

FURTHER ROADSIDE CENSUSES IN OKLAHOMA

On May 20, 1921, and on seven days between May 29 and July 9, 1922, we have taken nearly 400 additional miles of "Roadside Censuses" in Oklahoma; since this makes us over 1000 miles of such counts in this state during the breeding seasons of the last three years it seemed well to compare these new censuses with those taken in 1920* and to summarize the results. One hundred miles of these censuses were taken in the Panhandle—Texas and Cimarron Counties—on May 29, 1922, while the rest were taken in central Oklahoma extending southwest to Comanche County and north to Kingfisher County. All the region traversed was prairie and farm land.

The accompanying table gives the average number of native birds seen per mile in 1920, in 1921-22, and in all three years under differing conditions of weather and time of day. Our later results are much the same as the first; there are slightly more birds under each category except among those seen at noon. Thus we find after 1166 miles of Roadside Census during the breeding season in Oklahoma an average of five birds per mile during all weathers and at all times of day; of 6.4 in the cool of the day, and 3.8 in the heat of the day.

NUMBERS OF NATIVE BIRDS SEEN ON ROADSIDE CENSUSES IN OKLAHOMA

Weather	Time	Miles	1920		1921-22		Total	
			Av. No. of Birds Seen per Mile	Miles	Av. No. of Birds Seen per Mile	Miles	Av. No. of Birds Seen per Mile	
Pleasant	All Times	780	4.8	386	5.3	1166	5.0	
Pleasant	All Times	696	5.2	336	5.9	1032	5.3	
Rainy	All Times	84	1.4	50	2.8	134	2.5	
Pleasant	Early Morning or Late Afternoon	395	6.2	241	6.8	636	6.4	
Pleasant	at or Near Noon	301	3.9	95	2.9	396	3.8	

As to the kinds of birds, the most widely distributed and most abundant in the total counts are in general the same as in 1920; yet the far western trips show an influence in the greater importance of Lark Sparrows and especially of Horned Larks. Of the nine most widely distributed birds in the first censuses and the total censuses eight are the same; Horned Larks take the place of Red-headed Woodpeckers when all the results are considered. The birds that were seen on half or more of the 65 censuses follow — the figures showing the number of censuses in which each kind was recorded: Mourning Dove, 58; Mockingbird, 54; Dickcissel, 49; Lark Sparrow, 46; Eastern Kingbird, 43; Bobwhite, 37; Bluebird, 36; Meadowlark (Eastern and Western), 35; and Horned Lark, 32.

In regard to total abundance, the nine commonest birds of the first 780 miles are still the most abundant after 1166 miles, although there is some shifting of relative abundance. The total numbers counted were as follows: Dickcissel, 999; Mourning Doves, 614; Horned Larks, 542;

* Wilson Bulletin, XXXIII, 3, 1921, pp. 113-123, 4, pp. 194-195.

Mockingbirds, 328; Meadowlarks, 328; Lark Sparrows, 268; Bluebirds, 216; Scissors-tailed Flycatchers, 179; and Kingbirds, 151.

Two thousand and fifty-five English Sparrows were seen on these censuses, an average of nearly two a mile; this is 26 per cent of all the birds seen and twice as many as the most abundant native bird—the Dickcissel.

MARGARET M. NICE AND L. B. NICE.

Norman, Oklahoma.

THE FISH CROW IN ARKANSAS

So far as the writer has been able to learn the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) has never been reported from Arkansas. It would seem, from rather patient inquiries and persistent observation, that it is nevertheless a common resident. My attention was first called to this fact in the summer 1921. A country lad who has shown remarkable aptitude in the study of our local bird life kept reporting to me the presence of a bird of somewhat smaller size than the crow and wanted to take me to sections of the Arkansas River flowing between Faulkner and Perry Counties where it was said to be common. During the same season a nest of this species was located in a thick woodland far from the river, and contained five eggs. In collecting them they were broken, and I did not have the opportunity of correcting my supposition that they were the eggs of the common crow.

Fishermen who live along the river had often spoken of the "jackdaws" and "maggies," but still I thought they were only confused in matter of names, and were but referring to the self-same common crow. During the present season (1922) every doubt as to the validity of this species has been set at rest. On May 13th I visited the haunts of the Fish Crow, and located a nest which had just been completed but which at this time contained no eggs. It was a rather compact structure made of sticks and twigs of the cottonwood tree, lined with leaves and rootlets of the kind preferred by our Mockingbird. This nest was well toward the top of a huge sycamore 110 feet from the ground, and the tree was growing on the bank of the Arkansas River. The prospect for my climber was none too good, but he proved his ability on this occasion, as he had done on so many others, and we were further rewarded by seeing a large number of Fish Crows searching the river sections for food.

It was the first week in June before I could revisit this nest. On June 5th both male and female were present. The female was on the nest and did not leave it until the hand of the collector was almost on her. It contained three birds, just hatched, one egg hatching, and another egg with fully developed embryo. This egg, when measured, was found to be 1.41 by 1.06 inches, and typically marked.

The nest now contained no rootlets, but was lined with a mass of sycamore balls and horse hair! It was 18 inches wide, the inside diameter being about eight inches, and was deeply cupped, a little more than four inches deep. Both birds were constantly at the tree while these investigations were going on.

Since this time the birds have been under constant observation. The