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### Local Bird Populations Changing

Theodore M. Sperry

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2 November, 1981

## Local Bird Populations Changing

A fifteen year study of breeding-bird populations in southeastern Kansas shows a gradual increase in the numbers of Robins and Redwinged Blackbirds, but a decrease in the numbers of Mockingbirds, Goldfinches, Tufted Titmice, and Flickers, according to Dr. Ted Sperry, retired Biology professor from Pittsburg State University. Dr. Sperry notes that this study concerns the birds which nest here in June and not the visitors which come in from the north which we see around our feeders during the winter.

Other nesting species showing increases are the Nighthawk and Upland Plover (this was something of a surprise), while several other less common species are showing decreases, including the Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel), Carolina Wren, Field Sparrow and Shrike. A number of our common birds have shown no changes in populations during this fifteen-year period, such as the Cardinal, Meadowlark, Chickadee, Barn Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Mourning Dove, Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Starling, House Sparrow, Grackle, Orioles, and Kingbird.

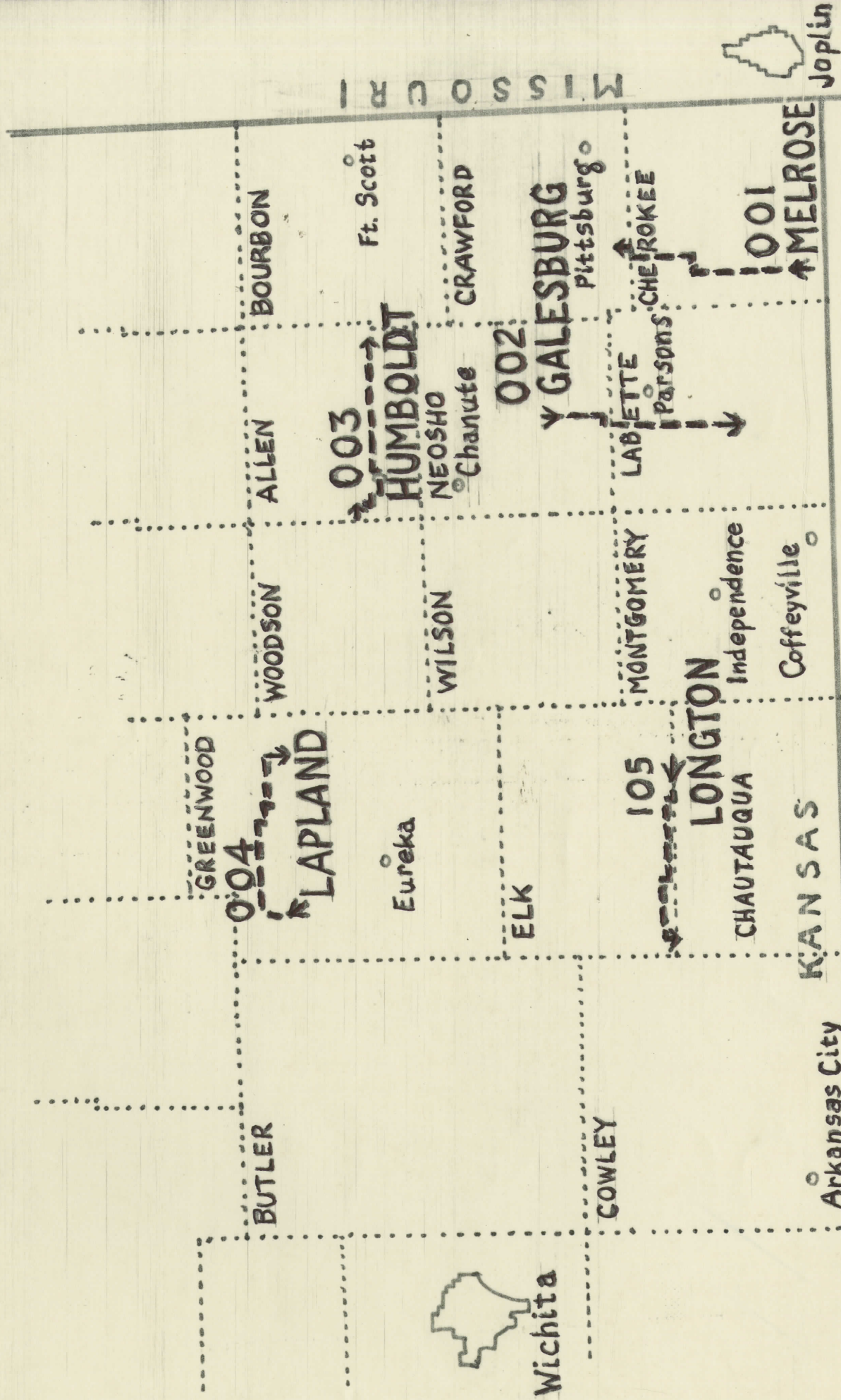
Dr. Sperry's study is a part of a nation-wide survey which, it is hoped, will help determine the environmental health of the country. This survey is just now reaching the stage where some trends are starting to become apparent, and this analysis is among the first to be released. It has been published in the September, 1981, issue of the Bulletin of the Kansas Ornithological Society at Manhattan, Kansas.

In addition to showing the increases and decreases of our bird populations, the paper also shows the distribution of the bird species, with some species (such as the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse and a dozen others)

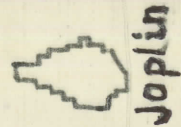
becoming less abundant as one goes northwestward from southeastern Kansas, while some (such as the Meadowlark, Barn Swallow and others) become more common as one goes northwestward from this area.

Another item of interest is the total population of the different species in southeastern Kansas, with the Eastern Meadowlark, with a rating of 142, being much the most abundant, followed by the Dickcissel, second, with a rating of 116. Other common species are House Sparrow (84), Red-winged Blackbird (74), Bobwhite (65), Mourning Dove (51), Common Grackle (43), Cardinal (35), Common Crow (33), Mockingbird (28). A total of 98 species has been listed in this area in June, with the Robin farther down the list with a rating of 15.





MISSOURI



Joplin

1001  
↑ MELROSE

↑ CHEROKEE

○ Pittsburg

002  
↑ GALESBURG

CRAWFORD

○ Chanute  
NEOSHO

003  
↑ HUMBOLDT

○ Ft. Scott

BOURBON

ALLEN

WOODSON

GREENWOOD

004  
↑ LAPLAND

○ Eureka

WILSON

ELK

MONTEGOMERY

105  
↑ LONGTON

○ Independence

○ Coffeyville

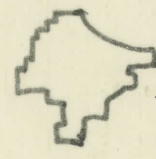
CHAUTAUGUA

KANSAS

OKLAHOMA

○ Arkansas City

COWLEY



Wichita