

## BIRDS OF THE KLEINSTUCK PRESERVE

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The Kleinstuck Preserve consists of a pond, a peat marsh, hills of sand and gravel, a glen of hardwood, and an eight year old planting of 9,000 evergreen trees. This variety in the landscape makes an ideal bird sanctuary, and in spite of the fact that the public has cut trees, dug up shrubs, and set fire to the grass in the preserve, it still remains a refuge for birds. Eighty-three different kinds of birds were seen there last year. Some of these, such as the cedar waxwings, knights and warblers were only stopping for food or shelter on their way north. Other birds like juncoes, and some of the brown creepers spent the winter there. White robins, meadow larks, nuthatchers, wood pickers, cardinals, quail, brown thrashers, redwinged blackbirds, and many other well known land birds built their nests in the preserve. Last year, besides these common land birds, four of the more rare water and marsh birds nested among the rushes that edge the tiny pond. They were the Florida Gallinule, the Sora rail, the American bittern, and the black tern.

The first of these to arrive in the spring was the American bittern. He is a member of the heron family, and is like the other members of his family in both food habits and in shape, but the browns and tans of his feathers make him very unlike them in coloring. Since he spends most of his time in low, swampy places, it is this resemblance to the browns and tans of the marsh grasses that makes it difficult to find him. In fact the first bittern we saw last spring seemed to be trying to camouflage himself to look like the cattails that surrounded. A sharp little wind which stirred the reeds revealed him to us. There he stood motionless with up-stretched neck and bill pointed upward. He was in his own estimation, a perfectly faked cattail.

For about a month after their return, bitterns seem to live like hermits, unseen and unheard. Then about the first of May when most of the marsh birds have returned from the south, the bittern begins the mating call which has earned him the names, Thunder-pumper, bird stake driver, and the plum pudd'n. By some trick known only to bitterns, he pulls air into his throat and then, with contortions which seem to strain him from bill to toe, he forces out the air in gulps and gurgles, making noises like an old pump when it is being vigorously pumped. Every season as soon as the sora rail returns to the marsh, it seems to us that he and the bittern hold a bird calling contest. The rail's call is pitched high. He runs down the scale rapidly and ends with five or six notes of the same key and pitch. He runs his scales again and again reminding us of some singer who is aspiring to grand opera. While the rail sings his scales, the bittern over and over again explodes plum pud'n, plum pud'n, plum pud'n. So intent do these birds seem upon making the marsh ring with their calls that the noise made by visitors to the preserve never seems to check them.

The sora rail is about the size of a quail on stilts. He is easily recognized as he slips along among the grasses near the edge of the water. His short bill is yellow. The front of his face and throat are black. His breast is slate color and his flanks brownish grey, strikingly barred with white. It is difficult, though, to keep an eye on him long, because, like all rails, he can stretch out his body, thus demonstrating the origin of the expression As slim as a rail, and slip through where there seems to be no opening.

The Florida Gallinule, a later arrival, is as secretive in movements as the bittern and rail, but his bright red yellow-tipped bill and the rings of red around his knees make it more difficult for him to hide. The name Gallinule means little hen

and he is indeed about the same size as the hen and walks, talks, and squaks like the barnyard biddy. After the young are hatched, the Gallinules are the most conspicuous birds in the preserve. From the last of May until the middle of October they can always be seen some place in the pond, either swimming about or appearing as if they were walking on the water as they step from one lily pad to another.

It is not until the first week in May that the black terns arrive, but from that time until they leave for the south in September, there is always a tern in swift graceful flight over the pond, catching insects on the wing. Terns build their nests on floating platforms of sticks and marsh grasses. Only a hip booted wader can reach them. Last year, one of our students found three occupied nests.

A bird's safety depends upon his ability to escape from his enemies. These water birds as well as land birds need places in which to hide. Through the effort of Miss Theodosia Hadley, Western State Teachers College is at the present time planting hundreds of shrubs in the preserve. It is hoped that by thus replacing some of the thickets lost by fire and theft, that those birds already here will be more safe and that new kinds may be attracted to the preserve.

**Michigan Audubon Society**

BIRDS OF MICHIGAN

DAILY FIELD CHECK LIST (104)

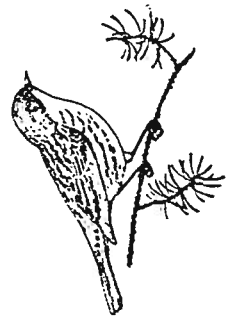
LOCALITY Keinstuck Preserve

HABITAT Maple-Oak Clinch + Sycamore

TIME 1941-51 WEATHER \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE 7046 OBSERVERS Hinds, Gagnab, Hoff TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

- Yellow-breasted Chat \_\_\_\_\_
- Flooded Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- Violet's Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- Canada Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- Am. Redstart \_\_\_\_\_
- Ploceidae \_\_\_\_\_
- English Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Icteridae \_\_\_\_\_
- Bobolink \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Meadowlark \_\_\_\_\_
- W. Meadowlark \_\_\_\_\_
- Red-wing \_\_\_\_\_
- Orchard Oriole \_\_\_\_\_
- Baltimore Oriole \_\_\_\_\_
- Rusty Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_
- Bronzed Grackle \_\_\_\_\_
- Cowbird \_\_\_\_\_
- Thraupidae \_\_\_\_\_
- Scarlet Tanager \_\_\_\_\_
- Fringillidae \_\_\_\_\_
- Cardinal \_\_\_\_\_
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak \_\_\_\_\_
- Indigo Bunting \_\_\_\_\_
- Dickcissel \_\_\_\_\_
- Evening Grosbeak \_\_\_\_\_
- Purple Finch \_\_\_\_\_
- Pine Grosbeak \_\_\_\_\_
- Redpoll \_\_\_\_\_
- Pine Siskin \_\_\_\_\_
- Goldfinch \_\_\_\_\_
- Red Crossbill \_\_\_\_\_
- White-winged Crossbill \_\_\_\_\_
- Red-eyed Towhee \_\_\_\_\_
- Savannah Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Grasshopper Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Leconte's Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Henslow's Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Nelson's Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Vesper Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Lark Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- State-colored Junco \_\_\_\_\_
- Tree Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Chipping Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Clay-colored Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Field Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Harris's Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- White-crowned Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- White-throated Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Fox Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Lincoln's Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Swamp Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Song Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Lapland Longspur \_\_\_\_\_
- Snow Bunting \_\_\_\_\_

**MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
Daily Field Check List



Sequence and nomenclature from A. O. U. check list and supplements. Subspecies omitted.

Order from Audubon Book Sales Manager — H. Lewis Batts, Jr., 4930 Washtenaw Rd., Ypsilanti, Michigan. Price 2c each.

- Black Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- Gadwall \_\_\_\_\_
- Fur. Widgeon \_\_\_\_\_
- Baldpate \_\_\_\_\_
- Am. Pintail \_\_\_\_\_
- Green-winged Teal \_\_\_\_\_
- Blue-winged Teal \_\_\_\_\_
- Shoveller \_\_\_\_\_
- Wood Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Aythya \_\_\_\_\_
- Redhead \_\_\_\_\_
- Ring-necked Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- Canvas-back \_\_\_\_\_
- Greater Scaup Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- Lesser Scaup Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- American Golden-eye \_\_\_\_\_
- Buffle-head \_\_\_\_\_
- Old-squaw \_\_\_\_\_
- American Scoter \_\_\_\_\_
- White-winged Scoter \_\_\_\_\_
- Surf Scoter \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Oxyurinae \_\_\_\_\_
- Ruddy Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Merginae \_\_\_\_\_
- Hooded Merganser \_\_\_\_\_
- American Merganser \_\_\_\_\_
- Red-breasted Merganser \_\_\_\_\_
- FALCONIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Cathartidae \_\_\_\_\_
- Turkey Vulture \_\_\_\_\_
- Accipitridae \_\_\_\_\_
- Goshawk \_\_\_\_\_
- Sharp-shinned Hawk \_\_\_\_\_
- Cooper's Hawk \_\_\_\_\_
- GAVIIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Lesser Loon \_\_\_\_\_
- Red-throated Loon \_\_\_\_\_
- COLYMBIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Holboell's Grebe \_\_\_\_\_
- Horned Grebe \_\_\_\_\_
- Pied-billed Grebe \_\_\_\_\_
- PELICANIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Pelecanidae \_\_\_\_\_
- White Pelican \_\_\_\_\_
- Phalacrocoracidae \_\_\_\_\_
- Double-crested Cormorant \_\_\_\_\_
- CICONIIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Ardeidae \_\_\_\_\_
- Great Blue Heron \_\_\_\_\_
- American Egret \_\_\_\_\_
- Little Blue Heron \_\_\_\_\_
- Green Heron \_\_\_\_\_
- Black-crowned Night Heron \_\_\_\_\_
- American Bittern \_\_\_\_\_
- Least Bittern \_\_\_\_\_
- ANSERIFORMES \_\_\_\_\_
- Anatidae \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Cysginae \_\_\_\_\_
- Whistling Swan \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Anserinae \_\_\_\_\_
- Canada Goose \_\_\_\_\_
- Lesser Snow Goose \_\_\_\_\_
- Blue Goose \_\_\_\_\_
- st. Anatinae \_\_\_\_\_
- Mallard \_\_\_\_\_

Red-tailed Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Red-backed Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker	Olive-backed Thrush ✓
Red-shouldered Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Dowitcher	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush ✓
Ann. Rough-legged Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker ✓	Veery ✓
Broad-winged Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Hudsonian Godwit	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ✓	Bluebird ✓
Golden Eagle ✓✓✓✓✓	Sanderling	Hairy Woodpecker ✓	Sylviae
Bald Eagle ✓✓✓✓✓	Phalaropodidae	Downy Woodpecker ✓	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Marsh Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Wilson's Phalarope	Artic Three-toed Woodpecker ✓	Golden-crowned Kinglet ✓
Pandionidae	N. Phalarope	Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet ✓
Osprey	Stercorariidae	<b>PASSERIFORMES</b>	<b>Motacillidae</b>
Duck Hawk	Parasitic Jaeger	<b>Tyrannidae</b>	Ann. Pipit
Pigeon Hawk	Laridae	Crested Flycatcher ✓	<b>Bombycillidae</b>
Sparrow Hawk ✓✓✓✓✓	Herring Gull ✓	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher ✓	Bohemian Waxwing ✓
<b>GALLIFORMES</b>	Rouparic's Gull ✓	Audubon Flycatcher ✓	Cedar Waxwing ✓
<b>Tetraonidae</b>	Forsiter's Tern ✓	Alder Flycatcher ✓✓✓✓✓	Laniidae
Spruce Grouse ✓	Common Tern ✓	Least Flycatcher ✓	Northern Shrike
Ruffed Grouse ✓	Caspian Tern ✓✓✓✓✓	Wood Pewee ✓	Migrant Shrike
Prairie Chicken ✓	Black Tern ✓✓✓✓✓	Olive-sided Flycatcher ✓	<b>Sturnidae</b>
Sharp-tailed Grouse ✓	<b>COLUMBIFORMES</b>	Horned Lark ✓	Starling ✓
Phasianidae	Columbidae	Hirundinidae	<b>Vireonidae</b>
Bob-white ✓	Mourning Dove ✓	Tree Swallow ✓	Yellow-throated Vireo
King-necked Pheasant ✓	<b>CUCULIFORMES</b>	Bank Swallow ✓	Blue-headed Vireo ✓
<b>GRUIFORMES</b>	Cuculidae	Rough-winged Swallow ✓	Red-eyed Vireo ✓
Gruidae	Yellow-billed Cuckoo ✓	Barn Swallow ✓	Philadelphia Vireo ✓
Sandhill Crane ✓✓✓✓✓	Black-billed Cuckoo ✓	Cliff Swallow ✓	Warbling Vireo ✓
Railidae	<b>STRIGIFORMES</b>	Purple Martin ✓	Black and White Warbler ✓
King Rail ✓✓✓✓✓	Tyrionidae	Canada Jay ✓	Prothonotary Warbler
Virginia Rail ✓	Barn Owl ✓	Blue Jay ✓	Blue-winged Warbler
Sora ✓✓✓✓✓	Screech Owl ✓	Raven ✓	Tennessee Warbler
Florida Gallinule ✓✓✓✓✓	Great Horned Owl ✓	Crow ✓	Orange-crowned Warbler
Coot ✓✓✓✓✓	Snowy Owl ✓	<b>Falconidae</b>	Nashville Warbler
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES</b>	Barred Owl ✓	Black-capped Chickadee ✓	Parula Warbler ✓
Charadriidae	Great Gray Owl ✓	Brown-capped Chickadee ✓	Yellow Warbler ✓
Piping Plover ✓	Long-eared Owl ✓	Tufted Titmouse ✓	Magnolia Warbler ✓
Simpsonated Plover ✓	Short-eared Owl ✓	<b>Sittidae</b>	Cape May Warbler ✓
Killdeer ✓	Saw-whet Owl ✓	Red-breasted Nuthatch ✓	Black-throated Blue Warbler ✓
Golden Plover ✓	<b>CAPRIMULGIFORMES</b>	White-breasted Nuthatch ✓	Myrtle Warbler ✓
Black-bellied Plover ✓	Caprimulgidae	Brown Creeper ✓	Black-throated Green Warbler ✓
Ruddy Turnstone ✓	Whip-poor-will ✓	<b>Troglodytidae</b>	Cerulean Warbler
Scelopacidae	Nighthawk ✓	House Wren ✓	Blackburnian Warbler ✓
Woodcock ✓	<b>APODIFORMES</b>	Carolina Wren ✓	Chestnut-sided Warbler ✓
Wilson's Snipe ✓	Apodidae	Prairie Marsh Wren ✓	Bay-breasted Warbler ✓
Hudsonian Curlew ✓	Chimney Swift ✓	Short-billed Marsh Wren ✓	Pine Warbler ✓
Upland Plover ✓	<b>Trochilidae</b>	Mockingbird ✓	Kirtland's Warbler ✓
Spotted Sandpiper ✓	Ruby-throated Hummingbird ✓	Catbird ✓	Palm Warbler ✓
Solitary Sandpiper ✓	<b>CORACIIFORMES</b>	Brown Thrasher ✓	Oven-bird ✓
Willet ✓	Alcedinidae	Turdidae	Northern Water-thrush ✓
Greater Yellow-legs ✓	Belted Kingfisher ✓	Rabin ✓	Louisiana Water-thrush ✓
Lesser Yellow-legs ✓	<b>PICIFORMES</b>	Wood Thrush ✓	Connecticut Warbler ✓
Knott ✓	Picidae	Hermit Thrush ✓	Mourning Warbler ✓
Pectoral Sandpiper ✓	Flicker ✓		Yellow-throat ✓
White-rumped Sandpiper ✓			
Baird's Sandpiper ✓			
Least Sandpiper ✓			