



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

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Who's Who in KOS - 2003

President, Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont Place, Garden City, KS 67846, shane@pld.com

Vice-president, Marvin Kuehn, kuehnmar@emporia.edu

Corresponding Secretary, Bill Busby, 626 E 1900 Road, Baldwin, KS 66006

Membership Development Coordinator, Mike Stewart, 1100 Wellington Drive, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Treasurer, Dan Larson, 3636 SE 77th Street, Berryton, KS 66409

Board Members:
David Seibel, dseibel@jccc.net

Lowell Johnson, ljohanson@plantpath.ksu.edu

Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com

Kerrie Kirkpatrick, hawkowl@earthlink.net

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 2708 South 23rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048 913-772-0077, dwilliams104@kc.rr.com

Editor, The Bulletin, Calvin Cink, Baker University, PO Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006 cink@harvey.bakeru.edu

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, otte@nqks.com

Past-President, Gene Young, youngg6264@yahoo.com

From The Keyboard -

What a spring!! As this issue wraps up, I sit at my keyboard on a gorgeous cool morning and the Purple Martins from the neighbors martin house are coursing the neighborhood in a not at all quiet manner. In the hedgerow behind the houses across the street a House Wren chatters away and down the street, at the ponds, I can hear the Great-tailed Grackles with all their amusing "sounds"!

Yet before we know it the martins will be flocking up to head south already. We all wait in anticipation for the June breeding doldrums to be over and for southbound shorebirds and hummingbirds to break the boredom and the heat of summer.

I always enjoy the gathering of KOS members at spring and fall meetings. The birding, the camaraderie, the fun and the fellowship. Some things go as hoped for and planned (I did see my life Cerulean Warbler), and other things don't go as planned (I didn't get a Leavenworth Whip-poor-will). I poke a little fun at my good friend, and KOS Business Manager, Dave Williams in this issue. Dave works hard for this organization and you'd be hard pressed to find a nicer KOS Ambassador. The nightjars just didn't want to cooperate and it isn't Dave's fault!

But the Spring KOS meeting in Leavenworth was a resounding success. New friends were made, old friendships renewed and I left the weekend already looking forward to the fall meeting. I think about all the good birding that so many KOS members missed. Please take a weekend and attend these meetings, they truly are special!

Persistent tardiness seems to be my current claim to fame. I apologize for that and will try to place the blame on a flurry of activity when this newsletter should have already been done. But when a Wood Stork, a Reddish Egret and a Painted Redstart all show up in Kansas in less than a week, schedules and plans tend to go out the window. I only made one of the trips, but I know quite a few Kansas birders that made some fast trips to Quivira NWR and Coldwater Lake in Comanche County. Isn't that what makes this so much fun though?!

Summer is slipping by before our eyes. Those of you involved in shorebird surveys, get your spring information summarized and back to Helen, the fall survey season is close at hand!!

Chuck

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Upcoming Meeting Locations

Please note the upcoming tentative spring and fall meeting locations. Mark your calendars, look for more information in coming issues and plan to attend!

October 3 - 5, 2003 - Winfield
Spring 2004 - Washington Co.
Fall 2004 - Baker University, Douglas County
Spring 2005 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Start thinking of where you'd like to go, or if you would be willing to host a spring or fall meeting. Spring meetings simply need some good bird watching areas as well as sleeping and eating establishments. Fall meetings require some place to hold meetings of around 75 to 100 people plus a location for a banquet. Contact any of the officers or board members if you have an invitation or idea for an

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KOS Items Available

If you would like to purchase KOS T-shirts, sweatshirts, window stickers, etc. then you need to contact the KOS Business Manager, Dave Williams, at 2708 South 23rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913) 772-0077, or via e-mail at dwilliams104@kc.rr.com

A Passing....

Long time KOS member, Marie Swisher of Coldwater passed away Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at the age of 94. Marie's involvement in KOS had waned by the time many of us became involved in KOS, but she was well known within Kansas birding circles and will be missed. One of Marie's most memorable claims to fame was finding five Vermilion Flycatchers dead in a yard in Protection (Comanche County) following a blizzard in April of 1973.

Good WWW sites on a variety of topics

West Nile Virus, information and reporting
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus/report_bird.htm
<http://www.nhm.ku.edu/birds/>

Mosquitoes and personal protection
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/MF2571.pdf>

Birds and Birding in Kansas
<http://ksbirds.org>

Look for New Checklist at Fall Meeting

• What do Reddish Egret, Harlequin Duck, Flammulated Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Cave Swallow, Juniper Titmouse, Painted Redstart and Brambling all have in common? They are all species that will be on the tenth edition of the KOS checklist that were not on the ninth edition. There will also be changes in the status of many other species. The current KOS checklist is five years old and we all know that has lot has happened in the last five years. A substantial press run of the new checklist is in the works and the plan is for these new checklists to be available in Winfield at the fall meeting. Exact cost for the new checklists has not yet been determined. Look for possible more details in the September *Horned Lark*.

KOS Spring Field Trip Checklist

A total of 150 species were observed. Letters following species name indicates county location where seen:
L = Leavenworth, A = Atchison, D = Doniphan, P = Platte County, Missouri. List courtesy John Schukman.

American White Pelican L	Great Crested Flycatcher L A P	Blackburnian Warbler L P
Double-crested Cormorant L P	Western Kingbird L A	Yellow-throated Warbler L
Anhinga L P	Eastern Kingbird L A D P	Palm Warbler L
Great Blue Heron L A D P	Loggerhead Shrike A	Blackpoll Warbler L
Great Egret L P	White-eyed Vireo L P	Cerulean Warbler L P
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron L	Bell's Vireo A	Black-and-White Warbler L D P
Turkey Vulture L A D P	Yellow-throated Vireo L A P	American Redstart L P
Ross's Goose L	Blue-headed Vireo L P	Prothonotary Warbler A P
Canada Goose L A P	Warbling Vireo L A D P	Worm-eating L
Wood Duck L A D P	Philadelphia Vireo L	Ovenbird L P
Mallard L A P	Red-eyed Vireo L A P	Northern Waterthrush L A P
Blue-winged Teal L A	Blue Jay L A D P	Louisiana Waterthrush L A P
Sharp-shinned Hawk L	American Crow L A D P	Kentucky Warbler L P
Cooper's Hawk L P	Horned Lark L A	Common Yellowthroat L A D P
Broad-winged Hawk L P	Purple Martin L A P	Hooded Warbler L P
Red-tailed Hawk L A P	Tree Swallow L A	Yellow-breasted Chat P
American Kestrel L A	N. Rough-winged Swallow L A P	Summer Tanager L P
Merlin P	Bank Swallow L A	Scarlet Tanager L P
Peregrine Falcon L	Cliff Swallow L A P	Spotted Towhee L
Prairie Falcon L	Barn Swallow L A D P	Eastern Towhee L A P
Ring-necked Pheasant L A	Black-capped Chickadee L A D P	Chipping Sparrow L A P
Wild Turkey L A P	Tufted Titmouse L A P	Clay-colored Sparrow L A D P
Northern Bobwhite L A	White-breasted Nuthatch L A P	Field Sparrow L A D P
Sora A	Carolina Wren L A D P	Vesper Sparrow A
Killdeer L A P	Bewick's Wren L	Lark Sparrow L A D P
Lesser Yellowlegs L A	House Wren L A D P	Savannah Sparrow L A D
Solitary Sandpiper L	Sedge Wren A	Grasshopper Sparrow L
Spotted Sandpiper L A P	Marsh Wren L	Song Sparrow L A P
Western Sandpiper L	Ruby-crowned Kinglet L A P	Lincoln's Sparrow L P
Least Sandpiper A	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher L A D P	Swamp Sparrow L
Pectoral Sandpiper L A	Eastern Bluebird L A D P	White-throated Sparrow L A P
Forster's Tern L P	Gray-cheeked Thrush L	Harris's Sparrow L
Rock Dove L A P	Swainson's Thrush L A P	White-crowned Sparrow L A P
Mourning Dove L A D P	Wood Thrush L A P	Northern Cardinal L A D P
Barred Owl L P	American Robin L A D P	Rose-breasted Grosbeak L A D P
Common Nighthawk L	Gray Catbird L A D P	Blue Grosbeak L
Whip-poor-will L	Northern Mockingbird L	Indigo Bunting L A D P
Chimney Swift L A P	Brown Thrasher L A D P	Dickcissel L A P
Ruby-throated Hummingbird L P	European Starling L A D P	Red-winged Blackbird L A D P
Belted Kingfisher L A P	American Pipit A	Eastern Meadowlark L A
Red-headed Woodpecker L A D P	Cedar Waxwing L	Common Grackle L A D P
Red-bellied Woodpecker L A P	Blue-winged Warbler P	Great-tailed Grackle L
Downy Woodpecker L A D P	Golden-winged Warbler L P	Brown-headed Cowbird L A D P
Hairy Woodpecker L P	Tennessee Warbler L A P	Orchard Oriole L A D P
Northern Flicker L P	Orange-crowned Warbler L A P	Baltimore Oriole L A D P
Pileated Woodpecker L P	Nashville Warbler L A D P	House Finch L A P
Eastern Wood-Pewee L A D P	Northern Parula L A D P	American Goldfinch L A D P
Acadian Flycatcher L P	Yellow Warbler L A D	House Sparrow L A D P
Willow Flycatcher L	Black-throated Blue Warbler P	
Least Flycatcher L A D P	Yellow-rumped Warbler L A P	
Eastern Phoebe L A P	Black-throated Green Warbler L P	

Binoculars

by John Rakestraw

Aside from a field guide to help you identify the birds you see, the only tool you really need for birding is a binocular. The variety of different models is seemingly infinite. Many models work well for birding, but many do not. When contemplating the purchase of a birding binocular, take your time, do a lot of reading, and actually try several models before making your decision. Listed below are important features to consider.

MAGNIFICATION: The most common magnifications used in birding binoculars are 7x, 8x, 8.5x, and 10x. The higher magnifications can bring in more distant birds in open habitats. They are good for shorebirds on mudflats and raptors in flight. The advantage of lower magnification is a wider field of view and a steady image, both very useful when looking at birds in heavy cover. Higher magnification exaggerates movement from shaky hands and wind.

EYE RELIEF refers to the distance at which you can hold your binocular from your eye and still see the whole picture. This is a very important consideration if you wear eyeglasses when birding.

CLOSE FOCUS: Not all birds are far away. Some may be right beside you. If your binocular can't focus closer than ten feet, you will either miss a lot of birds or will have to back up to see them.

WEATHERPROOFING AND DURABILITY: I strongly recommend buying binoculars that are sturdy and waterproof. Binoculars are tools for the field. You should be able to take them outside without worrying about getting them wet or accidentally bumping them and knocking them out of alignment. It is much easier to remove dust and grit from your lenses without scratching them if you can rinse your binocular in the kitchen sink.

EASE OF USE: Is the focus wheel easy to reach? Does the right diopter adjustment stay in place? How does the binocular feel in your hands? Is the weight comfortable to carry all day?

COST: Birding binoculars range in price from around \$50 to around \$1400. As a general rule, you get what you pay for. But don't automatically choose the most expensive binocular without doing some research. The difference between cheap binoculars and very good binoculars is obvious when you use them. But the difference between very good binoculars and the very best binoculars may not

be as apparent. Many birders become so comfortable with their current binoculars that they are less satisfied with another glass, even one of higher quality. Find the binocular that works well for you, and then consider the cost.

What are your priorities? One birder told me that he uses cheap binoculars so he doesn't have to worry about his kids dropping them. Another told me that if the house caught fire, she would grab her binocular, and then maybe the cat.

Be aware that no one binocular will be the best choice for all situations. In addition to your primary glass, you may want a backup binocular for certain situations or in case of emergency. Whichever model you choose, remember that good binoculars help you to see the birds, but they don't automatically improve your identification skills. That comes only with time and practice.

The KSBird Binocular Survey

I asked subscribers to the KSBird e-mail list to tell me what binoculars they were currently using. The purpose of the list that follows is to give you a starting point for your own binocular search. I have listed specific models when possible, but some responses only contained the brand name. Some of these models are older and may no longer be available.

MAKE AND MODEL	# OF USERS
Bausch & Lomb Elite 8x42	(9)
Bausch & Lomb Elite 10x42	(1)
Pentax DCF WP 10x42	(5)
Pentax DCF WP 8x42	(4)
Swarovski EL 8.5x42	(3)
Swarovski EL 10x42	(3)
Eagle Optics Platinum Rangers 8x42	(4)
Swift Audubon 8.5x44	(3)
Swift Ultralites 8x42	(3)
Zeiss BG/A 10x40	(2)
Zeiss BG/A 7x42	(2)
Swarovski SLC 7x42	(2)
Swarovski SLC 8x50	(1)
Swarovski 8x30	(2)
Celestron Regal 10x50	(1)
Celestron Regal 8x42	(2)
Celestron Noble 8x42	(1)
Leica 10x42	(2)
Leica New Generation BN 12x50	(1)

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Dove Banding by Helen Hands

This July, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will join 25 other states across the country in a mourning dove banding program. The objectives of this banding program are to determine harvest rates, estimate annual survival rates, provide information on the geographical distribution of the harvest, and develop and refine techniques for a future operational dove-banding program. The first three objectives are essential for understanding the effects of annual hunting regulations on mourning dove populations.

I understand that not all KOS members support dove hunting and very few KOS members hunt doves. At this point, some may be thinking, "They've been hunting doves all these years and they still don't know how dove hunting affects dove populations." Well, that's not quite correct. A large nationwide dove banding study was conducted during 1967-75. Results from this study indicated that dove hunting accounted for 21-25% of the annual mortality in the western and eastern parts of the country and 10-11% of the annual mortality in the central part of the country. Thus, most dove mortality was due to weather, disease, and predation.

In a perfect world where money and personnel for wildlife management and surveys were not limiting, dove banding would have continued on an annual basis like population and harvest surveys. However, dove banding is a very time-consuming and expensive project if enough doves are to be banded to get accurate estimates of harvest and survival rates. Administrators and biologists in state and federal agencies had a hard time justifying the maintenance of a banding program for such an abundant and widely distributed species. During the past 7 years as long-term declines of 0.4 to 2.5% have persisted throughout the country (most severely in the western states, Kansas dove populations have remained stable), there has been renewed interest in starting another banding program.

The current banding program is slated to last 3 years and cost about \$900,000, most of that labor and fuel costs. Given that dove hunting generates about \$5-7 million per year in Pittman-Robertson excise taxes used by states for management of game and nongame animals, this seems like a worthwhile investment. We plan to band about 77,000 doves nationwide, including 2,700 in Kansas. One advantage of banding game birds

is that their band recovery rates (about 1.1%) are higher than for nongame birds (e.g., 0.087% for white-crowned sparrow).

Trapping will occur in July and August. Although different states may use different traps, most doves will be caught in wire cage traps with funnels. Traps will be placed in areas with little or no vegetation frequented by doves. Trap sites will include gravel parking areas and closed roads, crop fields, and pastures. Doves will be baited into traps with seeds, primarily proso millet and black oil sunflowers.

Traps will be checked regularly to limit heat stress. Captured birds will be carefully removed. All doves will be banded with standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal bands and aged using feather replacement on the wing. Adult birds will be sexed using plumage color patterns. The progression of the primary feather molt will also be recorded.

The success of this study depends on the reporting of banded birds. If you find a banded mourning dove, please report it to the Bird Banding Lab by calling 1-800-327-BAND or online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Helenh@wp.state.ks.us*

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Leica Trinivod 10x25	(1)
Nikon 10x50	(1)
Nikon Egret 8x40	(1)
Bausch & Lomb Custom 10x40	(1)
Bausch & Lomb Discoverer 7x42	(1)
Bushnell Wide View 7x18	(1)
Bushnell WA 10x50	(1)
Bushnell Powerview 8x32	(1)
Bushnell Glasseson 10x50	(1)
Bushnell Custom 8x36	(1)
Bushnell Birder 8x42	(1)
Alderblick 8x42	(1)
Fujinon 8x42	(1)
Minolta Activa 8x25	(1)
Minolta Compact II 10x25	(1)
Orion Savannah 8x42	(1)
Opticron BGA 10x42	(1)
Brunton 8x25	(1)

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

A Request for Assistance

April, 2003

To: **Ornithologists, Birders, Wildflower and Wildlife Enthusiasts**

From: **Ron Klataske, <ron_klataske@audubonofkansas.org>**

Re: **Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails: Mileage Funds Are Available, and We Need Your Assistance**

This note is designed to serve as an introduction to the type of information needed for individual sites and the overall system of sites and routes to be considered for inclusion in the Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails field guide/map, publications and the complementary website devoted to the subject.

The Kansas Birding and Prairie Flora Trails system will include four routes going across the state, as described on our audubonofkansas.org website, the flyer available from our office, and the last Prairie Wings newsletter. A statewide map and field guide will be published for the system, and a website will provide additional details on each site featured along the route and on the branching spurs and loops.

A "short form" is used to make it easy for folks to nominate a site. Then, we and/or others assisting will complete the additional information needed for each site, as outlined on the "long form" provided on the website.

Will You Become a County Coordinator for This Project?

There are several ways in which dedicated individuals or a team of folks can work on this project. An individual site or "rural route" can be selected and described. However, one or more can advance the process even further by spearheading the nomination process, information gathering, and by making site visits for an entire county. An individual or team will prepare/write the material for use in the publications and/or the website.

County coordinators can help by contacting or providing names of people knowledgeable about the county and various sites, help us find or develop site maps and descriptions, provide acknowledgment information, and possibly list sources of additional information on historic features, community amenities or events of potential interest, etc. Collectively, the product will be an outline for nature-based tourism opportunities within the county. Contributions of photographs for the website will also be greatly appreciated.

It would be helpful if volunteers could keep records of time and mileage devoted to the project, along with any other "costs" associated with their efforts. We need this to help us with our requirement for "in-kind" services for the grant provided by the Kansas Division of Travel and Tourism.

We will be able to reimburse folks for some of their transportation (mileage) costs, or will provide you with a receipt for your written record of charitable contributions.

We will be working on the publication by late spring and will be doing some field visits to follow up on the descriptions.

We are enthused about the prospect of working with you and others throughout the state during this final stage of the project. Please keep it mind that we want the website to have personality and utility that goes beyond any other birding trail site in the country. Thus, please feel free to be innovative.

For example, if one is describing a site and this vicinity is where you or friends saw a rare bird (for Kansas) in ____, include a note to that effect. If the Kansas Ornithology Society or the Kansas Herpetological Society held a spring meeting in the county in year__ and recorded some notable species, please share that with a note or a document that can be included in the text or added as an attachment. Please feel free to include information from the Breeding Bird Atlas or from Christmas Bird Counts if it has the potential of adding to the experience of someone visiting the area.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Ron Klataske at <ron_klataske@audubonofkansas.org> or 785-535-4385, fax 785-537-4395.

KANSAS WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 2002 through February 28, 2003

By Lloyd Moore

(The following is "ghost written" by Chuck Otte.)

The winter season was relatively mild, by Kansas standards. Many Christmas Bird counts were held in very favorable conditions, at least temperature wise. While precipitation during the period was not unheard of, it seemed that areas that received rain or snow kept getting it, while other areas received little to none!

The warmer than average weather kept many large bodies of water open and probably contributed significantly to the large numbers of waterfowl present during the period. The mild weather was not conducive to unusual winter time gulls leaving many birders

reminiscing of the good old days of the Wichita Landfill.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their invasion of Kansas. Nearly 2/3 of Kansas counties now have a sight record for Eurasian Collared-Dove.

The Ladder-backed Woodpecker returned for a second year to Riley County. The western jay invasion lingered on into the season much to the delight of many CBC compilers. Unexpected was the Clark's Nutcracker found, and photographed, on the Perry Lake CBC .

Whether it was the mild weather, or presence of good food supplies elsewhere, the season did not produce

many "winter finches". Pine Siskins seemed to be few and far between, no crossbills were reported and just a few redpoll records were received.

Thanks once again to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

*Lloyd Moore can be reached at:
ictinia@swbell.net
or at:
1250 Scott Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66105*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Pacific Loon	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	12/03	BR
	2 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	12/04	MT
	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	12/06	TH
	1 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	SS
	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Kingman	12/22	JB
	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	01/11	AS
	1 at Ritchie Sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	01/25	D&FV
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Marion Rsvr. <i>(Found dead and frozen to the ice on 01/20.)</i>	Marion	12/31-01/20	AP, mob
Western Grebe	1 at Pott. Lake #2	Pottawatomie	12/11	TC, CA
	2 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR comp.
	2 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/21	DRi comp.
Clark's Grebe	1 at Ritchie sand pit, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/01-14	PJ, CS ,C&JO, CM
White Pelican	44 at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/27	MR
Neotropic Cormorant	1 below dam at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	12/12	AS,TFI
	2 below dam at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	01/26	AP,AN,MPa
Trumpeter Swan	2 at Perry Lake <i>(1 with red collar)</i>	Jefferson	01/15-02/05	SR, mob

Tundra Swan	1 at Scott State Lake	Scott	12/02	T&SSh
	5 (2 ad & 3 imm) at QNWR (Present through end of period)	Stafford	11/30-12/18	LH, MR, mob
	3 at Cheney Rsvr.	Kingman	01/04	PJ, CG, KG, JB
	2 on farm pond SE of Kanopolis (Landowner advised they had been present for two months.)	Ellsworth	02/17	MSe, MR

Greater White-fronted Goose	166,000 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/18	MR comp.
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Snow Goose	7000 on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/14	T&SSh
	61,000 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR comp.
	400,000 at Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/18	MR comp.

Ross's Goose	200 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/18	MR comp.
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Canada Goose	350,000 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/18	MR comp.
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*The number of geese in central Kansas, primarily in Stafford and Barton Counties, during December was estimated at **1 Million** birds. This number was comprised of about 1/3 White-fronts, 1/3 Snow's and 1/3 Canada's.*

American Black Duck	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	01/26	AP, AN, Mpa
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Greater Scaup	30 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/14	fide PJ
	2 on Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	12/21	GY comp.
	73 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/31-01/25	AP

Surf Scoter	1 at John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	12/08	MG, WCT
	1 at Ritchie Sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	01/19-25	CG, PJ, mob

White-winged Scoter	2 at Wellington City Lake	Sumner	12/10	TH
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Long-tailed Duck	3 at El Dorado Lake	Butler	12/06	fide DW
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/10	MR comp.
	1 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR, SS, HA
	1 on Junction City CBC	Geary	12/29	CO

Common Goldeneye	7,500 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR comp.
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Common Merganser	70,000 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR comp.
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Red-breasted Merganser	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Kingman	12/21	JB
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Bald Eagle	228 at Milford Lake	Geary	02/09	MH, et all
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Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 on KU Campus	Douglas	12/08	BA
	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	12/10	DG

Northern Goshawk	1 SW of Wolf Creek Lake	Coffey	12/08	MM, MC, GP
	1 imm. in Manhattan	Riley	12/25	DRi
	1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/31	AP
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
	1 on Webster Rsvr. CBC	Rooks	01/04	HA
	1 at residence	Rush	01/10	S&DS

Golden Eagle	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/01	HA
	<D> 1 3 mi E Lecompton	Douglas	12/15	MC, MM
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
	1 along Thompson Creek Rd.	Kiowa	01/04	PJ, CG, KG, JB
	1 W of Satanta on Moscow Rd.	Grant	01/26	KH

Merlin	2 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/01	AS, RP
	1 at Winfield	Cowley	12/02	MT
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	01/05	TH, LH
Peregrine Falcon	1 in downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	12/20	JB
Prairie Falcon	1 NW of Wolf Creek Lake	Coffey	12/08	MC, MM, GP
	2 west of Oxford	Sumner	12/10	TH
	1 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	12/15	GP comp.
Greater Prairie-Chicken	40 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR comp.
	4 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/19	SS, PJ, GF
Virginia Rail	3 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
Sandhill Crane	<D> 200 near Manhattan airport	<u>Riley</u>	<u>12/21</u>	PO
Greater Yellowlegs	1 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	<u>12/15</u>	GP comp.
	1 at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	<u>01/03</u>	MC
Least Sandpiper	1 at Belle Plaine Sewage Ponds	Sumner	<u>12/22</u>	TH, LH
Dunlin	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	<u>12/08</u>	MG WCT
	1 at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	<u>01/03</u>	MC
Franklin's Gull	1 at Clinton Lk., Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/14	GP comp.
California Gull	1 at Oldsquaw Pond, Wichita	Sedgwick	02/27	CG
Thayer's Gull	1 adult on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	SS
	1 1 st winter at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	01/25	AP
	1 adult at Clinton Lake	Douglas	02/15	MM
	1 1 st winter at Council Grove Rsvr.	Morris	02/17	C&JO
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	01/18	HA
Glaucous Gull	1 2 nd or 3 rd year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/20	MR
	1 imm. at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	01/18	HA
	1 1 st winter at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	01/20	DF
	2 1 st winter at Cheney Rsvr.	Reno	02/17	D&FV
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 at Greensburg, 3 at Belvidere	Kiowa	12/02	PJ, KB
	5 at residence in Pittsburg	Crawford	12/02	RM
	8 in Ulysses	Grant	12/04	JR
	2 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/14	GP comp
	8 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/14	fide PJ
	2 in Gland Elder	Mitchell	12/15	B&NH
	2 on Slate Creek CBC	Sumner	12/19	MT
	13 at feeder in Effingham	Atchison	12/20	RG
	2 at Dwight	Morris	12/26	CO
	1 at Highland	Doniphan	01/04	MS
	8 in Lebo	Coffey	01/05	AS, RP, MP
	2 at Antioch Sod Farms	Johnson	01/20	MG, ML
	2 in Stafford	Stafford	01/28	LQ
	1 in Paradise	Russell	02/01	MR
1 in St. John	Stafford	02/18	MR	
1 in Luka	Pratt	02/18	MR	
Inca Dove	1 in Deerfield, Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/14	T&SSh
	1 at residence in Meade	Meade	12/23	TF

(Tom recaptured this bird for the fifth time on 2/28. The bird was first banded in Feb. 2000 as a 2nd year bird.)

Greater Roadrunner	1 on Thompson Creek Road 1 10 mi S of Greensburg 1 on Red Hills CBC	Kiowa Kiowa Barber	12/02 12/07 01/03	PJ, JB EF PJ comp.
Barn Owl	1 on Waconda Lake CBC 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms HQ 1 on Syracuse CBC 3 at separate locations	Mitchell Barton Hamilton Harper	12/15 01/05 01/11 02/22	CA, CO TH, LH SS, DK PJ
Snowy Owl	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	01/20-02/03	HHa, SS
Long-eared Owl	2 on Lawrence CBC <u>23</u> on Quivira NWR CBC 6 on Cedar Bluff CBC 20 at Quivira NWR 12-15 at Hillsdale Lake 20 in cedars at Lyon Co. St. Lake	<u>Douglas</u> Rice Trego Stafford Miami Lyon	12/14 12/18 12/19 01/05 01/08 01/26	fide GP BG et al SS comp. TH, LH ML AP,AN,MPa
Short-eared Owl	3 along Pawnee Co. roads 1 in Gray Co. and 1 in Hodgeman Co. 7 at Slate Creek Wetland	Pawnee Sumner	01/17 01/18 02/28	SS SS PJ, CG, KG
<u>N. Saw-Whet Owl</u>	1 at Wellington City Lake 1 on Lovewell Lake CBC	Sumner Jewell	12/10 12/16	TH fide DLS
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1 at residence in Prairie Village 1 adult male at Salina feeder (<i>Has been present 6-8 weeks.</i>)	<u>Johnson</u> <u>Saline</u>	11/09- 12/13 12/15	NL, JL DR, DB
Lewis's Woodpecker	1 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/21	DBa, TS
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 in Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek Rsvr.	<u>Riley</u>	02/08	LJ
Eastern Phoebe	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
Loggerhead Shrike	2 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	<u>12/19</u>	SS comp.
Northern Shrike	1 NW of Wilson Lake 1 S. of Olsburg 2 on Wilson Lake CBC 1 on Perry Lake CBC 1 on Waconda Lake CBC 1 on Cedar Bluff CBC 1 N. of Quivira NWR 1 along Thompson Creek Rd. 1 on Webster Rsvr. CBC 1 on Syracuse CBC 1 at Rock Creek Pk., Perry Lake	Russell Pottawatomie Russell Jefferson Mitchell Trego Stafford Kiowa Rooks Hamilton Jefferson	12/01 12/11 12/14 12/15 12/15 12/19 01/05 01/04 01/04 01/11 02/03	HA TC,CA SS, M&ER fide GP HA, CA, CO SS comp. TH ,LH PJ, CG, KG, JB M&ER, HA SS, DK BW
Steller's Jay	1 at roadside park NE of Liberal <D> 1 at residence in Meade	Seward Meade	12/30 01/26-02/22	SP, AP CA ,mob
Western Scrub-Jay	2 in Elkhart 1 along River Road W of K-27 2 in windbreak at country residence	Morton Hamilton Seward	12/27 01/11 02/27	AP SS, DK DM
Pinyon Jay	5-10 in St. Francis (<i>Present throughout the period</i>)	Cheyenne		12/04 HA
<u>Clark's Nutcracker</u>	1 at Ozawkie on Perry Lake CBC	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/15	BW
Black-billed Magpie	5 between Ashland & Clark St. Lk.	Clark	12/02	PJ, KB

American Crow	313 on Lakin CBC	<u>Kearny</u>	12/14	T&SSh
Rock Wren	1 at Scott State Lake	Scott	12/02	T&SSh
	1 on Canyonlands CBC	Logan	12/15	T&SSh
House Wren	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	12/06	BY
	1 at Harvey Co. East Park	Harvey	12/25	GF
Winter Wren	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	12/08	BA
	1 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR comp.
	1 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	12/15	GP comp.
	1 on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15	MR
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/19	SS comp.
	1 on Blue Rapids CBC	Marshall	12/28	TP
	2 on Webster Rsvr. CBC	Rooks	01/04	M&ER, HA
Sedge Wren	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	01/05	TH ,LH
Marsh Wren	1 at Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	12/02	PJ, KB
	2 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/14	fide PJ
	8 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
Mountain Bluebird	408 on Wilson CBC	Russell	12/14	MR
	103 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/19	SS comp.
	55 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/18	MR comp.
	1131 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ comp.
	34 on Webster Rsvr. CBC	Rooks	01/04	M&ER, HA
	35 males 8 miles NW of Larned	Pawnee	02/03	SS
	30 at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/17	MR
Townsend's Solitaire	1 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/14	fide PJ
	4 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR comp.
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/19	SS comp.
	2 at Wellington City Lake	Sumner	12/22	TH, LH
	2 N. of Quivira NWR	Stafford	01/05	TH, LH
	2 on Webster Rsvr. CBC	Rooks	01/04	M&ER, HA
	3 on Syracuse CBC	Hamilton	01/11	SS, DK
Hermit Thrush	1 on Perry Lake CBC	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/15	GP comp.
	3 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/21	DRi comp.
	3 on Junction City CBC	Geary	12/29	CO
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	1 at feeder in Meade	Meade	12/04-02/09	TF comp.
<u>Gray Catbird</u>	2 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/14-01/26	PJ, CG
	1 on Blue Rapids CBC	Marshall	12/28	TP
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at feeder in Meade	Meade	11/13-12/14	TF
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Topeka residence	Shawnee	12/23	RF
"Audubon's" Warbler	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	12/24	MM
Pine Warbler	1 at feeders in Antioch Park	Johnson	01/12-02/20	RMi, ML, mob
	<i>(2 were seen on 02/17 at a residence just outside the park by JLe and others. One of these is probably the same bird seen in the park for the past month.)</i>			
Eastern Towhee	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/21	DRi
<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>	3 seen in Cherokee Co.	Cherokee	01/25	MM, GP
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	12/15	BRu

Lark Bunting	1 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/28</u>	SP
Savannah Sparrow	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/21</u>	DRi comp.
“Gray-headed” Junco	1 on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/14	T&SSH
	1 at Cimarron NG work station	Morton	12/27	SP, AP
“White-winged” Junco	<u>16</u> on Canyonlands CBC	Logan	12/15	T&SSH
	1 N. of Quivira NWR	Stafford	01/05	TH, LH
<u>Smith’s Longspur</u>	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	<u>Trego</u>	12/19	TS
	100+ at Lyon Co. St. Lake	Lyon	02/02	CG & WAS
<u>Snow Bunting</u>	2 on Wildlife Loop at QNWR	Stafford	12/03	LHe
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	12/07	TH
	2 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	M&ER
	1 W. of Ellsworth	Ellsworth	01/11	HA, DL
	5 NW of Ellsworth	Ellsworth	01/11	HH, SK
	1 on K-232 at Wilson Lake turn	Lincoln	02/28	M&ER
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<u>57</u> on Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	12/21	GY comp.
Purple Finch	6 at residence in Elk Falls	Elk	12/04	GW
	1 at Cawker City	Mitchell	12/23	HA
<u>Common Redpoll</u>	2 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/21	DRi comp.
	1 in Elkhart	Morton	12/28	MR, AP

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual, late or early sightings.

Underlined species indicates unusual species.

Underlined species in bold indicate species with no records or fewer than 10 records for Kansas.

<D> indicates that documentation was submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NES), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygnes W. A. (MdcWA), Ft. Hays State University (FHSU)

Observers: Henry Armknecht, Bob Antonio, Charles Anderson, Ken Brunson, Doris Burnett, James Barnes, Dan Baffa (DBa), Mark Corder, Ted Cable, Tom Flowers, Tom Flanigan (TFI), Eric Friesen, Gregg Friesen, Richard Field, Dave Fischer, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Bob Gress, Richard Garrett, Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Larry Hesed (LHe), Tyler Hicks, Leon Hicks, Bob & Nancy Highgate (B&NH), “Hoogy” Hoogheem, Helen Hands (HHa), Kellye Hart, Norma Herrmann, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Stephen Kitchel, Jane Leo, Nancy Leo, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Jane Leonatti (JLe), Robert Mangile, Cheryl Miller, Mick McHugh, Rex Miller (RMi), Dan Mulhern, Arpad Nyari, Chuck & Jaye Otto (C&JO), Chuck Otte, Peter Oviatt, Ralph Pike, Matt Pike, Galen Pittman, Tom Parker, Alexis Powell, Monica Papes (MPa), Sebastian Patti, Lee Queal, Mike Rader, Mike & Ellen Rader (M&ER), John Rakestraw, Ben Rogers, Bob Rucker (BRu), Doug Rudick, Dave Rintoul (DRi), Scott Rice, Carolyn Schwab, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSH), Tom Shane, Scott Seltman, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Art Swalwell, Dan La Shelle (DLS), Mike Stewart, Mark Seitz (MSe), Max Thompson, Will Chatfield Taylor, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Bunnie Watkins, Gloria Wolf, David Weible, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Beverly Yates, Gene Young

Remember KOS... If you would like to help the Kansas Ornithological Society’s future growth consider leaving a memorial trust for the Society or including the KOS in your will. If you would like more information feel free to contact any of the Board Members.

Spring Field Trip Leavenworth, Kansas May 2 - 4, 2003

KOS members and friends were treated to a great spring field trip in northeast Kansas. John Schukman chaired and organized the field trip weekend and was ably assisted by Mike Stewart and Dave "No Nightjars" Williams (sorry Dave, I couldn't resist and it wasn't your fault!!) and other northeast Kansas birders.

Field trips included the famed Ft. Leavenworth forested bottomlands, as well as the Benedictine Bottoms near Atchison, the Atchison State Lake, a few locations in southern Doniphan County and Weston Bend State Park in Missouri. Many birders were treated to great views of life and state birds and at least a few fortunate birders managed to be looking straight up at the right time to see an Anhinga soaring overhead! Birds were added to the checklist of all three Kansas counties visited. (And the editor finally got his Cerulean Warblers!) In case you went past it, the complete bird list from the weekend is on page 3 of this issue.

I went to speak on behalf of all the attendees (list follows) in thanking John and everyone that helped in making the Spring Field Trip, 2003 a memorable one.... right down to the tornadoes on Sunday! Next stop is Southwestern College at Winfield in October!

Jenny Avey, Roxanna Tosterud, Atchison; Cal Cink, Baldwin City; Byron Berger, Sandy Muirhead-Gould, Canton, Ohio; Henry Armknecht, Cawker City; Joyce Davis, Dodge City; Marvin Kuehn, Emporia; Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Garden City; Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Junction City; Bill Busby, Gerald Parkinson, Lawrence; Paul Andersen, John Schukman, Mike Stewart, Dave Williams, Leavenworth; Sue Calhoon, David Seibel, Lenexa; Charles Andersen, Lowell Johnson, Wanda Johnson, Manhattan; Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Steven Seltman, Nekoma; Kelli Alex, Molly James, Molly Jones, Olathe; Dave Bryan, Linda Bryan, Mary Deuser, Matt Gearheart, Jami Jeffrey, Rebecca Johnson, Mark Land, Donald Stout, Overland Park; Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Peabody; Nancy Leo, Prairie Village; Ken Brunson, Leeann Brunson, Pratt; Carolyn Schwab, Sedgwick; Joanne Brier, Richard Field, Dan Larson, Topeka; Patsy Hodges, Pete Janzen, Cheryl Miller, Sandra Tholen, Wichita; Mike Radar, Wilson

West Nile Virus in Kansas, 2003

by Chuck Otte

West Nile Virus appears to have covered the entire state of Kansas (less a couple of counties) in 2002. With more rainfall in 2003 we are all expecting more mosquitoes and subsequently we expect to see West Nile Virus across the state again. In eastern states, experience has shown that the second year of exposure often results in far more cases and fatalities (human, avian and mammal). As birders, we need to protect ourselves (see related article on page 15) but we also need to help contribute to the database on occurrence and spread of West Nile Virus in Kansas.

Kansas State University is again testing dead corvids for the presence of West Nile Virus. If you find a sick, dying or recently dead Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-billed Magpie or raven, call, toll free, 1-866-452-7810. If they want to test the bird you have found, they will provide instructions. Additional information on this testing program can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus/report_bird.htm. As of early June, no positive tests had occurred in Kansas. University of Kansas researchers are also interested in dead bird reports of all kinds. More information, and a web based report form, can be found at <http://www.nhm.ku.edu/birds/>.

The jury is still out on the long term impact of West Nile Virus on the avifauna of the western hemisphere. Your help in tracking this disease can be crucial to unraveling its mysteries!

KOS Spring Board Meeting May 3, 2002 Leavenworth, Kansas

Attendance:

Chuck Otte	John Schukman	David Seibel
Cal Cink	Bill Busby	Marvin Kuehn
Tom Shane	Dan Larson	Kerrie Kirkpatrick
Lowell Johnson	Cheryl Miller	Dave Williams

Chairman Tom Shane called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Tom asked if there were corrections to the minutes from the fall meeting. Chuck Otte moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Larson distributed three handouts: Income & Expense 2002, I & E year-to-date, and a balance sheet. Income from the investment fund was \$4500 for 2002, and he inquired whether this was supposed to be transferred to the general fund. He noted that no book royalties had been received this year to date.

Bulletin Editor's Report: Cal Cink opened a discussion about whether to publish a 16-page manuscript as a regular or special publication. The board was not aware of precedent for producing special publications and covering the costs. The consensus was to run the manuscript in the regular spring issue of the bulletin. Cal reported that Roger Boyd is working on an index for the bulletin.

Membership Report: Mike Stewart was not present. A membership directory is scheduled for 2003.

New/Other Business

1. Future Meetings:

Fall 2003	Winfield, Cowley County
Spring 2004	Washington County
Fall 2004	Baker University, Douglas County

2. Student Research Awards: John Schukman will be in charge of the process. Applicants should contact him. There is no set award amount. A committee will be established to review applications. One requirement is that the student and his/her faculty sponsor be KOS members.

3. Tom Shane is working on a statement of job responsibilities for board positions to be posted on the KOS website.

4. KOS website. Chuck reported that more space (>50 Mb) is needed for the website. He will look into this.

Discussion Items

KOS Awards. Does KOS need an awards program? A brief discussion of this topic ensued.

Does the Past-president have voting privileges? Chuck consulted the by-laws: yes, they do.

KOS library. Tom inquired into the status of the KOS library. It is housed in the bird division at the museum and also partly in Anshutz Science Library. Ruth Fauhl used to keep close track of this as KOS librarian.

NAMC. KOS places data from the North American Migration Count on its website, but does not formally sponsor it.

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WNW. Wings-N-Wetlands was held this year on April 25-27 in Great Bend. It was generally considered a big success and many KOS members contributed by serving as tour guides, etc.

Kansas All-Bird Workshop. Several board members who had attended the Kansas All-Bird Workshop in Salina on March 4-6 reported on the meeting.

American Birding Association (ABA) meeting. The ABA may schedule a meeting in Kansas in the next few years. The question of a KOS role in helping organize the meeting was brought up. Kerrie reported that ABA does all its own planning for meetings and would not need to rely on KOS for this.

Audits. Do we need an audit for KOS? In the past, David Seibel noted that this was done annually at the fall meeting by a volunteer member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary

Birders, Bugs and Vector Borne Diseases

by Chuck Otte

For as long as we have been birding in the spring, summer and fall, we have known that we were exposing ourselves to such threats as mosquitoes, chiggers and ticks. We usually considered them nothing more than a nuisance and an irritation. Oh, we might have known, or heard about, someone that actually had Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, but most of us didn't worry about it.

Now it is 2003 and, thanks to an efficient mass media deluge, most of us are highly sensitized to Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis, as well as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and the half dozen or so other vector borne diseases (VBD) that have been around for a long, long time. I have watched many individuals act as if we have never been at risk until Lyme Disease and WNV came along. These VBDs are a real risk to anyone who spends considerable time outdoors. But the risks may have been blown out of proportion through sensationalistic reporting. As birders, we are probably at greater risk still from vehicle accidents on the way to the next rarity or from influenza in the winter, than we are to the VBDs.

But that doesn't mean we should make light of the risk. It behooves us to take a sensible approach to protecting ourselves from insect bites. In spite of all the research done over the years, we have yet to find anything as effective as DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) for personal insect protection. A very good study has been done on the effectiveness of various products and can be found on the WWW at:

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/MF2571.pdf> One of the interesting revelations that came from this study is that products with DEET concentrations over 30% were no more effective than many products with DEET concentrations of 20% to 30%. Don't soak yourself in any repellent - read and follow all label directions.

One product that has been around for a little, while that many are still not familiar with, is called Permanone. It is a clothing only treatment containing 0.5% Permethrin and is very effective (personal testimony) at reducing exposure from ticks and chiggers especially! We will always have risks wherever we are and whatever we are doing. Use common sense, appropriately protect yourself and put it all into perspective!

55th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

October 3, 4 & 5, 2003

Southwest College, Winfield Kansas

ID Workshop

Silent Auction

Presented Papers

Banquet and Keynote Speaker

KOS Annual Business Meeting

Election of Board and Officers for 2004

and, of course,

Fellowship and Field Trips

Look for registration information,
details and Call for Papers
in the September Horned Lark

(Information on Presented Papers will be available by late July
on the KSBIRDS website, <http://ksbirds.org>)