



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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From the President's Pen

By Matt Gearheart

Greetings KOS Friends -

I have been pondering an apparent simple thought for quite a while: *Why do we love birds? What is it that makes them so fascinating to watch? ...and Why do we travel such great distances to see them?* A couple of years ago, I was on a field trip with a fairly nice-sized group of birders. One enthusiastic newbie was trying to explain this concept to his non-birding family. Being posed this question, followed only by a brief moment of deep thought, he emphatically exclaimed his response: "Because they're *Awesome!!!*" Though succinct, I could not find any fault with this sound logic and could completely relate to his emotion. However, it drove me to delve deeper into what it is that truly makes birds 'Awesome'. The answer to this question can vary amongst birders and can have many different significances. Here are a few that come to my mind.

The *Awesome* colored plumages. The elegance and striking colors of birds really is unmatched in the animal kingdom and natural world. Think about the metallic gorget of a hummingbird, or the brilliant red of a Scarlet Tanager, or even the perfect camouflage of an American Woodcock. Finding a unique bird you have been searching for is often rewarded by a stunning sight of dazzling feathers.

The *Awesome* sounds. What would our backyard be without the peaceful serenity of singing birds? How about hearing the breeding songs of neo-tropical migrants returning in the Spring—and often trying to re-learn the warblers). Or something more primordial like the sound of 10,000 Sandhill Cranes descending upon Quivira NWR

or the deafening reverberation of a big flock of Snow Geese.

Birding offers an *Awesome* connection to Nature. I find that while birding I learn many other things about a bird's behavior, preferred habitats, food, nesting, etc. I also often encounter many other creatures while out in the field - butterflies, snakes, mammals, beetles, wildflowers, and on and on.

Birding creates *Awesome* comradery. Many of my best memories are of driving across Kansas - chasing birds with a carload of friends, or from my early days begging my dad to take me to Cheyenne Bottoms. Of course, it can be also be nice to enjoy a morning of solace, walking alone in the woods - but what if you stumble across an incredible new bird - who is going to give you a high five and share in the all the glory?

Birding invokes an *Awesome* sense of discovery and exploration. It is something you can do just about anywhere in the world and there is always something new to find or learn about. Recently, Jenny and I were discovering new birds at the Acadia Birding Festival in Maine. Former Kansan, Kenn Kaufman, gave an inspiring presentation on this subject, paralleling the discovery of birds to Christopher Columbus' voyage into the unknown. He encouraged birders of all experience levels to continue to explore and discover all of nature and share it with the world. I couldn't think of anything more motivating.

What is it that makes birding *Awesome* for you? Hope to see you in the future exploring the birding world.

- Matt

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

I'm reminded of a scene from the movie Twister where Bill Paxton's character catches up with the tornado chase team that he used to work with. When they see him, all the team members greet him with, "Glad you're back, Bill!" To which he always responds, "I'm not back."

Thanks to Mark Van Horn for serving as editor for the past several years. Due to his work requirements in the Army it wasn't practical for him to continue as editor. Rather than having the board rush to find a quick replacement, I volunteered to pick up the slack for a couple of issues allowing us time to find a new editor. So to anyone who is thinking, "Glad you're back!", I'm not really back, I'm just sitting in for a short spell.

Which of course brings up the fact that we need a newsletter editor. There are four issues of the Horned Lark every year. We need someone who understands writing, editing, a basic concept of design, and putting together an organizational newsletter. Previous experience is obviously helpful. Two issues of the four are very critical that they are in the mailbox in a timely manner as they contain meeting registration information and details. We utilize a service that does the actual printing, labeling and mailing so you don't have to worry about that, but it does require you to have an issue together 3 to 4 weeks before you want it in the member's mailbox. Feel free to contact me if you have an interest or questions.

KOS is a volunteer organization. We're all a bunch of folks who love birds and bird watching. Our dues are extremely reasonable especially when compared to a professional organization. If we were paying \$70 to \$100 annually to belong, we'd hire professionals to do this for us. But at \$20 a year, everything everyone in the sidebar to the right does, is as a volunteer. We do it because we love the birds!

We are always looking for good folks willing to volunteer a little bit of their time to keep the society going. We are regularly in need of new directors. Several of the positions on the board will be open a year from now. Look for more details on that this fall. KOS is like life, the more you put in to it, the more you get out of it. If you sit on the sidelines of life, it's kind of boring. But jump into the middle of it, and you'll have a blast! Same with KOS!

Speaking of having a blast, check out fall meeting registration information contained further into this issue! - Chuck



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Top 5 Secrets to Birding in Southwest Kansas (Part I)

Text and Photos By Jeff Calhoun

Pioneers on the Santa Fe Trail considered sections of this historic trail through southwest Kansas to be the most difficult sections of their entire journey. Times have changed since then, but today birders and wildlife viewing enthusiasts still largely consider the southwest corner of the state the most challenging place to visit. Sure, there are the well-known gems like the Cimarron National Grasslands and Clark and Meade State Lakes. People even come from all over the world to try their luck at seeing a rare Lesser Prairie-Chicken on the Kansas prairie, but there is so much more to the experience! These five secrets will ignite your birding experience in southwest Kansas to a world-class sensation that this area delivers best.

5) Water in the Desert

It may sound obvious, but it is a secret that cannot be overstated, hence its inclusion at number five on this list. Wildlife loves water! In southwest Kansas, there is not as much water as other parts of the state, so the water that does exist is sure to be a hotspot!

There are a few fishing holes in southwest Kansas. You are certain to find birds and wildlife at Meade State Lake, Kiowa State Fishing Lake, and at the fishing ponds on the Cimarron National Grasslands. Places like Arkalon Park in Liberal and Frazier Park in Ulysses do innovative things with their wastewater and these parks have become two of my favorite places to visit. You can find a few sandpits along the Arkansas River watershed, like Sam's Pond in Syracuse, and these attract wildlife like Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Western Grebes that otherwise have no place to stop over dry country. Visits to these permanent bodies of water in southwest Kansas never disappoint, but you may be surprised to learn about what is often the best aquatic birding.

Most towns and feedlots in southwest Kansas have no shortage of a secret wildlife treasure – sewage. And where there is sewage, there is bird food and salamander habitat. And where there are birds and salamanders, there are larger predatory birds like Peregrine Falcons and Great Blue Herons patrolling. At any given time, there is likely to be more wildlife packed around a wastewater treatment lagoon in southwestern Kansas than anywhere else nearby. Geese, ducks, shorebirds, herons, cormorants, gulls, terns, pipits, swallows, and more are frequently seen around wastewater ponds.

These birds can be seen in mesmerizing concentrations because sewer ponds might be the only water source within fifty miles! The birding is almost never bad at a large wastewater lagoon, and in fact it is often thrilling. It's best, though, to not think about the source and just enjoy the birds, just like the sign at the Elkhart Wastewater Treatment Plant suggests. It is never okay to trespass at a sewer pond or feedlot pond, but many can be viewed from the road or with permission.



The sign at the Elkhart wastewater treatment center welcomes birders.

4) Take A Hike

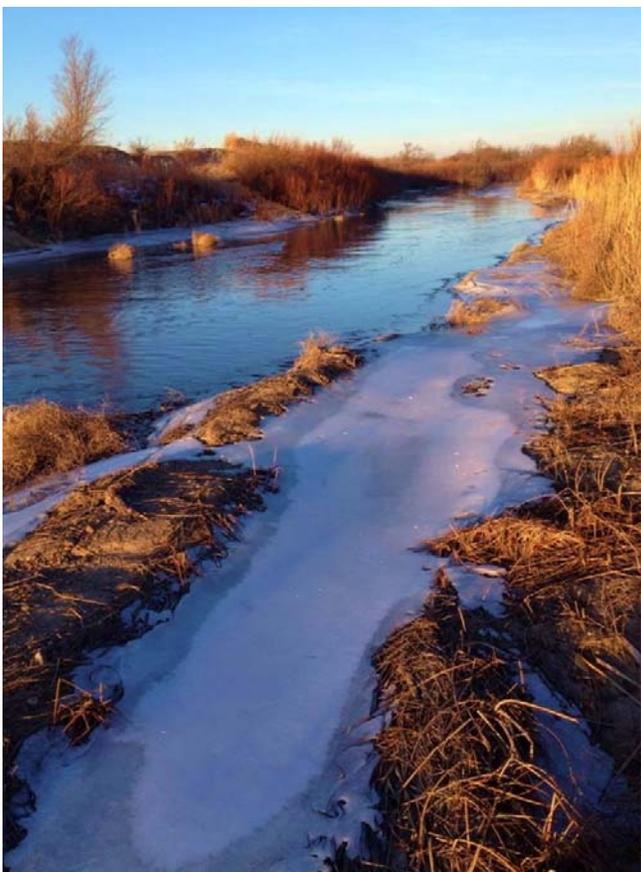
Although any trip to southwest Kansas is sure to include many miles on the road, the fourth biggest secret to finding birds and wildlife in this part of the state is to enjoy some of those miles by foot! It is no secret that you see more wildlife when you are outside of a vehicle than when you are in one, and this tenet rings especially true in the southwest. You hear things. You smell things. You feel things. In a car you only see things, and maybe catch that whiff of the feedlots if you're lucky.

Within what may seem like endless miles of monotonous wheat country hides several secrets you'll never have the pleasure of knowing unless you experience it by walking around it. Finding notable hiking in southwest Kansas, however, seems difficult, but it doesn't have to be. The list of public places that one can go hiking is more exhaustive than you may realize. A few of my favorite places to hike are the Arkansas River trails

at the Syracuse City Park, the Arkansas River at Cimarron Crossing Park (in Cimarron), around Ford and Clark County State Lakes, along the Cimarron River in Morton County, and at the Manter Dam Recreation Area in Stanton County. It is easy to find beauty, peace, and fulfillment while hiking these places without the need to go anywhere more exotic. A famous John Muir quote states that, “In every walk with nature one receives far more than one seeks.” Hiking in the solitude of southwest Kansas exemplifies this quote brilliantly, and the possibility for discovery is a thrilling added bonus to hikers. These wild areas, and a long list of others in western Kansas just like them, are well-known for producing vagrant bird sightings and are the best way to enjoy the variety of other native wildlife and wildflowers. Enjoy it, but use caution—walking around rocky cliffs (yes, cliffs!) and patches of Cholla cactus (yes, cactus!) can turn painful if you don’t watch your step!



Plenty of rugged areas in southwest Kansas, like Manter Dam Recreation Area in Stanton County, are a blast to hike around.



The Arkansas River in Syracuse is a fascinating place to hike around.



You won't find nesting Great Horned Owls peeking out of an abandoned barn at 65 mph! I found these while walking on a dirt road in Ford County.

Look for Jeff's top 3 southwest Kansas birding secrets in the next Horned Lark!

You can never go wrong with the slower pace of a hike! Don't limit yourself to a path, however. Some dirt roads in southwest Kansas are just as dreamy. A trip to southwest Kansas without any hiking is a trip wasted.

Kansas Birding Roundup, Spring 2015 (March – May) Chuck Otte, compiler

If you are a birder, you know that Spring and Fall are where the action is! Come on! We live for Spring migration and then the southbound migration (since it starts in July I really have trouble calling it a fall migration.) As I sifted through the records for the February 1 through May 31 sightings, it became obvious that birders were out in the field a lot! And a rainy, very rainy in some areas, month of May probably influenced departure dates of some of our usual migrants causing species to remain in the state longer than usual.

But we really need to start with the star of the season, the Scott Lake Piratic Flycatcher. Less than a week after KOS was in Scott County, and at Scott Lake, for our spring meeting, a group of out of state students and their professor visited Scott Lake on a Friday afternoon and happened upon a rather unusual bird. Thanks to the instant communication ability of modern technology, by the time I went to bed the evening of May 8th, word was spreading rapidly across the country of a tropical flycatcher at Scott Lake, most likely a Piratic Flycatcher. By sunup on Saturday the 9th, caravans were en route with hopes of getting a view of this rarity. Birders across the state rerouted, airline schedules were perused trying to figure out where the closest airport might be. A plethora of pictures started showing up on the internet of this bird, and it was soon confirmed to be a Piratic Flycatcher and one of the furthest north records ever of this species! The bird remained until sometime on Sunday. A record has been submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) who will have the final decision on this bird's status, but it appears poised to be yet another addition to the awesome avifauna list of our state!

After that, most of the rest of the season's birds seem rather ho-hum, but there are sightings and potential trends of interest. It appears that we had lingering waterfowl. We have some migrants that remain behind each year, frequently because of apparent injuries. This spring we had many reports of Ross's and Cackling Geese that appeared uninjured that just didn't leave until later in the spring. The same seems to be true for gulls also. Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls seemed somewhat reluctant to leave as March rolled around.

Two species that used to be worthy of filing a KBRC report have now become regular and expected at least at certain locations. Neotropical Cormorants and Glossy Ibis don't really seem noteworthy anymore especially if seen at Quivira or Cheyenne Bottoms. With that said, the ongoing issue of Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrids continues to require further study.

White-winged Doves continue to increase in numbers and locations. Twenty-five years ago the number of records of this species in Kansas could be counted on one hand. Now they have been reported from three fourths of the counties in the state with new breeding records coming in every summer.

Perhaps in response to the wet weather this spring, many species wandered further west than usual during migration. White-eyed Vireos established new westerly county records; Pratt and Russell. Fish Crows continue to expand west and north in the state with new records from Reno and Doniphan counties. Also westerly were Painted Buntings with a new record in Hamilton County and numerous spring reports from Quivira NWR. As these species were wandering west, Lazuli Buntings were reported in good numbers easterly. This species is expected annually east to about US Highway 77, and any sighting further east than that is noteworthy. McCown's Longspurs were showing up in reports more frequently than normal this spring as well.

Finally, those nomadic finches. Pine Siskins were being reported from many locations across the state well into May. While nests can be hard to find, reports from late May and June likely involve breeding birds. KOS Spring Field Trip participants visiting the Wichita county hamlet of Marienthal observed apparent nesting behavior of siskins in Blue Spruce trees.

Thank you to everyone who reports and contributes sightings for this report. Please forward any noteworthy sightings to me at otte2@cox.net or mailed to 613 Tamerisk Dr., Junction City, KS 66441

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	6 at Anthony Lake, photos	Harper	5/5	EF
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	1 at QNWR, with photos	Stafford	5/19	ABu
Ross's Goose	4 late birds at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	4/15	JB
Ross's Goose	1 late adult, Wilson sewer ponds	Ellsworth	4/29	MR
Ross's Goose	1 at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	4/28	NA
Ross's Goose	Deerfield Feeders	Kearny	5/2	KOS
Cackling Goose	1 late bird at Veterans Memorial Lake	Cowley	4/18	CVB, others
Cackling Goose	2 late birds, Wilson sewer ponds	Ellsworth	4/26	MR
Cackling Goose	1 late bird at CBWMA	Barton	5/19	ABu
	Present through 5/27			
Cackling Goose	1 late bird at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	5/24	NA
	Present through 5/26			
Cinnamon Teal	1 easterly at Fairmont Park, Manhattan	Riley	4/23	BS
Cinnamon Teal	1 at MDC Unit G	Linn	5/1	DS, GP
Greater Scaup	Pair seen in flight with Lessers CBWMA	Barton	4/26	MR
Greater Scaup	Male well seen at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	4/26	EW, BS
Surf Scoter	1 continuing at Elkhart WTP	Morton	4/23	MR & mob
	Still present 5/8			
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	1 SW of Fort Scott, photo	Bourbon	4/26	SS
White-winged Scoter	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	3/1	AM
Long-tailed Duck	1 male in transitional plumage, QNWR	Stafford	4/11	WCT
Bufflehead	1 at Hain State Fishing Lake	Ford	5/11	TE, JC
Common Loon	1 in basic plumage, LaCygne Lake	Linn	5/22	MGd
	An increasing number of late spring and summer records of Common Loons in Kansas			
Horned Grebe	1 late at Perry Lake	Jefferson	5/15	MMH
Western Grebe	1 easterly and late at Elk City Lake	Montgomery	4/21	ABu
Western Grebe	4 very late at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	5/22	JB
	Reported through 5/26			
Black Vulture	1 at Elk City Lake	Montgomery	5/2	ABu
Northern Harrier	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/15	DL
	Northern Harriers are low density nesters but few sightings are reported from late spring or summer.			
Golden Eagle	Still present at MDC	Linn	3/13	CE
	Still present 3/20			
Golden Eagle	1 immature at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge	McPherson	4/20	EM
Sandhill Crane	1 lingering at Wilson Wildlife Area	Russell	5/15	MR
Whooping Cranes	Total of 11 at QNWR	Stafford	3/27	BJ
American Avocet	16 at Erie WTP	Neosho	4/21	ABu
American Avocet	1,800+ at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	4/22	MR
American Golden-Plover	Flock of 1,600 seen in surveys	Elk	4/5	RP
<u>American Golden-Plover</u>	3 westerly in northern Pratt Co	Pratt	4/20	MR
American Golden-Plover	2,240 in one flock	Greenwood	4/29	RP
Snowy Plover	1 at Playas in western part of county	Hamilton	5/17	JC
<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	1 at running irrigation system on 20 th Rd.	Pratt	3/25	SS
Whimbrel	32 in one flock at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	5/14	MR
Stilt Sandpiper	4500 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	5/14	MR
Dunlin	45 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	5/21	MR
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at QNWR	Stafford	5/9	BG
Red Knot	5 at Wilson Wildlife Area	Russell	5/7	MR
Red Knot	1 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	5/25	JL
American Woodcock	1 westerly at KDWPT Headquarters	Pratt	3/25	MR
Marbled Godwit	1 early at Erie	Neosho	3/31	ABu
Red-necked Phalarope	18 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	5/9	BG
Laughing Gull	1 in alt. plumage, rare late spring record	Riley	5/17	ER
California Gull	1 late at Wilson Lake	Russell	4/15	DK
Herring Gull	1 lingering at CBWMA	Barton	5/25	ABu
Iceland Gull	1 adult at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	3/3	ML
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Cheney SP	Reno	3/1	AM

Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Hillsdale Lake Still present, 3/7	Miami	3/1	CY
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 adult at Clinton Lake Marina	Douglas	3/8	JK
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Tuttle River Ponds, West	Riley	3/8	BS
Great Black-backed Gull	1 at Hillsdale SP, 2 nd cycle bird Still present, 3/6	Miami	3/2	GP
Great Black-backed Gull	1 at Perry Lake Still present, 3/20	Jefferson	3/14	BAS
Great Black-backed Gull	1 at Wilson Reservoir	Russell	4/14	DK
Black Tern	<u>750+</u> at CBWMA	Barton	5/21	MR
Common Tern	1 with flock of Forster's, BSM-QNWR	Stafford	4/25	JW
Forster's Tern	1 somewhat early at MDC	Linn	3/22	MMH
White-winged Dove	In backyard, St. Mary's	Pottawatomie	4/7	BrM
White-winged Dove	3 in Manhattan residence back yard	Riley	4/18	JRw
White-winged Dove	1 calling in Prairie West Park	Labette	4/28	Abu
Greater Roadrunner	Adult feeding young	Pawnee	5/15	DKz
<u>Barred Owl</u>	Heard calling, Battle Canyon	Scott	5/2	CM
Short-eared Owl	Near Dighton	Lane	5/3	KG, JC, DL
Short-eared Owl	At CRP Field SW Gove County	Gove	5/10	CL
Common Poorwill	1 easterly, 80 th & J Rd	Nemaha	4/19	EW
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1 calling, SW of Wilson	Russell	4/29	DK
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1 calling at sunup Scott State Park	Scott	5/3	CM
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 somewhat late at Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	5/7	ABu
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at QNWR	Stafford	5/21	MR
Say's Phoebe	1 somewhat early west of Lakin	Kearny	3/14	TS
Say's Phoebe	1 on West Marlatt Rd, Manhattan	Riley	5/1	DR
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Meade State Fish Hatchery	Meade	4/15	DL, TE
<u>Piratic Flycatcher</u>	1 at Scott Lake State Park	Scott	5/8	CL
	Record has been submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. If accepted it would be a first state record and one of the furthest north records in the U.S. Well photographed. Last seen 5/10.			
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 early near PSU Nature Reach Preserve	Crawford	3/29	JR
Northern Shrike	Eisenhower SP at Melvern Lake	Osage	3/1	JM
Northern Shrike	Near 191 st and Renner Rd	Johnson	3/7	ML
Northern Shrike	1 west of Lakin	Kearny	3/14	TS
Northern Shrike	Neosho Wildlife Area	Neosho	3/21	ABu
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	1 westerly at KDWPT Headquarters	Pratt	4/21	MR
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	2 miles southwest of Wilson	Russell	4/24	DK
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 early arrival at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	4/10	JR
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at Bur Oak grove, QNWR	Stafford	5/9	AM
Common Raven	2 probably nesting at CNG	Morton	4/18	TC, MR
<u>Fish Crow</u>	3 westerly at sand pits W of Hutchinson	Reno	3/17	AM
	A flock of ten was seen/heard here on 5/22			
Fish Crow	1 at Ackert Woods, KSU Campus	Riley	3/26	ER
	Others or same bird seen around Manhattan for several days following			
<u>Fish Crow</u>	1 along Missouri River, furthest N record	Doniphan	5/3	DA
Marsh Wren	Western subspecies singing at CBWMA	Barton	3/30	ML
McCown's Longspur	1 in pasture, SE part of county	Kiowa	3/12	JL
McCown's Longspur	Flock of about <u>180</u> with 70 Lapland's	Pratt	4/1	SS
McCown's Longspur	Along Salem Rd	Reno	4/6	JM
McCown's Longspur	K-51 highway just east of Colorado line	Morton	4/28	ABo, SF
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/30	TE
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/6	CVB
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Rock Springs 4-H Center	Dickinson	5/9	JO, CO
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 continuing at rural residence	Johnson	4/5	BW
	This bird, assuming same individual, was present most of the winter.			
Hooded Warbler	CNG, Boy Scout area	Morton	5/4	JM
Hooded Warbler	Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/5	TE
Cape May Warbler	1 at Felker Park	Shawnee	5/2	JM

Cape May Warbler	1 at Nancy Leo's backyard	Johnson	5/3	JM, ML
Cape May Warbler	1 near Mayetta with photographs	Jackson	5/8	MH
Cape May Warbler	1 at Kill Creek Park	Johnson	5/13	TSw
Cerulean Warbler	1 in residential Manhattan	Riley	5/9	ER
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/17	DS
Northern Parula	1 singing male at Oakwood Cemetery	Labette	3/11	ABu
<u>Northern Parula</u>	Male, County Rd 8 Bridge on Ladder Creek	Wichita	5/2	KOS
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 along Missouri River	Doniphan	5/3	DA
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 at Atchison County Lake	Atchison	5/4	AS
Palm Warbler	Deerfield WTP	Kearny	5/2	KOS
Pine Warbler	1 late, QNWR with photos	Stafford	5/15	BJ, ERm
<u>Painted Redstart</u>	1 male at Ford County State Park	Ford	4/29	JC
Spotted Towhee	1 singing along Franklin Co line off K-68	Miami/Franklin	5/25	RR
Eastern Towhee	1 westerly, Tunnerville Work Center, CNG	Morton	5/2	JG
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 early in NE Comanche County	Comanche	3/24	JL
White-throated Sparrow	1 near Spring Hill	Johnson	5/28	MGd
White-throated Sparrow	1 at Prairie Center, Olathe	Johnson	5/28	TM
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</u>	1 near Cedar Bluffs State Park	Trego	5/9	HA
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 st summer male at Manhattan bird feeder	Riley	4/16	JRw
	Still present in area, 4/18			
<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	Westerly along Missouri River	Doniphan	5/3	DA
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Rocky Ford area	Riley	5/6	BS
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Tuttle State Park	Riley	5/10	ER, HT
Lazuli Bunting	2 at Konza	Riley	5/11	KC
<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	1 at Neosho Wildlife area	Neosho	5/12	ABu
<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	1 at Oakwood Cemetery, Parsons	Labette	5/12	ABu
<u>Painted Bunting</u>	1 Female at K-27 Roadside Park	Hamilton	5/17	JC
Painted Bunting	With Lazuli and Indigo at QNWR	Stafford	5/18	DKz
	Numerous reports of Painted Buntings from Quivira this spring			
Bobolink	Early, displaying in NW Sedgwick	Sedgwick	4/12	PJ
Pine Grosbeak	Female at feeder NW of Larned	Pawnee	3/6	SS
Pine Grosbeak	1 female, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City	Finney	3/10	AV
Red Crossbill	Adult male at Shane's feeders	Finney	4/26	SSh
	2 pair seen on 5/3			
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder	Pottawatomie	3/6	BrM
Pine Siskin	Up to 30 per day in Shane's back yard	Finney	4/26	TS
Pine Siskin	2 in Doris Burnett's backyard	Pottawatomie	5/20	BrM
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at Doris Burnett's feeders	Pottawatomie	5/20	DB
Evening Grosbeak	2 at feeder in Holcomb	Finney	3/9	AN
	Seen again 3/23. 1 still present, 4/20.			

Locations and notes: BSM-QNWR – Big Salt Marsh, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, CBWMA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, CNG - Cimarron National Grasslands, MDC - Marais des Cygnes Area, PSU – Pittsburg State University, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, WTP – Water treatment plant Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.

Observers: Danny Akers, Nic Allen, Henry Armknecht, John Bollin, Aaron Boone (ABO), Andrew Burnett (ABu), Doris Burnett, Burroughs Audubon Society (BAS), Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Kevin Courtois, Corey Enriken, Tom Ewert, Elsie Fisher, Sean Fitzgerald, Bob Garcia, Malcom Gold (MGd), Kevin Groeneweg, Joe Grzybowski, Mike Harding, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Don Kazmaier (DKz), Jon King, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Jonathan Lautenbach, Chris Lituma, Brandon Magette (BrM), Jim Malcom, Tami Maffitt, Ethan Maynard, Mick McHugh (MMH), Andrew Miller, Cheryl Miller, Joseph Miller, Art Nonhof, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Robert Penner, Galen Pittman, Jenn Rader, Mike Rader, Edward Raynor, Robert Reed, David Rintoul, Eric Ripma (ERm), John Row (JRw), Brett Sandercock, Al Schirmacher, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Terry Swope (TSw), Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Hannah Tetreault, Curt VanBoening, (CVB), Adam Vesley, Emily Weiser, Bryan White, Jeff Witters, Craig Yerby, KOS – Kansas Ornithological Society, spring field trips, mob – multiple observers

Map and directions to various venues for KOS Fall Meeting



In the above map of the Emporia State University campus, Saturday paper sessions and business meetings will be in the Science Hall on the west side of campus. The evening banquet will be in the Memorial Union in the center of campus. Sunday morning field trips will leave from the Science Hall parking lot along Merchant St.

Directions to the Friday evening social: *Renovations at the Ross's Natural History Reservation are not complete so we will be meeting at the Breukelman Science Hall, Schmidt Museum of Natural History. This is on the west side of the ESU campus as indicated in the above map. This is the same location where Saturday's paper sessions and business meetings will be.*

67th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

October 2 - 4, 2015

Emporia State University

Join us for the fall meeting of KOS as we return to Emporia State University, Emporia, in Lyon County. It's been over 20 years since KOS met in Emporia and we are excited to be returning to this fine location in the Flint Hills. As always there'll be plenty of fascinating papers presented on Saturday. At the banquet, Noppadol Paothong will show some amazing photos of our grassland grouse and share stories of what he endured to get those amazing photos. The Sunday tours will take you to a variety of habitats, and the fellowship and friendships you make will last for years. Get registered now!

(All times tentative. Check ksbirds.org website for last minute time changes.)

Friday, October 2 (tentative)

- 7 - 9 p.m. Social at ESU's Breukelman Science Hall, Schmidt Museum of Natural History
(Please note that this is a changed location.)

Saturday, October 3

- 8 a.m. - Registration at Breukelman Science Hall, Schmidt Museums of Natural History. Silent auction setup in Room 46.
- 9 a.m. - Welcome and paper session in Breukelman Science Hall room 72. *(All Saturday day-time sessions will be in room 72.)*
- 11:35 a.m. - KOS Business Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch. KOS Board meeting: location will be announced.
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Birdwatcher's Hour - an opportunity for you to show your bird photos from the past year.
- 2:30 - 5 p.m. - Paper Session. Silent Auction ends
- 5 p.m. - KOS Business Meeting
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Banquet in the Memorial Union, Skyline Room (2nd floor).
- 7:30 - 9 p.m. - Awards and speaker

Guest speaker: Noppadol Paothong is a staff photographer at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Nop spent 12 years photographing grassland grouse. This work is documented in the award winning book, "Save The Last Dance".

Sunday, October 4

- 7:00 a.m. - Half day field trips will include areas around Emporia and surrounding areas. Possible Field Trips include Lyon County State Lake, Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, and Tall-grass Praire National Preserve. We will gather at the Breukelman Science Hall parking lot along Merchat St.
- Noon - Lunch and compilation at **Kiwanis Shelter in Peter Pan Park (corner of W. Kansas Ave and S. Congress St.)**

Lodging and Dining

Rooming blocks have been reserved at two hotels.

20 rooms at Best Western in Emporia. Special rate is \$87.99 - book by September 23rd. 3021 US-50, Emporia, KS 66801 (620) 342-7587 Ask for Kansas Ornithological Group block.

20 rooms at Candlewood Suites - \$74.99 by September 11th. 2602 Candlewood Dr., Emporia, KS (620) 343-7756 Ask for Kansas Ornithological Group block.

Other hotels and lists of dining establishments can be found online at <http://www.visitemporia.com>

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$25. The Saturday evening banquet is \$20. The Sunday box lunch is \$8. Registration fee is waived for students. Registrations must be received by September 25th to be included in meal counts. No refunds for cancellations after September 25th. Registration form is on page 12 and also available at <http://ksbirds.org>

Silent auction

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. Suitable donations include birding-themed equipment, field guides, bird houses, bird baths and optics. All proceeds go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

How to Submit KOS Paper Abstracts

The KOS fall meeting traditionally features papers given by scientists, students, and birders. The Fall 2015 Meeting will be held at Emporia State University in Emporia, October 2 - 4, 2015. Paper presentations are on Saturday, October 3.

To submit an abstract: Include the title of the presentation, the list of authors (use an asterisk to indicate the speaker), the institutional affiliation of the authors (if applicable), and a brief abstract of up to 250 words. Abstracts will be printed in the KOS meeting program. When you submit the abstract, please provide three additional pieces of information:

- 1) The multimedia equipment you will need;
- 2) Papers will be 15 minutes, including questions. If you need a shorter or longer time slot, please let Rob Penner know;
- 3) Whether you are eligible and would like to be considered for a student presentation award. If so, what stage of program (undergraduate, graduate, or doctorate).

Paper abstracts are due by September 15. Please send in Microsoft Word format to Robert Penner at rpenner@tnc.org. In the subject line of the e-mail, please indicate the meeting and give your surname: "KOS 2015: Jones."

Example abstract:

Interspecific competition with wildcats limits populations of jay-hawks in northeast Kansas.

Willie T. Wildcat (*), Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Ongoing declines in autumn populations of jay-hawks (*Cyanorufa chalkii*) are a topic of conservation concern in Kansas. To assess the role of interspecific competition with wildcats (*Felis purpula*) as a factor contributing to observed population trends, I conducted three-hour observation bouts of captive animals in large enclosed arenas. In competition trials, jay-hawks demonstrated a strong aversion to environments saturated with royal purple. Thus, interspecific competition from wild felids may be a limiting factor that controls foraging and reproductive success of jay-hawk populations in the state of Kansas. Effective conservation strategies for jay-hawks should include keeping cats indoors.

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

(for period since September 30, 2014)

Mail to:

Eugene Young
Northern Oklahoma College
1220 E. Grand. PO Box 310
Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310

Or e-mail to Gene at: EUGENE.YOUNG@noc.edu

Species _____

Observers _____

Location _____

**Registration Form, KOS Fall Meeting
October 2-4, 2015
Emporia State University**

I (we) plan to attend the 2015 KOS Fall Meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee \$25.00 x ____ = \$ _____

High school, college and graduate students are exempt from the registration fee.

Saturday Banquet (includes 20% gratuity) \$20.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Sunday Box Lunch \$8.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Surcharge for payment received after Sept. 21st \$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) \$ _____

Number of persons in party: _____

Special needs or requests: _____

Registrations received after September 21st will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.

Please mail completed registration with full payment to:

**Max Thompson
1729 E. 11th Ave.,
Winfield, KS 67156**

e-mail: maxt@cox.net

In submitting this registration form I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2015 KOS Fall meeting.

Signatures

Date