in *Russell* (MR, SS) and *Trego*, KS (SS), respectively, with 4 other reports of 8–15 birds received. The 30+ Short-eared Owls counted in *Pawnee*, KS, Dec. 5 (SS) were believed a small portion of the number present on Conservation Reserve Program lands in this area. Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in *Ottawa*, KS, Dec. 7 (DK) and *Russell*, KS, Jan. 7 (MR).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES

Somewhat north of most was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Dec. 27 at *Loup*, NE (LR, RH). A Red-naped Sapsucker, with still uncertain status but expected only as a migrant, was documented in *Cimarron*, OK, Jan. 2 (JD et al.). Eastern Phoebes were observed in *Tulsa* Jan. 18 (BC) and Feb. 7 (LFr), with seven by Feb. 24 (AR et al.). Clearly pushing the season were two Tree Swallows Feb. 21 in *Sequoyah*, OK (BC).

A Black-billed Magpie wandered E to *Sedgwick*, KS, Dec. 4 (TH). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** documented in *Johnson*, KS, Dec. 25–Jan. 25 (MM, m.ob.) was the

first for Kansas. A Carolina Wren wandered W to *Cheyenne*, KS, Dec. 24 (MRu). Among half-hardies were a Sedge Wren spotted in *Linn*, KS, Feb. 28 (MM, GP), and Gray Catbirds noted at 2 locations in *Tulsa* Dec. 22–Jan. 8 (ER) and Feb. 8 (BC). Five E. Bluebirds managed north to *Dixon*, NE, Jan. 3 (BFH), with eight Jan. 15 at *Keith*, NE (SJD). A Varied Thrush was found dead in *Butler*, KS, Dec. 23 (HG); another unconfirmed report was received for *Alfalfa*, OK.

At least 21 N. Shrikes were reported from Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ), with eight from Kansas (*vide* LM). Probably wintering was a Loggerhead Shrike Feb. 22 in *Cass*, NE (GW).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Established as wintering rarely in extreme s.e. Oklahoma by Berlin Heck is the Blue-headed Vireo; one was noted Jan. 3 in *McCurtain*, OK (JNm, JSt). Yellow-rumped Warblers persisted north and west to *Keith*, NE, where six “Myrtles” were noted Jan. 2 (SJD). A Pine Warbler was spotted in *Jefferson*, KS, Jan. 6 (RR). The warbler surprise of the season goes to a Wilson’s observed Dec. 28 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB).

A less-than-half-hardy was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak Dec. 15 in *Muskogee*, OK (LH). Among a number of half-hardies spending time in the balmy north was a Chipping Sparrow Jan. 1–4 in *Riley*, KS (DR, DB); up to four were observed in *Tulsa* Jan. 10 (JAG). A Lark Bunting was present Dec. 23–28 in *Finney*, KS (MO, m.ob.). Savannah Sparrows were found north to *Harvey*, KS, Dec. 20 (*vide* LM), and a Le Conte’s was present in *Sedgwick*, KS, Dec. 20 (JN, PJ). A Vesper Sparrow in *Antelope*, NE, Jan. 4 (DH) was the first documented January report for Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ); up to five were noted in *Tulsa* Dec. 20 (LU et al.). A Fox Sparrow Feb. 26 in Fontenelle Forest, and two Jan. 23 in *Lancaster*, NE (LE), were also north of most.

Surprising were Black-throated Sparrows in Omaha from December into January (JS, RG), and Oklahoma City Jan. 21 into February (HP et al.). Among exceptional finds were a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in *Jefferson*, KS, Dec. 21 (BW), and two at a feeder in *Finney*, KS, Dec. 23–28 (MO, m.ob.).

Snow Buntings appeared south to Sooner Lake Dec. 7 (JD et al.) and *Cass*, NE, Jan. 26 (GW). A Yellow-headed Blackbird Feb. 22 in *Phelps*, NE (LR, RH), likely wintered. An excellent count of 75 Rusty Blackbirds was recorded for *Dodge*, NE, Feb. 1 (DP). Rare for winter in the Nebraska pan-



A Christmas gift for Kansas birders, this Brown-headed Nuthatch—a first state record—showed up in Mission Hills on December 25, 1997, and stayed for a month. Photograph/ Mike Whited

SA The most disconcerting news of the season was of an estimated 5000–10,000 birds, mostly Lapland Longspurs, killed on the night of Jan. 22 in the vicinity of a 420 foot tall communications tower in w. Kansas. Apparently a heavy snowstorm put the birds up at night looking for bare ground and a dense fog disoriented the flock, which circled the lighted tower and were slaughtered in collisions with the guy wires. In a 2-day period, people salvaged about 150 lbs. of dead longspurs, and many more were left behind. The tower had 3 flashing white strobes. This event brings up the important question of what happened, can happen, and is happening with the proliferation of towers now occurring across the continent.

handle were two Brewer's Blackbirds Jan. 15 in *Scotts Bluff* (SJD). The Kansas winter was still not too much for a Bullock's Oriole in *Finney*, KS, Jan. 17 (TS).

Flocks of about 60 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were noted in *Sioux*, NE (HKH, SJD), among the few places in the Region where the species is regular. A Lesser Goldfinch in *Cleveland*, OK, Feb. 26–27 (AF) was unexpected. Up to seven White-winged Crossbills remained through the period in *Madison*, NE (DH). More than the usual collection, others included a female in *Sarpy*, NE, Dec. 7–10 (BP, LP); one in *Johnson*, KS, Dec. 11 (DA, m.ob.); one in *Pottawatomie*, KS, Dec. 12 (BM); one in *Sedgwick*, KS (*vide* PJ) Jan. 18–21; two in *Lancaster*, NE, Jan. 3 (LE); and two in *Jefferson*, KS, Jan. 20 (JV). Red Crossbill reports were down; 12 were reported in *Jefferson*, KS, Dec. 14–Jan. 10 (AP). Common Redpolls were widespread in n. Nebraska, and appeared as far south in Nebraska as *Nuckolls*, (*vide* WRS, JGJ); one was in *Saline*, KS, Jan. 14 (DRd), one in *Riley*, KS, Feb. 4 (DM), and two in *Sedgwick*, KS, during December (KJ).

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 KANSAS: Debarah Arnett, Joann Brier, Doris Burnett, Nancy Clark, Mike Corder, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Harry Gregory, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Kris Jackson, Pete Janzen, Dan Kilby, Brandon Magette, Mick McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Dan Muhlhearn, John Northrup, Vondie & Rita O'Connor, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Jay Otte,



A surprise in this mild winter was this Snow Bunting at Sooner Lake, Oklahoma, on December 7, 1997. Photograph/Steve Metz

Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Mike Rader, Steve Rhoades, Dave Rintoul, Greg Rose, Richard Rucker, David Rudick, Marlin Rueb (MRu), Jethro Runco, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Art Smallwell, Guy Smith, Dan Thalman, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Joyce Volmut, Bonnie Watkins, Phil Wedge, Larry Werner, and Gene Young. NEBRASKA: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Carol Falk, Laurence Falk, Ruth Green, Robin Harding, David Heidt, Helen K. Huson, Bill F. Huser, **Joel G. Jorgensen**, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Wayne Mohlhoff, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Lanny Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan, and Gertrude Wood. OKLAHOMA: James W. Arterburn, Sandy Berger, J. Bible, Vicki Byre, Bill Carrell, John Dole, David Elmen-dorf, Andrew Feldt, L. Fritts (LFr.), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Jim Harman, Berlin Heck, Laura Hunnicutt, Marty Kamp, Jeanne Larrabee (JLa), Glenda Leslie, Lloyd Leslie, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee** (LMc), **Jeri Mc-Mahon**, Pat Muzny, Jim Norman (JNm), Helen Parker, E. Renning, Aline Romero, Susie & Clarence Ruby, Pat Seibert, Lora Smith, John Sterling (JSt), L. Upshaw.

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