

Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science

Volume 18

Article 7

1964

Seasonal Occurrences of Arkansas Birds


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Recommended Citation

James, Douglas A. and James, Frances C. (1964) "Seasonal Occurrences of Arkansas Birds," *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*: Vol. 18 , Article 7.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/vol18/iss1/7>

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THE SEASONAL OCCURRENCES OF ARKANSAS BIRDS

by

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The accompanying chart, based on a greater accumulation of information about Arkansas birds than has been compiled previously, shows the seasonal occurrences of the birds that have been recorded from the time the first naturalist visited the state in 1811, through 1963. Not only does it include information from the books on Arkansas birds by Howell (1911), Wheeler (1924), and Baerg (1931, 1951), but it also incorporates data from such other rich sources as the early regional summaries by Black (1935) for the western Boston Mountains, and Deadrick (1938) for the eastern Ouachita Mountains, as well as the more recent studies by Meanley and Neff (1953) on the Grand Prairie, and Mattocks and Shugart (1962) in southern Arkansas. To this was added data found in Audubon Field Notes and other statewide analyses (James, 1960, 1964), plus the information obtained from museum specimens in Arkansas collections around the country. The major single source of records, mostly unpublished, came from the nearly thirty thousand entries contained in the files maintained by the Arkansas Audubon Society under the curatorial supervision of the senior author. The bulk of these were obtained from competent field observers since 1955, but past observations made by some individuals who were very active prior to that date were added. These latter, some of which date back to the early part of this century, include the records of M. G. Vaiden, S. H. Weakley, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Arnold J. Hoiberg, Brooke Meanley, and the senior author.

In spite of the increased coverage, this report is preliminary in the sense that the chart reveals many gaps in the knowledge of the seasonal distribution of the Arkansas avifauna. Therefore, it serves not only as a source of up-to-date information, but also provides an outline to the problems which require further investigation.

Several birds which have been reported in the state are not listed. The Black Skimmer is not included because the single specimen was undated. Birds like the Passenger Pigeon and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker were omitted because they no longer occur in Arkansas. Several species reported in previous publications were omitted because of uncertainties about them. On the other hand, the banded Sooty Tern recovered in Arkansas on September 4, 1950 (Dickinson, 1951) was omitted inadvertently.

Seasonal Occurrences of Arkansas Birds

THE SEASONAL OCCURRENCES OF ARKANSAS BIRDS

- Continuous presence at least locally.
 - Either isolated occurrences separated by a week or more, or continuous presence in very small numbers.
 - Breeding regularly.
 - * Breeding irregularly or known to have bred.
- Numbers indicate important dates.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
COMMON LOON				10	10		4			5		
RED-THROATED LOON	12											
RED-NECKED GREBE										21		
HORNED GREBE				12				17	1			
EARED GREBE			23	2				15	4	...	...	26
PIED-BILLED GREBE	●											
WHITE PELICAN				4	13	..			7		27	..
BROWN PELICAN				.								
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	*				22	.....	.....	.....	7			
ANHINGA			29								30	
MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE-BIRD									13			
GREAT BLUE HERON												
GREEN HERON			24							16		
LITTLE BLUE HERON			10	..						23		28
CATTLE EGRET							21		..		17	
COMMON EGRET	15	.....	2								27	29
SNOWY EGRET			3					27		8		
LOUISIANA HERON							1	19				
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON			14	10						12	..	22
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON			7							14	16	24
LEAST BITTERN				19	.....	.....	.....	8				
AMERICAN BITTERN	* 14	10	20		.....	.....	.....		11	.....	.....	.....
WOOD IBIS				1		9				22	6	
WHITE IBIS				26		..	.....		21			
PLEGADIS sp.									16	21		
WHISTLING SWAN			7								21	
CANADA GOOSE				29	20				11	25		
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE				9	21					13		
SNOW GOOSE				12	11				18	6		

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BLUE GOOSE				21	19	23			25			
FULVOUS TREE DUCK								14	14			
MALLARD *								13	16			
BLACK DUCK				14	.	13		13	26			
GADWALL						9			15	5		
PINTAIL				16	..	9		26	8			
GREEN-WINGED TEAL				26				30				
BLUE-WINGED TEAL					21	.....	26					
CINNAMON TEAL				14								
AMERICAN WIDGEON				29				4	12			
SHOVELER				27	29		29	..	12			
WOOD DUCK ●												
REDHEAD				5	19					24		
RING-NECKED DUCK					15		3	16	20			
CANVASBACK					3					20		
GREATER SCAUP				5						7	23	13
LESSER SCAUP					23	9	29		27			
COMMON GOLDENEYE				18	2						10	
BUFFLEHEAD				21						26		
OLDSQUAW	26	..	2									14
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER		23									20	..
RUDDY DUCK				24	18			14	4			
HOODED MERGANSER ●				22	.....	5	14		3			
COMMON MERGANSER	.....	.....	1		..					26	.....	.....
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER		..	...	...	18					24		26
TURKEY VULTURE ●												
BLACK VULTURE ●												
MISSISSIPPI KITE ●				27	4				30			
GOSHAWK										5	19	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK *	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.	.		15	.....	.....	.....
COOPER'S HAWK ●												
RED-TAILED HAWK ●												
HARLAN'S HAWK			16							13		
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK ●												
BROAD-WINGED HAWK ●			23							25	11	
SWAINSON'S HAWK		2	29						29	.....	.....	.....

Seasonal Occurrences of Arkansas Birds

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK		27									11	26
GOLDEN EAGLE	....	.	28							11	.....
BALD EAGLE	*			7	.....	5		5	23	.....	
MARSH HAWK	*			9	11			10 30		.....	
OSPREY	*		25		27	....	27		9	.....	26	28
PEREGRINE FALCON	*		14	3					12	.....	
PIGEON HAWK	.....	10	.	20				25	.....		
SPARROW HAWK	.....										
BOBWHITE	.....										
TURKEY	.....										
SANDHILL CRANE			12	4	20	20						
KING RAIL	.....										
VIRGINIA RAIL	17				14			10			.....	28
SORA	.....	3	20		25			2			9	.....
YELLOW RAIL	5				10					9		
PURPLE GALLINULE	.....				5				17			
COMMON GALLINULE	.....				12					22		
AMERICAN COOT	.....										
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER				15	22		21			12		
PIPING PLOVER				15			14	8		15		
KILLDEER	.....										
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER		27	3		13				1			6
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER					10	18		21			14	
RUDDY TURNSTONE							28		21			
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	.....			7	29	23				7		
COMMON SNIBE	.....				7			16	4			
LONG-BILLED CURLEW										5		9
WHIMBREL									9			
UPLAND PLOVER			26		16	..	17		13			
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	*		31		28	.....	8			.....	26	
SOLITARY SANDPIPER			5		23		7			28		
WILLET			29		20				15			
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	7	..	9		13		16	..		.....		23
LESSER YELLOWLEGS		10			22		13	24
PECTORAL SANDPIPER		20			20		14			18	23
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER				23		5		..		26		

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER			12			31	11			
LEAST SANDPIPER			.....		31		14					
DUNLIN				30 ..				12 .	8	29		
LIMNODROMUS sp.			22	13 .		13						24
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER								29 ..	14 ..			
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER				23 ..				19	....			26
STILT SANDPIPER					30 ..		21			24		
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER				7		5	14	..		15	..	2
WESTERN SANDPIPER							19			28	28	
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER								8	14			
MARbled GODWIT				28 .					11 21 ..			
HUDSONIAN GODWIT				29 .	9							
SANDERLING								31 .	16 ..	29		
AMERICAN AVOCET				28 .	9				6 ..	23		
BLACK-NECKED STILT					9							
WILSON'S PHALAROPE				28	18		25	.....	12			
NORTHERN PHALAROPE									14			
HERRING GULL	.....	.....	.....	.....	20				19	.....	10	
RING-BILLED GULL	.....	.....	.....	3				21	.....	.....	.....	.....
FRANKLIN'S GULL				10						.....	30	
BONAPARTE'S GULL	..	..	25 ..				20			1	.....
FORSTER'S TERN				23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10		
COMMON TERN					18			21	.....	27		
LEAST TERN *					8				11 12			
CASPIAN TERN				10	19			29		16		
BLACK TERN				30					25			
MOURNING DOVE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
GROUND DOVE									15			
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO				23						26		
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO				23	28	6		8	9			
ROADRUNNER	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
GROOVE-BILLED ANI									21	..	25	..
BARN OWL	..	..	15	26	....	..	8		7			
SCREECH OWL	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
GREAT HORNED OWL	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SNOWY OWL	4	24										

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BURROWING OWL			3							6		
BARRED OWL												
LONG-EARED OWL *		..		.	.		.				.	.
SHORT-EARED OWL			25							2		
SAW-WHET OWL											11	
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW				3					13			
WHIP-POOR-WILL			28					5	21			
COMMON NIGHTHAWK				11							2	
CHIMNEY SWIFT			15							26		
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT					4							
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD			25							27	24	
BELTED KINGFISHER												
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER												
RED-SHAFTED FLICKER	...	....	22							6	...	
PILEATED WOODPECKER												
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER												
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER												
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER				19	5			23	25			
HAIRY WOODPECKER												
DOWNY WOODPECKER												
RED-CKOADED WOODPECKER												
EASTERN KINGBIRD			3	7						30	21	
WESTERN KINGBIRD								21	14			
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER	12	..	21							25		
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER				10						9		
EASTERN PHOEBE												
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER					10	29			1	13		
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER				7	20					22		
TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER				23			18		..	22		
LEAST FLYCATCHER *				14		26		30		24		
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE				10							17	
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER				25	4	1		6	18			
VERMILION FLYCATCHER	20										14	
HORNED LARK												
TREE SWALLOW		8			11							27
BANK SWALLOW *			26	22						8		

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW ●			14							29		
BARN SWALLOW ●			26							30		
CLIFF SWALLOW ●				7						18		
PURPLE MARTIN ●		12 18							28			
BLUE JAY ●												
COMMON CROW ●												
FISH CROW ●		15										26
CLARKE'S NUTCRACKER ●				1								
CAROLINA CHICKADEE ●												
TUFTED TITMOUSE ●												
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH ●												
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH ●				30				24	28			
BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH ●												
BROWN CREEPER *				21						12		
HOUSE WREN *	29			11		16		1				
WINTER WREN ●				11						5		
BEWICK'S WREN ●												
CAROLINA WREN ●												
LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN ●					24				22			
SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN ●												
ROCK WREN ●			10		31							
MOCKINGBIRD ●												
CATBIRD ●				10						29		
BROWN THRASHER ●												
ROBIN ●												
WOOD THRUSH ●			30							27		
HERMIT THRUSH ●				26						8		
SWAINSON'S THRUSH ●				14	29			7	15			
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH ●				25	24					10		
VEERY ●				18	21					14		
EASTERN BLUEBIRD ●												
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE ●	4											8
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER ●			15						28		14	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET ●				25						7		
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET ●					8			13	24			
WATER PIPIT ●				22	29					8		

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SPRAGUE'S PIPIT				17						26	21	
BOHEMIAN WAXWING	27		.	.	12							
CEDAR WAXWING *						15			28			
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE												
STARLING												
WHITE-EYED VIREO			21							27		29
BELL'S VIREO				8 20					10 18			
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO			22								31	
SOLITARY VIREO		10	21			2			5	22		
RED-EYED VIREO			24	5							14	
PHILADELPHIA VIREO				12 16					13	18		
WARBLING VIREO *				1 15						5		
BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER			13							14 28		
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER			21							17		
SWAINSON'S WARBLER				18 26		.....			14			
WORM-EATING WARBLER				1					16	5		
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER				22 16					25			
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER				10			4		13	14		
BACHMAN'S WARBLER *				28 10								
TENNESSEE WARBLER				3 19 26					5	26		
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER		26	27	24 22					1			
NASHVILLE WARBLER				1	23			20		26		
PARULA WARBLER			14							13		
YELLOW WARBLER				14					16	1		
MAGNOLIA WARBLER				22 30					13	27		
CAPE MAY WARBLER				3 .. 5						12		
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER				7 .. 22						19		
MYRTLE WARBLER					15				27			
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER			25		27			6		28		
CERULEAN WARBLER			27						10			
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER				20		9			5	11		
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER			10							16		
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER				20		2		31		9		
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER				30	21				24	24		
BLACKPOLL WARBLER				22	27							
PINE WARBLER												

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PRAIRIE WARBLER	●			3					17			
PALM WARBLER				12	3							
OVENBIRD	●			7						3		
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH				17	12			16	24			9
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	●		18							9		
KENTUCKY WARBLER	●		24	3						7		
CONNECTICUT WARBLER				18	22							
MOURNING WARBLER				17	29			27	30			
YELLOWTHROAT	●	.....									
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	●			7						11		
HOODED WARBLER	●		26							11		
WILSON'S WARBLER				12	26			20	7			
CANADA WARBLER				22	30			24	25			
AMERICAN REDSTART	●			14						10		
HOUSE SPARROW	●	.....									
BOBOLINK				23	28			15	25			
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	●	.....									
WESTERN MEADOWLARK			28	30						18		
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	2			20	6					15		
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	●	.....									
ORCHARD ORIOLE	●		30					27				
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	●	18		4						4		
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE		13	16					18				
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	●	.....									
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD				21							8	
COMMON GRACKLE	●	.....									
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	●	.....									
SCARLET TANAGER	●			4			24	17				
SUMMER TANAGER	●	15		7						26	29	
CARDINAL	●	.....									
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK				22	21			20	29			
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK	●	11	23									28
BLUE GROSBEEK	●			19					25			
INDIGO BUNTING	●		21	6						27		
PAINTED BUNTING	●			10			28	19				
DICKCISSEL	●										

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Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EVENING GROSBEAK	13						2
PURPLE FINCH *				27	6					23		
COMMON REDPOLL			6								2	
PINE SISKIN					16					15		
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	●											
RED CROSSBILL		25	.....	5				10			30	
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL												
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE											8	
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	●											
LARK BUNTING												22
SAVANNAH SPARROW *					15				15			
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	●			8	.....	.....	13			10		
LE CONTE'S SPARROW				28	11					13		
HENSLOW'S SPARROW			7	28							19	
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW		13			24					20		
VESPER SPARROW				28						19		
LARK SPARROW	●		21	4							13	
BACHMAN'S SPARROW	●			7							15	
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO						2				8		
OREGON JUNCO	.....	.....	.....	4								28
GRAY-HEADED JUNCO		22	2	.....							
TREE SPARROW				3						11		
CHIPPING SPARROW	●											
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW				29					11			
FIELD SPARROW	●											
HARRIS' SPARROW					5					19	29	
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW						19				8		
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW						19	.....	.....		5		
FOX SPARROW				13						10		
LINCOLN'S SPARROW						22			23			
SWAMP SPARROW					12				17			
SONG SPARROW *				13	7					8		
LAPLAND LONGSPUR			20							13	4	
SMITH'S LONGSPUR		26	11								17	
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR	26											25
SNOW BUNTING											6	

Funds granted for maintaining the bird files of the Arkansas Audubon Society housed at the University of Arkansas, and for making museum searches for bird specimens collected in Arkansas, were obtained from several sources which are acknowledged gratefully: The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, the Louis Aggassiz Fuertes Research Grant of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and research funds from the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. The cost of drafting the printer's copy of the bird chart was paid by the Research Reserve Fund of the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas. Acknowledgment is also due the many contributors to the bird file, and to Charles R. Wallace who assisted in preparing the chart.

The common names of the birds and their order in the chart follow the fifth edition of the "A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds".

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