



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

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Who's Who in KOS - 2004

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, Mark Land, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207, kestrelland@aol.com

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

Board Members:
Matt Gearheart, mgearheart@gwhm.com

Lowell Johnson,
ljohnson@plantpath.ksu.edu

Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com
Kerrie Kirkpatrick, hawkowl@earthlink.net

Business Manager, Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot Wichita, KS 67204, prarybrd@southwind.net

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Calvin Cink, Baker University, PO Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006 Calvin.Cink@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 -

First of all, for the 80 plus people that attended the Fall KOS meeting in Winfield; didn't Max put on one heck of a good meeting?! Birding spouse Jaye and I certainly had a wonderful time. Good papers, good birding, good food and good friends were in abundance. KOS is a community and every community get together makes me appreciate KOS even more!

Which brings me to my second point. Like many organizations, KOS has seen declining membership in recent years. Many factors contribute to this, but part of the blame has to lie on all of us. We haven't been doing our fair share of recruiting. Bird watching is growing by leaps and bounds across the country. So why isn't ore membership? Twenty years ago the only way to find much local information was to join a birdwatching organization. Now, via the Internet, it is much easier to find that same bird watching information. So it requires all of us to start recruiting new KOS members.

On page 19 you will find the KOS membership form. While you are getting ready to send in your own dues, make an extra copy of this page and sign up a friend who enjoys birds. A one year membership is only \$15. Sure, they may not join themselves next year, but if even a few do, then we keep growing the membership. Membership recruitment and extolling the benefits of being a KOS member doesn't just rest on the editors and the officers of KOS. It is the duty of all of us!

The end of one year is always a time of bittersweet excitement for many of us. We close out one year list, but we start a new one. We look back on the 2003 list and remember the good birds we saw and the ones we missed (but maybe shouldn't have!) But there's always January 1st and the start of the new list. What's the first bird of the new year going to be? A House Sparrow, a crow, maybe a goldfinch?

That new year's list is like a new chance on life. This year I'm not going to miss Rock Wren. And this year I'm going to get that Black-throated Blue Warbler. Maybe if a Painted Redstart shows up again, I'll be able to find the time to go look for it. A new year's list is the ultimate fresh page and brings the excitement and joy that I hope greets everyone of your days in 2004!

Happy New Year everyone!

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!

Spring 2004 - Washington Co.
Fall 2004 - Baker University, Douglas County
Spring 2005 - Pratt
Fall 2005 - Wichita
Spring 2006 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

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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 *NEW* KOS Business Manager, Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot Wichita, KS 67204, prarybrd@southwind.net, 316-832-0182

Good WWW sites on a variety of topics

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

Kansas Bird Records Committee Review List
<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>

List of birds that should be documented if seen in Kansas or certain locations in Kansas.

Kansas Bird Records Committee Electronic Report Form
<http://www.ksu.edu/audubon/rarebirdform.html>
You can submit your rare bird reports on line at this address.

Archives of the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBIRD-L)
<http://listserv.ksu.edu/archives/ksbird-l.html>
You can read all the past messages posted here since the list started in March of 1996.

Archives of the BirdChat Internet Discussion List
<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdchat.html>
Like KSBIRD-L but on a national - international level. This list started in the early 1990s, but the archives only go back to January 1995.

Time to Pay Dues!

Since this is the December issue it means that January 1st is just around the corner and that means it's time to pay dues!!!!!! Save KOS a little postage money and send your dues in to KOS Treasurer Dan Larson, 3636 SE 77th, Berryton, KS 66409 at your earliest convenience. How much are dues?

Student (grade school, high school or college) \$5
Regular Individual \$15
Regular Family \$20
Sustaining Individual \$25
Sustaining Family \$30
Contributing \$40 or more
Life Membership \$300

Chasing

by John Rakestraw

Many of us keep track of bird sightings by subscribing to e-mail lists or checking web sites. Before e-mail, we may have received calls from a phone tree or called the rare bird hotline to hear recorded messages describing recent rarities. When we hear a report of a rare bird, we then have to make the decision whether to chase this bird to see it for ourselves.

Some birders do not chase. Some feel that a bird doesn't really "count" unless you find it yourself. Some argue that it is a waste of time, money, and fossil fuels to travel great distances to see one bird. Other birders are at the opposite end of the spectrum, jumping on planes whenever a significant rarity shows up anywhere in the country.

Most of us are somewhere in the middle, willing to chase a rarity if it can be done within a reasonable amount of time and expense. A general formula that I like to use when deciding whether to chase a bird is this: My birding time must be equal to or greater than my travel time. So when a Varied Thrush appeared in McPherson years ago, I did not chase it. It would have required four hours of driving to spend twenty minutes behind the Sonic drive-in. When I was living in Ohio, a flock of White-winged Crossbills was found in a cemetery in Cincinnati. It took me four attempts to finally see these birds, each trip involving two hours of travel and six hours of walking through the cemetery. So even though my total travel time was eight hours, it afforded 24 hours of birding.

Aside from travel time, what else should you consider when deciding whether to chase a stakeout?

The season has a major influence on your success in re-finding a bird. During spring migration, birds are driven to reach their nesting grounds and are much less likely to stay in one location very long. They may use staging areas for several days, but migrants in spring are much more likely to be "one day wonders."

Southbound migration is a little less urgent, and if conditions are right, southbound birds may hang around a little longer than they would in spring.

If a rare bird appears in summer or winter, your chances are greatly improved. As long as good habitat is available, the bird has no immediate reason to move on.

Have other birders been able to see this bird, or was it seen just once? You might want to wait to see if the bird is hanging around before you run out to look for it. This

involves some risk, since the longer you delay, the more likely it is that the bird will move on. But if you have far to travel, it is nice to have some assurance that the bird hasn't already left.

How easy is this bird to see? A Roseate Spoonbill is usually a lot easier to find than a Worm-eating Warbler.

And, of course, you have to decide how badly you "need" this bird. Some birds are worth a trip across town to see, while others might warrant a trip across the state (or several states).

Are there any special conditions (weather events, availability of certain foods) that brought a rare bird to that specific location? It is not uncommon for birders to find other unusual birds at the same site where a rarity was reported. (This is known as the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect.) But if similar conditions exist closer to home, your time may be better spent searching your local hot spots for other vagrants.

Once you have decided to chase a bird, start gathering information. Exactly where has the bird been seen? Get as detailed directions as possible. Has the bird been seen at certain times of day? What has the bird been doing? Is the bird using certain perches or feeding areas?

Next, learn as much as you can about the species so you will recognize the bird when you see him. Study a variety of field guides and other ID resources. Learn the bird's vocalizations. These will help you find the bird more easily.

So, you got directions, studied field guides and recordings, made the trip and found the bird. Don't celebrate yet. Study this bird as intently as if you were the first person to see him. Make notes of everything you notice about this bird, and come to your own conclusion about the identification. Just because another birder found this bird first does not mean that the other birder made a correct ID. Quite a few rare birds have been misidentified for days or weeks because no one questioned the original call. Don't be lazy. Someone else may have given you directions, but you still need to earn the bird for yourself. And when you see a rare bird, please don't assume that "someone else" will report the sighting to the state bird records committee. Go ahead and write up a report. Yours might contain vital information that others have missed.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Cheyenne Bottoms Drought (Year 2)

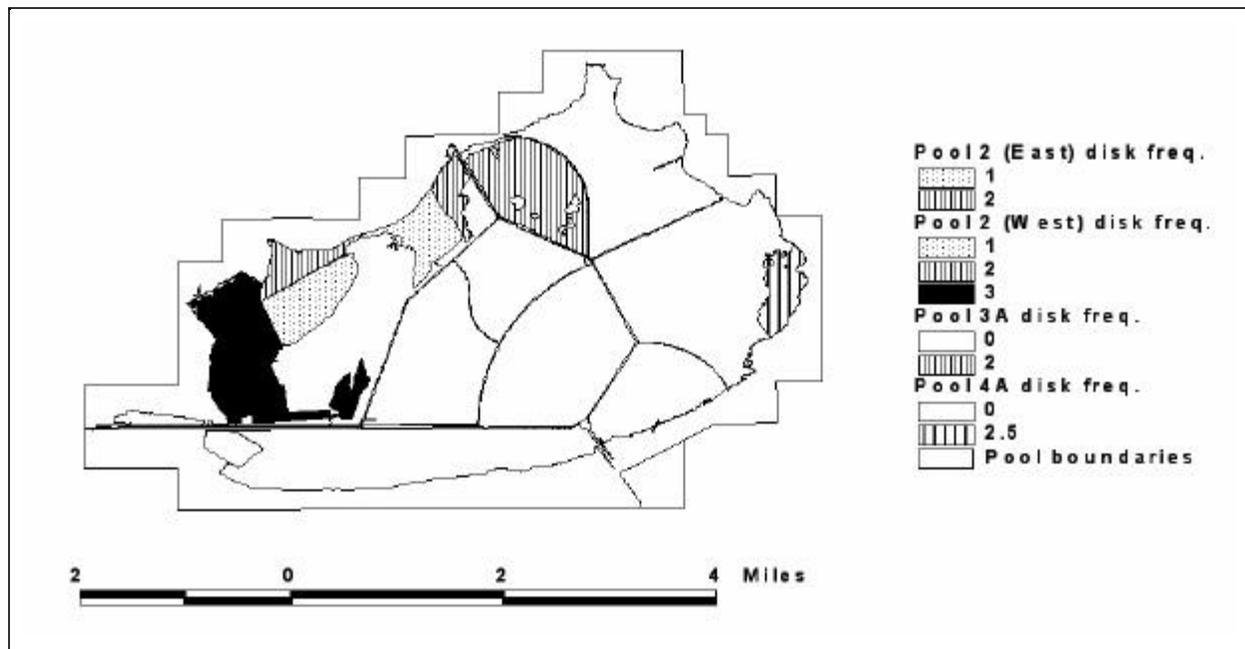
by Helen Hands

The dry conditions at Cheyenne Bottoms remind us that wetlands, especially those in the Great Plains, go dry periodically. Although as of this writing, the Bottoms isn't completely dry, I remember when it was completely dry from August 1991 through May 1992. Historically, the Bottoms went completely dry periodically and was completely full periodically, just how often these extremes occurred is unknown. These wide fluctuations in water conditions at the Bottoms and other Great Plains wetlands are natural, although extremely high or low water years probably are not preferred by either birders or most bird species. Fortunately, wetland vegetation and wildlife have adapted to fluctuating water levels. Migratory birds, however, probably are less able to deal with unsuitable water levels today than 100-200 years ago, because now they have fewer wetlands available to utilize. In the past, when water was unavailable or too deep at places like Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, there were other wetlands that might offer suitable conditions. As a result, management of the remaining wetlands is needed to maximize the time they are available to a diversity of wetland-dependent wildlife.

to the Arkansas River and Walnut Creek, dikes to concentrate water and minimize evaporative loss), we still can't make it rain and dry periods will occur, though maybe less often. One good thing about dry periods is that they allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to attack the cattail that expanded during the wet periods. Last year at this time, I told you that 1,300 of the approximately 2,000 acres of cattail in Pool 2 had been disked at least once. As of this writing, total acres disked in Pool 2 have increased to nearly 1,500, with 898 acres having been disked three times and 192 acres disked twice. Plus, 737 acres in Pool 3A have been disked twice and 222 acres in Pool 4A have been disked 2-3 times, bringing the total acres of cattail disked this year to nearly 3,000. If you consider the number of times these acres have been disked, that's over 6,000 acres. Based on previous experience with disking at the Bottoms, the multiple diskings and length of time these areas have been dry after disking should mean that these areas will be relatively free of cattail for several years. When the rains return, these disked areas will be attractive to a wide variety of waterbirds.

Despite the developments designed to minimize the chance the wildlife area would be dry (e.g., water rights

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



KANSAS SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2003 through July 31, 2003

By Lloyd Moore

All you have to say about the Summer 2003 report is Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Painted Redstart. I would hate to guess how many gallons of gas were consumed by Kansas, and regional, birders in pursuit of these three species.

The Reddish Egret and Painted Redstart each represented the second Kansas records and both were verified with photographs and videotape removing them from the hypothetical list by the KBRC. And anytime that a Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill and Black-bellied Whistling Duck take second fiddle has to be a fine summer of Kansas birding. Thanks to everyone who submitted records and photographs for all these species to the KBRC.

Eurasian-collared Doves continued their spread across the state with sight records coming from more and more counties. White-winged Doves kept popping up across the state with reports from as far east as Douglas and Pottawatomie County. Not to be out done, an Inca Dove was far east at Linn County.

Hummingbirds were again indicating a fine fall migration with July sightings of Calliope and Rufous from Finney and Pawnee respectively. Lesser Goldfinches were reported from a couple of Garden City locations.

Errata - In the Spring 2003 Roundup found in the September 2003 *Horned Lark* it should be noted that the nesting Say's Phoebe was from Harper County

Oklahoma, not Harper County Kansas. The record is still noteworthy as it is a county nesting record and the eastern most nesting record in Oklahoma.

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>
Common Loon	1 imm. at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	06/03-07/04	DG
Pied-billed Grebe	several downy young on one pool at Marais des Cygnes, including 8-10 in an apparent crèche	Linn	07/04	DS,SC,MM,GP
Neotropic Cormorant	1 below spillway, John Redmond Rs. Coffey (<i>At least one individual has been seen at this location since last fall.</i>)		07/02	AS
<u>Reddish Egret</u>	<D> 1 imm. at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/21-07/04	PJ,GF,SS,M:ob
Little Blue Heron	13 at <u>Wyandotte Co. Lk.</u>	Wyandotte	<u>06/22</u>	ML
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	1 at Quivira NWR 2 imm. at Lassiter Marsh 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Jefferson Barton Stafford	06/25-07/04 07/06-19 07/11 07/12-29	SP,CH,PJ,KG DLS & others fide KGr HA, M&ER
Cattle Egret	450 in two groups E of QNWR	Reno	07/05	CS, CM
Glossy Ibis	1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford Barton	07/04 07/13	ML, MG JB, PJ
<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	<D> 1 imm. at Hargis Lake 2 imm. at Quivira NWR <D> 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms (<i>These are probably the same 2 birds reported from Quivira NWR.</i>)	Barber Stafford Barton	06/29-7/19 07/11-30 07/20-22	DA, M:ob DH, M:ob JM,MT,NL,MPo
<u>Wood Stork</u>	<D> 1 imm. at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/18-23	DH, M:ob

Black Vulture	2 E of Baxter Springs <D> 1 E of Baxter Springs	Cherokee Cherokee	06/07 HA 06/14-7/20 M&EC, M:ob
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11-13 fide KGr, M:ob
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 at Hargis Lake 1 at Quivira NWR	<u>Barber</u> Stafford	06/06 PJ 07/04 PJ,KG,DAr
Cinnamon Teal	2 pair at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 male at Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	06/21 B&NB 06/21 B&NB
Greater Scaup	1 male, Ritchie Sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>06/01</u> PJ
Red-breasted Merganser	2 females on small pond	Ellsworth	<u>06/06</u> MR
Osprey	1 N of Clinton Lake 1 on Farnum Crk. arm Milford Lk.	Douglas Geary	<u>06/01</u> GPa <u>07/14-27</u> C&JO
Mississippi Kite	1 in Overland Park 1 flying over Prairie Village res. 1 at SM Pkwy & Antioch, Merriam 1 at 87 & Woodward, Overland Pk. 1 at 82 nd & Lamar, Overland Park	Johnson Johnson Johnson Johnson Johnson	06/20 MG 06/10 NL 07/16 NL 07/10 ML 07/12 ML
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 near Corwin	<u>Harper</u>	07/13 JB, PJ
Swainson's Hawk	2 (single adults seen flying in 2 different areas near Marais des Cygnes WA)	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/04</u> DS,SC,MM,GP
Merlin	1 imm. in Garden City	Finney	<u>07/16</u> T&SSh
Prairie Falcon	1 1 at P. Dog town South of Holcomb	Kiowa Finney	<u>06/25</u> HA <u>07/12</u> T&SSh
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 south of Holcomb	Finney	07/12 T&SSh
Black Rail	1 at Coldwater Lake 1 at Quivira NWR 2 at Quivira NWR	Comanche Stafford Stafford	06/06 PJ 07/12 HA 07/17 MC
King Rail	1 at Quivira NWR 2 at Quivira NWR 12 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 07/12 HA 07/12 BG, MB
Virginia Rail	4 at Quivira NWR 2 adults & 9 chicks QNWR 4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 07/05 CS, CM 07/12 HA
Sora	<D> 2 at KCPL Prairie Wetland	Johnson	07/13 M&EC
<u>Purple Gallinule</u>	<D> 1 found dead 5 mi E. of Caney	Montgomery	07/21 IP
Common Moorhen	4 at Quivira NWR 1 heard at Coldwater Lake 1 adult & 5 young at QNWR	Stafford <u>Comanche</u> Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 06/06 PJ 07/12 HA
Black-bellied Plover	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>06/22</u> GP
American Golden Plover	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>06/22</u> GP

Piping Plover	1 at Slate Creek Marsh 4 pairs of Piping Plovers and 20 pairs of Least Terns located in two colonies between St. Marys and Wamego on the Kansas River. Unfortunately, high water June 25-26 destroyed most of the nests. About half of them are re-nested.	Sumner Wabaunsee	07/07 06/24	MT RB
Whimbrel	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN
Long-billed Curlew	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	SP, CH
Marbled Godwit	4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	SP, CH
	5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	06/25	SP, CH
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN
Western Sandpiper	15 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN
White-rumped Sandpiper	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	DS, SC
	1 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	07/07	MT
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at CB in alternate plumage <i>(the Buffy had a broken leg that was still dangling!and it kept picking at it! It just hobbled around on its little stump! fide GP)</i>	Barton	06/22	GP
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/20	NL, MPo
	1 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	07/27	B&NB
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 imm. at a Playa lake	<u>Harper</u>	07/13	JB, PJ
	2 at a Playa lake	Kearny	07/13	T&SSh
Laughing Gull	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/13	M&ER
Franklin's Gull	100+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	06/24	MR
Forester's Tern	1 at Quivira NWR, seen carrying fish. Presumably to feed young.	Stafford	06/23	MT, MR
Least Tern	1 at Elkhart sewage lagoons	Morton	06/01	R&LS
	6 adults & 8 juveniles at nest site in N. Wichita	Sedgwick	06/19	RB
	8 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/13	M&ER
	4 nesting pairs at John Redmond Rs	Coffey	07/10	AS, TM
	<i>(On 07/24 only 2 adult terns were seen in the vicinity. No evidence of incubation going on, Per Aaron Ball, Flint Hills NWR.)</i>			
Black Tern	400+ in pool 1A at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/29	M&EL
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Numerous in Hanston	Hodgeman	06/01	SS
	1 in Paradise	Russell	06/01	HA
	Pair nesting in Winfield	Cowley	06/05	MT
	1 at Norwich	Kingman	06/08	LH
	1 on BBS route	Nemaha	06/ ?	DLS
	Pair at Coldwater Lake <i>(Courting ,possibly nesting . As many as 10 individuals reported.)</i>	Comanche	06/23	M:ob
	Pair in Zenda	Kingman	06/28	DL
	1 near Dispatch	Jewell	07/02	HA
	1 in Nickerson, 1 along 95 th Ave	Reno	07/05	CS, CM
	1 near Riverside Hosp., Wichita	Sedgwick	07/15	JB
<D> 2 at Eudora residence	Douglas	07/27	RN	

White-winged Dove	Pair at a residence in Goodland	<u>Sherman</u>	06/04	JP
	2 at Shane residence (<i>since 4/28</i>)	Finney	06/04	T&SSh
	1 at feeder in Pratt	Pratt	06/06	J&LQ
	<D> 1 at feeder in Lawrence	Douglas	06/20	K&SSr, KC
	1 at Max's residence in Winfield	Cowley	07/16	MT
	1 at res. S of Olsburg	Pottawatomie	07/15	fide PW
Inca Dove	1 Still in Meade	Meade	06/07	TF
	4 at a Garden City residence	Finney	06/28	MC, AG
	1 at Rich residence, Garden City	Finney	06/28	L&BR
	1 SE Trading Post, MdC NWR	Linn	07/15	KK
<D>	2 adult & 3 imm. in Garden City	Finney	07/15	MC, AG
Burrowing Owl	4 young among several seen in Prairie Dog town SE of Haviland	Kiowa	06/26	J&LQ
	<u>79</u> total at 2 Prairie Dog towns SO of Holcomb.	Finney	07/12	T&SSh
Short-eared Owl	1 adult female, 9 mi. N. of Larned	Pawnee	07/27	SS
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	<D> 1 male at Osterbuhr res.	Finney	07/27	MO
Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm. male at Kazmaier res. and 1 adult male at a neighbors in Larned	Pawnee	07/19	D&KK
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 female at Tuttle Crk. Rs. (<i>A female LBWO has been seen at the Stockdale Area off and on since Sept. 2001.</i>)	Riley	06/09	LJ
Pileated Woodpecker	1 at feeder in Blue Rapids	<u>Marshall</u>	06/05	TP
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at NESAs	Jefferson	<u>06/13</u>	GP
Western Wood-Pewee	1 singing in Hugoton	Stevens	<u>06/14</u>	SP
Least Flycatcher	4 at Wilson Lake	Russell	<u>07/22-23</u>	MR
Great-crested Flycatcher	1 female at Shane's residence	<u>Finney</u>	<u>06/13</u>	T&SSh
Fish Crow	20+ near Riverton	Cherokee	07/06	MG, ML, MD
Swainson's Thrush	1 at residence in Garden City	Finney	<u>06/10</u>	T&SSh
Yellow-throated Warbler	19 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/14	JS, BB
Prairie Warbler	1 singing at Schermerhorn Pk.	Cherokee	07/06	MG, ML, MD
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	07/05	JS
<u>Painted Redstart</u>	<D> 1 adult male at Coldwater Lake	Comanche	06/23-29	P&VS,JL,VH
Black-headed Grosbeak	nesting at Scott Lake	Scott	06/06	T&SSh
Lazuli Bunting	1 male on BBS route	Osborne	06/15	MR
Bobolink	Pair in alfalfa field near MdCWA	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/04</u>	DS,SC,MM,GP
Pine Siskin	1 at feeder in Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	<u>07/05</u>	BY
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1 green-backed form male (<i>a female showed up on 06/24.</i>)	Finney	06/20	BC
	Pair at Rich residence, Garden City (<i>male was black backed form.</i>)	Finney	06/24	L&BR

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 (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygne W. A. (MdcWA), Marais des Cygne National Wildlife Refuge (Mdc NWR), Ft. Hays State University (FHSU), KSU Field Ornithology Class (KSU FOC),

OBSERVERS: Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Dennis Angle, David Arbour (DAr), Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Bill Busby, Doris Burnett, Roger Boyd, Mary Butel, James Barnes, Mark Corder, Mark & Elaine Corder (M&EC), Kevin Crisp, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Sue Calhoon, Mary Deuser, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Kevin Groeneweg, Karl Grover (KGr), Bob Gress, Leon Hicks, David Hilley, Chris Hobbs, Vickie Hatfield, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Karl Karrow, Don & Kathy Kazmaier (D&KK), Mark Land, Mark & Eileen Land (M&EL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Jo Loyd, Dan Larson, Nancy Leo, Cheryl Miller, Mick McHugh, Jim Mayhew, Tim Menard, Arpad Nyari, Ron Nicholson, Marie Osterbuhr, Alexis Powell, John Palmquist, Gerry Parkinson (GP), Monica Papes, Melody Pollom (MPo), Galen Pittman, Tom Parker, Sebastian Patti, Ivan L. Pfalser, Jane & Lee Queal (J&LQ), Mike Rader, Mike & Ellen Rader (M&ER), Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Scott Seltman, David Seibel, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Kylee & Scott Sharp (K&SSr), John Schukman, Ruth & Leanna Smith (R&LS), Pat & Virginia Seibert (P&VS), Art Swalwell, Carolyn Schwab, Max Thompson, Paul Weidhaas, Beverly Yates,

10 Best Birds of the Past Year

(October 2002 - September 2003)

As presented by Max Thompson at the KOS Fall Meeting in Winfield

1. Painted Redstart - 6/23/2003 Pat Seibert, Jo Loyd, Ginny Seibert and Vicki Hatfield Coldwater Lake Campground, singing. (Seen thru 28th). Photos. 2nd State Record. Seen by many birders in the state!!
2. Reddish Egret - 6/21/03 Immature bird in Big Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR. 2nd state record. Seen by many birders. Photographs. Still at the marsh on 6/24/2003. Gregg Friesen & mob.
3. Yellow-billed Loon - 4/24/03 at Pottawatomie Lake #2 by David Rintoul; 11/10/2002 by Sebastian Patti and Chris Hobbs at Clark County State Lake. Removed from the hypothetical list by photos.
4. Western Screech Owl - 9/14/2003 by Scott Seltman and than many others at Boy Scout Area, Cimarron National Grasslands. Bird was photographed and recorded.
5. Roseate Spoonbill - 6/29/03 by Dennis Angle at a small private pond in Barber County and at Cheyenne Bottoms by several birders and again at Quivira NWR by mob.
6. Wood Stork - Quivira NWR, Dave Hilley. 6/18/2003,
7. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - Seen 7/11/2003 Cheyenne Bottoms, Karl Grover. Probably also the one seen at Quivira NWR later.
8. Common Raven - Hobbs, Patti, Rader, and Seltman reported a flock of 40-50 in Morton County on September 20, 2003.
9. Black Vulture - June 2003. Seen by Don Vannoy, Pete Janzen, Sebastian Patti., mob. In Cherokee County.
10. Clark's Nutcracker - Ozawkie, Perry Lake in Jefferson Co. 12/15/2002, Bunnie Watkins. Pictures

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.

KOS Fall Meeting, 2003

Winfield, Kansas

October 3 – 5, 2003

Field Trips in Cowley and Sumner Counties

Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Redhead
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Pied-billed Grebe
 American White Pelican
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Prairie Falcon
 Sora
 American Coot
 Sandhill Crane
 Killdeer
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Least Sandpiper
 Stilt Sandpiper
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Wilson's Snipe
 Franklin's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Phoebe
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit

Sprague's Pipit
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Wilson's Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Spotted Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Le Conte's Sparrow
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp.
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Harris's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Indigo Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

A total of 125 species were seen during the weekend. The Sunday morning field trips were truly spectacular regardless of whether you were watching thousands of Swainson's Hawks at Slate Creek Marsh, or Sandhill Cranes and Short-eared Owls at Max's pasture. Thank you to Max and all the field trip leaders!

The Editor

KOS Fall Board Meeting

October 4, 2003

Winfield, Kansas

Attendance:

Chuck Otte	John Schukman	Pete Janzen
Cal Cink	Bill Busby	Marvin Kuehn
Tom Shane	Kerrie Kirkpatrick	Mark Land
Lowell Johnson	Cheryl Miller	Matt Gearhart

Chairman Tom Shane called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Chuck Otte moved to accept the minutes from the spring meeting. Cal Cink seconded the motion and it passed. Tom had e-mailed items for discussion to board members prior to the meeting, and this list was followed.

New Membership List. Tom asked if the new membership list (directory) should be mailed out to KOS members. How would this be funded? Chuck Otte pointed out that a separate mailing would not be needed: it could be mailed out with the Bulletin and Newsletter.

KOS Website Upgrade. Chuck provided history on the Website: Originally, we had 50 mb of space. Dave and he had it increased to 250 mb, which is still sufficient for our current needs. However, they are looking at an opportunity to increase it to 500 mb at a cost of \$203 per year, which is relatively inexpensive. Uses are increasing, including by the Bird Records Committee. Pete Janzen made a motion to allow Chuck and Dave to upgrade the service to 500 mb. The motion was seconded by Marvin Kuehn and passed.

Membership List Exchange. Tom raised the question of whether KOS should exchange its membership list with that of Audubon so that each organization could recruit members from each other's list. Mark Land noted that Burrough's Audubon has something like 2,500 members, of which only a small proportion was active. Most appear to join in order to get the magazine. Mark would be happy to suggest names of individuals who are active in Burrough's Audubon but not KOS members. Pete suggested asking every life member to buy a membership for someone else as a way to increase membership (and allow life members to relieve their guilt for not shouldering their fair share of membership costs).

Membership Slipping. Tom said KOS was now below 300 members. He would like to get it back up to 400. Mark pointed out that we need to remind people about lapsed memberships. John Schukman suggested including a membership form in the next newsletter. Another suggestion was to chuck an old membership list and see who is still around (but no longer a member) and send them membership information.

Kansas Bird Records Committee. KBRC is planning to print and bind records for the past three or so years. Cost is estimated at \$300, and it was suggested to bill this against the KOS book fund. Max Thompson, KBRC Chair, will be consulted on printing plans and costs.

KOS Library. Tom inquired whether KOS needed a librarian, preferably someone in the Lawrence area. Katherine Kelly used to serve in this capacity, but it has been a number of years since we've had someone to keep track of KOS publications stored at KU. Volunteers?

Bulletin Index. Cal Cink reported that Roger Boyd is continuing to work on this.

Future Meetings.

Spring field trip 2004:	Washington County (Dan Thalmann)
Fall meeting 2004:	Baldwin City
Spring field trip 2005:	Pratt
Fall meeting 2005:	Wichita

New Business.

Cheryl Miller suggested we look into posting material about bequests on the KOS web page.

Tom noted that the Christmas Count issue of the Bulletin was quite large. However, the only material that might be cut from this issue is the main table, which was not deemed a good idea.

KOS Awards. Tom asked for board approval of the selection of 2003 KOS awards to Marvin Schwilling, Max Thompson, and Chuck Ely. The motion was seconded and approved.

Conducting board business by e-mail. A brief discussion of how this is working and how to track it occurred. It was agreed that Secretary Bill Busby would continue to summarize these discussions briefly and forward them to Chuck for publication in the newsletter with the meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

KOS Morning Business Meeting

President Tom Shane announced fund balances for the checking account (\$416) and investment account (\$108,391).

Bulletin Editor Cal Cink stated that he is looking for manuscripts.

Newsletter Editor Chuck Otte asked that he be provided with Christmas Count dates for inclusion in the newsletter.

KOS Afternoon Business Meeting

Tom Shane read the slate of officers. Changes from current office holders are: Pete Janzen, Business Manager; Mark Land, Membership Development Coordinator; Matt Gearheart, Director. Joyce Davis moved to accept the slate of officers. Roger Boyd seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

John Schukman commented that funds are available for student research projects.

Max Thompson stated that 85 people had registered for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Busby
Corresponding Secretary

KOS Board Business via Internet Summer 2003 (5/04/03 to 10/03/03)

The following KOS Board actions were taken through e-mail correspondence.

A. Printing of checklists

10 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: A motion had been made and seconded to approve the printing of 10,000 KOS 10th edition checklists on #110 index paper for \$740 as quickly as the KBRC finalizes the species list. Please vote yes if you approve of this expenditure or no if you do not approve.

17 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: Printing of the KOS 10th edition checklist has been approved by the KOS Board; eleven yes votes to zero no votes.

B. KOS Award

13 Sep 2003. Marvin Kuehn: Our President, Tom Shane brought up the subject of a recognition award for individuals who have provided outstanding service to the society over the years at the spring meeting . Tom has given this topic considerable thought and has discussed the idea with several members over the past month. He has asked if I would draft a proposal for consideration by the Board. Some of the details have been discussed with Roger Boyd and he appears to be very supportive of the award. You will understand this reference in a moment.

The challenge in developing the procedures for recognition awards is to find a balance between what items are essential or necessary and what information might be considered prescriptive and limiting. I have attempted to take the input Tom received and passed on to me and draft some general procedures without providing too many restrictions.

Recognition awards can be subjective but I believe in the integrity and intent of the KOS Board to be fair, to be nonpolitical and to make decisions without bias.

I therefore move that KOS institute the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award to be implemented following the procedures outlined in the following draft:

=====

Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

This award is to be given to a member(s) of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), usually each year, for outstanding contributions and service to the society. The award is not a monetary award but shall be presented to an individual(s) as a plaque with appropriate information provided. It shall be known as the Boyd Award in recognition of the contributions of Dr. Ivan Boyd who was a KOS Founder, Charter Member, and the first president of KOS. He was also a Bulletin Editor and helped start the Baldwin CBC in 1942, which is the longest running CBC in the state.

The specific information on the plaque shall be determined each year by the Board. It is suggested that the plaque read:

The Kansas Ornithological Society
(Horned Lark emblem)

Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award

Presented to

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

For his/her
outstanding contributions and service
to the society

At the Annual Fall Meeting
20__

=====

Individuals must be nominated by another KOS member. Nominations should be submitted to the Board with instructions on deadlines and procedures provided to the membership in a timely manner. Nominations should provide a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. Contributions could include such things as number and years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the Bulletin or Horned Lark, number of CBC's compiled, and years of membership; this is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the society may be provided.

Each year information about nominations for the Boyd Award will be announced in the Horned Lark. Nominations will be accepted each year by the KOS Board and announcement of the Award recipient(s) will be made at the KOS meeting each fall. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive an award. The Board may select more than one recipient each year or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

The KOS Board may adopt other guidelines and procedures to improve or modify the administration of the Boyd Award.

13 Sep 2003. Chuck Otte seconds the motion. There were no dissenting votes

29 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: We have received three nominations for the Ivan L. Boyd Award. Let me know as soon as possible if you approve of the following persons receiving the Boyd Award. In order they were received:

Max C. Thompson, Member and Life Member since 1955, President: 1972 - 1973, Vice-President: 1971, Director: 1967 - 1968, Newsletter Editor: 1963, he edited the first number, and again from 1969 1974, and 1980 - 1982, Business Manager: 1983 - 1984, Bulletin Editor: 1992 - 2001, Committees: Served on many including Finance and KBRC, Compiler of the Udall/Winfield Winter Bird Count most years since 1955. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.

(Nominated by Chuck Otte and Gene Young).

Marvin D. Schwillig Member and Life Member since 1952, President: 1958 & 1966, Vice-President: 1956 - 1957, Director: 1953 - 1954, and 1962 - 1964, Committees: Served on many including Check-list, By-Laws and KBRC. Compiler of the Great Bend Winter Bird Count for many years. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.
(Nominated by Marvin Kuehn)

Charles A. Ely Member and Life Member since 1960, President: 1981 - 1982, Vice-President: 1969 - 1970, 1978 - 1980. Director: 1961 - 1963, Newsletter Editor: 1967 - 1968, Bulletin Editor: 1969 - 1977, Compiler of the Ellis County Winter Bird Count for many years. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.
(Nominated by Tom Shane)

New committee members

2 Oct 2003. Tom Shane: Two members have resigned their offices (Dave Williams and Mike Stewart) and one member's term will expire (David Seibel). All three of those board members have other commitments for the weekend and all three have agreed to resign as of today. I will appoint the following people to those offices for two days or until the elections are held Saturday afternoon. That way they will be able to attend the board meeting Saturday noon and get up to speed much sooner.

Pete Janzen: Business Manager

Mark Land: Membership Development Coordinator.

Matt Gearheart: Director.

We certainly want to thank Dave, Mike, and David for their valuable support on the board.

Respectfully submitted, William H. Busby, Corresponding Secretary



KOS President Tom Shane (left) presented two of the inaugural Ivan L. Boyd Awards for outstanding contributions and service to the Kansas Ornithological Society to Charles A. Ely (center) and Max C. Thompson (right) at the annual meeting banquet held October 4, 2003 in Winfield Kansas. Marvin D. Schwillig, the third recipient was unable to attend and was presented his plaque the following week at his home by Vice-president Marvin Kuehn.
photo by Sara Shane

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2003 Fall KOS Meetings Winfield, Kansas October 4, 2003

Effects of Prescribed Burns and Bison Grazing on Breeding Bird Abundances in Tallgrass Prairie.

Alexis F. L. A. Powell Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Natural History Museum University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045

Grassland birds have declined more than any other avian guild in North America, with nearly every species decreasing. In the Flint Hills of Kansas, the largest remaining patch of the tallgrass ecosystem, rangeland management utilizing annual spring burning has recently replaced burning every 2-4 years. I examined the effects of burning and bison grazing on the June abundances of eight bird species using a 22-year dataset from the Long Term Ecological Research Program at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Fire had a significant effect on the abundance of every species except Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) were practically eliminated by an annual burn cycle, whereas Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) and Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) responded positively to it. Nonetheless, Dickcissel numbers were no higher and Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were lower on transects burned annually rather than every 4 or 20 years because of the impact of another fire-related parameter—time since last burn. These two species, along with Bell's Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), were all least abundant, and Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) was eliminated, in the season of a burn. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) had a bimodal pattern of abundance, being most numerous in the season of a burn and 4+ seasons since. Bison grazing boosted Upland Sandpiper numbers, but nearly eliminated Henslow's Sparrow. Grazing also significantly reduced Common Yellowthroat in 4-year burn cycle areas and Dickcissel in areas in the season of a burn. Although periodic fire and grazing are natural forces that maintain tallgrass prairie, most grassland birds respond negatively to recent fire and would benefit from rangeland that includes periodically unburned areas. Henslow's Sparrow would benefit from ungrazed refuges.

Least Terns and Piping Plovers Nesting on the Kansas River. Matthew G. Sexson

Biology Department, Baker University

In 1996, William H. Busby first documented nesting colonies of least tern and piping plover on the sandbars of the Kansas River. A survey at this time revealed at least 2 breeding pair of piping plovers, and 7 breeding pair of least terns. Since 1998, the breeding population of these species has been monitored to determine the productivity of each on the Kansas River. From 1998 through 2002, the average fledgling success for least tern was 0.45 fledglings per pair, and for piping plover, 1.47 fledglings per pair. In 2002, 39 least tern nests were identified, with a total of 87 eggs. Of these, 11.5% hatched, 74.7% were depredated, and 15.9% were lost to abandonment, infertility, human disturbance, flooding and storms, or human disturbance. Seven of 10 least tern chicks fledged. Four piping plover nests were identified in 2002, with a total of 14 eggs. Of these, 28.6% hatched, 57.1% were depredated, and 14.2% were determined to be abandoned or infertile. All 4 piping plover chicks fledged in 2002. To decrease the effects of depredation on the breeding success of least tern and piping plover, researchers at other locations have used methods of predator exclusion. In 2003, similar methods were used on the Kansas River. Thirty-six least tern nests were identified in 2003, having a total of 80 eggs. Of these 21.3% hatched, 30.0% were depredated, 20.0% were determined to be abandoned or infertile, and 28.8% were lost to flooding and storms. Out of 17 least tern chicks, 5 fledged in 2003. Six piping plover nests were located in the same year, producing a total of 23 eggs. Of these, 13.0% hatched, 21.7% were depredated, 30.4% were determined to be abandoned or infertile, and 34.8% were lost to flooding and storms. No piping plover chicks fledged in 2003. The impact of predator exclusion on the breeding success of piping plover and least tern nesting on the Kansas River during 2003 will be discussed, as well as the use of predator exclusion in future Kansas River colonies.

Grassland Bird Surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms

Wildlife Area. Helen Hands, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Great Bend, KS

Grassland bird surveys have been conducted at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) since 2000. The objectives are to monitor bird abundance of birds

in the grassland portions of CBWA and to determine the relationship, if any, between habitat management and bird abundance. Bird abundances is measured by counting all birds seen and heard at each of 90 points located in the grassland areas of CBWA during June. So far, 40 species of birds have been detected. Dickcissels and red-winged blackbirds have been the most abundant. During 2000-2002, mean total birds per point ranged from 10.80-11.23 and mean grassland-nesting birds per point ranged from 9.48-9.94. Mean abundance of all birds and grassland-nesting birds tended to be highest in Pool 3 and in pools burned within the last 2 years.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Female Mate Choice for Aggressive Males in the Greater Prairie Chicken. *J. K. Nooker* Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Lek mating systems provide an excellent opportunity to study mate choice, because female choice is unrestricted, and females receive few direct benefits from males other than gametes. In birds, females often choose testosterone dependent traits to assess male quality. In grouse, testosterone levels may affect behavior, territory position, and morphological traits. Our objective was to investigate which traits females use to select mates in the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Thirty-five males were observed at three leks near Manhattan in northeast Kansas. Males were captured and given unique leg band and tail color combinations. During focal observations, time spent displaying and fighting was calculated, and tallies taken of the number of fights and males engaged, boom vocalizations, and flutter jumps. Copulations and position of males at leks were recorded opportunistically. Males engaging in more fights gained more copulations, regardless of their display rate. Higher copulation rates were also correlated with larger combs and longer tails. Females did not select males based on territory size or distance from lek center. However, aggression and display rate were correlated with distance from lek center. This observational study provides mixed support for the hypothesis that females choose testosterone-mediated traits. As predicted, two testosterone-mediated traits, aggression and comb height, were correlated with mating success. However, display rate, territory size and position were not related to mating success.

Structural Colors of Birds: Why are Bluebirds Blue? *Richard O. Prum, Ph.D.* Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Curator of Ornithology, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas

The colors of birds are created by pigment molecules

and by interactions of light with structures in the feathers and skin. The structural colors of birds have recently begun to receive new scientific study. For more than a century, noniridescent blue colors have been hypothesized to be produced by Rayleigh or Tyndall scattering (the same mechanism of that creates the blue sky). But our research has shown that the noniridescent blue colors of bird feathers (e.g. Bluebirds) and skin (e.g. Ruddy Duck) are produced by constructive interference (the same mechanisms that creates the colors of an oil slick). Physical analysis of the structural color mechanisms will help us understand how structural colors have evolved and what function they have in the lives of birds.

Consequences of brood parasitism and proximate mechanisms responsible for nest desertion in the Bell's Vireo. *Karl L. Kosciuch*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506

The effects of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) differ among host species and correlate with body size. Large bodied hosts can raise mixed broods while small bodied hosts (< 30 g) fail to fledge host young. Nest desertion is a common response of small bodied hosts to parasitism, but variation in the incidence of desertion exists within and among populations. Populations that do not desert frequently are hypothesized to lack the response and show an evolutionary lag because of recent exposure of host to parasite. The Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) is a small bodied bird (9g), breeds from California to the Great Plains and is a common cowbird host. This species shows variability in desertion frequencies among and within populations. Bell's Vireos were studied at Konza Prairie Biological Station near Manhattan, Kansas from May to August, 2003. Nests were visited every three days and response to parasitism was defined as accept if Bell's Vireos incubated cowbird eggs or reject if the nest was abandoned during laying or early incubation and contained cowbird eggs. Sixty eight percent of all nests and 82 percent of all pairs were parasitized at least once. Fifty percent (12/24) of pairs that were parasitized more than once showed a mixed response (accept and reject). Seasonal productivity (total fledglings per pair) differed among responses ($F_{2,23} = 8.54$, $P = 0.0019$) with pairs that desert one or more nests fledging more young than pairs that accept one or more nests or have a mixed response. Logistic regression models of response to parasitism revealed that number of host eggs remaining in the nest had a significant effect on desertion rates, not the number of cowbird eggs laid. We found an increasing probability of desertion with decreased host clutch size. While selection should favor desertion, we hypothesize that Bell's Vireos do not respond to nest parasitism *per se*, but respond to a decline in clutch mass

during laying; a general response in birds. This hypothesis provides a more robust explanation than evolutionary lag because it accounts for variation in the incidence of desertion within and among host populations.

Annual Survival Rates in a Migratory Population of Grasshopper Sparrows in Northeast Kansas. *Brett K. Sandercock, Ph.D.*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Grasshopper Sparrows are a species of conservation concern in many areas of North America for ongoing population declines. Management efforts are hampered by a lack of baseline demographic data for migratory populations in the Great Plains. In particular, few estimates of survival are available, in part because Grasshopper Sparrows are thought to have low site fidelity to breeding territories in consecutive years. In this paper, we present mark-recapture data collected over a decade (1994-2003) at a MAPS banding station at Ft. Riley military base. In the first nine years of the study, we banded a total of 140 juveniles, 88 adult females, 111 adult males and 15 birds of indeterminate age or sex. The proportion of birds that returned was low, only 0.021 of juveniles, 0.034 of adult females and 0.198 of adult males were recaptured in the year after first banding. All of the three returning juveniles were recaptured as yearlings. We used mark-recapture statistics and CJS models to analyze adult survival. Apparent survival rates were similar in males (0.413 ± 0.064SE) and females (0.454 ± 0.160), but the probability of capture (p) was higher in males (0.402 ± 0.101) than females (0.103 ± 0.069). Our estimates of apparent survival are comparable to estimates for other small-bodied birds and also males Grasshopper Sparrows from a sedentary population in Florida (2 sites: 0.482 ± 0.079 and 0.533 ± 0.091). Moreover, our estimates of apparent survival >0.40 demonstrate that migratory Grasshopper Sparrows show greater fidelity to breeding territories than has been previously appreciated.

Kansas Bird Databases. *Max C. Thompson*, Professor Emeritus Southwestern College and *Chuck Otte* K-State Research and Extension, Geary County Extension Office

Birdwatchers sight records can serve as more than just a record for an individual's life list. Properly detailed records, when compiled with sightings from other observers, can provide a better picture of a species' chronologic and geographical distribution in the state. Currently bird records are being collected/compiled and used in various

databases and projects. Records are collected from birdwatchers and gleaned from the postings on the KSBIRD-L Internet discussion list. Records need to be complete in identification, location and time to be of optimal value. The authors will discuss the importance of good records, how they are used, where to send sight records and how to access information in the databases.

Numbers of Fall Warblers Captured at the Fort Hays State Banding Station Did Not Change Significantly From 1966 to 2002. *Greg H. Farley*, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

I supervise a group of graduate and undergraduate students who annually sample fall migrants on the Fort Hays State campus following a tradition established by Dr. Charles Ely in 1966. An equal number of nets are opened in standardized locations from 20 August through 31 October in an effort to replicate sampling effort over time. Analyses of these data indicate significant year to year variation in the number of individuals and species captured, independent of sampling effort. Various factors (e.g., weather and habitat structure) appear to interact on both local and large scales to produce unpredictable numbers of migrants detected on the study site. Comparisons of four-year intervals over the 37-year sampling period indicate no significant trends for the number of Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow or Wilson's warblers captured at this site. These population estimates, although inexact, suggest no overall decline of the most common warbler species over the last several decades.

Habitat use and home range size differences in Upland Sandpipers *Bartramia longicauda* at Konza Prairie Biological Station. *Tony W. Mong*, Kansas State University, Division of Biology, Manhattan, KS.

The Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* is an indicator species for prairie ecosystems because they are dependent on native grasslands for breeding and are sensitive to habitat fragmentation. We used data collected from nesting and radio-marked sandpipers during May-July of 2001-2003 to determine habitat use and home range size on the experimental landscape of the Konza Prairie Biological Station (3,487 ha) in the Flint Hills of northeast Kansas. In all years, sandpipers were captured at night with a large dip net while birds were dazzled with spotlights. In 2001-2003 we located 88 nests and examined nest placement in relation to habitat used for nest sites. In 2003, ~40 birds were

fitted with a 3.8 g radio transmitter attached with a figure-8 loop harness. We examined radio-telemetry data from 21 individuals with a total of 866 locations (only individuals with at least 30 locations were used) to determine home range and foraging/loafing areas. We analyzed home ranges using the fixed kernel method (smoothing parameter determined by least squares cross validation method) with the Animal Movement extension in ArcView 3.2. When all three years are pooled, nests were more likely to be located in unburned areas (n=59) than in experimental units burned the same spring (n=29) (binomial test, $p=0.002$). However, there was significant annual variation in burn treatments used for nesting with

more birds nesting in burned areas in 2003 ($G_4 = 35.0$, $P < 0.0001$). Foraging and loafing individuals used watersheds burned the same spring (643 of 783, binomial test, $p < 0.001$). Male total home range size (median = 82.2 ha, IQR = 98.1, n=13) was significantly larger than that of females (median = 41.0 ha, IQR = 33.3, n=8, Mann-Whitney U-test, $\chi^2_{21} = 6.79$, $p = 0.009$). Our results indicate that Upland Sandpipers require a mosaic of habitats in tallgrass prairies to complete their breeding cycle and they may be sensitive to habitat fragmentation because they require large areas for foraging, nesting and brood-rearing.

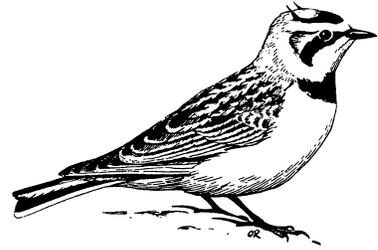


At the annual meeting banquet, KOS president Tom Shane (left) awarded KOS caps to the five students presenting at the papers session held during the day on October 4, 2003 on the campus of Southwestern College. Pictured with Tom are Tony Mong and Jackie Nooker.

Photo by Sara Shane

Kansas Ornithological Society

Membership Application



_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Type - please clearly mark you choice:

Individuals & Families	Annual Dues
_____ Student (K - college)	\$5
_____ Regular Individual	\$15
_____ Regular Family	\$20
_____ Sustaining Individual	\$25
_____ Sustaining Family	\$30
_____ Contributing	\$40 or more
_____ Life Member	\$300 one time payment (OR two consecutive annual payments of \$150)

Organizational Memberships are available, please contact Membership Development Coordinator for more information: Mark Land, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207, kestrelland@aol.com

Mr./ Mrs./ Ms./ Dr./ Other _____

Membership Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this form along with your payment to:

Dan Larson
3636 SE 77th
Berryton, KS 66407

Please initial one of the following:

_____ I give permission for my membership information to be published in the KOS Membership Directory.

_____ I do not want my membership information to be published in the KOS Membership Directory.

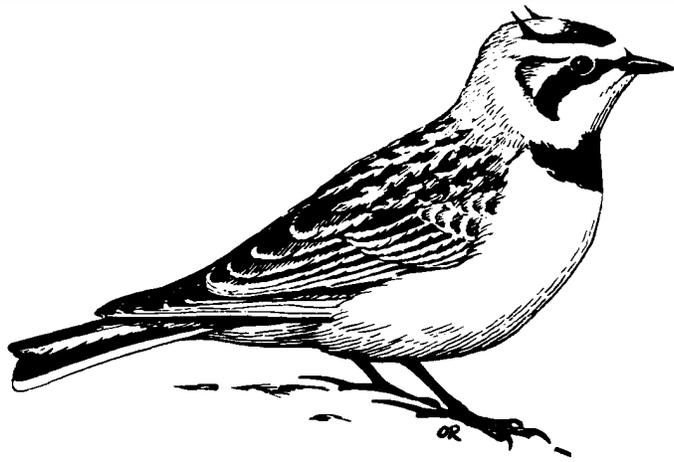
NOTE: KOS Membership Directories are only distributed to KOS Members and the information contained therein may not be used in a manner or for a purpose contrary to the guidelines approved by the KOS Board of Directors. The KOS Directory is not published electronically to protect the privacy of the membership

Annual dues for KOS membership are payable to the KOS Treasurer by January 1st. A member's paid annual dues cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Dues for new members are not prorated. Dues of new members received after September 1st will also include membership for the following year.



Slate Creek Wetlands, Sumner County Kansas, October 5, 2003 - A kettle of Swainson's Hawks estimated at over 4,000 birds was observed by Fall KOS Meeting field trip participants. An "incredible sight" according to several of the observers!

Photo by Matt Gearheart



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 2003

Vol. 30, No. 3

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,
ljohnson@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 Calvin.Cink@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 -

Sometimes you are struck full in the face by some thought or idea or basic awareness that may leave you saying, "Duhhh!" and yet it may have been very obvious to everyone around you. If you read any of the popular birding magazines you have probably seen the ad for a particular brand of binoculars that carries the catch phrase, "for those who are never not a birder".

It occurred to me recently that I am to that point and probably way beyond that point. I hate to admit it, but I have found myself at cemeteries for a funeral and I am listening to every bird song. I am talking with a homeowner about their yard or landscaping and all the time I'm discussing their problem, I'm listening to and watching birds. I keep lists while traveling down the highway and evaluate homes based on their potential habitat for birds and birding. I guess that I fall into that category, like many of you, of never not birding.

Like many of you I too look forward to every changing season. Mid-July rolls around and I'm thinking of shorebird and hummingbird migration. I notice hatch year birds flocking up with their parents letting us know that the breeding season has already ended for many species and migration will soon be under way. I walk out to the driveway to pick up the morning paper and I listen for the House Wren across the street and the Great-tail Grackles from down the street. I know that in just a few months, their voices will be gone from my neighborhood to be replaced by juncos or maybe Harris's Sparrows.

KOS migration takes us south this fall to Winfield. Max Thompson has a great Fall Meeting lined up. But the Fall Meeting doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of participation by you, the members, to make it a success. You need to present papers for the Paper Session or participate in the Birdwatchers Hour. Maybe this is the year you step forward to be on the KOS Board. Or maybe you're going to donate to the Silent Auction, or at least try to outbid me for something! The Fall Meeting is group participation at its finest. Plan to head to Winfield, get your registration in and make those motel reservations.

Sure, there'll be birding too. Because after all, just like myself, many of the people at the Fall Meeting are never not birding also! I'll see you in Winfield.....

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 upcoming meeting.

In this issue -

- 2 Announcements**
- 3 Opportunities and Corrections**
- 4 KDWP Forum**
- 5 Spring Season Birding Roundup**
- 12 Fall Meeting Maps**
- 13 Fall Meeting Announcement**
- 14 Fall Meeting Accommodations**
- 15 Fall Meeting Registration**
- 15 Best Bird of the Year Nomination Form**
- 16 Call for Papers**

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

KOS Fall Meeting Silent Auction Donations are Encouraged

All proceeds from this event go to the KOS Student Research Fund. Any bird, birdwatching, bird feeding, etc. items are acceptable. If in doubt, bring it anyway!! Help support this worthy cause through your donations and bids!

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>

55th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas October 3-5, 2003

Details on page 13

Motel information on page 14

Registration form page 15

Call for Papers page 16

An Opportunity To Help Protect Habitats

Dear KOS Members;

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is sponsoring a Kansas Summit to Protect Aquatic Habitats for Fish and Wildlife. It is set for Friday and Saturday, September 26 & 27. This is National Hunting and Fishing Day. It will be held in Great Bend. We are working at getting reduced rate rooms for Friday night. We are planning to offer bird watching tours and guided teal hunts for those interested. We have tentatively scheduled presentations from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday.

We hope to inform Kansas hunters, anglers and concerned conservationists of the proposed regulatory changes. We want to generate 5,000 letters to the White House by October 31 from concerned Kansans about the proposed change.

I would like to invite the Kansas Ornithological Society to participate. We would like to involve as many active KOS members as possible to help spread the word. We could use some guides for the tours.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and working to inspire sportsmen and conservationists to counter the proposed destruction of wetlands and aquatic habitats. Please contact me for additional information.

Thank you!

Steven G. Sorensen, President
Kansas Wildlife Federation
9 Weatherly Ct.
Valley Center, KS 67147-8547
Phone (316) 755-2239
FAX (316) 755-0321
webforbs@cox.net

Wanted! KOS Members Interested in Serving as Officers and Directors

Every year the Kansas Ornithological Society elects officers and board members at it's Fall (Annual) Meeting. Some years we have a lot of openings, some years most everyone is running for re-election. We normally elect two new directors every year. But we always need to know who is interested in serving on the board as an officer or director. There are usually a couple of meetings a year, one with the fall meeting one in mid winter and occasionally one with the spring meeting. We do know that we need a new Membership Development Coordinator. Mike Stewart has decided not to run for re-election. We will miss his leadership and need someone (or more than one) who is interested in filling this slot. The "job description" follows. Please contact Tom Shane, or any of the officers, if you are interested in this position or any position on the board!

Membership Development Coordinator

Duties:

Maintain membership database for the Society.
Run the annual member renewal effort.
Receive renewal and new member forms from the Treasurer.
Print and deliver (mail) address labels to the Business Manager quarterly.
Prepare and mail new member packets.
Prepare semi-annual membership report (Oct-Feb).
Correspond with members and board.

The position has two unique qualifications:
Must be proficient in Microsoft Access 2000 or later as all member records are stored in this format. Must have capability to print labels using MS Office.

Oops!

Due to an oversight by the editor, there was an error in the Best Birds of the Year in the March 2003 issue of the *Horned Lark*. The number 11 entry, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, first state nesting record, Barber County, was attributed to Sebastian Patti, et. al. The oversight was clarified at the Fall Meeting when the report was given, I simply neglected to correct it before publishing it in the March issue. Sebastian, et. al. DID have a county record Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Barber County for a first county record, but these birds were not nesting. The first nesting record was in **Commanche County** and the credit should go to **Chet Gresham**, et. al. Thanks to Pete and Max for straightening out this befuddled editor!

Range Expansion of the Eurasian Collared-dove

by Helen Hands

As Lloyd Moore's maps have shown, Eurasian Collared- doves (ECDO) have been expanding quickly to towns across Kansas. Since the first Kansas sighting in 1997, ECDO have been reported from 58 counties as of May 2002. So far, I've heard of only a few sightings more than a mile outside of a town. Beyond the fact that the ECDO's name implies that they came from "Eurasia," few birders know the interesting story of how they came to the U.S. and then to Kansas. The story I'm about to tell is from two articles, one in *American Birds* (1987, pages 1370-1379 in Volume 41, Number 15) and one in *North American Birds* (1999, pages 348-353 in Volume 53, Number 4).

The first published description of the Eurasian Collared- dove was from Bulgaria in 1838. It is thought that ECDO originated in India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. There are conflicting reports as to whether ECDO dispersed naturally to the area around the Black and Aegean seas or if they were introduced. During the 1930s-1980s, ECDO rapidly increased in numbers and expanded their range northwest to Great Britain, southwest to Morocco, and northeast to Russia.

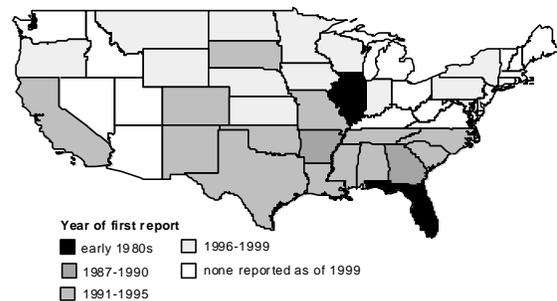
The ECDO's first apparent stop in the Americas was on the island of New Providence in the Bahamas in the early 1970s. The owner of a small pet store in Nassau requested some "ring-necked doves" (his term for Ringed Turtle-doves, a different species), but mistakenly received ECDO from the Netherlands. In 1974, some of the ECDO escaped in a burglary and the rest were released by the pet-store owner. It is thought that less than 50 ECDO escaped or were released. By 1986, numbers of ECDO on the island were in the tens of thousands. During the 1970s and 1980s, ECDO spread throughout the Bahamas.

By 1982, if not earlier, ECDO were nesting near Homestead and in Delray Beach, Florida. That year ECDO, Ringed Turtle-doves, and their hybrids were reported in Joliet, Illinois. By the late 1980s, ECDO had also been reported in Georgia and Arkansas. During 1991-1995, ECDO had reached as far west as Colorado and New Mexico and as far up the Atlantic Coast as North Carolina (see map). By 1999, ECDO had been reported in Kansas, as far north as Saskatchewan, and as far west as Oregon. It is unknown if all of these reported birds dispersed naturally or

were released from captivity. ECDO are kept in captivity, but are not as desirable as caged birds as the tamer Ringed Turtle-dove. Nevertheless, ECDO in North America seem to be following the same pattern of rapid range expansion and population increase as in Europe.

Because ECDO are becoming fairly common throughout Kansas, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission recently approved the hunting of ECDO, as well as White-Winged and Ringed Turtle-doves. Hunters will now be able to hunt these species during the mourning dove hunting season. KDWP does not anticipate that many of these 3 species will be shot because 1) ECDO and Ringed Turtle-doves primarily occur in towns where shooting is not permitted, 2) densities of these 3 species are low compared to those of Mourning Doves, and 3) most White-Winged doves probably migrate through Kansas before the dove hunting season begins on September 1. The purpose of permitting hunting of these 3 species is to give hunters the opportunity to hunt them while their populations are increasing and their ranges are expanding.

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



KANSAS SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2003 through May 31, 2003

By Lloyd Moore

The reporting period had some interesting birds and some mild weather through the end of May. Several observers in western Kansas reported a less than stellar warbler migration, again, and even in eastern Kansas, warbler migration was probably best described as average.

An Anhinga put in an unexpected appearance in Leavenworth much to the delight of some of the birders attending the KOS Spring Field Trip.

Black Vultures were being seen almost regularly in Cherokee county creating much discussion of whether this is the start of an "invasion" of this species as a Kansas breeder.

Shorebird numbers were anywhere

from good to incredible, depending on the day and the location. Several hundred Ruddy Turnstones were reported from Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. Wilson's Phalarope numbers at Quivira were estimated in excess of 20,000 in early May.

An Arctic Tern was reported from Quivira. If documentation is submitted and accepted it would only be the second record for Kansas.

We've come to expect good hummingbird records from western Kansas in the late summer period, but a Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbird were somewhat unexpected April sightings in the western portion of the state.

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker continued to be reported from the Stockdale area of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Western jays were still being reported from western Kansas well into April.

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>
Common Loon	1 at LaCygne Lake 1 at Marion Rs. 1 at Lone Star Lake	Linn Marion Douglas	<u>05/10</u> <u>05/20</u> <u>05/20</u>	WCT AP AP
<u>Yellow-billed Loon</u>	<D> 1 at Pott. State Lake #2	Pottawatomie	04.24	DR & KSU FOC
Western Grebe	3 at Quivira NWR 4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford	05/11 05/21	MT PJ
Clark's Grebe	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Atwood sewage ponds	Barton Barton Rawlins	05/03 05/13 05/25	MP MRo,SP,MR,RMc HA
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at John Redmond Rs. 1 at Quivira NWR	Coffey Stafford	04/05 04/26	ML WnW
<u>Anhinga</u>	<D> 1 at Ft Leavenworth Bottoms	<u>Leavenworth</u>	05/03	RMc, MR, CA
Glossy Ibis	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 next to Elkhart Sewage Ponds	Barton Morton	05/14 04/27	RMc,MRo,SP,MR CG
White-faced Ibis	<u>110</u> near Elkhart Sewage Ponds	Morton	04/27	CG
<u>Black Vulture</u>	<D> 2 at Schermerhorn Park <D> 1 at Schermerhorn Park 2 at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee Cherokee Cherokee	04/26 04/28 05/09	RM, SGAS SP, CH, CG CW

(All the above sightings are most likely of the same 1-2 individuals.)

Ross's Goose	50+ at MdC W.A.	Linn	03/08	GP,MM,DS
<u>Brant</u>	1 'Black' Brant at Quivira NWR <i>(On 03/30 about 1 mile SE of QNWR in Reno Co. a Brant was found bathing in a puddle in a wheat field by Leon Hicks. This location was about 10 miles from where the Brant was seen on 03/29 so it may or may not have been the same individual.)</i>	Stafford	03/29	SS,DB,DV,WC
Trumpeter Swan	2 near Perry Lake Marina	Jefferson	03/13	PH
Tundra Swan	5 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	03/08-13	SS, M:ob
Cinnamon Teal	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/16	PM,ME
	3 pair at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/24	CG
	1 pair at Quivira NWR	Stafford	03/29	SS,DB
	8 pair at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/29	DB, KS
	2 pair at Elkhart sewage ponds	Morton	04/25	CG
	1 in slough near Lawrence Airport	Douglas	05/03	GP
Greater Scaup	12 at Pony Creek Lake	Brown	03/08	MG,MD
	15 at New Strawn sewer ponds	Coffey	03/11	DG,GK
	4 at Oldsquaw Pond, Wichita	Sedgwick	03/16	CG
	1 on a farm pond	Republic	03/16	HA
	1 at Lonestar Lake	Douglas	03/17	DG
	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	03/24	CG
	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/06	GF,BR,PY,H&AH
	2 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	05/10	CW
Surf Scoter	Pair at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/10-19	SS, M:ob
White-winged Scoter	1 at Olathe Lake	Johnson	03/08-15	GP, M:ob
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Lonestar Lake	Douglas	04/08	GPa
Osprey	1 at Milford Lake	Clay	03/23	C&JO
	1 near Galena	Cherokee	<u>05/17</u>	SS, MR
Mississippi Kite	1 at 61 st & Antioch, Overland Park	<u>Johnson</u>	05/14	MG
Bald Eagle	Pair nesting	Osborne	03/02	HA
	Pair nesting	Rooks	03/10	HA
	1 adult, 2 young at Hillsdale Lk.	Miami	04/12	ML
	Pair with 2 young at Tuttle Crk Rs	Riley	04/14	DM
Northern Goshawk	1 in Blue Rapids	Marshall	03/21	TP
Peregrine Falcon	1 at nest box, Wichita	Sedgwick	03/27	D&FV
	1 seen at nest box in Topeka	Shawnee	03/21 & 31	JB
	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	04/20	GPa
	1 at Rocky Ford, Tuttle Crk. Rs.	Pottawatomie	04/24	TC
	1 at Nature Conservancy area CB	Barton	04/26	SS, M:ob
	1 at Liberal	Seward	04/27	CG
	2 at Dry Lake	Scott	05/10	T&SSh
	2 NW corner wildlife loop QNWR	Stafford	05/10	SS, M:ob
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/10	BG
	2 in downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	05/11	BG
	1 at Tuttle Creek Rs.	Riley	05/10	TC
	1 flying over Nelson Island	Johnson	05/18	GP, DSe
	1 near Goessel	Marion	05/24	RW
Prairie Falcon	1 near Rocky Ford, Tuttle Creek Rs.	Pottawatomie	03/03	C&JO

<u>Lesser Prairie Chicken</u>	15 on a new lek about 1 mile from Seltman residence.	<u>Rush</u>	04/18	SS, DS, StS
<u>Black Rail</u>	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/13	MRo,SP,MR,RMc
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/21	PJ
	6 at Quivira	Stafford	05/24	SS
Sandhill Crane	2 at Kingman St. Lake	Kingman	<u>05/12</u>	PJ
American Golden Plover	200 in burned prairie near Welda	Anderson	04/19	MM, GP
	2-4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>05/21</u>	PJ
Piping Plover	2 at Stockdale Area, Tuttle Crk. Rs.	Riley	04/19	GS
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	05/15	DG
Whimbrel	1 at 'Bobolink Field' QNWR	Stafford	04/26	SS, M:ob
	38 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/13	MRo,SP,MR,RMc
	9 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/19	AP
	18 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/26	GP
Long-billed Curlew	7 mi N of Garden City	Finney	03/29	T&SSh
	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/06	GF,BR,PY,H&AH
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/06	GF,BR,PY,H&AH
	8 at Kalvesta (flyover)	Finney	04/10	MR
Ruddy Turnstone	35 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/13	MRo,MR,SP,RMc
	<i>"Were everywhere in numbers I've never seen before, easily a few hundred! The largest single group was 45 birds at CB"</i>		05/19	AP
	50 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/20	GP
	60+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/24	SS
	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	05/30	DG
<u>Red Knot</u>	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/24	SS
Sanderling	<u>150</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/13	MRo,SP,MR,RMc
	50 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/24	SS
Dunlin	20 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/24	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	15 in field between Wilson and Blackwolf Ellsworth		05/06	MR
	1 at Konza Prairie	Riley	05/09	BS
	5 NE of Minneola	Clark	05/23	GP
	20 in Prairie Dog town S of Redwing	Barton	05/19	AP
Wilson's Phalarope	<u>20-25,000</u> at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/11	MT
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/13	MRo,SP,MR,RMc
	1 at Linn sewage ponds	Washington	05/14	DT
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/20	GP
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/18	MC, GA
	5 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/21	PJ
Laughing Gull	1 at Unit G, MdCWA	Linn	05/10	CW
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	05/11	AS
Glaucous Gull	1 adult, Clinton Lk.	Douglas	03/02	AP
	1 2 nd winter at Clinton Lk.	Douglas	03/09	DG
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 st summer at Pott. St. Lk. #2	Pottawatomie	04/25	KK, GS, DR
Common Tern	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/21	PJ
<u>Arctic Tern</u>	1 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	05/12	CW, MR

Least Tern	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/13	MRo,SP,MR,RMc
	1 at Linn sewage ponds	Washington	05/15	DT
	20+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/24	SS
Eurasian Collared-Dove	? # in Bogue	Graham	03/10	HA
	3 in Colby	Thomas	03/15	DL
	1 in Clay Center	Washington	03/24	DT
	1 in Salina	Saline	03/23	MR
	<D> 1 in Valley Center	Sedgwick	04/19	VM
	Pair nesting in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	04/14	PJ
	1 in Wilson	Ellsworth	04/14	MR
	1 at Rader res. in Kensington	Smith	04/20	MR
	Many in Ellinwood & Great Bend	Barton	04/25-27	SS, M:ob
	2 in Manhattan	Riley	05/06	DM
2 in Ulysses	Grant	05/07	KH, SG	
2 at Galena	Cherokee	05/17	SS, GP	
White-winged Dove <D>	1 at Elkhart	Morton	04/25-27	SP,CH,CG
	2 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	04/28	T&SSh
Inca Dove	1 at zoo directors res. Garden City	Finney	03/31	DBa
	1 at McClard res., Wichita	Sedgwick	05/12	BM
Greater Roadrunner	Nesting in southern Meade Co.	Meade	05/01	TF
Barn Owl	1 at Scott State Park	Scott	03/22	T&SSh
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/24	CG
Burrowing Owl	5 near Holcomb	Finney	03/29	T&SSh
Barred Owl	1 at Clark Co. State Lake	<u>Clark</u>	05/22	GP
Long-eared Owl	8 at farmstead	Pawnee	03/10	SS
	1 at Scott State Park	Scott	03/22	T&SSh
	1 adult, 4 young Kanopolis St. Pk.	Ellsworth	05/27	BG
Black-chinned Hummingbird <D>	Adult male in Rolla	Morton	04/24	SP,CH
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u> <D>	1 adult male at Garden City res.	Finney	04/04-08	MO
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 female at Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek Rs.	<u>Riley</u>	05/08	LJ, M:ob
	<D> 1 female at Stockdale Area	<u>Riley</u>	03/10	JR
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Kill Creek Park	Johnson	05/13	MG
	3 in Galena area	Cherokee	05/17	SS, MR
	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	05/23	DSe
	1 at Ft Leavenworth	Leavenworth	05/25	DW
	1 at Marlatt Park, Manhattan	Riley	05/26	GS
Say's Phoebe	Nest with young NW of Buffalo	<u>Harper</u>	05/13	JS
Ash-throated Flycatcher <D>	Pair nesting, Wilburton Crossing	Morton	04/26	SP,CH,CG
Northern Shrike	1 Stockdale Area, Tuttle Crk. Rs.	Riley	03/01	LJ
	1 2 mi. S of Kingman St. Lk.	Kingman	03/08	PJ
Steller's Jay	1 at residence in Meade	Meade	04/24	TF
	(Present since 01/26 at the Ackerman residence) 1 at farmstead	Ford	04/28	fide DK

Western Scrub-Jay <D>	5 in Hugoton	Stevens	<u>04/24</u>	SP, CH
	8 from Boy Scout area to K-27	Morton	<u>04/25</u>	SP, CH
	3 at Richfield, 1 at Elkhart	Morton	<u>04/26</u>	CG
Pinyon Jay	5-12 at feeder in St. Francis <i>(Pinyon Jays were present at several locations in St. Francis during the winter and spring months, with as many as 30 at one location near the fairgrounds.)</i>	Cheyenne	03/10	HA
Fish Crow	1 at Elk City W.A.	Montgomery	04/20	MP
Mountain Bluebird	50 NE of Wilmore	Comanche	03/07	GF
	30+ N of Ashland	Clark	03/07	GF
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Otoe Area, Wilson Lake	Russell	04/09	MR
Veery	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	05/09	RA
Sprague's Pipit	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/27	MG, M:ob
	1 in field 9 mi NW of Larned	Pawnee	05/01	SS
Blue-winged Warbler	1 old Lone Star Cement Plant area	Wyandotte	05/11	CW
Golden-winged Warbler	1 old Lone Star Cement Plant area	Wyandotte	05/11	CW
	1 on Nelson Island	Johnson	05/19	GP, DSe
Cape May Warbler	1 at Antioch Park	Johnson	05/12	AS
	1 at Tuttle Creek Outlet Park	Riley	05/16	GS
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	Leavenworth	05/17	DW
	1 at Galena	Cherokee	05/18	SS, MR
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 male at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	05/04	RB
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	Leavenworth	05/17	DW
'Audubon's' Warbler	3 near Covert	Osborne	04/19	SS
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1 at Elkhart cemetery	Morton	04/26	CG
Townsend's Warbler	1 at Garden City zoo	Finney	04/30	DBa,T&SSh, MRa
Yellow-throated Warbler	3 at Ft. Leavenworth bottoms	Leavenworth	04/05	JS
	2-3 at Caney River bridge	Chautauqua	04/05	PJ, WAS
	1 at Mdc W.A.	Linn	04/12	MM
	2 territorial at MdCWA	Linn	04/19	MM, GP
	1 S of Lone Star Town	Douglas	05/05	AP
	2 territorial Lone Star Cement Rd.	Wyandotte	05/23	DSe
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at residence in Lenexa	Johnson	05/06	NF
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/07	GS
	1 at Annenberg Pk., Manhattan	Riley	05/08	DR, KSUFOC
	1 at Timber Canyon, Scott Lake	Scott	05/10	T&SSh
	1 old Lone Star Cement Plant area	Wyandotte	05/11	CW
	1 at Ft Leavenworth	Leavenworth	05/10	DW, NL
	3 at Nelson Island	Johnson	05/18	GP, DSe
	1 at Galena	Cherokee	05/18	SS, MR
	1 at Camp Naish	Wyandotte	05/26	WCT, AG
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	05/25	JS, B&CB
Pine Warbler	1 at Chisholm Crk. Pk., Wichita	Sedgwick	04/29	ST, DV
Prairie Warbler	1 at CNG Workstation	<u>Morton</u>	04/27	CG
	1 at Quivira NWR	<u>Stafford</u>	05/03	RW
	1 at Galena	Cherokee	05/18	SS, MR

Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Garden City Zoo	Finney	04/30	DBa	
	1 near RR bridge, river road. Mdc	Linn	05/10	CW	
	1 old Lone Star Cement Plant area	Wyandotte	05/11	CW	
	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	05/21	NL, HHe	
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 on St. Francis River Walk	Cheyenne	05/25	HA	
Hooded Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick 05/02	PJ		
	1 old Lone Star Cement Plant area	Wyandotte	05/11	CW	
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at CNG Workstation	Morton	04/27	CG	
	1 at feeder in Garden City	Finney	05/07	T&SSh	
Cassin's Sparrow	3 SW corner of county	Stafford	05/10	SS	
Baird's Sparrow	1 singing in pasture near Udall	Cowley	04/19	PJ, CG	
	1 in field 9 mi NW of Larned	Pawnee	05/01	SS	
Fox Sparrow	1 ' <i>schistacea</i> ' race	Pawnee	03/10	SS	
<u>Golden-crnd Sparrow</u> <D>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/27	GF	
'White-winged' Junco	1 at Rintoul residence	Riley	03/16	DR	
	1 at Scott State Park	Scott	03/22	T&SSh	
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 male at feeder W of Linn	Washington	05/06	DT	
	2 males at feeder in Garden City	Finney	05/07	T&SSh	
	4 M & 1 F at Garden City feeder	Finney	05/09	T&SSh	
	1 N of Colwich	Sedgwick	05/10	PJ	
	1 along Wildcat Creek, Manhattan	Riley	05/10	GS, et al	
	1 at Cable res. Tuttle Creek Rs.	Riley	05/21	TC	
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Cowley Co. St. Lk.	Cowley	04/28	LH,CS	
	1 at feeder in Shawnee	Johnson	05/03	NC	
	1 at feeder in Cawker City	Mitchell	05/06	HA	
	2 at feeder in Garden City	Finney	05/06	T&SSh	
	1 at feeder in Cawker City	Mitchell	05/07	HA	
	<i>(Different bird than one on 5/6)</i>				
	1 at residence in Washington	Washington	05/08	JY	
	6 males at Garden City feeder	Finney	05/09	T&SSh	
	1 at Chisholm Creek Pk., Wichita	Sedgwick	05/09	PM	
	1 at Linear Pk., Manhattan	Riley	05/10	GS, et al	
	Several ? near Seward	Stafford	05/10	DK	
	?# near Ogden	Riley	05/10	HH	
	4 at Conover res. in Satanta	Haskell	05/11	J&NC	
	1 at Kazmaier res., Larned	Pawnee	05/11	DK	
	1 at feeder S of Wilson	Russell	05/13	DKI	
	1 at residence Tuttle Creek Rs.	Pottawatomie	05/18	G&DS	
	1 at Wilson State Park	Russell	05/16	MR	
	1 at res. S of Lone Star	Douglas	05/18	AP	
	1 on NW side Tuttle Creek Rs.	Riley	05/24	GSu	
	1 in Linear Park, Manhattan	Riley	05/26	GS	
1 in Tuttle Cove State Park	Riley	05/27	LJ		

(The following is a list, provided by Tom Shane, of Lazuli Bunting sightings at the Shane residence in Garden City, Finney Co. between 6 – 17 May this year.)

Lazuli Bunting High Counts for a Garden City, KS Yard During the May 2003 Migration, Male (M) and Female (F.)

May 6...2M
 May 7...3M
 May 8...6M
 May 9...6M,1F
 May 10...10M,2F
 May 11...5M
 May 12...3M,1F
 May 13...4M,2F
 May 14...3M,2F
 May 15...2M,2F
 May 16...3M,2F
 May 17...1M

Red Crossbill	<D> 1 at residence in NW Miami Co.	Miami	05/22-25	RZ
Painted Bunting	1 at Walla Walla area	Junction City	05/10	C&JO
	1 at Cable res., Tuttle Crk, Rs.	Riley	05/10	TC
	1 at Clinton State Park	Douglas	05/13	GPa
	2 at Wakarusa Arm Causeway at Clinton Lake	Douglas	05/31	DSe, GP, MM
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<u>300</u> near Peabody	Marion	04/29	KKi
Lesser Goldfinch	<D>1 at K-State Research Center.	Finney	05/26	CE

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.

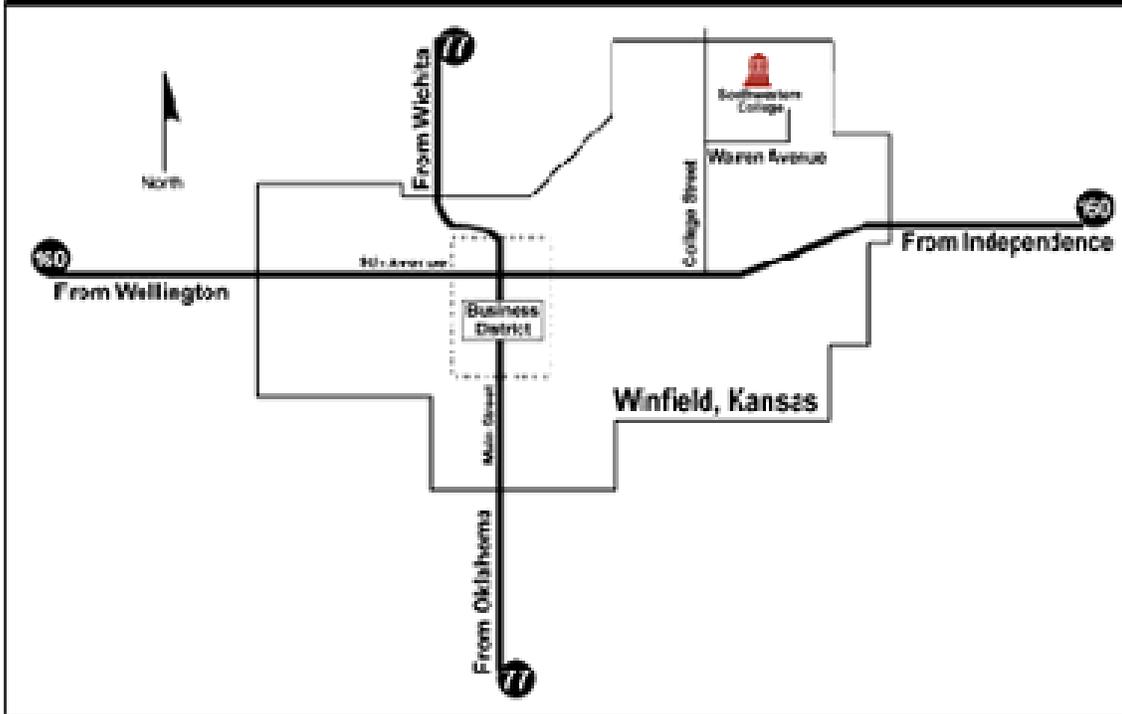
<D> indicates that documentation was submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

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

OBSERVERS: Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Robert Antonio, Greg Anderson, Dan Baffa (DBa), Roy Beckemeyer, Joanne Brier, Dave Bryan, Bill & Colin Busby (B&CB), Ted Cable, Wally Champeny, Nancy Clark, Jack & Norma Conover (J&NC), Mark Corder, Mary Deuser, Marsha Ebaugh, Cindy Elliott, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Nancy Fitzgerald, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Chet Gresham, Sam Guy, Alan Godwin, Harvey & Allison Hiebert (H&AH), Leon Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Hoogy Hoogheem, Helen Hewins (HHe), Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Dave Klema (DKI), Glen Koontz, Kellye Hart, Karl Kosciuch, Kerrie Kirkpatrick (KKi), Paul Lehman, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Nancy Leo, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill (RMc), Bert McClard, Patty Marlett, Vince Marshall, Robert Mangile, Dan Mulhern, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Marie Osterbuhr, Tom Parker, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Michael Patten, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Mike Rader, Bob Regier, Dave Rintoul, Mark Robbins (MRo), Jethro Runco, Mike Ramsey (MRa), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Brett Sandercock, David Seibel (DSe), Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman, Steve Seltman (StS), Kent Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Greg Schrott, Gibran Suleiman (GSu), Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society (SGAS), Art Swalwell, Gary & Donna Shaver (G&DS), Dan Thalmann, Will Chatfield Taylor (WCT), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Dan Thalmann, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Ron Wedel, Dave Williams, Wings n Wetlands (WnW), Chris Wood, Perry Yoder, James Yungeberg, Ron Zimmerman

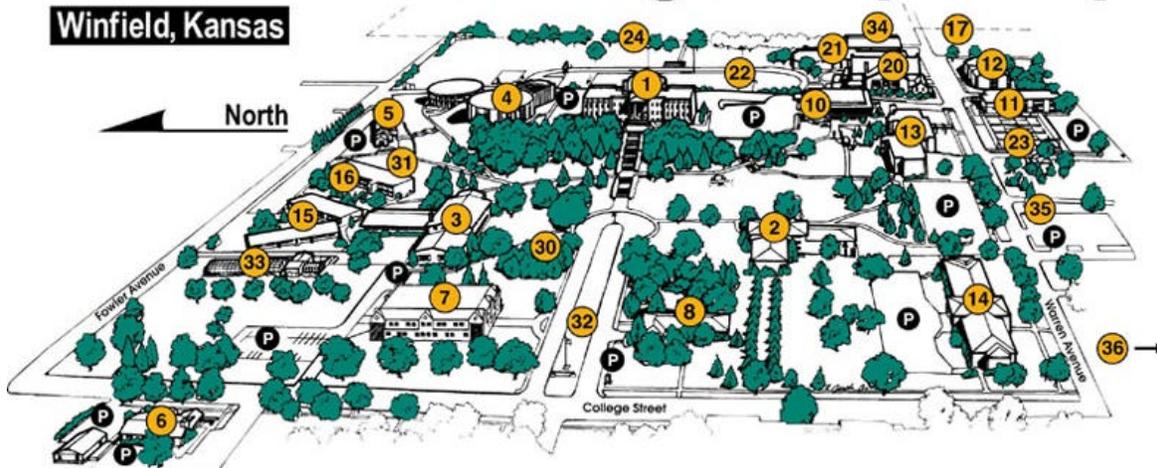
Remember KOS... If you would like to help the Kansas Ornithological Society's future growth consider leaving a memorial trust for the Society or including the KOS in your will. If you would like more information feel free to contact any of the Board Members.

Where is Southwestern College located?



Southwestern College Campus Map

Winfield, Kansas



Academic/Administrative

1. Christy Administration Bldg. & Richardson Auditorium
2. Memorial Library
3. Mossman Hall
4. Darbeth Fine Arts Center & Messenger Recital Hall
5. Wroten Hall & McEwen Place
6. Center for Teaching Excellence (teacher education program)
7. Beech Science Center & Mabee Laboratory Complex
8. Welcome Center (Office of Admission)

Student Life Buildings

10. Roy L. Smith Student Center (bookstore, dining hall, and snack bar)
11. Sutton Residence Hall & Sutton Center (student life)
12. Reid Apartments
13. Wallingford Residence Hall
14. Broadhurst Residence Hall
15. Honor Apartments
16. Shriwise Apartments
17. Warren Avenue Apartments

Athletic Facilities

20. Stewart Field House
21. White Physical Education Bldg.
22. Sonner Stadium, Kohler Field, Morony Track, & Caywood Special Events Area
23. Bob Hower & Don Cooper Tennis Courts
24. Soccer Field

Other Facilities

30. The Mound
31. The Allen Podium
32. Heritage Rock
33. Ruth Warren Abbott Greenhouse
34. Dixon Operations Center
35. Le Chat Noir (coffee house)
36. Grace Little Builders Preschool

P Parking

55th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas
October 3-5, 2003

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet at Southwestern College, in Winfield, Kansas, on October 3, 4, and 5, 2003. Southwestern College is located in northeast Winfield, at the intersection of Warren and College St. Maps showing the location of the campus and the campus layout are on the facing page. All activities will take place on the campus. The Friday evening reception and workshop will take place in the Beech Science Center on College St. (#7 on Campus Map). The paper sessions will take place in Messenger Auditorium in Darbeth Hall (#4). The banquet will take place at the Roy L. Smith Student Center (#10).

Members are encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from this event go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

Members are also encouraged to bring bird-related photos, videos, and/or recordings to share with other members during the informal birdwatchers hour after lunch. Let us know if you have material to share for the Birdwatcher's Hour. We request that presentations be limited to 10 minutes.

PROGRAM

Friday, October 3

7:00-9:00 p.m. Informal reception and identification workshop at Beech Science Center.

Saturday, October 4

6:30-8:00 Morning bird walk.

8:00-10:00 Registration in the foyer of Messenger Hall. View Silent Auction items in the President's Gallery in Darbeth Hall. The Silent Auction will run throughout the day, with all bids final at 5:00 p.m.

9:00-11:30 Morning Paper Session – Messenger Auditorium

11:30-12:00 Morning Business Session

12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own. The college dining hall has a brunch buffet for about \$4.00. All other restaurants are 1-2 miles away. A room has been reserved for the Director's Meeting.

1:00-2:00 Birdwatchers hour – Messenger Auditorium

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Paper Session – Messenger Auditorium

4:30-5:00 KOS Business Meeting

6:30-9:00 Banquet, Best Birds of the Year, Resolutions, and Guest Speaker Dr. Richard Prum. Rick will talk about "How feathers grow and why that is so cool". He has been directing much of his research in the area of feathers. The banquet is in the Roy L. Smith Student Center main dining hall. The banquet will be served buffet style. Dinner includes dessert, beverage, and a two meat buffet.

Sunday, October 5

6:30-12:00 Field trips to local birding locations. All trips depart from the SC campus Beech Science Center.

12:00-1:00 Lunch and compilation at the picnic pavilion at Black Creek Park just off the south bypass around Winfield. Boxed lunches will be available from Mr. Goodcents Sub Shop.

We request that registrations be received by September 25 if possible. This will help the meal planners.

Accommodations Information
KOS Meeting
October 3-5, 2003
Winfield, KS

<u>MOTEL*</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Triple</u>
Camelot Motor Inn	620-221-9050	\$45.00	\$52.00	

We are holding 12 rooms here until September 1. They are being held under Max Thompson.

Comfort Inn	620-221-7529	\$67.50	\$76.90	
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The Comfort Inn is booked for October 4 and unless some rooms open up, you will not get reservations there.

Sonner Motor Inn	620-221-4400	\$45.00	\$50.00	
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Super 8 Motel Indoor Pool	620-229-8888	\$60.84	\$65.60	
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Town House Motel	620-221-2110	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$38.00
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CAMPING

Winfield City Lake \$8.00 Electrical Hookup plus \$4.00 for your car per day.
 \$2.00 Primitive plus \$4.00 for your car for your car per day

Winfield Fairgrounds \$6.00 Electrical Hookup per day
 \$3.00 Primitive per day

*All motels have a 10.3% tax.

THERE IS A LARGE WEDDING IN TOWN THAT BOOKED THE COMFORT INN. ALSO THAT WEEKEND IS THE ARTS AND CRAFT FAIR AT THE FAIRGROUNDS AND ART IN THE PARK IN ISLAND PARK. I WOULD ADVISE MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON!

RELEASE

Please read and sign. This release must be signed before the registration can be accepted.

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the KOS and their officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrants participation in this meeting.

Name (print) _____ Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Date _____

(attach additional names and signatures as necessary)

**KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL 2003 MEETING
CALL FOR PAPERS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2003
SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
WINFIELD, KANSAS**

The fall meeting of the KOS for 2003 will be held in Winfield. Paper sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 4 October, in Messenger Auditorium, Darbeth Hall. Audio/visual equipment includes 35 mm slides, VHS video, and computer projection. Papers on any topic of interest to Kansas ornithologists and birdwatchers are requested. Our paper sessions traditionally include both technical and general interest presentations. Student papers will be judged and the best paper announced at the banquet Saturday night. All student presenters will receive a year's free membership in KOS.

Please submit your abstract by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Marvin D. Kuehn
Emporia State University
1200 Commercial - Campus Box 4036
Emporia, Kansas 66801

Off: 620-341-5795
Fax: 620-341-6200
Home: 620-342-9133
kuehnmar@emporia.edu

Submissions should include:

Title of Paper: _____

Authors and affiliations: _____

Estimated time in minutes: 10 ___ 15 ___ 20 ___

Audio/visual: Slides: ___ Video: ___ Computer projection ___ Overhead: ___

If using computer projection: Bringing my own laptop (preferred): ___ Need a computer: ___

ABSTRACT: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT ABSTRACTS NO LATER THAN 1 SEPTEMBER 2003!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 2003

Vol. 30, No. 2

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

In this issue -

- 2 **Announcements**
- 3 **Spring Field Trip Bird Checklist**
- 4 **Winged Tips**
- 5 **KDWP Forum**
- 6 **Assistance Request**
- 7 **Winter Season Birding Roundup**
- 13 **Spring Field Trip Notes**
- 13 **West Nile Virus update**
- 14 **KOS Board Meeting Minutes**
- 15 **Birders, Bugs and Vector Borne Diseases**
- 16 **Fall Meeting Pre-announcement**

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	Stafford	11/30-12/18	LH, MR, mob
	<i>(Present through end of period)</i>			
	3 at Cheney Rsvr.	Kingman	01/04	PJ, CG, KG, JB
	2 on farm pond SE of Kanopolis	Ellsworth	02/17	MSe, MR
	<i>(Landowner advised they had been present for two months.)</i>			

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.

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

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

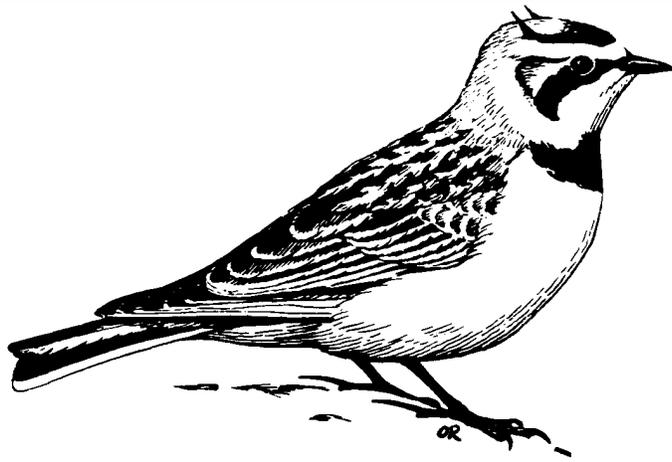
Election of Board and Officers for 2004

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>)



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, cherylmiller1@cox.net

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 -

As I was putting this issue together I was changing the masthead (that's what you see at the top of this page. Changing Volume 29 to Volume 30 caused me to pause and I'm not sure why. I didn't make anything special out of the 25th Anniversary of the *Horned Lark*, and I imagine, therefore, that I won't do anything out of the ordinary for the 30th Anniversary. Well, other than call it to your attention here.

I don't have all the issues from all 30 years of the *Horned Lark*. Several years ago a dear friend, and past president of KOS, passed away and I was given all of his back issues of the *Horned Lark* and *The Bulletin*. While almost complete, there are gaps. Prior to the *Horned Lark* there was another KOS Newsletter dating well back into the 1960s. But all of that history will have to wait for a while. (This serves as a "heads up" to past newsletter editors, I will be contacting you for information!)

Many of you know Gene Young. He has long been involved with KOS. We elected him as KOS President in October in Meade. Unfortunately for Kansas, Gene had a job opportunity that he couldn't pass up which has taken him to the East Coast. His letter of resignation, and brief details of his new job, is on page 3. Gene may hold the record for the shortest term of President for KOS. If not, someone please correct me.

Gene's resignation sent several of us scrambling to the KOS By-laws to find out what we needed to do! Tom Shane, who was just elected to KOS Vice-president, is now President, as directed by the by-laws. Marvin Kuehn was selected to move from his board member position to Vice-President and Lowell Johnson has been selected to fill out the remainder of Marvin's term on the Board of Directors. Tom, from Garden City, Marvin, from Emporia, and Lowell, from Manhattan have all been long time KOS members and supporters. Between them they have over 110 years of KOS membership. They may not be familiar to all of you, but these folks know KOS. A lot of changes in a few weeks, but a lot of stability in those changes. We are in good hands!

Spring is upon us again, in one form or another. Being out of the country last April, I felt like I missed spring, so I am really looking forward to spring 2003. At the end of this issue you will find details and the registration form for the spring KOS Field Trip in Leavenworth. I have a couple of nemesis birds (life and state) that I hope to deal with in Leavenworth County in early May. I hope to see you there and you will know if I find them!

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!

- May 2 - 4, 2003 - Leavenworth
- 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 upcoming meeting.

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- 2 **Announcements**
 - 3 **Resignation Letter**
 - 3 **Canyonlands CBC Photo**
 - 4 **Winged Tips**
 - 5 **KDWP Forum**
 - 6 **Best Birds of the Year**
 - 6 **Cedar Bluffs CBC Photo**
 - 7 **Fall Season Birding Roundup**
 - 18 **Book Review**
 - 18 **Medical Alert**
 - 19 **Spring Field Trip Info**
 - 20 **Spring Field Trip Registration Form**
 - 5 & 17 **Bird Artwork by Matt Gearheart**

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

Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend in Great Bend

KOS will be one of the sponsors of the 2003 Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend, April 25 - 27, 2003. This is the 3rd year for this growing event and every indication is that this event will just get bigger. What we need from the membership is bodies! There are many different roles that volunteers can perform, but we need to know if you are interested and available. Please contact the editor, Chuck Otte, or Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595 if you are willing to help! Look for more information on this event in the March *Horned Lark*.

Correction & Apology

Correction - Mark Robbins contact us to indicate that in Summer Birding Roundup in the December 2002 issue of *The Horned Lark* (Volume 29, Issue 4) the date for the Curlew Sandpiper should have been 12 July not 12 June. We apologize for that error.

Apology - Sometimes the best laid plans go awry. I won't even enumerate all the reasons why the December 2002 issue of *The Horned Lark* arrived so late. Ultimately the blame belongs to this editor and you may chastise me at your earliest opportunity. I wish to apologize to all the Christmas Bird Count compilers and those who may have wanted to participate in those CBCs, but received the information too late. I am sorry! *chuck*

Time To Pay Your 2003 Membership Dues

Annual KOS membership dues are payable January 1st of each year. A form to facilitate this activity is on Page 20. Please help save the Society postage fees and send in your dues without us sending you a special mailing. This will likely be the last mailing you receive if you do not pay your dues. If you haven't done this, DO IT NOW! Find the December Horned Lark and look for the yellow sheet of paper that was stuck in with that issue. Be sure to pay close attention to the information regarding the Membership Directory and if or how you wish to be listed. The KOS Membership Directory will be printed and distributed to KOS members only. This information WILL NOT be put on the web. Thank you for paying your 2003 dues!

31 December 2002

Dear KOS Members and Board of Directors:

I regret to inform you that I will be stepping down as President of the Kansas Ornithological Society effective 1 January 2003. I have accepted a position with Colorado State University (CSU), Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) as the Endangered Species Program Manager and Integrated Pest Program Manager for the National Guard. This position will require my moving to the Washington, D.C. area after the first of the new year. Our Vice-president, Tom Shane, will step in as President.

As a lifetime member of KOS I will continue to support the group in any capacity possible. KOS is a great organization and I've enjoyed my tenure on the board the past few years. Any organization is only as good as its members and we've been fortunate to have tremendous leadership, thus a successful organization. There are some exciting challenges ahead for KOS to consider including: what we should do with current land holdings, status of ad hoc committees, and especially the ever changing dynamics of the World Wide Web. Wouldn't it be nice to search for your favorite subject in KOS Bulletins on the web?

With this letter of resignation I wish the current board and the new President, Tom, good luck next year and well into the future. It has been a tremendous pleasure serving KOS.

Sincerely,
Gene Young

Editor's note: The Board of Directors reluctantly accepted Gene's letter of resignation. In keeping with the By-laws of the organization, Tom Shane moved from Vice-president to President, the board elected board member Marvin Kuehn to Vice-president, and long time KOS member Lowell Johnson, of Manhattan, was elected to finish Marvin's term as a Board Member.

We regret that this photo is not available on this electronic version of the newsletter.

Nancy Harness, Tom Shane and Debra Bolton stop to rest at the ruins of the 19th Century home of the Lenihan family, during the 6 mile hike on the Canyonlands: S.E. Logan County Winter Bird Count held December 15, 2002. The first Rock Wren had just been found singing on the rock peaks in the background.

Photo by Sara Shane

Birding Resources

by John Rakestraw

In birding, as in most activities, experience is the best teacher. Just getting out and observing birds will teach you much about their identification and behavior. But unless you have several decades with nothing else to do but bird (sounds good to me), you should invest some time in studying some basic resources to hasten your learning curve.

Virtually everyone with more than a passing interest in birds probably owns at least one **field guide**. The field guide is the basic reference for identifying birds to species.

There are many field guides to choose from, and each birder has his or her favorites. I am currently using two, the National Geographic and the Sibley Guide. The Sibley guide goes into the greatest detail, showing all species in flight and in various plumages, and the artwork is consistently good. The National Geographic guide uses the work of many different artists, so some plates are wonderful while others are not. The strength of the National Geographic guide is its completeness. It includes many more vagrants than does the Sibley guide. You probably won't find a Common Crane or Long-toed Stint on your next trip to Quivira. But if you do, the Sibley guide, while wonderful in many respects, will not help you.

Despite the title, a field guide should actually be used primarily at home. Study every page, making notes of which species are most likely to occur in your area. Don't wait until a bird is in front of you to start madly flipping through the guide in an attempt to find and name that bird. Spend your time watching the bird, and then consult the field guide if needed.

I do not recommend regional or beginner field guides. You will inevitably find a bird that is not included in these abbreviated guides.

In addition to the traditional field guides, consider some of the many **family specific identification guides**. These books concentrate on a single group of birds, such as shorebirds, gulls, sparrows, hummingbirds, or warblers, and provide much more detailed information than is available in a pocket-sized field guide.

Your library should include at least one book on **birding techniques**, a reference that teaches you how to find birds

and what to look for once you do find them. [The Complete Birder](#), by Jack Connor, is a wonderful introduction to many aspects of birding. [Sibley's Birding Basics](#), by David Sibley, provides great detail about the structure and arrangement of feathers and the process of molt, important concepts to grasp if you need to study fine details in order to identify a difficult species.

Bird distribution guides tell you what birds have been recorded in an area and when. These references help you learn what birds to expect during different seasons. Examples in this category include [Birds in Kansas \(vol. 1 and 2\)](#), by Thompson and Ely, [Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas](#), by Busby and Zimmerman, and [Birds of Cimarron National Grassland](#), by Cable, Seltman, and Cook (U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report RM-GTR-281).

Knowing how to identify birds is one thing, but you also need to know where to find them. **Site guides** give you directions to specific birding areas and tell you what to expect once you get there. While some of the information is out of date, the most detailed site guide for Kansas is [A Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri](#), by Zimmerman and Patti. [Watching Kansas Wildlife](#), by Gress and Potts, is a concise site guide for finding a variety of wildlife species.

One of the most valuable resources for a birder is the company of other more experienced birders. The solitude and quiet found while birding alone are wonderful experiences, which I highly recommend. But if you want to learn your way around a new site or learn to identify new species, seek out other birders. Those who have a lot of experience with a species can give you identification tips not found in any field guide. You can even learn a lot by arguing with other birders about bird identification. If you have to justify your identification, you will be forced to carefully study the finest details of plumage and behavior. Even if your companions are not any more experienced than you are, extra sets of eyes will increase the number of species you find.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

<http://ksbirds.org> - Your source for Kanas Bird info

Statewide Shorebird Survey – 2002 Preliminary Results

by Helen Hands

We have completed the first year of the statewide shorebird survey. Over 50 people volunteered to survey 51 sites. As you may recall, I asked volunteers to select a site to conduct shorebird surveys. Sites should have potential to attract shorebirds and be convenient enough for volunteers to visit several times. I asked volunteers to count shorebirds at their sites twice monthly between March 16 and May 31 and July 1 through October 31. Frequent surveys are needed to describe migration chronology and are necessary to detect shorebird use of ephemeral habitats. Although it would be better to survey sites more frequently, perhaps as often as twice a week, it probably isn't feasible for many volunteers.

So far I have received data for 39 sites (78%) surveyed in spring and 34 sites (68%) surveyed in summer-fall. Below I summarize the results from these sites plus Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, which I have been surveying since 1992.

In spring, 30 species of shorebirds and 97,342 individuals were recorded. "Peeps" (28%) were the most common shorebirds reported, followed by Wilson's phalaropes (20%), dowitchers (17%), and stilt sandpipers (14%). Of the small calidrids (i.e., peeps) identified, Baird's, semipalmated, and white-rumped sandpipers were reported most often.

During summer-fall, fewer individuals (75,393) were observed than in spring, but number of species was the same. "Dowitchers" (34%) were the most common species reported, followed by "peeps" (19%), stilt sandpipers (10%), killdeer (9%), and lesser yellowlegs (8%). Semipalmated and Baird's sandpipers were the most common peeps identified.

Not surprisingly, number of shorebirds reported in spring was highest at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), Quivira National Wildlife Area (QNWR), and The Nature Conservancy Preserve at Cheyenne Bottoms. After these traditional hotspots came Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge (FNWR), and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge. During summer-fall, shorebird numbers were again highest at CBWA and QNWR, followed by FNWR and Fort Riley.

Shorebird numbers in spring peaked during the first and second weeks of May (62% of shorebirds) followed by the third and fourth weeks of April (16%) and the first and second weeks of April (13%). During summer-fall, shorebird numbers were highest during

September (24%), but the peak was much less dramatic than in spring.

As you can see from the map, sites for which I have received data in spring and/or summer-fall are concentrated in northeast Kansas. I have not yet received data for several sites that people volunteered to survey. These sites include a few state-owned marshes; large reservoirs; small, private lakes; and small private marshes. I still hope to receive 2002 data from those who volunteered for these sites. Reservoirs like Milford and Tuttle Creek can have extensive shoreline habitat, so several people working as a team would make surveying these areas more feasible. There also are other sites that have potential for shorebird use for which no one has volunteered. So if you didn't volunteer last year and would like to volunteer this year, call me at 620-793-3066 or e-mail me at helenh@wp.state.ks.us. Volunteers will receive a shorebird identification book and video.

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



Bald Eagle by Matt Gearheart

Best Birds of the Year

Best birds of the year is a report that everyone looks forward to at the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet. Anyone can nominate candidates for this list and a committee, that wishes to remain anonymous, determines the final list and ranking. It is important to note that the list does not necessarily represent records submitted or approved by the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), although we encourage everyone to submit records to same. The list, as reported by Max Thompson in Meade, follows along with Max's comments. Enjoy!

11. Rufous-crowned Sparrow. First state nesting record, Barber Co., Sebastian Patti et al.

10. Golden-crowned Sparrow. Linn County 3/29/02 Mick McHugh (around 13 state records).

9. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Scott Co., 8/14/00, Tom and Sara Shane (northern most record for state).

8. Common Ground-dove, December 2001- March 2002. Mark Corder. Northeast Kansas record.

7. Fish Crow. 02/03/02, Douglas Co., Mark Robbins (winter record and northern most record for state).

6. Roseate Spoonbill. John Redmond Reservoir, Coffey County, 6 previous records.

5. Anhinga, Linn Co., 6/23/02, David Seibel (6th state record).

4. Lesser Nighthawk. Cherokee Co., 5/4/02, Elkhart - Morton Co. 9/1/02, 5 or fewer state records.

3. Curlew Sandpiper, 6/12/02, Quivira. Less than 5 state records.

2. Gull-billed Tern, 9/21/02, Gregg Friesen, Liberal sewer ponds, Seward Co., 2nd state record.

1. Brambling, Washington Co., January 22-23, 2002 Warren Buss. (This record was submitted to KBRC, along with video tape evidence and accepted. It will be a new species on the next KOS State Checklist.)

Honorable Mention: Vermillion Flycatcher, Lewis's Woodpecker, White-winged Crossbill, Snowy Owls, Brown Pelicans

We regret that this photo is not available on this electronic version of the newsletter.

The December 19, 2002 Cedar Bluffs CBC crew, Mike Rader, Pete Janzen, Sara Shane, Scott Seltman, Larry Hesel and Gregg Friesen, are ready with their afternoon assignments after lunching on top of the dam.

Photo by Tom Shane

KANSAS FALL SEASON ROUNDUP

August 1, 2002 through November 30, 2002

By Lloyd Moore

The 2002 Fall Season was an exciting period for Kansas birders. Western hummingbirds began arriving in late July and continued through August and September with even a few reports in October and one in November. The extreme drought in the west, which undoubtedly had an effect on flowering plants, apparently caused this movement of large numbers of hummingbirds through the plains states. These conditions may also have been the cause for the arrival of Lewis's Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay and Pinyon Jay as well as other western species not normally found in the state. Western Scrub-Jays were especially numerous and were reported from seven counties. Other species of note this fall include, only

the third record of **Yellow-billed Loon** and the second record of **Gull-billed Tern**. Also reported this fall were Brown Pelican the third reported for the year, Roseate Spoonbill, Gyrfalcon, a Parasitic Jaeger made an appearance at the KOS fall meeting in Meade, a Common Raven heard calling south of Goodland and two early arriving Snow Buntings at Perry Lake. Among the waterfowl reported were all three species of scoter, with Surf Scoter being the most numerous (reported from 11 counties). Shorebirds put on a good showing at the usual locations in Barton and Stafford Counties as well as other locations where there was water. Buff breasted Sandpiper was numerous during their migration window of 1

August through the first week of September. Far east of its normal migration route was a Mountain Plover found at Cheyenne Bottoms on 2 September.

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 KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

*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>
Red-throated Loon	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/09	NL,JS
	<D> 1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/27	MT,KG
Pacific Loon	2 at Scott Lake	Scott	11/01	T&SSh
	<D> 2 at Meade State Lake	Meade	11/10	SP,CH
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/17	MR
Common Loon	32 at Cheney Rs.	Sedgwick/Reno	11/02	PJ
Yellow-billed Loon	<D> 1 at Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	11/10-19	SP,CH,m:ob
Horned Grebe	50 at Milford Lake	Geary	11/03	CO
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/12	SM,MT
Eared Grebe	60 at Milford Lake	Geary	11/03	CO
Western Grebe	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>8/13</u>	CG
	2 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/02	AP
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/04	MR
	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	11/03	CO
	1 at "The Cloisters" ponds	Sedgwick	11/05	DV
	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	11/03	TSw
	2 at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/09	BF,BAS
	1 at Lovewell Rs.	Jewell	11/09	HA
2 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/11	M&ER	

Western Grebe, <i>cont</i>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/11	MR,SP,CH
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/13	C&JO
	1 at Kingman State Fishing Lake	Kingman	11/16	KG
	1 at Ritchie Sand Pit, Wichita	Sedgwick	11/17	B&NB
	1 at Cheney Rs.	Kingman	11/17	PJ,WAS
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/11	M&ER
	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	11/15	CG,MG
	1 at Ritchie Sand Pit, Wichita	Sedgwick	11/23	CG,PJ
<u>Brown Pelican</u>	<D> 1 at Marion Lake	Marion	10/23-31	TR,m:ob
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Lake Afton	Sedgwick	10/13	DV,FV
	2 at John Redmond Rs.	Coffey	11/30	AS
American Bittern	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	10/29	MR,JD,JV
Great Egret	300+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR
	100+ at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	8/18	MC,MM,GP
Snowy Egret	250+ at Cheyenne Bottoms B	arton	8/19	MR
Green Heron	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	<u>11/01</u>	WCT
Blk-crnd Night-Heron	61 on playa lakes survey	Finney	8/01	T&SSh
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	8/13	CG
White-faced Ibis	125+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR
<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	2 at Flint Hills N.W.R.	Coffey	8/11	TM
Snow Goose	<u>180,000</u> at Lovewell Rs.	Jewell	11/09	HA
Ross's Goose	20 in a field	Marion	11/10	CG
Trumpeter Swan	2 on farm pond near Onaga (1 wearing red neck collar)	Pottawatomie	11/24	CA
	2 at Wilson Lake (Both with red neck collars as well as red bands on right leg.)	Russell	11/27	M&ER
American Black Duck	1 below Melvern Lk. Dam	Osage	11/09	BF,BAS
	1 at Glen Elder Rs.	Mitchell	11/09	HA
Greater Scaup	3 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	11/03	AP
	4 at Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	11/16	SS,HA
Surf Scoter	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	10/22	T&SSh
	1 at Tuttle Creek river pond area	Riley	10/26	KKo
	4 at Pott. State Fishing Lake #2	Pottawatomie	10/26	DR
	3 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	10/28	ML
	2 at Lake McCoid in Liberal	Seward	10/28	SS,JD,JV
	11 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	10/30	ML
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/08	B&NB
	1 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	Morton	11/09	SP,CH
	1 on a pond	Harvey	11/15	RW,BD
	1 at Butler Co. State Lake	Butler	11/19-30	LH,m:ob
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/27	MT
White-winged Scoter	1 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	Morton	11/05	L&RS
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/16	GP
Black Scoter	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	10/30	ML
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Farnum Creek, Milford Lake	Geary	11/29	CO

Osprey	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	8/12	JP
Mississippi Kite	1 at 75 th & Lamar OP KS	Johnson	8/01	MG
	1 in Smith Center	Smith	8/13	MR
	63 at Scott City	Scott	8/24	T&SSh
	80 th & Santa Fe, OP, KS	Johnson	8/24	MG
	I-35 & Roe Ave.	Wyandotte	8/28	MG
Cooper's Hawk	95 in 2 kettles at Garden City	Finney	9/16	T&SSh,MRa
	1 adult female	Linn	8/16	MM
	1 pair	Miami	8/18	MC,MM,GP
Northern Goshawk	1 flew thru yard in Olathe	Johnson	8/18	MC
	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	9/22	SS,MR,DK
	<D> 1 at Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City	Finney	10/03	DB,T&SSh
	1 imm. NW of Larned	Pawnee	10/14	SS
	1 adult in S. Olathe	Johnson	10/25	MC
Broad-winged Hawk	1 imm. NW of Larned	Pawnee	11/06	SS
	1 7mi SW of Nekoma	Rush	11/17	SS
	2 at Wilburton Crossing	<u>Morton</u>	9/21	PJ,CG,KG
	1 juv. in Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	9/22	SS,MR,DK
	1 at Garden City	Finney	9/22	T&SSh
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	9/28	MR
Swainson's Hawk	1 southern Meade Co.	Meade	10/06	SS,DS,SSt
	2 along I-70	Wabaunsee	10/05	MG,WCT
	1 over KCKs	Wyandotte	10/21	MC
	409 in tilled field 2 mi S. of Morton/Stanton county line along K-27. Additionally 200+ were seen in another field about ½ mi further north. Morton		9/22	C&JO
	150-200 E. of Meade State Lake	Meade	9/23	GP,MC,MM
2 kettles of 100+ each	Seward & Stevens	9/19	PJ,CG,KG	
<i>(Also a very large group in Ford Co.)</i>				
	150 in a kettle over Elk Falls	Elk	10/01	GW
	100+ in kettle N. of Winfield	Cowley	10/01	MT
Rough-legged Hawk	1 early in Rush Co.	Rush	<u>10/02</u>	DS,SSt
	1 in southern Gray Co.	Gray	<u>10/01</u>	TF
<u>Gyrfalcon</u>	1 imm. 2mi S. of Nekoma	Rush	11/06	SS
<D>	1 at Sundance Area, Melvern Lk.	Osage	11/09	BF,BAS
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR
	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	9/26	CO
	1 in Topeka	Shawnee	9/29	DL
	1 a fly by at NESA	Jefferson	10/02	GP
Prairie Falcon	1 near Dunavent	Jefferson	11/11	SS
Greater Prairie-Chicken	6 in pasture E. of Lenora	Norton	8/04	SS
Sora	1 on playa lakes survey	<u>Finney</u>	8/01	T&SSh
Whooping Crane	4 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	10/18	HA
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/19	BG,MBu
	2 at Lovewell Rs.	Jewell	11/09	HA
Black-bellied Plover	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/13	CG
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/23	MR
	20+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/26	SS

American Golden-Plover	250+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/23	MR	
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/26	SS	
Piping Plover	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	8/02	GP	
Mountain Plover	3 n of K-51 & E of Gas Plant Rd.	Morton	8/14	SS,MR	
<D>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/02	JN	
American Avocet	350+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/06	MR	
Solitary Sandpiper	23 on playa lakes survey	Finney	8/01	T&SSh	
Upland Sandpiper	1 calling over Wilson	Ellsworth	<u>10/02</u>	MR	
	1 at Junction City	Geary	<u>10/02</u>	JO	
Marbled Godwit	3 at Milford Lake	Geary	8/24	CO	
	1 at Satanta sewer ponds	Haskell	8/25	MR	
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/15	BF,GJ	
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/13	CG	
Red Knot	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/06	MG,WCT	
Sanderling	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/13	CG	
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	8/13	CG	
	12 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/15	CG	
	1 at Scott Lake	<u>Scott</u>	9/15	T&SSh	
	1 at Playa	<u>Cheyenne</u>		9/15	HA
	35 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/19	HH	
White-rumped Sandpiper	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/15	BF,GJ	
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/26	SS	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/01	HH	
	2 at a playa lake	Harper	8/03	B&NB	
	119 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	8/03	DV	
	3 at Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	8/04	GP	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at Antioch sod farms	Johnson	8/08	ML	
	157 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	8/07	JQ	
	80 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	8/10	DV,FV,ST	
	4 at Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	8/10	MM	
	40 at Flint Hills NWR	Coffey	8/12	CG	
	2 at Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	8/31	MM,GP,DSe	
	3 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	8/31	MM,GP,DSe	
	25 at Bloomington Beach, Clinton Lk.	Douglas	9/06	DG	
	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/07	WAS	
	7 at Clinton Lake,m Wakarusa arm	Douglas	9/09	AP	
Short-billed Dowitcher	3 on playa lakes survey	Finney	8/01	T&SSH	
	1 calling at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR	
Long-billed Dowitcher	5000+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/06	MR	
Red-necked Phalaropes	8-12 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/15	BF,GJ,CG	
Red Phalarope	1 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Seward	9/18	SP	
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	1 KOS fall meeting at Meade	Meade	10/06	MT, m:ob	
Laughing Gull	1basic adult, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/13	CG	
	1 1 st yr at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR	
	1 1 st yr at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/15	BF,GJ	

Franklin's Gull	50,000-100,000 at Junction City	Geary	9/25	CO
California Gull	1 1 st winter at Cheney Rs.	Reno	9/19	PJ,CG,KG
	1 imm. at Wilson Lake	Russell	10/13	MR
	1 1 st winter at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/09	MG,MC,MM,WCT
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/19	GY
Gull-billed Tern <D>	1 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Seward	9/21	GF,RW,KS
Common Tern	2 at Rocky Ford	Pottawatomie	10/12	DR
<u>Least Tern</u>	1 1 st yr bird at Marion Reservoir	Marion	8/17	CG
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR
Black Tern	<u>200+</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	MR
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 in Minneola	Clark	8/10	GP
	1 in Smith Center	Smith	8/13	MR
	1 in Felker Park, Topeka	Shawnee	8/26	DG
	3 at St. Francis	Cheyenne	8/31	HA
	3-4 in Newton	Harvey	9/07	RW
	2 in Sublette	Haskell	9/22	BM
	3 in Dwight	Morris	10/14	C&JO
	1	Anderson	10/13	CS
	16 in Kinsley	Edwards	11/01	SS
	15 in Great Bend	Barton	11/07	MR
	2 in Lebo	Coffey	11/09	BF,BAS
	1 in Gardner	Johnson	11/09	MG,MC,MM,WCT
	35 in Cimarron	Gray	11/17	T&SSh
	2 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	11/29	MR
White-winged Dove	1 at Garden City res.	Finney	8/13	L&BR
	1 in Elkhart	Morton	8/31	TH,CG
Inca Dove	1 in Elkhart	Morton	8/31	TH,CG
	10 in Hugoton	Stevens	9/22	SS,MR,DK
	1 at Big Sampson rest area on US54	Seward	11/10	SP,CH
Common Ground-Dove <D>	1 at res. In Wichita	Sedgwick	10/08	RG,DKi,ST,DV
Black-billed Cuckoo	3 near Perry Lake	Jefferson	<u>9/30</u>	MW
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Pair nest building at NESA	Jefferson	<u>8/27</u>	GP
Greater Roadrunner	7 chicks seen crossing hwy K-49	Sumner	8/03	LM
Eastern Screech Owl	3 at Bear Creek	<u>Stanton</u>	9/15	SS,MR
Burrowing Owl	<u>40</u> N of K-51, ½ mi E of CO line	Morton	9/14	SS,MR
Common Nighthawk <D>	1 at Eisenhower State Park	Osage	11/12	EW
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at Finrock residence	Finney	8/07	
	1 adult female	Meade	8/09	TF
	1 female at residence in Wilson	Ellsworth	8/09-10	MR
	4 at Schartz res. Larned	Pawnee	8/22	SS
	3 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	8/24	M&ER,J&NC
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 adult male at Shane res.	Finney	9/11	T&SSh
	2 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	9/14	SS,MR
	1 at NESA	Jefferson	10/02	GP
	1 at res. Near Wilson Lake	Lincoln	10/02	MR,JZ
	1 at Thompson res., Winfield	Cowley	10/02	MT

<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u>	1 imm male at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/04	MO, TSh
	1 adult male	Meade	8/09	TF
	1 female at Kazmaier's	Pawnee	8/09	S&DS,D&KK
	1 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	8/24	M&ER,J&NC
	1 at Kazmaier res., Larned	Pawnee	9/08	D&KK
	1 female at Shane res.	Finney	10/01-12	T&SSh
	1 at Shane res.	Finney	10/14-18	T&SSh
<i>'Archilochus' Hummingbird</i>	2 imm/female in Satanta	Haskell	8/09	J&NC
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	2 at Osterbuhr's residence	Finney	8/04	MO, TSh
	1 imm. male at Shane's	Finney	8/08	T&SSh, GP
	3 at a Goodland residence	Sherman	8/09	JP
	3 imm male, 1 imm female@Shane's	Finney	8/09	T&SSh
	1 6mi N. Garden City	Finney	8/07-09	M&PR
	1 imm/female at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	8/08-09	NC
	1 at residence in Satanta	Haskell	8/09	J&NC
	2 female/imm. at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/12	S&DS,D&KK,MO
	1 imm. at Medicine Lodge res.	Barber	8/13	DA
	2 female/imm. at Shane's	Finney	8/14	T&SSh
	2 at Ramsey res. Garden City	Finney	8/20	M&PR
	2 imm. male at Shane's	Finney	8/20	T&SSh
	2 at Shane res. Garden City	Finney	8/22	T&SSh
	(not same 2 as on 8/20)			
	4 at Conover res. Satanta	Haskell	8/24	M&ER,J&NC
	1 in Elkhart	Morton	8/31	BP,CW
	3 at Shane res, Garden City	Finney	9/09	T&SSh
	1 at Shane res, Garden City	Finney	9/10	T&SSh
	1 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	9/11	J&NC
	3 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	9/13	T&SSh
	2 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	9/14	SS,MR
	1 at Seltman res.	Rush	9/14	S&DS,SSt
	1 in El Rancho parking lot	Morton	9/20	PJ,CG,KG,m:ob
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 imm at Shane residence	Finney	8/01	T&SSh
	2 imm M&F at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/04	MO, TSh
	1 adult male at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/08	MO, T&SSh,GP
	1 imm female at Shane's	Finney	8/08-09	T&SSh
	1 female at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	8/09	NC,PJ,CG
	1 adult female at Wilson residence	Ellsworth	8/09	MR
	1 at residence in Satanta	Haskell	8/09	J&NC
	1 adult & 1 imm male at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/12	MO,S&DS,D&KK
	1 imm. male at Shane's	Finney	8/20	T&SSh
	2 imm. females at Shane's	Finney	8/20	T&SSh
	1 adult female at Schartz	Pawnee	8/22	SS
	3 at Shane res. Garden City	Pawnee	8/22	T&SSh
	1 female at Seltman res.	Rush	8/23	S&DS
	1 ad. Female at Conover res.	Haskell	8/24	M&ER,J&NC
	1 at CNG work station	Morton	8/31	BP,CW
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 at Shane res, Garden City	Finney	9/09	T&SSh
	3 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	9/13	T&SSh
	1 adult female at Conover res.	Haskell	9/14	SS,MR
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Shane's (first seen on 7/31)	Finney	8/01	T&SSh

1 imm. female at Shane's	Finney	8/01	T&SSh
2 imm, M&F at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/04	MO, TSh
5+ imm/female at Osterbuhr's	Finney	8/08	MO,T&SSh,GP
2 at Finrock residence	Finney	8/08	T&SSh,GP
1 female at Larned residence	Pawnee	8/09	D&KK
1 adult male at Winfield	Cowley	8/13	MT
1 female,1 male imms. At Shane's	Finney	8/15	T&SSh
1 female/imm at Lone Star res.	Douglas	8/16	PW
1 imm. at Salina res.	Saline	8/18	NH
2 at Cawker City res.	Mitchell	8/19	HA
1 imm. male at Manhattan	Riley	8/19	DR
1 female at Ramsey res.	Finney	8/20	M&PR
1 imm. male	Finney	8/20	T&SSh
1 adult & 1 imm. male at res.	Sedgwick	8/20-22	TH
7+ at Schartz res. Larned	Pawnee	8/22	SS
5 at Shane res. Garden City	Finney	8/22	T&SSh
1 at Rich res. Garden City	Finney	8/22	L&BR
1 adult male at Cawker City	Mitchell	8/23	HA
3 at Conover res. Satanta	Haskell	8/24	M&ER,J&NC
2 at Ogden res.	Riley	8/31	C&HHo
4 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	9/10-11	T&SSh
1 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	9/11	J&NC
7 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	9/13	T&SSh
2 adult female at Conover res.	Haskell	9/14	SS,MR
1 in Johnson	Stanton	9/15	SS,MR
1 in El Rancho parking lot	Morton	9/21	PJ,CG,KG,m:ob
1 at Shane res. Garden City	Finney	9/21	T&SSh
2 imm M&F at Shane res.	Finney	10/02-18	T&SSh
1 at res. In Olathe	Johnson	10/02-04	MC
1 imm. male at res. In Larned	Pawnee	10/14-11/06	D&KK
<D> 1 at res. In Prairie Village	Johnson	11/09	NL,JL

The following are comments from Don Kazmaier of Larned about hummingbirds that were seen at his residence from 8/01-9/03.

"By my unofficial count, we've had 39 hummers in the yard this year. Of those, all but fourteen have been Rufous!! (7 Calliope, 4 Ruby Throat, 2 Broadtails, and 1 Black Chin.). This evening we had 6 birds here-----4 Rufous, 1 Ruby Throat and 1 Calliope. Until 2 weeks ago all the birds were using flowers. At that point a couple Rufous began using the feeders. Also reporting hummers in Larned were Joe Twitchel, Jan Gleason, Omar Schartz, Ron & Patti Connery and Ed & Donna Meyers."

<u>Lewis' Woodpecker</u>	<D> 1 at Clinton State Park	Douglas	10/12	GPa
	1 at Cheney Rs.	Reno	11/04	DV,FV
	<D> 1 in Liberal	Seward	11/10	SP,CH
<u>Red-naped Sapsucker</u>	1 east of K-27 bridge	Morton	9/14	SS,MR
	<D> 1 at Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	9/23	GP,MC,MM
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	3 along Cimarron River	Morton	9/19	GF,RW,KS
Western Wood-Pewee	1 at Shane res.	Finney	9/13	T&SSh
<u>Hammond's Flycatcher</u>	1 well seen at Satanta	Haskell	8/25	MR
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	9/01	BP,CW
	1 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	Morton	9/21	PJ,CG,KG
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	Morton	9/21	PJ,CG,KG

Dusky Flycatcher	1 at Garden City res. 1 at CNG Boy Scout Area	Finney Morton	8/12 9/01	S&DS,D&KK,MO BP,CW
<u>Cordilleran Flycatcher</u>	1 heard calling, Garden City res. 1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Finney Morton	8/12 9/21	S&DS,D&KK,MO SS,MR,DK
Say's Phoebe	12+ in CRP field E. of Meade	Meade	9/08	TF
Ash-throated Flycatcher <D>	1 at Big Spring, Scott State Park	<u>Scott</u>	8/14	T&SSh
Cassin's Kingbird	1 at K-27 bridge 3 on road north of Cimarron R. 1 at Beymer Ponds	Morton Morton Kearny	8/30 9/21 9/22	BP,CW PJ,CG,KG T&SSh
Western Kingbird	1 at golf course in Garden City	Finney	<u>10/11</u>	T&SSh
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 in Great Bend 1 on Melvern Lake dam	Barton Osage	<u>11/07</u> <u>11/16</u>	MR MM
Northern Shrike	1 at Seltman res. 1 at Quivira NWR 1 N. of Larned 1 at Cheney Rs. 2 at Lovewell Rs. 1 at Winfield City Lake 1 N of Eisenhower St. Park	Rush Stafford Pawnee Reno Jewell Cowley Osage	10/25 10/26 10/30 11/2 11/09 11/12 11/16	SS MG,WCT SS PJ HA SM MM
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	1 at CNG Work Station 1 at Elkhart shelterbelt <D> 1 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	Morton Morton Morton	8/31-9/01 9/20 9/22	BP,CW PJ,CG,KG GP,MC,MM
<u>Steller's Jay</u>	1 at CNG Boy Scout Area 1 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	Morton Morton	9/22 9/22	SS,MR,DK GP,MC,MM
<u>Western Scrub-Jay</u>	60+ seen in several areas 1 at Conover res., Satanta 2 at Conover res. 1 at west crossing Cimarron R. 2 at golf course NE of Johnson 1 at Big Sampson bridge 5 at Hugoton & 1 W on US-56 15 at Point of Rocks CNG 2 at CNG Boy Scout Area 6 at North Fork of Cimarron R. 15 at west crossing of Cimarron R. 21+ at K-27 bridge 1 at Clark Co. State Lake 1 at farm 5mi S. of Satanta 5 in Hugoton 4 at feeder in southern Meade Co. 3 at North Fork of Cimarron 3 at Conover res., Satanta	Morton Haskell Haskell Morton Stanton Seward Stevens Morton Morton Morton Morton Clark Seward Stevens Meade Morton Haskell	8/31-9/1 9/11 9/14 9/14 9/15 9/18 9/18 9/18 9/18 9/21 9/21 9/22 9/22 9/27 10/28 10/31 11/10 11/29	m:ob J&NC SS,MR SS,MR SS,MR SP SP SP SP PJ,CG,KG PJ,CG,KG SS,MR,DK PJ,CG,KG JC SS,JD,JV TF SP,CH MR
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	6 at Cimarron R. west crossing (On 9/19, while at the Boy Scout Area, PJ et al observed a group of 50+ birds flying along the river. Shape and flight style indicated they could be Pinyon Jays however they were to distant to be sure.) 6 or so at K-27 Bridge (As these birds were flying west along the river they may well have been the same birds that PJ et al observed an hour or two later.)	Morton Morton	9/21 9/21	PJ,CG,KG GP,MC,MM

	1 at res. In S. Garden City	Finney	10/03	MS
Black-billed Magpie	1 E. end Tuttle Creek Dam	Pottawatomie	10/09	DBu
<u>Common Raven</u>	1 heard calling at Sherman Co. Wildlife Area south of Goodland	Sherman	8/04	TC
Violet-green Swallow	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	9/01	BP,CW
N. Rough-winged Swallow	50 in Unit G Marais des Cygne	Linn	11/09	MG,MC,MM,WCT
Mountain Chickadee	1 E of K-27 campground CNG	Morton	11/09	SP,CH
Rock Wren	1 on Cheney Rs. Dam	Sedgwick	11/29	JB
House Wren	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/21	DKI,GS
Winter Wren	1 near res. In Pittsburg	Crawford	10/13	RM
	1 at Maple Grove Cem., Wichita	Sedgwick	10/27	CM,WAS
	4 at North Fork of Cimarron	Morton	11/10	SP,CH
	1 near Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/11	SS
	2 in Durham Cove, Marion Lk.	Marion	11/16	PJ,BD
	1 at Janzen res., Wichita	Sedgwick	11/16	PJ
	3 at Cheney Rs. On nature trail		11/17	PJ,WAS
	3 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	11/28	BA
Mountain Bluebird	2 near Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	10/06	SS,DS,SSt
	8 along Arkansas River road	Finney	10/19	T&SSh
	2 W. of Elkhart	Morton	10/28	SS,JD,JV
	Several small groups	Pawnee	11/04	SS
	4 at Lovewell Rs.	Jewell	11/09	HA
	45 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/11	M&ER
	4 at Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	11/11	B&NB
	20 at Cedar Bluff Rs.	Trego	11/15	CG,MG
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Shane res. Garden City	Finney	10/19	T&SSh
	1	Morton	10/14	CG,MG
	1 at Cedar Bluff Rs.	Trego	11/15	CG,MG
	1 at Clark Co. State Lake	Clark	11/25	CA
Gray Catbird	1 in Elkhart	Morton	11/09	SP,CH
Sage Thrasher	3 at "Patti Canyon"	Morton	9/20	PJ,CG,KG
Curve-billed Thrasher	2 at "goat pens" N. of Elkhart	Morton	10/28	SS,JD,JV
	1 at res. in Meade	Meade	11/13	TF
Sprague's Pipit	1 NW of West. Crossing	<u>Morton</u>	10/28	SS,JD,JV
Yellow Warbler	1 at Mom Seltman's	Pawnee	10/30	SS
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1 CNG Work Station	Morton	9/01	BP,CW
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2 in Elkhart	Morton	9/01	TH,CG
	1 in Maple Grove Cem. Wichita	Sedgwick	9/15	PJ
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 in Linn Co.	Linn	<u>9/07</u>	MM
	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	<u>9/16</u>	TSw
Pine Warbler	1 in Maple Grove Cem. Wichita	Sedgwick	9/07	PJ
	1 at Maple Grove Cem.	Sedgwick	9/15	CG
	1 at Tuttle Cove Park	Riley	9/21	TC
	1 at Tuttle Cove Park	Riley	9/24	TC
	1 at Wilson State Park HQ	Russell	10/08	MR

	1 at Pott. State Fishing Lake #2	Pottawatomie	10/26	DR
Prairie Warbler	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	9/15	BA
Palm Warbler	1 western ssp. At Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/12	AP,MP,AN
Mourning Warbler	1 at Felker Park, Topeka	Shawnee	9/11	DG
	1 at OP Arboretum	Johnson	9/15	GP,DSe
Canada Warbler	1 in Elkhart	Morton	8/31	BP,CW
	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	9/06	DV, FV
Summer Tanager	1 at Middle Spring CNG	Morton	9/18	SP
Scarlet Tanager	1 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	<u>Morton</u>	9/21	PJ,CG,KG
Western Tanager	1 female at Shane res.	Finney	9/13	T&SSh
	1 along "turkey trail" Cim. R.	Morton	9/14	SS,MR
	2 at K-27 Campground	Morton	9/18	SP
	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	9/20	PJ,CG,KG
	1 at Salina	Saline	9/22	MB,m:ob
Green-tailed Towhee	1 E. of Wilburton Pond	Morton	8/31	BP,CW
	1 at "Patti Canyon"	Morton	9/20	PJ,CG,KG
	2 at North Fork of Cimarron R.	Morton	9/21	PJ,CG,KG
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 4mi NW of Clark State Fishing Lk.	Clark	<u>10/26</u>	GP
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	9/14	SS,MR
Lark Sparrows	100+ in pasture E. of Lenora <i>(Mostly juveniles, indicating a good nesting season despite the extreme dryness of the area.)</i>	Norton	8/04	SS
LeConte's Sparrow	60+ at Baker Wetlands, Lawrence	Douglas	10/13	AP,MP,AN
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp.	1 at Baker Wetlands, Lawrence	Douglas	10/12	AP,MP,AN
	5 at Baker Wetlands, Lawrence	Douglas	10/13	AP,MP,AN
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	10/13	MR
	2 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/21	DKI,GS
Smith's Longspur	75 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	11/09	BF,BAS
Snow Bunting	4 flying along Perry Lake dam	Jefferson	11/08	SP,CH
Purple Finch	4 at Pott. State Fishing Lake #2	Pottawatomie	10/26	DR
	4 East side Tuttle Creek Lake	Pottawatomie	10/26	DBu
Pine Siskin	10+ at K-27 bridge	Morton	9/22	SS,MR,DK
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at K-27 bridge	Morton	9/22	SS,MR,DK
Evening Grosbeak	1 at Janzen res., Wichita	Sedgwick	11/01	PJ

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. These are species that should be documented to the KBRC.

<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 (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygne W. A. (MdcWA), Ft. Hays State University (FHSU)

Observers: Dennis Angle, Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Marty Bender, Dan Baffa, Mary Butel (MBu), Doris Burnett (DBu), James Barnes, Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Ted Cable, Nick Clausen, Jack Conover, Jack & Norma Conover (J&NC), Jon Dunn, Bob Dester, Tom Flowers, Bob Fisher, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Chet Gresham, Dan Gish, Kevin Groeneweg, Rick Goodrick, Bob Gress, Tyler Hicks, Leon Hicks, Helen Hands, Carol & Hoogy Hoogheem (C&HHo), Nancy Highgate, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Gary Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Don & Kathy Kazmaier (D&KK), Dan Kilby (DKi), Dan Kluza (DKl), Karl Kosciuch (KKo), Mark Land, Dan Larson, Nancy Leo, Jane Leo, Linda Mallonee, Mick McHugh, Tim Menard, Bob McMullen, Robert Mangile, Cheryl Miller, Scott Morrical, Arpad Nyari, Jackie Nooker, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Galen Pittman, John Palmquist, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Brandon Percival, Alexis Powell, Sebastian Patti, Monica Papes, Jane Queal, Mike Ramsey (MRa), Mike & Pamela Ramsey (M&PR), Mike Rader, Mike & Ellen Rader (M&ER), Dave Rintoul, Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Traci Robb, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Steven Seltman (SSt), David Seibel (DSe), Kemper Straley, Terry Swope (TSw), Mark Sexson, Carolyn Schwab, Greg Schrott, Jo Seamon, Lawrence & Ruth Smith (L&RS), Art Swalwell, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Will Chatfield Taylor, Don Vannoy, Fran Vannoy, John Vanderpoel, Phil Wedge, Margaret Wedge, Chris Wood, Gloria Wolf, Rod Wedel, Edge Wade, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Gene Young, Jeremy Zimmerman,



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
By Matt Gearheart

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.

Book Review -

The Cooper's Hawk: A Cross Timbers Chronicle

Author: Vic McLeran

Review by Edwin J. Miller

Let me begin this book review with a quote from Aldo Leopold. "The hawk, as a lethal agent, is a perfect flower of the utterly mysterious alchemy – evolution. No living man can, or possibly ever will, understand the instinct of predation that we share with our raptorial servant."

Vic McLeran in his book *The Cooper's Hawk: A Cross Timbers Chronicle* was able to move me to at least a higher plane of understanding this "instinct of predation." His vehicle is the Cooper's Hawk, the bird Leopold may well have been thinking about when he scribed the above sentences.

McLeran is a falconer, a naturalist, and a word-meister. He has condensed decades of Cooper's Hawk observations into a book that chronicles a year in the life of this amazing raptor. He weaves the bird's lore with the natural history and folklore of the Cross Timbers region of southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. Few people have more respect for raptors in general, and the Cooper's Hawk, in particular than McLeran.

I overheard a friend say that it was a lot of book for one bird (463 pages). If it were just about the Cooper's Hawk, I'd have to agree, but McLeran has added vignettes about plants, insects, spiders, fish, snakes, mammals, songbirds, and other raptors encountered in his Cross Timbers ramblings.

My only criticisms are that some of the scenarios seem redundant, and I'm a bit incredulous that someone has experienced so many encounters in the wild with the Cooper's Hawk. However, I had to remember that I am reading about someone's lifetime fascination with the Cooper's Hawk and that McLeran sees what most observers would miss. A colleague remarked that after reading this book, he has noticed more Cooper's Hawks in the wild than he thought existed in southeast Kansas. McLeran's writing has a knack for opening your eyes to the realities of this raptor's survival; always as predator but sometimes as prey.

Following is one of my favorite sentiments in the book and an example of McLeran's writing: "There's a sort of quiet joy, for instance, in knowing that the mushrooms which spike the woodland loam are morels, and the small falcon which hovers over the bluestem is a kestrel, or that the butterflies weaving through willows are swallowtails. The beauty of the Cross Timbers and its inhabitants has always been more subtle, less awesome than that of say, Yellowstone or Yosemite. But the beauty is here nonetheless; you just have to tighten your focus a tad."

Medical Alert

From your Editor

I was recently scanning through a little known journal, *The Journal of Medical Diagnoses by non-Physicians*, published, I believe, in Skiddy, Kansas. I came across the following that I excerpt without permission!

There is a condition, among birdwatchers, that we call migration fever. It usually shows up twice a year with the spring occurrence seeming to be much more intense and disruptive. The late summer/early fall outbreak generally is not quite as acute, although it can occur over a longer period of time. There is no medication for this condition. We can only treat the symptoms. It does appear that a great deal of time in the fresh air will help, especially early morning exposure. It seems to be worse following a winter when unusual visiting winter birds have been scarce. Mild spring like days in late winter can make the condition more acute but average winter time temperatures don't seem to have a consistent correlated effect on the intensity of migration fever.

KOS Spring Field Trip

May 2, 3, and 4

Leavenworth County and adjacent areas

The Spring Field Trip of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held in Leavenworth and surrounding counties. Leavenworth County is one of the most forested counties in the state. Of primary interest is the bottomland forest along the Weston Bend, Missouri River at Fort Leavenworth. Additional areas of interest include the Benedictine Bottomland restoration (marsh) area in Atchison County and Weston Bend Park, MO (great views of Kansas).

As with the Fort Riley trip last year, be prepared to have a current ID such as a driver's license, insurance verification, and car registration to enter Fort Leavenworth. Carpooling will be encouraged.

Notes: The primary north-south route, Highway K-7 (also US 73), is 4th Street in Leavenworth and Main St. in Lansing. The east-west "main" street downtown Leavenworth is Delaware St., Metropolitan St., which divides Leavenworth and the Fort, starts at the Centennial Bridge over the Missouri River on the east. The entrance to the Fort is at 7th Street & Metropolitan (7th St. becomes Grant Ave. on the Fort). Eisenhower Rd. divides Leavenworth and Lansing.

Housing: all rates plus tax

Super 8 - 303 Montana (behind Taco Bell)

\$39.99, 1-4 per room (ask for "KOS" group rate), phone 913-682-0744

Ramada Inn - 3rd & Delaware in downtown Leavenworth, close to High Noon Saloon

\$50.00 single, \$55 double (ask for "KOS" group rate), phone 913-651-5500

Commander's Inn - North 6th & Metropolitan (close to Park & Ride, and Fort LV)

\$37.50 single, \$45.00 double (ask for "KOS" group rate), phone 913-651-5800

Holiday Inn Express - 120 Express Dr. (behind Pizza Hut in Lansing)

\$84 single, \$90 double, phone 913-250-1000

Riverfront Campground - On the banks of the Missouri River under and north of the Centennial

Bridge. Directions: North on 4th St. (K-7) to Dakota (2 blocks south of Metropolitan), turn right 4 blocks east over RR tracks, left under bridge to campground.

Schedule:

Friday, May 2 - 7:00-9:00 PM - Registration and socialization- Riverfront Community Center at Delaware & Esplanade in the "Men's Waiting Room," downtown Leavenworth. There is also a Riverwalk Park to the south of the Center with good views of the river. Directions: north on 4th Street (K-7) to Delaware, which is the middle traffic light of 3 consecutive lights in the downtown area of Leavenworth, turn right 3 blocks to the Riverfront at the end of the street.

9:00 PM - Nighttime birding for owls and nightjars at Ft. Leavenworth.

Saturday, May 3 - 5:30 AM - Optional breakfast at Santa Fe Depot Diner located at 781 Shawnee (1 block north of Delaware and 4.5 blocks west of 4th St.).

6:30 AM - All field trips will depart from Park & Ride on the north side of Metropolitan between 4th and 5th Streets. Directions: follow K-7 (4th St.) north through Leavenworth to Metropolitan, turn left ½ block.

7:30 PM - No host dinner at the High Noon Saloon & Brewery, 206 Choctaw (2 blocks south of Delaware just west of 2nd St.). A room has been reserved for KOS. The KOS board will meet here during and/or after dinner.

Sunday, May 4 - 6:30 AM - All field trips will depart from Park & Ride

11:30 AM - Noon lunch and compilation - Fort de Cavagnial picnic area (a map and directions will be available at registration or during field trips)



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 2002

Vol. 29, No. 4

Who's Who in KOS - 2003

President, Gene Young, 1707 North 7th St., Arkansas City, KS 67005

Vice-president, Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont Place, Garden City, KS 67846, shane@pld.com

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:
Marvin Kuehn, kuehnmar@emporia.edu

David Seibel, dseibel@jccc.net

Cheryl Miller, cherylmiller1@cox.net

Kerrie Kirkpatrick,
hawkowl@earthlink.net

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 2708 South 23rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048
913-772-0077, DaveWmsKS@aol.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, John Schukman, schuksaya@aol.com

From The Keyboard -

It's been a wonderful fall! Great weather, it started raining again, not too cold but cold enough to get some birds moving. And then there was the KOS Fall Meeting in Meade. What a fantastic time! I've always had a great deal of respect for Jim Rising, and then to actually meet him and visit with him. I've always said that it took somebody who grew up in the Great Plains to really appreciate sparrows and do them justice. Tom and Audrey Flowers and the entire Meade community made KOS feel right at home. It was wonderful to see the support of the Meade County Economic Development office and have those fine folks with us for the meetings and the banquet. It's hard to beat small town hospitality. Thanks Tom and Audrey!

The Christmas Bird Count season is just around the corner. Bird counts are always a magical time. The camaraderie, the birds, the thrill of the chase, the excitement of the competition, freezing your binoculars off. You just can't beat it. I have over 50 counts listed, starting on page 12. If you've never done a Christmas Bird Count, find one close and get involved. If you are a regular at a count, add a second or third count just for fun! It's citizen science in action, you can wrap up your 2002 list with a bang or maybe start your 2003 list out right. You might even learn some new places to go birding as well. But mainly it's about the friendships.

Birding spouse Jaye and I had the opportunity to spend a Sunday morning birding with friends recently. We'd birded Morton County with these same folks in September. We'd birded Meade County with them in October. And we had another chance to bird with them., so we did. We had a blast! We were working on increasing our county list for that county. We managed to add a species or two we had missed earlier in the year. It was a breezy, cool morning.... no, it was a COLD morning! But nobody cared. We were with friends and we were seeing birds and we were enjoying the morning.

We all have different reasons for why we are attracted to birdwatching. What attracted me to begin with was the birds. That started when I was 4. Now, over 40 years later, I'm still doing it, in part, because of the people. The friends, the camaraderie the excitement of the chase and the thrill of adding that next bird to your county, state, year or life list. It's those simple things that cause me to reflect and be thankful during this holiday season.

To one and all of you, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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!

Spring 2003 - Leavenworth Co

Fall 2003 - Southwestern College, Cowley Co.

Spring 2004 - Washington Co.

Fall 2004 - Baker University, Douglas County

Spring 2004 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 upcoming meeting.

In this issue -

- 2 **Announcements**
- 3 **Chimney Swift Towers**
- 4 **Winged Tips**
- 5 **KDWP Forum**
- 6 **Fall Meeting Bird List**
- 7 **Summer Season Birding Roundup**
- 11 **Why I Bird**
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- 19 **Photo Gallery**
- 19 **Odds & Ends**
- 20 **Membership Dues Form**

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 DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend in Great Bend

KOS will be one of the sponsors of the 2003 Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend, April 25 - 27, 2003. This is the 3rd year for this growing event and every indication is that this event will just get bigger. What we need from the membership is bodies! There are many different roles that volunteers can perform, but we need to know if you are interested and available. Please contact the editor, Chuck Otte, or Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595 if you are willing to help! Look for more information on this event in the March *Horned Lark*.

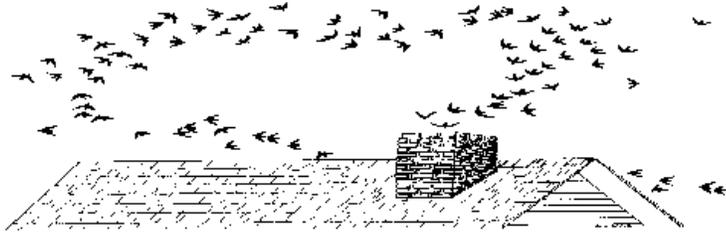
Bird Identification Class

Butler County Community College of Andover will be offering Bird Identification Seminar, a beginning birding class, during the spring semester. This course is an introduction to the identification, ecology and behavior of birds species found in south-central Kansas. The course consists of lectures, study exercises and several local field trips. This class meets on Saturdays, from 9:00 'till Noon. There will be an associated Lab-Seminar, enrollment in just mentioned class required, that will cover identification, ecology and behavior of common waterfowl and shorebirds found along the Texas coast. Most course work will occur during a field trip to the Corpus Christi, Texas area over spring break. Persons interested in these courses should contact Bob Broyles at (316) 323-6974, or at bbroyles@butlercc.edu

Time To Pay Your 2003 Membership Dues

Annual KOS membership dues are payable January 1st of each year. A form to facilitate this activity is on Page 20. Please help save the Society postage fees and send in your dues without us sending you a special mailing. **IMPORTANT:** At the bottom of the form on page 20 there is a place to indicate if you want to be included in the 2003 Membership Directory. We respect your privacy and we will not include any information in the directory that you don't want printed. KOS Membership Directories are only sent to KOS members, they are not given to the general public and the directory is not published electronically. Even if you have paid your 2003 dues already or if you are a life member, we would like to know your wishes. If we don't hear from you, your information will be published!

North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project



At the fall KOS meeting, Calvin Cink gave a wonderful presentation on Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) and their conservation and population management (see Presented Papers Abstracts, page 17). In the first half of the 20th century, Chimney Swifts were rarely seen west of the Mississippi River. As forests were cleared for agriculture and development, the swifts quickly adapted to the dark shafts of chimneys, smokestacks and air shafts in lieu of their ancestral hollow tree nest and roost sites. Today their range extends from the east coast to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Chimney Swift numbers have been declining since the mid 1980's. As usual, the problem is due to loss of habitat. Many of the old structures which historically provided nest and roost sites have been demolished. Many homeowners with suitable clay tile or masonry chimneys have excluded the swifts with screens or caps. Most new chimneys are constructed of metal and are unsuitable because they are too slick for the swifts to cling to or to attach their tiny nests.

However, because Chimney Swifts are so well adapted to man-made structures, it is possible to create new nesting habitat specifically for swifts. In 1915 Althea Sherman demonstrated their adaptability with her "Chimney Swift Tower". Her observations and notes have been utilized and modified Chimney Swift Nest Towers (see graphic to the right) are now being constructed. In his presentation, Calvin showed pictures of the nest tower that he constructed in his backyard. He indicates that after it was erected, swifts made almost immediate use of it.

The Driftwood Wildlife Association, as well as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been working to raise public awareness about Chimney Swifts and these nest towers. They have developed information about building your own tower and becoming a research associate for the Nest Site Research Project.

To become a volunteer research associate or to request an information packet about the project, you can e-mail the Driftwood Wildlife Association at DWA@concentric.net.

For a free information packet about the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project, including more detailed tower plans, send a self-addressed, stamped (60 cents) legal-sized envelope to:

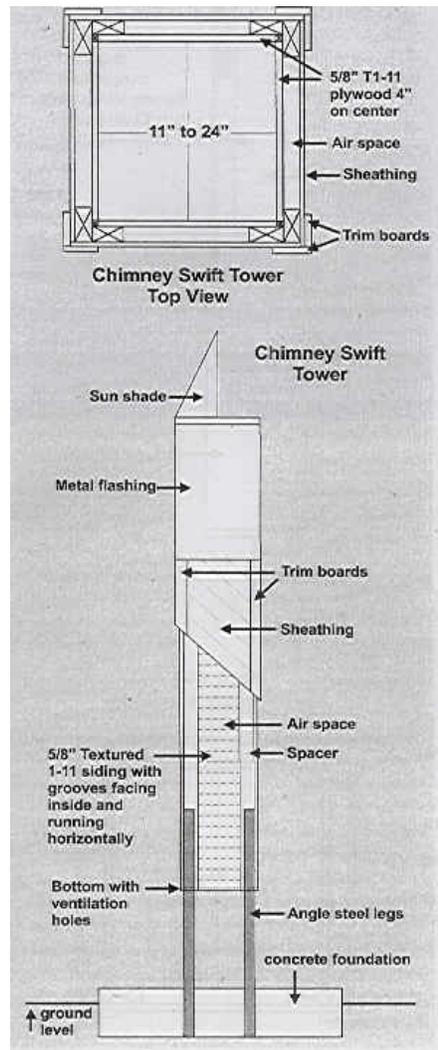
DRIFTWOOD WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION
1206 WEST 38TH, SUITE 1105
AUSTIN, TX 78705

There are also numerous web sites with much more information about Chimney Swifts and nest towers:

<http://www.gwf.org/chimneytower.htm>

<http://www.concentric.net/~Dwa/page6.html>

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/chimneyswift/chimneyswift-index.htm>



Focusing Your Birding

by John Rakestraw

Any opportunity to be out in the field holds the possibility for some great birding. But if we go out without a plan, just hoping for good birds, we often miss out on much of a trip's potential. If we instead approach each trip with a focus, a plan of attack, we greatly improve our success in the field.

What are some areas of focus that we might apply to a birding trip? We might want to explore a particular site, looking for as many species as possible. We might be interested in seeking a certain group of birds or even a single species. We might be trying to find a specific bird that has been previously reported by others. Occasionally, circumstances will provide a focus for you. If you are on a boat, twenty miles off shore, you are basically forced to focus on seabirds. You could hope for a lost warbler to land on the deck railing, but you will probably be disappointed. Likewise, if you are stuck in the house, you should probably concentrate on the plumage details and behavior of the common birds at your feeder. This is a valuable learning activity, and a much better use of your feeder-watching time than just waiting for a vagrant to stop in for some sunflower seeds.

SHARPEST FOCUS: Chasing a Stakeout

The proliferation of e-mail lists and rare bird alerts has made it much easier to learn about rare birds found by others. But before you chase a stakeout, do your homework. Get as much information as you can from those who have already seen the bird. Find out exactly where the bird is being seen. Does it have favorite perches? Is it being seen at a certain time of day? What behaviors does the bird display?

Make certain you can identify this bird when you see it. Study field guides, other reference books, and recordings so you can identify the bird for yourself. **DON'T RELY ON OTHERS TO IDENTIFY A RARITY FOR YOU.** Many rarities have remained misidentified for days or even weeks because the first observers got it wrong and no one else bothered to question the identification. Form your own opinions and report them. It is through the combined observations of many birders that rarities are finally, and confidently, identified.

BROADER FOCUS: Individual Species or Groups of Birds

Concentrating your birding efforts on individual species or certain groups of birds is a great way strengthen your

identification skills. If, for example, you want to become more familiar with shorebirds, take a day and just look for shorebirds. Without the distraction of trying to find every bird present, you can take the time needed to study shorebirds at length, looking for fine details on each species and making side-by-side comparisons. That's not to say that if a Ross's Gull flies over the shorebird flock you shouldn't look at it, but limiting your focus to small groups of birds is a great investment of your birding time.

Just as if you were chasing a stakeout, do your homework before you go. Learn the type of habitat you should search to find your target bird and concentrate your efforts in those areas. Once you have found your target species, observe as many details of plumage, voice, and behavior as possible so you will recognize that bird the next time you see one.

BROADEST FOCUS: Birding a Site

Birding a site, rather than looking for certain species, relies more on luck to bring you a variety of birds. But you will still benefit by planning ahead. Learn about the site before your visit, so you know what habitats and species to expect. You can then focus your birding efforts to accommodate that site.

If the site is small enough, take your time and explore the whole area. Look at each bird in a flock, and stand still long enough to allow birds to come out of hiding.

If the site is large enough that you can't cover it all, pick a variety of habitats within the site. Plan your route to take advantage of the best lighting conditions at each location. Also consider the habits of different birds when planning your route. Some species, for example, are most easily found early in the day, so habitats attractive to those species should be checked first.

No matter how well you prepare and how intense your focus, most trips will present you with the unexpected. You may find yourself abandoning all your plans to take advantage of a new opportunity. And there is something to be said for just picking up your binocular and enjoying whatever comes your way. But if you at least start each birding trip with a clear goal in mind, you will expand your bird list and your knowledge of birds, as well.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Making the Best Out of a Bad Situation

by Helen Hands

This year's drought throughout much of Kansas was rough on many species of birds. I think shorebirds were able to withstand it better than most. Although many marshes were dry, including much of Cheyenne Bottoms, shorebirds were able to take advantage of some water areas that normally would be too deep. These normally deepwater habitats that attracted shorebirds in summer 2002 included Pools 1A, 1B, and 1C at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) and Milford Reservoir.

Although the drought limited water availability at CBWA, it allowed Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks staff to attack cattail in Pool 2. Those of you who have frequented CBWA for a long time have watched cattail spread across most of CBWA since the 1970s. Fortunately, the acquisition of a large tractor and 30-foot wide disk has allowed cattail coverage to be reduced in Pools 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 5 during the past seven years. Pool 2 had not been burned and disked during this time only because it could not be dried sufficiently to permit burning. Although a large opening remained in the middle of Pool 2, cattail covered about 2,000 acres or 70% of the pool by 2001. That year Pool 2 was nearly ready to burn twice, in April and September, but heavy rains northwest of CBWA resulted in enough streamflow in Blood and Deception creeks to completely reflood the pool within a week. The only silver lining to these attempts to drain Pool 2 was that the drawdowns preceding the two big

rains attracted huge numbers of shorebirds, in the neighborhood of 100,000 birds at their peak.

Finally, Pool 2 was dry enough to burn in spring 2002. About 2,000 acres of cattail were burned on May 9. Although Pool 2 was dry enough to burn, it wasn't dry enough to allow disking. Through most of the summer, we impatiently waited for disking to begin, hoping that a summer storm wouldn't reflood the pool. During that time, the cattail grew back. That meant that when portions of the pool were dry enough to disk in early July, the cattail had to be mowed and burned again before disking could begin. Fortunately, the drought continued at CBWA until rains in late September and October made Pool 2 too muddy to disk. So far, at least 1,300 acres have been disked at least once. Another 500 acres has been burned and are ready to disk as soon as the pool dries out. If this winter and spring are relatively dry, perhaps disking can continue in spring 2003. Dry and cold conditions this winter also are needed to ensure that the disked cattail actually dies because disking alone, especially one disking rather than at least two diskings, does not kill cattail. Disked cattail doesn't die unless the rhizomes dry out. So, there is a lot of work left to be done if the weather cooperates.

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



Will Chatfield-Taylor takes the opportunity to visit with Eugene Lewis at the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet, October 4, 2002 at Meade, Kansas. Eugene, and his wife Eulalia, are long time KOS members, now retired and living in Silver City, New Mexico. Will is a high school student in the metro Kansas City area and also presented a paper at the fall meeting.

Photo by Carolyn Schwab

KOS Fall Meeting Bird List

October 5 & 6, 2002, Meade County, Kansas

One of the highlights of every fall meeting is, of course, the field trips. I'm sure that this was the first time that a lot of the participants had had the opportunity to bird in Meade County. Many of us were very pleased with the birding that we found there and look forward for the opportunity to return. A jaeger (most likely a Parasitic) was a surprise at one of the Playa Lakes. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were rather abundant during the weekend and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all the field trip leaders and to Tom Flowers for providing the compiled list of 121 species.

Pied-billed Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Eared Grebe	Forster's Tern	Nashville Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Rock Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Prothonotary Warbler
Wood Duck	Mourning Dove	Common Yellowthroat
Gadwall	Barn Owl	Wilson's Warbler
American Wigeon	Eastern Screech-Owl	Western Tanager
Blue-winged Teal	Great Horned Owl	Spotted Towhee
Northern Shoveler	Barred Owl	Chipping Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Common Nighthawk	Clay-colored Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Chimney Swift	Field Sparrow
Redhead	Belted Kingfisher	Vesper Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Lark Bunting
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Savannah Sparrow
Osprey	Downey Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Hairy Woodpecker	Lincoln's Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker (Red and Yellow shafted)	Swamp Sparrow
Coopers Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	White-throated Sparrow
Swainson's Hawk	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Harris's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	White-crowned Sparrow
Ferruginous Hawk	Blue-headed Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
American Kestrel	Blue Jay	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Merlin	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Prairie Falcon	Horned Lark	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ring-necked Pheasant	Barn Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Northern Bobwhite	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Virginia Rail	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Sora	White-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
American Coot	Brown Creeper	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Sandhill Crane	Rock Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
Killdeer	Bewick's Wren	Common Grackle
American Avocet	House Wren	Great-tailed Grackle
Greater Yellowlegs	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Mountain Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Least Sandpiper	American Robin	House Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Gray Catbird	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Northern Mockingbird	
Stilt Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher	
Long-billed Dowitcher	European Starling	
Common Snipe	American Pipit	
Parasitic Jaeger (Probably this species seen by Max Thompson and others)	Cedar Waxwing	
	Tennessee Warbler	

The 10 Best Birds from the Fall Meeting will be published in the March 2003 newsletter.

Remember Leavenworth County in May 2003 and Southwestern College, Cowley County, in October 2003.

KANSAS SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2002 through July 31, 2002

By Lloyd Moore

Editor's notes:

Like all of us who ever try to write, Lloyd was hit with terrible writer's block as he prepared the summer report. Not to worry though, I will fill in for this edition and Lloyd will be back to his familiar self by the time the fall roundup hits the March 2003 issue.

Throughout the reporting period, much of Kansas was experiencing a continued hot and dry period. Eastern Kansas had moments of rainfall, and a few areas were down right wet. As a result of the high weather system that kept things hot and dry, not only in Kansas but to points west, we began to see the harbingers of an interesting fall birding season.

Hummingbirds started appearing in good numbers in late July leaving many birders to wonder if 2002 would equal, or surpass, recent good years of hummingbird migrations. The appearance of at least three species of hummingbirds by late July buoyed everyone's hopes of good things yet to come.

The dry weather also caused many of the lakes, reservoirs and wetlands to contract in size exposing broad expanses of mudflats. By mid-July it was becoming apparent that these mudflats were going to attract a lot of shorebirds. Hopes were again buoyed for a good fall shorebird migration.

Bald Eagle nesting success is now an accepted fact in Kansas. At least 12

nests successfully fledged young, although the numbers of fledged young was down. One can't help but wonder if the weather had something to do with this.

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 KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

*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>
<u>Brown Pelican</u>	<D> 1 at Goose Refuge, Cheney Rs.	Sedgwick	6/16	PJ
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/13	MG
<u>Anhinga</u>	<D> 1 in Unit B at Marais des Cygne	Linn	6/23	MM,DS,GP
Tricolored Heron	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/01	BG
	2 adults at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/12	MRo, DK
Black-crnd Night Heron	4 in Unit F-1, Marais des Cygne	Linn	6/16	MC, MM
	41 in playas in north-central Finney Co.	Finney	6/30	T&SSh
Yellow-crnd Night Heron	1 adult 2 immature at Baker Wetlands,	Lawrence		
		Douglas	6/09	WCT
	1 in unit A at MdCWA	Linn	6/30	MM
	1 adult S of Garden City	Finney	7/03	T&SSh, BC
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 in Pool 3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/14	SD
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
	(Seen carrying nesting material.)			
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/12	MRo, DK
Cinnamon Teal	1 male at Grant School Slough	Douglas	<u>6/05</u>	GP
Common Merganser	1 male & 1 female at Marion Res.	Marion	<u>7/18</u>	CG

Red-breasted Merganser	1 seen on <u>county road</u>	Rush	<u>6/06</u>	SS
Osprey	1 in Unit A, Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	<u>6/16</u>	MC, MM
Mississippi Kite	1 at Ft Riley (Possibly nesting.)	Geary	6/06	JK
	2 near 4 th & Wisconsin, Lawrence	Douglas	7/12	PF
Bald Eagle	There were 12 successful nests that we know of, which produced only 19 chicks. For some odd reason or another, this year was predominated by 1-egg nests. Locations and output are as follows, with asterisks denoting those eaglets that we were able to band. <i>Dan Mulhern, USF&W</i>			
	Clinton Lake #1	2*		
	Clinton Lake #2	1*		
	Hillsdale Lake #1	2		
	Hillsdale Lake #2	2		
	Hodgeman Co.	1		
	Perry Lake	1*		
	Kansas River #1	1		
	Kansas River #2	1		
	Glen Elder Res.	2		
	Osage Co .	3		
	Neosho Co .	1*		
	Tuttle Creek .	2*		
Northern Harrier	1 on Beloit BBS Route	Mitchell	6/08	PW
Cooper's Hawk	1 on Jamestown BBS Route	Mitchell	6/09	PW
	1 at the Prairie Center, Olathe	Johnson	6/25	WCT
	2 NW of Larned	Pawnee	7/03	SS
Broad-winged Hawk	1 imm. & 1 adult at Rice Woods	Douglas	6/25	BB
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult in downtown Topeka	Shawnee	7/7,9,18	JB
	1 juvenile at a playa lake	Finney	7/19	T&SSh
<u>Black Rail</u>	1 calling at SW corner of the wildlife loop at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
Virginia Rail	1 in Unit B, Marais des Cygne	Linn	6/16	MC, MM
<u>Piping Plover</u>	On a sandbar almost straight south of St Marys, a single Piping Plover with 4 eggs hatched last week. 7/12 DM			
	On a sandbar at the first large bend downstream from the Belvue-to-Paxico bridge, the following: 2 Piping Plover nests, 1 with at least 1 chick already hatched, and unknown # of eggs remaining; the 2nd with 2 eggs.			
		Pottawatomie	7/12	DM
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/13	MG
Black-necked Stilt	Pair with 2 chicks S of Garden City	Finney	7/03	T&SSh, BC
American Avocet	21 in playas in NC Finney Co.	Finney	6/30	T&SSh
	Pair with 1 chick S of Garden City	Finney	7/03	T&SSh, BC
Greater Yellowlegs	1 in playas in NC Finney Co.	Finney	6/30	T&SSh
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/14</u>	SD
	20 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
Solitary Sandpiper	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA

Willet	1 at Tuttle Creek Rs.	Riley	7/03	TC
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
	3 at Wilson Lake, Otoe Park (Also 1 seen on 7/04 at Wilson State Park.)	Russell	7/06	MR
	2 on Kansas River near Ogden	Riley	7/02	DM
Long-billed Curlew	5 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/29	DV,ST,WC,DKi
Hudsonian Godwit	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
Marbled Godwit	2 at Tuttle Creek Rs.	Riley	7/03	TC
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/04	PJ, DA
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/29	DV,ST,WC,DKi
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	7/28	GP, MM
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/23	HH
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/28	ME
Semipalmated Sandpiper	50 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/04	PJ, DA
Western Sandpiper	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/04	PJ, DA
<u>White-rumped Sandpiper</u> <D>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/12	MRo, DK, MT
Dunlin	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/29	DV,ST,WC,DKi
<u>Curlew Sandpiper</u> <D>	1 alternate plumaged adult at QNWR	Stafford	6/12	MRo, DK, MT
Stilt Sandpiper	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	5 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	7/28	PJ
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SD
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/04	PJ, DA
Wilson's Phalarope	11 in playas in NC Finney Co.	Finney	6/30	T&SSh
Caspian Tern	1 immature at Wilson Lake	Russell	7/24	MR
	1 at Cheney Res.	Reno	7/28	PJ
Forester's Tern	3 adult, 1 juv. At Wilson Lake	Russell	6/27	MR
Least Tern	1 seen in Wichita	Sedgwick	6/10	LM
	1 at Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek	Riley	6/09	MR, TC
	5 seen nesting, for the 3 rd year in a row in an area under development in NW Wichita.	Sedgwick	6/30	PJ, KG
	(6 adults, 1 juvenile, 2 chicks seen on 7/04 by PJ and DA).			
	1 at Kirwin Reservoir	Phillips	7/13	SR
	8 nests on sandbar in Kansas River downstream of the Belvue-to-Paxico bridge.			
	One nest with 3 hatchlings and 7 nests with 1-3 eggs each. On an island 0.75 mile upstream from the mouth of the Vermillion River (below Wamego) the following: 4 pairs of Least Terns just initiating a new colony (after being predated at the St Marys site previously), with at least 1 nest with ? eggs, and the other 3 pairs either with new nests or just making nest scrapes. Both sites in Pottawatomie Co. as of 12 July, Dan Mulhern, USF&W			
	5 plus 3 hatchlings in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	7/28	PJ
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3 in Garfield	Pawnee	6/15	SS
	Pair nest building in Larned	Pawnee	6/15	SS
	Pair building nest in Caney	Montgomery	6/18	LD

Eurasian Collared-Dove	Nesting past 2-3 years at Manhattan residence.			
		Riley	6/28	fide TC
	1 heard calling in Blue Rapids	Marshall	6/29	TP
	1 in Wakeeney	Trego	7/03	SS
	2 in Healy	Lane	7/09	MR
	1 in Hanston	Hodgeman	7/22	SS
	1 pair nesting at Janzen residence	Sedgwick	7/23	PJ
	3 at a residence in Emporia	Lyon	7/24	RA
White-winged Dove	1 at residence in Manhattan	Riley	7/03	SK
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Wilson State Park	Russell	6/01	MR
'Archilochus'	2 unknown age/sex at Satanta	Haskell	7/29	NC
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Larned	Pawnee	7/19	DKa
	1 adult male at Shane residence	Finney	7/28	T&SSh
	1 adult female at Shane residence	Finney	7/28	T&SSh
	1 immature at Schartz residence	Pawnee	7/31	OS
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 female at Shane residence	Finney	7/27	T&SSh
	3 immature at Shanes	Finney	7/31	T&SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	1 adult female at Shane residence	Finney	7/14	T&SSh
	1 imm. male at Kazmaier residence	Pawnee	7/29	SS
	1 adult male at Shanes	Finney	7/31	T&SSh
'Selasphorus'	1 imm/female type at Kazmaiers	Pawnee	7/29	SS
	1 imm/female type at Kazmaiers	Pawnee	7/30	SS
	2 unknown age/sex at Satanta	Haskell	7/29	NC
Least Flycatcher	2 banded at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/04	DR
	2 adult females at Ft. Riley	Riley	7/30	DR
<u>Vermilion Flycatcher</u>	1 male near K-27 picnic area CNG	Morton	6/21	JN
Bell's Vireo	6 heard singing, Wilson Lake	Russell	6/27	MR
	33 heard singing, Scott S.P.	Scott	6/29	T&SSh
<u>Common Raven</u>	1 heard calling along Big Creek near FHSU in Hays	Ellis	7/20	JS
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 female at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	6/13	H&SG
Marsh Wren	2 singing at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/04	PJ, DA
Swainson's Thrush	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	6/01	BA
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 <u>recently fledged young</u> at MdCWA	<u>Linn</u>	7/29	MM
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 male S of Unit G at MdCWA	Linn	<u>6/30</u>	MM
	<i>(Bird was found again on 7/04 & 7/14 was acting territorial and could possibly be nesting. MM and GP.)</i>			
Ovenbird	Pair and 1 singing male, east side of LaCygne Lake.	Linn	6/24	BB
Spotted Towhee	1 singing at Wilson State Park	<u>Russell</u>	<u>6/13</u>	MR
	? near Cable residence	<u>Riley</u>	<u>6/14</u>	TC
Black-headed Grosbeak	Pair N. of Edson	Sherman	6/11	MR
	2 at Scott Lake	Scott	7/09	MR

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 (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygne W. A. (MdcWA), Ft. Hays State University (FHSU)

OBSERVERS: Bob Antonio, David Arbour, Roger Applegate, Bill Busby, Joanne Brier, Ted Cable, Mark Corder, Barbara Campbell, Wally Champeny, Norma Conover, Stephen Dinsmore, Lanny Deering, Marsha Ebaugh, Patty Field, Bob Gress, Harry & Sharron Gregory (H&SG), Kevin Groeneweg, Matt Gearheart, Chet Gresham, Helen Hands, Jeff Keating, Steve Kramer, Dan Kluza, Don Kazmaier (DKa), Dan Kilby (DKi), Linda Mallonee, Mick McHugh, Dan Mulhern, John Northrup, Dan Mulhern, Galen Pittman, Tom Parker, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Shannon Rothchild, Mark Robbins (MRo), Scott Seltman, David Seibel, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), John Schukman, Omar Schartz, Will Chatfield Taylor, Max Thompson, Sandra Tholen, Don Vannoy, Phil Wedge

Why I Bird

A recent discussion on the Internet Kansas Bird Discussion List addressed the topic of why all of us go birdwatching. We all have different reasons why we birdwatch, and some of us have many reasons. Pete Janzen's response came in the form of a poem (with apologies given to Tom T. Hall and recent television commercials.)

A little explanation is probably in order. Pete had spent a September weekend in Morton county, along with about 30 other KOS members. Pete was hoping that the recent invasion of western jays would bring him a Pinyon Jay which would be species number 400 for his Kansas life list. Pete, along with most of the rest of us, added western jays to our Kansas lists and hence the following poem, reprinted with Pete's permission!

(Editor's Note - In all journalistic integrity it must be mentioned that the second to the last line of the last paragraph, the line about telescopes, is slightly different than the original poem that Pete posted. Pete made a revision to make the verse slightly more politically correct.)

I Like

by Pete Janzen

I like
birding with my friends
observing seasonal trends
migrants riding north winds
and Pinyons...

I like
warblers with wingbars
shorebirds on sandbars
lifers seen from cars
and Pinyons....

I like
Patti birding hikes
migrant numbers that spike
Mississippi Kites
and Pinyons.....

I like
sparrows lurking in grass
Merlins stepping on the gas
telescopes with ED glass
and oooohhhh (hehehe) those Pinyons....

AND I LIKE YOU TOO!!!!!!!!!!

2002 - 2003 Christmas Bird Count Season

Ah, the Christmas Bird Count Season (or early winter bird counts or holiday bird counts... whatever you choose to call them.) Those wonderful days when you head out into bitter cold, wet slushy snow, or unseasonable heat waves, all in the interest of seeing how many bird species and individuals you and your colleagues can find in a circle 15 miles in diameter. You may find a wonderful rarity, you may freeze your binoculars off. Is this a great time of year or what?! Following is a list of the counts that have been posted on the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBIRD-L) or reported directly to the editor. If you have any questions regarding the details of a particular count, please contact the count compiler directly. While not all of the Kansas counts are submitted to the National Audubon Society (NAS), most all are published in *The Bulletin*. NAS has “permanently” set the count dates as December 14th through January 5th, inclusive. The dates that are acceptable for inclusion in *The Bulletin* are slightly different. All of the following count information, as well as last minute changes, will be posted on the KOS web site; <http://ksbirds.org>

Saturday, December 14

Dodge City - Joleen Fromm, 620-227-6342, meet at Inn Pancake House at 7 AM.

Hays - Greg Farley, gfarley@fhsu.edu, 785-628-5965

Lakin - Leonard Rich, 620-275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, gpittman@ku.edu, 785-842-7105

Parsons - Paul Milks, plmilks@terraworld.net, 620-417-3427

Topeka - Gary Haden, 785-273-5598

Wichita - Pete Janzen, prarybrd@southwind.net, 316-832-0182

Wilson Lake - Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595

Sunday, December 15

Canyonlands (SE Logan County) - Tom Shane, 620-275-4616, shane@pld.com

Emporia - Jean Schulenberg, schulenj@emporia.edu, 620-341-5896

Oskaloosa-Perry - Bunnie Watkins, ranger_rabbit@sunflower.com, 785-749-3581

Waconda Lake - Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595

Winfield - Max Thompson, maxt@cox.net, 620-221-1856

Wednesday, December 18

Quivira NWR - Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595

Thursday, December 19

Slate Creek - Gene Young, youngg6264@yahoo.com, 620-441-5331

Friday, December 20

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, 620-793-3066, helenh@wp.state.ks.us, meet at office at 8 AM.

Jetmore - Joyce Davis, 620-225-1217, meet at Wendy's, 2409 Central in Dodge City at 7 AM.

Saturday, December 21

Arkansas City - Gene Young, youngg6264@yahoo.com, 620-441-5331

Camp Naish - Stan Roth, sd Roth@ku.edu, 785-843-4764

John Redmond - Bob Culbertson, bobc@wp.state.ks.us

Leavenworth/Atchison - John Schukman, 913-717-5141, schuksaya@aol.com

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, drintoul@ksu.edu, 785-532-6663

Salina - Harold Lear, 785-823-2366, h.v.lear@att.net, meet at Lakewood Discover Center at 7 AM, back at LDC for lunch and Jim's Fried Chicken on Broadway for tally and dinner at 6 PM.

Scott Lake - Sara Shane, 620-275-4616, shane@pld.com

Sunday, December 22

Bonner Springs/Lansing - Galen Pittman, gpittman@ku.edu, 785-842-7105

Wakefield (upper Milford Lake) - Chuck Otte, 785-238-8800, cotte@oznet.ksu.edu, meet at the Wakefield Restaurant at 7:30 AM

Monday, December 23

Olsburg - Cindy Jeffrey, 785-468-3587, cinraney@ksu.edu

Saturday, December 28

Baldwin - Roger Boyd, roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Sante Fe Depot in Baldwin at 7:15 AM

Blue Rapids - Tom Parker, 785-363-7228, tlparker@flinthills.com, Meet in front of the community center on the town square at 7 a.m. Groups will meet at the Blue Valley Café for lunch, and an informal potluck will be held afterward at the community center.

Cimarron National Grasslands, Elkhart - Sebastian Patti, 773-248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the Elkhart Cemetery at 8:30 AM

El Dorado - Bill Langley, blangley@butlercc.edu

Kirwin NWR - Erich Gilbert, 785-543-6673

...continued next page

Sunday, December 29

Junction City - Chuck Otte, 785-238-8800, cotte@oznet.ksu.edu, meet at Sapp Brothers Truckstop, US77 at I-70, at 7:30 AM

Kenton (Black Mesa), Oklahoma - Sebastian Patti, 773-248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the Townsman Motel Restaurant in Boise City at 7 AM or the Regnier Ranchhouse at 8:30 AM

Linn County - Roger Boyd, roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Texaco Truck Stop just south of the US69 LaCygne interchange at 7:15AM.

Monday, December 30

Liberal - Sebastian Patti, 773-248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, contact Sebastian for details.

Wednesday, January 1, 2003

SE Kansas Minedland, Cherokee County - Steve Ford, 620-235-4732, sford@pittstate.edu Meet at the junction of highways 102 & 7 at 7 AM, Express Lane Convenience Store.

Ulysses - Jeff Trotman, jtkb@PLD.COM

Thursday, January 2

Ingalls/Cimarron - Debra Bolton

Friday, January 3

Old Garfield County - Barbara Campbell, bcamp@ODSGC.NET, 620-275-5430

Saturday, January 4

Doniphan - Mike Stewart, 913-651-2565, mstewart@lvnworth.com

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, 620-276-8145, m.osterbuhr@ALLTEL.NET

Red Hills - Pete Janzen, prarybrd@southwind.net

Sunday, January 5

St. Francis - Dan LaShelle, 785-354-1270

Monday, January 6

Atwood - Dan LaShelle, 785-354-1270

Saturday, January 11

Blackwolf - Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595

Sawyer - Ken Brunson, kenb@wp.state.ks.us, 620-672-7289

Syracuse - Art Nonhof, anonhof@pld.com, 620-277-2087

Sunday, January 12

Kanopolis Lake - Mike Rader,

mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595

Sandhills/Finney County - Mike Ramsey, ramsey.hmbcr@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Pending (contact compiler for details)

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader,

mike_rader@hotmail.com, 785-658-2595 (this one will either be 12/22 or 1/5/03)

Cedar Bluffs Reservoir - Scott Seltman, sselt@gbta.net, contact Scott if you are interested.



Who else but us birdwatchers take the time to get together in groups and visit cemeteries, landfills and sewage lagoons? This group of hardy birders left Elkhart, and classic Morton County birding, early in the morning in pursuit of a Gull-billed Tern. While the tern wasn't found, they did take time for this "birders vacation" photo. Left to right the participants are: Pete Janzen, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Chet Gresham, Cheryl Miller, Sebastian Patti, Kevin Groeneweg and Lisa Edwards.

Photo by Carolyn Schwab

and distributed. However, the desire for establishing a more transparent and consistent student awards process was discussed. The board suggested a three-person student research awards committee be formed to review current policy and suggest any needed modifications. John or Gene will set up a committee with a goal of having recommendations ready by summer 2003. It was agreed that one qualifying criterion be that both the student and his/her faculty sponsor be KOS members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

General Business Meeting

President John Schukman called the general business meeting to order at 4:50 pm.

The following slate of new officers and directors was forwarded to the membership:

Vice-president	Tom Shane
Board Member	Kerrie Kirkpatrick
Board Member	Cheryl Miller

It was moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Board members who will continue to serve for a second year are David Seibel and Marvin Kuehn. Board members whose term have now expired are Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham.)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary

Addendum to Fall Board Meeting

Because a quorum was not present at the Fall Board Meeting in Meade, votes on the two motions made and seconded were solicited by email from the remaining board members. Results are as follows:

Motion to accept the minutes from the winter 2002 minutes: Passed.

Motion to accept KBRC bylaw changes: Passed.

Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary
23 October 2002

Thank You Fall Meeting Committee!!

Wow! What else can we say? Tom, Audrey and Robin Flowers, along with the Meade County Economic Development Committee put on a wonderful fall meeting! Somewhere around 70 KOS members were registered and showed up to fill the motels, noticeably swell the population, enjoy some great hospitality and good food and have some very memorable birdwatching. As you can imagine, there aren't a lot of KOS members in Meade, so Tom had to rely on friends and family in Meade as well as KOS members from "nearby" communities. I think everyone had a very enjoyable time and it was really fun to have Dr. Jim Rising with us for most of the weekend and to speak at the banquet on Saturday night. Thanks again to the entire Fall Meeting committee! Now on to Leavenworth in the spring and Southwestern College next fall.

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2002 Fall KOS Meetings Meade, Kansas October 5, 2002

An experimental study of female condition and reproductive success in Tree Swallows. *Jacqueline K. Nooker (1), Peter O. Dunn, and Linda A. Whittingham*
Affiliations: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; (1) current address - Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Female condition influences reproductive investment and success but may influence nest building, egg laying, incubation, and nestling feeding stages differentially. To determine which stages of reproduction are vulnerable to poor female condition, I experimentally reduced the condition of female Tree Swallows by clipping flight feathers one to two weeks before egg laying. Experimental females were in poorer condition at the end of egg laying and during nestling feeding than control females. Females in good condition produced offspring in good condition and a greater proportion of males in their broods regardless of experimental treatment. Clipped females built smaller nests, laid later, laid smaller clutches, and laid smaller eggs than controls. Hatching and brood success and offspring morphometrics did not vary between treatments. This suggests that 1) female condition affects nest building and egg laying to a greater extent than nestling feeding, 2) males may minimize the differences between poor and good condition females during nestling feeding, or 3) some combination of the two.

The effects of sex and age on the survival of Kentish Plovers breeding in southern Turkey. *Brett K. Sandercock**, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University and Tan s Sz, kely, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath.*

The life histories of shorebirds are characterized by low productivity, high rates of nest and brood failure and high adult survival. Robust estimates of survival are essential for understanding the population dynamics of shorebirds and other long-lived vertebrates. In this study we use re-sighting data and mark-recapture statistics to estimate apparent survival for a population of Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*) breeding in Turkey. Estimates of survival for Kentish Plovers and the conspecific Snowy Plover (*C. a. nivosus*) are of interest because both subspecies are of

conservation concern, and have a peculiar mating system. A total of 2077 plovers were captured and banded over a 5-year period. The proportion of juveniles returning was 0.04, with no difference between males and females. Apparent survival was low among juveniles that survived 0-28 days (0.09) and somewhat higher among young that survived until fledging (0.13). Most juveniles started breeding as yearlings. Apparent survival rates of adult plovers were 0.60-0.64, and males had higher re-sighting rates than females (0.84 vs. 0.74). The lack of sexual differences in survival is puzzling and difficult to reconcile with a male biased sex ration among adults. Overall, our estimates are consistent with return rates reported for other small-bodied *Charadrius* plovers.

Riparian bird surveys on the Marais des Cygnes River. *Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS.*

Population data on breeding birds in riparian habitat is underrepresented on the North American Breeding Bird Survey due to limited road access to stream-side habitats. In order to obtain better information on riparian forest birds in eastern Kansas, a canoe survey on the Marais des Cygnes River was established in 1997. A 16-mile reach of the river encompassing the Marais des Cygnes State Wildlife Area and National Wildlife Refuge in Linn County has been surveyed annually in late spring for 28 species. The most frequently recorded species, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, and Prothonotary Warbler are detected at average rates of 2-3 singing males per river-mile. Canoe surveys of this type appear to be an effective means of sampling species-rich riverine habitats.

Evidence for density-dependent habitat selection by Brown-headed Cowbirds in tallgrass prairie landscapes. *William E. Jensen and Jack F. Cully, Jr., Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS.*

Variation in population density may influence intraspecific competition for habitat space and thus the local dispersion of individuals among habitats.

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Density-dependent habitat selection models may help explain geographic variation in apparent host preference of the brood-parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) among vegetative habitats. We present a pattern that resembles predictions of such models of cowbird dispersion among host habitats along a natural geographic gradient in cowbird abundance within the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie region. Particularly, we were interested in the variability of cowbird occurrence, and parasitism of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nests, among wooded edge habitats, experimental perch habitats, and open grasslands (predicted as being primary, secondary, and tertiary habitats respectively) in relation to variation in local cowbird abundance across eight study sites. Local cowbird abundance and especially parasitism of Dickcissel nests, varied greatly among a latitudinal gradient, both being lowest on the three southeastern-most study sites. Models of female cowbird relative abundance, parasitism rate, and number of cowbird eggs per parasitized nest all indicated significant interactions of habitat plot with local female cowbird abundance. In all models, female cowbird occurrence and parasitism were higher in wooded edge habitat than the other two habitat plots at low local cowbird abundance. However, cowbird abundance and parasitism equalized across all habitats with a slight increase in local cowbird abundance. Our evidence for reduced cowbird egg success in multiply parasitized nests as a mechanism for such density-dependent habitat selection was weak, but is also suggested by previous studies. Subtle landscape features or sub-specific geographic variation in cowbirds may also help explain the extreme geographic threshold in parasitism rates of grassland hosts in the Flint Hills. Cowbird removal programs would provide an additional experimental test of density dependence in cowbird host selection among habitats.

Experimental test of host song in attracting the brood parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird. *William Jensen (1), Drew Miller (1), Jarrod Bowers (1), and Maureen Leonard (2).* (1) Div. of Biol., Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS (2) Dept. of Biol. Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Brood parasites appear to use behavioral cues of their host in order to locate host nests. Song of male host parents near nests has been positively correlated with brood parasitism frequency by the Brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). We attempted an experimental test of the effect of male Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) song in attracting Brown-headed Cowbirds at Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS). Audio playbacks of continuous Bell's Vireo song were

randomly allocated to single shrub islands (nesting habitat of Bell's Vireos on KPBS) within shrub island pairs for 5-hour trials, twice weekly. Response variables recorded were (1) the incidences that cowbirds and vireos approached, alighted on, and entered each shrub treatment during thirty-minute monitoring periods during each trial, and (2) parasitism of artificial vireo nests during three to four day exposure periods associated with each trial. There was no apparent effect of vireo song playback in attracting either female or male cowbirds to playback-shrub over control-shrub units. However, male Bell's Vireos approached and entered playback-shrub treatments significantly more often than control shrubs. None of the 46 artificial nests during nest trials were parasitized by cowbirds. Although artificial vireo eggs were found missing from some artificial nests, those losses could not be attributed to cowbird egg removal. Various aspects of our experimental procedure may have been insufficient in attracting female cowbirds. The effect of host song on brood parasitism in birds deserves further study.

The Long-eared Owl breeding on the Great Plains. *Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane, Garden City, Kansas*

On 25 May 2002 we located an adult and two fledgling Long-eared Owls at Scott State Game Management Area in north central Scott County, Kansas. The location was in a heavily wooded side draw of Timber Canyon. The owls flew into a wooded area that we had just inspected for a nest, the adult giving a "double bark" call and one young bird giving a "weee" call. This was the first time the species was recorded nesting in Scott County and is the fifth county on or west of the 100th Meridian with a breeding record.

Chimney Swift population declines: strategies for conservation and management. *Calvin L. Cink, Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas 66606.*

The Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), which is closely associated with humans in cities and rural areas, is as recognizable a component of the eastern North American avifauna as any species. The multitude of nesting cavities provided by the chimneys of European settlers allowed its populations to increase dramatically over what was previously a thinly distributed breeding range. Over the past 30 years however, their populations have been declining (2% annually). Long-term trends suggest that this may be due to loss of existing nesting sites, and usable chimneys produced in new home

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construction. Education of the public on the biology of swifts and construction of artificial chimneys may be effective conservation and management tools to reduce these population declines.

Agonistic Interactions, Court Size and Location, and Mating Success of Hybrid Prairie- Chickens.

Matthew R. Bain and Greg H. Farley, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

Hybrid Prairie-Chicken have been documented displaying on Lesser and Greater Prairie-Chicken leks in western Kansas. During 2002 breeding season, we examined behavioral interactions between male hybrids and members of their parental species. Although hybrids had high rates of agonistic encounters and were successful in defending relatively large and centrally located display courts, they failed to copulate. Mating success of males hybrids appears to be limited by female choice rather than male competition, thereby preventing backcrossing with either parental form.

Falcon Quest *Robin Flowers, Meade, Kansas, Karen Steenhofi United States Geological Survey (USGS), Boise, Idaho and Thomas Flowers, Meade, Kansas.*

A Prairie Falcon banded in Idaho and equipped with a satellite transmitter died in Gove County, Kansas. Serving as USGS volunteers, our family used equipment provided by USGS to recover the transmitter. An attempt was made to recover a second transmitter in Wheeler County, Texas but was not successful. Satellite transmitters are providing new insights into the annual migrations of this species. Recovery of dead birds may give researchers insight into possible environmental dangers to the falcons.

West Nile Virus, a Kansas update. *Chuck Otte, Junction City, Kansas*

An update on the occurrence and spread of West Nile Virus in Kansas.

Occurrence probability of forest birds from the Missouri Ozarks to the Kansas Tallgrass Prairie.

John M. Schukman, Leavenworth, Kansas

For conservation and management purposes, forest birds of eastern North America are classified into groups or guilds by habitat preference (interior specialists, interior-edge, generalists, or edge) and sensitivity to habitat fragmentation (low, moderate or high). Classifications and results vary among some of these researchers, and can be controversial, thus confounding

habitat conservation efforts. Breeding bird atlases can provide useful information about guild responses on a continuum from the most sensitive to the most resilient groups and about geographic variation in guild composition. In this paper, using breeding bird atlas data from Kansas and Missouri, I compare occurrence relationships of 20 forest birds along a forest-prairie gradient at a regional (biogeographic) scale. I used logistic regression, a method suggested for atlas or incidence data to calculate occurrence probability from the Missouri Ozarks to the Kansas Tallgrass Prairie. A positive and significant relationship between forest cover and occurrence was found for 18 of the 20 species. Variations in species' response to habitat changes are discussed.

The Effects of Cold Weather on the Fall Migration of *Mergus merganser*. *Chatfield-Taylor, Will, Matt and Mark*

The average temperature in November in the states of Nebraska and North Dakota were recorded. A statistical correlation test was then performed on this information and the number of Common Merganser found on Clinton Reservoir, Lawrence, Kansas in December and January. The purpose was to determine if in years with colder weather, more mergansers would migrate south than in years with warmer weather. The results showed a significance level between .05 and .01 This means that there was a significant level high enough to reject the null hypothesis. The null hypothesis being that there was no correlation.

Kansas County Bird Checklist Project Update

While not an official KOS project, this activity wouldn't be possible without the input of many KOS members. In a nutshell your newsletter editor, Chuck Otte, started a project about two years ago to pull together as many resources as possible and create individual bird checklists for all 105 Kansas counties. This goal was accomplished late in September of 2001. Since then additional records have been submitted, sought out, researched, compiled and lists updated. The most current copy of each list is available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format at <http://ksbirds.org>. At this writing, there is a total of 24,244 species listings. 19 counties have 300 or more species, 51 have 200 - 299 and 35 counties have less than 200 species on their list. Please contact Chuck for more information!

Is That A New Species?

The splitters are at it again! The 43rd supplement to the North American Ornithologists Union (the august body who decides what constitutes a species and what it will be named) Check-list of North American Birds was released this summer. Contained therein was one change that will impact a Kansas species and another change of interest to many Kansas birders. While the changes will need to be acted upon by our own Kansas Bird Records Committee, we want to make you aware of what has happened at the AOU level.

The new and old world Common Snipe have been split. The snipe found in Kansas, *Gallinago delicata* is now called the Wilson's Snipe, while the old world species, *Gallinago gallinago*, retains the name Common Snipe.

Of interest to Kansas birders who have spent time in Texas birding, is the split of the Tufted Titmouse. The west and south Texas form is returned to full species status and is again known as the Black-crested Titmouse, *Baeolophus atricristatus*. There is no change to the Tufted Titmouse that we have in Kansas.

ceo

Photo Gallery

November was a "loony" month in Kansas with no less than four species of loons present in the state at the same time. With the improvements in both optics and digital cameras, a whole new realm of bird photography, "digiscoping", is evolving. Kansas birders are not about to be left out of this exciting new area. Wichita KOS member Kevin Groeneweg has been kind enough to share some of his loon photos with us and granted permission for them to be used. This is also a new realm for the *Horned Lark* and it may take a run or two to determine the best technique for bringing bird photos to you. Please be patient and those who are enjoying digiscoping, feel free to share your photos with the rest of KOS!

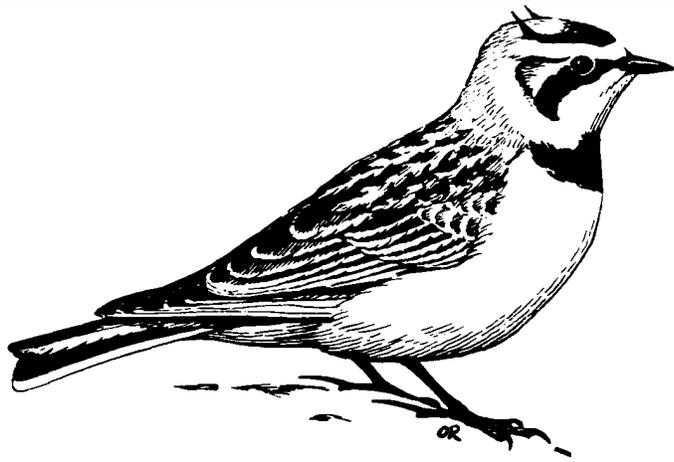


Yellow-billed Loon photographed November 16, 2002 at Clark State Fishing Lake.
Photo by Kevin Groeneweg



Red-throated Loon photographed November 29, 2002 at Winfield City Lake.
Photo by Kevin Groeneweg

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.



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 2002

Vol. 29, No. 3

Who's Who in KOS - 2002

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, 1707 North 7th St., Arkansas City, KS 67005

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:

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd., Maize, KS 67101

Marvin Kuehn, Emporia State Univ., Hammond Heights Complex #214, 1601 State St., Emporia, KS 66801

David Seibel, 1310 George Ct., #1, Lawrence, KS 66044

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 2708 South 23rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048
913-772-0077, DaveWmsKS@aol.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

From The Keyboard -

Summer, like every season anymore, has flown by. Sure, as I write this we are still dealing with those classic 95 degree Kansas August afternoons. But many of the Upland Sandpipers have left already. Purple Martins are staging up and drifting away and all those songs I have been listening to since May are falling quiet.

Singer songwriter Don Henley had a hit song several years ago called the Boys of Summer. Okay, he was writing it about baseball and a longing for many things lost, but I always seem to hear the song a little differently from everyone else. I always hear the line, "after the "birds" of summer have gone. For me, late summer is a melancholy time and yet it is an exciting time as we go rolling through shorebird migration into hummer migration and then hear come the winter residents! It is a season of "loss" and yet with each loss we stand to "gain" something else.

The Internet, and its countless discussion groups such as KSBIRD-L, have been a big boon to rapid dispersal of exciting news on bird sightings, conservation alerts and other tidbits of interest. But just as fast as it spreads good news, it also brings us bad news. Such was the case in early August when the news of the untimely passing of Richard "Mobe" Rucker came across the list....

It reminded me of the day that Roger Tory Peterson passed away. Whatever else was being discussed on BirdChat ceased and everyone shared what RTP had meant to them, whether they'd met him or not. Several years before that, a well liked Colorado birder, Wally Collins passed a way following a brief illness. When we lose one of our own, everything else suddenly drops to a lower priority as we start to deal with our grief and share in our memories of the recently lost. Several Kansas birdwatchers shared very eloquent and touching messages about Mobe and the impact that he had had on their, and all of our, lives.

It has been a year touched with grief in many different ways. And yet one of the ways that we deal with grief is through the support and camaraderie of our family and friends. Meade may seem like a long ways away from wherever you are in Kansas. But don't let that slow you down. Load up the car with friends and come on down to the Fall KOS Meeting. Tom Flowers has teamed up with his local Economic Development Office and they have a dandy weekend planned. I'm going to be there and it'll be good for you to be there too. See you in Meade!

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!

Spring 2003 - Stay tuned!!!!

Probably Leavenworth.

Fall 2003 - ?????? Cowley County been mentioned as a possibility. Local committee??

Spring 2004 - Washington County

Fall 2004 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. It really isn't THAT hard to host a 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 upcoming meeting.

In this issue -

- 2 Announcements*
- 3 Chet's*
- 4 Winged Tips*
- 5 KDWP Forum*
- 6 Hummer ID Guide*
- 7 Spring Season Birding Roundup*
- 16 West Nile Virus*
- 17 Fall Meeting Info*
- 19 Call for Papers Form*
- 20 Fall Meeting Registration Form*

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 DaveWmsKS@aol.com

We Need You!

There are a lot of activities and events that KOS does, or could do, if we had the volunteers to do it. Every year we have a need for a couple of new board members either as directors or officers. We need people to serve and chair local committees for spring and fall meetings. The KOS board has had to turn down numerous requests for participation or manning a booth at different events because there weren't interested people. If it seems to you that 10% of the people are doing 90% of the work, then you are just about right. Those 10% don't really want to do all that work, it's just that they feel it needs to get done and nobody else is stepping up to do it. We need more volunteers for many activities. Be brave, step forward and become more involved in your Kansas Ornithological Society. Contact any board member if you are interested in help out.

Fall Meeting 2002 October 4, 5 & 6, 2002 Meade, Kansas

Details and registration form inside this issue.

Registration information will also available at <http://ksbirds.org>

Fall Meeting information, page 17
Fall Meeting lodging information, page 18
Call for Presented Papers, page 19
Fall Meeting Registration Form, page 20
Best Bird of the Year nomination form
(page 20)

Discovering Birds

by Chet Gresham

I get the call. There is a Curlew Sandpiper at Quivira! What? I quickly start to devise plans to get me up there without making someone I know angry, and somehow I convince myself that I can be there at the crack of dawn. So there I was the next morning at 3:30 a.m., wide awake, and out the door.

The story here isn't really about if I saw the bird or not (which I didn't) but about that gravitational pull that rare birds have on some people like myself. What possesses us to want to see a bird outside of its normal range? Isn't it just a glitch, an abnormal weather pattern, a genetic defect? Should we celebrate a bird's inability to stay on course?

I so distinctly remember seeing a Chestnut-sided Warbler for the first time in my own back yard. To think that something so beautiful and exotic could be out in the elm trees I had so often watched the House Sparrows fighting in completely floored me. This revelation made me want to see more. I realized then that I was missing something beautiful in the world and quickly I became a birder.

But still, why would I drop everything just to see one bird? Aren't there more important things to do with my time? I ask myself this question often. I suppose it could be just to say I've seen it, to tell the story of how I saw it or what I'm doing now - telling the story of why I wanted to see it. I think it is so many things - it's the anticipation, the thrill of just getting up, dropping everything and hitting the road. It is also the thought that I may never see this bird in this spot ever again. Once in a lifetime opportunities are just that - once in a lifetime opportunities. I think we like to document the rare things

in life. We want to prove to ourselves that they can really happen which in turn might show us that we can be anywhere tomorrow, that on a second's notice we could be in a car or on a plane or even the side of the road heading somewhere we have never been just for the simple fact that we can.

All of these feelings birding gives us come from so many aspects of birding, not just chasing rarities. We don't have to limit the ways in which we enjoy birds. You can sit in a deep eastern forest all day and just close your eyes and listen to all the birds and never identify one, you can sit at your kitchen table and watch the goldfinch and house finches cracking open thistle and sunflower seeds, you can get a phone call and head out the door at breakneck speed and drive twelve hours to see a Slaty-backed Gull, you can be driving to work and count the number of red-tails you see each day, you can maintain a bluebird trail, do a big day for each month, do a big year for a county or a state or the whole world. It doesn't matter. Birding allows us a freedom that our day to day lives probably wouldn't give us. We are allowed to discover and not miss out on what is going on in a world where it feels as if there isn't much left to discover.

Birding isn't the only activity that allows discovery, but it is what we love and do and no matter how we are birders we will always be birders, and know that when that phone rings or when we are scanning with our scopes across the salt flats of Quivira that anything can happen.

Chet can be reached at cogresha@yahoo.com

Richard "Mobe" Rucker 1952 - 2002

The Kansas birding world was stunned by the announcement of Mobe Rucker's untimely passing. Mobe was vacationing with his family in Wyoming when a heart attack claimed him on August 8th. Mobe was well known and well respected by the Kansas birding community. The news hit the KSBIRD-L list on Friday afternoon, the 9th, and the kind words started flowing. Everyone kept using the same words that I had in my mind for Mobe - a kind and gentle man who loved birds and nature. He was always willing to help a new birder with infinite patience. Mobe truly never grew tired of helping the beginner "discover birds". He had worked as a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Perry Lake for 24 years. He was active in KOS and Jayhawk Audubon and was a regular fixture at many Christmas Bird Counts. He is survived by his wife Roseanne, daughters Genevieve and Sarah, his mother and a brother, Robert. He will be missed by everyone.....

What to Look For

by *John Rakestraw*

On Oregon Birders On Line recently a new birder reported a probable male Smith's Longspur in Portland. Now we don't get Smith's Longspurs in Oregon, even in the winter, so the report of a breeding-plumaged male in July caused many in the birding community to simply roll their eyes. But was the identification that illogical? Like many new birders, this person was relying solely on "field marks." If you look at the color pattern on a male Smith's Longspur, it appears strikingly similar to that of a young male Black-headed Grosbeak, a common bird in this area. Based on color alone, Smith's Longspur was not a bad call. But in this case, color alone was not enough to make a correct identification.

So what characteristics should we consider when we are trying to identify a bird? The first thing to notice about a bird is a combination of size, shape, and proportion. This is the first impression you get, how you instantly determine whether the bird is a hawk or a songbird or a swan. Many species can be identified by silhouette alone. Get a rough idea of the bird's size. If the bird is a songbird, is it small like a warbler or chickadee, medium sized like a robin or grosbeak, or large like a jay or grackle? What is the bird's overall shape? Is it long and lean or short and chunky? What are the bird's proportions? Does it have a large head, long tail, thick bill or thin? Where do the wing tips fall in relation to the tail? Are the wings rounded or pointed? These characteristics are very consistent among individuals of a species.

Next, consider the bird's coloring. Color patterns are important, but by themselves are not always reliable (hence the confusion between Smith's Longspur and Black-headed Grosbeak). Individual birds show a lot of variation. Color is also affected by feather wear, age, diet, and lighting conditions. But combined with size/shape/proportion, color patterns will often clinch an ID. A small yellow songbird with black wings is very likely an American Goldfinch. A medium sized yellow songbird with black wings is more likely a Western Tanager.

Notice the bird's behavior and choice of habitat. These traits alone are not conclusive, but provide important clues to a bird's identity. A small brown songbird climbing a tree trunk strongly suggests a Brown Creeper. A warbler in cattails is probably a Common Yellowthroat.

Listen for any vocalizations the bird may give. Sound is sometimes the most important clue to a bird's identity. A small drab flycatcher singing "che-BEK, che-BEK" is probably a Least. A small drab flycatcher singing a sneezy "fitz-bew" is likely a Willow.

Consider which species of birds are most likely to be seen at any given season and location. To the great delight of us birders, birds do sometimes wander off course, but those are the exceptions. A brown stripey finch at your feeder is probably a House Finch. It could be a Cassin's, but that should not be your first guess. As the old saying goes, when you hear hoof beats, think horses, not zebras. Probability supports calling the bird a House Finch, and that is where you should start. If you are familiar with the common species, you will quickly recognize something unusual when it appears.

Years ago, I found a large dark hummingbird at my feeder in St. John and finally, reluctantly, labeled the bird a Magnificent Hummingbird. Scott Seltman and Mike Rader were parked in front of my house the next morning to see and video this bird. After about two seconds of observation, it was obvious to these more experienced birders that the bird was NOT a Magnificent Hummingbird. So let's apply these characteristics to my greatest identification *faux pas* to see where I went wrong.

PROBABILITY: I knew that it was very unlikely to find a Magnificent Hummer in Kansas, but nine species of hummingbird, including Magnificent, have been seen in the Sunflower State. **VOICE:** none heard. **BEHAVIOR:** typical hummingbird behavior, visiting flowers and the humming-bird feeder; no special "quirks" noted. **COLOR:** consistent with immature female Magnificent, but many female/immature hummers show similar patterns.

So did the **SIZE/SHAPE/PROPORTION** of my hummingbird support my guess of Magnificent? When I first saw the bird, it was flying around in an autumn snowstorm. Hummingbirds in the snow tend to fluff up quite a bit, making this bird look quite large, much larger than the Rufous Hummer I had hosted a few weeks before. (As the sun came out, the temperatures warmed, and the light improved, the bird became increasingly smaller.) The shape of the bird was obviously that of a hummingbird. The proportion, however, was not right for Magnificent. Magnificent Hummingbirds, I was told, have big floppy tails. This bird's tail was too short. Oh well.

Thus I learned to notice as many different aspects of unfamiliar birds as possible, instead of relying on one or two. This cautious approach forces me to be a better observer and vastly improves my credibility.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Sandhill Crane Update

by Helen Hands

A few years ago, I wrote about the status of Sandhill Cranes and how they weren't endangered by hunting. Since then, a major study on the Platte River in Nebraska has increased our knowledge of Sandhill Crane ecology. This study is being conducted by Gary Krapu of U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and involves on-the-ground assessments of food availability and condition of the birds plus remote sensing of cranes via satellite telemetry. The on-the-ground assessments will provide data to compare current conditions to those 25 years ago when a similar study was done. This comparison is needed because there has been concern expressed that conditions on the Platte River, where over 90% of the Sandhill Cranes in the Mid-Continent Population stop during spring migration, have deteriorated during the past 25 years. Concern has been expressed that Sandhill Cranes are not accumulating as much fat on the Platte as they did in the 1970s because of a combination of factors including: 1) vegetation encroachment has narrowed river channels and concentrated cranes in smaller areas thereby increasing competition; 2) efficiency in corn harvest has decreased waste grain availability to cranes, and 3) increases in numbers of geese and other wildlife have increased competition for waste grain.

Data collected during spring 1998 were similar to those collected in the 1970s: large cranes were depositing more fat than small cranes. However, as a proportion of body size, fat deposition was similar between small and large cranes. In spring 1999, corn availability declined dramatically and large cranes had more trouble depositing fat than small cranes. It has been hypothesized that the Mid-Continent population of Sandhill Cranes has continued to increase despite increases in harvest because high rates of fat deposition allowed the birds to reach their Arctic nesting areas in better condition. When Gary Krapu has completed his study, we should have a much better idea how decreases in corn availability are affecting fat deposition by Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River. More study will probably be necessary to determine if this will affect reproductive success.

The second part of Gary Krapu's study involves telemetry, using both satellite and radio transmitters attached to cranes. The objectives of this portion of the

study are to: 1) identify sites used during the nesting season, migration, and winter; 2) identify sites used and length of stay of the 3 subspecies and 2 subpopulations within the Central Platte and North Platte river valleys in Nebraska; 3) evaluating the effectiveness of the annual March survey by estimating the percent of the population within the survey area during the survey period; and 4) estimate the exposure of the 3 subspecies to hunting. Data from objective 1 from the 1998-2000 field season can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/perm/cranemov/cranemov.htm>. One surprise has been the number of cranes that have gone to Siberia to nest. As for objective 3, to date, the radio telemetry data within the Central and Platte River valleys have shown that over 90% of the cranes with radio transmitters are present at the time of the annual March survey. This indicates that the date selected for the annual survey is appropriate.

Gary Krapu's study has also yielded some unexpected data. DNA samples were collected from the birds marked with satellite transmitters. So far, these samples have shown that genetically there is no difference between the moderately-sized subspecies, commonly called the Canadian subspecies, and the greater subspecies. Similar results have come from genetics sampling of museum specimens collected on the breeding grounds and birds collected in Texas during winter. Thus, it appears that despite 3 morphometric groups of Sandhill Cranes, genetically only 2 subspecies are distinct. This means that instead of estimates of the percentage of greater in the Mid-Continent Population being in the 9% range, they are actually more in the 40% range.

Because this study has been providing new and important information, the Central Flyway has postponed its long-promised revision of the Management Plan for Mid-Continent Sandhill Cranes. The last satellite and radio transmitters were attached in spring 2002. Thus, the Management Plan probably won't be revised until 2004, when results from this study become available in final form.

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

Key to the Common Female and Immature Hummingbirds of Kansas

by Thomas G. Shane

(Editor's note: In recent years, Tom and Sara Shane have had a wonderful opportunity to study those "common" hummingbirds that visit Kansas. Tom shared the following quick identification guide with the subscribers of the Kansas Internet discussion group, KSBIRD-L and allows it to share it with the KOS readership!)

This key is designed to help identify those hummingbirds other than the adult males at your feeders and flowers. This includes 90 - 95% of our migrants. An entirely different set of characters is used when banders identify hand held hummingbirds.

Hummingbird characters of little use in determining species: Do not worry about size, it is very deceptive. Do not worry about the shade of the green on the back. Do not worry about the white around the eye, it is highly variable. Do not worry about the color of the under tail coverts. Do not worry about the density of small to medium green spots on the throat. Do not worry about the white tips to tail feathers, all 5 species have them.

If you have only seconds at a hummingbird observation: Do look for the rust color or lack of on the sides/flanks. Do look at the tail for size, shape and color patterns.

A. HUMMINGBIRD SHOWS CONSIDERABLE RUFOUS/RUST ON SIDES/FLANKS.

1. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

- a. Generally has medium rust color on flanks, occasionally a breast band.
- b. Considerable rust in the tail feathers at the base, usually apparent in a side view of perched bird.
- c. Tail wedge shaped, central feathers green, some rust often shows around upper tail coverts.
- d. Tail longer than wings.
- e. Some rusty flecks in upper tail coverts and on back, "Important character". Immature males often have a considerable amount of rust in same area.
- f. Very aggressive and territorial.

2. BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD

- a. Varies from a medium to light rust color on flanks, occasionally shows a breast band.
- b. Small area of rust at base of tail feathers, harder to see in a side view.
- c. Tail large and squared, central feathers green, tail looks green when perched.
- d. Tail longer than wings.

- e. Upper tail coverts and back green, no rust.
- f. Wing beats often appear slower in this species.

3. CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

- a. Always a light rust color on flanks which extends in a narrow band across breast.
- b. Almost no rust in tail feathers at the base.
- c. Tail squared off, central feathers end in black making a noticeably small black tail in flight or perched. --d. Tail shorter than wings, "Important character".
- e. Upper tail coverts and back green
- f. When observed at close range bill appears short and needle like.

B. HUMMINGBIRD SHOWS LITTLE OR NO RUST ON SIDES/FLANKS, GENERALLY LIGHT BREASTED, SMALL HEAD AND NECK, AURICULAR AREA OFTEN DARK, TAIL LONGER THAN WINGS WHEN PERCHED, AND HAS NO RUST IN TAIL.

4. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

- a. Green cap and forehead.
- b. Straight bill.
- c. Does not pump tail when bill is in feeder or flower while feeding.
- d. Forked tail observed while perched. NOTICE: If you observe all four of the characters above on same bird then you will be about 80% sure of a Ruby-throat.

5. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

- a. Grayish to grayish green cap and forehead.
- b. Slightly decurved bill.
- c. Pumps tail when bill is in feeder or flower while feeding.
- d. Squared or rounded tail observed while perched. NOTICE: If you observe all four of the characters above on same bird then you will be about 80% sure of a Black-chin.

C. If you see a large dark spot or two on the throat try and get a reflection of the iridescent color. It will nearly cinch the id for you.

RUFOUS.....Golden Orange Note: First iridescent spots are often on side of neck on the immature male Rufous.

BROAD-TAILED....Rose Red

CALLIOPE.....Garnet Red

RUBY-THROATED...Flame Red

BLACK-CHINNED...Purple

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KANSAS SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2002 through May 31, 2002

By Lloyd Moore

Another spring has come and gone and we're left to enjoy our breeding birds for a couple of months until the southward fall migration starts. This spring, bird wise, was apparently one to remember. At least that's what many of you seemed to think judging from your comments. I read and heard many comments that this was the best spring migration in years. Especially, it seemed for warblers and other Neotropical migrants. This was caused, as it usually is, by the weather. Cold fronts and storms not only caused the migrants to stop but pile up in unusual numbers. However, these weather events seemed to split the state east to west. The west was and still is experiencing severe drought conditions while in the east there was above normal rainfall ...at least during May. However, the west did experience some spill over of the eastern abundance. Several species of warblers and others found their way further west than usual. The North American Migration Count (NAMC) and birdathon's tallied excellent numbers of both species and individuals. The best of these was the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History "Big Day" birdathon.

The team of three (Mark Robbins, Mike Rader and Roger McNeill) totaled a new Kansas "Big Day" record of 225 species in a single 24 hour period. An amazing record for a land locked state in the middle of the country. This record ties Kansas for third in the nation for most species seen/heard on a single day in one state. The other three states are Texas, California and New Jersey. Other events or outings that benefited from this "bird abundance" were the Wings & Wetlands Festival at Great Bend, KOS's spring meeting at Junction City as well as a large number of birders that birded the Red Hills of Barber and Comanche Counties. In addition to these official or semiofficial events there were the trips taken to all parts of the state by groups of birders both large and small. All in all a terrific spring of birding.

As usual there were some "zooties" found during the period. These ranged from **Brown Pelican** in Phillips Co. to **Lesser Nighthawk** in Cherokee Co. Other unusual finds were; Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Ground Dove, Broad-tailed

Hummingbird, Snowy Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Virginia's Warbler, an unusual number of Cape May Warblers, Connecticut Warbler, nesting Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Lesser Goldfinch. Breeding of Rufous-crowned Sparrow was confirmed in Comanche Co. and the range expansion of Eurasian-collared, White-winged and Inca Doves continues to move forward.

Well! Enough of my jabbering on to the spring report.

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 KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

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>
Common Loon	1 at Douglas Co. SFL	Douglas	4/03	DO
Western Grebe	2 near dam at Milford Lake	Geary	3/24	C&JO
	1 at Barber Co. State Lake	Barber	3/27	DA
	20+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/27	SS
	15-20 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/04	MR
Clark's Grebe	1 in Pool 1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/20	SS
	<i>(Mated with a Western Grebe and doing "waterdance" display.)</i>			
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/28	H&SG
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/03	MR
	1 at pond S. of Lakin	Kearny	5/06	BP, CW
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/06	BP, CW

Brown Pelican	<D>	1 at Kirwin NWR	Phillips	4/23	SR
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>		2 below John Redmond Dam	Coffey	3/05	DG
		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/06	BP, CW
		2 in Pool 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
American Bittern		1 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	3/05	MC
		2 in Unit A, Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	4/21	MM, DSe, GP
Tricolored Heron		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/06	BP, CW
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		9 in Unit C, Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	4/19	M&EC
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/07	BP, CW
	<D>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	EW,SH,JG,BH
White-faced Ibis		12 flying over 95 th & I-435	Johnson	4/04	DS
		40 at Meade State Lake	Meade	4/19	TF
		12 at Clinton Lake Wetlands	Douglas	5/03	PW
Snow Goose		250,000 est. at Milford Lake	Geary	3/03	C&JO
Ross's Goose		4 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	4/05	DK, GS
		2 on pond N of Odin	Barton	5/07	MRo, DK
		<i>(Were with 2 probable "Richardson's" Canada Geese.)</i>			
Black Duck		2 at Marsh of the Swans	Osage	3/05	DG
		<i>(A pair has been seen at this location since about the mid 90's during winter and early spring.)</i>			
Cinnamon Teal		2 on Ark. River in Wichita	Sedgwick	3/28	RB
		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/06	SS, DB
		3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/06	DK, GS
		1	Greenwood	4/12	CG, TH
		Pair at MdCWA, Unit A	Linn	4/28	MC, MM
		1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	4/29	SM
Greater Scaup		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/18	MR
		1 at Tuttle Creek Res.	Riley	3/22	TC, CA
		1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/19	MR
		1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>5/13</u>	MRo, MR, RMc
Long-tailed Duck		3 at "Oldsquaw" Pond, Wichita	Sedgwick	3/03-4/12	PJ, m:ob
		<i>(Present since January 26 – 4 seen on 3/13)</i>			
Common Goldeneye		1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>5/13</u>	MRo, MR, RMc
Hooded Merganser		1 female, 7 chicks at Marais des Cygne	Linn	5/04	MC
		<i>(Chicks appeared to be 7-10 days old.)</i>			
Osprey		<u>12</u> at Kirwin NWR	Phillips	5/23	SR
Bald Eagle		Pair nesting	Osborne	4/01	HA
		Pair nesting Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	4/06	TC, CA, AF
		1 adult, Unit G, Marais des Cygne	Linn	4/19	M&EC
		Pair nesting at Perry Lake	Jefferson	4/21	RR
		4 migrating over MdCWA	Linn	4/21	MM, DSe, GP
		1 imm. at MdCWA	Linn	4/28	MC, MM
		1 on nest at Wolf Creek	Coffey	4/27	JH,PM,MK
		1 adult N. of Milford (<i>the town</i>)	Geary	5/04	DR, M:ob
		Pair nesting at Clinton Lake	Douglas	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc

Northern Harrier	82 at Cheyenne Bottoms (All but 12 seen in pool #2)	Barton	3/06	MR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 at Wilson State Park	Russell	5/26	MR
Cooper's Hawk	Pair nesting 8 mi. NW of Larned (Scott believes there has been Cooper's Hawks nesting at this location for the past ten years.)	Pawnee	3/12	SS
	Nesting at McPherson SFL	McPherson	4/16	CG
	1 at Winfield Mall	Cowley	4/17	MT
	(Being harassed by a Western Kingbird.)			
	1 at River Pond area, Tuttle Creek	Riley	5/02	KSUFOC
	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	5/31	BA
	(Territorial, seen at same location for over two weeks.)			
Northern Goshawk	1 seen in flight	Barber	4/11	DA
Red-shouldered Hawk	5 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	3/26	MC, MM
	5 N. of Elk Falls on Elk River	Elk	4/08	PJ, TH, CG
	1 at Toronto Res.	Woodson	4/12	CG, TH
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
Broad-winged Hawk	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/01	CG
Swainson's Hawk	100+ soaring over Cottonwood Falls	Chase	4/22	SD
	35 in burned field SW of Neosho Rapids	Lyon	4/27	JH,PM,MK
Ferruginous Hawk	1 south of Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/05	MR & Others
Golden Eagle	1	Osborne	3/31	CA
Merlin	1 speeding down the street	Finney	3/24	T&SSh
	1 "taiga" race	Rush	4/19	SS
	1 female "richardsoni" at CB	Barton	5/06	MRo, DK
	1 flyby of Max's house, Winfield	Cowley	5/19	MT
Peregrine Falcon	1 in Topeka	Shawnee	3/29	DL
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/30	TH, CG
	1 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	4/13	MC, MM
	1 3 mi E of Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/11	MR
	1 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	4/19	MM
	1 at Alcove Springs	Marshall	4/21	TP
	1 migrating over MdCWA	Linn	4/21	MM, DSe, GP
	1 near Elwood	Doniphan	4/22	D&HC
	Pair in downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	4/26-5/14	D&FV
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/27	SS
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/27	SS
	2 at MdCWA, Units A & G	Linn	4/28	MC, MM
	1 at Elkhart sewage lagoons	Morton	5/03	CG, SP
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
Prairie Falcon	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/30	SS
	1 at Alcove Springs	Marshall	4/21	TP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/27	DR, m:ob
Scaled Quail	5 N. of Elkhart	Morton	05/03	CG, SP
Lesser Prairie Chicken	8 at west lek CNG	Morton	4/05	DK, GS
	34 on 4 leks SE Garden City	Finney	4/09	TS
	10 SE of Fowler	Meade	4/19	TF
	20 displaying on lek CNG	Morton	5/20	BBe

<u>Black Rail</u>	4 at Coldwater Lake 3 at Quivira NWR	Comanche Stafford	4/19 5/13	M:ob MRo, MR, RMc
King Rail	1 at Marais des Cygne W. A.	Linn	4/13	MC, MM
Virginia Rail	1 at Marais des Cygne W.A. 3 at Marais des Cygne W. A. 7 at MdCWA 4 at Coldwater Lake	Linn Linn Linn Comanche	3/29 4/13 4/28 5/19	MC MC, MM MC, MM M:ob
Sora	2 at Marais des Cygne W. A. 12 at MdCWA 1 at Coldwater Lake	Linn Linn Comanche	4/13 4/28 5/19	MC, MM MC, MM M:ob
Sandhill Crane	3 over Junction City 7000+ at Quivira NWR 2000 migrating 15 in flight over Derby 4 over Derby (<i>a bit late</i>)	Geary Stafford Barber Sedgwick Sedgwick	3/10 3/13 3/13 4/11 5/06	C&JO B&BM DA LH LH
Black-bellied Plover	<u>75+</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/05	MR
American Golden-Plover	<u>700</u> around Texaco Hill	Chase	4/19	MRo
Snowy Plover	1 Elkhart sewer lagoons	Morton	5/04	SP
Piping Plover	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms, Pool 1 1-3 at Quivira NWR 13 at DeWeese Park, Cheney Res. 1 at Harm's Pond near Peabody 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton Stafford Reno Marion Barton Barton	4/20 4/27 4/28 4/30 5/05 5/06	SS SS, AP PJ, LE KK MR BP, CW
Whimbrel	1 at sandpit in Wichita 1 at Quivira NWR 6 at Cheyenne Bottoms 12 along Redwing Rd. at CB	Sedgwick Stafford Barton Barton	4/28 5/03-04 5/06 5/16	PJ DG & others BP, CW AP
Long-billed Curlew	30 So. of Garden City 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Finney Barton	3/26 4/08	CS HH
Marbled Godwit	13 at El Dorado Lake 45 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Butler Barton	4/22 4/27	DWe SS
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at MdCWA 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Linn Barton	4/29 5/13	MC MRo, MR, RMc
Sanderling	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 in field W of Pratt	Barton Pratt	5/05 5/11	MR LL
White-rumped Sandpiper	2 at Quivira NWR No.? at K-96 bridge, Wichita 1 at Grant School Slough	Stafford Sedgwick Douglas	<u>4/27</u> <u>4/28</u> <u>5/03</u>	SS PJ GP
Dunlin	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/05	MR
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 near Texaco Hill	Chase	4/19	MRo
Short-billed Dowitcher	50 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/06	BP, CW
Long-billed Dowitcher	2000 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/19	MR

American Woodcock	4 displaying at NESAs 1 at Lone Star Displaying at Tuttle Cove Park 1 on nest	Jefferson Douglas Riley Washington	3/08 3/11 4/08 4/20	GP PW TC DT
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 at Elkhart sewer lagoons 1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Barton Morton Stafford	5/03-04 5/06 5/09 5/13	DG & others MRo, DK BP, CW MRo, MR, RMc
Laughing Gull	1 2 nd year at Wilson State Park 1 adult at Cheyenne Bottoms	Russell Barton	5/09 5/06	MR BP, CW
California Gull	1 2 nd year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/06	BP, CW
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 "probable" 2nd year at CB	Barton	5/05	MR
Glaucous Gull	1 imm. at Clinton Lake	Douglas	3/10	AP
Least Tern	1 very early at fish ponds in Lawrence	Douglas	4/16	MRo
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3 at/near Shane res. Garden City 1 in Hays 6 at a residence 1-2 at Gardner 1 at farmstead in NW Pawnee 1 in Greensburg 2 at residence in Caney 2 at Garden City residence Nesting in Arma 1 at Yates Center 2 in Ellinwood 4 in Blue Rapids 1-14 in Ness City since winter 2 at Palmer residence, Topeka 1 at residence in E. Harvey Co. 1 in Macksville, 5 in St. John <D> 1 at residence in Anthony 4 1.5 miles W of Chetopa 3 pair in Linn	Finney Ellis Sedgwick Johnson Pawnee Kiowa Montgomery Finney Crawford Woodson Barton Marshall Ness Shawnee Harvey Stafford Harper Labette Washington	3/04 3/14 3/05 3/17-25 3/20 3/22 3/14-28 3/30 4/04 4/12 4/20 4/21 4/26 4/27 5/07 5/11 5/12 5/25 5/27	TS GF MA MS, JA SS DL LD T&SSh RM CG, TH SS TP MD DP JSo SS, DK J&DV EW, JL DT
White-winged Dove	1 at Presbyterian Manor, Wichita 1 at feeder in Topeka 1 at Wichita residence 1 near Barnes residence, Wichita 1 in Clinton State Park 1 at McClard residence, Wichita <D> 1 at Mangile residence, Pittsburg 1 at farm 1 pair in Larned 1 9 S & 3.3 W of Holcomb	Sedgwick Shawnee Sedgwick Sedgwick Douglas Sedgwick Crawford Pratt Pawnee Finney	4/15 4/18 4/22 4/23 4/27 5/05 5/06 5/07-09 5/25 5/26	AE GK, DG WJ JB GPa BMc RM LL LEr CS
Inca Dove	2 returned to Flowers residence <D> 1 at residence in McPherson 1 in S. Olathe 1 at Wichita residence all winter Several calling on farm (Have been heard since early April.)	Meade McPherson Johnson Sedgwick Pratt	3/08-30 3/31 4/09 4/15 5/09	TF RD MC DWa LL

<u>Common Ground-Dove</u>	1 at Corder's residence, Olathe (<i>"Dickie" had visited the Corder's feeders daily for over two months and was last seen on 3/02 trying to weather the snowstorm.</i>)	Johnson	3/02	MC
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	<u>5/27</u>	T&SSh
Greater Roadrunner	1 South side of Meade	Meade	4/01	CV
	1 on Swartz Mound	Comanche	5/18	PJ
Barn Owl	1 near Lone Star	Douglas	5/01	PW
<u>Snowy Owl</u>	1 found dead on K-156 3 mi SW I-70	Ellsworth	<u>3/04</u>	LH
	1 S of Latham	Butler	<u>5/20</u>	BB
	1 in SW Topeka	Shawnee	<u>5/19</u>	DH
Burrowing Owl	1 at Finney Bison Range	Finney	<u>3/12</u>	KT
	6 found at 3 small prairie dog towns	Finney	<u>3/20-21</u>	TS, CH
	9 on 2 dogtowns	Finney	4/09	TS
Barred Owl	1 near Artesian Well, Meade S.P.	<u>Meade</u>	4/01	MG
	1 in Swartz Canyon	Comanche	5/18	CSc, BBU
Long-eared Owl	1 adult 2-3 juveniles at Scott Lake	Scott	5/25	T&SSh
	1 calling on Elm Creek N of Medicine	Lodge		
		Comanche	5/19	PJ,SP,CG,MC
<u>Lesser Nighthawk</u> <D>	1 at cemetery Baxter Springs	<u>Cherokee</u>	5/09	BP, CW
Common Poorwill	3 at Cimarron Nat'l Grassland	Morton	4/06	DK, GS
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 male at <u>Satanta</u>	<u>Haskell</u>	5/08	NC
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 male at Scott Lake SP	Scott	3/17	T&SSh
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u>	1 10S & 1.5 W of Holcomb	Finney	5/26	CS
	2 near Sun City	<u>Barber</u>	5/19	MC
<u>Vermilion Flycatcher</u>	1 adult male at Winfield City Lake	<u>Cowley</u>	4/02	BL
	1 8 miles E of Hays	<u>Ellis</u>	5/12	OK
Cassin's Kingbird	1 W. of Coolidge along 50 Hwy	Hamilton	5/06	BP, CW
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1	Elk	<u>3/25</u>	GW
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
<u>Plumbeous Vireo</u>	1 at Elkhart Shelterbelt	Morton	5/03-05	CG, SP
	1 at Crane Park, Derby	<u>Sedgwick</u>	5/16	LH
Philadelphia Vireo	2 in Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/03	DV
	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	5/09	BA, DK
	1 in SE Shawnee Co.	Shawnee	5/11	DG
	1 at Antioch Park	Johnson	5/12	MG
	4 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC)	Leavenworth	5/11	JS compiler
	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	Sedgwick	5/12	PJ
	1 Crawford Co. NAMC	Crawford	5/11	RM
	1 on Chicken Creek	Douglas	5/11	PW
	1 at Lone Star, Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/13	GP
	2 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	5/18	BA
	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/24	MM
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	5/27	MM
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>100+</u> at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	5/27	MM

<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	1	<u>Comanche</u>	5/18	MC
Black-billed Magpie	2 S of Sun City	<u>Barber</u>	5/18	SS
Fish Crow	2 S. of Fall River Res. 10 at Galena 5 at Riverton	Greenwood Cherokee Cherokee	4/12 5/10 5/10	CG, TH BP, CW BP, CW
<u>Chihuahuan Raven</u>	4 N. of Elkhart	Morton	5/03	CG, SP
Purple Martin	1 at Winfield (1 st of the season) <i>(A few days later on 3/17 several were seen in Manhattan by TC.)</i>	Cowley	3/14	MT
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 on KU campus 2 at Rintoul's residence 1 at cemetery in Junction City	Douglas Riley Geary	4/15 5/02 5/13	BA DR MRo, MR, RMc
Rock Wren	1 near Scott State Park 1 at Wilson State Park	Scott Russell	3/31 5/13	T&SSh MRo, MR, RMc
Bewick's Wren	1 at Wolf Creek Education Center Pair nesting in Mound City 1 on Walla Walla Rd.	Coffey Linn Geary	3/05 3/31 5/13	DG LMi MRo, MR, RMc
Winter Wren	1 along a creek 1 at Cheney Res. 1 Pet Cemetery Trail, Ft. Riley	Leavenworth Reno Geary	3/23 3/24 3/31	DW PJ, CG C&JO
Marsh Wren	1 in marsh below Tuttle Creek dam	Pottawatomie	3/10	LJ
Veery	1 at Crane Park, Derby 1 at Antioch Park 3 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC) 1 in flight near radio tower	Sedgwick Johnson Leavenworth Shawnee	5/09 5/12 5/11 5/13	TH, LH MG RMc MRo, MR, RMc
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 at "Boy Scout Area"	<u>Morton</u>	5/03-05	CG, SP
Hermit Thrush	2 Elkhart shelterbelt & E. Richfield	<u>Morton</u>	5/03-05	CG, SP
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence 1 at Antioch Park 1 at Clinton Lake 2 at Bonner Springs	Douglas Johnson Douglas Wyandotte	5/07 5/12 5/11 5/13	BA MG PW MRo, MR, RMc
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at MdCWA 1 at Antioch Pk., Overland Park 1 in Harvey Co. 1 at Oak Park, Wichita 1 at Lake Shawnee, Topeka 11 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC) 1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 at Lone Star, Bonner Springs 1 at Antioch Park 1 at Roe Park, Leawood 3-4 at Ft. Leavenworth	Linn Johnson Harvey Sedgwick Shawnee Leavenworth Douglas Wyandotte Johnson Johnson Leavenworth	5/05 5/09 5/09 5/09 5/10 5/11 5/13 5/13 5/14 5/14 5/13	AG MG CSc BR MP, CSc JS compiler BA, DK, SF GP CG SP MRo, MR, RMc
Tennessee Warbler	1 at Shane res. Garden City <i>(Farther west than usual)</i> 1 at Wilson State Park <i>(Also 2 in Wilson, Ellsworth Co. earlier)</i>	<u>Finney</u> <u>Russell</u>	5/13 5/23	T&SSh MR

Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at feeder in Manhattan <i>(Has been visiting feeder since early February.)</i>	Pottawatomie	3/18	GS, KW
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	5/10	CW
Magnolia Warbler	1 at Elkhart Shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	5/03	CG, SP
	1 male, 1 female in Morton Co.	<u>Morton</u>	5/10	BP, CW
<u>Cape May</u>	1 at Mangile residence, Pittsburg	Crawford	5/06	RM
	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	5/09	BA, DK
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC)	Leavenworth	5/11	JS, DS, GP
	1 at Antioch Park	Johnson	5/13	CHo
	1 at "Mom" Seltman's farm	<u>Pawnee</u>	5/13	SS
	1 near Riley Co. Courthouse	<u>Riley</u>	5/17	DR
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 at Kill Creek Park	Johnson	5/03	B, S & EW
	1 at Crane Park, Derby	Sedgwick	5/09	TH, LH
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 in Unit A, Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	4/06	DH
	1 on Caney River E. of Elgin	Chautauqua	4/08	PJ, CG, TH
	2 on river road at Marais des Cygne	Linn	4/14	MM
	Pair carrying nesting material	Linn	4/19	MM
	Pair at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	4/20	JS
	6-7 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	4/19	MM
	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	5/06	BA, SF
	4 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC)	Leavenworth	5/11	JS compiler
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	5/12	MM
	1 at Lone Star, Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/13	GP
Pine Warbler	1 singing in Burcham Pk.	Douglas	3/30	BA
Bay-Breasted Warbler	3 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC)	Leavenworth	5/11	JS compiler
	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	5/13	SF
	1 at Lone Star, Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/13	GP
Cerulean Warbler	1 singing male at MdCWA	Linn	5/08	BP, CW
	2 at Ft. Leavenworth (NAMC)	Leavenworth	5/11	JS compiler
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/07	CG
	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	5/09	CW
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	5/11	PW
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	Leavenworth	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
Kentucky Warbler	1 at "Boy Scout Area"	<u>Morton</u>	5/04	CG, SP
<u>Connecticut Warbler</u>	1 at Oak Hill Cemetery, Galena	Cherokee	5/16	DH
MacGillivray's Warbler	3 in Morton Co.	Morton	5/09-10	BP, CW
	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	<u>Sedgwick</u>	5/16	CG
Hooded Warbler	1 male near Unit G, MdCWA	Linn	4/21	MM, DSe, GP
	1 male at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	4/27	CG
	1 at Felker Park, Topeka	Shawnee	5/02	RF
	2 singing at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/08	BP, CW
	1 at Barnes res., Wichita	Sedgwick	5/20	JB
Summer Tanager	2 females at "Middle Spring"	<u>Morton</u>	5/03	CG, SP
Western Tanager	1	Cheyenne	5/27	HA

Cassin's Sparrow	"dozens" S of Kinsley 3 near Deerhead	<u>Edwards</u> Barber	5/19 5/18	PJ PJ
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	24 on the Merrill Ranch <i>(Included family group of four, 2 adult and 2 juveniles.)</i> 1 at US-169 scenic overlook	Comanche <u>Barber</u>	5/18-19 5/18-19	M:ob SP, et al
Vesper Sparrow	1 in rural Barton Co.	Barton	<u>5/13</u>	MRo, MR, RMc
Henslow's Sparrow	12+ heard pre dawn	Shawnee	5/13	MRo, MR, RMc
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	<D> 1 So. of LaCygne Lake	Linn	3/29	MM
Chestnut-collared Longspur	50 NW of Larned	Pawnee	3/31	SS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5 Elkhart, shelterbelt, middle spring	<u>Morton</u>	5/03-05	CG, SP
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 male at Lake Shawnee 1 at Chisholm Creek Park 1 male 1 female at Little Swartz Canyon 1 male	<u>Shawnee</u> Sedgwick Comanche Comanche Cheyenne	5/08 5/12 5/18 5/18 5/27	RMa PJ BBu, et al PJ HA
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Oak Park, Wichita 1 at residence in Lenexa 1 at "Point of Rocks" 1 at Elkhart Shelterbelt 1 on Jester Creek	Sedgwick Johnson Morton Morton Harvey	5/01 5/03 5/03 5/04-05 5/14	DV NF CG, SP CG, SP CSc
Indigo Bunting	1 at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	<u>4/19</u>	MM
Painted Bunting	1 at Texas Lakes WA 1 at Cable res. Tuttle Creek 1 Wakarusa causeway, Clinton Lk. 1 on Finney Co. NAMC 1 at Shane residence	Pratt Riley Douglas <u>Finney</u> <u>Finney</u>	5/11 5/11 5/11 5/11 5/22	LL TC PW CF T&SSh
Bobolink	5 at Tuttle Creek 40 E. of Barnes 11 at Shawnee Mission Park	<u>Riley</u> Washington Johnson	5/11 5/11 5/14	TC DT SM
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 at feeder in Pittsburg 37 7 W of LaCygne Lake 100-200 W of Lawrence 30-40 W of K-7 in Olathe	Crawford Barber Linn Douglas Johnson	4/05 4/10 4/21 4/22 4/23	EH DA MM, DSe, GP MJM, DK NF
Purple Finch	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	3/24	T&SSh
White-winged Crossbill	1 at Shane residence, Garden City	Finney	4/16	T&SSh
Pine Siskin	40 at Middle Spring CNG 12+ at Manhattan residence 30-40 at feeders in Elkhart	Morton Riley Morton	4/05 4/26 5/03-05	DK, GS DBu CG, SP
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1 at Shane's res. Garden City <i>(Male green-backed form.)</i>	Finney	5/10	T&SSh

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 (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygnes W. A. (MdcWA),

OBSERVERS: Marcia Allen, Dennis Angle, Joe Alburty, Charles Anderson, Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, Roy Beckemeyer, Dave Bryan, James Barnes, Doris Burnett (DBu), Warren Buss, Bob Branson, Brad Bergstrom (BBu), Bill Busby (BBu), Mark Corder, Mark & Elaine Corder (M&EC), Ted Cable, Donna & Herb Chance (D&HC), Norma Conover, Lanny Deering, Rich Duerksen, Susan Davis, Mary Davison, Alleen Engle, Lisa Edwards, Lyle Erway (LEr), Greg Farley, Tom Flowers, Ann Feyerharm, Nancy Fitzgerald, Richard Field, Steve Fretwell, Cathy Finfrock, Dan Gish, Chet Gresham, Mark Goldsberry, Harry & Sharron Gregory (H&SG), Alan Godwin, Lori Hall, Janice Gaston, Christian Hagen, Helen Hands, Tyler Hicks, Leon Hicks, Elma Hurt, David Henness, Jerry Horak, Chris Hobbs (CHO), Doug Harvey (DHa), Susan Hazelwood, Bonnie Heidy, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Wayne Jahn, Dan Kluza, Glen Koontz, Marvin Kuehn, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, KSU Field Ornithology Class (FSUFOC), Oliver Komar, Dan Larson, Betty Leader, Linda Loomis, Lean Leonatti, Bobby & Bev Maxey (B&BM), Mick McHugh, Mary Jo Mensie (MJM), Lynn Miller, Robert Mangile, Paul McKnab, Steven McDaniel, Roger McNeill (RMC), Bert McClard (BMc), Richard Martin (RMA), Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Duane Otto, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Tom Parker, Don Palmer, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Marie Plinsky, Steve Phillips, Mike Rader, Mark Robbins (MRo), Richard Rucker, Shannon Rothchild, Dave Rintoul, Ben Rogers, Curran Salter, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Tom and Sara Shane (T&SH), Mike Stoakes, Greg Schrott, Don Stout, John Schukman, David Seibel (DSe), James South (JSo), Carolyn Schwab (CSc), Max Thompson, Karen Tanner, Dan Thalman, Cathye Vest, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Jack & Donna Vogt (J&DV), Phil Wedge, Dave Williams, Chris Wood, Gloria Wolf, David Weible (DWe), Dean Wallace (DWa), Kimberley With, Brad, Scott & Emma Williamson (B,S&EW), Edge Wade.

- - Hummer ID Guide continued

For those of you who have a copy of the National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, check the plates showing the spread hummingbird tails, they are good. Two new field guides with photos are a must in your library if you are serious about hummer identification: Sheri L. Williamson. 2001. *Peterson Field Guides - Hummingbirds of North America*. Houghton Mifflin; and Steve N. G. Howell. 2002. *Hummingbirds of North America*. Academic Press. Please send additional suggestions or corrections for this key at any time. You never stop learning about hummingbirds! Tom can be reached at: 1706 Belmont Place Garden City, KS 67846 shane@pdl.com Phone: (620) 275-4616

West Nile Virus

Just ahead of press time, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced that West Nile Virus (WNV) had been confirmed in Kansas. Amazingly, to me anyway, the first reported case was not in a crow or Blue Jay, but in the other favorite victim of this virus, a horse. Most everyone acknowledged that it was just a matter of time before WNV was found in Kansas. As birdwatchers we often find ourselves birding in areas where there "may" be insects. We all know the risks associated with any of the myriad of insect borne diseases. WNV is no different than the others. It is a real risk, but it is present in fairly low concentrations. Use common sense, wear protective clothing and use insect repellent. There are several good world wide web sites on West Nile Virus. A good place to start for learning about the current status of WNV in Kansas, with links to many other good WNV sites is the K-State Web page for West Nile Virus at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus/>

54th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

Forst Center, Meade, Kansas

Fall, 2002

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet at the Forst Center, in Meade, Kansas, on October 4, 5, and 6, 2002. The Forst Center, is located in Meade at 500 W. Carthage (Catholic Church Hall), 5 blocks west of the only stoplight in the county on US highway 54.

Members are encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from this event go the KOS Student Research Fund.

Members are also encouraged to bring bird-related photos, videos, and/or recordings to share with other members during the informal birdwatchers hour after lunch. Let us know if you have material to share for the Birdwatcher's Hour. We request that presentations be limited to 10 minutes,

Program

Friday, October 4

7:00-9:00 p.m. Informal reception at the Forst Center. All events will be at the Forst Center.
(Meade county Economic Development Committee is picking up the expense of the meeting building.)

Saturday, October 5

6:30-8:00 Bird walks to locations to be determined. Meet at the Forst Center.

8:00-10:00 Registration at the Forst Center. View Silent Auction items. (The Silent Auction will run throughout the day, with all bids final at the end of the Saturday session)

9:00-12:00 Morning Paper Session

12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own. There are a variety of restaurants in Meade; including Pizza Hut, Chuckwagon Restaurant, Bob's, Diner 54.
KOS Board Meeting - location to be announced

1:00-2:00 Birdwatchers hour

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Paper Session

4:30-5:00 KOS Business Meeting following paper session

6:30-9:00 Banquet, Best Birds of the Year, Resolutions, and Guest Speaker **Dr. Jim Rising**. The banquet is included in your \$20 registration fee. Dinner will include rib-eye steaks provided by Hearthside Catering (you won't go away hungry!)

Sunday, October 7

6:30-12:00 Field Trips to local birding locations with possibilities including playa lakes (if it rains), Meade State Lake (KDWP park permit required), riparian woodlands and sand sagebrush prairie

12:00-1:00 Boxed lunches and compilation at location to be announced.

We request that registrations be received by September 25, if at all possible. This will help with meal planning.

Fall Meeting Registration Form on Page 20
Call for Papers Form on Page 19
Lodging Information on Page 18

Lodging in the Meade Area

Circle Motel & RV Park
E Highway 54
Meade
620-873-2543
Motel \$28 (no phones)
RV Park \$13-15
(across from city park and Crooked Creek, lots of trees)

Creek Side Farm Bed and Breakfast
26131 A Road
Fowler
620-646-5586
\$40 and up
(North of Fowler on Crooked Creek, lots of tall trees, 20-30 minute drive from meeting)

Dalton's Bedpost
519 E Carthage
Meade
620-873-2131
\$39.60 single \$41.60 double

Lakeway Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn
Carthage and Fowler
Meade
620-873-2004
Rooms and Suites \$58 and up
(an area historic landmark, newly remodeled)

Moon Mist Budget Inn
W Hwy 54
Meade
620-873-2127
\$34.94 single, \$39.66 double, \$50.00 4 people
(walking distance to food and meeting)

Sunset Motel
W Hwy 54
Meade
620-873-5229
\$27 and up
House with Kitchen sleeps 6 \$75-95
(across the street from the Forst Center)

Star Crest Motel
E Hwy 54
Plains
620-563-7252
\$34 single, \$38 double
(15 minute drive to meeting)

Meade City Park
E Hwy 54
Meade
RV Parking, dump station but no hookups
Lots of trees, Crooked Creek

Meade State Park
13 miles SW of Meade
620-873-2572
Full hookups, Fees vary
(The premier birding spot in Southwest Kansas)

For more information and links
<http://www.meadecountyonline.com>

County bird list and history at
www.meadecountyonline.com/kbird.htm

Meade county Economic Development Committee is picking up the expense of the meeting building and has been a great asset in the planning of this meeting!

**CALL FOR PAPERS
FALL 2002 MEETING
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
FORST CENTER
MEADE, KANSAS**

The Fall meeting of the KOS for 2002 will be held in Meade. Paper sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 5 October, at the Forst Center, 500 W Carthage in Meade. Audio/visual accommodations include 35mm slides, VHS video, and computer projection. Papers on any topic of interest to Kansas ornithologists and birdwatchers are requested. Our paper sessions traditionally include both technical and general interest presentations. Student papers will be judged and the best paper announced at the banquet Saturday night. All student presenters will receive a year's free membership in KOS.

Please submit your abstract by mail, or e-mail to:

Eugene A. Young
1707 North 7th St.
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Phone: 620-442-4165
E-mail: youngg6264@yahoo.com

Submissions should include:

Title of paper: _____

Authors & affiliations: _____

Estimated time in minutes: 10 ___ 15 ___ 20 ___

Audio/visual: Slides: ___ Video: ___ Computer projection: ___ Overhead: ___

If using computer projection: Bringing my own laptop: ___ Need a computer: ___

ABSTRACT: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT ABSTRACTS NO LATER THAN 10 SEPTEMBER 2002!



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 2002

Vol. 29, No. 2

Who's Who in KOS - 2002

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, 1707 North 7th St., Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd., Maize, KS 67101

Marvin Kuehn, Emporia State Univ., Hammond Heights Complex #214, 1601 State St., Emporia, KS 66801

David Seibel, 1310 George Ct., #1, Lawrence, KS 66044

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.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

From The Keyboard -

It's April 10th. I walk out of the hotel where I am staying and am immediately greeted by a calling Common Bulbul. Overhead the gull like cry of a Black Kite is heard as it joins others in the morning sky. Off in the distance, the raven like kwarck of a couple of Pied Crows joins in the Black Kite chorus. Both species then join the silent Hooded Vulture in the warming morning air. No, I'm not in Kansas anymore!

I had the incredible opportunity to spend the month of April in Senegal (West Africa) as a member of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange team. While bird watching wasn't foremost on the list of things the team was to do, I certainly took advantage of every opportunity to do so. I returned with a new appreciation for the United States, Kansas and all the things we take for granted.

We get in our cars and travel 25, 50 maybe 200 miles, or more, to go birdwatching, or to chase a rarity, and just assume that we will have good roads and safe traveling. We assume that there will be eating establishments along the way and plenty of opportunity to purchase gasoline at a reasonable price. We assume so much that we begin to consider these luxuries as rights.

We all too often take for granted laws that protect wildlife and natural areas. If there's a natural catastrophe, we inherently know that the government will dig into its deep pockets to "fix" it. We trust that the government will protect sensitive areas and the entire population from pollutants and contamination.

I spent a month in a country where none of these assumptions hold. The people were wonderful and I left with many fond memories and many new friends. But so much of what we take for granted is a luxury most of the Senegalese, and much of the world, will never know. I watched farmers "on the edge" try to halt the advancing desert. It wasn't their government that was helping them, it was international groups and agencies providing the support. The government would like to help, but they simply don't have the resources.

We live in a wonderful state and a wonderful country. Next time you take advantage of one of the many luxuries we have, take the time to think about it and how fortunate we truly are! Have a good summer and I'll see you in Meade in October!

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!

Fall 2002 - Meade County

Spring 2003 - Stay tuned!!!!

Probably Leavenworth.

Fall 2003 - ??????? Cowley

County been mentioned as a possibility. Local committee??

Spring 2004 - Washington County

Fall 2004 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. It really isn't THAT hard to host a 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 upcoming meeting.

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Do You Have An Interesting Story To Tell?

Some issues, like this one, end up being a little skimpier than this editor would like. While it certainly saves on printing costs, I'd rather use up all my allotted budget! Many of you have done some really interesting things in your birdwatching experiences and are certainly worth sharing. The more scientific papers obviously belong in *The Bulletin*, but many of you have other interesting tales to share or ideas to put forward so why not give writing a try? I never guarantee to print everything submitted, and it doesn't have to be perfectly written. We can help you polish it up, if needed. All it takes is a little time and effort. While I'd prefer to have it submitted in electronic format, I'll accept handwritten documents and type it in myself. The front page tells you how to get a hold of me, so contact me if you have any questions! *Chuck Otte - Editor*

Fall Meeting 2002 October 4, 5 & 6, 2002 Meade, Kansas

Details and registration form will be in the
September issue

Registration information will also available at <http://ksbirds.org>

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Call for Presented Papers

Preliminary

In the September issue will be the real call for papers to be presented at the annual meeting in Meade. But don't wait until then to start preparing your presentation. Students have some special awards to work for, but we enjoy hearing from anyone with an interesting presentation. If you have any questions, contact KOS Vice-president Gene Young.

KOS Spring Field Trip Report

May 3 - 5, 2002

37 KOS members and birdwatching friends ventured to Junction City in early May for a great birding weekend. 157 species were tallied in Geary, Clay, Riley and Dickinson counties. Highlights included 4 nightjar species on Konza at dusk, the Pet Cemetery Trail and Painted Buntings on Walla Walla Road. The species list follows this narrative.

While 16 species of warblers were sighted, it was generally felt that warblers were not overly abundant with the possible exception of Orange-crowned and Tennessee Warblers of which there were plenty! Sparrow numbers were also a little on the light side which was sort of the tone through much of late winter and early spring in the Geary County area.

The Pet Cemetery Trail, on Ft. Riley Army Base, was a popular field trip for all participants. Sightings of Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, as well as Yellow-throated Vireos made the trek through this wonderful "old growth" Kansas riparian forest very worthwhile. Thanks to Jeff and Alan from Ft. Riley's Department of Environment and Safety for helping secure access and passage to the Ft. Riley birding sites.

Sunday morning provided exceptional views of Henslow's Sparrow and a male Painted Bunting west of Junction City. Participants were able to view prairie-chickens from the hastily reassembled viewing blind on Konza Prairie. High winds during an April thunderstorm had tried to dismantle the blind. Thanks to everyone who helped put the blind back together and host the visitors!.

It was enjoyable to be able to share this intriguing mix of forest and grassland species in such a small area.

Start planning now for October in Meade County!

Chuck Otte, KOS Spring Meeting co-chair

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo,

Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black- and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

The Dog Days of Summer

by John Rakestraw

Spring migration has been exciting. In the past week I have participated in a 48-hour birdathon and led three morning bird walks. On the bright side, I have seen 10 new lifers and added 40 species to my state list. On the down side, I have aches and dizziness from "Warbler Neck" and I can't remember the last time I got more than five hours of sleep in a night.

So I am really looking forward to the slower pace of birding one finds in the summer months. Most birders, myself included, usually bemoan the lack of exciting rarities and decreasing species diversity associated with the "dog days." But summer presents unique birding opportunities.

LOCAL NESTERS

Take some time this summer to study the nesting birds in your area. Finding a bird on territory gives you the chance to study that bird over several weeks. You can observe details of behavior, song, and plumage, and note how these change with time and various conditions. Immature birds can present their own identification challenges. Viewing young birds repeatedly during the summer eliminates some of that confusion.

Study any species of *Empidonax* flycatchers that nest in your area. Becoming very familiar with one or two members of this confusing group will help you identify other empids in migration.

SHORT LISTS AND A SLOW PACE

Realize from the start of any summer birding trip that your species list is going to be much shorter than it was during spring migration. There is an advantage to this. You can actually take the time to thoroughly enjoy the few birds you do find. Now is the time of year to take a birding trip to see a specific bird.

Go to Quivira just to see the Least Terns and Snowy Plovers. Those two species are worth the trip if you spend some time with them. Spend a day looking at meadowlarks. Rumor has it that you can actually distinguish Eastern from Western by sight. Now is your chance to try.

With the birding a little slow, it is all right to take a little time to look for fossils, flip over a rock to find a lizard or snake, or stop to appreciate the summer wildflowers.

CHASING RARITIES

Vagrants may not occur as often during the summer as they do during other seasons, but this is a good time to chase rarities. During spring migration, birds are driven to keep moving. But if a summer vagrant finds an area he likes, he may stick around for a while, giving you a better chance at seeing him. You are also less likely to miss a good bird close to home while you are off chasing the vagrant. Water birds from the south are among the most likely birds to wander into Kansas during the summer.

"FALL" MIGRATION

Southward migration for many species begins earlier than you might think. The numbers of migrants in July and August are not as great as those in September, but don't let yourself miss out on the birds that are trickling south throughout the summer.

By the first of July, start checking good shorebird habitat on a regular basis. The earliest shorebirds to head south are the adults, and many of these birds are still in breeding plumage. In addition to the central Kansas marshes, shorebirds can be found at the upper ends of reservoirs and at drying farm ponds.

Midsummer also brings the beginning of the hummingbird migration, with Ruby-throats in the east, Rufous in the central part of the state, and possibly anything in the west.

Some aspects of summer birding are not pleasant. Thick foliage in the trees can make it very difficult to see small songbirds. Mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, and Poison Ivy are all at their peak. Then, of course, there is the heat. Long pants and long sleeves will do a lot to keep your summer itch-free. Get out early in the morning when the birds are most active, and before the shimmering heat waves blur your view.

Summer birding lacks the fast pace and long lists of migration. But if you sit by the air conditioner waiting for the waves of autumn migrants to arrive, you will miss out on the great birding to be found during the Dog Days of summer.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Ecotourism and Cheyenne Bottoms

by Helen Hands

The second Wings 'n Wetlands Weekend was held at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira May 3-5. Approximately, 175 people attended this year, up from the 86 attending last year. Birders came from as far away as California, New York, West Virginia, and Ohio. Participants saw 179 species, including such rarities as Black Rail, Common Moorhen, Piping Plover, and Whimbrel. Next year's Wings 'n Wetlands Weekend will be April 25-27, so hopefully it won't conflict with the KOS meeting.

For several years, many individuals and organizations have expressed the need for a visitor center at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. Unfortunately, there hasn't been much progress toward that need in the 12 years I've been working at the Bottoms. Lack of money has always been the major impediment to developing a visitor center. During my first 9 years at the Bottoms, fundraising for Cheyenne Bottoms was oriented toward renovating and improving wetland-management structures (e.g., the water storage pool, pump stations) to improve management capabilities. The need for a visitor center was not forgotten during the renovation. In fact, one aspect of the renovation, the Mitigation Marsh, resulted in a location for a visitor center. When the Mitigation Marsh was designed, a site for a visitor center was identified and excess dirt was placed there to raise the elevation of the site.

Several years ago (about 5-10?) the Kansas Audubon Council and the state Legislature funded some preliminary architectural drawings. These drawings provided guidance as to approximate costs (about \$1 million) and stimulated thinking as to what were necessities in a visitors center and what would just be "nice to have," but not critical. For \$1 million it was thought that a modest visitors center with an

auditorium, a couple of offices for staff, and a classroom/lab could be constructed. Cost estimates for interpretive displays and trails were not generated.

Funding for a Cheyenne Bottoms visitors center seemed closer than ever a few years later when several conservation groups started lobbying for legislation to create a tax or to tap other funding sources to benefit nongame wildlife and nature education. The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), a bill to use royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling, received considerable debate in Congress and probably had enough votes to pass the House and Senate in 2000. However, it was never brought to a vote and its progress has stalled since September 11, 2001. CARA seemed close enough to passing in 2000 that many states, including Kansas, developed plans for how to spend the money. In Kansas, the Cheyenne Bottoms visitors center was going to be one of the top three priorities.

This past April, there was even more discussion of the Cheyenne Bottoms visitors center. The City of Great Bend and Barton County commissioned preliminary architectural drawings for a more-ambitious visitor center, costing approximately \$9.5 million dollars, including exhibits, landscaping, and trails. This center would be designed to be the state wetland interpretive center, rather than just oriented toward Cheyenne Bottoms. Because Cheyenne Bottoms is already a world-class destination, both for wildlife and people, it is thought that it warrants such a facility. Currently, the City and County are in the process of securing local, state, and federal support.

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

Spring Meeting Thank You!

Although I may have been chair of the spring meeting committee, most of the work was done by the wonderful volunteers and team members who took care of everything while I was running around Africa during April. I will try to list everyone, with apologies to anyone I forgot! Doris Burnett, Chod Hedinger, Hoogy and Carol Hoogheem, Alan Hynek, Jeff Keating, Celia Markum, Jim Mayhew, Dave Rintoul, Brett Sandercock, and especially to my wife Jaye who encouraged and supported my trip to Senegal and took care of **everything** while I was gone! Thank you also to everyone who attended and made the spring meeting weekend so much fun!

Chuck Otte

KANSAS WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 2001 through February 28, 2002

By Lloyd Moore

Another winter has come and gone. The weather with the exception of a handful of periods of extreme cold and small amounts of snow was quite mild and very dry. One exception was the severe ice storm in the eastern third of the state. Trees and woodlands from Cowley County to Doniphan County were decimated. Power outages were extensive and lengthy. Damage to and repair of power lines as well as the cleanup in the KC metro area alone was in the tens of millions of dollars.

As it turned out this was a “winter finch” year. With Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak all making a good showing. White-winged Crossbill seemed especially numerous with a total of nine reports from across the state. There were also many reports of them from surrounding states. Pine Siskins were quite numerous in a few places in the state. The winter highlight “zootie” was the male **Brambling** that made a brief two-day visit in late January to a residence in Washington County. This is the first ever record of the species for the state. Unfortunately the homeowner’s reluctance to be overrun by birders wanting to see it prevented the announcement of the bird’s presence until well after it had departed. He did however provide the KBRC with documentation and a short video of the bird. Another species that made a very strong showing both in Kansas and elsewhere was the Snowy Owl. The first two appeared in late November with an additional nine (plus three more possible) from mid-December through the end of January. Diurnal raptors were

extremely numerous in the western half of the state through the winter months and were reported by many observers. Species numerous in the west were Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, all were reported in very good numbers. Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks as well as Merlin’s were fairly common statewide. Exceptional were the 200+ raptors, representing 6 species seen by Seltman in the Cheyenne Bottoms basin, Barton Co. on 6 February. In mid January, 8 species were seen hunting a harvested cornfield in Morton Co.

Other interesting sightings this winter were Gyrfalcon, Iceland Gull, “dickie” the Common Ground-Dove that spent almost the entire winter at the Corder residence in Johnson Co., a Fish Crow in Douglas Co. unusual for both time and place, a Cape May Warbler that spent a week during mid-January in Lawrence, a Pine Warbler in Wakefield, Orange-crowned Warbler in Manhattan and a Dickcissel in Wichita the first part of January.

Now Tom Shane will give us his thoughts about the winter in his part of the state.

Southwestern Kansas:

It seemed strange to live in a Kansas town where you had seen Mountain but no Black-capped Chickadees. That spell was broken this winter, however, both species remain rare in Garden City. The winter months remained extremely dry with only two significant snows the entire season. During one snowy evening only a handful of Lapland Longspurs were

heard seeking the lights of town. During the past decade Merlins have been fairly routine for southwest Kansas towns with 5 sightings this year during January and 2 during February in Garden City. A noticeable difference in behavior was recorded this winter season for another falcon. Prairie Falcons were observed on three different occasions and locations in Garden City. One was perched on a utility pole on the southeast side of town, one was soaring over some vacant lots on the west side, and a third was observed eating a Rock Dove next to a convenience store on the north side. Large numbers of American Goldfinch were not observed until about the third week of February, with Pine Siskin numbers remaining very low the entire winter. Our new kid on the block, the Eurasian Collared-Dove, made some significant population increases with 5 southwest Winter Bird Counts reporting 28 or more.

Tom Shane

Thanks to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

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>
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/01/01	MR
	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/16/01	SS
Common Loon	3 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/01/01	MR
	5 at Marion Lake on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	12/30/01	GP
	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	02/21/02	BF
	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/28/02	MR
Western Grebe	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/01/01	MR
	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/15/01	DR
	7 at Milford Lake	Geary	<u>01/25-27/02</u>	B&NB, C&JO
	1 at Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	<u>02/01/02</u>	DBu
American White Pelican	40 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/01/01	MR
	17 on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	52 at Lake McKinney on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/15/01	TS, ANo
	57 at Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	12/16/01	RR
	44 on Linn County CBC	Linn	12/22/01	RB
	45 at Melvern Lake	Osage	02/09/02	DL, TAS
American Bittern	1 at Baker Wetlands in Lawrence	Douglas	<u>12/10/01</u>	GPa
Great Blue Heron	<u>34</u> on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/15/01	TS, ANo
Ross's Goose	<u>120</u> on Waconda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15/01	SS
Trumpeter Swan	4 on Cedar Lake	Leavenworth	01/03-15/02	BY
	<i>(2 with red neckbands, 1 with green neckband and 1 with orange wing tag)</i>			
	2 at a Wichita sand pit <i>(both with red collars)</i>	Sedgwick	01/09/02	BG
	2 at sand pit in Dodge City	Ford	01/11/02	JD
	<i>(Both wore red neck collars.)</i>			
5 at Montgomery Co. State Lake	Montgomery	01/17/02	EM	
<i>(4 had yellow neck collars.)</i>				
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	1 adult 7 mi NE of Holyrood	Ellsworth	12/08/01	T&SSh
	1 at "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	02/17/02	LHi, PJ
American Black Duck	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/02-15/01	HA
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/01	RR
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	01/05/02	GP
	1 at Wilson State Fishing Lake	Wilson	01/12/02	MG
	1 at Fall River Lake	Greenwood	01/12/02	MG
	2 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	01/21/02	MG
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 seen on Little Arkansas River	<u>Sedgwick</u>	<u>01/20/02</u>	DV
Greater Scaup	4 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/01/01	MC, MM, GP
	5 on sewage ponds E. of Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/21/01	RR
	Several at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/28/01	DG
	4 on sandpit near Garden City	Finney	01/05/02	BC, DF, DLS
	<u>100</u> at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	01/26/02	DG
	2 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	02/21/02	BF
Long-tailed Duck	2 (male & female) on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	2 on Kirwin CBC	Phillips	12/29/01	MR
	3 at "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	01/26-02/28/02	PJ, m: ob

<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 male at "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	01/26-02/02	PJ, m: ob
Hooded Merganser	<u>250</u> below dam at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	01/09/02	DG
Bald Eagle	Pair nesting 3 mi of Kiowa	<u>Barber</u>	01/22/02	KB
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/08/01	MC, MM, GP
	4 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12.14.01	MR
	2 on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	1 on Canyon Lands CBC	Logan	12/20/01	TS
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/23/01	SS
	3 on Blue Rapids CBC	Marshall	12/30/01	TP
	2 on Meade Co. CBC	Meade	12/27/01	TF
	5 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	1 at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	01/30/02	PM
Cooper's Hawk	2 on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	2 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/14/01	MR
	1 on Wacanda Lake CBC	Mitchell	12/15/01	MR
	1 on Blue Rapids CBC	Marshall	12/30/01	TP
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	1 in Winona	Logan	01/20/02	SS
	1 at residence at Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	02/01/02	TC
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 along K-7 S. of Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	12/17/01	BY
	1 at Council Grove Lake	Morris	01/05/02	TC, DL, CA
Red-shouldered Hawk	2 on Linn Co. CBC	Linn	12/22/01	RB
Golden Eagle	1 on Perry Lake CBC	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/16/01	RR
	1 in Morton Co.	Morton	01/12/02	AP
	1 So. Of Wilson Lake	Lincoln	01/31/02	MR
	1 NW of Larned	Pawnee	02/17/02	SS
Merlin	1 "richardson's" race NW of Larned	Pawnee	12/03/01	SS
	5 on Wakefield CBC	Clay	12/16/01	C&JO
	1 on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	1 at 65 th & K-32, Kansas City	Wyandotte	12/20/01	BF
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/23/01	T&SSh
	1 on Linn Co. CBC	Linn	12/22/01	RB
	1 at Garden City (<i>Perched on a wire</i>)	Finney	01/05/02	T&SSh
	1 at Marion Lake	Marion	01/20/02	H&CH
	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	01/20/02	PJ, CS
1 at Milford Lake	Geary	01/25/02	B&NB	
<u>Gyrfalcon</u>	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	01/09/02	B&NB
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/08/01	MC, MM, GP
	1 in downtown Pratt	Pratt	01/23/02	J&LQ, CM
Wild Turkey	<u>350+</u> on Deep Creek Rd. near Pillsbury Crossing turnoff	Riley	02/23/02	DG, TAS
Sandhill Crane	4 flying over NESA	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/11/01	GP
	4000 on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/15/01	TS
	2500 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/14/01	MR
	100 So. Of Kiowa	Barber	02/17/02	DA
	30 migrating north	Pawnee	02/18/02	SS
	1000 wintered	Kearney	02/18/02	fide TS

Least Sandpiper	3 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/08/01	MC, MM, GP
Common Snipe	10 at Marsh of the Swans	Osage	12/01/01	SS
	1 on Bonner Springs/Lansing CBC	Leavenworth	12/30/01	GP
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
Franklin's Gull	1 breeding plumaged adult at Tuttle Creek	Riley	<u>02/25/02</u>	TC, CA
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>400</u> on Marion Lake	CBC Marion	12/16/01	CG
California Gull	1 at "Oldsquaw Pond" on Wichita	CBC Sedgwick	12/15/01	PJ
Thayer's Gull	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/01/01	MC, MM, GP
	1-2 at Melvern Lake	Osage	12/08/01	DG, TAS
	1 on Waconda Lake	CBC Mitchell	12/15/01	MR
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	<D> 1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	02/24/02	AP, AN, K&SSa
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 at Quivira Lake	Johnson	01/19/02	MCo
Glaucous Gull	1 on Kanopolis CBC	Ellsworth	01/05/02	M&ER
	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	01/13/02	MSt, GP, MM
	2 at Quivira Lake	Johnson	01/18-19/02	MCo
	<i>(MG saw 3 at Quivira Lake on 01/21.)</i>			
	1 near Hell Creek Bridge, Wilson Lake	Russell	02/28/02	MR
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2 in Seneca on Seneca CBC	Nemeha	12/14/01	DLS
	1 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/15/01	PJ
	8 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/15/01	GP
	12-15 in Phillipsburg	Phillips	12/24/01	RR
	6 in Cimarron	Gray	12/27/01	TS, SS
	5 on Meade Co. CBC	Meade	12/27/01	TF
	25 in Scott City on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/29/01	MO, L&BR
	40 in Elkhart on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/29/01	MT
	40 in Hugoton	Stevens	12/30/01	MT
	25 at Cimarron on Ingalls/Cimarron CBC	Gray	01/03/02	TS, SS
	47 at Ulysses on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/04/02	DLS
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	25 on Garden City CBC	Finney	01/06/02	DB, T&SSh
	1 in Concordia	Cloud	01/20/02	HA
	1 in Leoti	Wichita	01/20/02	SS
	1 in Sharon Springs	Wallace	01/20/02	SS
	1 in Salina	Saline	02/06/02	PJ
5 at 33 rd & Burlingame, Topeka	Shawnee	02/17/02	DL	
1 in Pretty Prairie	Reno	02/16/02	KP	
12-30+ in Glen Elder, Beloit and Hunter	Mitchell	02/24/02	HA	
1 in Bavaria	Saline	02/22/02	TS	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 at Cimarron on Ingalls/Cimarron CBC	Gray	01/03/02	TS, SS
Inca Dove	1 at Peter's residence on Lakin CBC	Kearny	12/15/01	APe, BP
	2 daily at feeder in Meade	Meade	12/21/01	TF
	1 in Syracuse	Kearny	01/12/02	SS, MO
<u>Common Ground-dove</u>	<D>1 at Corder residence, Olathe	Johnson	01/02-02/28/02	M&EC, m: ob
Great Horned Owl	<u>16</u> on Marion Lake	CBC Marion	12/16/01	CG

<u>Snowy Owl</u>	1 seen in BNSF rail yards in KCK	Wyandotte	12/19-01/11	fide MM
	<i>(Was seen off and on for about 3 weeks perched on top of boxcars east of I-635 overpass.)</i>			
	2 in Pool 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/30 – 01/12	ST, m: ob
	1 on rip rap of Marion Lake Dam	Marion	01/14-17-02	MK,TH,NW,m:ob
	2 in Marion Lake area	Marion	01/15/02	JW, ML
	<i>(1 in a field below the dam and 1 south of US-56 in a field. One of these birds was probably the same bird seen on the rip rap of the dam)</i>			
	1 on dam at Clinton Lake	Douglas	01/19-02/12	ML, m:ob
	1 at Glen Elder SP, Waconda Lake	Mitchell	01/25-29/02	HA
	1 east of K-15 on Dickinson/Clay Co. Line	Clay	01/29/02	C&JO
(There have been additional, unconfirmed reports of single Snowy Owls near Idana, Clay Co. near Brantford, Washington Co. and at Ft. Riley, Riley Co. All during late February.)				
Barn Owl	1 at 101 st & Connell, Overland Park	Johnson	12/01/01	M&EC
	1 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	12/16/01	RR
Long-eared Owl	2 on Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/14/01	MR
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/23/01	SS
	4 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/29/01	TS
	2-3 found in pine grove	Cloud	01/11/02	HA
	2 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	01/14/02	DG
Short-eared Owl	4 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/29/01	TS
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u>	1 along Ark. River., SE of Deerfield	Kearny	01/11/02	CH
Eastern Phoebe	1 on Mined-Land CBC	Cherokee	<u>01/02/02</u>	RM
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1 near Stockdale Area of Tuttle Creek Res.	Riley	12/10/01	LJ
	1 in Rock Creek Park, Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/01-01/01/02	RR,MS, JA
	1 8 mi NW of Rozel	Pawnee	01/04/02	SS
	1 on Kanopolis CBC	Ellsworth	01/05/02	JR, JM
	1 2 mi W. Clay Co. line along US-24 Hwy.	Cloud	01/20/02	HA
	1 NE of Fall River Lake dam	Greenwood	01/12/02	MG
<u>Fish Crow</u>	<D> 1 near Fitch Natural History Reservation	<u>Douglas</u>	<u>02/03/02</u>	MRo
	<i>(About 3 miles north of Lawrence)</i>			
Carolina Chickadee	<u>96</u> on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	<i>(A good number for this species at the western edge of its range in the state.)</i>			
Black-capped Chickadee	1 at Shane's feeder, Garden City	<u>Finney</u>	02/16/02	T&SSh
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<u>19</u> on Wakefield CBC	Clay	12/16/01	C&JO
Rock Wren	1 at Melvern Lake	<u>Osage</u>	12/01/01	MC, MM, GP,SS
	1 below dam at Winfield City Lake	<u>Cowley</u>	12/16/01	MT
	4 on Canyon Lands CBC	Logan	12/20/01	TS
Bewick's Wren	1 at residence on Tuttle Creek, Manhattan	Riley	12/10/01	TC
	<i>(The wren spent several hours exploring the inside of Ted's house before it was ushered out.)</i>			
	1 on Marion Lake CBC	Marion	12/16/01	CG
	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	01/20/02	HA
	1 at residence on Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	02/01/02	TC
	1 at Carnahan Cemetery	Pottawatomie	02/23/02	DG, TAS
House Wren	1 at Woodland Park on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/15/01	PJ
Winter Wren	1 on <u>Cedar Bluff CBC</u>	<u>Trego</u>	12/23/01	T&SSh

Marsh Wren	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/02/01	MR
	<u>12</u> on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/29/01	T&SSh, DF
	1 at Neosho W.A.	Neosho	01/05/02	RM
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	1 in Sedgwick Co. Park	Sedgwick	01/11/02	B&NB
	1 at Coldwater Lake marsh	Comanche	02/16/02	GF
	1 at Thompson Creek Marsh	Kiowa	02/16/02	GF
	1 in pool 5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	02/24/02	TS
Mountain Bluebird	<u>20</u> on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/05/02	PJ
	(All time low number for count.) 12 N. of Mt. Hope Cemetery	Sedgwick	01/22/02	GM
Townsend's Solitaire	1 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/15/01	PJ
	2 on Wakefield CBC	Clay	12/16/01	C&JO
	1 on Cedar Bluff CBC	Trego	12/23/01	SS
	<u>19</u> on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/29/01	T&SSH,DF,MO
	2 on Blue Rapids CBC	Marshall	12/30/01	TP
	2 on east side El Dorado Lake	Butler	02/17/02	BL
Hermit Thrush	3 on Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	<u>12/16/01</u>	RR, MM
	(I was of the western race)			
	1 in riparian woods	Leavenworth	<u>02/14/02</u>	DW
	1 in woods along Kansas River	Geary	<u>02/26/02</u>	JK
Curve-billed Thrasher	2 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/29/01	SP
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at residence E. of Manhattan (OCWA was present for 6 weeks from early February to mid March)	Pottawatomie	02-03/02	KW, GS
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 adult male at residence in Lawrence	Douglas	01/11-17/02	JC,PW
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 on Wakefield CBC	Clay	12/16/01	C&JO
Common Yellowthroat	1 N. of Bloomington Beach, Clinton Lk.	Douglas	<u>01/26/02</u>	AP, AN
Eastern Towhee	1 along Walnut Creek, SE of Waconda Lk.	<u>Mitchell</u>	12/02/01	HA
	1 at Melvern	Osage	12/08/01	MC, MM, GP
	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/15/01	GP
	1 on Waconda Lake CBC	<u>Mitchell</u>	12/15/01	MR
	1 on Parsons/SE Kansas CBC	Neosho	01/05/02	RM
	2 on Kanopolis CBC	<u>Ellsworth</u>	01/05/02	M&ER, JR, JM
	1 at residence at Tuttle Creek Lake	<u>Riley</u>	02/01/02	TC
Field Sparrow	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	<u>01/20/02</u>	HA
Lark Sparrow	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>01/05/02</u>	PJ
LeConte's Sparrow	2 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	12/01/01	SS
Smith's Longspur	20+ at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	12/01/01	SS, m:ob
	50+ at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	12/04/01	DD
	20 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	01/12/02	DO
	12 or so at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	02/24/02	AP, AN, K&SSa
<u>Dickcissel</u>	<D> 1 at feeder in Wichita (Has been present for about a week.)	Sedgwick	01/15/02	D&MC

Brewer's Blackbird 910 on Red Hills CBC Barber 01/05/02 PJ
(This species has been reported on other CBC's this winter from around the state. Although not in as high numbers.)

Brambling <D> 1 male at a feeder for two days Washington 01/22-23/02 WB

Purple Finch 34+ at Perry Lake feeding on Red Cedar berries. Jefferson 02/07/02 JB
(There have been less than a dozen reports of Purple Finch from across the state this winter. Mostly 1's and 2's visiting feeders.)

Red Crossbill 8 at Stockdale Area of Tuttle Creek Riley 12/20/01 KG
 6 in Rolling Hills area, Milford Lake Geary 01/20/02 PJ, CS
 15-20 in Stockdale Park area at Tuttle Creek Riley 01/21/02 LJ
 15-20 in pines neat Tuttle Creek Res. Outlet Riley 01/24/02 DR & students
 8 at Headquarters feeders, Pomona Lake Osage 01/25/02 MM
 15 below the dam at Tuttle Creek Res. Riley 02/23/02 TW, TAS

White-winged Crossbill 1 in Great Bend on Cheyenne Bottoms CBC Barton 12/13/01 MR, LH
 1-3 at Boyd residence, Baldwin City Douglas 12/31/01-01/13/02 RB
 1 at residence on Tuttle Creek Lake Pottawatomie 01/09-11/02 DB, G&DSv,m:ob
(Appeared first at Burnett residence and then moved to Shavers residence)
 2 at residence in Syracuse Hamilton 01/12/02 SS, MO
 1 at Pittman residence Leavenworth 01/15/02 GP
 1 at Shane residence in Garden City Finney 01/16/02 TS
 2 in pines at West Rolling Hills, Milford Lk. Geary 01/19-22/02 C&JO
 1 at Topeka residence Shawnee 02/03/02 PWi
 3 at residence in Benton Butler 02/03/02 fide CO

Common Redpoll 2 on Manhattan CBC Riley 12/15/01 DR
 2 on Cheyenne Bottoms CBC near CB HQ Barton 12/13/01 fide MR
 1 at residence on Tuttle Creek Res. Riley 02/05-10/02 DBu, G&DSv

Evening Grosbeak 1 in Syracuse Hamilton 01/12/02 SS, MO
 1 in Lakin Kearny 01/07/02 BC

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

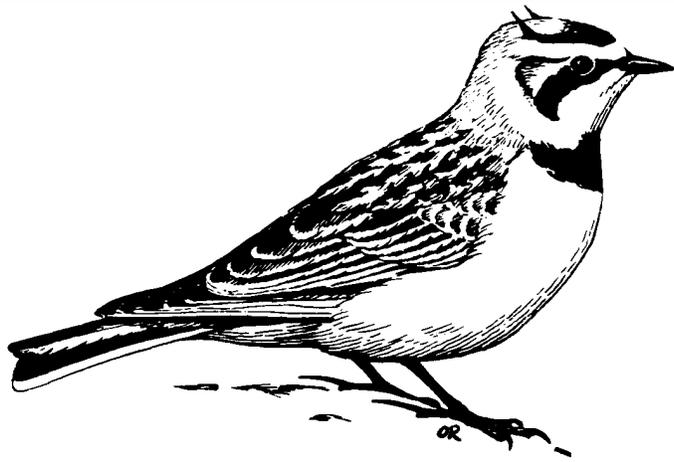
Underlined species indicates unusual species.

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

<D> Indicates documentation submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA),

OBSERVERS: Henry Armknecht, Joe Alburty, Charles Anderson, Roger Boyd, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Ken Brunson, Doris Burnett (DBu), Joanne Brier, Warren Buss, Dan Baffa, Mark Corder, Mark & Elaine Corder (M&EC), Mike Cooper (MCo), Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Jan Conrad, Don & Margaret Clemence (D&MC), Joyce Davis, Denny Diekroeger, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Doug Floto, Gregg Friesen, Dan Gish, Chet Gresham, Kyle Gerstner, Bob Gress, Larry Hesel, Terry Holt, Hoogy & Carol Hoogheem (H&CH), Leon Hicks (LHi), Christian Hagen, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Mike Knak, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Jeff Keating, Dan Larson, Mark Land, Dan LaShelle (DLS), Bill Langley, Mick McHugh, Robert Mangile, Patty Marlett, Jim Mayhew, Gary Maxey, Carol Mammoliti, Arpi Nyari, Art Nonhof (ANo), Chuck Otte, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Duane Otto, Marie Osterbuhr, Galen Pitman, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Tom Parker, Sebastian Patti, Alexis Powell, Bruce Peters, Alan Peters (APe), Jane & Lee Queal (J&LQ), Mark Radar, Mike & Ellen Rader (M&ER), Betty & Leonard Rich (B&LR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Jethro Runco, Dave Rintoul, Richard Rucker, Scott Seltman, Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Tom Shane, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Mike Stoakes, Gary & Donna Shavers (G&DSv), Mike Stewart (MSt), Carolyn Schwab, Kylee & Scott Sharp (K&SSa), Greg Schrott, Steve Teske, Max Thompson, Dan Thalmann, Don Vannoy, Phil Wedge, Neal Whitaker, Jim Wilson, Paul Willis (PWi), Dave Williams, Tracy Wohl, Kimberly With, Beverly Yates



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 2002

Vol. 29, No. 1

Who's Who in KOS - 2002

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd., Maize, KS 67101

Marvin Kuehn, Emporia State Univ., Hammond Heights Complex #214, 1601 State St., Emporia, KS 66801

David Seibel, 1310 George Ct., #1, Lawrence, KS 66044

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.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

From The Keyboard -

Between now, and the time that I see many of you at the spring meeting, I will have put a lot of miles behind me. But that's a story I can bore you with in May in Junction City. But don't be slow in getting your spring field trip registrations returned! Jaye and I have been busy working to get everything organized. I've been waiting for this spring for ten years and now it's here. We think we have a lot of great birding in the Geary County area and look forward to sharing it with all of you.

Recently, on the Internet discussion list BirdChat, we were involved in a discussion of how optical technology was changing our birding. The basic theme of the discussion came down to when was a bird sighting countable (for those of us who list or count)? If I can only identify the bird because a certain piece of electronic equipment has enhanced the image to make it recognizable, does that still count, or has it then become equivalent to a bird you saw on television. The question was not answered.

But in the middle of the discussion, author, well respected birder (and KOS member) Kenn Kaufman weighed into the fray with an interesting thought. Technology aside, what if you couldn't count a species to your life list if you haven't done something to help its survival? Ooooh, what a concept; global and environmental responsibility.

I don't think it was Kenn's intention to make us all feel guilty about enjoying what we do. Kenn would be the last one not to want us to enjoy birds. But he brings up a good point. The Kansas Ornithological Society has long taken a stance of staying neutral on conservation and environmental issues. It has been the board's opinion that activism is best done by the individual members in their own way. Some KOS members have been active, others have been more inclined to stand on the sidelines.

But how much longer can we be quiet? Maybe it's time that I volunteered to help that landowner on Walla Walla Road maintain that Painted Bunting habitat? Maybe it's time that I wrote a few more letters to congressman and senators. Maybe it's time I started urging the KOS Board to become more active? Kenn summed it up very well; "...birders and field ornithologists will have to be advocates for conservation if we're going to have anything left to watch." Good words to ponder.

See you in Junction City in May, and you can tell me what you think!

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!

Fall 2002 - Meade County

Spring 2003 - Stay tuned!!!!

Maybe Leavenworth, maybe Great Bend - what's your preference?

Fall 2003 - ??????? Cowley County been mentioned as a possibility. Local committee??

Spring 2004 - Washington County

Fall 2004 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. Contact any of the officers or board members if you have an invitation or idea!

In this issue -

- 2 *Announcements*
- 3 *Chet's Column*
- 3 *KOS Income Summary*
- 4 *Winged Tips*
- 5 *KOS Balance Sheet*
- 5 *Impressions*
- 6 *Fall Season Birding Roundup*
- 19 *Planning for a Party!*
- 20 *KDWP Forum*
- 21 *Fall Board Meeting Minutes*
- 23 *KOS Spring Field Trip Information*
- Insert Spring Field Trip Registration Form*

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE YOU RECEIVE IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES!

Check your mailing label carefully. Did your subscription expire? If the label says EXP: 2001, this will be your last edition of the KOS newsletter and bulletin. We hope you'll continue to support KOS. Please send your payment to the KOS Treasurer, Dan Larson, at the address listed elsewhere in the bulletin. NOTE: If your label says 2002 or 9999, you are a member in good standing for the coming year and will continue to receive the Society's publications for 2002. Please do not send an additional payment.

Spring Meeting 2002

May 3, 4 & 5, 2002

Junction City, Kansas

(and very birdy surrounding areas!)

Details and registration form on pages 23, 24
and in special insert!

Registration information also available at <http://ksbirds.org>

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

- - 13 Ways Of Looking At A Blackbird

Extinction

by Chet Gresham

The creek that divides Lighthouse Estates
and Prairie Village pushes toward an idea
of sea while the plains wallow in their history
of settling. The moon moves into Leo
and slides down a shaft of blue-stem,
illuminating the lack of wind
and the mountain lion that stalks
toward an ending, a calf, a crying child, itself.

Here it is,
as small as a curlew
that spent migrations hovering
around fallen mates until it was also shot
and thrown onto mule-drawn baseboards, their limp
bodies
rotting under each other,

or as massive as sky,
treeless, devoid of anything
a man might call useful. It stifles a person
like wind, or sun, or even
the endless stream of crows flying over.

A farmhouse lights up
at the barking of a blue-healer. The moon
has risen; an orange-illusion against the horizon.
House sparrows dive out of the shed
at the soft pawing of the barn cat. The crows
have joined the city in false security, lined up,
bending cedar limbs, shuffling,
prodding their neighbors
with their big black bills.

Chet can be contacted at:
cogresha@yahoo.com

Kansas Ornithological Society Income & Expense Summary, 2001

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>2002 Budget</u>	<u>Income</u>
2001 Dues			4575.00
2002 Dues			1840.00
Apparel and Checklists			67.70
Book Royalties			376.52
Dingus Natural Area Signage		600.00	
Bulletin	2280.74	3000.00	
Horned Lark	3245.07	3300.00	
Business Manager	659.71	900.00	
Internet	309.40	240.00	
Membership	265.58	300.00	
Treasurer	52.75	60.00	
Kansas Bird Records Committee		150.00	
Miscellaneous		330.00	
Insurance	226.00	226.00	
State	48.53		
Subtotal	7087.78	9106.00	6859.22
Meetings			
2000 Student Paper	15.00		
2001 Spring Meeting	30.00		105.00
Partners in Flight	121.14		
2001 Fall Meeting	1450.27		1767.00
Apparel and Checklists			343.45
Silent Auction			494.00
Subtotal	1616.41	200.00	2709.45
Total	\$8,704.19	\$9,306.00	\$9,568.67

Dove is a Many Splendored Thing

by *John Rakestraw*

.When I first moved to Kansas in 1984, the only species of doves I was likely to see were Mourning Doves and Rock Doves. There were occasional records of other species, but for day-to-day birding, those were the only two species one could expect. How things have changed.

These days, I only get to Kansas about one week out of the year. But within the last year I have seen five species of doves just within the city of Ulysses. Doves from the south and west are making their homes in Kansas with increasing frequency. To track this recent insurgence, Lloyd Moore has assembled some wonderful web pages that list the sightings of rare doves in Kansas and show their ranges on the state map. These pages are can be accessed from the KOS website (<http://ksbirds.org>).

The recent increase in rare dove sightings adds to the excitement of birding in Kansas, but can also add some identification challenges. Below are the species of doves that have been seen in Kansas and some tips for identifying them.

When learning any group of birds, you should have a couple of "reference species," common birds you can instantly recognize and compare to new species. The obvious choices for the dove and pigeon family are **Rock Dove** and **Mourning Dove**. The Rock Dove is the "pigeon" found in every city and barnyard in Kansas. The ancestral form of Rock Dove is light gray with two dark wing bars and darker iridescence on the head and breast. Generations of domestication have produced a wide assortment of blotchy dark gray, brown, and white birds. Mourning Doves stand out by their long pointed tails, uniformly gray-brown flight feathers, black spots on the folded wing, and their annoying habit of sitting in the middle of the road in front of fast approaching cars.

Inca Doves are diminutive birds most often found in towns in the southwestern part of the state. Their long, squared tails give them a similar shape to that of Mourning Doves, but Incas are noticeably smaller. The dark edged feathers on Inca Doves produce a unique scaly pattern over the entire body. When the birds fly, notice the white on the edges of their tails and the rufous color in the wings.

At first glance, **White-winged Doves** look very similar to Mourning Doves. But on closer examination, you will notice that the White-winged is a bulkier bird than the Mourning, and has a shorter squared tail. The large white patches on the wings, which give this species its name, are clearly visible when the birds fly. When these doves are perched, the white patches form clear white leading edges to the folded wings. When calling, White-winged Doves

sound amazingly similar to Barred Owls, with a loud WHO-COOKS-FOR-YOU.

I think the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** is going to set the record for evolving from rarity to "trash bird" in the shortest amount of time. First reported in Kansas in 1996, this bird has become an expected species in many areas of the state. The Eurasian Collared-Dove is similar in size and shape to a Rock Dove. They are grayish-tan with a black collar on the back of their necks. The undertail coverts are gray, while the underside of the tail is white with dark edges at the base. The **Ringed Turtle-Dove** is not established in the wild, but escaped birds are occasionally seen. This bird looks like a small, washed-out version of the Eurasian Collared-Dove. The white undertail coverts and all white underside of the tail set this bird apart from the Eurasian Collar-Dove.

The **Common Ground Dove** is about half the size of the other doves in Kansas, and is seen far less frequently than the others (although, as of this writing, one very cooperative bird is living in Johnson County). It is colored like a mourning dove with a faint scaly pattern on the nape and breast. The wings flash rufous when the bird flies, much like the wings of the Inca Dove. The stubby tail is dark with small white corners.

The largest species of pigeon in North America, the **Band-tailed Pigeon** is extremely rare in Kansas. This comes as no surprise, given this bird's fondness for stands of tall conifers. Band-tailed pigeons get their name from the wide pale band on the end of their tails. Their overall coloring is a pale gray, with a purplish sheen on the breast. The backs of their necks sport a white collar over a small iridescent patch. The bills and feet of Band-tailed Pigeons are yellow, unlike the various shades of pink found on the feet of the other members of this family.

Will birders in Kansas continue to find increasing numbers of Inca and White-winged Doves? Will Eurasian Collared-Doves replace Rock Doves as the most common member of this family in towns and farmyards? Will sightings of the little Common Ground Dove become an annual occurrence? Or have the last few years just seen a temporary influx of these species? Whatever the outcome may be, gone are the days when you can simply write off a glimpsed bird as a "pigeon" or a "dove." Now we have to actually look at these birds to know what we have seen. This recent invasion of dove species has added another element to birding in Kansas.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

What Impression Did I Leave?

By Chuck Otte

In late February I was checking out some of the newly arrived waterfowl at Milford Lake. At one stop I encountered a young family. They were enthralled by the Bald Eagles that were soaring and displaying that fine winter morning. They took a moment of their time to point the eagles out to me. Without even thinking I sort of shrugged it off indicating that I was looking at the waterfowl. As the family walked away I heard the father mutter something about wasting time looking at geese when there were eagles flying around.

Good job, Chuck! You just managed to come across like a stuck up birdwatcher. As they drove away I started kicking myself. I should have joined in their excitement over the Bald Eagles. If they were looking at any birds, any wildlife at all, I should have enjoyed their excitement and let them share it with me. They were out doing the same thing I was doing - enjoying the natural world.

I could have told them about the monthly bird walks that we host at the lake starting in the spring. Or pointed out how the ducks reacted to the eagles. But as they left, I'm sure they probably took with them an image of some snooty birdwatcher. A picture is worth a thousand words and a single action can make much more noise than any words I can speak or write. And what impression did I leave that young family?

Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet as of January 1, 2002

Assets

Fund	\$105,567.48
Certificate of Deposit	5,664.34
Checking	1,039.99
<u>Business Manager</u>	<u>14.56</u>
Subtotal	112,286.37
<u>Dingus Natural Area Land</u>	<u>56,000.00</u>
Total	\$168,286.37

Liabilities and Fund Balances

2002 Dues	1,840.00
General Fund	(415.74)
Business Manager Advance	14.56
Endowments	65,235.60
Life Membership Account	19,922.00
Book Royalty Fund	14,781.32
Dingus Natural Area Fund	7,345.62
Dingus Natural Area Land	56,000.00
<u>Student Research Fund</u>	<u>3,563.01</u>
Total	\$162,286.37

Editor's note concerning KOS financials: Printed above, and on page 3, are the current financials for the Kansas Ornithological Society. The above tables reflect the assets and liabilities of the society. As you can see, many of the funds are in dedicated categories. New this year is the inclusion of the value of the Dingus Natural Area. On page 3 are the actual income and expense figures for the year 2001. It is important to point out, that if the 2002 Dues are taken out, we were actually operating at a deficit. Your assistance in recruiting new members is encouraged!



Pileated Woodpecker
By Matt Gearhart

KANSAS FALL SEASON ROUNDUP

August 1, 2001 through November 30, 2001

By Lloyd Moore

I guess, weather wise, there hasn't been a much better fall period in recent memory. Milder than normal temperatures lasted through the end of the period. And while there were some rains during August and September the months of October and November were very dry. The birding was excellent with many unusual species seen. From Augusts **Roseate Spoonbills** and **Cave Swallows** to November's **Snowy Owls**. Other "goodies" were Pacific Loon, Mottled Duck, Little and Sabine's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, Northern Goshawk, 6 species of hummingbirds, Virginia's Warbler and Lesser Goldfinch. Shorebirds were plentiful during August and September at the usual hotspots of Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms as well as the Playa Lakes of Finney and Scott counties. Morton County benefited from the increasing number of birders trekking to that county. The result was many western species not found elsewhere in the state as well as many eastern species uncommon to the southwestern corner. Franklin's Gulls again this fall graced the skies and lakes of the state in seemingly endless numbers. While not quite as numerous, Red-breasted Nuthatches, were reported it seemed from every feeding station in every town in the state. You might say, "the little guy's were everywhere".

And now it's time for the guest contributors. These are friends that I have blackmailed, coerced or otherwise cajoled into adding their comments about the past season to mine. The victim's...uh...guests for this period are Galen Pittman, and Tom Shane. Their comments are greatly appreciated.

Northeastern Kansas: Galen Pittman The migration was certainly influenced by the very dry and mild conditions experienced by Kansas Birders in the Eastern part of the state this past fall. Shorebird habitat was nearly nonexistent with the notable exception of the mudflats created by the draining of ponds below Melvern Lake. This area sustained a nice collection of typical fall shorebirds well into November, including several very late American Golden Plovers and a Dunlin. Deep water birds were typical with several good gull sightings including a Black-legged Kittiwake at LaCygne, 5 Sabine's Gulls at Perry Lake and a Common Tern at Clinton Lake. Surf and Black Scoters were seen and Common Loons and Caspian Terns seemed to be present in unusually large groups this fall. The annual mass migration of Franklin's Gulls through the Midwest seemed to be especially concentrated through eastern Kansas this year. I would say that eastern Kansas had a good passerine migration this fall with highlights being a very early mid-August Canada Warbler in Jefferson County and a very late Louisiana Waterthrush in Leavenworth County at nearly the same time. Also a Prairie Warbler near Clinton Lake in early August could have been a local breeder and a Golden-winged Warbler in Lawrence, a Black-billed Cuckoo in Linn County as well as a group of immature Purple Martins near Clinton Lake in mid-September were notable. Fall sparrows arrived on time with Dark-eyed Juncos especially plentiful but American Tree Sparrows were hard to find. LeConte's Sparrows were commonly encountered in appropriate habitat, as were a few Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in

Douglas and Jefferson counties. Red-breasted Nuthatches were again everywhere a birder looked but Pine Siskins seemed to be missing in action.

Two events near the end of the reporting period certainly did punctuate the season. Just the mention of "the Melvern gull" on KSBIRDS prompted considerable discussion. However, it was a great exercise and study in the field identification of "large" immature gull species in Kansas. Just remember you can't get too many good looks or too many direct side-by-side comparisons to other known gulls when it comes to sorting out species. And finally I doubt if many of us realized that the sighting of a Snowy Owl in Johnson County in late November would be the harbinger of the invasion that awaited us, but that is story for next season.

Western Kansas: Tom Shane The late summer and early fall migrations were great for a few families of birds this year. Two very large summer rains, reaching over 10 inches in parts of Finney County produced some wonderful playas for shorebird viewing. Shorebird varieties were outstanding with 29 species observed during the roundup period. Buff-breasted Sandpipers had not been observed in many years, likewise, American Golden Plover and Red-necked Phalarope are very uncommon in western Kansas. Compared to a study of shorebirds some 38 years ago, the overall numbers of shorebirds traversing the region are way down. Other Charadriiform groups such gulls and terns were almost absent.

The late summer hummingbird migration was nearly as spectacular as that of 2000 with five species now almost expected annually. Eurasian Collared-Dove populations continue to increase with a few Inca Doves still hanging on. Short-eared Owls did not arrive in normal fashion with only about a tenth of what we have grown accustomed to since the advent of CRP. Likewise, Great Horned Owls which we normally do not consider migratory seem to have moved out in fairly high numbers. No great warbler waves were evident except a small spurt of Canada Warblers normally not

encountered most years. Sparrow numbers were way off once again during migration with only a few Vesper and Savannah Sparrows seen on any given bird outing.

While overall bird numbers were low, a surge of unusual species, which included a state and several county records kept things interesting. Roseate Spoonbills, Cassin's Kingbirds, Cave Swallows, a lingering Whooping Crane and an early Snowy Owl kept binoculars out of everyone's case and in frequent use.

Thanks to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

*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 "Oldsquaw Pond" in Wichita	Sedgwick	10/29	PJ
	2 at "Oldsquaw Pond" in Wichita	Sedgwick	10/30	KK, B&NB
	1 at Cheney Res.	Kingman?	11/18	TH, LH
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/21	TH, LH
Horned Grebe	2 at feedlot SW of Satanta	Haskell	09/22	SS, MRa
	2 at Ackley Lake	Finney	08/27	TS, CG
Eared Grebe	15 at playa	Finney	08/23	DG
	7 at Liberal	Seward	09/03	TH, LH
	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/02	TH, LH
	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
Western Grebe	15 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/24	BP
	2 near dam, Marion Res.	Marion	10/29	CG
	2 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/10	MM
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/24	BP
American White Pelican	10,000-20,000 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
Double-crested Cormorant	10,000 at Cheney Res.	Reno/Kingman	11/11	PJ, CG
Least Bittern	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/04	DS, GP
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/11	BG
Great Egret	400+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/18	SS, DB
	350 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	100 at Marion Lake	Marion	09/24	CG
	3 in Wichita	Sedgwick	11/17	KG
Snowy Egret	21+ at John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	08/19	MG, AG
	500 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
Cattle Egret	13 at Marion Lake	Marion	09/24	CG
Tricolored Heron	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DK, GS

Black-crowned Night-Heron	25 at playa 9 at Lake Shawnee 12 at Ackley Lake	Finney Shawnee Finney	08/23 09/13 09/23	DG DG KG
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	3 at playa	Finney	08/23	DG
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/13	BF
White-faced Ibis	384 NW of Garden City 3 at Marais des Cygne WA 150 at Cheyenne Bottoms 250 at Cheyenne Bottoms 7 at Ackley Lake 6 at Marion Lake 10 at Alcove Springs 4 at Baker Wetlands 1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Finney Linn Barton Barton Finney Marion Marshall Douglas Linn	08/20 09/08 09/10 09/13 09/23 10/03 10/05 10/19 11/18	MO MG GY, MRa, KB BF KG CG TP AP RMa, SGAS
<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	<D> 2 NW of Garden City m:ob. <i>(Local residents report as many as 6 were seen about the first of August.)</i> 1 fly over at Cheyenne Bottoms	Finney Barton	08/12-09/21 08/30	MO, T&SSh, MR
Turkey Vulture	15 at Fall River Res.	Greenwood	<u>11/10</u>	DL
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/29	MR
Cinnamon Teal	1 at Belle Plaine sewage ponds	Sumner	08/09-10/11	LH, TH
Canvasback	1 male at Elkhart sewer ponds	<u>Morton</u>	<u>08/28-09/02</u>	BP, SP, CG, m:ob
Surf Scoter	1 imm. at Perry Lake 1 female at Cheney Res.	Jefferson Reno	10/27 11/11	AP PJ, CG
Black Scoter	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/25	DG, DL
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Marion Lake	Osage	11/30	JN
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	11/29	ML
Osprey	1 at Milford Lake 1 at Barber Co. State Lake 1 at Clinton Lake 1 at Shawnee Mission Lake 1 at Ulysses 1 just east of Lakin	Geary Barber Douglas Johnson Grant Kearny	<u>08/18</u> <u>08/18</u> <u>08/20</u> <u>08/21</u> 09/02 08/31	CO DA PW ML SS DG, RM
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 on Shunga Trail, Topeka 1 south side Clinton Lake 1 at El Dorado Lake 1 at Elkhart shelterbelt 1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at Marion Lake 1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 4 at Alcove Springs 1 at Butler Co. Fishing Lake	Shawnee Douglas Butler Morton Morton Marion Douglas Marshall Butler	09/18 09/21 09/22 09/22 09/22 09/25 09/27 10/05 10/11	JB PW DW MG, DW MG, DW CG DK TP TH, LH

Sharp-shinned Hawk, cont.	3 migrating over Blue Rapids	Marshall	10/14	TP
	1 at residence in Newton	Harvey	10/19	GF
	<i>(Was being "scolded" by a Red-breasted Nuthatch)</i>			
	1 at El Dorado Lake	Butler	10/23	B&NB
	1 on KU Campus	Douglas	11/02	PW
	1 in W. Wichita	Sedgwick	11/06	B&NB
Cooper's Hawk	1 imm. At Larned	Pawnee	08/18	SS, DB
	1 imm. At Junction City	Geary	08/21	CO
	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	09/13	DG
	1 N. of Dighton	Lane	09/15	SS
	2 imm. at Leoti	Wichita	09/15	SS
	1 at Olathe	Johnson	09/17	MC
	1 at Felker Park, Topeka	Shawnee	09/22	DG
	<i>(Was being mobbed by 30 Blue Jays)</i>			
	1 at CNG work station	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at Marion Lake	Marion	09/25	CG
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/25	TH, LH
	1 at Topeka residence	Shawnee	10/11	JB
	1 below dam at Wellington Lake	Sumner	10/21	B&NB
1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/03	MM, MC	
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 on west edge Larned	Pawnee	10/25	S&DS
	1 imm. at residence N. of Lawrence	Douglas	10/27	MR
Broad-wing Hawk	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/25	TH, LH
	1 migrating over Blue Rapids	Marshall	10/14	TP
Swainson's Hawk	60 6 mi N. Larned	Pawnee	10/02	SS
	<i>(Following Seltman's tractor)</i> 500 seen leaving a field at dawn	Cowley	10/04	OM
Ferruginous Hawk	1 adult K-51 & State Line	Morton	<u>09/01</u>	SS, TC, DBu, CA
Rough-legged Hawk	1 1/2 mi S. of Cheyenne Bottoms HQ	Barton	<u>09/14</u>	BF
Golden Eagle	3 N. of Syracuse	Hamilton	10/21	T&SSh
	1 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	11/21	MG, ML
	1 between Luray and Osborne	Osborne	11/25	MRa
	1 N. of Athol	Smith	11/28	MRa
Merlin	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>08/30</u>	MR
	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita	Sedgwick	09/08	CG
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	1	Pawnee	09/14	SS
	1 at Elkhart	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	10/28	BAS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/29	KK
	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/03	MM, MC
	1 in SW Sedgwick Co.	Sedgwick	11/18	TH, LH
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/01	DK, GS
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/10	DW
	1 imm. At Ackley Lake	Finney	08/21	TS

Peregrine Falcon, cont.	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/26	BP, SP, CG
	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Stafford	08/28-31	BP, SP, CG
	1 at QNWR	Stafford	09/02	PW, RW
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/02	AS, RP
	2-3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/03	MG, ML, WCT, m:ob
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/13	BF
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/25	TH, LH
	1 at Alcove Springs	Marshall	10/05	TP
	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	10/10	CS
1 in Garden City	Finney	11/08	TS	
Prairie Falcon	1 at Ackley Lake	Finney	08/30	TS, TF
	1 in central Pawnee	Pawnee	09/12	SS
	1 NW of Jennings	Decatur	09/20	SS
Black Rail	1 calling at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DK, GS
King Rail	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DK, GS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/04	B&NB
Virginia Rail	4 at Quivira NWR (1 adult and 3 downy chicks.)	Stafford	08/10	DW
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	1 found dead on road in Manhattan	Riley	09/08	DR
	1 at Colwich Wetlands	Sedgwick	09/10	PJ
Sora	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	1 at "Mallard Ponds", CNG	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
Common Moorhen	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>10/27</u>	BAS
Sandhill Crane	60,000 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/27	BAS
	5,000-10,000 at Milo Joyce farm (Present at this location, NE of Garden City, for several weeks with estimates of as many as 20,000.)	Finney	10/28	DBa
	8,000 at Lake McKinney	Kearny	11/01	T&SSh
<u>Whooping Crane</u>	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/27	BAS
	1 at Lake McKinney (since 10/24)	Kearny	11/01-13	T&SSh
	3 2 adult 1 juvenile at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/05	CG
	3 2 adult 1 juvenile at Lake Waconda	Mitchell	11/06	HA
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/22	M&EC
Scaled Quail	10+ N. of Elkhart W. side K-27	Morton	09/01	SS, TC, DBu, CA
Black-necked Stilt	<u>16</u> at Ackley Lake	Finney	08/23	T&SSh
	7 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/02	TH, LH
	5-6 at Liberal sewer ponds	Seward	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	100 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
American Avocet	1000 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/30	MT
	500 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/03	EW, BD, JL
	250 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
Black-bellied Plover	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/04	GP, DS
	15 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/10	DW

Black-bellied Plover, cont.	4 at Colwich Wetlands	Sedgwick	09/10	PJ
	120+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/29	MR
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/09	KG
	20 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	8 at Melvern Lake	Osage	10/29-11/03	MM, GP, MC
	2 at Lake McKinney	Kearny	11/02	T&SSh
	9 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH
American Golden Plover	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/04	GP, DS
	1-2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/25-26	BP, SP, CH, m:ob
	4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/08	DG
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/08	DG
	6 at Colwich Wetlands	Sedgwick	09/10	PJ
	17 in playa N. of Kinsley	Edwards	10/10	SS
	1 at playa N. of Garden City	Finney	10/19	TS
	1 at Ackley Lake	Finney	10/20	T&SSh
2 at Melvern Lake	Osage	<u>11/21</u>	MG, ML	
Snowy Plover	adult with chick (<i>very late</i>) QNWR	Stafford	<u>08/30</u>	MT
Semipalmated Plover	1 at Ackley Lake	Finney	09/07	T&SSh
Mountain Plover	40	Morton	09/22	DV, WAS
	2-3 at Wellington Lake	<u>Sumner</u>	<u>10/21</u>	B&NB
Willet	1 at Cheney Res.	Reno	<u>11/12</u>	TH, LH
Hudsonian Godwit	1 at Ackley Lake	Finney	09/23	KG
Marbled Godwit	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/04	GP, DS
	6-8 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/10	DW
	1 at Belle Plaine sewage ponds	Sumner	08/12	LH
	3 at Liberal sewer ponds	Seward	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/09	KG
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/14	BF
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02-04	BR, MN
	1 at Goose Refuge, Cheney Res.	Reno	08/05	PJ,LH,TH
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/04	B&NB
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/16	BF
Red Knot	4 adults at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/24	BP
	1 adult at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/26	BP, SP, CG
	4 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	10/06	KOS
Sanderling	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DK, GS
	5+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/04	GP, DS
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2 at playa N. of Garden City	Finney	<u>10/17</u>	T&SSh
Baird's Sandpiper	5 at Melvern Lake	Osage	<u>10/29</u>	MM, GP
	2 NE of Garden City	Finney	<u>10/30</u>	T&SSh
	3 at Cheney Res.	Reno	<u>11/11</u>	PJ, CG
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH

Pectoral Sandpiper	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH
Dunlin	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/10	DW
Stilt Sandpiper	15 at Melvern Lake	Osage	<u>10/29</u>	MM, GP
	65 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/02</u>	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	5 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	08/04	PJ
	6 at sod farm W side Lawrence Airport	Douglas	08/04	MM
	45 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	08/05	PJ,LH,TH
	9 at Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	08/07	KS
	2 at Belle Plaine sewage ponds	Sumner	08/09-12	LH
	20 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	08/17	DV
	20+ at QNWR	Stafford	09/02	H&SG
	60+ at QNWR	Stafford	09/03	MG, ML, WCT, m:ob
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/09	KG
	3 3 mi N. of Stafford	Stafford	09/12	SS
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/14	BF
	13 at Ackley Lake	Finney	10/01	TS
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/26	BP, SP, CG
Long-billed Dowitcher	4000 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	2 at Melvern Lake	Osage	<u>10/29</u>	MM, GP
	8 NE of Garden City	Finney	<u>10/30</u>	T&SSh
	250 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/03</u>	MRa
	100 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/06	DG
	16 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/03	EW, BD, JL
	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/03-14	MG, ML, WCT, BF
	2 at DeWeese Pk., Cheney Res.	Reno	09/16	PJ, CG
	3 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
	1 at Ackley Lake	Finney	09/23	KG, T&SSh
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/02	AS, RP
Franklin's Gull	Estimated 100,000-150,000 at El Dorado Lk. Butler (There have been large numbers reported for the past 3 weeks. Especially from eastern Kansas reservoirs. Estimates of 50,000 or more have been reported from several lakes.)		10/23	B&NB
<u>Little Gull</u>	1 imm. at Elkhart, sewer ponds	Morton	08/30	BP, CG, SP
	<D> 1 adult at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/13	BF
	<D> 1 at Cheney Res.	Kingman	11/11	TH, LH
Bonaparte's Gull	700+ at Marion Lake	Marion	11/22	CG
California Gull	1 at Quinter sewer ponds	Gove	10/03	TC
	1 1 st winter at Cheney Res.	Reno	10/06	KOS
	2 at Cheney	Reno	11/12	TH, LH
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	2 juveniles at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/03	MG, ML, WCT
	5 juveniles at Perry Lake	Jefferson	09/09	DK
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/09	KG

<u>Sabine's Gull</u> , cont.	2-4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	3 at DeWeese Pk., Cheney Res.	Reno	09/16	PJ, CG
	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/14	BF
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/01	SS
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u>	1 adult at LaCygne Lake	Linn	10/05	RMn
Caspian Tern	4 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	09/09	MM
	15 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	09/09	DK
	2 at Marion Lake	Marion	09/24	CG
	20-25 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	09/23	MM, GP
	5 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	10/01	MS, DS
	3 at Marion Lake	Marion	10/01	CG
Common Tern	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	08/30	BP
	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	09/17	C&JO
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	09/23	MM, GP
Forster's Tern	25 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	08/11	MM, GP
	4 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	09/09	DK
	30 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/10	GY, MRa, KB
	4 at Marion Lake.	Marion	09/17	CG
	2 at Marion Lake	Marion	09/24	CG
	15 at Clinton	Douglas	09/23	MM, GP
	4 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms	Douglas	10/13	BF, MM, GP, DS
	1 at El Dorado Lake	Butler	10/23	B&NB
	1 at Cheney	Reno	<u>11/12</u>	TH, LH
5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/18</u>	CG, TH, LH	
Least Tern	2 at K-96 bridge, Wichita (<i>Roosting on sandbar in river.</i>)	Sedgwick	08/12	PJ
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Pair nesting in Medicine Lodge (<i>Raised two broods</i>)	Barber	2001	DA
	2 in Garden City	Finney	08/25	T&SSh
	2 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	08/19-22	PJ, B&BL
	<D> 2 at Pritchett residence in Pratt (<i>4 were present in 2000</i>)	Pratt	08/23	BAI, GPr
	1 at Sharon Springs (<i>Several around court house past 2-3 months.</i>)	Wallace	08/26	MH
	2 visiting feeder in Pratt (<i>Regular visitor since summer 1999.</i>)	Pratt	08/27	CM
	<D> 8 in Lakin (<i>present all summer</i>)	Kearny	08/30	BCP
	4 in Sublette	Haskell	08/31	SS
	1 in Manter	Stanton	09/02	SS
	1 in Ulysses	Grant	09/02	SS
	Pair copulating, Scott City	Scott	09/03	T&SSh, B&NB
	2 in Larned	Pawnee	09/03	MG, ML, WCT
	<D> 2 at Knight residence in St. Paul	Neosho	09/03	WB, AK
	3 in Elkhart	Morton	09/01	m:ob
	1 in Meade	Meade	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	1 in Hutchinson	Reno	09/09	SS
	1 near "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	09/19	B&NB
	30 in Elkhart	Morton	09/21	DV, DKi, m:ob
	40+ in Satanta	Haskell	09/22	SS, MRa
	<D> 1 at farm near Junction City	Geary	09/26	CO

Eurasian Collared-Dove, <i>Continued</i>	1 N. of Hillsboro	Marion	09/29	GF, JN	
	38 in Scott City	Scott	10/01	TS	
	19 in Kinsley	Edwards	10/10	SS	
	1 at feeder in Topeka	Shawnee	10/11	JB	
	1 in Pittsburg	Crawford	10/11	RMa	
	2 at Blue Rapids	Marshall	10/13	TP	
	1 at Marion Lake	Marion	10/28	CG	
	2 at Buhler	Reno	10/29	KK	
	10 in Pittsburg	Crawford	11/21	Rma	
	16 in Tribune	Greeley	11/22	SS, SDe, SSe	
	1 in Beattie	Marshall	11/29	DM	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 in Dighton	<u>Lane</u>	09/08	SS	
	1 in Buhler	Reno	04/2001	LS	
<u>Inca Dove</u>	<D>	20 in field + 1 at birdbath	Pratt	08/25	LL
		1 at Hugoton	Stevens	09/14	BF
		1 at Elkhart	Morton	09/22	DV, WAS
		1 in Garden City yard	Finney	10/01	LR
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	09/29	BF	
<u>Snowy Owl</u>	1 near Lake McKinney	Kearny	11/23	BPr, T&SSh, MO	
	1 in Lenexa at 98 th & Widmer	Johnson	11/29	MD	
	<i>(A Snowy Owl, presumably the same individual, was found dead on I-435 and 95th Street on 12/2 about a mile and a half from the 95th & Widmer sighting.)</i>				
Barred Owl	2 at Artesian Spring, Meade State LK.	Meade	08/31	GP, MM, DS	
Long-eared Owl	3 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Osage	11/21	MG, ML	
Common Nighthawk	55 over Garden City <i>(Lowest "high" count in years) fide TS</i>	Finney	09/27	TS	
Common Poorwill	1 flushed by Tom from back yard	Finney	09/18	TS	
	4 with one singing on the Konza	Riley	09/14	DR	
Chimney Swift	1000+ above Oberlin	Decatur	09/20	SS	
	800+ entering a chimney roost	Doniphan		09/09-19 DC	
<i>"Archilochus" sp.</i>	3 at Larned residence <i>(probable Ruby-throated)</i>	Pawnee	08/11	O&JSc,SS,DSe,SSe	
	1 at Larned residence <i>(possible Black-chinned)</i>	Pawnee	08/18	SS, DB	
	several at Larned <i>(possible Blk-chin)</i>	Pawnee	09/05	SS, OS	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 imm. male Garden City residence	<u>Finney</u>	08/10	T&SSh	
	1 female at Liberal	Seward	08/26	BP, SP	
	1 adult male at Larned	Pawnee	09/05	SS, OS	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 female at Elkhart	Morton	08/27	BP, SP	
	1 female at Elkhart	Morton	09/01	BP	
<u>Anna's Hummingbird</u>	1 possible female at Larned	Pawnee	09/05	SS	

<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 imm. At Garden City residence	Finney	08/10	T&SSh
	1 at Schartz's residence, Larned	Pawnee	08/11	O&JSc,SS,DSe,SSe
	1 imm. male at Garden City residence	Finney	08/22	T&SSh, MO
	1 female at Garden City	Finney	08/24	BP, m:ob
	<D> 1 at residence in Valley Center	Sedgwick	08/30	B&NB, N&KC
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 female at Garden City residence	Finney	08/09	MO
	2 at Larned residence	Pawnee	08/11	O&JSc,SS,DSe,SSe
	1 imm. male at Garden City residence	Finney	08/22	T&SSh, MO
	3 females at Garden City	Finney	08/24	BP, m:ob
	3 females at Elkhart	Morton	08/27-29	BP, SP, m:ob
	1 at Garden City	Finney	08/27	TS, CG
	<D> 1 female at residence in Wichita	Sedgwick	08/28	N&KC, PJ, B&NB
	1 adult female at Kazmaier residence	Pawnee	08/29	DKa, SS
	1 adult female at Schartz residence	Pawnee	08/30	SS
	1 adult female at Osterbuhr residence	Finney	08/31	TS, m:ob
	1 male at Seltman farm	Rush	09/01	DSe
	1 at Larned	Pawnee	09/05	D&DKa
	2 at Larned	Pawnee	09/05	SS, OS
	1 at Garden City	Finney	09/22	TS
	1 at Elkhart	Morton	09/22	DV, WAS
Rufous Hummingbird	1 male at Garden City residence	Finney	08/10	T&SSh
	5 at Larned residence	Pawnee	08/11	DKa
	<i>(seen over last 2 weeks)</i>			
	2 imm. males at GC residence	Finney	08/14	T&SSh
	8-9 at 4 separate Garden City residences	Finney	08/22	T&SSH,MO,LR,MRy
	<i>(All female/immature male types.)</i>			
	2 females at Garden City	Finney	08/24	BP, m:ob
	1 female at Elkhart	Morton	08/27	BP, SP
	1 in Elkhart (Giddens residence)	Morton	09/01	GP, m:ob
	1 at Larned	Pawnee	09/05	D&DKa
	1 female in W. Wichita	Sedgwick	09/15	PJ
	1 imm. male at Garden City	Finney	09/22	TS
	2 at Shane residence, Garden City	Finney	10/01	TS
1 at Rich residence, Garden City	Finney	10/01-28	LR	
1 at residence in Salina	Saline	11/14-30	NH	
" <i>Selasphorus</i> " sp.	1 rufous/allen's type at Linn residence	Washington	08/28	DT
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1 male at Garden City	Finney	08/24	TS, MO, BP, m:ob
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at CNG Picnic Area	Morton	09/15	BF
	<D> 1 at Stockdale Area of Tuttle Creek	Riley	10/01-10/29	LJ
Western Wood-Pewee	1 at "Middle Springs", CNG	Morton	09/01	GP, MM, DS
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	<u>09/29</u>	BF
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/02	BP, LH
Acadian Flycatcher	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	<u>09/29</u>	BF
<u>Hammond's Flycatcher</u>	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/02	BP, m:ob
	<D> 1 at CNG Work Station	Morton	09/15	BF

<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/02	BP, LH, m:ob
	1 in Elkhart alley	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
	<D> 1 at "Middle Spring", CNG	Morton	09/15	BF
<u>Dusky Flycatcher</u>	1 at Pittman farm	Clark	08/31	GP, MM, DS
	1 at Osterbuhr residence, Garden City	Finney	09/02	TS, ML
<u>Cordilleran Flycatcher</u>	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
Eastern Phoebe	12+ at Watson property N. of Towanda	Butler	09/09	PJ
Say's Phoebe	1 along "Ark" River, Wichita	Sedgwick	08/12	PJ
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/15	BF
Cassin's Kingbird <D>	1 at Scott Lake (<i>1st county record</i>)	Scott	09/22	T&SSh
	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
	3 at feedlot SW of Satanta	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at CNG Work Station	Morton	09/22	MG, DW
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/09	MT, GY
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	11/23	M&EC
Northern Shrike	1 at St. Francis	Cheyenne		11/22 HA
	1 7 mi N. Rozel	Pawnee	11/30	SS
Bell's Vireo	1 at North Fork of Cimarron River	<u>Morton</u>	08/28	MR, CG, BP, m:ob
<u>Plumbeous Vireo</u>	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	08/30	BP, SP
	1 at CNG Work Station	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa, WAS
	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	09/25	B&NB, PJ
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	1 at golf course in Johnson	<u>Stanton</u>	09/02	SS
	1 at Elkhart cemetery	Morton	08/27-29	BP, SP, m:ob
	1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton	09/02	BP, LH, m:ob
Blue-headed Vireo	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	09/01	BP, m:ob
Philadelphia Vireo	1 banded at Meade	<u>Meade</u>	09/03	TF
	(<i>1st in 10-15 years</i>) 1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	08/30	BP
Purple Martin	2000 at Manhattan shopping center	Riley	08/19	RK
	15 (<i>all immature</i>) at Clinton Lake	Douglas	09/13	DG
<u>Violet-Green Swallow</u>	1 at Belle Plaine sewage ponds	<u>Sumner</u>	08/22	TH, LH
<u>Cave Swallow</u> <D>	2 at Ackley Lake	Finney	09/27	TS, MO
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	08/26	PJ
	<i>(Were numerous all across the state from late August through end of period.)</i>			
White-breasted Nuthatch	<u>10±</u> at Sappa Creek Park	Decatur	09/20	SS
Rock Wren	4 6 mi. N. of Garden City	Finney	10/13	P&MRy

Bewick's Wren	1 at Kaw Wildlife Area	Cowley	<u>10/19</u>	TH, LH
Winter Wren	1 singing in Lone Star yard	Douglas	10/09	PW
Sedge Wren	several singing at Flint Hills NWR	Coffey	08/19	MG, AG
Marsh Wren	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms 3 at Wilson Lake 30 at CB & QNWR	Barton Russell Barton & Stafford	09/10 11/10 11/18	GY, MRa, KB MRa CG, TH, LH
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Scott Lake 1 at "Point of Rocks", CNG 1 at St. Francis 1 at St. Francis	Scott Morton Cheyenne Cheyenne	<u>09/09</u> 09/22 11/18 11/22	T&SSh MG, DW HA HA
Veery	1 at North Fork of Cimarron River (<i>Western race</i>)	Morton	08/28	BP, m:ob
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2 banded at Meade (<i>2nd and 3rd county records</i>)	<u>Meade</u>	09/03	TF
<u>Sage Thrasher</u>	1 at corral near "Patti Canyon" CNG	Morton	09/22	WAS, MG, DW
<u>Curve-billed Thrasher</u>	1 at "goat pens" on K-27 N. of Elkhart	Morton	09/22	SS, MRa
Sprague's Pipit	10+ east of Lenora (<i>Also many heard calling overhead</i>)	Norton	10/21	SS
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	09/01	BA
<u>Virginia's Warbler <D></u>	1 female at "Boy Scout Area" CNG	Morton	09/01-02	PJ, BP
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	09/01	BP, m:ob
Magnolia Warbler	2 at Elkhart shelterbelt 1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at "Middle Spring", CNG	<u>Morton</u> <u>Morton</u> <u>Morton</u>	08/31-09/01 09/02 09/03	CG, SP, BP, m:ob TH, LH PJ
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 female at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 male S. of Wichita	<u>Morton</u> Sumner	08/31 10/11	BP TH, LH
"Audubon's" Warbler	1 at Middle Spring, CNG 6 at CNG work station	Morton Morton	09/01 09/22	SS, TC, DBu, CA MG, DW
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1 imm. male at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at CNG Work Station	Morton Morton	08/31 09/01	BP, SP, CG, m:ob TH, LH
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 at golf course in Johnson 1 male at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Stanton</u> <u>Morton</u> <u>Morton</u>	09/02 08/31 09/01	SS BP, m:ob GP, MM, DS
Townsend's Warbler	2 at Scott Lake	Scott	09/09	T&SSh
Pine Warbler	1 male at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at Alcove Springs	<u>Morton</u> Marshall	09/01-02 10/05	BP, m:ob TP

Prairie Warbler	1 at Clinton State Park 1 at western crossing of Cimarron	<u>Douglas</u> Morton	<u>08/06</u> 09/01-02	GPa TH, LH, MM
<u>Blackpoll Warbler</u> <D>	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	<u>Morton</u>	<u>09/01</u>	CG, MG, DS, m:ob
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 singing near residence	Leavenworth	08/17	JS
<u>Connecticut Warbler</u> <D>	1 at Swanson's Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>09/24</u>	B&NB
MacGillivray's Warbler	<u>3</u> at Elkhart shelterbelt 1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton Morton	09/01-02 08/31	BP, SS, m:ob CG, SP, BP, m:ob
Canada Warbler	1 at near Perry Lake (<i>early date</i>) 1 at Osterbuhr's yard, Garden City 1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG 1 at western crossing of Cimarron 1 at Wichita	Douglas Finney <u>Morton</u> <u>Morton</u> Sedgwick	<u>08/11</u> 09/02 09/02 09/01 09/09	MM, GP m:ob BP, LH, TH, m:ob GP, MM, DS BM
Western Tanager	2 at "Middle Springs", CNG	Morton	09/02	TH, LH
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	1 2 mi W. of CNG Work Station	Morton	09/02	SS, TC, DBu, CA
LeConte's Sparrow	<u>50</u> at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/19	AP
<u>Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow</u>	1 at NESAs 2 at Baker Wetlands (<i>1 on 10/19</i>)	Jefferson Douglas	10/13 10/14	BF, MM, GP, DS AP
Fox Sparrow	1 (<i>early</i>) at Marion Lake	Marion	<u>10/11</u>	CG
Smith's Longspur	<u>200-300</u> near Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	11/17	BF, BAS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 adult male at Garden City feeder	<u>Finney</u>	<u>11/23-25</u>	ES
Black-headed Grosbeak	2-3 at Ft. Zarah Pk. Near Great Bend	Barton	08/31	GP, MM, DS
Lazuli Bunting	3 males at western crossing Cimarron 1 at Elkhart sewer ponds 1 at "Boy Scout Area", CNG	Morton Morton Morton	09/01 09/01 09/22	GP, MM, DS, m:ob GP, MM, DS, m:ob SS, MRa
Bullock's Oriole	1 male at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	09/06	CG
"blackbirds"	<i>A blackbird roost in Arkansas City, Cowley Co. contained an estimated 100,000-200,000 birds on 11/29. They were mostly Redwing Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds as well as Common Grackles and Starlings.</i>			GY
Great-tailed Grackle	50-60 on sod plots near KOA Campground, in N. Lawrence 1000 in Wichita	Douglas Sedgwick	08/04 11/17	GP KG
Brown-headed Cowbird	5000 at Hillsboro	Marion	10/03	CG
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	4 at west crossing of Cimarron River	Morton	09/02	SS, TC, DBu, CA
Evening Grosbeak	1 imm. at Elkhart	Morton	08/27-09/01	BP, SP, m:ob

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 documentation submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESAs), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA),

Observers: Dennis Angle, Bob Antonio, Charles Anderson, Bev Aldrich (BAI), Henry Armknecht, Dave Bryan, Doris Burnett (DBu), Dan Baffa (DBa), Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Ken Brunson, Joanne Brier, William Bivin, Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Nick & Kathy Clausen (N&KC), Mark Corder, Mark & Elaine Corder (M&EC), Donna Chance, Barbara Duncan, Mary Deuser, Tom Flowers, Bob Fisher, Gregg Friesen, Dan Gish, Bob Gress, Chet Gresham, Matt Gearheart, Alan Godwin, Harry & Sharron Gregory (H&SG), Kevin Groeneweg, Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Mike Hopper, Chris Hobbs, Nancy Highgate, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Dan Kluza, Dan Kilby (DKi), Don Kazmaier (DKa), Don & Debbie Kazmaier (D&DKa), Ron Klataske, Alvin Knight, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Mark Land, Linda Loomis, Ben & Betty Leader (B&BL), Jean Leonatti, Dan Larson, Chris Mammoliti, Richard Martin, Mick McHugh, Bert McClard, Officer MacCauley, Roger McNeill (RMn), Robert Mangile (RMa), Dan Mulhern, Mary Nelle, Jim Nickel, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Ralph Pike, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Glenn Pritchett (GPr), Tom Parker, Alexis Powell, Bob Price (BPr), Bruce C. Peters, Ben Rogers, Mark Robbins, Mike Rader (MRa), Dave Rintoul, Leonard Rich, Pam & Mike Ramsey (P&Mry), Greg Schrott, John Schukman, David Seibel, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman (DSe), Steven Seltman (SSe), Kylee Sharp, Tom Shane, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Omar Schartz, Art Swalwell, Mike Stoakes, Carolyn Schwab, Emaline Scott, Lauren Sill, Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society (SGAS), Dan Thalmann, Max Thompson, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Don Vannoy, Edge Wade, Phil Wedge, Roy Wedge, Dave Williams, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Gene Young

Attention Members!

KOS will publish a new membership directory in the coming year. The directory will be mailed with the fall edition of the Horned Lark. The directory is distributed only to KOS members. As a reminder, KOS does not share its membership lists with any outside organization, and your personal information is not posted to the web. This year's directory format will include the member's name as it appears in the KOS database, the full mailing address, and the phone number. As an option, you can elect to exclude your street address and phone number from the directory, but your name and city will be shown. If you do not want your street address and phone number to be in the upcoming directory, notify Mike Stewart, KOS Membership, no later than June 1st, 2002. You may contact him at 913-651-2565 or mstewart@lvnworth.com. The mailing address for written requests is 1100 Wellington Drive, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Planning Begins

The National Wildlife Refuge System will celebrate its 100th anniversary on March 14, 2003. From the national level, clear on down to many individual refuges, planning has begun for special events. Most birders know that President Theodore Roosevelt started the National Wildlife Refuge system in 1903 to halt the slaughter of pelicans and egrets on Pelican Island off Florida's east coast. Roosevelt went on to create 51 more refuges during his presidency. Today there are over 400 refuges open to the public. As birdwatchers, we are a principal beneficiary of these refuges. My wife and I have visited over 50 wildlife refuges ourselves over the last dozen years of birding. We have three active refuges in Kansas and a fourth that is in development. If you live near one of these refuges, visit with the manager and see if they are planning any special activities. If they are, offer your services as a volunteer. If they aren't, see if you can encourage them to start planning. The National Wildlife Refuge system has become a critical safety net to our wildlife. Let's show them how much we appreciate them!

Integrated Wildlife Planning and Management

by Helen Hands

There is a perception, among some people, that state and federal agencies have long neglected the needs of nongame wildlife. While I don't believe this perception is accurate for all agencies, I believe that the needs of nongame wildlife are now more actively considered.

Fifteen years ago, the first North American Waterfowl Management Plan was drafted. This Plan focused on the actions needed to increase waterfowl numbers throughout North America. Putting a blueprint for action on paper helped proponents of waterfowl receive \$450 million in appropriations from Congress during the past 15 years to address the habitat needs of waterfowl in North America. These moneys were matched with \$1.2 billion from Canada; Mexico; state, provincial, and local governments; non-governmental organizations; businesses; and individuals. Although the money was targeted for waterfowl habitat, many other wetland-dependent birds benefited as well.

Using the success of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan as a guide, proponents of nongame birds have been completing plans of their own during the past couple of years. The Partners in Flight (addressing nongame landbirds) and U.S. Shorebird Conservation plans were completed in 2000, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan is scheduled to be completed within a year. Some aspects of planning and conservation for these three, primarily nongame bird, plans and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are being coordinated under the umbrella of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).

These four plans have a national or international scope, however, actions to address the habitat-conservation needs of all bird species need to be undertaken at more regional or local levels. These plans recognize this and step down national goals and objectives to regional planning and action. Again, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan provided the prototype. Although there aren't any regional waterfowl management plans, several regional groups, called Joint Ventures, which plan and fund conservation work, were formed. Joint Ventures are landscape- or habitat-based and are comprised of representatives from state and federal conservation agencies, private conservation groups, corporations, and private

landowners. These representatives, called partners, contribute money and expertise to waterfowl conservation primarily through habitat restoration and enhancement and education. Kansas participates in two Joint Ventures, the Playa Lakes and Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Regional plans for nongame landbirds and shorebirds have or are being completed. These plans are based on ecoregions, called Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), which don't always line up with the Joint Venture areas. Implementing these regional plans is difficult without an administrative structure or adequate funding. Again, these planning groups are modeling their efforts after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. However, it probably isn't necessary to have separate "Joint Ventures" for landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds. In the spirit of NABCI and integrated wildlife management, it is more practical for the mission of existing waterfowl Joint Ventures to expand to encompass all birds.

So far, only the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) has become an all-bird Joint Venture. Last year the PLJV expanded its boundaries from the Playa Lakes Region of western Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas and eastern Colorado and New Mexico to align with Bird Conservation Regions 18 (shortgrass prairie) and 19 (mid-grass prairie) in these five states. Shorebird and landbird biologists have been added to the PLJV to provide additional expertise in project evaluation. However, additional funding is needed to before the PLJV will fund projects beyond its mission of conservation of wetlands and their watersheds. Otherwise, existing funding will be stretched too far and will do less for wetlands, the PLJV's original mission. The PLJV has shown the way toward integrated wildlife conservation, whether or not the other JV's will follow is unknown.

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

If you haven't paid your dues, this is your last issue!

**KOS Fall Board Meeting
February 2, 2002
Kansas Biological Survey
Lawrence, Kansas**

Attendance:	Chuck Otte	Dave Williams
	Marvin Kuehn	Cal Cink
	Bill Busby	John Schukman
	Mike Stewart	David Seibel
	Dan Larson	

Chairman John Schukman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The minutes from the fall board meeting (10/06/01) were reviewed and approved.

Finance Committee Report: Dan Larson stated that the committee will meet on March 9. He will be recommending a change in the manner that interest is calculated from cost basis to market basis.

Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) Report: Dave Rintoul was not present but sent a report on records from the first two voting rounds of 2001. A final report for 2001 will be provided once votes from all committee members are received. A meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2002, in Manhattan to review species on the review list, elect three members to replace Bob Gress, Richard Rucker, and Mick McHugh., and other items.

Bulletin Editor's Report: Cal Cink was welcomed as the new bulletin editor. Cal is working on the winter bird count (56 counts this year) with Roger Boyd. The bulletin will be submitted electronically to the same printer in Winfield. He has material for the next several issues including a long manuscript by Dwight Platt.

Newsletter Editor's Report: Chuck Otte reported that the March issue is in preparation.

Vice-president's Report: Gene Young was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Larson provided annual summaries of assets, liabilities, and expenses for 2001. Total assets are about \$112,000 which is up slightly from a year ago. Because the investment fund is conservative there has not been a lot of fluctuation. Life membership income and the fact that it does not cover the cost of member services was discussed. Chuck Otte consulted the bylaws and clarified that funds from life memberships were to be invested and only the interest could be spent until the death of the member at which time the principal could be spent with the approval of the board.

Membership Report: Mike Stewart reported the membership is approximately stable. There were 29 new members in 2001 and he expects there will be 10-15 non-renewals in 2002. The level of membership is down with fewer sustaining and more regular members. The rate of annual renewals for 2002 is strong so far (216 renewals to date). A new membership directory is scheduled for this year. A shorter, label-style directory is planned. The last directory cost \$540 and was 45 pages. Mike also reported that he has investigated having labels made for the extra checklists providing updated contact information for KOS. The checklists will be distributed to nature centers, etc., to promote KOS. The cost will be approximately \$90 for 1000 labels. A motion to approve up to \$150 for labels was made, seconded, and approved.

Business Manager's Report: Dave Williams stated that things were going fine. Mailings were going out in a timely fashion.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept all the officer's reports.

New/Other Business

Future Meetings:

Spring 2002	May 3-5 in Junction City. Chuck Otte is planning a full agenda with night bird trips, access to prairie chicken blinds, Saturday evening meal, etc.
Fall 2002	Meade
Spring 2003	Leavenworth
Fall 2003	open
Spring 2004	offer of Washington County

Membership Brochures & Directory: The three-year rotation of publications calls for production of a new membership directory in 2002. This was discussed earlier in the meeting in the Membership Report.

Dingus Tract: John Schukman visited the site last weekend. He met Marla, a niece of the original tract owners, at the site. He showed recent slides and two slides taken in 1978 of area signs. A new sign is needed and John received an estimate of \$565. Chuck moved to approve funds for production and placement of a new Dingus sign. The motion was seconded and approved.

Other Items:

John Schukman was contacted by Ken Brunson about a request for proposals on the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Ken inquired whether KOS might want to be involved with a project. Chuck described his involvement as KOS representative on the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council and how KOS was willing to become involved with promoting educational issues but not bricks and mortar projects. One project need that has been identified is development of a bird list for Cedar Bluff Reservoir.

There is a need for an official KOS address and phone number. It was decided to use the Business Managers address.

John reported that Greg Farley had recommended a change in the KOS procedure for awarding best student papers at the fall meeting. Currently, there is one award for best student paper at the fall meeting. The recommendation was to have student awards for three categories: undergraduate, masters, and doctoral student levels. After some discussion a motion was made to award up to three awards per fall meeting, one per category to undergraduate students, masters students, and doctoral students. There shall be at least two entries per category; otherwise a single entry from one category will be combined with the nearest category and one award will be given in the combined category. If there are less than two entries for each of the three categories at a meeting, two awards will be given if there are three or more total entries representing at least two categories; otherwise one award will be given. David Seibel moved to accept the motion, Chuck Otte seconded, and the motion was approved.

Chuck Otte explained that Jim Mayhew has located a Christmas count from the Abilene area from 1904. Jim is planning a 100th year anniversary of this count in 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Fall Meeting 2002
October 4, 5 & 6, 2002
Meade County
Start Making Plans To Attend Now**

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.

KOS Spring Field Trip Announcement, Details and Maps
May 4, 5 & 6, 2002
Geary County & Milford Lake Area
Junction City, Kansas

The Spring Field Trip of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held in Geary County, Kansas, and surrounding areas. Geary County is the home of the confluence of the Smoky Hill and Republican Rivers. Where the Kansas River starts, the last remnants of the eastern deciduous forest end. The resulting mix of tall grass prairies and Kansas "old growth" forest gives rise to incredible species diversity. Then throw into the mix the largest manmade reservoir in Kansas, and the possibilities are limitless!

For those wanting to come early and get in some birding before the official start, mark the registration form and make arrangements with Chuck. There will be an informal Friday evening gathering at the Greenhills Clubhouse (see map). An evening birding tour(s) will head out from here in search of owls and nightjars. The Saturday and Sunday morning field trips will originate from the north end of the Country Kitchen parking lot. Country Kitchen will be open early for breakfast! There will be many field trips on Saturday morning with an opportunity to head off on a different informal birding tour on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening will be a no host group dinner. Location will be provided at registration. After the Saturday group dinner there will be additional twilight/night time birding opportunities. Sunday morning will bring a slightly limited version of the Saturday tours, but still LOTS of opportunities. We will meet below the dam at Milford Lake for a group lunch (please mark the registration form if you want us to have a meal for you). If the weather is good (warm, sunny and the wind not blowing a hundred miles an hour, we will meet at shelter #11 near the swimming beach below the dam. If the previous weather criteria are not met, we will meet at the Milford Nature Center and take refuge in their indoor auditorium.

There will be limited space on Saturday and Sunday morning in the Prairie Chicken observation blinds at Konza Prairie. Eight spaces each morning will be available on a first come first served basis. Participants will be notified at registration, or before, if they succeeded in making the list. Participants will need to meet at the Konza Prairie informational kiosk on Hiway 177 north from I-70 off Exit 313 at 5:30 a.m. From there, participants will car pool in to the viewing blinds. Drinking large quantities of coffee, or any beverage, prior to arriving is strongly discouraged!

****A potential highlight is the field trip onto Ft. Riley. Obviously, this is tentative, pending current security alert status. If this field trip has to be canceled it will be absorbed into the other trips. For admittance onto Ft. Riley everyone will need a current photo ID such as a driver's license. Car pooling is strongly encouraged. Every vehicle must have current registration and proof of insurance. Any and all vehicle and all backpacks, bags etc., may be searched by security personnel. We have employees at the Dept. of Environment and Safety on Ft. Riley that we are working with to try to insure smooth access to the prime birding areas.****

Housing: There are numerous hotels along I-70 (see following list) and great camping opportunities at Milford Lake.

Motels: **Comfort Inn**, 1214 S Washington (Exit 296), 785-238-7887 or 800-4-CHOICE (this motel is next door to Country Kitchen)

Days Inn, 1024 S Washington (Exit 296), 785-762-2727 or 800-329-7466

Econo Lodge, 211 W Flint Hills Blvd. (Exit 299), 785-238-8181 or 800-447-4777

Holiday Inn Express, 120 N East St. (Exit 298), 785-762-4200 or 800-HOLIDAY

Motel 6, 1931 Lacey Drive, (Exit 295), 785-762-2215 or 800-4-MOTEL6

Super 8 Motel, 1001 E. 6th St. (Exit 298 or 299), 785-238-8101 or 800-800-8000

Camping:

Milford Lake State Park, just north of the dam at Milford Lake, 785-238-3014 www.kdwp.state.ks.us

Milford Corps of Engineers, numerous campgrounds around the lake, 785-238-5714 or 877-444-6777

<http://www.ReserveUSA.com>

Schedule (tentative):

Friday, May 3 - early arrival bird watching - contact Chuck for arrangements

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Registration and socialization - Greenhills Clubhouse, 675 Bittersweet (see map, north on US 77 from I-70, Exit 295, to West Ash street, east on Ash to the bottom of the hill, which will be Bittersweet, look for the stone sign saying Greenhills, and then north on Bittersweet just a little ways to the clubhouse. It's just over the top of the hill.)

9:00 p.m. - Night time birding for owls and nightjars leaving from the Greenhills Clubhouse

Saturday, May 4, 5:30 a.m. Prairie-chicken tour participants meet at Konza Prairie Information Kiosk

6:00 a.m. - Meet for field trip departure at north end of Country Kitchen parking lot, I-70 Exit 296

Noon - informal optional lunch gathering at location to be announced.

Afternoon - field trips continue, opportunity for reorganization or birding on your own.

5:00 p.m. - No host dinner, location to be announced

7:30 p.m. - evening/twilight tours

Sunday, May 5

6:00 a.m. - Meet for field trip departure at north end of Country Kitchen parking lot, I-70 Exit 296

Noon - Meet at Milford Lake below the dam at shelter #11 for lunch and compilation (in case of inclement weather we will meet at the Milford Nature Center.)

Tours: Following is a list and description of the scheduled tours. All tours are subject to change or cancellation.

Saturday

Konza Prairie Chicken Blinds - Meet at Konza Prairie informational Kiosk at 5:30 a.m. Limited to the first eight who pre register (see above this tour will be repeated on Sunday.) Following the chicken viewing participants will bird areas around Konza.

Ft. Riley: Pet Cemetery Trail, Moon Lake, Hackberry Butterfly Woods, Territorial Capital Trail-

This field trip is dependent on the current security threat condition on Ft. Riley. Participants must have current photo ID (driver's license). Any vehicles driven on post must also have current registration papers and current insurance paperwork with the vehicle. This trip will involve hiking trails that are occasionally steep and slippery during wet weather. This will involve lots of birding in heavy timber.

Upper Milford Lake - This encompasses much of the wetlands that are being developed north of Wakefield as well as riparian timber birding along the Republican River just above Milford Lake. Fairly flat trails when walking. A fair amount of vehicle birding.

Geary State Fishing Lake and Camp Tomah Shinga - A mix of moderate to heavy timber, scrubland and tall grass prairie. Almost anything is possible at these locations and surrounding area. If you don't get into the Konza Chicken Blinds, this trip would probably hold the best hope of finding Greater Prairie Chickens. Moderate walking, Camp Tomah Shinga can be hilly.

Lower Milford Lake including Walla Walla Road - Walla Walla Road can hold almost anything including all three buntings plus many warblers. Corps of Engineers grasslands will be walked for Henslow's Sparrows. Pine and deciduous tree plantings will be walked in the Corps parks for passerines. A fair amount of walking, none of it too adverse.

Highland Cemetery, Homer's Pond, Riverwalk Trail - These locations will be a no leader option. Easy to find (maps will be provided), these all have very accessible trails. The Cemetery and Homer's Pond also have hard surfaced trails or roads. All locations have good wooded cover and can hold many passerines. Homer's Pond held nesting Wood Thrushes in 2001 and all migratory thrush species have been found here.

Sunday

Above trips will be held again with the exception of Upper Milford and Geary State Fishing Lake (due to distances needed to be traveled and the noon gathering at the lake.)

Chuck and Jaye Otte are the local committee chairs. Jaye will be handling all the registration activity during April. They can be reached at: 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, otte@nqks.com Please send your registration information to them. E-mail registrations will be accepted and payment made when you arrive in Junction City.

KOS Spring Meeting Registration Form
May 3 - May 5, 2002

I plan on attending the KOS spring meeting on the following days:

- Friday nighttime birding
- Saturday field trips
 - Konza Prairie-Chicken Tours I could alternatively go on Sunday (please mark a 2nd Saturday choice)
 - Ft. Riley
 - Upper Milford Lake
 - Lower Milford Lake/Walla Walla Road
 - Geary State Lake
 - Highland Cemetery, Homer's Pond
- Saturday informal dinner
- Saturday nighttime birding
- Sunday field trips
 - Konza Prairie-Chicken Tours
 - Ft. Riley
 - Lower Milford Lake/Walla Walla Road
 - Highland Cemetery, Homer's Pond
- Sunday box lunch and compilation.

_____ Registration \$10 (indicate number if more than one)

_____ Sunday lunch \$5 (indicate number if more than one)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Please return completed form by April 29th to: **Jaye Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441**
e-mail: **otte@nqks.com** Phone inquiries may be made at 785-238-8800

RELEASE

Please read and sign. This release must be signed before the registration can be accepted.

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the KOS and their officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrants participation in this meeting.

Name (print) _____ Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Date _____

(attach additional names and signatures as necessary)



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 2001

Vol. 28, No. 4

Who's Who in KOS - 2002

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd., Maize, KS 67101

Marvin Kuehn, Emporia State Univ, Hammond Heights Complex #214, 1601 State St, Emporia, KS 66801

David Seibel, 1310 George Ct., #1, Lawrence, KS 66044

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.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@jc.net

From The Keyboard -

I've been playing again. I've been looking at other publications, both birding and non-birding, to see how I like or dislike things, and then trying to get other people's opinions on ideas. Let me know if you see some new layouts in *The Horned Lark* that you really like or really don't like.

Like most human beings, we all become comfortable with having things a certain way and then keeping them that way. How many times have you gone into a grocery store only to find that, once again, they have moved everything around. Just about the time you become accustomed to the new layout, they change it again. There is a lot of theory and logic as to why they keep changing things, but the bottom line is that they want to keep you looking. The more you look the more you're liable to buy. I don't want to change so much that you'll get upset. But I do want to change things just enough to keep you looking, so you don't miss any thing.

I think we often find ourselves getting into the same old habits in our birdwatching. We go to the same spots where we've always gone birding. Sometimes it's because we know that there is good habitat there and we have a good chance to see something good. But too often, perhaps, we go there because we are comfortable there. Rather than being daring, and go looking for some place new, we avoid the risk of maybe not finding a good new location, for the predictable comfort of knowing what we'll probably see.

The past several months have changed our lives in many different ways. The comfortable sameness that we had felt for years was shattered on a Tuesday morning in September. So now we all find ourselves trying to settle into a new reality. Maybe part of that new reality is trying different birdwatching locations. Maybe you break out of that routine of doing the same Christmas Bird Counts that you've always done, and try a new one, or two, or three.

Maybe you've never gone to a spring field trip, so come to Junction City in May. Maybe you've never been to Meade County, join us there in October of 2002. Growth doesn't occur without change. Sometimes that change is scary and uncertain. But you can be impacted by change, or you can impact change. It's only the future, don't be afraid!

Until the next time, Happy Holidays to one and all!

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!

Spring 2002 - Junction City/
Milford Lake

Fall 2002 - Meade County

Spring 2003 - ???

Fall 2003 - Cowley County

Spring 2004 and Beyond -

Volunteers and locations needed! Our list is rapidly being used up. Start thinking of where you'd like to go, or if you would be willing to host a spring or fall meeting.

In this issue -

- 2 **Announcements**
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- 20 **Labor Day in Elkhart Photos**

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

DON'T WAIT, RENEW YOUR KOS MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
DETAILS ON PAGE 12!

FRS Radio Recommendations from ABA

Several years ago, Family Radio Service (FRS) frequencies were opened up by the Federal Communications Commission. This allowed the use of low power two-way radios in certain ultra high frequency (UHF) bands. As these radios became available in the market place, it didn't take birdwatchers long until they started using them in the field. The combination of low power and UHF frequencies limits these radios to a range of less than two miles under the best of conditions. But this is still adequate range for birders at Quivira, Cheyenne Bottoms of the town of Elkhart. Just as the CB craze of the 1970s had its problems, FRS radio usage has created its own as well.

The American Birding Association (ABA) formed a committee to look into the usage of FRS radios and made a recommendation that, whenever possible, birders use channel 11, subcode 22 as a continent-wide standard for communications by birders. More details on the ABA recommendation can be found at: <http://americanbirding.org/resources/resfrs1.htm>

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

A Kansas Birder in Cave Creek Canyon

by Chet Gresham

Waking at 5:30 a.m., the sun still waiting below the horizon, and outside a thick whirr of hummingbird wings, the chee-lup, lup-chee of a flycatcher. And as I open my eyes my life comes back to me in a rush; I am in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, and outside a Blue-throated Hummingbird drinks at my feeder and a male Buff-breasted Flycatcher sings for a mate. Quickly other birds join in the chorus; Painted Redstart, Grace's Warbler, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Hutton's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, and as the day goes on the list will expand to fill this whole page.

It is Monday, the beginning of my weekend from working at the Southwestern Research Station. I see birds that my friends in Kansas would probably love to see about this time on a Monday, but my mind wanders back to the plains and hills of Kansas. I must have bluestem veins pumping oxygen to my brain, and a Western Meadowlark's song my life's theme music. I yearn for my return to Kansas and walking in my parents pastures in Marion County up to my armpits in bluestem watching the sun spread out each evening transforming windmills and farm ponds into bronzed relics. I know those times even though sometimes far and few between will fill me and my need for home and horizon.

If someone were to pull out a map of the U.S. and ask me to point to the best birding spots Kansas probably wouldn't be where my finger would end. But I'm not writing this to convince birders that Kansas is the ultimate birding vacation spot; I just want to reassure myself that these are healthy and real emotions and assure other Kansas birders that we aren't missing out on more exciting and challenging birding elsewhere. The birds aren't always rarer or more interesting as soon as you cross the state line. Every bird I observe in Kansas is in a context for me. Here in Arizona I am slowly finding some semblance of context for the birds around me, but I know that this can't come quickly no matter how much I study and look for birds. I don't believe a person needs to grow up in a place to connect to and understand it, but it doesn't hurt.

Kansas is where I understand my sense of place. With time and observation it is difficult not to have the land, animals, weather, history, city, country, people, time, direction, and an endless array of ideas and things weave in and out of your life directing and pushing your understanding of your world. Kansas is that world for me and many of you, and just the word automatically brings a sense of birds to many of us. We can sense when a Baltimore Oriole has arrived in the Cottonwoods or when a Harris's Sparrow will be singing in the bushes as you walk to your car on a crisp October morning. We know when a bird is out of place, we accumulate so much information without even knowing it. Here in Arizona my sense of place comes from a birdfinding guide, which really gives me no feeling of connection to these birds or their habitat. That is one reason I wanted to be here for a while. I know I won't get to see all of the seasons come and go and the birds with them, but compared to the week long trip I took eight years ago it will seem like a lifetime.

When I was here in the fall of 1993 it was easily the most exhilarating birding experience of my life. Every bird was new and stimulated my senses. I couldn't sleep in the anticipation of the next day of birding. And when I look back on the trip I remember the excitement and fun (which I would never want to lose), but I also can't remember the birds or the place. They are now becoming imprinted into my senses, but Kansas will always tug at the back of my need to bird.

So, as the birding blues set in and you are dreaming of Costa Rica or Nepal or southeastern Arizona remember that just outside, in your backyard, you are the seasoned veteran that can start to make sense out of what is actually happening in the world because you are part of that world, not a completely detached observer. I am not going to stop exploring and learning, but I will always know where I feel whole and return there to recharge and remember what home really means.

*Chet is now safely back in Kansas
and can be contacted at: cogresha@yahoo.com*

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.

Winter Raptors

by John Rakestraw

With less foliage on the trees and fewer songbirds to distract you, winter is a great time of year to study birds of prey in Kansas. While Kansas always boasts an impressive array of raptors, large numbers of these birds enter the state from the north and west at this time of year. Their large size and relatively slow movements make them ideal subjects for careful study. These magnificent birds really liven up the rather bleak Kansas winter landscape.

In addition to sheer numbers, **Red-tailed Hawks** arrive in a dazzling array of plumages. They can range from birds with mottled backs and clean white underparts to chocolate-brown birds with chestnut heads and breasts. Your first question when identifying a large raptor should be, "Is there anything to suggest that this bird is not a Redtail?" It is much easier to start with the assumption that any large raptor is a Red-tailed Hawk, and then look for field marks and behaviors that might indicate another species. One field mark shared by all plumages of Red-tailed Hawks in flight is a dark patagium, the leading edge of the wing (equivalent of the upper arm).

Rough-legged Hawks are winter visitors throughout Kansas. They are the large hawks most likely to hover in place like a Kestrel. (Although, if the wind is right, Red-tailed Hawks will occasionally hover, as well.) Rough-legs are also the only large hawk that frequently perches on the small twigs of treetops. Since their bills are small, Rough-legs have a more dainty appearance than other large raptors. On typical light phase birds, look for the extensive black bellies on juveniles and adult females (males have more mottled bellies). In flight, Rough-legs show black wrist patches and light tails with a broad dark band near the tip. Wrist patches and belly bands are not as apparent on dark phase birds, but these birds show the same light tail with a dark band.

Ferruginous Hawks are the largest hawks in Kansas, and are usually found in the western half of the state. They get their name from the rusty coloring on their backs, shoulders, and leg feathering. The underside of the tail is white (even on dark phase birds), while the upper side has a light rusty wash. When the bird is in flight, watch for the white "windows" on the upper side of the primary feathers. Ferruginous Hawks often perch on the ground, but they will take advantage of utility poles and trees. Look for these birds around prairie dog towns when the rodents are active.

The most notable field mark of **Golden Eagles** is their large size. Found in small numbers in western Kansas, they are generally dark in plumage with gray or white at the base of the tail. Golden hackles give the birds their name. Immature Golden Eagles usually show white patches at the base of the primaries. While young **Bald Eagles** can also be quite dark, they usually show much more white mottling on the their undersides than do young Golden Eagles. Bald Eagles are most often found near bodies of water, unlike the Golden, which is normally found in arid habitats.

One of my favorite Kansas birds is the **Prairie Falcon**. Whether perched on a utility pole or diving into a covey of Bobwhite, Prairie Falcons are an impressive bird. They show the classic falcon shape, with long pointed wings and long tails. The upperparts are a sandy brown, while the underparts are light with dark spotting. The most obvious field mark of the Prairie Falcon is the dark axillaries (wing pits) visible on flying birds. While more common in the west, these birds are found throughout the state in winter.

Northern Harriers are most often seen flying low over grassy fields and marshes in search of small rodents. Their long rounded wings, long tail, and white rump patch make identifying these birds easy, even at a distance. Harriers are so often seen on the wing that you might not recognize a perched bird right away. Male harriers are pale gray above, with black wing tips and mostly white underparts. Females are dark brown with dark streaks on the underparts. Immature birds resemble adult females, but have a cinnamon wash to the underparts.

These are just a few of the raptors to be found in Kansas in the winter. Others include **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the southeast, **Merlins** in the southwest, **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** visiting your bird feeders, and the occasional **Goshawk**. As always, study your field guide at home before venturing out into the field so you know what to look for. One of the best resources for hawk watchers is *Hawks in Flight* by Dunne, Sibley, and Sutton.

So do your homework, bundle up, and go scan the power lines and treetops for winter raptors.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Remember to renew your KOS membership today!

Thank you Wichita!

On behalf of the 116 people who attended the KOS Fall Meeting, the editor would like to thank the Wichita local committee who planned and hosted the 53rd KOS Fall Meeting. If space allowed, I would include the complete registration list!

The following people contributed to the effort to put on this meeting: Carol Cumberland, Sherry Brewer, Patty Marlett, Kevin and Laura Groeneweg, Harry and Sharron Gregory, Bob Gress, Cheryl Miller, Roy and Pat Bekemeyer, Tyler Hicks, Chet Gresham, Pete and Victoria Janzen, and Gene Young. If I missed anyone, I apologize!

Additional thank you's to all those who presented papers and a special thanks to Roger Boyd for a wonderful presentation at the banquet which was thoroughly enjoyed by the 90, or so, individuals who were able to attend.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the silent auction and to everyone who placed bids on those items. Nearly \$500 was raised for the Student Research Fund. (Start planning now for contributions to next year's silent auction!)

Let me also add one more round of thanks to Pete Janzen who always goes out of his way to make sure everything at these events goes so well. We have been invited to Meade County in October 2002, so start making plans now to attend!

KOS Fall Meeting Field Trip Bird List

compiled by Pete Janzen

These are the birds found by 6 parties of birders attending the KOS fall meeting. Field trips were conducted on Saturday a.m. around the Great Plains Nature Center at Wichita, and the main field trips on Sunday, which visited El Dorado, Cheney, Slate Creek Marsh, and a number of locations around Wichita and Mulvane. Since 6 counties were involved, I have not listed counties in most cases, as this would have been rather laborious.

Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe (Belle Plain sewage ponds, Sumner Co.), American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern (Slate Creek), Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle (Cheney Res., Reno Co. and El Dorado L, Butler Co.), Northern Harrier. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, (Slate Creek), American Coot, Black-bellied Plover (2 at Cheney, Reno Co.), Killdeer, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot (4 at Slate Creek Marsh), Sanderling (Cheney, Reno Co.), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull (1st winter, Cheney, Reno Co.), Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great-horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Western Kingbird (Slate Creek), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren (Slate Creek), Marsh Wren (Slate Creek), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler (Oak Park), Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler (Cheney, Reno), Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee (Slate Creek), Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow (Cheney, Reno), Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Total was 128 species. This was a better list than expected, considering the very high winds on Sunday. But the combination of lingering summer birds, early winter arrivals, and a variety of migrants made it a good cumulative species list. I think the Slate Creek trip had the best list overall.

Pete can be contacted at: prarybrd@southwind.net

KANSAS SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2001 through July 31, 2001

By Lloyd Moore

Well! Here we are at the end of another nesting season. Already shorebirds, hummingbirds, swallows and others are heading south to their winter residences. The season has been mostly a success with bird populations, at least momentarily, replenished with young. One of those successes here in Kansas is the increasing number of resident Bald Eagles. With 13 nesting pairs producing at least 21 young this year.

Weather during the period was wetter in the east and west but quite dry in the central and south central. Playa

Lakes in Finney County that had not held water for years were full and numerous waterbird species were arriving by the end of the period.

The rarity event of the season was the **Cave Swallow** found at Cheyenne Bottoms by Sebastian Patti and Chris Hobbs and seen by many others. This was the first ever reported in the state. Other rare species reported during the season were White-tailed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Calliope and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and a Lewis's Woodpecker seen at Ft. Riley.

Thanks to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

*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>
Common Loon	1 at Cowley Co. State Lake	Cowley	06/07	LH
Western Grebe	1 at Liberal sewer ponds 38 at Cheyenne Bottoms (Several with young)	Seward Barton	06/09 07/21	SP MG
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07.21	MG
Double-crested Cormorant	1 at Meade State Lake	Meade	06/02	TF
Great Egret	150 at Kyle Marsh, PWA	Jefferson	07/26	DW
Tricolored Heron	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	06/08 06/13	GP SP, CH
Glossy Ibis	<D> 1 in pool 3A, Cheyenne Bottoms <D> 1 in pool 3A, Cheyenne Bottoms (Video)	Barton Barton	06/08 07/14	GP B&NB
White-faced Ibis	320 at Cheyenne Bottoms 500 in roost, Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	07/21 07/27	MG BF
<u>Swallow-tailed Kite</u>	2 flying, 2 miles E. of Riley (A brief but intriguing sighting. Dad was presumably watching the road.)	Riley	07/12	ER
White-tailed Kite <D>	1 1mi W & 13 mi N of Kalvesta	Finney	06/29	SB
Mississippi Kite	80 in 3 "kettles" at Garden City 1 soaring above Mission	Finney Johnson	07/13 07/29	T&SSH MG

Bald Eagle	1 adult near nest N of Oldsburg <i>(The following nesting data provided by Dan Mulhearn, USF&W)</i> 2 chicks Clinton Lk. (Wakarusa Arm) Douglas Co. 1 chick Clinton Lk. (Rock Creek Arm) Douglas Co. 2 chicks Hillsdale Lk. (Big Bull Arm) Miami Co. 2 chicks Hillsdale Lk. (Little Bull Arm) Miami Co. 3 chicks Osage Co. (new for '01) 2 chicks Neosho Co. (new for '01) 3 chicks Norton Res. Norton Co. 1 chick Kansas River @ LeCompton, Douglas Co. 2 chicks Kansas River @ Williamstown, Jefferson Co. 1 chick Perry Lake, Jefferson Co. 1 chick Waconda Lake, Mitchell Co. ? chicks Hodgeman Co. Wolf Creek Lake, Coffey Co.:	Pottawatomie	06/08	DR
	May have been incubating at one time, but were not successful.			
	1 imm. At Kyle Marsh, PWA <i>(2nd or 3rd year bird.)</i>	Jefferson	07/26	DW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 on LeLoup BBS route	Franklin	06/02	GP, MM
Cooper's Hawk	1 on LeLoup BBS route 1 on Jamestown BBS route 1 young-of-the-year N. of Larned Pair nesting NW of Larned 2 on Wreford BBS route 1 in Franklin Co. 1 fledgling near Mulvane	Franklin Cloud Pawnee Pawnee Geary Franklin Sumner	06/02 06/17 06/17 06/17 06/23 07/04 07/16	GP, MM PW, MW SS SS C&JO MG, ML TH
Swainson's Hawk	1 in reclaimed mine land	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/14</u>	MG
Ferruginous Hawk	1 in sw Hodgeman <i>(carrying a snake)</i>	Hodegman	06/09	SS
Peregrine Falcon	1 dark bird at Quivira NWR <i>(Was being dive-bombed by Least Terns.)</i>	Stafford	07/14	DG
Prairie Falcon	2 in sandhills S of Holcomb	Finney	07/17-18	CHa
Scaled Quail	3 pair S. of Garden City	Finney	06/21	T&SSh
Black Rail	1 calling, E side wildlife loop QNWR	Stafford	0714	B&NB
King Rail	1 near Anthony	Harper	07/02	SGP
Sora	1 at Black Vermilion Marsh	Marshall	06/08	DR
Common Moorhen	1 with 3 young, Quivira NWR	Stafford	07.28	PM
Sandhill Crane	1 flying over west Manhattan 1 at Quivira NWR	Riley Stafford	<u>06/06</u> <u>07/13</u>	JH DG
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/27	BF
Killdeer	<u>500</u> at Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	07/25	GY

Marbled Godwit	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/13	SP
	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/27	BF
	1 at playa 6 N. of Garden City	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at Lassiter Marsh	Jefferson	06/03	AS, Tfl
Dunlin	4-6 at Lassiter Marsh	Jefferson	06/03	AS, TFl
Short-billed Dowitcher	3 In Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek (<i>heard calling</i>)	Riley	07/04	LJ
Laughing Gull	1 1 st year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/27	BF
Franklin's Gull	9 at sheep farm	Kearny	06/12	T&SSh
	1 at Lowe Lake	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Caspian Tern	3 at Wilson Lake	Russell	07/13	MR
Common Tern	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/13	SP
Forster's Tern	1 at playa 6 N. Garden City	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Least Tern	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	07/09	CC
	(<i>flying up Little Ark River carrying a fish</i>)			
	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	07/08	LMa
	3 adult, 1 hatchling, 1 egg, 1 immature, Wichita,	Sedgwick	07/09	CC, BG
	2 at Bradford North Lake, Wichita	Sedgwick	07/31	LMa
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u> <D>	1 in Bucklin	Ford	06/11	GP
	1 in Valley Falls	Jefferson	06/	GP
	small colony in NW Lawrence	Douglas	06/12	GP
	4-5 in roadside park on US73	Atchison	06/08	SP
	(<i>near Atchison/Leavenworth County line</i>)			
	1 on W side of Wichita	Sedgwick	06/22	JN
	Pair nested at Medicine Lodge	Barber	06/22	DA
	100's in Meade	Meade	06/23	TF
	(<i>Nesting in Meade since 1996. Also in Plains and Fowler</i>)			
	1 at Scott City	Scott	06/17	T&SSh
	1 in NW Garden City	Finney	06/22	T&SSh
	2 in Cullison	Pratt	06/02	T&SSh
	#? In Hazelton, Kiowa, Medicine Lodge and Hardtner	Barber	06/24	DA
	2 in Pittsburg	Crawford	07/02	RM
	2 in Wilson	Ellsworth	07/05	MR
Nesting at Medicine Lodge residence (<i>This is 2nd brood, 2 young in first brood.</i>)	Barber	07/13	DA	
1 in Goodland	Sherman	07/28	TH	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 in Atchison	Atchison	06/02-08	RP, SP
	1 on US-54 near Cullison	Pratt	06/09	SP
	1 3 S of Garden City	Finney	06/12	MO
	1 at Larned residence	Pawnee	06/01	DK
Inca Dove	1 "still calling" in Meade	Meade	06/13	TF
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	07/27	MO

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	06/01-16	MO
Burrowing Owl	49 S of Holcomb (<i>Seen on 3 small Prairie Dog towns and included many young birds.</i>)	Finney	07/25	T&SSh
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 female at Garden City residence	Finney	07/29	L&BR
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 at residence	Rush	07/11	Dse
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u> <D>	1 at Estes Draw, Ft. Riley	Geary	06/10	DR
Willow Flycatcher	1 at Garden City residence 1 singing at Meade State Lake	Finney Meade	<u>06/05</u> <u>06/04</u>	T&SSh AP, S&KS
Least Flycatcher	1 on Wreford BBS route 1 at Ft. Riley banding station	Geary Geary	<u>06/23</u> 07/26	C&JO DR
Say's Phoebe	1 nesting S. of Lake Waconda (<i>young observed in the nest</i>)	<u>Mitchell</u>	06/17	HA,PW,MW
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2 at w Cimarron Rvr. Crossing	Morton	06/05	AP, S&KS
Chihuahuan Raven	1 W. of Garden City	Finney	07/19	BP
Purple Martin	<u>1500-2000</u> on KU campus <u>1000+</u> in downtown Wichita	Douglas Sedgwick	07/12 07/12	BA KG
Tree Swallow	Pair nesting Clark State Lake 8 nesting near Goose Refuge, Cheney	Clark Reno	06/11 06/23	GP PJ, Jba
<u>Cave Swallow</u> <D>	<u>2</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms (<i>1st state record if accepted by KBRC. Video by TC</i>)	Barton	07/13-15	SP,CH,m.ob.
<D>	<u>1</u> (poss. Adult) Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/27	BF
Cliff Swallow	<u>10,000</u> below Lake Concannon dam	Finney	07/23	T&SSh
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	1 at Garden City residence (<i>First seen on 04/02. First Finney Co. record in 15 years.</i>)	<u>Finney</u>	06/01-07/31	MO
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at work station shelterbelt	Morton	06/05	AP, S&KS
<u>Carolina Wren</u>	Pair with young at Garden City residence (<i>Have been present last two years.</i>)	<u>Finney</u>	July	MO
Swainson's Thrush	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt 1 at Sharon Springs	Morton Wallace	06/04 06/05	AP, S&KS AP, S&KS
Hermit Thrush	2 at Meade State Lake	Meade	<u>06/03</u>	TF
Wood Thrush	4 at Homer's Pond, Junction City (<i>1 female seen carrying nesting material</i>) 12 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms 3 at Ft Riley (<i>banded</i>)	<u>Geary</u> Leavenworth Riley	06/10 06/16 07/10	C&JO JS DR
Cedar Waxwing	Several at residence in Meade	Meade	07/12	TM

<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 male at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	06/04	AP, S&KS
Yellow-throated Warbler	6 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/16	JS
Prairie Warbler	<D> 1 at Ft. Riley (First seen 05/21/01, photos)	Geary	07/09	DH
	1 singing near banding station at Ft. Riley. (Possibly present all summer. Different location than above.)	Geary	07/22	DR
American Redstart	30+ at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/16	JS
Prothonotary Warbler	1 banded at MAPS site, Ft. Riley (Only the 2 nd banded at Ft. Riley in 8+ years)	Geary	07/11	DR
Spotted Towhee	1 singing male at Lake Perry	<u>Jefferson</u>	<u>07/16</u>	RR
Henslow's Sparrow	1 singing	Franklin	07/04	MG, ML
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 on farmstead near Andale	Sedgwick	06/23	PJ, Jba
	1 at DeWeese Park, Cheney Rs.	Reno	06/23	PJ, Jba
Painted Bunting	1 singing male, Clinton SP	Douglas	06/06	Gpa
	3+ W end Wakarusa causeway	Douglas	06/08	JB, m.ob
	1 at Garnett Lake	Anderson	07/04	MG, ML
	1+ Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek	Riley	07/04	LJ

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 documentation submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA),

Observers: Dennis Angle, Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, James Barnes (JBa), Scotty Baugh, Joanne Brier, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Ted Cable, Charles Cope, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Tom Flanigan (TFI), Dan Gish, Matt Gearheart, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Christian Hagen (Cha), Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Dan Hegarty, Jack Holl, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Mark Land, Mick McHugh, Robert Mangile, Linda Mallonee (LMA), Patty Marlett, John Northrup, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Marie Osterbuhr, Ralph Pike, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Shawn G. Papon (SGP), Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Ellen Rintoul, Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Richard Rucker, John Schukman, Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman (DSe), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSH), Scott & Kylee Sharp (S&KS), Art Swalwell, Phil Wedge, Margaret Wedge, Dave Williams, Gene Young

Statewide Shorebird Survey

by Helen Hands

As many of you know, shorebirds migrate thousands of miles between wintering areas in South America and breeding areas in the Arctic. Many of these birds fly inland routes through Kansas. Inland-migrating shorebirds tend to make shorter hops and stay at smaller areas for a shorter time than coastal-migrating shorebirds. Shorebirds migrating through the Great Plains evolved this opportunistic migration strategy to cope with irregular availability of wetlands, due to the drier climate. Larger wetland complexes in the Great Plains, such as Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, provide suitable habitat for shorebirds more frequently due to their larger size and more-regular supply of water. However, even these wetlands can be too wet (e.g., spring and summer-fall 1993) or too dry (e.g., summer-fall 1991 and spring 1992) for shorebirds. At these times, shorebirds need alternative sites to allow them to continue migration. Although these alternative sites may not attract as many shorebirds as regularly or for as long as large wetlands, each stop along the way is important and necessary for shorebirds to complete their journeys.

Shorebird use of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Slate Creek Wetlands, Benedictine Bottoms, and Baker Wetlands has been well documented with regular surveys (i.e., surveys conducted at least twice monthly throughout the spring and summer-fall migratory periods). Shorebird use of other areas, even extremely important sites such as Quivira, is known only anecdotally because regular surveys have not been conducted. Data from these unsurveyed areas are needed to quantify the importance of other stopover areas and protect them if needed. Thus, these unsurveyed areas are the focus of the statewide shorebird survey I'd like to start.

To adequately quantify the number of shorebirds using each site, surveys need to be conducted twice a month throughout the spring and summer-fall migratory periods – late March through May and July through October. Frequent surveys are needed because shorebird numbers at a site vary widely within each migratory period. Surveying too infrequently increases the chance of underestimating the value of a site to shorebirds. Shorebird surveys in North, Central, and South America have been coordinated by the

International Shorebird Survey (ISS) for the past 25 years. ISS surveys are done every 10 days, a tradeoff between what is feasible and what is needed to quantify shorebird use. I'd prefer to see surveys conducted more frequently than twice a month, but I understand that most people don't have the time or the interest to do that.

The methods for shorebird surveys are fairly simple; just count the number of birds you see by species. Time of day and weather conditions aren't strict; just don't survey at a time when visibility is poor; such as fog, heavy rain, or into the sun.

Below, I've listed some suggested areas for surveys. If you know other sites that you'd rather survey, I'm open to suggestions. I've selected the following sites based on the likelihood of having shorebirds and management potential. If you're interested in helping, please select a site that you wouldn't mind surveying 5 times in spring and 8 times in summer-fall. Thus, you might want to choose a location that's no more than 10 miles from home or a place that you regularly bird.

Cheyenne Co. Marsh, Jamestown Wildlife Area, Kirwin NWR, Lincoln Co. Marshes, Norton Reservoir, Webster Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, Lake View oxbow, Lonestar Lake, Perry Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Cheyenne Bottoms, TNC Preserve, Claussen playa, Herron playa, Isabel marsh, Lake McKinney, Quivira NWR, Wild Turkey playa, Other playas, Cheney Reservoir, Colwich wetland, El Dorado Reservoir, Kanopolis Reservoir, Marion Reservoir, McPherson Wetlands, Mt. Hope Wetland, Big Hill Lake, Elk City Reservoir, Fall River Reservoir, John Redmond Reservoir, Melvern Reservoir, Neosho Wildlife Area, Pomona Reservoir, Toronto Reservoir

I'd like to start these surveys in March 2002 and continue them annually like the Breeding Bird Survey, or for at least 5-10 years. This will allow us to assess a variety of sites through a variety of different weather conditions. Some sites might attract shorebirds only during wet years, some only in dry years. So consider this time commitment before volunteering.

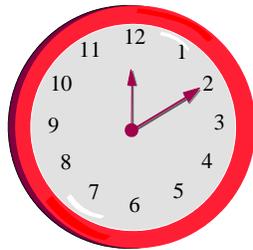
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Membership Renewal Time!

Annual dues are payable to the Treasurer in January. Please check the label on this month's mailing for your subscription expiration date. Members with an expiration date of 1201 need to renew for the coming year. KOS sincerely hopes that you will renew your membership for 2002, since we value you as a member of KOS and don't want you to miss out on the benefits KOS offers. You should find a renewal form enclosed with this mailing. Please fill it out and return the form along with your dues to:

Dan Larson
KOS Treasurer
4531 SE 27th Street
Topeka, KS 66605

Your renewal today will save the Society time and money by reducing the need for multiple reminders. Thanks, and we look forward to serving you in 2002.



- *Shorebird Survey, concluded*

Right now, you are probably thinking that these surveys would require a lot of work and are wondering, "what's in it for me." If we're able to pull off these surveys, we'll join Ohio as the only states conducting statewide shorebird surveys. Second, monitoring is one of most important needs identified in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan so you'll be doing your part to help these birds. Finally, and more concretely, those who volunteer will get a free copy of Gene Brehm's new shorebird identification video and an excellent shorebird identification book. If you're interested in volunteering, call me at 620-793-3066 or e-mail me at helenh@wp.state.ks.us.

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



Northern Harrier by Matt Gearhart

- - *Continued from following page*

Sunday, December 30

Kenton (Black Mesa), Oklahoma - Sebastian Patti, (312) 248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the Townsman Motel Restaurant in Boise City, OK, at 7 AM or at the Regnier Ranch House east of Kenton between 8:30 and 9 AM

Bonner Springs/Lansing - Galen Pittman, (785)842-7105, gpittman@ku.edu

Monday, December 31

Liberal/Seward County - Sebastian Patti, (312) 248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com,

Wednesday, January 2

Old Garfield - Barbara Campbell, (620)275-5430

Saturday, January 5

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, (620)276-8145

Red Hills/Medicine Lodge - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

Sunday, January 6

Kanopolis Lake - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Doniphan - John Schukman, (913)727- 5141, Schuksaya@aol.com

Saturday, January 12

Blackwolf - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Syracuse - Art Nonhof, (620)277-2087

2001 - 2002 Christmas Bird Count Season

Ah, the Christmas Bird Count Season (or early winter bird counts or holiday bird counts... whatever you choose to call them. Those wonderful days when you head out into bitter cold, wet slushy snow, or unseasonable heat waves, all in the interest of seeing how many bird species and individuals you and your colleagues can find in a circle 15 miles in diameter. You may find a wonderful rarity, you may freeze your binoculars off. Is this a great time of year or what?! Following is a list of the counts that have been posted on the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBLD-L) or reported directly to the editor. If you have any questions regarding the details of a particular count, please contact the count compiler directly. While not all of the Kansas counts are submitted to the National Audubon Society (NAS), most all are published in *The Bulletin*. For 2001 and all future counts, NAS has set the count dates as December 14th through January 5th, inclusive. The dates that are acceptable for inclusion in *The Bulletin* may be slightly different. All of the following count information, as well as last minute changes, will be posted on the KOS web site; <http://ksbirds.org>

Friday, December 14

Quivira NWR - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 15

Lakin - Leonard Rich, (620)275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, (785)842-7105,
gpittman@ku.edu

Hays - Greg Farley, (785)628-5965, gfarley@fhsu.edu

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, (785)532-6663,
drintoul@ksu.edu

Olathe - Don Weiss, (913)780-6599,
dweiss@conseva.com Meet at Ernie Miller Park, on
K-7 Highway at 7 AM. Contact Don if you plan on
participating.

Pratt County - Linda Loomis,
farmbirdies@yahoo.com

Smoky Hills Audubon (Salina) -

Topeka - Gary Haden, (785)273-5598

Waconda Lake - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wichita - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182,
prarybrd@southwind.net

Sunday, December 16

Emporia - Jean Schulenberg, (620)341-5896,
schulenj@emporia.edu

Marion County - Chet Gresham,
cogresha@yahoo.com

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake - Richard Rucker,
(785)842-3845(home), (785)597-5144(work),
Richard.C.Rucker@nwk02.usace.army.mil

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800, otte@jc.net,
meet at the restaurant in Wakefield at 7:30 AM.

Wilson Lake - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Winfield - Max Thompson, (620)221-1856
maxt@sckans.edu

Monday, December 17

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, (785)468-3587

Wednesday, December 19

Slate Creek Wetlands - Gene Young, (620)441-5331,
(620)442-4165 (home) youngg@cowleycollege.com.

Meet at Slate Valley Baptist Church at 8 AM.

Thursday, December 20

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, (620)793-3066,
helenh@wp.state.ks.us, meet at the headquarters at 8
AM

Saturday, December 22

Arkansas City - Gene Young, (620)441-5331,
youngg@cowleycollege.com. Meet at Newman Park
on Hwy 77, south edge of town next to the Arkansas
River, at 8 AM

Camp Naish - Stan Roth, (785)843-4764

Junction City - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800,
otte@jc.net Meet at Sapp Bros Truck Stop at 7:30 AM

Linn County - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Texaco Truck
Stop just south of the US69 LaCygne interchange at
7:15AM.

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 23

Cedar Bluff - Scott Seltman, (785)372-5411,
sselt@gbta.net

Saturday, December 29

Baldwin City - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Sante Fe Depot in
Baldwin at 7:15 AM

Cimarron Nat'l Grasslands - Sebastian Patti, (312)
248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the
Elkhart Cemetery at 8:30 AM

El Dorado Lake -

Blue Rapids - Tom Parker, (785)363-7228,
tlparker@flinthills.com, Meet in front of the
community center on the town square at 7 AM.

Kirwin NWR - Shannon Rothchild, (785)543-6673
Exten 223, Shannon_Rothchild@fws.gov

Leavenworth/Atchison - John Schukman, (913)727-
5141, Schuksaya@aol.com

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, (620)275-4616,
shane@pld.com

Continued on Page 12

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2001 Fall KOS Meetings Great Plains Nature Center Wichita, Kansas

* = presenter on multi-authored papers.

ARCTIC-NESTING SHOREBIRDS LACK GONADAL DEVELOPMENT DURING SPRING MIGRATION: EVIDENCE FROM KANSAS STOPOVER SITES. *Authors/Affiliations: James W. Rivers**, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS; and *James V. Briskie*, Department of Zoology, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Abstract: To cope with a constricted breeding season, birds nesting at high latitudes may copulate during migration to reduce the time needed to find a mate and to arrive on the nesting grounds ready to breed. We surveyed 12 species of shorebirds during spring migration to determine if (1) males produced abundant sperm and (2) females harbored functional sperm storage tubules (SSTs). Of 9 long-distance migrants, only 9.8% (n = 41 individuals) harbored sperm whereas 100% (n = 8 individuals) of short-distance migrants held sperm. In addition, length of testes in long-distance migrants was smaller than that of breeding individuals. In females, no long-distance migrants held sperm in their SSTs and most SSTs were small compared with breeding individuals. Our results indicate that shorebirds nesting at high latitudes were generally not reproductively active during migration, perhaps because the energetic costs of transporting a fully developed reproductive system are greater than any advantages accrued by being able to mate while on migration.

PREDATION ON ARTIFICIAL NESTS IN GRASSLANDS OF EAST-CENTRAL KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Luke A. Westerman** and *Elmer J. Finck*, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

Abstract: Habitat destruction has affected much of the tallgrass prairie of the Midwestern United States. As a result, grassland birds have declined faster than any other guild in North America. Habitat fragmentation caused by habitat destruction increases the amount of edge in the habitat, thus, creating travel corridors for mesopredators to easily find nests of grassland birds. Edge effects have been shown to occur in heavily fragmented habitats in the Midwest, however, previous work in the Flint Hills and Osage Questas region of Kansas did not show a clear edge effect. An

additional predator type in the interior of the grassland could be contributing to the lack of an edge effect. We used clay eggs and Trailmaster cameras to identify predators and monitor nests success of artificial nests. Artificial nests included two house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and one clay egg. We also used trapping and monitoring techniques to identify predator locations in relation to the habitat edge. Mice (*Peromyscus* sp.) and rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*) were the most frequent (90% of total predation) predators of artificial nests. Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) were the only other predators documented, 6% and 4% of total predation, respectively. Additionally, no edge effect was found in our study. Depredation by small mammals might be an important factor limiting reproductive success of grassland birds. There was no indication that small mammals were specific to a particular area in relation to the habitat edge. This might explain why previous work did not show a clear edge effect in east-central Kansas.

BANDING BIRDS AT FT. RILEY - THE MAPS BANDING PROGRAM, 1993-2000. *Authors/Affiliations: David A. Rintoul*, Biology Division, Kansas State University, Manhattan KS 66506-4901.

ABSTRACT: MAPS is a "constant-effort" mistnetting and banding program, created by the Institute for Bird Populations in 1989 to provide critical data for understanding the status (and changes in status) of North American breeding birds. At the present time there are nearly 500 banding stations, in 17 states, which are participating in the program. These are located on military bases and reservations, and much of the funding for the program has come from the Department of Defense. Since 1993, 6 of these stations have been on Ft. Riley, an infantry training base between Manhattan and Junction City KS. Since 1998, three volunteers (Patricia Yeager, Hoogy Hoogheem, and Dave Rintoul) from the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society have been assisting MAPS interns in this effort at Ft. Riley. For the period 1993-2000, 3716 birds were banded, and 1036 birds were recaptured after banding, either during the same season or when they returned to the site in subsequent seasons. These

banding and recapture data provide some interesting insights into landbird population biology, migration, and distribution of birds in Kansas.

USE OF GRASSLAND BIRD COMMUNITIES BY BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS IN THE FLINT HILLS.

Authors/Affiliation: William E. Jensen and Jack F. Cully, Jr., Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.*

ABSTRACT.—Recent studies from the Midwestern United States report that the brood parasitic brownheaded cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) avoids grassland bird communities and prefers woodland nesting hosts. This pattern is not supported by studies from the tallgrass prairiedominated landscapes of the Kansas Flint Hills. We present cowbird habitat use data from 20 years of linetranssect surveys among experimentally managed tallgrass prairie watersheds and gallery forest at Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS), Kansas. We also report preliminary findings of geographical variation in cowbird abundance and brood parasitism on grassland birds across the Flint Hills region. On KPBS, cowbird relative abundance and cowbird:host ratios were higher in prairie than in forest, but were not related to watershed burn regime despite the encroachment of woodlands in infrequently-burned prairie. Our data also show that grassland nesting birds at KPBS are heavily parasitized by cowbirds. However, at a regional scale we found considerable latitudinal variation in cowbird abundance and brood parasitism intensity on grassland birds across the Flint Hills. Parasitism rates of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nests ranged from 85% in the northern Flint Hills to 0% in southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. The causes for such drastic geographic variation in cowbird use of grassland-nesting hosts across a relatively uniform landscape are unclear. We are currently investigating the possibility that cowbirds expand from their preferred habitats where their abundance is sufficiently high.

MEADE COUNTY CHICKADEES, A MIXED

LOT. *Author/Affiliation: Thomas L. Flowers, Meade, Kansas.*

ABSTRACT: Measurements of Chickadees in Meade County show the population to be a mixed lot, with most being hybrids of the Black-capped Chickadee and Carolina Chickadee. All sight records in Meade County are suspect without careful measurements.

A DISCUSSION OF HOUSE FINCH POPULATIONS IN MEADE COUNTY, KANSAS.

Author/Affiliation: Thomas L. Flowers, Meade, Kansas.

Abstract: House Finch populations in Meade County, Kansas are cyclic in nature and are directly affected by diseases. Banding data on over 1700 birds shows the population changes which have occurred in Meade County since 1985, including a population crash in 1998 and 1999.

STATEWIDE SHOREBIRD SURVEYS *Authors/Affiliations: Helen Hands, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks*

Abstract: During migration, millions of shorebirds stop at numerous wetlands throughout Kansas. However, to my knowledge, their presence is documented quantitatively on a regular basis at only a few wetlands – Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and Slate Creek Wetlands. Although these wetlands are extremely important to migrating shorebirds, other Kansas wetlands also are important in most or some years. Thus, an annual, statewide survey of shorebird numbers conducted twice monthly during late March-May and July-October is needed to quantify shorebird use of wetlands throughout Kansas. These data are necessary to identify wetlands important to shorebirds, so that these wetlands can be protected and managed for shorebirds.

HISTORY OF AVIAN MORTALITY AT TRANSMITTING TOWERS NEAR TOPEKA, KANSAS, FROM 1950's-PRESENT.

Authors/Affiliations: Eugene A. Young, Department of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67156, and Mark B. Robbins, Division of Ornithology, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.*

Abstract: Two towers have been studied periodically near Topeka, Kansas since the 1950's. A total of 97 species of birds, mostly Neotropical migrants (80%), representing 4887 individuals have been recorded from the WIBW and KTKA TV towers. Most of this mortality has been associated with seven large kills (98%). Recent studies indicate that mortality is greater in the fall than spring and that species composition within a season can vary, likely depending on the chronology of migration and associated weather patterns. It appears that large kills occur after midnight, when clear skies become overcast due to approaching cold fronts.

Save KOS a few dollars! Renew your membership

THE KANSAS COUNTY BIRD CHECKLIST PROJECT. *Author/Affiliation: Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Office, Junction City, Kansas.*

Abstract: Bird watchers of all skill levels enjoy having bird checklists available. While data on bird records, for individual Kansas counties, have been obtainable in the past, they have not been easily accessed. The goals of this volunteer project were: 1) to pull together available resources and create uniform bird checklists for all 105 Kansas counties, 2) have these readily available on the World Wide Web, 3) update the lists as information becomes available. The methodology used will be discussed as well as some of the interesting results after assimilating over 20,000 county species records.

BIG PINK BIRDS IN WESTERN KANSAS.

Author/Affiliation: Marie Osterbuhr, Ron Osterbuhr, Sara Shane, and Tom Shane; Garden City, Kansas.

Abstract: On 12 August 2001, Osterbuhrs found a single second-year Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) at a large playa 8 miles nnw of Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, where the bird stayed except for one occasion when it was located at Ackley Lake, 3 miles further west. By 19 August a second bird was found at the playa. The birds moved to Lowe Lake on 30 August, 7 miles southwest, where they stayed into September. During the day the spoonbills primarily spent time loafing in shallow water with waterfowl and a few egrets. At sunset they became considerably more active. The birds would then feed in shallow (8 - 14 inches deep) water by moving their bills side-to-side while walking through the water at a very rapid gait. One local farmer stated he had counted 5 spoonbills and two others said they had seen a half dozen when the spoonbills first arrived the last week in July. These observations are the first ever recorded for the western half of Kansas. Over sixty birders and local farmers were able to observe the spoonbills during their stay.

A CENSUS OF SPRING BIRDS USING SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS PLAYA LAKES.

Authors/Affiliations: Thomas L. Flowers, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Meade, Kansas.

Abstract: Earth Team volunteers censused birds on nearly 100 playa lakes in Southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The last organized census of "water birds" in Kansas was conducted by the Kansas Biological Survey in 1963, making this an important updated to our knowledge of birds using wetlands in Kansas. In spite of localized drought conditions, playa lakes in Southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle served as important habitat for over 100 species of birds. Small playa lakes are

vitaly important in supplying stopover habitat and nesting habitat for these birds.

RECREATIONAL PRESSURE AT FORT NIOBRARA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON AVIAN ACTIVITY AND SEASONAL PRODUCTIVITY ALONG THE NIOBRARA RIVER. *Author/Affiliation: Chris Anderson, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.*

Abstract: In modern times, increases in standard of living and free time have lead to growth in recreational opportunities and their promotion in the United States. Research has shown that recreational activities may impact animals through exploitation, disturbance, habitat modification, or pollution. Due to this, many conflicting concerns develop in areas that may be set aside for wildlife while still maintaining a multiple-use function (i.e. supporting various types of recreational, industrial, or business activities). Located along the northern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge provides an opportunity for multiple-use while still fulfilling its mission as a "preserve and breeding ground for native birds". The federally designated "wild and scenic" Niobrara river runs through the refuge and provides many recreational opportunities as well as economic benefits to the community due to these activities. Since 1961, river use in Fort Niobrara has increased from several hundred people per year to more than 30,000. In this particular situation, as well as in other cases on public land, managers find it necessary to recognize any potential risks as well as any realized or perceived hazards that may affect wildlife, particularly if in an adverse manner, due to various human uses occurring. Quantification of the effects of these activities would provide a baseline to aid in the understanding of these types of human disturbances, as well as provide a basis for management decisions. During the summer of 2000, a pilot study investigating potential shifts in avian relative abundance, species composition, and spatial distribution was conducted within Fort Niobrara NWR. Point counts and transects were utilized to examine avian use in areas with or without recreational activities. Periods of low and high recreational activity were also examined at various temporal scales. No apparent shift in species composition or spatial distribution was apparent at this broad scale level. However, certain species such as the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) were found to be potentially sensitive to human intrusion. Initial results of the pilot project were used to select specific avian species for population-level studies.

BREEDING ECOLOGY OF UPLAND SANDPIPERS IN KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 666503. E-mail: bsanderc@ksu.edu.*

Abstract: Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) are a grassland bird that is listed as threatened or endangered in at least 12 states, including Iowa and Indiana in the midwest. The breeding biology of this species remains poorly known because it is secretive during the nesting period and the sexes are indistinguishable. I report results from a breeding study conducted at Konza Prairie in 2001 and compare my estimates to published values. Habitat requirements of Upland Sandpipers changed over the nesting cycle. Pre-laying pairs were usually sighted foraging in watersheds that had been burned the previous spring. Of 16 nests found in 2001, 81% were in watershed with a heavy accumulation of thatch: ungrazed areas not burned for =1 year or grazed areas not burned for =3 years. Three nests were found in watersheds burned the preceding spring but were initiated 2-3 weeks later than all other nests. After hatching, parents led broods to burned watersheds. Egg-laying was 1 egg per day, modal clutch size was 4 eggs, and length of incubation was 24 days. Females took a greater role in incubation and brood-rearing than males. Future research will use radio-telemetry to examine breeding biology and mating system of this species.

PRE-FLEDGING GROWTH RATES OF COMMON NIGHTHAWKS. *Author/Affiliation: Travis Englebert*, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, 67456 and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 666503. E-mail: bsanderc@ksu.edu.*

Abstract: No estimates of growth rates have been published for any species of nightjar. The purpose of this study was to examine growth and development of juvenile Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*). Growth rates of nightjars are of interest for three reasons. Nighthawk young are semiprecocial, an uncommon mode of development found only in the Caprimulgidae, Laridae, and Alcidae. Nighthawks are ground-nesters and high rates of nest predation may select for rapid growth rates. Finally, standardized growth curves may be a useful tool for aging young in nests that are found after hatching. Nonlinear regression based on the logistic growth curve was used to estimate growth rates (K) and inflection points (I) for body mass, two measures of structural size (total head and tarsus), two measures of flight performance

(wing and tail). Growth rates were highest for head and tail. Nighthawk young fledged with wings and tails =50% of asymptotic adult size. Despite differences in ecology, the growth rates of nighthawk young are very similar to those of other birds with semiprecocial young. A strong relationship between wing length and age ($r^2 > 0.95$) indicated that wing length would be the best trait for estimating the age of young found after hatching.

GREATER AND LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN (TYMPANUCHUS) INTERACTIONS IN WESTERN KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Matthew R. Bain*¹, Greg H. Farley¹, and Roger D. Applegate², ¹ Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ, Hays, KS, ² Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Emporia, KS.*

Abstract: Greater (*Tympanuchus cupido*) and lesser (*T. pallidicinctus*) prairie-chickens are considered to be historically and presently allopatric. We surveyed 96 leks in western Kansas this spring and 27 contained individuals of both species. Twelve males were heard giving booming vocalizations unlike typical greater and lessers. These vocalizations contained elements of greater and lesser booms and were intermediate in acoustic measurements and overall similarity. These males displayed additional characteristics that were not typical of greater or lessers.

BREEDING PRODUCTIVITY AND POST-FLEDGING MOVEMENTS OF HOUSE WRENS. *Author/Affiliation: Jamie E. Timson* and Greg H. Farley, Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ, Hays, KS.*

Abstract: Prior to 2000 and 2001 breeding seasons, 150 nest boxes were erected throughout riparian habitat in Ellis County to study breeding productivity and post-fledging movements of house wrens. During that interval there were 222 individual breeding attempts, 113 (51%) of which were successful. A total of 39 (32%) nesting attempts in 37 different boxes failed because of predation during the first breeding season; predation occurred more frequently during the second year, resulting in the loss of 59 (55%) nesting attempts in 52 different boxes. I color-banded 786 individuals (94 females, 62 males, and 630 nestlings), and a total of 16 individuals (10 AHY and 6 HY) from the 2000 breeding season exhibited site fidelity in 2001. Hatch-year individuals from the 2000 breeding season traveled greater distances from their natal nest box than the after hatch-year birds did between each year's breeding attempt. Radio transmitters were used to monitor movements of fledglings and allowed for behavioral observations during the immature stage.

CBC Committee. Producing the CBC issue of the bulletin is a big job and John will check with Cal Cink about the need for others to help out.

American Bird Conservancy. John reported that KOS had been requested to join ABC; he'll check into this organization and the merits of joining.

KOS Board. There are two open board positions. Replacements will be needed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45.

General Business Meeting

President John Schukman called the general business meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

The following slate of officers and directors was forwarded to the membership:

President	John Schukman
Vice-president	Gene Young
Corresponding Secretary	Bill Busby
Membership Development Coordinator	Mike Stewart
Treasurer	Dan Larson
Board Member	Marvin Kuehn
Board Member	David Seibel
Business Manager	Dave Williams
Editor, <i>The Bulletin</i>	Calvin Cink
Editor, <i>The Horned Lark</i>	Chuck Otte

It was moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate presented. The motion was seconded and carried. The board will be joined by held over board members Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary

Ten Best Birds

Always a fun activity, the ten best birds are nominated by KOS members and selected by a committee that wishes to remain anonymous. The results were announced at the KOS Banquet by Gene Young.

1. Harlequin Duck, 3/7/01 - Wyandotte County
2. Cave Swallow, 7/14/01 - Barton County & 9/27/01 - Finney County
3. White-tailed Kite, 6/29/01 - Finney County
4. Juniper Titmouse, 10/7/01 - Morton County
5. Roseate Spoonbill, 8/12 - 9/16/01 - Finney County
6. White-throated Swift, 4/23/01 - Ford County
7. Western Bluebird, 12/16/01 - Ellis County
8. Plumbeous Vireo, 9/24/01 - Sedgwick County
9. Chihuahuan Raven, 11/14/01 - Cowley County
10. Harris's Hawk, 11/11 - 11/24/01 - Cowley County

Honorable Mention: Little Gull, Virginia's Warbler, Gyrfalcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher, Red Phalarope, Black Vulture, Gray Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler.

Remember, while the list isn't necessarily the rarest, species are considered based on rarity, as well as location, time of year and length of stay.

A Labor Day Weekend trip to Morton County has become an annual pilgrimage for many KOS members. KOS Board Member Debarah Arnett accompanied the pilgrims this year and provided the following photographs. Birders have now become an accepted sight in the alleys of Elkhart, gathering en masse to view the hummingbirds that are visiting the feeders.





The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 2001

Vol. 28, No. 3

From The Keyboard -

This issue has a slightly different look. I didn't plan it that way, it just happened. Several of the regular features are absent, for a variety of reasons. Most will be back in the next issue. One page that won't be back is the KOS Kid's Page.

That is, it won't be back until someone steps up to author it. We've had two excellent editors for that page, but other requirements have taken both of them away from that position. If you have an interest in writing and editing the KOS Kid's Page, please get in touch with me.

Summer is waning. Too fast for some, not fast enough for others. The KOS Fall/Annual Meeting is just around the corner. Get those registration forms filled out and sent in. Let's pack the house in Wichita. Start polishing up that paper you want to present. I'm working on mine! It seems like every month is busier than the one before. It's a chronic epidemic in society. But take time to attend the fall meeting. Even if you haven't attended one before, you will find it fun, fascinating and a great chance to meet, and bird with, people who share the same love of birds and birding that you do!

KOS is like all volunteer run organizations. It revolves around that one key word - volunteer. KOS is always looking for members who want to help. Look on page two for the upcoming meeting schedule. We need to extend this on out a few more years. We have a lot of blanks to fill. Why not consider hosting a spring or fall meeting in your part of the state? Or maybe you have something else you would like to help with. All you need to do is contact someone in that little box to the right. We'll see to it that you get put to work!

Speaking of getting to work, the Christmas Bird Count Season is just around the corner. Start checking with your regular helpers and take a look at the calendar and then get me those dates and other critical information for the December *Horned Lark*.

Time and space both run short. Get those registrations sent in, enjoy fall migration, and I'll see you in Wichita!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2001

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd, Maize, KS 67101

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Missing!

Two regular features, *Winged Tips* and *13 Ways to Look At a Blackbird*, are not present in this issue. John is in the process of moving and settling in, Chet's running around in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona. Both should be back by the December issue. We do have an extensive birding roundup and, of course, the fall meeting information. The December issue should resume to a more normal look!

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

The *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by William H. Busby and John L. Zimmerman, has been published and all I can say is wow! It can be obtained from University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. The book is \$35 plus postage and handling. You can call University Press at 785-864-4155 or visit their World Wide Web page at: <http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu> to place your order.

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

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!

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - ?????????????????????????????????

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed! Our list is rapidly being used up. Start thinking of where you'd like to go, or if you would be willing to host a spring or fall meeting.

Fall Meeting Information

Meeting Info - Page 3

Location Info - Page 4

Motel Info - Page 5

Call for Papers - Page 19

Registration Form - Page 20

Best Bird Nomination - Page 20

Please Bring Items for the Silent Auction to Wichita!!!

In this issue -

<i>Announcements</i>	2	<i>Fall Meeting Motel Information</i>	5	<i>Call for Papers</i>	19
<i>Fall Meeting Information</i>	3	<i>Winter Season Birding Roundup</i>	6	<i>Fall Meeting Registration Form</i>	20
<i>Wichita Area Map</i>	4	<i>KDWP Forum</i>	18	<i>Best Bird Nomination Form</i>	20

53rd Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society
Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, Kansas
Fall, 2001

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet at the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC), in Wichita, Kansas, on October 5, 6, and 7, 2001. The GPNC is located in Chisholm Creek Park, in northeast Wichita, near the intersection of 29th Street North and Woodlawn. A map showing the location accompanies this announcement. With the exception of the banquet, all activities will take place at the GPNC. The natural history exhibits at the GPNC are finally complete, and are quite impressive.

Members are encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from this event go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

Members are also encouraged to bring bird-related photos, videos, and/or recordings to share with other members during the informal birdwatchers hour after lunch. Let us know if you have material to share for the Birdwatcher's Hour. We request that presentations be limited to 10 minutes,

Program

Friday, October 5

7:00-9:00 p.m. Informal reception at GPNC. There will be refreshments and a bird ID contest.

Saturday, October 6

6:30-8:00 Bird walks in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the GPNC parking lot.

8:00-10:00 Registration at the main entrance of the GPNC. View Silent Auction items. (The Silent Auction will run throughout the day, with all bids final at the end of the Saturday session)

9:00-12:00 Morning Paper Session - GPNC Auditorium

12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own. There are a variety of restaurants within 2 miles of the GPNC.

1:00-2:00 Birdwatchers hour - GPNC Auditorium

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Paper Session – GPNC Auditorium

4:30-5:00 KOS Business Meeting following paper session

6:30-9:00 Banquet, Best Birds of the Year, Resolutions, and Guest Speaker Roger Boyd. Roger will discuss his year of birding in South America. The location will be Spear's Restaurant, 1930 N. Woodlawn, about 1 mile south of the GPNC. The banquet will be served buffet style. The price includes dessert, beverage, and tip.

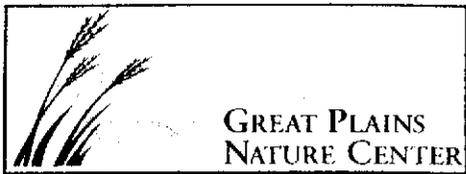
Sunday, October 7

6:30-12:00 Field Trips to local birding locations (all depart from the GPNC parking lot)

12:00-1:00 Lunch and compilation at the picnic pavilion at the Oliver St. entrance to Chisholm Creek Park. Boxed lunches will be served (sub sandwiches).

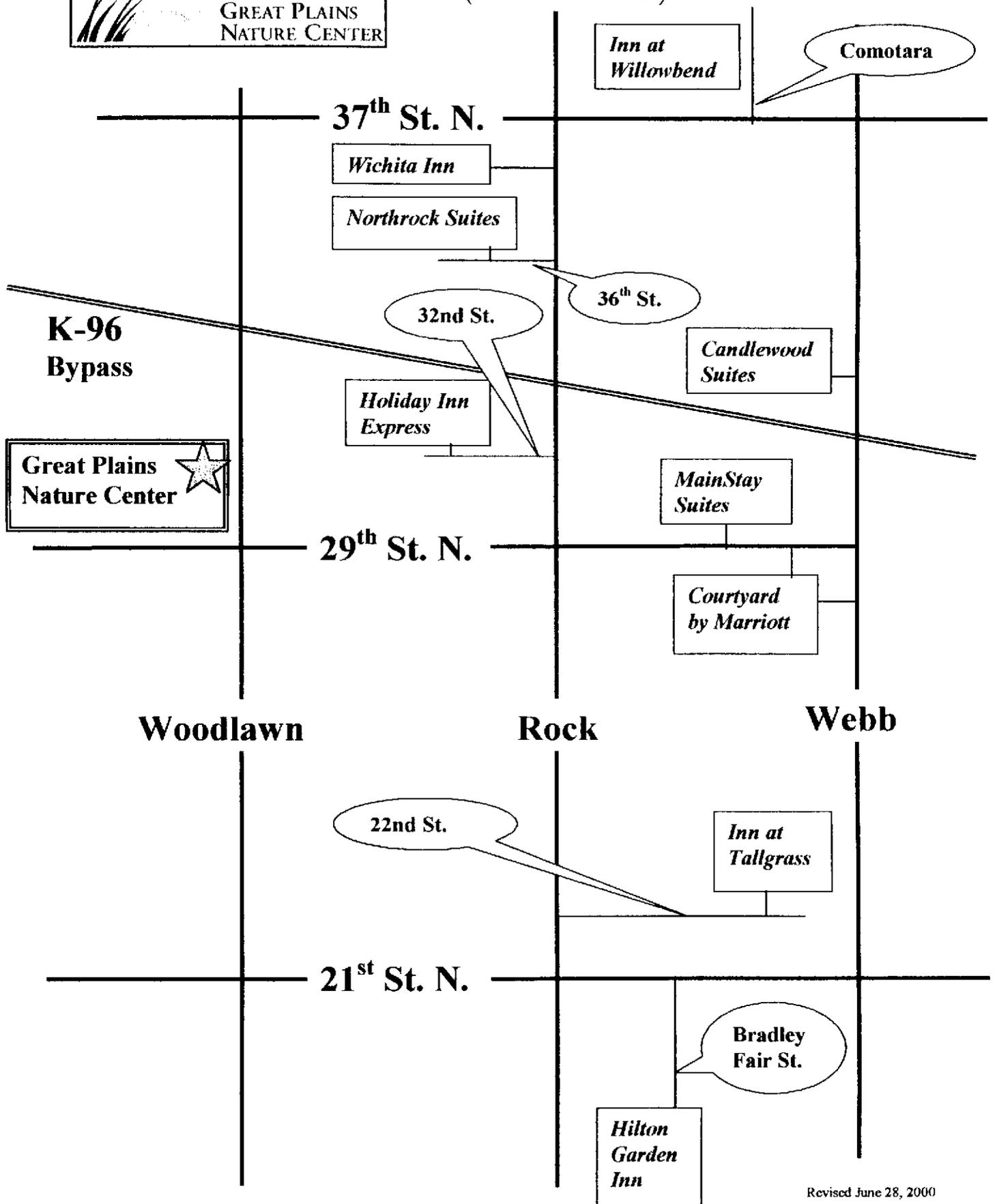
We request that registrations be received by September 25, if at all possible. This will help with meal planning.

Fall Meeting Registration Form on Page 20
Call for Papers Form on Page 19



LOCAL GUIDE TO LODGING

(Not drawn to scale)



Inn at Willowbend

Comotara

37th St. N.

Wichita Inn

Northrock Suites

32nd St.

Holiday Inn Express

36th St.

Candlewood Suites

MainStay Suites

29th St. N.

Courtyard by Marriott

Woodlawn

Rock

Webb

22nd St.

Inn at Tallgrass

21st St. N.

Bradley Fair St.

Hilton Garden Inn



K-96 Bypass

Lodging in the vicinity of the Great Plains Nature Center

Name	Location	Phone # (316+)	Single/Double	Gov. Rate
Candlewood Suites	K-96 & Webb --- Exit on Webb, go right and under expressway to hotel	634-6070	\$69 Sun.-R, \$59 F-Sat.	\$58
Courtyard by Marriott	29th & Webb --- Exit on Webb, turn right, then left into hotel	636-4600	\$89 Sun.-R, \$69 F-Sat.	\$58
Mainstay Suites	29th & Webb --- Exit on Webb, turn right, then left onto 29th St.	631-3773	\$65 - 75	\$58

Wichita Inn	37th & Rock --- Exit on Rock, turn left, behind Tires Plus (red and white sign)	636-2022	\$49.00/\$54.00	\$44
Holiday Inn Express	32nd & Rock --- Exit on Rock, turn right, then right onto 32nd St.	634-3900	\$69 (suite-\$79)	\$58
Northrock Suites	36th & Rock --- Exit on Rock, turn left to 36th (behind Black Canyon Grille)	634-2303	\$79/\$86 (Sun.-R) \$59 (Fri.-Sat.)	\$58

Hilton Garden Inn	East of Rock, 21st & Bradley Fair St. --- Exit on Rock, turn right to 21st, left to Bradley Fair	219-4444	\$119	(Fed. Per diem)
Inn at Tallgrass	22nd & Rock --- Exit on Rock, turn right to 22nd, turn left (green & white sign)	684-3466	\$89	\$58

Inn at Willowbend	37th & Comotara --- Exit on Rock, turn left to 37th, then left on 37th to Comotara	636-4032	\$92 - \$115 (Sun.-R) \$59 - \$77 (Fri.-Sat.)	\$64 - \$80
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**** DIRECTIONS ASSUME YOU'RE COMING FROM THE GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER
**** AND TAKING K-96 FROM WOODLAWN

SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2001 through May 31, 2001

By Lloyd Moore

Spring, the most eagerly anticipated of the seasons, for birders it means the return of herons and egrets, hawks and shorebirds, warblers and other neotropical migrants and native sparrows. It's the season of Big Days, Birdathons and the North American Migration Count. A season of high expectations and hopes, after a cold and dreary winter with only a few rare gulls to chase.

In the east spring started off on a high note with the finding of a male Harlequin Duck, first state record, upon acceptance by the KBRC, at Wyandotte Co. Lake. Then, there was the "invasion" of Vermilion Flycatchers. A total of 6 individuals were found from Morton to Barton to Leavenworth Counties. Eurasian Collared-Dove continued its colonization of Kansas and was joined with 4 separate sightings of White-winged Dove, including the first ever nesting attempt in the state, at Atchison. Other unusual finds were, Great Black-backed Gull, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Broad-tailed Hummingbird. However, most observers that I have spoken with feel that this was one of the poorest spring migrations in years. Here in the eastern part of the state, warblers and other woodland species are the chief migration highlight. This year the species variety and individual numbers of warblers was extremely poor. Other species to fall into the "poor showing" category were the "empid" flycatchers, thrush's, especially Swainson's and Gray-cheeked and native sparrows. The sparse numbers of sparrows of all species was noted state wide. Some of

this may well have been weather related. During the latter half of the period eastern Kansas was also subject to prolonged and strong southerly winds as well as storms. So it may well be that many of these birds just blew right on by.

Additional comments provided by; Pete Janzen, Scott Seltman and Tom Shane

South Central Kansas: *Pete Janzen*

This spring season was quite unremarkable in the SC Kansas area for the most part. There were few rare birds reported, and even many of the common migrants were seemingly very scarce. Most notably, I can't recall a spring season with so few migratory sparrows observed. Perhaps the drought conditions of last summer meant that there was not much seed crop available, and then the unusually severe winter sent many of these birds completely out of the plains wintering areas. Whatever the reason, it didn't seem like many were returning north this year. Shorebirds were in decent numbers, but some of the rare species didn't seem to make an appearance this year. Waterfowl and gulls provided some good sightings in March.

Lloyd mentions low numbers of Carolina Wrens, but the population here in the SC area did not seem to take such a big hit, as their numbers seemed about the same this year compared to other recent years.

It's been a long time since the spring report has so few rare warbler records from this part of the state. Through the last week of April, it seemed like

things were going along as usual, but thereafter there were few bright spots in the songbird migration, and the woods were all too silent. Blame it on the weather I guess, but you have to wonder how much this reflects actual population declines in the neotropical migrant species.

The KOS trip to Chautauqua and Elk Counties produced many new county records, and I was fascinated with the wildlife and geography. I would urge those with some wanderlust to visit this area. I don't know why more people didn't attend this meeting, but you all missed a great trip to an extremely unique place!

Central Kansas: *Scott Seltman*

With just a few exceptions, migration was lackluster across central Kansas. During late April and early May repeated visits to migrant hotspots often produced little of interest and often zero warblers. The peak of migration at Quivira NWR coincided with the Stafford County migration count, producing almost 170 species of birds but with only 6 species of warblers. The most memorable aspect of that day was the incredible wave of orioles. Of the 1000+ recorded during the day, roughly ¾ were Baltimore and ¼ were Orchard. And those were just the orioles we encountered while looking for other species! Just imagine how many must have been in the county that day. Highlights for Morton County during the spring were the three male Vermilion Flycatchers, several lingering Mountain Chickadees left over from last fall's invasion, plus a county-first Glossy Ibis.

continued next page -

Western Kansas: Tom Shane

With the lush conditions farther south holding birds for first nesting attempts in Texas and New Mexico and with prolonged and strong southerly winds over western Kansas many spring migrants skipped over the region producing one of the poorest migrations in years. The North American Migration Counts from Finney, Kearny and Scott counties, somewhat told the story with many expected species in short supply. Species such as the Eared Grebe, Wilson's Phalarope, Swainson's Thrush, Spotted Towhee, Vesper Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow were reported in very low numbers on count day. The Black Tern and

Savannah Sparrow were completely absent. Only eleven species of wood warblers were found in all 3 counties. A few species were recorded in greater numbers than usual with a total of 44 Sandhill Cranes observed on 2 counts. Burrowing Owl and Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were some of the greatest in recent years.

I would like to thank my predecessors at this post, Pete Janzen, Chuck Otte and Scott Seltman, for the great job they have done over the years in producing this column. I hope that my efforts will measure up to the standard they have set. Thanks also to Pete, Scott and Tom for providing their comments about the spring migration from their parts of the state.

My thanks also to all of you for reporting your bird sightings, without which there would be no seasonal report. So keep on reporting to KSBIRD-L, or send your reports to me at the address below. Also, please send documentation on your rare and unusual bird sightings to the KBRC. This can be done by using the electronic submission form on the KOS web site or by regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

*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>
Common Loon	1 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	03/17	MC, MM
	1 on "Payless Pond" Topeka	Shawnee	03/18	DG
	2 at Cheney Res.	Reno/Sedgwick	03/18	PJ
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	03/19	MR
	1 w. of Mulvane in sandpit	Sumner	03/23	LH
	4 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	03/29	HA
	1 at Cheney Res.	Sedgwick	03/30	B&NB
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	04/02	DG
	1 at "Oldsquaw Pond" Wichita	Sedgwick	04/04	PJ
	1 at Belle Plaine sewer ponds	Sumner	04/07	LH
	1 at sandpit south of Holcomb	Finney	04/30	CHa
1 at "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>05/18</u>	PJ	
Eared Grebe	Pair courting at "Oldsquaw Pond"	Sedgwick	05/18	PJ
Western Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	MG, AG
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	SS, DB
	12 at CB, 1 pair courting	Barton	05/25	B&NB
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/17	RK
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/20	WAS
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	<u>03/15</u>	PL
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	SS, LH
	3 se. Arkansas City	Cowley	04/08	GY
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/20	RK
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/15	TC

American Bittern	1 at Lassiter Marsh, Perry WA 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Baker Wetlands	Jefferson Barton Douglas	04/07 04/14 04/14	DG SS, DB S & KS
Great Egret	80+ at Marais des Cygne W.A.	Linn	04/27	BF, GG
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Wakarusa arm Clinton Lake 1 at Kyle Marsh, Perry W.A. 1 at Quivira NWR	Barton <u>Douglas</u> <u>Jefferson</u> Stafford	04/28-05/06 05/05 05/16 05/30	SS, m.o.b AP, RB RF RP, MP
Yellow-crnd Night-Heron	Nesting in Naismith Pk, Lawrence	Douglas	04/07	S &KS
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds 1 at Nature Conservancy Area	<u>Morton</u> Barton	05/05 05/15	SS, MR TC
White-faced Ibis	58 at Meade State Lake	Meade	04/19	MG
G. White-fronted Goose	7 at Quivira	Stafford	05/05	GP,DS,MS
Snow Goose	3 at Elkhart sewer ponds 25,000 at Lake McKinney	<u>Morton</u> <u>Kearny</u>	<u>04/21</u> 03/03	SS, MR T&SSh
Ross's Goose	<u>25</u> north of Sanford 18 at John Redmond Res, 100+ 1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Pawnee Coffey Barton/Stafford Morton	03/05 03/18 04/08 05/05	SS MG, AG SS SS, MR
Trumpeter Swan	1 on a farm pond 2 with no tags or bands	Ellsworth Kearny	03/13 03/03	D&PR T&SSh
Am. Black Duck	1 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	03/17	MC, MM
Cinnamon Teal	5 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 pair at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton Barton	04/01 <u>05/05</u>	RK GP,DS,MS
Greater Scaup	20 at New Strawn sewer ponds 20 at Lone Star Lake 1 at QNWR 5 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms	Coffey Douglas Stafford Douglas	03/12 03/14 03/27 04/12	MG DG B&NB LM
Lesser Scaup	1 pair at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>05/05</u>	GP,DS,MS
<u>Harlequin Duck</u> <D>	1 sub-adult male at WYCO Lk. (<i>1st state record if accepted by KBRC</i>)	Wyandotte	03/07-10	DH, RMc, m.ob
<u>White-winged Scoter</u>	1 at Chase Co. State Lake	Chase	03/04	GF
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	1 on Kansas R. at Lawrence 1 male in Pool 1C at CB	Douglas Barton	03/17 04/01	RA PM, ME, m.ob
Common Goldeneye	1 at Ulysses Wetlands	Grant	<u>05/06</u>	SS, MR

<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u> <D>	1 male at Shawnee Mission Lake 1 male at "Oldsquaw Pond" Wichita	Johnson Sedgwick	03/07 03/16	ML, m.ob PJ
Red-breasted Merganser	5 at "Oldsquaw Pond" Wichita 6 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms 8 1t Kaw Valley Fish Farms	Sedgwick Douglas Douglas	03/16 03/27 04/02	PJ GP DG
Osprey	1 at Waconda Lake 1 at Tuttle Creek Res. 1 at Lake Shawnee, Topeka 2 at Wyandotte Co. Lake 1 in Wichita 1 at Chisholm Pk., Wichita 1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 on NAMC	Mitchell Riley Shawnee Wyandotte Sedgwick Sedgwick Douglas Scott	04/05 04/06 04/08 04/12 04/13 04/25 04/30 <u>05/12</u>	HA TC DM LM H&SG BRo RA T&SSh. M&PR
Mississippi Kite	2 near Naismith Park, Lawrence (<i>Has nested in area the last two years.</i>)	Douglas	05/28	DS, MSt
Bald Eagle	Nesting at N. end Tuttle Creek Res. Nesting at Waconda Lake Nest with young 1 adult, 1 sub-adult at Tuttle CR (<i>Possibly associated with nest at north end of lake.</i>) 1 sub-adult at Clinton Wildlife Area 1 adult Marais des Cygne WA, Unit G	Pottawatomie Osborne Neosho Riley Douglas Linn	03/20 03/23 03/30 05/07 05/07 05/12	TC, DB, GS HA JS, RM TC, DB DL MC
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	04/24	RA
Cooper's Hawk	1 imm. hunting House Sparrows Pair nesting in Oak Park 1 near Glen Elder	Crawford Sedgwick Mitchell	03/03 03/30 05/06	RM BB DG
Northern Goshawk	1 seen in Roeland Park 1 between Susank & Hoisington 1 NW of Larned 1 at Konza Prairie 1 at Konza Prairie 1 west of Rush Center	Johnson Barton Pawnee Riley Riley Rush	03/17 03/17 03/22 04/06 04/08 <u>04/22</u>	AG MR SS I&CH DR, ER SS
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 at Kaw Wildlife Area	<u>Cowley</u>	05/12	JN
Broad-winged Hawk	1 (possibly nesting) 3 on NAMC	Chautauqua <u>Scott</u>	05/05 05/12	KOS T&SSh, M&PR
Swainson's Hawk	25 going to roost s. of Ellinwood	Stafford	04/07	SS, LH
Ferruginous Hawk	2 flying over Manhattan	Riley	04/13	LJ
N. Rough-legged Hawk	4 in re-claimed mine land 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms 8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Linn Barton Barton	03/03 03/17 03/18	MG, ML MR H&SG

Merlin	1 “taiga” race Douglas Co. S.L.	Douglas	03/10	GP
	1 west of Wichita	Sedgwick	03/18	PJ
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/18	H&SG
	1 along 281 N. of Great Bend	Barton	04/01	RK
	1 nw. of Larned	Pawnee	04/04	SS
	1	Morton	04/06	WAS
	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	04/08	BF
	2 at Konza Prairie	Riley	04/08	DR, ER
	1 ½ mi. west of Lakin	Kearny	05/12	B&BC
Peregrine Falcon	1 se. of Arkansas City	Cowley	04/08	GY
	1 flying over Wichita	Sedgwick	04/09	LMa
	1 in downtown Topeka	Shawnee	04/23	DL
	1 at Linn Sewer Ponds	Washington	05/03	DT
	1	Montgomery	05/05	KOS
	1 at Clinton Wildlife Area	Douglas	05/07	DL
	1 in downtown Topeka	Shawnee	05/09	JB
	1 at Mount Hope Marsh	Sedgwick	05/19	B & NB
	1 at Blue Rapids	Marshall	05/24	TP
Prairie Falcon	1 in re-claimed mine land	<u>Linn</u>	03/03	MG, ML
	1 at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	03/12	MG
Lesser Prairie Chicken	37 on 3 leks s. of Garden City	Finney	04/03	TS
	19 males on lek in SW Finney	Finney	04/08	T&SSh, PAJ, LB
	1 sw corner of county	<u>Stafford</u>	05/12	SS, MR
	5 near blind	Morton	05/30	RP, MP
<u>Black Rail</u>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/05	GP,DS,MS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/12	SS, MR
King Rail	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	05/05	PW, RW
Virginia Rail	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/07	MG, AG
	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	05/05	PW, RW
Sora	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	04/14	S & KS
Sandhill Crane	25,000 – 100-000 near Fowler	Meade	03/01	TF
	<i>(Thousands present in Meade Co. through early April.)</i> 42 at Dry Lake SE part of county	Scott	<u>05/12</u>	T&SSh, M&PR
Whooping Crane	1 imm. In eastern Meade	Meade	03/27	TF, EW
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/05-06	RK
Black-bellied Plover	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/07	MG, AG
	15 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/20	WAS
American Golden Plover	27 n. of Colwich	Sedgwick	05/01	PJ
	7 at Blue Rapids sewer ponds	Marshall	05/24	TP
Snowy Plover	50+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/07	SS, LH
	9 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	RK
Semipalmated Plover	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/08	RK

Piping Plover	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/17	RK
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/27	DR, m.o.b
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/12	SS, MR
<u>Mountain Plover</u>	1 nw part of county	Morton	04/21	SS, MR
Black-necked Stilt	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	SS, LH
	10+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/07	SS, LH
American Avocet	<u>87</u> at "Oldsquaw" Pond	Sedgwick0	4/22	PJ
Willet	1 flying over Seltman residence	Rush	<u>04/04</u>	SS
Whimbrel	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/14	SS, DB
	4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/30	MI, JF
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/05	GP, DS, MS
	1 in sandhills, s. of Holcomb	Finney	05/11	CHa, JP
	1 at Lake McKinney	Kearny	05/12	AN
	1 at <u>Konza Prairie</u>	<u>Riley</u>	05/13	JR, DR, ER
Long-billed Curlew	18 flying over Garden City	Finney	04/01	T&SSh
	56 flying over Garden City	Finney	04/02	T&SSh
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/07	SS, LH
	5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	MG, AG
	32 flying over in sw	Finney	04/08	TS
	2 at QNWR	Stafford	04/14	SS, DB
	1 nw part of county	Morton	04/21	SS, MR
Hudsonian Godwit	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/07	SS, LH
	36 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/08	RK
	150 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	SS, DB
Marbled Godwit	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/02	RK
	12 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/08	RK
	12+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	SS, DB
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/12	SS, MR
	2 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	05/22	HA
	1 at "Oldsquaw Pond", Wichita	Sedgwick	05/26	PJ
Red Knot	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/12	SS, MR
	4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	05/20	WAS
	26 at Hell Creek Area, Wilson SP	Russell	05/23	MR
Dunlin	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	SS, DB
	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/30	ML, JF
	50+ on NAMC	Stafford	05/12	SS, MR
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4 n. of Colwich	Sedgwick	05/12	PJ
	1 at Wichita's "Big Ditch"	Sedgwick	05/26	PJ

Red-necked Phalarope	8 at Linn sewer ponds 5 at Atwood City Lake 5 at Blue Rapids sewer ponds 2 at Cawker City sewer ponds	Washington Rawlins Marshall Mitchell	05/25 05/21 05/24 05/26	DT T &SSh TP HA
<u>Red Phalarope</u>	<D> 1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford	04/30 05/06	MI, JF DS,GP,MS
California Gull	2 nd winter at Pomona Rsvr. 1 adult at Waconda Lake 1 adult at Cheney Res.	Osage Mitchell Reno	03/03 03/14 03/18	MC, MM PL PJ
Thayer's Gull	3 rd winter bird at Wolf Creek Lake 1 st year at Wilson Lake 6 at Waconda Lake (3 adult, 2 1 st year, 1 2 nd year) 1 1 st year Tuttle Creek Res. 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Coffey Russell Mitchell Pottawatomie Barton	03/03 03/10 03/14 03/30 04/03	MC, MM MR PL TC MR
Glaucous Gull	1 st winter at Tuttle Creek Rsvr. 1 st year at Waconda Lake 1 adult at Kirwin Res.	Riley Mitchell Phillips	03/06 03/14 03/15	TC PL PL
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	<D> 1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	03/10	ML
Least Tern	1 at Wichita 1 at Milford Lake	Sedgwick Geary	05/18 05/25	PJ JK
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1 calling in Wilson "pairing up all over town" 2 in Linn 1 at Elkhart <D> 1 at residence I Olathe 1 in Great Bend <D> 1-3 in nw Lawrence 1 in Leoti 1 in Caldwell 1 pair nesting in Navarre 2 pair in Great Bend	Ellsworth Meade Washington Morton Johnson Barton Douglas Wichita Sumner Dickinson Barton	03/01 03/11 03/19 04/06 04/25 04/22 04/28 05/18 05/27 05/29 05/30	MR TF DT WAS MC RK DS, GP SS PJ, GF CO SS
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 at Middle Spring, Cimarron NG <D> Pair nesting in Atchison (First nesting in state. Nest was destroyed by a storm on 05/17, remains of one egg was recovered and sent to KU Natural History Museum. The birds were still in the area as of 06/07.) <D> 1 at residence in Ulysses 1 at residence in Larned	Morton Atchison Grant Pawnee	04/21 05/16 05/27 05/30	SS, MR TA, NBo, m.ob JR SS
<u>Inca Dove</u>	2 at residence in Meade (A high of 15 during the winter. Tom believes cats got most of them On 05/20 1 of the 2 remaining was struck by a car so now there is only 1.) <D> 1 at residence in Girard	Meade Crawford	04/21 03/05	TM MPr

Greater Roadrunner	1 in Medicine Lodge (present for past couple of months)	Barber	03/29	DA
Barn Owl	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Rolla Cemetery	Barton Morton	04/07 04/21	MG, AG SS, MR
Burrowing Owl	12 in sw Finney	Finney	04/08	TS
Long-eared Owl	2 near Wilson S.P. Office 2 at NESA	Russell Jefferson	03/10 03/01	MR GP
Short-eared Owl	3 in re-claimed mine land 2 at Quivira NWR 1 migrating high over CB 3 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Linn Stafford Barton Barton Barton	03/03 03/17 03/18 04/05 04/07	MG, ML H&SG H&SG RK MG, AG
<u>White-throated Swift</u> <D>	1 KDWP office, Dodge City (The bird was brought to the KDWP office after it was found trapped in a granary. It was weak but seemed to recover and was taken outside and released. It flew off and seemed to be in good shape.) fide TS	Ford	04/23	K &MS, SB
<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u>	1 male in Garden City yard 2 males at Osterbuhr's, Garden City 1 male at Shane's, Garden City 1 male at Dodge City residence 1 at Lakin residence	Finney Finney Finney Ford Kearny	04/23 04/27 04/27 05/10 05/12	MO, T&SSh MO T&SSh JD B&FS
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 male at Scott Lake SP	Scott	05/12	T&SSh, M&PR
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	female in Garden City yard	Finney	05/12	L&BR
<u>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</u>	1 at Boy Scout Area, CNG	Morton	04/21	SS, MR
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at Antioch Park	Johnson	05/17	MG
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	5 at Antioch Park 2 at Antioch Park 2 at residence in Kansas City 1 at MAPS banding station, Ft. Riley	Johnson Johnson Wyandotte Geary	05/22 05/26 05/27 05/31	MG CH LM DR, ER
Acadian Flycatcher	1 at MAPS banding station, Ft. Riley	Geary	05/31	DR, ER
<u>Hammond's Flycatcher</u>	1 at Valley View Cem., Garden City	Finney	05/07	T&SSh
Say's Phoebe	1 at WSU Field Station 6 on south river road, Syracuse – Coolidge	Sedgwick Hamilton	04/25 04/08	CR T&SSh, PAJ, LB
<u>Vermilion Flycatcher</u> <D>	1 at farmstead n. of Susank (photo) 1 at west edge of Elkhart 1 at farm west of Meade 1 at Elkhart Cemetery 1 at Middle Spring CNG <D> 1 at residence NE of Lawrence	Barton Morton Meade Morton Morton Leavenworth	03/15 04/05 04/15-16 04/28 05/05-06 05/19	Mrs.B D&FV, L&RS GSc SP SS, MR D &AR

Ash-throated Flycatcher	2 e. of Wilburton Crossing, CNG	Morton	04/21	SS, MR
Northern Shrike	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	03/18	MG, AG
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Garden City residence	<u>Finney</u>	04/22	MO
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	<u>04/14</u>	JS, GP, MS
Bell's Vireo	1 at <u>Burcham Park</u> , Lawrence 21 at Scott Lake SP	Douglas Scott	05/07 05/12	RA T&SSh, M&PR
Philadelphia Vireo	2 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 at Lone Star Lake 1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 5 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 3 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Douglas Douglas Douglas Douglas Johnson Sedgwick	05/03 05/07 05/07-10 05/11 05/11 05/18	RA PW, RW RA RA MM PJ
<u>Western Scrub-Jay</u>	1 at Frazier Park, Ulysses	Grant	03/07	JT
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	1 at residence in Montezuma (<i>Present for some time...fideTF</i>)	Gray	04/27	MC
Black-billed Magpie	1 near possible nest 1 at Fancy Creek, Tuttle Creek 31 in a flock	<u>Riley</u> <u>Riley</u> Hamilton	03/20 04/18 04/08	TC, DB, GS DR T&SSh. PAJ, LB
Fish Crow	5-6 in Spring River WA ? 10-12 in extreme NE Crawford Co	Cherokee Montgomery Crawford	03/30 05/05 05/12	RM KOS RM
Chihuahuan Raven	1 s. of Coolidge	Hamilton	04/08	T&SSh, PAJ, LB
Cliff Swallow	300 at K-7 bridge, Bonner Springs 300+ at Hell Creek bridge, Wilson Lk.	Wyandotte Russell	04/07 04/08	CH MR
Black-capped Chickadee	1 in Garden City yard (<i>First Finney Co. record in over 15 years-fide TS</i>)	<u>Finney</u>	04/02-06/01	MO
<u>Mountain Chickadee</u>	3 at Frazier Park, Ulysses 1-2 at Garden City residence (<i>Since 11/20/00</i>) 1 at Middle Springs CNG 1 at Elkhart residence	Grant Finney Morton Morton	03/04 <u>05/01-04</u> 05/05 05/05	JT MO SS, MR L&RS
Carolina Wren	1 Shane's & 1 Osterbuhr's yard at the same time <i>There have been very few reports of this species this spring. Last winters harsh weather apparently hit them quite hard.</i>	<u>Finney</u>	03/21	MO, TS
Rock Wren	3 near Wilson Lake Marina 1 6 mi n of Garden City	Russell Finney	04/18 03/23	MR M&PR, TS

Sedge Wren	6 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	SS, DB
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 in Pittsburg 1 on KU campus 2 at Larned residence	Crawford Douglas Pawnee	04/03 05/11-12 05/03	RM MW,DW SS
Mountain Bluebird	15 at Lake Afton 5 at Wilson Lake 6 s. of Wilson Lake	Sedgwick Russell Lincoln	03/01 03/14 03/19	CG MR, PL MR
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Lake Afton	Sedgwick	03/01	CG
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 at Antioch Park 1 possibly 2 at Burcham Park 1 Elkhart shelterbelt 1 on NAMC	Johnson Douglas Morton Douglas	05/03 05/10 05/05 05/12	MG, ML RA SS, MR DW
Hermit Thrush	1 in Shane's yard, Garden City	Finney	04/21	SSh
<u>Curve-billed Thrasher</u>	1 at Wilson's Wetlands	Grant	03/04	JT
Sprague's Pipit	1 in pasture NW of Larned 5 in field	Pawnee Pawnee	04/18 04/24	SS SS
Blue-winged Warbler	1 singing at Bonner Springs 2 at Bonner Springs <i>(One was at same location as on 04/22)</i> 1 at Garden City residence 1 on NAMC Count	Wyandotte Wyandotte <u>Finney</u> Linn	04/22 04/29 04/23-25 05/12	CH GP MO MC
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Lake Shawnee 1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Baker Wetlands 1 at NESAs	Johnson Shawnee Johnson Douglas Douglas	05/07 05/09 05/11 05/12 05/16	BW DG, RMr MM DW GP
Cape May Warbler	1 at Manhattan	Riley	05/15	LJ
Yellow-throated Warbler	6 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms 6 at Marais des Cygne WA 1 pair at Ft. Leavenworth 1 on NAMC Count	Leavenworth Linn Leavenworth Linn	04/07 04/14 04/29 05/12	JS, GP, MS JS, GP, MS JS MC
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 on KU campus 1 in Derby	Douglas Sedgwick	03/29 04/22	SF LH
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 on NAMC Count	Linn	05/12	MC
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 at n. Riverside Park, Wichita 1 along Chicken Creek	<u>Sedgwick</u> <u>Douglas</u>	05/07 05/12	DV, KK, ML PW
Prothonotary Warbler	8 at Marais des Cygne WA 1 at Kaw Wildlife Area 1 pair nesting Fitch NHR	Linn <u>Cowley</u> Douglas	04/14 05/12 05/30	JS, GP, MS JN GP

<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	1 at Valley View Cem., Garden City 3 at Garden City Zoo 1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 heard near residence in Lone Star	<u>Finney</u> <u>Finney</u> Douglas <u>Barton</u> Douglas	04/21 TS 04/17 DF 04/27 RA, DK, DW 04/27 RK 05/29 PW
Hooded Warbler	1 at Hays 1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 singing in Garden City yard 1 at Tuttle River Ponds area	<u>Ellis</u> Johnson <u>Finney</u> <u>Riley</u>	04/10 GF 04/28 JH 05/02-15 MO 05/07 TC
Yellow-breasted Chat	10 males at Scott Lake SP	Scott	05/12 T&SSh, M&PR
Scarlet Tanager	1 at Scott Lake SP 1 at Quivira NWR 1 in beautiful downtown Colwich 1 at Kaw Wildlife Area	<u>Scott</u> <u>Stafford</u> <u>Sedgwick</u> <u>Cowley</u>	05/12 MRy 05/12 SS, MR 05/12 PJ 05/12 JN
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	05/06 MO,LR, T&SSh
Spotted Towhee	1 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	04/07 JS, GP, MS
Eastern Towhee	1 at Seltman's ranch	<u>Rush</u>	04/27 S & DS
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Point of Rocks, CNG	Morton	04/21 SS, MR
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	singing at 3 locations, in sandhills	Finney	05/10 CHa
Henslow's Sparrow	3 at 110 th & Riverview	<u>Wyandotte</u>	04/22 CH
<u>"Gray-headed Junco"</u>	1 at Valley View Cem., Garden City	<u>Finney</u>	04/21 TS
Lapland Longspurs	30+ re-claimed mine land	Linn	03/03 MG, ML
Smith's Longspurs	3 in field near Konza trailhead	Riley	04/05 DB
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Wichita residence 1 at Arkansas City residence 1 at Quivira NWR	<u>Sedgwick</u> <u>Cowley</u> <u>Stafford</u>	05/06 DK 05/09 GY 05/05 GP,DS,MS
Painted Bunting	3 end Wakarusa Causeway Clinton Lk. 2 at Tanglewood Lakes 2 at W. end Clinton Lake spillway	Douglas Linn Douglas	05/04 GP 05/12 MC 05/25-28 PW
Bobolink	6 in sw. Douglas Co. 3 on NAMC	Douglas Washington	05/04 GP 05/12 DT
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 at feeder in West Mineral (new county record) 1 at Baker Wetlands	<u>Cherokee</u> Douglas	03/13 ES 04/14 S & KS
Baltimore Oriole	600+ on NAMC	Stafford	05/12 SS, MR
Orchard Oriole	200+ on NAMC	Stafford	05/12 SS, MR

Pine Siskin	3 at feeder in North Newton	Harvey	04/20	BR
	? at feeder all winter	Barber	04/20	DA
	? at feeder all winter	Cowley	04/22	MT
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/27	RK
	2 on NAMC Count	Linn	<u>05/12</u>	MC
Red Crossbill	“flock” at feeder in Derby	Sedgwick	03/17-23	MT
	<i>(Present for seven weeks)</i>			
	2 at feeder, Tuttle Creek River Pond	Riley	04/05	DB
	2 at feeder at residence	Pottawatomie	04/05	DB, LE
	4-10 in Garden City yard	Finney	04/21-06/06	MLk
Calling overhead, Shane res.	Finney	05/09,16,17	TS	
Evening Grosbeak	1 female at Shane’s, Garden City	Finney	03/08&29	T&SSh

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicates unusual species.

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

<D> Indicates documentation submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), many observers (m.ob), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR)

Observers: Ted Anderson, Dennis Angle, Robert Antonio, Henry Armknecht, Mrs. Bachman, Scott Baugh, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Nancy Bonner (NBo), Richard Bean, Linda Brown, Bob Broyles, Doris Burnett, Dave Bryan, Joanne Brier, Ted Cable, Barb & Bob Campbell (B&BC), Mark Corder, Mike Cummings, Joyce Davis, Marsha Ebaugh, Leon Edmonds, Greg Farley, Bob Fisher, Richard Field, Doug Floto, Steve Fretwell, Tom Flowers, Joe Fontaine, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Mark Goldsberry, Harry & Sharron Gregory, Greg Griffith, Chet Gresham, Christian Hagen (CHa), Joseph Harrington, David Henness, Larry Hesed, Leon Hicks, Irwin & Carol Hoogheem (I&CH), Chris Hobbs, Marshall Iliff, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Paul A. Johnsgard (PAJ), Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), Kenn Kaufman, Rich Kostecke, Dan Kluza, Dan Kanally (DKa), Jeff Keating, Mary Lake (MLk), Mark Land, Dan Larson, Paul Lehman, Mike Lesan, Linda Mallonee, Robert Mangile, Patty Marlett, David Marteney, Richard Martin (RMr), Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill, Lloyd Moore, John Northrup, Art Nonhof, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Tom Parker, Galen Pittman, Jim Pitman, Alexis Powell, Ralph Pike, Matt Pike, Martha Price (MPr), Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Mike Ramsey (MRy), Mike & Pam Ramsey (M&PR), Bob Regeir, David & Alison Reber (D&AR), Dave Rintoul, Ellen Rintoul, Jim Rivers, Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Bob Rogers (BRo), Chris Rogers, Dave & Patty Ruitz (D&PR), John Schukman, Georgia Schmalzreid (GSc), Betty & Fritz Schriebvogel (B&FS), Scott Seltman, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Kathy & Mark Sexson (K&MS), David Seibel, Scott & Kylee Sharp (S&KS), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Tom Shane, Sara Shane (SSh), John Silovsky, Lawrence & Ruth Smith(L&RS), Gerry Snyder, Mike Stewart, Mike Stoakes (MSt), Emmett Sullivan, Dan Thalmann, Max Thompson, Jeff Trotman, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Phil Wedge, Roy Wedge, Margaret Wedge, Eric Wickman, Dave Williams, Brad Williamson, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), 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.

Wetland Management Decisions

by Helen Hands

It is apparent from a recent KSBIRD listserve discussion that there are some misunderstandings about wetland management. There is a tendency to conclude that wetland managers manipulate marshes primarily for ducks. While it's true that KDWP and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) managers at wetlands may know more about game species, namely waterfowl, I believe that most manage for diverse marsh vegetation and water depths. This in turn supports a diversity of wetland birds and other wildlife.

Just because a particular portion of a marsh doesn't appear to be excellent habitat for shorebirds this migration season doesn't imply that the manager is not managing to accommodate the needs of shorebirds. In fact, management plans specifically address management goals for wetland diversity.

Similarly, there is no such thing as game bird habitat or nongame bird habitat. Ducks exhibit a remarkable diversity of migration chronology, feeding methods, and food preferences. Although shorebirds generally migrate on a different schedule and use slightly different habitat, there is considerable overlap in habitat needs between shorebirds and some duck species. Wading species tend to be on the opposite end of the spectrum from shorebirds in their habitat selection. Furthermore, pelagic species prefer even different habitat. The point is that there is not distinct shorebird, duck, wading bird, or pelagic species habitat, but a continuum of habitat needs and preferences. There is enough habitat diversity within and between pools at major managed wetlands in the state to accommodate game and nongame birds. For example, those of you who visited Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area last April probably saw a wide variety of ducks, shorebirds, and wading birds using Pool 3A.

Water management decisions at wetlands are based on many factors. Managers must consider the effects of their actions not just on wildlife (including fish and herps), but also on vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, disease, public desires, politics, water availability, management infrastructure, construction projects, research projects, weather, etc. Managers also have to consider how their actions this year affect marsh conditions next year and perhaps the following year.

Thus, a manager (and wetland wildlife) may live with the results of a poorly timed draw down for several years. This is a high price to pay if timing of that dewatering was done solely for anticipated response by one group of wildlife species.

If wetland management was as easy as "Draw down Pool X on April 1 and get lots of shorebirds", management would be easy. Unfortunately, every water management decision results in numerous intended and unintended outcomes, and many decisions spark criticism. KDWP and USFWS managers are very willing to explain and discuss their management to anyone making the effort to contact them.

The point of all this isn't to suggest that you not question managers' decisions, but to shed a little light on how wetland management plans are made. If you think that a particular marsh could be managed better, sit down with the manager and discuss your ideas.

Most managers welcome birders' insight and knowledge about birds, especially nongame species. Birders (and other interested users of KDWP managed areas) should contact the area manager and ask to be kept informed of opportunities for input into planning efforts. Managers will likely provide information on public meetings, newsletters, opportunity for review of draft plans, and conduits for input into plans.

Communicating directly with managers is a much more effective way to provide input into wetland management than discussing their decisions on the listserve.

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

Silent Auction Items Needed!

Please bring bird/birdwatching related items for the Silent Auction Fund Raiser to Wichita. This annual event raises money for the student scholarship fund, ultimately leading to a better understanding of Kansas bird life. Your donation is needed and appreciated!

**CALL FOR PAPERS
FALL 2001 MEETING
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 6
GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER
WICHITA, KANSAS**

The Fall meeting of the KOS for 2001 will be held in Wichita. Paper sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 6 October, in the theater at Great Plains Nature Center. Audio/visual accommodations include 35mm slides, VHS video, and computer projection. Papers on any topic of interest to Kansas ornithologists and birdwatchers are requested. Our paper sessions traditionally include both technical and general interest presentations. Student papers will be judged and the best paper announced at the banquet Saturday night. All student presenters will receive a year's free membership in KOS.

Please submit your abstract by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Eugene A. Young
Cowley County Community College
125 S. 2nd St., PO Box 1147
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Phone: 620-441-5331
Fax: 620-441-5350
E-mail: youngg@cowleycollege.com

Submissions should include:

Title of paper: _____

Authors & affiliations: _____

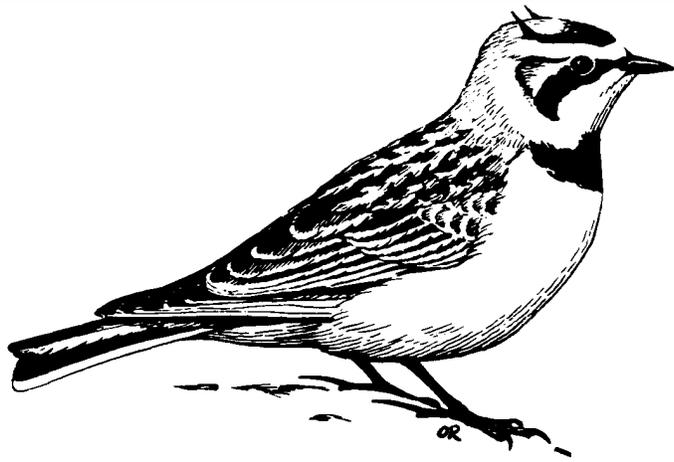
Estimated time in minutes: 10 ___ 15 ___ 20 ___

Audio/visual: Slides: ___ Video: ___ Computer projection: ___ Overhead: ___

If using computer projection: Bringing my own laptop: ___ Need a computer: ___

ABSTRACT: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT ABSTRACTS NO LATER THAN 1 SEPTEMBER 2001!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 2001

Vol. 28, No. 2

From The Keyboard -

There's thunderstorms rumbling outside tonight, it's already wet and I worry if I can possibly run my Breeding Bird Surveys this weekend. Such is summer birding in Kansas!

A couple of pleas for help to begin with. If you live in the Wichita area, want to help with the fall meeting in early October, and haven't been contacted yet, please contact me so I can get the local committee in touch with you. We need a new Kid's Page editor/author. Mark Land has handled this admirably for the past several years, but has reluctantly had to let go of it. If you are interested, PLEASE contact me and we'll chat!

I have the great pleasure of representing KOS on the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council. This group meets periodically with the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and serves as an advisory board on all manner of nongame issues from mussels to birds to plants. At a recent meeting, we were discussing all the good events that are happening in Kansas that are bringing a lot of positive exposure to Kansas and its wealth of natural resources.

It made me stop and think about the wealth of resources that we have here in Kansas. We sometimes think that we are stuck in the middle of the country and would rather be birding anywhere but here. We take the valuable resources we have for granted. It isn't until you get yourself on the outside and look in, or listen to someone else rave on about all that "you folks in Kansas have" that you rediscover what we do have.

Our checklist is the envy of many states. We have Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira and the other National Wildlife Refuges.

We have the Red Hills, Cheyenne County, Morton County and the Missouri River bottomlands at Ft. Leavenworth. We have the largest remaining tract of tall grass prairie and enough Upland Sandpipers, Henslow's Sparrows, and yes Elmer, Dickcissels to be the envy of anyone!

We live in a great state and we get to bird here every day. That is if we don't start taking it for granted. Take a little time in the next couple of months to rediscover all the neat "things" that we have going for us. You'll be glad you did. Enjoy the summer and I'll see you somewhere, out birding!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2001

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd, Maize, KS 67101

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

October 5 - 7, 2001

**Wichita
Great Plains Nature Center**

Look for registration information in the
September *Horned Lark*

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

The *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by William H. Busby and John L. Zimmerman, has been published and all I can say is wow! It can be obtained from University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. The book is \$35 plus postage and handling. You can call University Press at 785-864-4155 or visit their World Wide Web page at: <http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu> to place your order.

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

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!

Fall 2001 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - ??????????????????????

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Be On The Lookout for Upland Sandpipers with Colored Leg Bands

Brett Sandercock, Assistant Professor of Avian Biology at K-State, has been color banding Upland Sandpipers in Riley and Geary County. If you see any of these sandpipers, please note what color leg bands are in what order on which leg and send that information to Brett at:

Division of Biology
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4901
(785) 532-0120
bsanderc@ksu.edu

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How to Be the Perfect Birding Guide

by John Rakestraw

This was going to be great. I was going on a field trip to one of the largest and oldest cemeteries in the country. A forested oasis in the middle of a large urban area, the cemetery was well known for attracting migrants. The field trip was scheduled to start at 8:00 AM. This is a little later than I like to start, but it was an hour's drive to the site. I arrived at the cemetery along with the other birders and met the trip leader. Eight o'clock came and went. The leader wanted to wait for any late arrivals. Finally, the leader gathered everyone together and pulled out a checklist. He then proceeded to read the name of every bird that had been seen at this cemetery in past years. He then talked about the history of the site. This went on for half an hour. The birds that had been singing that morning were winding down as the sun got higher. At 8:45, we finally started birding. We worked our way back through the cemetery, driving to particular areas, then getting out and exploring on foot. By midday, we had arrived at the back part of the property. Here was undeveloped woods, by far the best bird habitat we had seen all day. But by this late hour, the bird activity had greatly subsided. Since that day, I have avoided birding trips led by that individual.

Guided birding trips, whether professional tours or friendly outings with a more experienced birder, are a great way to learn about birds and to hone your identification skills. Along with the fellowship of birding with others, you benefit from the leader's years of experience in the field. No matter what your level of expertise, you will probably find yourself guiding other birders at some point. This is a wonderful opportunity and a great responsibility. The way you guide your fledgling birders may inspire them or turn them off of birding forever. Follow the simple rules below and you can become the perfect birding guide.

RULE #1: No bird seen in the past, no matter how rare or how beautiful, is half as interesting as the birds in front of you right now. Birders like to share their experiences with others. We want to relive the excitement of a rare sighting. We also want to establish our birding credentials within the birding community (a symptom of "list envy"). But this constant reminiscing can be distracting. When you are in the field, concentrate on the present. Don't yammer on and on about birds you saw yesterday or last week or five years ago. Pay attention to the birds around you and save your tales of past glories for the car ride home.

RULE #2: Help your fledglings find the birds. Plan your birding trips to take advantage of the best habitats at the best times. Larger groups of birders require wider trails and more

open habitat if you want everyone in your group to be able to see the birds. When you find a bird, make sure your charges get a good look. Don't stand where you are and try to describe the bird's location as you continue to watch. Once you have made the ID, stand aside and help others find the bird. When you are in a leadership position, you may have to sacrifice some of your own birding. But helping other birders find a new bird has its own rewards.

RULE #3: Don't feel obligated to share everything you know. Different people enjoy birds on different levels. Some want to know every detail of a bird's behavior and genetic makeup. Others are content to simply enjoy a bird's outer beauty. The information available to birders is much more sophisticated than in years past. The topics of subspecies, minute details of plumage, and vocalizations are all worthy of study. But nobody likes a know-it-all. Answer questions if asked, but don't be afraid to watch birds in silence.

RULE #4: Model proper birding behavior for your group. As more and more people take up birding, proper ethics and behavior become increasingly important. As a trip leader, it is your responsibility to see that your group does not do anything to compromise the well being of the birds you are seeking. Keep conversation to a minimum and teach your group some stalking techniques. Boisterous behavior not only scares birds away, but it disturbs other birders as well. Don't repeatedly flush the same birds or get too close to nests. Your group will mimic your behavior.

RULE #5: Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." As a trip leader, you are considered to be the expert. But experts don't know everything. When asked a question you can't answer, be honest. It may inspire the questioners to research the answer on their own. If you give incorrect information, someone will inevitably catch your mistake and you will lose credibility. We all make incorrect identifications from time to time. Encourage members of your group to speak up when they have other opinions about a bird ID. They may be right. Even if they are not, this provides an opportunity to teach your group about specific field marks and ID tricks that you have learned.

Guiding other birders can be very rewarding. If you find yourself in this position, or are looking for someone to guide you, consider these rules. Your trip will be more enjoyable and you will probably see more birds, too.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

Bird Songs of Southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico by Geoffrey A. Keller, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

A Review by Chuck Otte

I'll be the first to admit that we probably aren't going to find an Elegant Trogon or a Rufous-backed Robin, in the near future, in Kansas. Nonetheless, this CD is worthy of your consideration, especially, if like many Kansas birders, you ever take a trip to Arizona.

Bird Songs of Southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico by Geoffrey A. Keller (2001, Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2 CDs - 202 species, \$24.95, ISBN 0-938027-58-1) is a great example of what can be done right with bird song recordings. There were many things that I liked about this CD set, and few things, if any, that I didn't like.

The CD is very well laid out. As the name indicates, it has birds that have been documented breeding in southeastern Arizona, as well as rare vagrants to the US and breeding species in Sonora, Mexico. All of the first disc and the first 44 species on the second disc are the southeast Arizona specialties. The remaining 51 species on the second disc are the Sonoran specialties.

All told there are 202 species on the two discs. For the most part, each species is on a separate track. On the eight tracks where species were doubled up, the real time position of the start of the second species is indicated in the narrative booklet. Disc one contains 99 tracks, 107 species and is 73:20 minutes in length. Disc two contains 95 tracks/species and is 74:08 minutes long.

By essentially having one species per track it makes finding a particular species quite easy. I'm sure many of you have struggled, as I have, to find locate a species out of the six or more per track on the Peterson audio guides. When the Peterson recordings were released they were on LPs or cassette tapes. CDs hadn't been invented yet. This Cornell guide follows the lead of other newer audio guides, such as the Stokes series, in keeping one species per CD track to speed up locating a desired species.

Many of the tracks are quite lengthy. This extra time allows for more of the variety and intricacy of each species calls and songs to be explored. Many of you have found, as I have, that even within a state, birds will develop regional dialects. The more time that can be allotted to each

species, the greater the number of these dialects that can be included. The quality of the recordings is overall superb. While the booklet does not indicate whether the original recording of each species was analog or digital, it is very obvious that only the highest quality original recordings were utilized. Within each of the two groups of birds, American Ornithological Union Seventh Edition nomenclature and order are followed.

An additional strength of this audio guide is the narrative booklet itself. The text goes above and beyond the expected listing of order of species, common name, scientific name and location where the call was recorded. It includes a very detailed description of the call. Where calls were recorded from different locations, the text indicates what part of each song was recorded in which area. The index, as in the Stokes's guides, gives an alphabetized list of all the species and then the disc and track number where it is located. This makes it very easy to see that the Steller's Jay is on disc one, track 73.

Are there any downsides to this audio guide? None of major consequence to this author. Of course audio guides are like field guides and music, everyone views them slightly differently. A few of the calls used are from recordings made well outside of Arizona and Sonora area. I'm going to assume that when used, the songs and calls are not significantly different from what one would expect in southeastern Arizona.

If you haven't purchased any audio guides yet, this CD set is not the place for a Kansas birder to start. It does not include many common Kansas species that you need to learn. However, if you are looking to expand your sound library, this audio guide could be a valuable addition. It will be of particular interest to anyone who birds southwestern Kansas on a regular basis. Nearly half of the Arizona species represented are also at least periodically seen in Kansas. Several future additions to the Kansas state checklist may well be found in these recordings as well!

The audio guide is available directly from Cornell Labs as well as American Birding Association sales. Samples can be heard at: http://birds.cornell.edu/labs_cd.html

KOS Spring Field Trip Results

Compiled by John Schukman

Twenty field observers found 155 species in Montgomery, Chautauqua, and Labette Counties the weekend of 4,5 and 6 May. With overcast skies and rain some of the time, and sun at others, good numbers of birds were found. But the general consensus was that there were low numbers of migrants. Twenty-four new county records need to be verified.

A Broad-winged Hawk was found in Chautauqua County crosstember forest by two separate parties (maybe the same bird?). After checking the safe dates, according to atlas standards, this would be a possible breeding record. After checking the new Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Book, and what a great book, this location would be a new area in the state for breeding. New wetlands created at the upper end of Elk City Lake produced 13 shorebirds (see below). Although not as many as wished, 10 species of flycatcher, 5 species of thrush including Veery, 6 species of vireo, and 17 species of warbler were found.

Species List: M = Montgomery, C = Chautauqua, and L = Labette, * = new county record.

Pied-billed Grebe- M; White Pelican- M;
Double-crested Cormorant- M*; Great Blue Heron- M;
Great Egret- M; Snowy Egret- M; Little Blue Heron -
M; Cattle Egret- M; Green Heron- M, C; Turkey
Vulture- M, C; Canada Geese- M; Wood Duck- M;
Mallard- M; Blue-winged Teal - C; Northern Pintail- M;
Blue-winged Teal- M; Gadwall - M; Osprey- L;
Red-shouldered Hawk- M, C; Broad-winged Hawk- C*;
Swainson's Hawk- M; Red-tailed Hawk- M, C; Accipiter
sp- M; American Kestrel- M, C; Peregrine Falcon- M*;
Wild Turkey- M, C; Northern Bobwhite- M, C; Sora- M;
American Coot - M; Black-bellied Plover- M*;
American Golden Plover- M*; Semipalmated Plover-
M*; Killdeer- M, C; Greater Yellowlegs- M*; Lesser
Yellowlegs- M; Solitary Sandpiper- M; Spotted
Sandpiper- M; Hudsonian Godwit- M*; Semiplumated
Sandpiper- M*; Least Sandpiper- M; White-rumped
Sandpiper- M*; Baird's Sandpiper- M; Pectoral
Sandpiper- M; Long-billed Dowitcher- M; Common
Snipe- M; Franklin's Gull - M; Wilson's Phalarope- M*;
Rock Dove- M, C; Mourning Dove- M, C; Black-billed
Cuckoo- M; Yellow-billed Cuckoo- M, C; Great
Horned Owl- M; Barred Owl- M, C; Common
Nighthawk- M; Chuck-will's-widow- M;
Whip-poor-will- M; Chimney Swift- M, C;

Ruby-throated Hummingbird- M, C; Belted Kingfisher-
M, C; Red-headed Woodpecker- M; Red-bellied
Woodpecker- M, C; Downy Woodpecker- M, C; Hairy
Woodpecker- M; Northern Flicker- M, C; Pileated
Woodpecker- M, C; Olive-sided Flycatcher- C*;
Eastern Wood Pewee- M, C; Acadian Flycatcher- M;
Least Flycatcher- M*, C*; Traill's Flycatcher- M*;
Eastern Phoebe- M, C; Great Crested Flycatcher- M, C;
Western Kingbird- M; Eastern Kingbird- M, C;
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher- M, C; Horned Lark- M;
Purple Martin- M, C; Tree Swallow- M; Northern
Rough-winged Swallow- M, C; Cliff Swallow- M, C;
Barn Swallow- M, C; Blue Jay- M, C; American Crow -
M, C; Fish Crow - M*; Carolina Chickadee - M, C;
Tufted Titmouse - M, C; White-breasted Nuthatch - M,
C; Carolina Wren - M; House Wren - M; Ruby-crowned
Kinglet - M; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - M, C; Eastern
Bluebird - M, C; Veery - M; Swainson's Thrush - M*,
C*; Wood Thrush - M; American Robin - M, C; Gray
Catbird - M, C; Northern Mockingbird - M, C; Brown
Thrasher - M, C; Cedar Waxwing - M; Loggerhead
Shrike - C; White-eyed Vireo - M, C*; Bell's Vireo - M;
Blue-headed Vireo - M; Yellow-throated Vireo - M*, C;
Warbling Vireo - M, C; Red-eyed Vireo - M, C;
European Starling - M, C; Tennessee Warbler - M, C;
Orange-crowned Warbler - M, C; Nashville Warbler -
M, C; Northern Parula - M, C; Yellow Warbler - M, C;
Magnolia Warbler - M*; Yellow-rumped Warbler - M,
C; Black-throated Green Warbler - M; Blackpoll
Warbler - M, C; Black-and-white Warbler - M, C;
American Redstart - M; Prothonotary Warbler- M, C;
Ovenbird - M*; Louisiana Waterthrush - M, C;
Kentucky Warbler - M, C; Common Yellowthroat - M,
C; Yellow-breasted Chat - M, C; Summer Tanager - M,
C; Scarlet Tanager - M*; Northern Cardinal - M, C;
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - M*; Blue Grosbeak - M, C;
Indigo Bunting - M, C; Painted Bunting - M, C;
Dickcissel - M, C; Eastern Towhee - M; Chipping
Sparrow - M, C; Clay-colored Sparrow - M, C; Field
Sparrow - M, C; Lark Sparrow - M, C; Savannah Sparrow
- M; Grasshopper Sparrow - M, C; LeConte's Sparrow -
M; Lincoln's Sparrow - M, C; White-throated Sparrow -
M, C; White-crowned Sparrow - M; Harris's Sparrow -
M; Red-winged Blackbird - M, C; Eastern Meadowlark -
M, C; Yellow-headed Blackbird - M; Common Grackle
- M, C; Brown-headed Cowbird - M, C; Orchard Oriole
- M, C; Baltimore Oriole - M, C; House Finch - M;
American Goldfinch - M, C; House Sparrow - M, C.

WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001

by Pete Janzen & Lloyd Moore

This was the longest, harshest winter in some years across Kansas. After a relatively balmy first two weeks of December, a very strong arctic front pushed across Kansas on December 15, bringing some of the lowest temperatures in several years. This had profound effects on many bird species. The usual list of lingering southern species that have become normal in Kansas during the winter in recent years was a bit thinner this year. Many of these records preceded the cold blast. However, some of these species seemed willing to try and stick it out, such as Black-crowned Night-heron, Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, Vesper Sparrow and others, all of which were recorded well into the "deep-freeze" weeks. The Harris's Hawk, which had first been found near Geuda Springs was not seen after Dec. 5, so far as I know.

Another event was a nice showing of Snow Buntings across the state, no doubt triggered by the really snowy and cold conditions in the northern states. Another northern winter straggler, Bohemian Waxwing made a rare appearance, as did a White-winged Crossbill.

The massive invasion of western montane species, which had begun early last fall, continued into the winter. Mountain Chickadees were recorded from a variety of locations. A Plain Titmouse was located by Jethro Runco in Morton County, about 7 miles upstream on the Cimarron River from the location of last fall's sighting. Western Scrub Jays and Pinyon Jays were reported from new locations as well. Wintering Mountain

Bluebirds are always expected in western Kansas and in the Red Hills, but as the end of the period neared, these birds pushed even farther east than usual, recorded east to at least Coffey and Elk Counties. Perhaps as they exhausted the berry crops in the Red Hills, they went further out in search of food. A similar movement was noted in Oklahoma at the same time.

Rare gulls appeared here and there, but not in the numbers of some recent years. One of the most astounding events for the author was the complete absence of gulls at the Wichita landfill for almost 6 weeks. After the big blast from the north, all Wichita-area gulls with good sense apparently headed for milder locations. The February thaw brought returning numbers close to normal. Say good bye to a lot of the rare gull records from Sedgwick County, as the landfill will close this coming October, with an expected drastic reduction in gull reports hereabouts. Elsewhere across the state, many other observers reported drastically reduced numbers of gulls, although many unusual gull records continued through the period at scattered locations. These included Great and Lesser Black-backed, Mew, a possible Western, and numerous Glaucous Gulls.

Winter often brings good waterfowl reports for Kansas's birders. The Barrow's Goldeneye disappeared while the tiny Wichita pond it had been on was frozen for several weeks, but was back as soon as the water opened again, where it remained for several more weeks. Long-tailed Ducks were fairly widely reported. Three American

Black Duck records are about as many as we can expect in Kansas in any winter, so I guess it was a good year for them here. Trumpeter and Tundra Swans both appear to be increasing throughout our state as wintering species.

All in all, it was a long, harsh winter, and as I write this on a rainy March afternoon, I'm dreaming of the balmy days of spring which hopefully aren't too far away now. This will be my final seasonal report for the Horned Lark. The new compiler will be Lloyd Moore. Lloyd has already been compiling Kansas records for North American Birds (in fact much of this report was drawn from his winter report to NAB), which all of you SHOULD be subscribing too, as it is a fascinating continent-wide compilation of reports like the one you are reading. As such, he was a natural choice for this job.

I hope you will all keep reporting ALL of your interesting bird sightings to KSBIRD-L, or directly to Lloyd, as you have been doing. Lloyd will be making some nice innovations, including regional comments from several people, to supplement his basic record compilation. I look forward to seeing how he does it!

See you all around, hopefully while we're checking out a really super bird!!

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

*Lloyd Moore can be reached at:
ictinia@swbell.net*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	1 at Cedar Bluff Lake	Trego	12/19	SS
Western Grebe	1 Melvern Lake	Osage	12/02	DG, TAS
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1 at Cedar Bluff Lake	Trego	12/19	SS
Great Egret	1 at Arkansas City	Cowley	<u>12/05</u>	GY
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1 at Sedgwick Co. Zoo	Sedgwick	<u>01/01</u>	ES
Ross's Goose	7 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/03	CG, MG
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	2 at Perry Lake 3 at Clinton Lake 1 at Lake Shawnee (orange collar) 8 at Medicine Lodge <i>(6 were tagged and are from Iowa release program)</i>	Jefferson Douglas Douglas Barber	12/05 12/12 12/17 12/17	RR Gpa DG DA
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	2 at Quivira NWR 2 at Tuttle Creek Rsvr. 2 at Wilson Lake 1 at Cedar Bluff Lk. (CBC) 1 on Scott Lake CBC	Stafford Riley Russell Trego Scott	12/03 12/08 12/12-13 12/19 12/30	CG, MG TC MR SS T&SSh
American Black Duck	1 at Cheney Rsvr. 2 below Melvern Dam in pond 1 below dam at Tuttle Creek	Sedgwick Osage Riley	02/01 02/03 02/11	CG BF, GG TC
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Cedar Bluff Lk. (CBC) 1 at Wichita sandpit 1 at marina Clinton Lake 1 at Perry Lake 1 adult male at Wilson Lake	Trego Sedgwick Douglas Jefferson Russell	12/19 01/03 01/20 02/20 02/26-27	SS CG DG RR MS, MR
<u>Barrows Goldeneye</u>	1 adult male west Wichita pond Same bird returned after thaw 1 at NW Wichita sandpit-same bird?	Sedgwick Sedgwick Sedgwick	11/19-12/16 1/7-2/03 02/26	LMa, mob W&NB, mob PJ
Common Merganser	<u>18,000</u> Wilson Lake on CBC	Russell	12/17	MR
Bald Eagle	<u>98+</u> at Milford Lake 110+ at Marion Reservoir	Geary Marion	12/21 2/17	CO JN
Northern Goshawk	1 near Perry Lake Visitor center 1 on Old Hwy 40 1 imm near Valley Falls 1 in Elkhart	Jefferson Ellsworth Jefferson Morton	12/05 12/05 12/05 12/29	RR MR AS GF
<u>Harris's Hawk</u>	1 east Geuda Springs	Cowley	11/14-12/5	m.o.b
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 west of Clinton	Douglas	1/16	KM, MP

Ferruginous Hawk	1 Wichita area	<u>Sedgwick</u>	12/03	CG, MG
Golden Eagle	1 adult near Sylvan Grove	Lincoln	12/18	MR
	1 adult 3 mi S. of Osborne	Osborne	12/26	MR
	1 immature S. of Osborne	Osborne	01/27	HA
Merlin	1	Russell	12/02	MR
	1 Wichita area	Sedgwick	12/03	CG, MG
	1 NW of Larned	Pawnee	12/06	SS
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/09	MR
	1 at residence in Garden City	Finney	01/15	TS
	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	01/20	SS
	1 chasing RW Blackbirds	Pawnee	01/16	SS
	1 extremely pale individual	Pawnee	01/17	SS
	1	Pawnee	02/20	SS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	02/19	CG
	1 near Colwich	Sedgwick	02/25	PJ, WW
1 below Tuttle Creek dam	Riley	02/28	DR	
<u>Gyr Falcon</u>	1 gray phase at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/05	MR
Peregrine Falcon	1 on Meade CBC	Meade	12/29	TF
Prairie Falcon	3 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/16	GP
	1 on Bonner Springs CBC	Leavenworth	12/30	GP
<i>Note: Prairie Falcons were in very good numbers across much of the state this winter.</i>				
<u>Virginia Rail</u>	1 below Cedar Bluff dam	Trego	<u>12/19</u>	TS, CS
	2 in river channel below Milford dam	Geary	<u>12/26</u>	CO
	1 at Meade State Lake	Meade	<u>12/29</u>	TF
	5 in marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	01/06	PJ
Sandhill Crane	50,000 in Cheyenne Bottoms area	Barton	02/25	S&DS, DB
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 near Colwich	Sedgwick	<u>02/25</u>	PJ
Western Sandpiper	Several at end of Marion Lake dam	Marion	12/1-8	CG
	3 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/10	JB, CG, PJ
Least Sandpiper	1 on Baxter Springs CBC	Cherokee	<u>12/24</u>	JR
Common Snipe	1 at Lone Star Lk.	Douglas	<u>12/03</u>	PW
	1 below Milford dam	Geary	<u>12/26</u>	CO
	2 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	<u>12/30</u>	T&SSh
	4 at Milford Lake outlet channel	Geary	<u>01/01</u>	CO
	2 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	PJ
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/09	MR
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1 1 st winter at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	1/11	PJ, PM, m.ob.
California Gull	1 imm. at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/13	MR
	3 at Wilson Lake (CBC)	Russell	12/17	MR
	4 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/28	DV

Bonaparte's Gull	250-300 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/03	MR	
Thayer's Gull	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	12/10	PJ	
	1 1 st winter at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	02/03	BF, GG	
	1 1 st winter at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	02/11	PJ	
	2 1 st winter at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 pale 1 st winter at Cheney Res.	Sedgwick	02/17	CG	
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	01/10	B&NB	
	1 adult at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	02/11	PJ	
	1 adult at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 adult at El Dorado Lake	Butler	02/19	DW	
<u>Western Gull</u>	1 large 1 st winter likely this species	Riley	2/26	DB	
Glaucous Gull	1 imm. At Wilson Lake	Russell	12/13	MR	
	1 at Kansas Rvr. Dam in Lawrence	Douglas	12/16-18	GP	
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/17	MR	
	1 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/28	DV	
	1 at Cheney Rsvr.	Sedgwick	01/06	BB	
	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	02/07	KM, MP	
	2 2 nd winter at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 at Cheney	Sedgwick/Reno	02/17	CG	
	1 1 st winter at Wichita	Sedgwick	02/19	PJ	
	1 at Burlington Sewage Lagoons	Coffey	02/27	AS	
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/17	MR	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8 at Pittsburg residence	Crawford	12/08	RM	
	20 at feeder in Girard	Crawford	12/01	MP	
	1 in a pear tree in Valley Center	Sedgwick	12/16	BM	
	1 at feeder in Wilson	Ellsworth	12/25	MR, ER	
	1 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh	
	1 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh	
	2 in Greensburg	Kiowa	02/03	GF, EF	
<u>Inca Dove</u>	7 at feeder in Meade	Meade	12/29-01/15		TF
	5 at Garden City CBC	Finney	01/06	T&SSh	
	1 at residence in Girard	<u>Crawford</u>	01/14	MP	
	1 at Ulysses	Grant	02/28	JR	
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	1 in Kingman	Kingman	12/1-?		
	1 at a Wichita lumberyard	Sedgwick	12/27-1/11	PJ, mob	
	1 in south Wichita	Sedgwick	2/6	LC	
	<i>Note: On Jan. 3, the Wichita Roadrunner was captured by an individual who planned to release it in Oklahoma. After being compelled to return it by KDWP staff, the bird lingered for a few days and then vanished. The 2/6 record may well represent the same individual, although it was about 10 miles south of the original sighting.</i>				
Long-eared Owl	3 at Wilson State Park	Russell	12/17	MR	
	15 in cedars at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	02/07	DG	

Short-eared Owl	3	Pawnee	12/03	SS
	2	Rush	12/03	SS
	8 S. of LaCygne Lake	Linn	12/23	MG
	13 in mined land S. of LaCygne Lk.	Linn	12/27	GP
	13 at McConnell AFB in Wichita	Sedgwick	01/24	PJ
	2	Butler	02/19	DW
	9 in northern Pawnee	Pawnee	02/23	S&DS
<u>N. Saw-whet Owl</u>	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	02/03	PJ
Pileated Woodpeckers	Pair at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	12/02	DG, TAS
Eastern Phoebe	1 on Baxter Springs CBC	Cherokee	<u>12/24</u>	JR
Northern Shrike	1 N. of Cheney Rsvr.	Reno	12/03	CG, MG
	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/17	MR
	1 2 mi. NE Melvern Dam	Osage	02/03-11	BF, GG
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	02/17	TH
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	02/17	ML
<u>Western Scrub Jay</u>	1 in western Finney Co.	Finney	01/03	BC,TS
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	1 at feeder in Syracuse	Hamilton	12/31	CG,TH,MG
<u>Mountain Chickadee</u>	2 mist netted in Meade	Meade	12/14-26	TF
	2 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh
	1 Meade CBC	Meade	12/29	TF
	25 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/29	SP
	8 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh
	2 at Syracuse	Hamilton	12/31	CG,TH,MG
	2 at Garden City CBC	Finney	01/06	T&SSh
	1 at Pierceville	Finney	02/18	T&SSh
1 still in Ulysses	Grant	2/28	JR	
<u>Plain Titmouse</u>	1 at waterfowl ponds CNG	Morton	12/31	JR
Rock Wren	1 in rip rap Perry Lake Dam	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/07	RR
Sedge Wren	1 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	CG, m.ob
Marsh Wren	5 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	PJ, m.ob.
	1 at Chisholm Cr. Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/1-14	BG, CG
Mountain Bluebirds	15 S. of Cheney Rsvr.	Kingman	12/03-2/24	CG, m.ob.
	20 near Lake Afton	Sedgwick	12/03-2/24	CG, m.ob.
	30 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh
	20 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh
	50 around Cedar Bluff Rsvr.	Trego	01/06	SS, DB
	9 in Greensburg	Kiowa	02/03	GF, EF
	20-25 at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/05	MR
	15 at Cheney Rsvr.	Sedgwick	02/17	CG
	1 near Elk Falls	<u>Elk</u>	02/18	GJW
	15 Wilson Lake	Russell	02/26	MR
1 near New Strawn	<u>Coffey</u>	02/27	AS	

Hermit Thrush	2 on Junction City CBC 1 on Baxter Springs CBC 1 on Bonner Springs CBC 1 north of Towanda 1 at residence in Manhattan	Geary <u>12/26</u> Cherokee <u>12/24</u> Leavenworth <u>12/30</u> Butler <u>12/31</u> Riley <u>01/01</u>	CO JR GP PJ DR
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Wichita feeder	Sedgwick <u>12/14-16</u>	DV
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell all winter	MR
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 at Meade Fish Hatchery	<u>Meade</u> <u>12/29-01/15</u>	TF
<u>Brown Thrasher</u>	1 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott <u>12/30</u>	T&SSh
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford 12/25	GP
<u>Canyon Towhee</u>	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton 12/29	CG,TH,MG
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton 12/29	CG,TH,MG
Vesper Sparrow	1 at feeder in Pittsburg 2 on Blue Rapids CBC	Crawford <u>12/26</u> Marshall <u>12/30</u>	RM TP
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita	Sedgwick 12/14-16	BB, CG, PJ
Dark-eyed Junco	1 Gray-headed race at Wichita 1 White-winged netted near Viola	Sedgwick 12/11 Sedgwick 2/8	PJ CG
Lapland Longspur	<u>250,000</u> around Marion Lake <i>Note: In January, during one of the many huge snowstorms which pounded western Kansas this winter, hundreds and hundred of Lapland Longspurs were road-killed as they roosted along the roadsides.</i>	Marion 12/08	CG
Snow Bunting	1 west of Wichita 1 at Winfield City Lake 1 E of Wilson 1 on Scott Lake CBC 1 on dam at Perry Lake	Sedgwick1 2/21-22 Cowley 12/21 Ellsworth 12/29 Scott 12/30 Jefferson 02/16	CG, PJ MT MR DR P&LW
<u>Dickcissel</u>	1 near dam at Lone Star Lake	Douglas <u>12/10</u>	MG, DG
Great-tailed Grackle	<u>3000+</u> in Colwich for over a month <u>2500+</u> near Olathe	Sedgwick thru period Johnson 02/19	PJ MC
Red Crossbill	2 at feeder, Lake Perry 1 juv. at farmstead 15 at residence in Wilson	Jefferson 12/03 Pawnee 12/20 Ellsworth 01/06	RR SS ER, HR
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	1 at farmstead	Rush 12/04	SS
Common Redpoll	1 at St. Francis feeder	Cheyenne 2/24	R&BA
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	2 on Garden City CBC	Finney 01/06	T&SSh

Roundup Key

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate unusual species.

Underlined species in bold indicate exceptionally rare sightings..

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR)

Observers: Dennis Angle, Raymond, Bonnie, and Henry Armknecht, Bill & Nancy Beard, Bob Broyles, Dave Bryan, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Mark Corder, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Eric Friesen, Bob Gress, Greg Griffith, Chet Gresham, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Mark Land, Linda Mallonee (LMA), Robert Mangile, Beverly Maxey, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Tom Parker, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Martha Price, Mike Rader, Ellen Rader, Heather Rader, John Rakestraw, Dave Rintoul, Jim Rising, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, Scott Seltman, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Tom Shane, Tom & Sara Shane, Christopher Shane, Matt Smith, Eddie Stegall, Art Swalwell, Max Thompson, Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Don Vannoy, William Watson, Paul & Lil Willis, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Gloria Jones-Wolf, Gene Young,

Cyberbirding Update

I once was naive enough that I thought I could predict what directions technology was going to take and what to expect. That is no longer the case. I struggle just trying to keep up with the new developments. Ten years ago we wondered how much faster and bigger the computers would get. We went light years beyond those wildest dreams in a hurry.

Now days the speed and size of the home computers are almost an afterthought. It's the "gizmos" that we all seem to be watching. We were excited when small, battery powered, cassette tape players became good enough, and cheap enough, that we could take them into the field. Now we have CD players that allow us immediate access to any bird song. If that isn't small enough, tuck an MP3 player the size of a pack of cigarettes and small headphones into your shirt pocket and you barely know they're there.

Personal digital assistants, handheld computers, PDAs, Palm Pilots; call them what you want to. They've moved beyond expensive calendars and address books into the realm of field bird data recorders. Most of the well known bird record keeping software now has a PDA version allowing you to record your sightings on the go in the field. Once you return home, you slip the PDA into its cradle and synchronize it with your computer. Your records are added to your main database, life lists are updated and you're done! Be prepared for major techno-shock on these little devices. You can integrate wireless communications (Internet on the go), digital imaging (upload that rare bird you just saw onto your web site for everyone to see), and GPS technology (give the exact location so everyone can be on the way in 15 minutes or less). You'll be seeing birders in the field so equipped, sooner than you think!

If you are more inclined to stay at home and study up on the birds, here's a web site that may be helpful. The well known Birdzilla web site, <http://www.birdzilla.com> now has the entire Bent Life History series on line. You can find the link from the home page (look for a little box that says Wild Bird Omnibus). Or if you are brave enough to try to type in the entire URL to go right there, here you go:

Http://www.birdzilla.com/sub.asp?strType=omnibus_intro&strTitle=Birdzilla:+Wild+Bird+Omnibus

I'm scare to ask it, but, I wonder what's next?

Chuck Otte

Wings ‘n Wetlands Weekend

by Helen Hands

The first birding festival at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge was a resounding success. Eighty-six birders attended, primarily from within Kansas. However, individuals also came from Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Although children’s activities were offered, only adults attended the festival.

The weekend started with evening and early morning birding tours of Cheyenne Bottoms, both the state and The Nature Conservancy properties. The highlight for visitors was that the vans were permitted to view birds from the Pool 3A-3B dike, which normally is closed to vehicular traffic. Driving this dike allowed birders to see large numbers of a wide variety of shorebirds and other species. Approximately 100,000 shorebirds were using Pool 3A during the birding festival. After the morning birding tours, participants had the choice of an informational tour of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area or more birding.

Besides birding, festival attendees learned about shorebird and other waterbird identification, raptors, wildlife photography, medicinal plants, and enhancing backyard habitat for birds. These topics were covered in hour-long breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening, activities included more birding at Cheyenne Bottoms, exhibits, networking, and musical entertainment.

The birding festival wrapped up with morning birding at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Although there was no group compilation, birding festival attendees saw at least 126 species, including such rarities as Tri-colored Heron, Bald Eagle, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Common Moorhen, and Piping Plover.

The next Wings ‘n Wetlands weekend at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira will be held May 2 - 4, 2003.

In conjunction with the birding festival, the U.S. National Ramsar Committee held its annual meeting. Ramsar designates “Wetlands of International Importance” and is named for the city in Iran in which the group was organized. Cheyenne Bottoms was designated a Ramsar site in 1988. Twenty committee members from all over the U.S. attended the meeting, including one from Switzerland and one from Brazil. At the meeting, they heard reports from Ramsar sites. They also approved a resolution to become more of an advocacy group, rather than just designating sites. In their new advocacy role, they will provide more financial support to Ramsar sites, such as partially funding the Wings ‘n Wetlands weekend. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge has applied for Ramsar designation and hopefully the meeting in Great Bend will help their application.

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

Thank You!

There isn’t enough room in this newsletter to express the thanks from the KOS Board of Directors and the KOS members for what some of you have done in recent months, but we’ll give it a try!

Ed Miller - Ed was asked to tackle the task of hosting a spring meeting in Montgomery county and surrounding areas. He tackled the task and the result was a great meeting with many new species seen in a historically under birded area and an ecologically unique area of Kansas. Thank you Ed!

Wings ‘N Wetlands Committee - I don’t even know who all was on this committee, but many of us felt it was high time that Kansas had its own birding festival, and we had a good one to start the ball rolling! Thank you to everyone, KOS members and nonmembers alike who made this event happen!

Bill Busby, Ken Brunson, Kansas Biological Survey and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks - A lot of people and groups pulled together to not only make sure that the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas happened, but to find the funds so that all the volunteers who collected field data would receive a copy of the book. Its a marvelous book, and speaking for all the KBBAT volunteers, thank you!

Helpers at Birds' Nests: A Worldwide Survey of Cooperative Breeding and Related Behavior (an expanded edition)

by Alexander F. Skutch

*A Review by E. A. Young**

Helpers at Birds' Nests: A Worldwide Survey of Cooperative Breeding and Related Behavior (an expanded edition) by Alexander F. Skutch (1999, 328 pp, 62 drawings, \$24.95 paperback, ISBN 0-87745-67-7, University of Iowa Press) is a classic. This book is basically organized in taxonomic order with 50 chapters devoted to species ranging from oceanic birds to bee-eaters, to Old World Warblers, to Weavers and sparrows. The last three chapters are devoted to understanding interspecific helping, the characteristics of cooperative breeders and the evolutionary significance of cooperative breeding.

The overall text is enjoyable to read and the author provides a considerable bibliography of primary literature. The only downfall concerning the literature is that the citations are listed at the end of the chapter as references rather than in text. Presumably this has been done to make the book more reader friendly (and it works) but it can be frustrating and time consuming when one needs to look up specific references going from the end of a chapter and back to the bibliography. He does provide the full names of the researchers, which is a classy touch, within the text. The black and white illustrations by Dana Gardner add a nice touch to the book and though they can not be used as an identification aid (not the intent) they allow the reader to see how diverse some of these bird families are (for example pp 115 showing a Gray Jay, Yucatan Jay, Tufted Jay, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Scrub Jay, and Green Jay).

Most chapters start off with a brief description of the family (or families), which usually includes: the number of species represented; basic physical structure (plumage colors and patterns, relative sizes, length of tails, sexual dimorphism etc.); relatedness to other groups; their geographical distribution; general behavioral traits; and nesting behavioral characteristics. The accounts of behavior are specific and vivid. Specific reference to data are precise, to the

point, and do not clutter or impede the flow of reading, but help one understand the data as it relates to the biology of the organism.

In many instances Skutch provides geographic references, for example he mentions observations in Kansas and Colorado associated with interspecific interactions between House Sparrows and other species. This makes the book interesting and useful to local birding enthusiasts as well as the professional ornithologist. Detail of biogeographical representation helps the amateur understand the broad or limited distributions of family groups.

Some of the most interesting reading comes in the last three chapters (51-53) where possible explanations and further research questions are raised regarding interspecific relationships between biogeographical realms. For those interested in research, these chapters provide some interesting insight drawn from the literature, as well as Skutch's knowledge of birds in field, especially the tropics.

The overall aspect of natural history presented in this book make it an invaluable tool for both the amateur birding enthusiast and professional ornithologist alike.

**Natural Science Division, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS.*

*Gene can be reached at:
youngg@cowleycollege.com*



Reflections on a Big Year, Part II

by Chet Gresham

[Editor's Note: Over the past decade, or so, there have been several attempts made to grasp that illusive, and perhaps fictional, title of Kansas Big Year Record holder. The two most recent attempts, by Galen Pittman and Mike Rader, were chronicled in these pages, so it is only fitting that Chet's run at the record also be detailed. All three of these gentlemen have approached their attempt differently. They all had different goals and styles, and they all succeeded in eclipsing the previous reported record. And as Chet will detail, there were a lot of lessons learned along the way. Lessons about birds, lessons about themselves and lessons about humankind. This is the second installment. Enjoy! ceo]

Summer sets in --

As June rolled around the year birds were coming few and far between, but like a rider through the fog I saw a message on my e-mail that said there was an immature Wood Stork at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City and he was no resident. That evening I had promised to spend with my girlfriend Maggie so after getting directions from Tom Shane I called Maggie and asked her how she would feel about a road trip. She agreed and we struck out for Garden City (a four hour drive). When we arrived the small fish pond it had been seen in was storkless. We walked around for about half an hour and Maggie sat down on a bench while I searched some more and as I was walking away from her she yells, "what's that!" I look up to see the black and white underwing pattern of a Wood Stork! Later, after we ate at the official big year fast food joint McDonalds, we returned to the Zoo and the bird was at the pond feeding. I shot some video and watched it for a long time. A rarity for Kansas and a life bird for me. I was impressed. Plus it was June 19th and I had just seen my 300th bird of the year.

Morton Mania --

I was still severely doubting my chances of breaking the record as September rolled around. I made a list of birds I could possibly see and there weren't many and what was there seemed pretty difficult to find any year in Kansas let alone the number I needed to see. But it was fall and I had planned on going to Morton County as much as possible and I was excited! And I had reason to be. When I pulled into the campsite on the last day of August I found Brandon Percival of Colorado stalking

some birds. He had already seen a Townsend's Warbler, a bird I had hoped to see, but wasn't an easy bird to find by any means. That weekend we saw at least five. The list of rarities in September and October in Morton County would get long. Suffice it to say the birding was amazing. The highlight for me was a male Williamson's Sapsucker in the town of Elkhart. It was the second record for Kansas, a lifer for me, and a truly beautiful bird. I don't think I'll ever top this fall in Morton, but I'll love trying.

Ahhhhh Kansas! --

This was the year I got to know my home state. I went to many places I had never been and saw nesting species I had never seen and I learned that Kansas is all the things I had told out of staters it was. From eastern bottomland forest to the canyons of Morton County and every hill, thunderhead, and expanse in between it is a landscape of beauty and change and it will always be home. And now I feel that I have come closer to knowing this land we live on, not nearly close enough, but the journey is what counts and I'll let the birds be my touchstones.

The list --

On September 22nd I spotted a Western Scrub-Jay in a tamarisk along the Cimarron River in Morton County. That bird was number 340 and beat the previous record and I still had three months to go!. But as winter rolled around so did the extreme cold. The reservoirs I had relied on to turn up loons and scoters were completely frozen. After seeing a Long-tailed Duck on November 27th I only added one bird the rest of the year. But at that point I had resigned myself to my total which wasn't too bad. A McCown's Longspur in Steven's county on December 29th was my 358th bird of the year.

In retrospect --

Looking back on the year I don't have many regrets. Sometimes I was too obsessed, but I believe it's our obsessions that get us through each day. And I feel that I have become a more patient birder and person and I sincerely hope to keep adding to my knowledge

- - Continued next page

-- *Chet's Big Year*

of avifauna and hopefully help conserve what remains. I would recommend to anyone who is thinking of doing a big year to do it. It can only help a person learn more about their self and birds. The numbers don't mean much of anything. It is the journey and I hope to keep moving and birding.

I would like to thank so many people for helping me this year. Here are just a few: Pete Janzen, Tyler Hicks, Matt Gearheart, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Tom Flowers, Carolyn Schwab, Max Thompson, Ken Brunson, Lisa Edwards, Chris Hobbs, Scott Seltman, Mick McHugh, Dave Williams, Eric

Preston, Galen Pittman, and many subscribers to the Kansas listserv for providing information on where to look for birds. Thank you.

(Editor's Post Script - Don't expect to see Chet rushing around Kansas this summer trying to add to his list. He is spending several months in southeast Arizona - at the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains to be disgustingly accurate. I thank Chet for taking the time to write up his big year and share it with us! - ceo)

Share The Joy

(Sometimes, the greatest joys of birdwatching are not the birds that you see, but the birds that you help others see. The following was posted on the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBIRD-L) on the Internet. Dan graciously allowed us to reprint it here and share it with all of you.)

If you want to have a really gratifying birding experience, take an "older" birder birding. Bob Glazier, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease, called me last week to inquire about the Thursday afternoon warbler walk that was scheduled by Topeka Audubon. I told him he may get more enjoyment if I took him later that didn't involve a large group, and that I would take him out this week.

I picked him up at 7:30 from his apartment at Presbyterian Manor and headed to Lake Shawnee. Bob walks with a walker and I figured we would have better luck getting the birds to come to him. I stopped at a wooded ravine and got a lawn chair out of the trunk for Bob to sit on. I played a bird attractor tape for a few minutes while Bob sat back to enjoy the show. Soon Baltimore orioles, warbling vireos, white-breasted nuthatches, bluejays, cardinals, and eastern bluebirds were in the tree above the tape player. You could see Bob's eyes sparkle with delight as the birds moved curiously about overhead.

Later, at another location, we set up between two mulberry trees and watched as dozens of cedar waxwings, two catbirds, two brown thrashers, and many

robins foraged voraciously. While we were watching this spectacle, I asked Bob when was the last time he saw a painted bunting. He replied "15 years or more". With that bit of information, I got him back in the car and headed to Clinton Reservoir.

Waiting for us at the Clinton causeway, perched on the wire, was a male painted bunting. Unfortunately the light was bad; but we were patient . . . and eventually he moved to a different location that allowed a great look at all his miraculous colors. Bob also got to see indigo buntings and a blue grosbeak. When we got back to his apartment, he tried to give me some money for gas. I said no way. . . I had more fun than he did. His reply made my day: "Well, you must have really had a blast!"

Dan Gish Topeka

(If you have e-mail and would like to join the Kansas Bird Discussion List, send an e-mail message to otte@jc.net, include your full name and just say that you'd like to join KSBIRD-L.)

**KOS Fall Meeting
October 5, 6 & 7, 2001
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita, Kansas**

Start planning to attend now and start getting those papers and presentations ready to share!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 2001

Vol. 28, No. 1

**This is the last regular mailing you will receive if you have not paid your 2001 dues.
See details on page 15!**

From The Keyboard -

The first is the last. This little message from me to you is not written until the rest of the newsletter is done. It's March. Spring is less than a week away. As I write this, a half packed suitcase and pile of birding paraphernalia rests on the bed behind me. Once this article is finished and I reproof everything one last time, and still miss something, I'll finish packing so I can leave in 36 hours for the Big Bend area of Texas.

Winter is slow to leave this year. It came early, it hit hard and often, and it doesn't want to leave. Birders everywhere are ready for spring to arrive, very ready. Spring migrants are just starting to filter into the state and they may be wondering why as the north wind howls. They may not know for sure why, but they are driven by the undeniable urge to nest. They are driven by the cycle of life.

It seems that everything cycles and everything has life and passing. Pete Janzen announces that he will write one more Birding Roundup, and then his cycle is over. Scott Seltman started that feature, I took it over for several years before Pete volunteered to take it. Now Pete is ready to hand it off to Lloyd Moore. Mark Land, who has written and designed the kids feature, The Bird's Nest, for the past several years, will also write but one more installment. We need someone to step forward to pick that up. If we want future generations to be able to appreciate the natural world that we have, we must not forget to help the children learn to love the world around them.

We now also say goodbye to the trusty old Rare Bird Alert telephone hotline. While I will miss its passing as much as anyone, it is time to move on with technology. But it is nearly spring, and with spring comes new life. We cast off the shackles that have held us tight all winter long. We look forward to rebirth and what awaits us around the next bend. Happy Spring and good birding in this year's spring migration to you all!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2001

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd, Maize, KS 67101

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Spring Meeting

May 4 - 6, 2001

**Cross Timbers area
(Chataqua/Montgomery Counties)**

See registration information inside.

Details on page 17

See Newsletter insert for registration form

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

The *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by Willam H. Busby and John L. Zimmerman, is due to be published in mid-April 2001, by University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. University Press is already taking pre-publication orders. The book is \$35 plus postage and handling. You can call University Press at 785-864-4155 or visit their World Wide Web page at: <http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu> to place your order.

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

International Migratory Bird Day

If any Wichita area KOS members are interested in setting up a booth at the Sedgwick County Zoo on May 5th for the zoo's celebration of Conservation/International Migratory Bird Day, please contact Chuck Otte, John Schukman or Greg Farley as soon as possible!

Want to go to Africa?

Max Thompson has advised us that he will be heading up a birding/mammal trip to Kenya and Tanzania, July 15 - 31, 2001. The price is quite reasonable out of Wichita. I've seen the itinerary and all I can say is that it's too bad I'll be busy with a county fair! For more details, cost and a copy of the itinerary you can contact Max Thompson at maxt@sckans.edu or (316) 229-6304.

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!

Fall 2001 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - ??????????????????????

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

**The KOS Rare Bird Alert Hotline
has been discontinued.**

See related story on bottom of page 19.

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			<i>The End of the Line</i>	<i>19</i>	
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Gulls on the Fly

by *John Rakestraw*

Gulls are considered by many to be among the most difficult groups of birds to identify. Each species displays a dizzying array of plumages as the birds mature, and individual birds can show a great deal of variation. Always up for a challenge, the birding community has put out a great deal of information on gull identification. Numerous articles and books give birders instruction on what to look for when identifying gulls. We now know to look for the colors of irises, gapes, and orbital rings; the degree of gonydeal angle; the color of the legs; and the facial expression on the gull. If you find a very cooperative gull and own a very good spotting scope, these field marks will help you identify the bird. But in the real world, many gulls are found flying out over the water at a considerable distance from the birder.

One field mark that is often neglected in the literature is the wing tip pattern. Visible from a great distance, this field mark is always useful in gull identification and is extremely reliable on adult birds. I first noticed this last December while I was watching flying gulls at a reservoir in southwest Ohio. Amidst a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls was a bird that immediately caught my attention. It was the exact same color as the Bonaparte's on the mantle, wings and tail, and showed a similar pattern on the face, but the wing tips were blatantly different. Instead of having a large white wedge on the leading edge of the upper wing, this bird had a small solid black triangle on each wing tip. This mark, combined with the pale gray upper wing and white under wing, is only found on adult Black-legged Kittiwakes. Even though the bird was too far out to show bill or leg colors, and the constant motion of the flock made careful size comparison impossible, the wing tip pattern clinched the ID.

I next applied this field mark search on the Oregon coast in January. My birding experience on the west coast is measured in hours, not years, so I was definitely feeling out of my element. I knew I should be seeing Herring Gulls, a species that I identify at a glance in Ohio. But amidst the many Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls (and hybrids of these two species), the Herrings were not standing out. Then I saw one fly. The limited black on the wing tips and the largely white under wings screamed out, "Herring Gull."

Mew Gulls, though closely related to Ring-billed Gulls and similar in pattern, also stood out because of the slightly greater amount of white in the wing tip pattern. On

swimming birds at close range, I could see that Mew Gulls have smaller bills and a "gentler" facial expression than Ring-billed Gulls. But in flight, it was the wing tip pattern that enabled me to make the ID.

The occasional Laughing Gull in Kansas stands out from the numerous Franklin's Gulls by the Laughing Gull's extensively black wing tips and dark under wings. The upper wing pattern of the rare Black-headed Gull is nearly identical to that of Bonaparte's Gull. But the dark under wing on the Black-headed is a dead give-away.

Most field guides illustrate gulls in flight. Some books go into great detail about the patterns on individual primary feathers, but this degree of detail is not terribly useful at any distance. Try to see the pattern of the entire wing tip as a whole; as a single field mark you can recognize at a glance.

In the field, be sure you determine the age of a gull before using the wing tip for identification. The patterns on an adult will be very different from those of a first, second, or third year bird, depending on the species. While aging young birds can be challenging, adults usually stand out by their mantle colors and by their unmarked white tails. (Heerman's Gull and Black-tailed Gull are the only North American gulls with dark tails as adults.)

Wing tip patterns on immature gulls are not always as obvious as on adult birds, but they are still very important for identification. On some species, like Thayer's Gull, the wing tip pattern is the most reliable field mark.

Studying wing tip patterns will not suddenly make gull identification easy. Immature gulls will always be tricky, and there will always be hybrids and aberrant individuals that will make you want to give up on gulls all together and go look at easy groups like sparrows and fall warblers. But on most adult gulls, and a good number of immature birds, the wing tip pattern is an obvious and reliable field mark visible from a great distance. If a gull lets you get close enough, by all means, take a look at the orbital ring and the angle of the gonys. But for gulls on the fly, concentrate your efforts on the wing tips.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

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.

Gardening for Hummingbirds

by Tom & Sara Shane

(Editor's note: For the past several years, the Shane's have worked to develop a hummingbird friendly backyard at their home in Garden City, Kansas. The results have been anywhere from excellent to astounding! This information was originally posted to the KSBIRD-L Internet discussion list and they agreed to share it with the KOS membership. They want to point out this this is what works for them in Garden City. Your results may differ!)

The first group is the most popular/frequently used.

1. Agastache (*Agastache rupestris*) - although we regularly have only one plant, an individual hummer will usually make a complete round to every flower on a given feeding bout.

2. Lady-in Red Salvia, aka Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), is a very popular plant among the visiting hummers. It seems fairly cold tolerant and will often survive the first light frosts of autumn.

3. Traditional Red Salvia, essentially your Wal-Mart variety (*Salvia* sp.), is fairly popular with many of the hummers, especially the Calliope. We usually plant 5 - 6 14 inch square pots with this flower. When it freezes, we haul them into the garage overnight. As of early November 2000, those plants next to the house were still blooming, those out in the yard had frozen.

4. Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is one our most popular hummingbird plants. We now have three varieties: a red orange, a yellow, and a goldflame hybrid. The Broad-tailed Hummingbirds especially use these plants. House Finches are big competitors for these flowers, apparently eating the bases of the tubular flowers. We usually take down our finch feeders during hummingbird migration to discourage them from entering the yard. Three or four House Finches can completely strip a vine of blossoms in several hours. Depending on the year, we always end up with a few berries. In 2000 we had an above average crop. We had a Bullock's Oriole that came in one January afternoon, several years ago, and fed on these berries.

5. Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*) is often visited, even though we usually have only one trellis of the plant. They are fairly susceptible to hot weather and

several years ago the entire stand was wiped out by some disease before they started blooming.

6. Cardinal Climber, aka Cypress Vine, (*Quamoclit sloteri*) is very popular among most of the hummers and is certainly worth planting. They are like small red morning glories. Sara scratches the seed and soaks in water before planting. It is certainly not cold hardy. We are convinced the plant will kill in the 33 -34 degree temperature range.

This second group of plants are often used by hummingbirds but not as much as the first group.

7. Bush Sage (*Salvia* sp.) We have two colors that are used often by the Rufous Hummingbirds as well as other species. So far they have been fairly cold hardy, not freezing back to the ground the winter of 1999/2000. They are also blooming profusely even now, early November 2000, after several hard freezes.

8. Ivy Geranium (*Geranium* sp.) is another plant found at nurseries that is used in hanging baskets. We usually purchase two or three each year since they are almost impossible to keep over winter and still bloom the next year. It seems like just certain individual hummingbirds will use this plant, and that individual will use it a lot.

This third group contains good hummingbird flowers, but bloom too early for our hummingbird season.

9. Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*) is a popular hummingbird flower; however it is almost finished blooming when the post-breeding migration gets started. 2000 was an exception, with flowers staying on a couple weeks longer providing some good foraging sites.

10. Traditional Porch Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is a great plant for hummers but the peak bloom is in early summer.

11. Sycamore Tree (*Plantanus occidentalis*) is a phenomenal hummingbird magnet. After a feeding bout on flowers or sugar water feeders, hummingbirds will often fly up into our 35 year old sycamore and perch. If we can find the perching bird we will then observe the

- - continued next page

-- *Gardening for the Birds*

little guys flycatching on a regular basis until the next trip down to the flowers or feeders. Sycamores seem to be loaded with small insects, apparently an important part of a hummingbird's diet. Other tree species will probably be good sources of insect prey.

Most flowers or seeds we can get at our local nurseries. Some of the hard to get items can be found at some of the mail order places. Two that we think have fairly good selections are:

High Country Gardens in New Mexico
<http://www.highcountrygardens.com>

Wayside Gardens in South Carolina
<http://www.waysidegardens.com>

Plant a hummingbird garden. The little guys are a lot of fun to watch. Once you get to see a fair number of hummers and are able to make comparisons, they are a lot easier to identify. Even though we have two new field guides on the market, a lot of improvement is still needed. Buy some of the books with actual photos of hummingbirds. We think that gives us a better handle on identification. Unfortunately, the hummingbird photographers have chosen to publish books with mostly photos of males. A big publishing hit just waiting is for a book with lots of photos of female and immature hummingbirds.

Tom & Sara can be reached at shane@pld.com

Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend **April 27-29, 2001** **Great Bend, KS**

The Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau is organizing this birding festival centered around Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Activities will include birding and informational tours of Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira; talks on bird identification, backyard habitat enhancement for wildlife, and wildlife photography; youth activities; and social events. Cost is \$40 per adult, \$20 for children. This includes 1 evening refreshment, 2 Continental breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, 1 afternoon break, 4 field trips and 4 educational workshops. If you are interested in attending, contact the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau at 316-792-2750 or cvb@greatbend.com. The abbreviated agenda follows.

Friday, April 27th

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Registration, Networking, Refreshments, Entertainment
Optional: Sunset Tours of Cheyenne Bottoms 5:30 – 8:30p.m.

Saturday, April 28th

Sunrise – 9:00 a.m. Birding At Cheyenne Bottoms
Continental Breakfast (8:00 – 9:00 a.m.) - Headquarters
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Informational Tours Of Cheyenne Bottoms & Nature Conservancy
11:45 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch – Holiday Inn (Convention Center West)
1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Workshops
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Workshops
5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Sunset Birding Tours
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Come and Go. . .Networking. . .Salad/Deli Buffet (Convention Center West)
1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Saturday Afternoon Youth Activities – Brit Spough Park & Zoo

Sunday, April 29th

Sunrise – 9:00 a.m. Birding at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
Continental Breakfast – Quivira Visitor Center
Funded in part by a grant from the U.S. National Ramsar Committee.

FALL SEASON ROUNDUP

August 1, 2000 through November 30, 2000
by Pete Janzen

This one of the most memorable fall seasons in many years for Kansas birding. A variety of factors contributed to this, but many Kansas birders will probably look back on this fall as the benchmark for many years to come.

The single most significant event had to have been the massive invasion of western birds from the Rocky Mountains and points west. Triggered for the most part by a hard drought across the west, this movement was very broad. Birders in Morton County and other areas in western Kansas were treated to a series of fascinating finds, including the addition of Juniper Titmouse to the state checklist, as well as a Williamson's Sapsucker, which had a rather shaky status on the state checklist. Many other western rarities made showings. A number of the western jay/corvid species began appearing in late September, and Mountain Chickadees staged perhaps their biggest invasion of the state ever recorded. Morton County is also proving to be one of the better to add those hard-to-find eastern warblers to your state list, but in the fall, more than in the spring. Some have known this for years, but check out some of the things that turned up this year!

Beginning in early August, an amazing series of rare hummingbird sightings began, and continued until the very end of September. These sightings were not limited to western Kansas, and western hummers were noted all the way to the Missouri state line. Larned and Garden City led the way with these sightings, but many other locations contributed reports as

well. Just check out the list below. It's just amazing, no other word for it.

Sabine's Gulls were at perhaps their highest numbers ever, with at least 21 reported statewide, some of them lingering much later than expected. Another species with all-time highs was the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Huge flocks appeared across the eastern half of the state, with many lingering for weeks. In the last week of August, things probably peaked. At least 1000 of this species were reported that week in widely separated locations. Wonder how many more were out there at the non-birded golf courses, airports, and sod farms of Kansas? I think it is fair to say that a major percentage of the entire world population was on the ground here that week.

Another species which was well-reported was the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Reported from 8 counties, this was the best showing in a long time, if not ever. This may be a function of the KSBIRD listserv, which featured a fairly animated discussion of field marks, favored habitat, and behavior of this species. Maybe it was just a good year for Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, or maybe communication and the spread of knowledge had a lot to do with it.

In the "go figure that" department was a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger which appeared in a wheat field in rural Washington County, and remained for several days, and which may have been present for weeks before being reported to birders! Careful study of close-up video resulted in a verdict on which

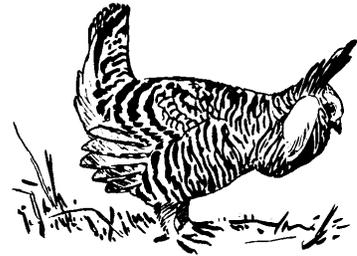
jaeger species this bird was. Things sort of calmed down in October, but with the month of November came a flurry of new outstanding rare bird reports, including: Vermillion Flycatcher at Pratt, Chihuahuan Raven at Arkansas City, Barrows Goldeneye and Gyrfalcon at Wichita, and a Harris's Hawk near Geuda Springs.

Combine all the above with a host of equally interesting sightings listed below, and it all adds up to a great season of birding. This was a good fall to be out in the field.

A last announcement: Sometime in the next year I would like to pass on the job of writing this column. If you or someone you know might be interested, I'd be happy to discuss that with you. [Ed. Note - Lloyd Moore has agreed to take over this duty later this year.]

Key to symbols: Underlined status indicates an unusual species, location of sighting, or date of occurrence. **Boldfaced** species are exceptionally rare sightings. **Boldfaced and underlined** species are new to the state checklist.

Pete can be reached at:



prarybrd@southwind.net

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Loon	1 near Tuttle Dam	8/12	Pott	DB, AF, DR
Western Grebe	17 at Cheyenne Bottoms	8/12	Barton	MG, ML
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Wilson	9/5 11/18-21	Barton Russell	RK MR
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	3 at Tuttle Reservoir	11/21	Riley	DB
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	1 at Redmond Spillway 2 at Redmond spillway 2 adults and 1 imm. at Redmond spillway	8/7 8/18 9/1	Coffey Coffey Coffey	AS DG AS
American Bittern	still one present at Cheyenne Bottoms	11/4	Barton	RK
Snowy Egret	present at Cheyenne Bottoms through 1 in Ark city	11/01 <u>11/03</u>	Barton Cowley	RK GY
Great Egret	1 at El Dorado 5 near Eudora 1 in Ark City	11/01 11/2 11/03	Butler Douglas Cowley	DWe KS GY
Cattle Egret	12 on lawn in Colwich 3 south of Ark City	10/28 <u>11/08</u>	Sedgwick Cowley	PJ JN
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	1 at Wilson Lake	8/12	Russell	MR
White-faced Ibis	13 at Cheyenne Bottoms 6 at Quivira	<u>11/04</u> <u>11/04</u>	Barton Stafford	RK RK
Trumpeter Swan	2 on Quivira Rd. 6 collared birds along highway	11/18 11/24	Johnson Chase	ML DG, DL
Tundra Swan	1 or 2 at Quivira	11/16	Stafford	W&NB
American Black Duck	1 in Lawrence 1 near Sabetha 1 at Perry's Delaware Marsh	11/05 11/21 11/27	Douglas Nemaha Jefferson	AP MG RR
Blue-winged Teal	1 female on the river pond at Tuttle	<u>11/21</u>	Riley	DB
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 adult male at small pond in Wichita 1 adult male at Shawnee Mission Park	11/19-30 11/30	Sedgwick Johnson	W&NB, m.ob. ML
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at Wichita sandpit	11/27	Sedgwick	PJ
White-winged Scoter	3 at Tuttle Res. 1 adult male at Twin Lakes, Wichita	10/20 11/20-22	Riley <u>Sedgwick</u>	DB PJ, m.ob.
<u>Black Scoter</u>	3 at Wilson	11/18	Russell	MR
Long-tailed Duck	1 along Marion Dam 1 at Glen Elder Dam 1 at Wichita sandpit	11/27 11/25 11/27	Marion Mitchell Sedgwick	CG WO PJ

Osprey	1 early at Tuttle 1 early near Wathena 1 late at Milford Dam	<u>8/12</u> <u>8/13</u> <u>11/13</u>	Pottawatomie DB, AF, DR Doniphan D&HC Geary CO
Mississippi Kite	1 im at Tuttle	8/12	<u>Pott</u> DB, AF, DR
Northern Goshawk	1 two miles south of Nekoma 1 on Quivira Road	11/17 11/18	Rush SS Johnson ML
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 below Eldorado dam	8/17	Butler Dwe
Harris's Hawk	1 east of Geuda Springs	11/14-30	Cowley ES, m.ob
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 in Maple Grove Cemetery 1 in Maple Grove Cem. 1 near Geuda Springs	9/12 11/19 11/25	Sedgwick CG Sedgwick PJ Cowley JB
Broad-winged Hawk	2 immatures at Burcham Park 1 at Wilburton Crossing	9/4 <u>10/7</u>	Douglas RA Morton CG
Merlin	1 early at CB 1 at Tuttle 1 at Scott Lake	8/17 9/3 9/3	Barton RK Pott DR Scott T&SS
Peregrine Falcon	1 in downtown Topeka	10/30	Shawnee DL
Prairie Falcon	1 early at Quivira 1 early near Nekoma	8/8 8/9	Stafford CG Rush SS
Gyrfalcon	1 grey phase immature SW of Wichita	11/20-	Sedgwick L&TH, m.ob.
Black Rail	1 in the hand at Meade St. Lake	9/2	<u>Meade</u> TF
Whooping Crane	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms 9 at Cheyenne Bottoms and 7 at Quivira	10/30 11/04	Barton RK Barton/Stafford RK, m.ob.
Black-bellied Plover	3 near Colwich	8/21	Sedgwick CG
Mountain Plover	2 near Colorado line	9/1	Morton m.ob
Black-necked Stilt	1 at Marias des Cygnes	9/10	<u>Linn</u> MM
Marbled Godwit	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	9/3	Morton LE, DW
Hudsonian Godwit	1 at Redmond Res.	9/1	Coffey AS
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Clinton Lake 2 at Quivira 1 at Cheney Res 1 at Clinton 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	8/26 9/4 9/4 9/8 9/7 10/1	Douglas MM, GP Stafford MG, ML Reno PJ, ST Douglas DG Barton RK Barton TW
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3 at Tuttle	<u>11/25</u>	Riley TC

Red Knot	1 at Cheney Res.	9/4	Reno	PJ, ST
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/10	Barton	RK
Dunlin	2 at Quivira	9/4?	Stafford	PW
	8 still remaining at Quivira	11/11	Stafford	SS, m.ob.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	83 near Colwich in sod circle	8/9	Sedgwick	CG,PJ
	<u>Subsequent Colwich sod farm sightings: 230 on 8/13, 270 on 8/17, 350 on 8/22,</u>			
	25 on 8/28, 150 on 8/29, 120 on 9/15, 1 on 9/18			
	26 near Lawrence at sod fields	8/13	Douglas	JS, DW
	<u>Subsequent Lawrence sod farm sightings: 52 on 8/14, 31 on 8/17, 40 on 8/24 200 on 8/27,</u>			
	57 on 9/7, 35 on 9/8			
	<u>206</u> at Newton airport	8/16	Harvey	BD, GF
	6 at Winfield Gun Club	8/26	Cowley	GY
	<u>100</u> at Meyer turf farms	8/31	Johnson	AS
	2	9/1	Coffey	AS
	3	9/1	Osage	AS
	50 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/6	Barton	RK
	6 at Clinton	9/9	Douglas	PW
	1 late at Quivira	10/9	Stafford	CG
1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	10/30	Barton	RK	
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Elkhart Sewer ponds	9/21	Morton	m.ob.
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/26	Barton	RK
	1 at Quivira	9/28	Stafford	Gap
	2 east of Liberal	10/2	Seward	LE
	2 at Elkhart ponds	10/7	Morton	SS, m.ob
<u>Red Phalarope</u>	1 in flight at Hell Creek, Wilson Res.	10/8	Russell	MR
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 immature in ag. Fields near Washington	9/7-10	Washington	DT, m.ob
Laughing gull	2 at Cheney Res	9/4	Reno	PJ, ST
California Gull	1 1 st winter at Ark R. Bridge	9/24-25	Sedgwick	CG, PJ
	1 first winter at Tuttle	10/22	Riley	TC
Glaucous Gull	1 2d winter in Lawrence	11/20	Douglas	PW
Sabine's Gull	1 juvenile at Wilson L.	9/20	Russell	MR
	1 at Elkhart Sewer ponds	9/23	Morton	m.ob.
	1 at McCoid L, Liberal	9/24	Seward	CH, SP
	1 juvenile at Ark. R/sandpit area	9/24-25	Sedgwick	CG, PJ
	2 at Tuttle Res. Outlet	9/26-10/1	Pott	TC, GS
	1-5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/27-11/05	Barton	RK, m.ob.
	6 on the Kaw R. at Lawrence	9/28-10/3	Douglas	JH, DW, m.ob
	2 at Milford	10/1	Clay	C&JO
	1 juv. at Marion Res	10/29	Marion	MG, ML
1 very late at Wichita sandpit	<u>11/29</u>	Sedgwick	PJ	
Common Tern	1 at Clinton Lake	8/26	Douglas	MM, GP
	3 at Ark R. bridge, Wichita	9/24	Sedgwick	CG, PJ
	5 at Lake Shawnee, Topeka	9/25	Shawnee	DG

Caspian Tern	1 at Cheney 2 at ElDorado Lake 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/9	9/5 <u>Butler</u> 9/7	<u>Reno</u> DWe Barton	CG RK
White-winged Dove	1 at Topeka feeder		8/24-25	Shawnee	JB
Inca Dove	1 at feeder in Garden City 2 in Hugoton 7 in Hugoton		8/13 8/23 9/22	Finney Grant Stanton	T&SS MR BF
Eur. Collared Dove	1 in Greensburg 1 in Satanta 5 in Ness City 3 in Linn		8/23 8/22 8/28 thru August	Kiowa Haskell Ness Washington	EF MR SS DT
Many other reports of Eurasian Collared Doves came in. These are all new county records.					
Long-eared Owl	1 near Maize		11/25	Sedgwick	CG
Common Nighthawk	1 foraging with gulls at Redmond		10/29	Coffey	MG, ML
<u>Anna's Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Olathe feeder 1 possibly this species at Wichta feeder 1 at Larned feeder 1-2 at Nekoma feeder 1 likely this species at Manhattan feeder		8/19 9/2 9/6 9/8-10 10/23	Johnson Sedgwick Pawnee Rush Riley	MC JN DK, SS D&SS DB
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	1 adult male in Garden City yard 18 females and imm. at 3 Garden City yards		9/10-15 8/27-9/26	<u>Finney</u> Finney	T&SS MO, B&LR, T&SS
<u>Black-chin. Hummingbird</u>	1 probable immature at Satanta feeder 9 females and imm. at Garden City feeders 2 adult males at feeders 1 at Elkhart feeder		8/22 8/25-9/30 8/29 9/2	Haskell Finney Pawnee Morton	MR MO, T&SS OS BP,CG, m.ob.
Calliope Hummingbird	1 female at feeder 6 mi. n. of Garden City 1 female at feeder near :Larned 1-3at feeders in Larned 1 fe. Photographed at Liberal 13 females and imm at 3 Garden City yards 1 imm at Satanta feeder 1 at Hugoton feeder 1 at Lone Star 1 female at feeder near Wilson 1 female at Wilson feeder 2 males in Cawker City 1 female at Nekoma feeder 1 female at Larned feeder 1 at Nekoma feeder		8/5-12 8/9-13 8/13-9/1 8/12 8/17-9/29 8/22 8/23 8/24 9/3 9/8 9/7-11 9/8 9/9-12 9/16	Finney Pawnee Pawnee Seward Finney Haskell Grant <u>Douglas</u> Russell Russell <u>Mitchell</u> Rush Pawnee Rush	M&PR, TS D&SS, m.ob. DK, m.ob. LE MO, B&LR, T&SS MR MR PW MR MR HA D&SS LH DS
Costa's Hummingbird	1 probable imm. male at Larned feeder 1 probable female at Elkhart feeder 1 probable female at Lawrence feeder		8/12 9/23 9/25	Pawnee Morton Douglas	PJ, SS MC,BF GP, MM

Rufous Hummingbird	24 individuals in 4 Garden City yards 1 at feeder near Maize 1 at feeder near Nekoma 1 at Olathe feeder 3 at once at Larned feeders 1 imm at Satanta feeder 1 at Wichita feeder 1 at Overland Park feeder 3 at various Elkhart feeders 1 at Winfield feeder 1 at Wilson feeder 1 at feeder near Sterling 1 at Larned feeder	8/7-9/26 8/11 8/12 8/19 8/21-26 8/22 8/26 9/3-6 8/31-9/4 9/5 9/8 9/12 9/12	Finney Sedgwick Rush Johnson Pawnee Haskell Sedgwick Johnson Morton Cowley Russell Rice Pawnee	MO,B&LR, ES, T&SS CG D&SS MC DK MR H&SG D&LB CG, BP, m.ob MT MR BH OS,SS
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	19 females and imm. at 4 Garden City yards 1 ad. Male and 1 ad. Fem. at GC feeder 1 at GC feeder 1 female at Elkhart feeder 1 in Larned 1 female at Satanta feeder 1 female at Nekoma feeder 1 at Lone Star feeder 1 adult female at Larned feeder 1 at Pratt feeder 1 female at Elkhart feeder 1 female at Larned feeder	8/6-9/30 Finney 8/17 8/19 8/21-26 8/22 8/24 PW 9/12 9/13 9/20 9/26	Finney ES Finney Morton Pawnee Haskell Rush Douglas Pawnee Pratt Morton Pawnee	BC, MO, B&LR, T&SS ES MO CG SS MR SS PW OS,SS KB BP DK, SS
<u>Williamson's Sapsucker</u>	1 in Elkhart alley-1 st confirmed state record	9/23	Morton	SP, EP, m.ob.
Red-naped Sapsucker	4 observed in all 2 at Meade Lake 1 at Elkhart Cemetery	9/20-23 10/8 10/7	Morton <u>Meade</u> Morton	m.ob. RK SP
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 near Redmond 1 at Oak Park, Wichita 1 at Maple Grove Cemetery 1 at Boy Scout area	9/1 9/3 9/11 9/21	Coffey Sedgwick Sedgwick <u>Morton</u>	AS HG CG BP
Alder Flycatcher	2 at Quivira	8/21	Stafford	CG
Hammond's Flycatcher	at Boy Scout area and also Cem. Shelterbelt	9/1	Morton	CG,BP, m.ob
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 at Boy Scout area	9/3	Morton	CG, BP
Dusky Flycatcher	1 fed all day in yard	8/28	Finney	T&SS
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 fairly well described at Cheyenne Bottoms 1	9/13 9/30	Barton Morton	RK SS, m.ob
Vermillion Flycatcher	1 near KDWP headquarters	11/01	Pratt	KB, CG
Cassin's Kingbird	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds 8 in all, various locations	9/2-3 9/20-23	Morton Morton	m.ob. m.ob
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 east of Topeka	10/23	Shawnee	TW

Northern Shrike	3 near Syracuse 1 near Perry Lake	11/26 11/27	Hamilton <u>Jefferson</u>	T&SS RR
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at Quivira	8/12	Stafford	MG,ML
Blue-headed Vireo	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita 1 at Boy Scout area	<u>11/08</u> <u>11/10-11</u>	Sedgwick <u>Morton</u>	CG CH, m.ob.
Cassin's Vireo	1 at cemetery shelterbelt Multiple birds-6 in one day 1 1 at Meade Lake	9/1 9/1-4 9/30 10/8	Morton Morton Morton <u>Meade</u>	DG, m.ob. m.ob. MR, m.ob RK
Plumbeous Vireo	1 at cemetery shelterbelt 2	9/1 9/20-21	Morton Morton	m.ob. m.ob
<u>Western Scrub Jay</u>	4 at separate locations along the Cim. R. 2 probably this species near McPherson 2 along Cim. River	9/30 11/03 11/10	Morton <u>McPherson</u> Morton	TC,MR,SS RD SP, ASg, m.ob.
<u>Steller's Jay</u>	1 at the Boy Scout area	10/1	Morton	TC, MR
<u>Pinon Jay</u>	100+ at various locations 7 at Boy Scout area 1 with 2 Blue Jays at farm near Garden City	 10/7 10/27	 Morton Finney	 Morton m.ob CG, m.ob PR
<u>Clark's Nutcracker</u>	1 in Hays	9/7	Ellis	GF, m.ob
Chihuahuan Raven	1 north of Elkhart 2 near Ark City	11/10 11/14	Morton <u>Cowley</u>	PJ, m.ob. GY
Tree Swallow	1 late at Frontenac sewer ponds	<u>11/11</u>	Crawford	RM
Violet-green Swallow	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds 1 at CB in mixed swallow flock 1 at Quivira	9/2-3 9/6 10/9	Morton Barton Stafford	m.ob. RK CG
Mountain Chickadee	1 at Boy Scout area 12 in one day around county 1 at Garden City feeder 25 in one day around county 2 in Garden City	10/1 10/7 11/07 11/10 11/20	Morton Morton <u>Finney</u> Morton <u>Finney</u>	TC, MR SS, m.ob T&SS PJ, m.ob MO, T&SS
<u>Juniper Titmouse</u>	1 first state record at Boy Scout area 1 at Boy Scout area	9/30 10/7	Morton Morton	TC, MR, SS SP
<u>Bushtit</u>	<u>30</u> in Elkhart Cemetery	11/09-12	Morton	MT, m.ob.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 in Garden City	8/21	Finney	BC
<u>Pygmy Nuthatch</u>	1 in Nekoma yard 1 in Elkhart alley	9/10 9/23	<u>Rush</u> Morton	SS m.ob
Carolina Wren	1 banded at Meade State L.	8/26	<u>Meade</u>	TF

Rock Wren	1 lingering bird at Point of Rocks	11/0-10	Morton	BP, m.ob.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 late in Wichita yard	10/15	Sedgwick	BM
Hermit thrush	1 at Boy Scout area	9/4	<u>Morton</u>	CS
Swainson's Thrush	several early migrants in Wichita 1 on Elm Creek	8/4 8/4	Sedgwick Barber	JN DA
Mountain Bluebird	10 at Cheney	11/25	Kingman	DD
Townsend's Solitaire	40 county wide 1 near Blue Springs 1 yard bird near Maize	9/30 10/29 11/25	Morton Marshall Sedgwick	TC, MR TP CG
Sage Thrasher	1 at Western Crossing	9/30	Morton	TC
Curve-billed Thrasher	1-2 near Work Station	11/11-12	Morton	CG, m.ob.
Gray Catbird	1 late in Elkhart alleys	11/10	Morton	MM, m.ob.
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	1 in Garden City yard	11/18	Finney	T&SS
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence	10/1	Douglas	DM
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 early in Garden City	8/7	Finney	BC
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1-2 at Boy Scout Area	9/1-2	Morton	m.ob.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 at Meade Lake	9/17 10/8	Douglas Meade	RA RK
Magnolia Warbler	1 Woodson St. Lake	10/19	Woodson	JW
Black-throated Blue Warb.	1 east of Wilburton Ponds 1 at Morton Co.	9/22 9/30	Morton Morton	m.ob TC, m.ob
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Meade Lake 1 imm female at cemetery	10/8 9/21	<u>Meade</u> <u>Morton</u>	RK CG, mob
Black-throated Gray Warb.	1 female at work station	9/2	Morton	m.ob.
Black-throated Green War.	1 1 st year female-late date	<u>10/28</u>	<u>Morton</u>	SS
Townsend's Warbler	1 adult male at Scott Lake 5 observed 1 in tree row near Cheyenne Bottoms <u>15 observed in all</u>	9/3 8/31-9/3 9/14-17 9/20-23	Scott Morton Barton Morton	T&SS m.ob. RK m.ob.
Pine Warbler	1 at Boy Scout area 1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	9/1 9/30 10/2	<u>Morton</u> <u>Douglas</u> Sedgwick	CG, BP RA, DS, m.ob CG
<u>Prairie Warbler</u>	1 at Cimm. Rec. area	9/2	<u>Morton</u>	m.ob.

Palm Warbler	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	9/4	Barton	RK
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 at Burcham Park	9/4	Douglas	RA
Kentucky Warbler	1 at Boy Scout area	9/4	<u>Morton</u>	LE, DW
Canada Warbler	1 banded at Meade L. 2d Co. Record	9/2	Meade	TF
	2 at Bucham Park, Lawrence	9/9	Douglas	RA
	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	9/11	Sedgwick	CG
Prothonotary Warbler	1 adult male banded at Meade L.	8/17	<u>Meade</u>	TF
Summer Tanager	1 at Boy Scout area	10/7	Morton	CG, m.ob
Western Tanager	1 in Garden City	8/18	Finney	ES
	1 in Maple Grove Cemetery	9/25	<u>Sedgwick</u>	PJ
	1 male at Scott St. Lake	9/30	Scott	T&SS
Canyon Towhee	1 at Point of Rocks	10/7	Morton	LE, m.ob.
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Boy Scout area	9/22	Morton	m.ob.
Dark-eyed Junco	1 Gray-headed race at an Olathe feeder	11/24	Johnson	DWs
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 at point of Rocks	9/1	Morton	m.ob
	1 out of habitat at the Boy Scout area	10/28	Morton	SS
Brewer's Sparrow	1 in Garden City yard	10/1	Finney	T&SS
Henslow's Sparrow	1 at Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita	9/17	<u>Sedgwick</u>	CG, PJ
<u>Nel. Sharp-tailed Sparrow</u>	5-6 at Slate Creek Wetlands	10/15	Sumner	CG, JN, m.ob.
	2 at Baker Wetlands	10/17-11/6	Douglas	AP, m.ob
	2 at Nelson Exp. Research area	10/18	Jefferson	GP, DS
	1 at Hell Creek Area, Wilson Lake	10/21	Russell	MR
	at least two at Bottiger Mitigation Area	10/22	?????	D&HC
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	11/02	Barton	RK
	1 immature at Quivira	11/11	Stafford	SS
Song Sparrow	1 singing at last year's Cheney L. nest site	8/6	Reno	CG, PJ
White-crowned Sparrow	1 very early at Redmond	<u>9/1</u>	Coffey	AS
<u>Pyrrhuloxia</u>	1 at Lake McKinney	10/25	Kearney	BPe, PG
Painted Bunting	<u>4 females observed</u>		9/2-3	<u>Morton</u> m.ob.
	1 at Boy Scout area	9/23	Morton	BP
	1 late male at Elk Falls yard	9/26	Elk	GJW
Red Crossbill	1 at Cimm. Work Station	9/1	Morton	m.ob
	1 female at Hesston feeder	"fall"	Harvey	NP
	6 in Wilson	10/20	Ellsworth	MR
	3 at Belle Plaine Cemetery	11/03	Sumner	L&TH
	7 at CB HQ and another flock in Great Bend	11/4	Barton	RK

Red Crossbill, cont.	2-5 at Elkhart feeders and Work Station 10 at Burrton Cemetery	11/9-12 11/13	Morton Harvey	SP, MT, m.ob. CG
Purple Finch	1 female at feeder 1 molting male at same feeder 1 female near Mulvane 1 female at Elkhart sewer ponds 1 male at Lenexa feeder	9/1 9/2 11/03 11/10 11/25	Sedgwick Sedgwick Sedgwick <u>Morton</u> Johnson	JN JN L&TH MG, DW, m.ob. NF
<u>Cassin's Finch</u>	1 collected near Wilburton Crossing 1 near Richfield 1 near Richfield	9/22 10/7 11/10	Morton Morton Morton	MT, m.ob CG, m.ob. PJ, MG, m.ob.
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	2 at Cimmaron. Rec. Area 3	9/3 9/30	Morton Morton	m.ob. m.ob
Evening Grosbeak	1 in Wichita residential area 1 female in Elkhart 1 at KC feeder 1 female in Elkhart	8/29 9/23 10/11 11/10	Sedgwick Morton Johnson Morton	JN m.ob AS GP, m.ob.

Observers: Dennis Angle, Robert Antonio, James Barnes, William and Nancy Beard, Joanne Brier, Ken Brunson, Dave and Linda Bryan, Doris Burnett, Barbara Campbell, Herb and Donna Chance, Mark Corder, Duane DeLong, Rich Duerksen, Lisa Edwards, Ann Feyerharm, Bob Fisher, Nancy Fitzgerald, Eric Friesen, Gregg Friesen, tom Flowers, Matt Gearheart, Paul Gilleland, Dan Gish, Harry and Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Joe Harrington, Bob Heater, Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Rich Kostecke, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Robert Mangile, Mick McHugh, Bert McClard, Debbie McKee, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck and Jaye Otte, William Otto, Norman Pankratz, Tom Parker, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Eric Preston, Bruce Peters(BPe), Mike and Pam Ramsey, Dave Rintoul, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, Omar Schartz, Carolyn Schwab, Emaline Scott, David Seibel, Tom and Sara Shane, Kylee Sharp, Andy Siglar, Guy Smith, Eddie Stegall, Art Swalwell, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Phil Wedge, David Weible (DWe), Don Weiss(DWs), Dave Williams, Jim Wilson, Tracy Wohl, m.ob. = multiple observers.

Membership Renewal Time!

This is the last regular mailing you will receive if you have not paid your 2001 dues. KOS values your membership and hopes that you will renew for the coming year. Don't lose out on any of the benefits KOS offers. Please fill out and mail the enclosed renewal form today. If you have any questions regarding the status of your membership, contact the Membership Coordinator, Mike Stewart, at mstewart@lynworth.com or 913-651-2565. If you have already paid your dues, then you can ignore this notice. But why not save the form and pass it along to a non-member birding friend or buy a gift membership for a friend or family member!

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

The *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by William H. Busby and John L. Zimmerman, is due to be published in mid-April 2001 by University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. University Press is already taking pre-publication orders. The book is \$35 plus postage and handling. You can call University Press at 785-864-4155 or visit their World Wide Web page at: <http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu> to place your order.

Blackbird Control at Feedlots near Cheyenne Bottoms

by Helen Hands

About 30 or so years ago, the winter blackbird roost at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) developed, perhaps in response to the development of confined cattle feeding operations in the Great Bend area. Now it is common to see millions of blackbirds “tubing” out of the Bottoms in the morning and back in the evening. Some people may view these huge flocks as another neat thing to see at the Bottoms. Others may dismiss the blackbird flock as unnatural believing that they concentrate and winter at the Bottoms only because they have adapted to a year round food source at Man’s feedlots. Still others dislike the blackbirds because they cut into their profit margins.

For several years, feedlot operators near CBWA and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR) have sought assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal Damage Control program, now called Wildlife Services (WS), to minimize the number of starlings and blackbirds (primarily red-winged, plus smaller numbers of yellow-headed and Brewer’s blackbirds, cowbirds, and grackles) consuming and defecating on cattle feed. Techniques utilized have included shooting and a chemical repellent called Avitrol. A small number of birds are poisoned with Avitrol, which causes them to make distress calls and fly abnormally. This behavior tends to scare away the rest of the birds. Most of the poisoned birds die. All lethal and non-lethal blackbird control operations require a state permit, routinely issued by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

In the last few years, WS has tested a new control agent, Starlicide or DRC-1339, at feedlots near Great Bend. According to WS, this chemical is slightly toxic to most birds and most toxic to starlings, blackbirds, crows, and magpies. WS studies have shown that DRC-1339 is only slightly toxic to mammals and raptors and birds that have consumed DRC-1339 are not toxic to scavenging birds and mammals. DRC-1339 is said to kill birds slowly, quietly, and apparently painlessly. DRC-1339 works so slowly that most poisoned birds die at the roost (cattail marsh or trees in towns or around rural homes), rather than at the feedlot.

This past winter KDWP reviewed an environmental assessment (EA) entitled “Bird Damage Management at Livestock Feeding Facilities in the

Kansas Wildlife Services Program.” The purpose of the EA was to evaluate several alternative ways of handling bird damage at feedlots so that the method WS uses is in compliance with all applicable regulations. The alternatives evaluated were:

1. Lethal control by WS at livestock feeding facilities using DRC-1339 only
2. Technical assistance only by WS
3. Bird damage management (BDM) by WS at feedlots using an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach (using a variety of lethal and non-lethal techniques depending on the situation)
4. Non-lethal BDM only by WS
5. No action at feedlots by WS.

Alternative 3 is WS’s preferred alternative. Because WS is going to the trouble of preparing this EA to use DRC-1339, apparently they consider non-lethal methods ineffective in most cases. There is some discussion of the effectiveness of non-lethal methods in the EA, but much less is said about these than DRC-1339 and Avitrol.

WS anticipates that their activities annually would occur at no more than 10 feedlots, currently occurring around CBWA and QNWR, and result in killing up to 3 million starlings, about 1 million red-winged blackbirds, and about 50,000 each of common grackles, brown-headed cowbirds, great-tailed grackles, and Brewer’s blackbirds. According to the EA, killing about 4 million starlings and blackbirds a year in Kansas would not significantly affect the populations of any of these species, and the death of this many birds in a cattail marsh (CBWA probably has the largest blackbird roost of any of the cattail marshes in the state) would not harm it. So, if you’re birding at or around CBWA next winter, you may see large numbers of dead starlings and blackbirds. If this concerns you or you would like more information, contact Tom Halstead of WS at Kansas State University. His phone number is 785-532-1549 and address is Wildlife Services, Division of Biology, 232 Ackert Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4901.

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

KOS Spring Meeting, May 4 - May 6, 2001

Chautauqua & Montgomery Counties

This spring's Kansas Ornithological Society meeting will be held in Chautauqua and Montgomery counties, with possible forays into other nearby counties.

There is no registration fee for this trip, because all participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. However, we request that you register for the weekend, using the enclosed form, so that the committee can have an idea of how many people to expect. This will help in determining how many trip leaders are needed.

May 4...Friday evening get together (6 to 9 p.m.):

Shelter House at Independence Riverside Park: At northernmost stop light on Hwy 75 (aka Penn Ave) and south edge of cemetery. Proceed about 3 blocks east on Oak St. then turn north. The sandstone shelterhouse is just north of Fountain and south of Dinosaur sculpture.

May 5...Saturday Morning: Meet in Dillon's parking lot just east of Super 8 Motel at 6 a.m. to leave on birding trips with guides if prior arrangements have not been made.

May 6...Sunday noon: Meet at Card Creek Campground Shelterhouse for compilation. (Card Creek is west of Independence on Hwy 160 about 5 miles. Follow sign by turning north and following hard-top road 3 miles to its end (also good area for warblers and vireos).

Motels: A block of rooms has been reserved for KOS at the Super 8 motel, 2900 West Main 620-331-8288 (mention KOS for group rate: \$39.49 plus tax/single or \$46.69 plus tax/double).

Other motels on West Main:

Microtel, 2917 W. Main, 620-331-0088
Best Western Prairie Inn, 1-800-528-1234
Lamplighter Inn, 2320 W. Main, 620-331-4655
Apple Tree Inn, 201 N. 8th, 620-331-5500

Public Birding Areas:

- 1) Elk City Wildlife Area: 24 miles of trails, 12,000 acres.
- 2) Copan Wildlife Area: 1/2 mile West of Caney, 2340 acres.
- 3) Berentz/Dick Wildlife Area: on Montgomery-

Chautauqua County Line, 1350 acres.

4) Montgomery State Fishing Lake: South of Independence, 408 acres.

5) Big Hill Reservoir and Wildlife Area: 5 miles east of Cherryvale in Labette County, 2000 acres.

6) Two City Lakes near Sedan in Chautauqua County.

Maps of these areas will be available Friday evening. Also some private land will be available for birding.

This area is unique in Kansas. Part of the area is often referred to as the Cross Timbers, remnants of a dense ancient forest made up of scrubby oak dominated by post oak and blackjack oak. In 1831, while traveling through what is now part of Oklahoma, statesman-writer Washington Irving encountered this area and described it as the forests of cast iron. An excellent article on the cross timbers area was written up in the October 2000 issue of Natural History.

While there may have been a fair amount of birdwatching done in this area, there is not an abundance of good reports to document sightings. In the preliminary round of county checklists production, here are some of the counties in the Spring Meeting area and their species totals: Montgomery - 196, Chautauqua - 152, Labette - 155 and Elk - 204. I certainly hope we can improve some of those counts! Before you go to the spring meeting, visit the KSBIRD website, <http://ksbirds.org>, and print out the county checklists so that you can report new county records. There are good birds in this area! During the KBBAT field data collection period, a Swainson's Warbler was found by Ed Miller in a KBBAT block in Montgomery County. Who knows what else we'll find in May!

Local chairman for the spring meeting is Ed Miller. Completed registration forms (see newsletter insert) or information should be sent to Ed at:
Edwin Miller
218 Bermuda Drive
Independence, KS 67301-1816

Or by e-mail to:
Ejm916@yahoo.com

Phone inquiries may be made by calling Ed at 620-331-6295

**KOS Winter Board Meeting
February 24, 2001
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS**

Attendance:	Mike Stewart	Dave Williams
	Gene Young	Dan Larson
	Jan Boyd	Dave Rintoul
	Bill Busby	John Schukman

Chairman John Schukman called the meeting to order. Gene Young moved to approved the minutes from the fall board meeting, Jan Boyd seconded, and the motion was approved.

KBRC Report: Dave Rintoul explained that a change in the bylaws to alter election procedures was being developed. Greg Farley and Carolyn Schwab are new committee members and there are three open postions. Dave noted that most KBRC business is conducted on the web and the group meets infrequently, thus reducing the time and travel commitments of members.

Newsletter Editor Report: Chuck Otte was not present but provided a written report. Pete Janzen is handing off the birding roundup to Lloyd Moore.

Bulletin Editor Report: Max Thompson was not present but provided announcements through Gene. The March bulletin is at the printer. They have material through the June issue. This is Max's last year as editor and possible candidates to replace him were discussed. A new editor will hopefully be announced at the fall meeting. Much of the work associated with this position is producing the March (winter bird count results) issue, and possible ways to streamline the process with electronic submission of count results were discussed.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Larson presented a finance sheet. As discussed at the fall board meeting, the costs of providing a member with publications exceeds current income from dues. Possible solutions discussed were raising membership dues, using income from interest accounts, and raising income by incorporating advertising into the Horned Lark or KSBIRD-L. It was decided not to raise dues but to seek another source of income to defray publication costs. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Report: Mike Stewart provided a printed report and noted that membership stands at 373, a decrease of 43 from 416 member on 2/13/99. Mike outlined ideas to encourage timely membership renewal and recruit new members. Mike made a motion to reinstate Bird Life of South Africa as an exchange member. John seconded the motion and it passed. Mike explained that he had received requests for complementary copies of KOS publications. This topic has come up at previous board meetings. A motion to provide complementary copies to a British abstracting service was passed. Gene made a motion to revisit the complimentary copy process. The motion was seconded and passed.

Business Report: New Business Manager Dave Williams said printing has been successfully transferred to Lawrence. Inventory of sale items is good for most items. More sweatshirts (8 left) are needed. The checklist inventory is good (7000) but they date from 1998 and we may want to update them fairly soon. When asked about the recommendation to add a sale manager position, Dave said it wasn't a problem now but he'll keep this possibility in mind.

New Business

John said that he'd been asked about the availability of student research funding. Currently, \$3069 is in the budget for student research. Proposals go to Tom Shane. Research fund policies were reviewed.

Future Meetings:

- 1) The Great Bend Birding Festival is scheduled for 27-28 April. Several KOS members will serve as field trip leaders and the distribution of KOS materials was recommended.
- 2) KOS spring field trip will be in southeastern Kansas on the weekend of May 5-6. Details to be announced.
- 3) Fall 2001 meeting will be in Wichita and spring 2002 field trip will be in Junction City.

Rare Bird Alert phone line: Gene Young announced his resignation from the RBA. After discussion of the declining use of the RBA phone line and various options, Mike motioned to do away with the RBA phone line. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership Brochures and Directory: Mike asked whether the board felt it would be cost productive to print out and distribute membership brochures. The idea of using extra KOS checklists as advertising was brought up. Mike will get estimates for a sticker to place over checklists to be used in this fashion. Should the KOS directory, last done in 1999, be updated? After discussion, Gene made a motion to put the directory, checklist, and brochure each on a 3-year rotation. The motion was seconded and approved. The brochure will be done in 2001, the directory in 2002, and the checklist in 2003.

Archival of Bird Records: The various types of bird records maintained in KS (KBRC, Ksbird-L, CBC, BBS, etc.) were discussed. No action was taken on this topic.

Dingus Natural Area: Status of the area was briefly discussed: management needs, possible interest in property by The Nature Conservancy, etc. No action was taken.

Youth Activities: Incorporation of youth birding activities at existing KOS functions was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Submitted by
Bill Busby, Secretary

The End of the (Hot)Line

As you can tell from reading the KOS Winter Board Meeting minutes, the board voted to end the KOS Rare Bird Alert (RBA) phone line. I feel a little like the executioner announcing this news.

Since the 1980's, many of us regularly called the RBA to leave news of our sightings or to hear the latest bird news from around Kansas. The demise of the RBA can be traced directly to the growth of the Internet. All over the country, telephone hotlines are falling into disuse, as those regular users hook up to the Internet with computer, electronic mail and state or regional bird discussion lists. Calls to the Kansas RBA had dwindled to one or two a week, and most of those were leaving no messages. Most or all of these regular RBA callers now have e-mail and are probably subscribed to the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBIRD-L).

When Jerry Reeck and I started KSBIRD-L about five years ago, I never anticipated this outcome. Yet, as in many other states, once the active RBA users "got on line", the rare bird information was being exchanged in near real time, over the Internet. Read your e-mail once or twice a day and you could get the news straight from the birder who saw it. You didn't have to wait for a phone report to be recorded and then call to see if there were any updates. It came to you without much effort at all. Details are being worked out to post regular Kansas rare bird alerts on the appropriate Internet sites, for those in and out of state birders who aren't getting the daily news on KSBIRD-L. But I guess for now, it's the end of the line.

Chuck Otte

Birds of the Texas Panhandle A Review by Thomas G. Shane

Birds of the Texas Panhandle: Their Status, Distribution, and History by Kenneth D. Seyffert (Number Twenty-nine in the W. L. Moody, Jr., Natural History Series). Available from Texas A & M University Press, Lewis St., Lindsey Bldg., 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354. 2001: 501 pp. + xv, 11 Illustrations by Carolyn Stallwitz, 4 numbered and 5 unnumbered tables, 1 map. \$24.95 + \$4.50 SH, paperback (hardcover available). Phone 800-826-8911, FAX 888-617-2421, or e-mail <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2001/seyffert.htm>

George Miksch Sutton's influence is not only present today through the dozens of students he mentored, but also is apparent by the numerous amateur ornithologists he helped and supported during his illustrious life. Ken Seyffert's book is one more shining example of the influence and encouragement given by Sutton even 18 years after his passing. A quick scan through the very complete Literature Cited section of Seyffert's book reveals that he published more papers in the Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society than he did in the Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society. This was in no way Ken's disloyalty to Texas but was because of Sutton's generosity of time and interest in all people that were devoted in some manner to birds. This is an outstanding example of why all state ornithological societies should recruit and include academicians from their state universities.

Seyffert opens with appropriate acknowledgments then moves to an introduction that is comprehensive but not long. This is followed by a "Plan of Work" with map and explanations guiding the reader through the 406 species accounts. The book passes this reviewer's only litmus test and that is the species accounts of common birds are longer than those of the rare birds. This separates the good ornithological treatises from the books for birding only. Seyffert's book is valuable to the bird interests of both groups.

A species account opens with a brief line on *Status*, followed by the longest paragraph of each account on *Occurrence*. This portion has a wealth of information including data on the percent of Christmas Bird Counts a species was recorded along with the average number

observed for about 6 counts. Data from Winter Bird Population Studies along with Breeding Bird Censuses conducted and published by Seyffert are given. Excellent summaries are presented for the 14 Panhandle Breeding Bird Surveys giving the high and low counts. Data from the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project also are presented for numerous species. A paragraph on *Nesting* follows for those breeding species giving dates of nest building through observations on juvenile birds. Cowbird parasitism records also are included. The last paragraph of the species accounts includes a summary of known museum *Specimens*.

A special section following the species accounts is titled, "Species of Uncertain Occurrence". This list of 37 birds certainly will be one of interest to the Kansas listers. Reading about the numerous and convincing reports of the Black Swift are very exciting even to a non-lister. Following that is a very useful checklist of known species for all 26 counties of the Panhandle. This list alone gives the reader a good idea of the relative abundance of each species recorded for the Texas Panhandle. It would have been even better if the author would have overlaid the breeding status for each county in the list.

The only shortcoming for an otherwise fabulous book is the untitled tables. Most are no problem to the reader except Table 2, which is a wonderful data set on the monthly occurrence of the Northern Flicker that is placed in the Hairy Woodpecker account. The Texas A& M editors are certainly accountable for this error. Distribution maps for about a dozen species such as the Golden-fronted Woodpecker that are limited to a specific habitat region of the Panhandle would have been a great help to those of us with limited knowledge of Texas geography. It would have helped those authors preparing maps for future national field guides, eliminating errors that have occurred for many species for decades.

Ken Seyffert has written an outstanding book which has been greatly enhanced by the Carolyn Stallwitz line drawings. Her cover painting of the Horned Lark standing on a cow pat next to a pretty yellow aster

Continued on page 22

Reflections on a Big Year, Part I

by Chet Gresham

[Editor's Note: Over the past decade, or so, there have been several attempts made to grasp that illusive, and perhaps fictional, title of Kansas Big Year Record holder. The two most recent attempts, by Galen Pittman and Mike Rader, were chronicled in these pages, so it is only fitting that Chet's run at the record also be detailed. All three of these gentlemen have approached their attempt differently. They all had different goals and styles, and they all succeeded in eclipsing the previous reported record. And as Chet will detail, there were a lot of lessons learned along the way. Lessons about birds, lessons about themselves and lessons about humankind. The second installment will appear in the June Horned Lark. Enjoy! ceo]

Birding has always been liberating for me. I get to leave everything behind and become immersed in my surroundings. I lose myself by allowing my senses to lead me. But I slowly began to lose this. Other concerns began to distract me from that one thing that freed me - birding.

After I graduated from Wichita State I believed the only thing an English major could do was to go on for a masters degree and teach. I felt I was on a track that would lead me towards a career, white picket fence, etc. But after my first year as a graduate student and instructor, I knew that the outdoors was where my future was. So I found a job surveying birds in the Olympic Mountains of Washington. And while I was there I refound that passion for birds.

I've tried to put into words why I go birding and it always comes out differently than before. When I try to make it tangible I realize it is the intangible that feeds my love of birds. But the goal seems to be the same - I want to find and observe birds. I go birding because I am amazed by birds. And that is where my big year came from.

The year begins --

After returning to Kansas in the fall of 1999 I was energized and ready to start birding in Kansas again. It had been a couple years since I had birded with regularity in Kansas. I also wanted to go places I had never been such as Cherokee, Linn and Comanche Counties. I didn't know my state and I wanted to learn. I

knew that seeing 300 species in Kansas in one year was a good accomplishment and meant visiting much of the state so I decided that was a good goal for the year 2000. I had heard that Mike Rader had set the record a couple years ago at 339 species. Since my Kansas life list was only one over his big year list I figured the record was out of reach. But January 1st rolled around with no Y2K disaster and so did the birds. My first bird of my big year was a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco flitting away with his outer tail feathers shining in the morning light. It was a quiet start to a very long and sometimes frantic year.

A birding game --

Even though I never really thought I could break the record I started to ask questions like, "how many species would I need by February 1st or June 1st?", and, "where would I need to look for Fish Crow and Scarlet Tanager?" So I started gathering information from friends and just the act of planning excited me. It quickly became a kind of game. And as the year went on it waned between game, obsession, and frivolity. But in retrospect, the actual counting, the placing of a number on bird species is a game and can't be much more.

Back to school --

But in the middle of winter in Sedgwick County the game turned to work and the reality was - brave the cold and wind and scan flocks of gulls and waterfowl and hope for something interesting. So this was when my learning began. I had never had the discipline to scan and rescan gulls, because I didn't want to do the work to learn what to look for. I would usually just scan and hope something obvious would pop out, but I realized that was defeating the purpose of birding. I wanted to learn about birds, not just stop, see some obvious rarity and then move on, so I started to study. I bought P.J Grant's, Gulls: A Guide to Identification and went to work. My first "rare" gull was a Lesser Black-backed Gull, but since it was an adult it stuck out like a sore thumb. My first real challenge was an immature Iceland Gull. My gull guide came in handy along with an hour of watching it and taking notes. It felt good to really learn a bird. But then about two weeks later I had a relapse into lazy birding when I saw a small all white gull and automatically called it an Iceland and even sat

- - Continued next page

- - *Chet's Big Year*

there videotaping it. It wasn't until I got home and watched the tape that I really looked at the bird and an Iceland Gull it wasn't. It was clearly a small Glaucous Gull. Later on I saw both the small Glaucous and the Iceland together. My first of many lessons not to get lax on identification. No matter how much you think you know it is never good enough unless you truly LOOK at the bird and SEE its diagnostic points.

Spring has sprung--

As winter went on I didn't feel like I was seeing a lot of species, but my list kept rising and by the end of February I had seen 141 species. But I yearned for spring birding. I wanted warblers and flycatchers and vireos and greens and yellows and blues and warmth. I had never been so keyed up for spring in my life. But when you are birding every single day spring can't sneak up on you. There was never a day I thought, "Wow, here it is!" So I just kept birding and gradually started to see new species filter in. I had always felt that Eastern Phoebes were the bearers of spring, but seeing one in February ended that idea. I think a Barn Swallow over the Elkhart Sewage Ponds on April 1st was my harbinger of spring this year, but it was probably every migrant I saw that made me glad it was spring and that I could see so many birds.

Birding car of the year --

In the beginning of 2000 my leased Saturn had 9,000 miles. This number rose exponentially. If there was an award for a birding vehicle of the year I think my car would win hands down. Some highlights would be driving around Brooks Landfill, results being two flat tires, driving the dreaded Liberal Sewage Lagoon road after a hard rain, which was touch and go and with my friend Matt Gearheart and I white-knuckling it all the way through. We somehow made it back to pavement. Tyler Hicks and I searching for Rufous-crowned

Sparrows in Comanche County and driving a cattle road that quickly became a thistle pasture, and then there is the total distance which came to over 40,000 miles. Not something I am exactly proud of. If there was anything that would have kept me from doing this it would be the fore knowledge of how many miles I would end up driving. Environmentally it is damaging and economically as well. Was it worth it? I can't really decide. But after a point I just couldn't stop. I was quickly caught up in it.

A bird in the hand --

There were two instances that tested my philosophy of birding or at least shaped it. During the joint OOS/KOS meeting in Black Mesa, Oklahoma, I had planned on staying in Kansas since I was in "big year mode." But I didn't plan well enough and missed going back to Kansas our second day there. The next day I of course found out a group of birders had found a first state record Flammulated Owl in Morton County! For some reason this totally devastated me. Of course I should be disappointed, but I just couldn't get over it. But slowly I came to realize that finding rarities isn't the only reason I go birding. The day the owl was seen I had seen a Golden Eagle perched on a telephone pole not 100 feet away! I had heard a Greater Roadrunner cooing and was that worse than finding a Flammulated Owl? I'm not saying if I could change things I wouldn't, but the idea is to watch birds and that was what I was doing. The Kansas boundary and the rarity of the bird are just particulars in the grand scheme of birding. I will always love seeing a rare bird, but if you saw every bird you looked for, they wouldn't seem as rare. So in the fall when I missed seeing a Juniper Titmouse (another first state record) in Morton county by about 2 seconds I was disappointed, but I realized it was just part of birding and not the most important.

- - *to be concluded in March 2001 issue*

- - *Book Review*

makes one dream about a trip to the Panhandle where thousands of acres of native prairie and grassland birds still remain. Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree and Lipscomb counties of Texas are just a little over 34 miles south of Morton, Stevens, Seward and Meade counties of Kansas. Those Kansans interested in southern or central high plains ornithology and those listers making numerous vagrant quests to Morton County each year will want a copy of this book. You

will then be able to come to your own conclusions about the probability of finding an Acorn Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Black-chinned Sparrow, Bronzed Cowbird, Hooded Oriole or Scotts Oriole in southwest Kansas.

*Tom can be reached at
1706 Belmont, Garden City, Kansas, 67846
Or shane@pld.com*

THE BIRD'S NEST



The kids page of the KOS newsletter

Number 17

focus on: Vultures



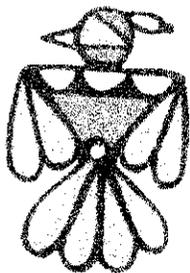
Gliding along on large wings the vulture watches for its next meal. It won't dive upon and attack its prey. It won't chase after it like a hawk or eagle will. No, the vulture is a *scavenger*. Its next meal is already dead. Vultures are the garbage men of the bird world. They eat *carrion*, the carcass of dead animals. This helps prevent the spread of disease among animals. Vultures are not the most lovable of birds. They aren't majestic like eagles. They're not as exciting as hawks and falcons. Yet they do lead a fascinating life.

There are three species of vulture in North America. The Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, and the nearly extinct California Condor. The new world vultures, those found in North and South America, are closely related to herons and storks. Their feet are weak and they cannot grasp prey like a raptor. They will approach their food carefully making sure it is dead. Then they will hop onto it before beginning to eat. Their wings are very large to provide lots of lift for flight. To lift from the ground vultures will spread their wing and hop a step or two flap slowly a few times and allow whatever wind there is to carry them aloft. Vultures can fly great distances without ever flapping their wings. This saves a lot of energy in case it is a long time between meals. Turkey Vultures can be seen lazily gliding with a gentle rocking motion on most days. They have a hooked bill for tearing that is not as strong as raptors have. Vultures also have a naked head. It is much easier to clean a naked head than a feathered head that has been in a dead animal.

New world vultures don't build nests. They find flat spots on the ground or in the hollow of a tree and lay eggs there. They usually *incubate* the eggs from five to seven weeks. The young are fed partially digested food which the parents *regurgitate*, or throw up. Young vultures remain in the nest for a long time. It can take a condor seven months before it can fly! After it leaves the nest a condor will continue to be fed by its parents for as long as a year!

As you watch for birds look for the vultures as the useful scavengers that they are and as another exciting part of nature!

did you know:



The word vulture comes from the Latin word *vultur* meaning tearer. Turkey Vultures were named because of their red head which resembles that of a turkey. Turkey vultures are also known as *buzzards*. Early colonists to this country thought they were the type of hawk they knew as buzzards from Europe.

Humans have made images of vultures as their gods for centuries. The Native American's *Thunderbird* honors the California Condor. King Tut of Egypt was buried with a necklace of the goddess Nekhbet, a griffon vulture, around his neck for protection.

feathered fun

WORD SCRAMBLE

can you unscramble the bird names in our puzzle to find the secret word?

The shaded boxes contain the letters to be used for the secret word

KTUYER
[] [shaded] [] [] [] []

CNOAFL
[] [] [shaded] [] [] []

AIRCTDB
[] [] [shaded] [] [shaded] [] []

ODEV
[] [] [shaded] []

UCNJO
[] [shaded] [] [] []

SECRET WORD
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []



Two vultures were sick and tired of flying south on their own power year after year. So they decided to take an airplane instead. They saved up their money and headed for the airport. Since they had heard about airline food, on the way they each found a squashed rabbit in the road, and put in a bag around their neck to bring along. They bought their tickets and arranged for a window seat on the plane. Then the hostess asked if she could check their bags? They looked at the bags and said "No thanks, this is carrion!"



You can learn more about Vultures at your school or public library with books like these:

Vultures by Mark J. Rauzon
A Franklin Watts Book About Birds.
published 1997.

or

Vultures by Lynn M. Stone
A Carolrhoda Nature Watch Book
Published 1993

Where do you go to watch birds?

What's your favorite summer bird?

Do you have a question,
joke, or comment about
The Bird's Nest?

If so you can write to:

Mark Land
8447 Lamar
Overland Park, Kansas 66207



KOS Spring Meeting Registration Form

May 4 - May 6, 2001

I plan on attending the KOS Spring Meeting on the following days:

- Friday night, May 4, Riverside Park, Independence
- Saturday Field Trips, meet in Dillon's parking lot at 6 AM
- Sunday morning field trips and noon compilation

There is no registration fee for this trip, because all participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Please return completed form to:

Edwin Miller
218 Bermuda Drive
Independence, KS 67301-1816

Or by e-mail to:
Ejm916@yahoo.com

Phone inquiries may be made by calling Ed at 620-331-6295

RELEASE

Please read and sign. This release must be signed before the registration can be accepted.

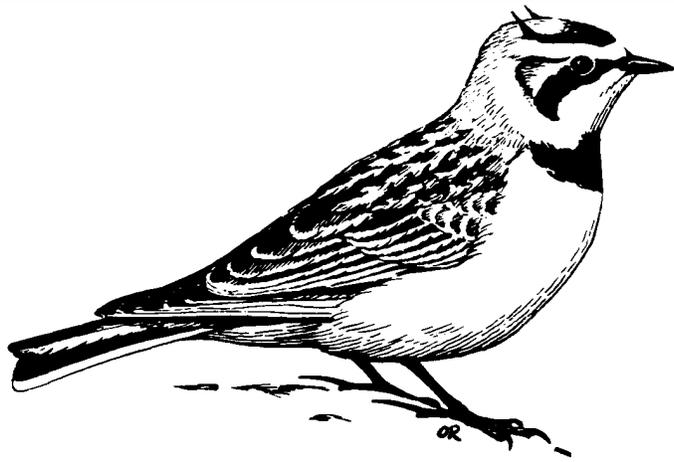
Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the KOS and their officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrants participation in this meeting.

Name (print) _____ Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Date _____

(attach additional names and signatures as necessary)



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 2000

Vol. 27, No. 4

From The Keyboard -

After two years without a “winter”, I’m sure many of you joined me in welcoming a nice, colder than normal November. Especially when we started seeing some rare to unusual birds in the state. Of course, that just heightens the expectations or hopes for the Christmas Bird Counts. A list of which can be found on page 16 by the way!

I entered into an interesting discussion with a few friends recently about the nature of birdwatchers. It was a discussion worthy of more thought and a future article in *The Horned Lark*, but for now it will only receive a brief mention. The concept was one of “sharing birders” and “selfish birders.” Sharing birders are those who are always willing to help someone else, regardless of their experience or expertise. There are several birders in the region and nationally, that immediately come to mind. Then, there are the selfish birders. Those who have been to Attu six times, have 750+ birds on their life list and won’t give a beginning birder the time of day.

Like many other KOS members, I obtained my copies of Kaufman’s and Sibley’s new guides just as soon as I could. I read an interview with Kenn Kaufman about the time that his guide was released. He was talking about why birding should be fun and how he would rather spend time birding with beginners, because everything was new to them, and the joy of the discovery was contagious. There’s a sharing birder!

We’re heading helter skelter into the Christmas season. If you are like me, you’ll wind up stumped about what present to get for this or that person. Why not share your joy of birds? Buy somebody one (or both) of the new field guides.

Purchase a one year membership in KOS. There are a lot of possibilities. Sharing brings more rewards and long term satisfaction than selfish birding. As I’ve lead bird walks over the years, I have learned as much as those participating in the walks. Which just goes to prove the old adage, “teaching is the best way to learn!”

In this busy holiday season, take a little time to share the joy of birding with a relative, a child, a friend or a complete stranger. The gift you receive in return will be priceless!

Happy Holidays! *chuck*

Who's Who in KOS - 2001

President, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Vice-president, Gene Young, Natural Science Dept., Cowley County Community College, 125 S 2nd St., PO Box 1147, Arkansas City, KS 67005

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, 4531 SE 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Board Members:

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Debarah Arnett, 20125 W 119th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Chet Gresham, 6099 N. Ridge Rd, Maize, KS 67101

Business Manager, Dave Williams, 1100 W 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-843-1159, DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Spring Meeting

May 4 - 6, 2001 (tentative)

**Crossed Timbers area
(Chataqua/Elk County)**

Look for registration information in
the March 2001 issue!

Heading To Cheyenne Bottoms?

Birders heading to Cheyenne Bottoms need to be aware that highway K-156 is under construction and closed from Great Bend to the Barton-Ellsworth line. Bummer! Best bet if you are coming from a westerly direction is probably to come in from the west past the headquarters. If you are coming from an easterly direction follow the detour on highway K-4 and come in at the Redwing entrance (aka the Prairie Dog Town road). Information from the Kansas Department of Transportation indicates that K-156 is scheduled to be closed until July 2001. If you are headed to Quivira NWR take the detour to Claflin and then take the paved road south from the east edge of Claflin. This will eventually get you back to the road that goes into Ellinwood from the north.

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 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Want to go to Africa?

Max Thompson has advised us that he will be heading up a birding/mammal trip to Kenya and Tanzania, July 15 - 31, 2001. The price is quite reasonable out of Wichita. I've seen the itinerary and all I can say is that it's too bad I'll be busy with a county fair! For more details, cost and a copy of the itinerary you can contact Max Thompson at maxt@sckans.edu or (316) 229-6304.

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!

**Spring 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area
(aka the Crossed Timbers area)**

Fall 2001 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - ??????????????????????

Spring 2003 - Emporia

**Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations
needed!**

New KOS Rare Bird Alert Hotline Number

316-441-5555

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Wrens At A Glance

by *John Rakestraw*

Small, active, and well camouflaged, the wrens can be a challenging group of birds to identify. When you compare the illustrations of the different wrens in a field guide, the differences may seem pretty clear. But in the real world, wrens seldom give you the opportunity to see them well. A quick glance and some chattering calls from the undergrowth may be all you get. If you require long studies to make your identifications, you will find the wrens to be a frustrating group. If you learn what to look for, however, you can identify most wrens at a glance. Then when that rare cooperative wren sits out in the open and sings for you, you can sit back and really enjoy it.

Eight species of wrens have been seen in Kansas. Below is a brief description of what to look for in each species.

Abundant throughout the state in the summer months, House Wrens are best distinguished by their lack of distinguishing marks. The upperparts are a dull grayish brown with fine barring on the wings and tail. The breast and belly are a pale grayish brown. House Wrens have a very indistinct pale supercilium (line over the eye).

Winter Wrens are uncommon migrants and winter residents, more likely to be found in the eastern half of the state. Winter Wrens can appear quite similar to House Wrens, but are darker overall, with very dark underparts. The pale supercilium is small but distinct. Look for strong barring on the flanks. The tail of this bird is noticeably shorter than that of other wrens, although this trait is not as obvious as in the illustration in the Peterson field guide. Winter Wrens tend to stay close to the ground.

Carolina Wrens are the easiest to identify. Large and stocky, these birds sport bright rusty upperparts, buffy orange underparts, and a long white supercilium.

Although slimmer in build, Bewick's Wrens appear similar to Carolinas. They have a very prominent supercilium, although it is usually not quite as white. The upperparts have a reddish cast, but are not as rusty as the Carolina's. The underparts of Bewick's Wrens are pale gray. The most distinguishing feature of a Bewick's Wren is its long tail, which the bird constantly flicks from side to side. The outer tail feathers are flecked with white.

Marsh Wrens are most often seen in cattail marshes. These birds display a lot of rusty color on the wings and rump, and light streaking on the dark back. The throat and breast are off white and the sides and flanks are a pale rufous. Marsh Wrens have a prominent white supercilium.

Sedge Wrens are residents of prairies and meadows. Their upperparts are a light brown with dark streaks on the back and an orange tinge on the rump. The underparts are a pale buffy orange. The supercilium on the Sedge Wren is not as distinct as that of the Marsh Wren.

Rock Wrens are found in rocky habitat (go figure) in the western third of the state. The upperparts and breast are a light gray with fine speckles and streaks. The flanks are buffy, as are the tips of the tail feathers. Unlike the other wrens, Rock Wrens usually maintain an upright posture. They also have a habit of bobbing up and down.

Canyon Wrens have been seen a few times in far western Kansas. They have very long bills and a distinctive white throat. The head is grayish. The back, tail, and belly are dark rufous with dark barring.

If you can get a decent look at the birds, visual identification of wrens is not all that difficult. The difficult part is getting a decent look. If you are quiet and patient, most birds will reveal themselves in time. While I am not a big fan of noise making to attract birds, some wrens respond very well to gentle "pishing" if your time or patience is running out.

If the wren you are hunting is singing, then identification becomes much easier. Each species has a unique song, although there is a tremendous amount a variation among individuals. A seemingly limitless variety of musical notes, bubbling song, and harsh chatter, most wren vocalizations defy written description (although every field guide attempts it). Spend some time in the field and listen to recordings. You will quickly learn to recognize most of the "standard" vocalizations. With some practice, you will learn to recognize some wren species by the quality of their voice. Then those many birds who put their individual twists to their songs won't be quite so confusing.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net



Back In Time

by Chet Gresham

Every trip I take to the Red Hills in south-central Kansas takes me back into another time. I think of Black Bear living in the caves and James Mead, early trader, hunter, businessman, who smoked them out of their caves to hunt them. The Caldwell sheriff and his deputies being chased into a box canyon after they robbed the Medicine Lodge bank eventually to be lynched by a mob of residents; and, of course, of Goss back in those canyons searching for birds and finding the now endangered Black-capped Vireos to be common and nesting. The Red Hills like the Flint Hills have a saving grace in that they can't be tilled. Cattle, oil pumps, a few ranch houses, and the roads that connect them are the only signs of humans. The more time I spend there the closer I feel to a time before the "winning of the west."

Much of the Red Hills is privately owned which can make birding here difficult. With some work a person can receive permission to many of the areas in Barber and Comanche County, (the only two counties where the Red Hills are found). In some ways the canyons of southeastern Comanche County differ from those of Barber County. They seem a little more imposing depth and width wise and contain more exposed rock and boulders. These conditions can attract a rare visitor to our state -- the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Never having seen them in the state I made it my mission to get down there. I had heard of a KOS field trip to Swartz Canyon in which the group had found the sparrows, so with a little work I obtained permission to bird there.

My permission had a few stipulations including that I bring a friend just in case I fell down a cliff or some other related disaster so I asked my friend Tyler Hicks who is willing to go about anywhere to see a bird. He of course said he would, and who wouldn't! - a chance to see a hard to find life Kansas bird, a breathtaking landscape, and a dream of finding a bird that has been extirpated from the state for over 100 years! So in early July, with a map, a picture of the exact place and moment when 20+ Kansas birders saw a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, back packs, sleeping bags, food, water, a Saturn, and dreams of two birds, one with a rufous cap and one with a black one, we set out.

After filling up the car in Medicine Lodge we kept moving down highway 160 and into the Red Hills. The Red Hills are like nothing else - their red soil shapes peaks and buttes and gypsum glistening from gullies, cedars line canyons and ponds are tucked away where only cattlemen and cattle know. And of course there are the birds. In the winter Mountain Bluebirds flocking into the hundreds can make an unreal color combo of red soil, evergreen, and that vibrant blue. Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks stalk the crests and valleys and roadrunners slip through fence and are gone into canyons. And of course the ever present Painted Buntings of summer perched atop cedars singing their warbled song. These hills are hard to know. Driving down the few public roads that there are gives us a sense, but it's one only of awe and a need to know more. So when we turned off the dirt road onto the two ruts in the grass I started to feel Wichita, my job, and even all of industrialism fall behind me. When we realized we had taken the wrong fork because the thistle had eaten up what we thought was a road we abandoned the car and decided to walk the rest of the way. That is when the present truly began to slip away.

After crossing the Salt Fork of the Arkansas, causing some cattle anxiety and logging three miles under our boots we came to the mouth of the canyon. The sun was about to drop below the west wall and it was finally starting to dip below 100 degrees. We made camp and decided to look and listen for Rufous-crowned Sparrows. The picture seemed to have been taken near our camp, but no luck there. We were hearing and seeing Great-crested Flycatchers, Rock Wrens, Lark Sparrows and Painted Buntings, but no Rufous-crowned Sparrows. We decided to walk a little further up the canyon and quickly we heard a jumbled series of notes that seemed to be right. The sparrow's song is usually likened to a variation of a House Wren's song. Then we saw a sparrow chasing another sparrow in some brush up high along the cliff face and there they were, two Rufous-crowned Sparrows! One sulked into the brush while the other flew to a cedar and began to sing. Then a few minutes later we heard another Rufous-crowned Sparrow singing in a side canyon across from where we were and when we got back to where we had made camp we heard yet another bird singing just above our camp!

- - continued next page

That evening we heard a chorus of Chuck-will's-widows and Common Poorwills. The sky was cloudless and after the moon set the stars were so close and textured they felt like they were right on top of me. In the morning the sun rose over the Salt Fork valley and we woke to the calls of buntings, flycatchers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and even a Louisiana Waterthrush. We wanted to explore the canyon more in the hopes of finding more sparrows and maybe even a vireo. We had heard of a Black-capped Vireo that was seen just five miles south of Comanche Co. in Woods Co. Oklahoma. Just this year there were an estimated 2000 vireos in the Wichita Mountains of southwest Oklahoma. With these kinds of numbers and the still suitable habitat of the Red Hills it seems just a matter of time before a Black-capped Vireo is found again in Kansas. But after finding two more singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows we had no luck in finding a

vireo. It was quickly getting hot so we cut our day a little short and hiked out of the canyon and to the car.

Not seeing a Black-capped Vireo just gives me another excuse to explore the region even more. The canyon is reminiscent of other places I've been birding in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, but it is right here in our state! The more I explore Kansas the more I love it and the wonderful birds that live and pass through here. Without cowbird control maybe the Black-capped Vireo couldn't viably return to our state, but it doesn't seem that far-fetched that they might. I will always hold out hope and hopefully some day we'll see their return. But until then I'm going to enjoy birding in the Red Hills and learn more with every visit.

Chet can be reached at cogresha@juno.com

**Ten Best Birds
As presented by Gene Young
At the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet
October 7, 2000**

An annual tradition at the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet is the presentation of the Ten Best Birds of the previous 12 month period. There has been a great deal of debate over the years as to what constitutes the ten best birds. Elmer Finck continues to hold out for the Dickcissel, whereas Dave Rintoul feels that the list should be renamed the *ten rarest birds*. Regardless, tradition holds and following are the ten best birds as selected by a committee wishing to remain somewhat anonymous!

- 10 - Wood Stork (Garden City)
- 9 - Calliope Hummingbird invasion
- 8 - Pyrrhuloxia (Quivira NWR in May)
- 7 - Cassin's Finch
- 6 - Pygmy Nuthatch
- 5 - Williamson's Sapsucker (65 years since the last, and only, unsubstantiated record)
- 4 - Long-billed Thrasher
- 3 - Painted Redstart (Quivira NWR in May)
- 2 - Juniper Titmouse (not known for wandering)
- 1 - Flammulated Owl (Patti, Rader and Seltman, Morton County in May).

For more details, and an entertaining discussion go to:
http://ksbirds.org/kos/bestbirds_2000.htm

**Cyberbirding -
Bird Watchers Resources
in the Virtual World**

Every week the resource list grows. It has reached a point far beyond where I thought it could, as quickly as it did! World Wide Web resources for the beginning, intermediate or experienced birder are there for the using IF you can find them.

Do you want to see web pages devoted to gulls or hummingbirds? They're out there. Need a bird checklist for almost any state in the union? It's out there. Interested in ornithological societies in other states? Just about every state organization now has a web page. Do you want to know what birds have been reported for every county in Kansas? That's now available also!

Because the list of resources changes daily, there is no one complete list. But that's okay. Once you get to a couple of pages, you'll find that they always have links to others. For the beginner (maybe you just got online for Christmas!), start at <http://ksbirds.org>, the home page for KOS and more. Look for "David Seibel's E-Birding Page" and click on it. You're now on your way. And if you want to join the Kansas Birds Listserve discussion list, drop me an e-mail message (otte@jc.net) and include your first and last name and e-mail address. Then sit back and wait for the fun to begin!

SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2000 through July 31, 2000

by Pete Janzen

The summer reporting period of June and July 2000 was for the most part slightly cooler and wetter than normal in most parts of Kansas. The number of people reporting sightings always dips in the summer, but those venturing into the field this season had some interesting finds.

Many species enjoyed good nesting success this year. In the northeast, Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers lingered into June, again raising hopes of nesting as they did last year. Black-necked Stilts and other marsh birds moved into new nesting territory in several counties. In Wichita, big news was the discovery of a colony of Least Terns at a construction site located over two miles from the Arkansas River. Despite the vulnerability of the site, a number of terns fledged successfully, thanks to the efforts of several people, including the developer himself! A confirmed nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded at Wichita this summer. The Pet Cemetery at Ft. Riley continues to be a mecca for nesting by species ordinarily found a bit further east, including Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-throated Vireo. Of interest was a singing Louisiana Waterthrush, which was found at Swartz Canyon in Comanche County. While it was several counties west of known Kansas nesting sites, the habitat there is

appropriate, and the species nests as far west as this, and not far to the south, in central Oklahoma.

A bird species getting a lot of media attention was the Painted Bunting, confirmed nesting at Clinton State Park near Lawrence. A rare nesting species in Douglas County, prior nestings have been recorded there in earlier decades. A well-written article in the Lawrence Journal-World about Clinton's Painted Buntings got picked up on the wires, and eventually even made CNN Headline News!

One odd event was the appearance of Long-billed Curlews in many locations across the state in early June. Late migrants, or failed nesters heading south early? An interesting event, whatever the explanation. The Sedgwick County sighting was the first for this species in many years.

A widespread drought on the Gulf Coast drove many waders inland, and a few of these drifted to Kansas, most notably the Wood Stork at Garden City, as well as a couple of Tri-colored Herons.

Two other birds deserve special mention. The Calliope Hummingbird at Garden City was an adult male, and joins only a handful of previous records. This mirrored a major

invasion into the Front Range of Colorado this year by this species. The Long-billed Thrasher report, if accepted by the KBRC, will become a first state record for the species. It was observed in the shelterbelt at Elkhart.

A major omission from the spring report was the Lesser Nighthawk seen by a group of experienced observers at Elkhart earlier this spring. This convincing sight record will likely result in the addition of this species to the state checklist, with hypothetical status. Another late report was received of several Black Vultures sighted at Tuttle Creek Reservoir by a Colorado birder sometime in May, and also apparently photographed! More on that later, hopefully.

Thanks for the reports that make this compilation what it is, and good luck with your birding this fall!

Abbreviations: CB: Cheyenne Bottoms, MDC: Marais Des Cygnes, m.ob. denotes multiple observers too numerous to list

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

Pete can be reached at:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Loon	3 at Tuttle Cr.	Riley	6/10	DB, TC
<i>Note: Common Loons were reported at Tuttle Creek throughout the summer.</i>				
White Pelican	14 on Ark R. in Wichita	Sedgwick	6/23	PJ
Great Egret	<u>200</u> at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/17	SS
Tri-Colored Heron	1 on Kansas R.	Pottawatomie	6/18	PO

	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/1	SF, CG, CM
White-faced Ibis	5 at Hargis Lake	Barber	7/4	DA, CR
Wood Stork	1 imm. at Garden City Zoo	Finney	6/16-19	DB, CG
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/17	SS
Ruddy Duck	1 with duckling at playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF
	3 all summer at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	PJ, m.ob.	
Hooded Merganser	1 female at Tuttle Creek	Riley	6/15	TC
Mississippi Kite	1 in downtown Lawrence	Douglas	6/7	DW
	<i>Note: M. Kites seem to be spreading into new nesting territory, including Salina, Junction City, Lawrence, and Overland Park.</i>			
	56 in staging flock, Garden City	Finney	7/20	BC
Broad-winged Hawk	1 adult at Perry Lake	Jefferson	7/22	RR
Northern Harrier	1 male	Dickinson	6/12	C&JO
	Pair at Wilson St. Park	Russell	6/22	MR
	1 at Fort Riley	Riley	6/28	DR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 agitated female near Mulvane	Sedgwick	6/10	JB
Cooper's Hawk	nest w/ young at O.P. Arboretum	Johnson	6/19	MG
	1 on Little Ark R., Wichita	Sedgwick	6/18	PJ
	1 on BBS route	Barton	6/20	MR
	1 at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/28	DR, JR
Ferruginous Hawk	1 overhead at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/13	DR
Black Rail	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/1	SF, CG, CM
	3 at Quivira	Stafford	7/19	CG
	1 at Hargis Lake	Barber	7/23	MG, PJ
Common Moorhen	1 juvenile near Kiowa	Barber	7/23	PJ
Sandhill Crane	several southbound at Garden City	Finney	7/16	BC
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/12	CG
Black-necked Stilt	2 at playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF
	pair w/3 juvenile young, Hargis Lake	Barber	7/23	DA, CG, MG, PJ
	<i>Note: The Hargis birds were observed in downy fledged age earlier in the summer.</i>			
	Nest with 4 eggs	<u>Meade</u>	6/1	LE
	Pair w/4 downy young	Meade	6/13	LE
	<i>Note: These were first county nesting records to the best of my knowledge. The BN Stilt nest with eggs that was reported in Liberal in late May was flooded out before the beginning of this report period.</i>			
Whimbrel	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/25	SF, CG
Long-billed Curlew	1 on playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF

	1 on Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	6/11	PJ
	5 on a playa near Liberal	Seward	6/15	LE
	1 east of Kinsley	Edwards	7/5	MR
Marbled Godwit	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/25	SF, CG
	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/12	CG
Ring-billed Gull	1 adult summered at Wichita	Sedgwick	6/1-7/31	PJ, m.ob.
Caspian Tern	6 at Clinton L.	Douglas	6/28	Gpa
	10 at Melvern Res.	Osage	7/22	MC, MM
	9 at Perry Res	Jefferson	7/22	RR
Least Tern	11 adults, 8 chicks, 2 eggs	Sedgwick	6/23	SF, BG, CG, PJ
	<i>Note: This first county nesting record received a lot of media attention. Despite being located in an active construction site, the colony successfully fledged a number of young.</i>			
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3 at Pittsburg feeder	Crawford	6/2	RM
	3 in Pratt	Pratt	6/17	SS
	1 in Lawrence	Douglas	6/19	RJ
	2 in Lawrence	Douglas	6/22	GP, DS
	2 in Kinsley	Edwards	6/20	MR
	2 adults w/fledgling in Valley Ctr.	Sedgwick	7/14	BM
Black-billed Cuckoo	singing birds on BBS route	Harvey/McPher.	6/3	GF
	Singing bird near Andale	Sedgwick	6/11	CG, PJ
Burrowing Owl	adults with fledges	Ness	7/8	SS
Greater Roadrunner	1 near Aetna	Barber	7/2	DA
	1 south of Sharon	Barber	7/23	DA, CG, MG, PJ
Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm. at Garden City feeder	Finney	7/19	T&SS
	1 male at Garden City	Finney	7/28	L&BR
	1 at Liberal feeder	Seward	7/28	LE
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Garden City feeder	Finney	7/28	L&BR
Least Flycatcher	1 banded at Ft. Riley	Riley	7/22	DR
Cassin's Kingbird	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton	6/2	JB
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 fledge found at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/13	C&JO
Black-billed Magpie	1 near Eskridge	Wabaunsee	6/11	DR
	Pair w/nest	Dickinson	6/12	C&JO
Tree Swallow	many at Cheney goose refuge	Reno	6/4	PJ, JN
	2 at Andale farm pond	Sedgwick	6/11	PJ, CG
Bank Swallow	Several in June at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	6/3-7/8	PJ, m.ob.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	adults w/2 recent fledges	Sedgwick	6/27	H&SG
	<i>Note: The second confirmed nesting for Sedgwick County!</i>			
Wood Thrush	1 singing male near Garfield	Pawnee	6/18	SS

<u>Long-billed Thrasher</u>	1 reported in the Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	6/2	JB
	<i>Note: If accepted by the KBRC, this will represent a first state record for this species</i>			
Blue-winged Warbler	1 male at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	6/18	JS, MS
Northern Parula	singing male near Towanda	<u>Butler</u>	7/1	PJ
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	7/3	AG, CG, MG, TH
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 fem. w/brood patch at Ft. Leav. 1 at Marais des Cygnes	Leavenworth Linn	6/4 6/17	JS MM
Prairie Warbler	1 singing male	Douglas	6/1	PW
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 singing male in Swartz Canyon	Comanche	7/8-9	CG, TH
	<i>Note: This is well west of known breeding areas for this species in Kansas.</i>			
Mourning Warbler	1 male netted at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/2	DR
Scarlet Tanager	present through June at Ft. Riley	Riley		C&JO, m.ob.
Spotted Towhee	1 female near Garfield	Pawnee	6/18	SS
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	5 males, 1 fem. at Swartz Canyon	Comanche	7/8-9	CG, TH
Vesper Sparrow	1 on BBS route 1 on BBS route	Doniphan Atchison	6/3 6/3	JS, MS JS, MS
Henslow's Sparrow	2 at separate locations 4 in family group	Ellsworth Barton	6/20 7/22	MR W&NB
Painted Bunting	1 at Clinton 1 feeding fledgling at Clinton 1 in Overland Park	Douglas Douglas Johnson	7/4 7/22 7/21	DG DG DH
Bobolink	2 m. and 1 f. carrying nest mat. 1 on BBS route	Leavenworth Atchison	6/3 6/3	JS, MS JS, MS
Bullock's Oriole	2 on BBS route	Jewell	6/8	P&MW
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 territorial male at Cheney	Reno	6/11	CG, PJ
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 singing male near Hardtner 1 at Scott Lake	Barber Scott	7/23 7/31	DA, CG, MG, PJ DG

Observers: Dennis Angle, Daniel Baffa, James Barnes, Nancy Beard, William Beard, Doris Burnett, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Mark Corder, Lisa Edwards, Suzanne Fellows, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearhart, Dan Gish, Alan Goodwin, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Bob Gress, Dave Henness, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Richard Johnston, Mark Land, Robert Mangile, Bev Maxey, Mick McHugh, Cheryl Miller, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Peter Oviatt, Gerry Parkinson, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Betty Rich, Leonard Rich, David Rintoul, Cam Rother, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, John Schuckman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Mike Stewart, Margaret Wedge, Phil Wedge, Dave Williams.

Grassland Bird Surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area by Helen Hands

This past June we began grassland bird surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA). The objectives of these surveys are to monitor changes in grassland bird abundance and species composition during the breeding season in response to management. The grasslands at CBWA have historically played second fiddle to the marsh in terms of management priorities and birder/researcher interest. However, these grassland areas encompass 7,500 acres around the perimeter of the Wildlife Area (over 35% of CBWA). Just like grasslands throughout the Great Plains, our grasslands need to be burned and grazed regularly to maintain the vigor of the grass and limit tree and shrub invasion.

In the past 25 years, only the grass in Pool 5 has been intentionally burned. Grasslands in the other pools have not been intentionally burned because the CBWA staff is too small and our fire equipment is inadequate to burn them safely. The main concern is keeping the fire within the CBWA boundaries.

It has been at least 25 years since any of the grass has been grazed. The grazing program ceased due to problems with getting water to cattle and with tenants. A couple of changes may make it possible for a renewed effort to regularly burn and graze the perimeter grasslands. First, establishment of The Nature Conservancy preserve along much of the boundaries of Pools 2 and 3 may minimize some of the concerns for containing controlled burns. Second, the new tractor and disk, better fire equipment, and better trained staff should make controlled burns safer. Third, as the cattail problem is dealt with more efficiently with bigger equipment, there may be more time to administer a grazing program.

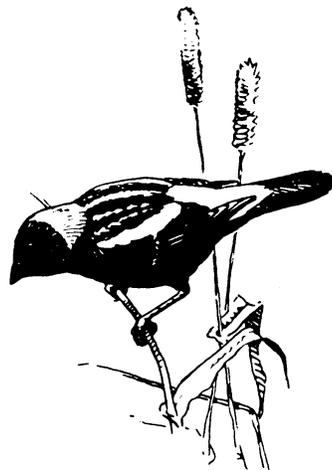
Grassland birds were counted in June. I had help conducting these surveys from Glen and Betty Erikson, Larry Hesed, Gordon Jones, Dusty Jones, Floyd Tuzicka, Rob Penner, and Karl Grover. We surveyed birds at 91 points scattered throughout the grass in Pools 2, 3, 4, and 5. At each point, we counted all the birds we saw and heard within two 3-minute periods. The survey points were located at least 275 yards apart and at least 100 yards from

edges of the main marsh, crop fields, tree rows, and property boundaries. Surveys were started at sunrise and continued for 3 hours. Surveys were conducted only on dry mornings when wind speeds were less than 10 mph.

Twenty-eight species were detected with red-winged blackbirds, dickcissels, and western meadowlarks by far the most common. Although bird density was fairly similar among pools, it was somewhat higher in Pool 3 than in Pools 2, 4, and 5. There seemed to be an inconsistent relationship between bird density and time since the most recent burn. Pool 3 was burned in spring 2000 and Pool 5 was burned most recently in spring 1999. In contrast, the grass in Pools 2 and 4 has not been burned for at least 10 years.

We plan to continue these surveys on an annual basis. More volunteers would allow us to survey more ground. If you are interested in helping, call me at 316-793-3066 or e-mail me.

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



Rare Bird Alert Hotline - 316-441-5555

KOS Fall Meeting Bird List

October 7 & 8, 2000

Following is the list of birds seen on the field trips at the Fall 2000 Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society. Field trips took birders to Johnson, Linn, Miami and Douglas counties. Thank yous to all the leaders of those field trips. Thank you to Galen Pittman for providing the compiled list of 111 species.

Common Loon	Rock Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Pied-billed Grebe	Mourning Dove	American Robin
American White Pelican	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Gray Catbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Barred Owl	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Common Nighthawk	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Chimney Swift	American Pipit
Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing
Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Pintail	Hairy Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Spotted Towhee
Osprey	Pileated Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Eastern Phoebe	Clay-colored Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Field Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	Savannah Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Grasshopper Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue Jay	LeConte's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	Horned Lark	Lincoln's Sparrow
Merlin	Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Sora	Barn Swallow	Harris's Sparrow
American Coot	Black-capped Chickadee	White-crowned Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
American Golden-Plover	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Semipalmated Plover	Brown Creeper	Indigo Bunting
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	House Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Least Sandpiper	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Long-billed Dowitcher	Sedge Wren	Great-tailed Grackle
Common Snipe	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Franklin's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Bonaparte's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow

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.

Abstracts of Papers and Posters Presented at the 2000 Fall KOS Meetings Johnson County Community College Overland Park, Kansas

The role of farmed wetlands as habitat for birds in Kansas. *James W. Rivers, Ted T. Cable, and Philip S. Gipson, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (JWR, PSG); and Dept. of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (TTC). [Poster]*

Wetlands are an important part of the natural landscape in the Great Plains because they provide habitat for a diversity of species. However, many wetlands continue to be impacted by agricultural practices. To better understand the influence of agriculture on wetlands, we surveyed two types of farmed wetlands that occur in Kansas. A total count method was used to quantify avian use of 12 playa wetlands and 12 flood plain wetlands twice each during spring, summer, and fall of 1998–1999. A total of 51 bird species were observed using farmed wetlands; 39 on farmed playa wetlands and 31 on farmed flood plain wetlands. The two most abundant wetland-dependent groups were shorebirds (Charadriiformes), comprising fourteen species, and dabbling ducks (Anseriformes), represented by six species. Avian use of farmed wetlands appeared dependent on available food resources (e.g., aquatic invertebrates, seeds from moist-soil plants). We conclude that cultivation practices in Kansas farmed wetlands appears compatible with habitat management for wetland dependent birds because cultivation mimics traditional disturbances that provided suitable habitat for these species.

Bird mortality at transmitting towers in Kansas during the spring. *Tanner Lundy and Eugene A. Young**, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS 67156. (*Current address: Dept. of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67005.)

Few data are available on the frequency of spring tower kills or the number of individuals killed at towers during the spring migration. We present data on recent spring studies from several towers in south-central Kansas. Three of these towers in Winfield, Kansas, are less than 500 ft. tall. Mortality was minimal at these smaller towers, with only three individuals found during

spring 2000 (Yellow Warbler, Common Grackle, and Rock Dove). Additionally, we provide a synopsis of historical observations and literature reports for spring tower kills in Kansas.

Association of Brown-headed Cowbird foraging flocks with grazing ungulates in tallgrass prairie. *Renae Schmitt, William Jensen, and Jack Cully, Dept. of Biology, Creighton University, Omaha, NE 68178 (RS); and Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (WJ, JC).*

Few empirical studies have examined the association of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) foraging flocks with ungulate grazing, especially in the historic range of cowbirds and their supposed ungulate commensals. We compared cowbird relative abundance in tallgrass prairie among paddocks grazed by bison (*Bos bison*) or cattle (*Bos bos*), among cattle-grazed and ungrazed watersheds, and among cattle herds and random points within grazed watersheds at Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas. Although some behavioral differences were observed among bison and cattle, there was no difference in the number of cowbirds recorded per treatment. Cowbird relative abundance was slightly higher in cattle-grazed vs. ungrazed prairie. However, the number of cowbirds seen associating with cattle herds vs. random points within the surrounding grazed vegetation differed considerably. Differences in cowbird association with domestic cattle vs. bison herds deserve consideration at larger spatial scales. Despite the noticeable association of cowbird foraging flocks with ungulate herds, there are alternative hypotheses regarding the benefits of this association to the cowbird.

Post-breeding dispersal and fledgling survivorship of House Wrens. *Jamie E. Timson, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Hays, KS 67601.*

In order to investigate the pattern of post-breeding dispersal and post-fledgling survivorship of House Wrens, 150 nest boxes were erected along riparian habitat in Ellis County and studied during the 2000

- continued on next page

breeding season. There were 115 individual breeding attempts in 92 different boxes, and 72 attempts (63%) were successful. A total of 40 nesting attempts (35%) failed because of predation. I color-banded 493 individuals (38 males, 52 females, and 403 nestlings) to allow for identification at nests and to facilitate observations away from nests. Efforts are continuing to observe banded individuals to assess the extent of post-breeding dispersal and to quantify fledgling survivorship. As of 15 September, only five hatch-year birds (1%), a minimum age of 8 weeks post-hatch, and two adults (2%) had been re-sighted or recaptured. All but two of these birds were observed within 100 m of their nest box; another was found dead 0.8 km from its natal box, and one was caught on the FHSU banding site 4.25 km from its natal box. These efforts will continue through 31 October 2000.

Use of experimental perches by Brown-headed Cowbirds in tallgrass prairie. *Colleen Truman, William Jensen, and Jack Cully, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.*

Several studies have supposed or demonstrated correlations of the frequency of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the proximity of host nests to elevated perches in open habitats. These perches are thought to aid cowbirds in surveying for potential hosts. We attempted to experimentally test the hypothesis that the presence of perches in tallgrass prairie influences the distribution of cowbirds and the frequency at which cowbirds parasitize grassland hosts. Dried *Helianthus* stems, 2–3 m in height, were staked at 40-m intervals within grids of experimental plots after host territories were thought to have been established. The experimental plots were paired with equally sized control plots within three watersheds at Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas. We then compared the relative abundance of cowbirds and brood parasitism rates of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) nests among the experimental and control treatments. Both male and female cowbirds were more abundant in the experimental-perch treatments. Few nests were found within most watersheds, and so nest data were pooled among watersheds. Brood parasitism rates were higher in the experimental treatment vs. the control treatment for pooled host species (90% vs. 64%) and Dickcissels alone (88% vs. 57%), but these differences were not statistically significant. Cowbirds alighted often upon the experimental perches, which influenced their abundance estimates in the experimental treatment, but the extent to which this perch use influences parasitism

rates of grassland hosts needs to be examined at larger scales to increase sample size.

Are birds at risk from wind turbines in Kansas? *Eugene A. Young, Dept. of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67005.*

Avian mortality associated with wind turbines has been reported and extensively studied in the western United States, but minimal data exist for the eastern United States. Kansas has the potential to utilize wind energy as a major resource where wind farms might contain 50 or more turbines. Preliminary data will be presented on two turbines studied at Western Resources Jeffrey Energy Center, Pottawatomie County, where no mortality was observed. A synopsis of studies conducted at large wind farms throughout the United States will be examined to help identify potential impacts on birds in Kansas.

A Wintering Flock of Dark-eyed Juncos and Harris's Sparrows in Southwest Kansas. *Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane, 1706 Belmont Place, Garden City, KS 67846.*

A flock of Dark-eyed Juncos and Harris's Sparrows was observed at our backyard feeding station in Garden City, Kansas, during the winter of 1999–2000, with the highest daily count of each species recorded on the days observations were made. The first Harris's Sparrow was observed 15 November, and the last wintering individual was observed 4 March. The first Dark-eyed Juncos (2) were observed 13 October, and the last individual was seen on 17 April. The Harris's Sparrows maintained a fairly constant population, with an average of 4.0–5.2 birds/day from November to January and a high count of 10 birds on 1 December. The Dark-eyed Juncos continued to increase in numbers from 3.2 to 16.8 birds/day from October to January, with the highest count of 26 individuals on 10 December. The population gradually decreased from February to April. Two waves of migrant Harris's Sparrows came through on 21–31 March and another from 15 April through 5 May.

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas: Publication preview. *William H. Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047.*

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas was a six-year study (1992–1997) of the distribution of breeding birds in the state. Data were gathered by 188 volunteers in 782 study blocks. The results of the atlas project will be published as a book that will be available from University Press of Kansas in Spring 2001.

KOS Fall Board Meeting
October 7, 2000
Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, Kansas

Attendance:	Greg Farley	Chuck Otte
	Ed Miller	Carolyn Schwab
	Jan Boyd	Suzanne Fellows
	Dave Rintoul	Bill Busby
	John Schukman	

Chairman, Greg Farley called the meeting to order. Carolyn Schwab moved to approve the minutes from the winter board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller provided a balance sheet and commented on the growth of the KOS budget from about \$4,000 in 1977 to about \$46,000 in 1996 to about \$100,000 currently. However, Ed noted that this year's expenses are exceeding income from membership dues. This was also the case in 1999 when interest from the income account was used to cover the extra expenses. The reason for this situation is largely because publications cost about \$17 per member each year whereas dues are only \$15. He raised the question of whether we should continue to use part of the endowment income to subsidize memberships. A discussion followed. Chuck Otte is checking into getting advertising into the Newsletter that might amount to \$1000, which might be sufficient to bring dues into balance with expenses. Ed's term as Treasurer is ending, but he will continue to attend board meetings for one year as stipulated in the bylaws.

Vice President: John Schukman discussed the nominees for positions on the board: John Schukman, President; Gene Young, Vice President; Mike Stewart, Membership Secretary; Dan Larson, Treasurer; Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor; Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor; Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary; Dave Williams, Business Manager; and Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham, Directors.

Bulletin Editor and Finance Committee: Max Thompson was not present.

Newsletter Editor: Chuck Otte reported that he is aiming to get the December newsletter out by Thanksgiving.

Bird Records Committee: Dave Rintoul announced that the Records Committee has received lots of reports, most of which have been submitted electronically.

Nominations Committee: John Schukman said nominees for vacant positions had been recommended (see candidates for vice president, membership secretary, business manager, corresponding secretary, and directors above). A vote will be held this afternoon on whether to create a Sales Manager position, for which a candidate is still needed.

Future Meetings

Spring 2001 – May 4-6 in the Chautauqua Hills in southeastern Kansas with a focus on Elk and Chautauqua counties. Ed Miller said a good selection of motels is available in Independence. Alternatively, he might be able to arrange to stay at a ranch in the area. Ed and Max will organize this meeting.

Fall 2001 – Plan was to have this in Pittsburg. However, since there are few KOS members in southeastern Kansas, Wichita was suggested as an alternative meeting site, perhaps at Great Plains Nature Center. Stay tuned.

Spring 2001 – Junction City

- continued on next page

Editor Positions: This will be Max's last year as Bulletin Editor.

New Business:

John Schukman passed out sample release forms provided by Mark Corder, acting KOS lawyer. After discussion, Greg Farley moved to add the shorter version of the release form to registration forms for future KOS meetings. The motion was seconded and passed.

Greg brought up the topic of management of KOS's Dingus Natural Area in Linn County. He had been contacted by the Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) about whether KOS might be interested in turning over management of the property to TNC in the event that TNC acquired surrounding property. The board was favorably inclined to this possibility. No decision is needed at this time.

Winter Board Meeting: A tentative date of February 17 was selected in Junction City or Manhattan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary

**KOS General Meeting
October 7, 2000
Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, Kansas**

President, Greg Farley called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m..

Ken Brunson visited briefly with the membership regarding the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) and what it would mean to nongame wildlife in Kansas. Ken encouraged everyone to contact their legislators urging them to support the CARA legislation.

Greg briefly reviewed the proposed by-laws change which would allow a Sales Manager to be appointed to serve under the Business Manager and assist with all for sale items of the Society. It was moved by Chuck Otte to approve the by-laws change. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The general KOS membership made an affirmative vote on the slate of officers for the coming year: John Schukman, President; Gene Young, Vice President; Mike Stewart, Membership Secretary; Dan Larson, Treasurer; Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor; Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor; Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary; Dave Williams, Business Manager; and Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham, Directors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary

Thank You Fall Meeting Committee!

On behalf of everyone who attended the Fall Meeting in Overland Park, we would like to thank David Seibel and John Schukman and everyone else who assisted them with the Fall Meeting. It was a great time and everyone enjoyed themselves. The Friday evening presentation was a nice addition! Thank you also to everyone who presented papers and posters. The Board would encourage everyone to start thinking and planning now for papers or posters to be presented at the Fall 2001 meeting in Wichita!

2000 - 2001 Christmas Bird Count Season

It's almost here! That time of year when you often have to bundle up so you don't freeze your optics and go out and count birds! Many of us look forward to the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season. The past couple of years we have averaged right at 50 counts in Kansas. Following is information on some of these counts. Not all that were conducted last year are listed here. If you saw a CBC in last years *KOS Bulletin* that caught your eye, and you don't see it listed below, contact the compiler from last year and see what the plan is for this year. In all cases it is probably a good idea to contact the compiler and let them know you are thinking about participating. This makes it easier for the compiler to make a "plan of attack". I would also encourage you to visit the KOS website on the World Wide Web, <http://ksbirds.org>, for as current a listing as we can muster. So dig out your long johns and mittens and get out there and participate. It's a great way to spend the day birding, meeting new friends, and learning new birding hotspots!

To be announced - contact compiler

Baldwin - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, contact for details

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Thursday, December 14

Cedar Bluff Res - Scott Seltman, (785)372-5411,
sselt@ruraltel.com, contact for details

Wilson Reservoir - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com Meet at Wilson State Park
office at 7 AM

Friday, December 15

Quivira NWR - Gary Meggers (316)486-2393 Meet at
the Quivira NWR headquarters at 7 AM

Saturday, December 16

Halstead-Newton - Dwight Platt, (316)283-6708 Meet
at the Kauffman Museum (27th and Main) at 6:45 AM.
Contact Dwight if you are planning to participate.

Hays - Greg Farley, (785)628-5965, gfarley@fhsu.edu

John Redmond Reservoir - Bob Culbertson
(316)364-2522, meet at the Corps of Engineers office
at 7:30 AM.

Lakin - Leonard Rich, (316)275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman (785)842-7105,
glpitt@ukans.edu, contact for details

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, (785)532-6663,
drintoul@ksu.edu, contact for details.

Olathe - Don Weiss, (913)780-6588,
dweiss@primenet.com, meet at Ernie Miller Nature
Center on K-7 Hiway at 7 AM

Topeka - Gary Haden, (785)273-5598

Wichita - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182,
prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at Lawrence-Dumont
Stadium at 7:30 AM

Sunday, December 17

Perry Lake - Richard Rucker, (785)597-5144 ext. 14,
richard.c.rucker@usace.army.mil, contact for details

Udall/Winfield - Max Thompson, (316)221-1856,
maxt@sckans.edu

Waconda Lake - Contact Mike Rader for details.
(785)658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800, otte@jc.net
Due to construction on the causeway bridge, meeting
location details are pending. Contact Chuck for more
information.

Monday, December 18

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, (785)468-3587, contact for
details.

Wednesday, December 20

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, (316)793-3066,
helenh@wp.state.ks.us, meet at the headquarters at 8
AM

Slate Creek Wetlands/Oxford - Gene Young,
(316)221-8380, youngg@cowleycollege.com, contact
for details

Friday, December 22

Camp Naish - Stan Roth, (785)843-4764

Saturday, December 23

Arkansas City - Gene Young, (316)221-8380,
youngg@cowleycollege.com, contact for details

Leavenworth/Atchison - John Schukman,
(913)727-5141, schuksaya@aol.com, contact for
details.

Tuesday, December 26

Junction City - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800,
otte@jc.net

Meet at Sapp Brothers Truck Stop (US77 & I-70) at 7
AM

Wednesday, December 27

Linn County - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, contact for details

Old Garfield County - Barbara Campbell,
(316)275-5430

Saturday, December 30

Blue Rapids (a new count)- Tom Parker, (785)363-7228, tlparker@networksplus.net, meet in front of the Community Center just off the town square.

Bonner Springs/Lansing - Galen Pittman (785)842-7105, gpitt@ukans.edu, contact for details

Cimarron National Grassland - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

El Dorado - Bill Langley, meet at the El Dorado McDonalds at 7:30 blangley@butler.buccc.cc.ks.us

Pratt/Sawyer - Ken Brunson, (316)672-7289, meet at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Headquarters at 7 AM.

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, (316)275-4616, shane@pld.com

Sunday, December 31

Kenton (Black Mesa, OK) - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

Monday, January 1

Kirwin Reservoir - Shannon Rothchild, Shannon_Rothchild@fws.gov, meet at the refuge

headquarters around sunup.

Monday, January 1, continued

Liberal/Seward County - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

Ulysses - Sara Shane , (316)275-4616, shane@pld.com

Saturday, January 6

Doniphan - John Schukman, (913)727-5141, schuksaya@aol.com, contact for details

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, (316)276-8146, moster@midusa.net

Red Hills - Pete Janzen , (316)832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at Indian Grill Restaurant in Medicine Lodge at 7:30 AM. Talk to Pete if you are planning to participate.

Sunday, January 7

Syracuse - Art Nonhof, (316)277-2087, anonhof@gccc.cc.ks.us

Saturday, January 13

Blackwolf - Contact Mike Rader for details. (785)658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Sunday, January 14

Kanopolis Lake - Contact Mike Rader for details.

Christmas Bird Counts Completed in Kansas 1900-1948: The Early Audubon Society Years

By Dan L. LaShelle and Thomas G. Shane¹

It is our attempt to supply the researcher, historian, county list compiler, or anyone interested in locating Christmas Bird Count data by listing all known counts conducted in the state of Kansas. For those ornithologists and birders not living in one of the university towns we hope this list facilitates getting needed copies through the interlibrary loan services at their local libraries.

This first part is strictly a list of the counts conducted prior to the founding of the Kansas Ornithological Society, from 1900 through 1948 and published by the Audubon Society in Bird-Lore 1900-1939, Audubon Magazine 1940-1945 and Audubon Field Notes 1946-1948. The remaining years, KOS years 1949-1999, will appear in a future issue of The Horned Lark. Many of the early counts were under eight hours, exact location often lacking and most reported without party miles. During this early period,

much of the CBC effort was made on foot by only a few observers. However, these counts certainly can provide insight on bird populations during the first half of the twentieth century. The Christmas count year is always found in the following year's publication. Kansas City counts including Missouri were not listed. Data from all counts is now available at the Audubon/Cornell website: <<http://birdsourc.tc.cornell.edu/cbcdata/>> however, information such as observers, time, temperature, etc. is lacking.

Those library facilities used to complete this list include: The Bird Range Library, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas; Forsyth Library, Fort Hays State University; and a special thanks to Carolyn Schwab, Asst. Circulation Head, Hale Library, Kansas State University for helping clear up last minute complications.

<u>Count Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pages</u>
	<i>Bird-Lore</i> (All counts in No. 1 issue of year)			
1900-03	no counts			
1904	Abilene, Independence	07	1905	30-31
1905	Lawrence	08	1906	25 (table completed on following page)

1906	no counts			
1907	Clay Center, Abilene to CC	10	1908	25
1908	Clay Center	11	1909	33
1909	Wichita	12	1910	35
1910-11	no counts			
1912	Wichita	15	1913	43
1913	no counts			
1914	Coolidge, Wichita	17	1915	38
1915	Wichita	18	1916	38
1916-18	no counts			
1919	Lawrence, Topeka	22	1920	41
1920	Coolidge, Topeka, Wichita	23	1921	28-29
1921	Hays, Hesston, Lawrence, Topeka	24	1922	37-38
1922	Hesston, Topeka	25	1923	41
1923	Hesston, Lawrence, McPherson Co., McPherson, Pittsburg	26	1924	47-48
1924	Hays, McPherson, Woodbine	27	1925	55-56
1925	no counts			
1926	Hays, Horton	29	1927	46
1927	Hays, Hesston, Oakley	30	1928	62
1928	Hays, Wichita	31	1929	59
1929	Wichita	32	1930	60
1930	Hays, Hesston, Wichita	33	1931	71
1931	Hesston, Wichita	34	1932	71-72
1932	Pittsburg, Wichita	35	1933	49-50
1933	Kansas City, Wichita	36	1934	56-57
1934	Kansas City, Wichita	37	1935	74-75
1935	Wichita	38	1936	76
1936	Junction City, Wichita	39	1937	63
1937	Wichita	40	1938	61
1938	Atchison, Colony, Salina, Wichita	41	1939	44-45
1939	Colony, Erie, Wichita	42Su?	1940	119
	<i>Audubon Magazine</i> (Su= Supp., S= Sec., P= Part)			
1940	Colony, Norwich, Wichita	43/Su	1941	132
1941	Norwich, Wichita	44/Su	1942	59
1942	Baldwin, Norwich	45/1P2	1943	47
1943	Baldwin, McPherson Co., Norwich, Wichita	46/1S3	1944	51-52
1944	Baldwin, Hays, Norwich, Wichita	47/2S2	1945	51
1945	Baldwin, Hays, Kansas City, Wichita	48/2S2	1946	78-79
	<i>Audubon Field Notes</i> -- No. (#)			
1946	Baldwin, Clearwater, Hays, Wichita	01(1)	1947	100-01
1947	Baldwin, Clearwater, Topeka, Wichita	02(2)	1948	102-03
1948	Baldwin, Lawrence, Topeka, Wichita	03(2)	1949	129-30

¹ 238 SW Gage Blvd. #1208, Topeka, KS 66606, and 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

We regret that the KOS Kid's Page is not available in this electronic format.

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The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 2000

Vol. 27, No. 3

From The Keyboard -

All ready, the sounds and sights of summer are starting to fade. The middle of July started to bring the first arrivals of northern nesting shorebirds. You could go outside almost any evening in late July and hear Upland Sandpipers overhead, coursing their way south. Flocks of blackbirds seem to be everywhere and the numbers of many species, such as Purple Martins, are rapidly waning. At least in the bird world, summer is quickly transitioning into autumn.

The birder's world seems to revolve around transitions. The relatively stable periods between migrations, often only serve as a time to raise expectations and create excitement for what might be coming with the next wave of migrants. As birders, we thrive on the excitement of what we may find the next time we're in the field. And yet, when someone proclaims those dreaded spring time words, "it's over", there's a sadness in our heart. But just because migration is over, spring or fall migration, it doesn't mean that the excitement should be over.

In this issue, Chet talks about perceptions. Pete tells us that you just never know what you're going to find out there. When people ask me why I bird I tell them, "It's not so much what you will see, it's what you might see." There is so much that we don't know. It's often easy to *assume* that we know what we are going to see before we even leave the house. The truth is, there's still so much that we don't know about birds, and the rest of the natural world, around us.

For me, every birding trip is another opportunity to learn. I look forward to every field trip, whether it's a quick stop on the way to work, or a two week out of state vacation. There's so much to learn and share. We have a good learning and

sharing opportunity coming up in October. An excellent fall meeting is being put together. A chance to hear papers presented, and this year, a chance to view posters. You can hone identification skills and meet with old and new friends.

That's the fun of birding; learning and camaraderie. We have a chance to see, a chance to learn, a chance to share. I hope you can make it to Johnson County in October. After all, you just never know what you're going to find out there.....

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2000

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept. of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St., Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213 bard_owl@mindspring.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr., Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St. North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St., Sedgwick, KS 67135

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barn_owl@mindspring.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

October 6 - 8, 2000

Johnson County Community College

Look for registration information in this issue!

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barn_owl@mindspring.com

Checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for nonmembers.

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!

**Spring 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area
(aka the Crossed Timbers area)**

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg (need local committee!)

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

50th Anniversary Reception

You are invited to the 50th Anniversary Reception for Marvin and Floy Schwilling. The reception will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on September 17th at the Best Western Motel Lobby in Emporia, KS. No gifts please. If you have any questions they can be reached at 316-342-1985.

Floy and Marvin also want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers they have received since Marvin's stroke on May 24th. Floy reports that Marvin is home now. The Schwilling's address is 1407 College Drive, Emporia, KS 66801.

Many KOS members have met the Schwillings over the years and many of us have enjoyed their hospitality at their home. We wish all the best for Marvin and Floy.

Dear Birder,

I am conducting some research on America's favorite birds. Please log on to the ABA web page and enter your choices (<http://americanbirding.org/newsbullet8.htm>). The results will be available at the next American Birding Association convention to be held in Beaumont, Texas, April 18-24, 2001. If you wish to have the results mailed to you, please contact me at the address below sometime after the convention.

James C. Benton
461 Rockland Avenue
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
847-234-5279

New KOS Rare Bird Alert Hotline Number

316-229-6133

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Learning Bird Sounds

by John Rakestraw

For many years I resisted learning bird sounds. I was a bird WATCHER. I spent a lot of money on good binoculars. I studied my field guides and learned to recognize the colors and shapes of the birds I was seeking. The idea of sitting and listening to LPs of bird songs did not appeal to me at all.

Of course, there were occasions when I had to pay attention to the sounds the birds were making. Cryptic species, like some sparrows and flycatchers, really needed to be heard in order to clinch the identification. But the vast majority of my birding experience was entirely visual.

Within the last few years I have started paying more attention to bird sounds. While CDs have replaced the LPs, I still do not sit and listen to bird recordings. And I do not count any bird on my state or life lists without actually seeing the bird. But as I have become more aware of bird sounds, my birding has become more efficient.

A familiarity with the songs of many birds serves the birder in two ways. Firstly, it aids the birder in locating target species. Secondly, it prevents the birder from spending too much time tracking down unwanted species. For example: Imagine you are chasing a reported Hooded Warbler in a woodlot during spring migration. Birds are singing everywhere. If you know what a Hooded Warbler sounds like, you can sort through all the songs until you hear the bird you are looking for and then use that song to track the bird down. If you aren't familiar with the song of the Hooded Warbler, you may spend all morning chasing every singing bird you hear, greatly reducing your chances of finding the target species. Even if you are not looking for a particular bird, knowing the songs of the common species in the area makes it much easier to recognize an uncommon song when it occurs.

Birding by ear seems a natural step when pursuing songbirds, but aural clues can also be very helpful when identifying other groups. Shorebirds are certainly not known for their singing abilities, but many species give unique call notes while taking flight or feeding. Raptors are another group whose vocalizations are often untapped clues for identification.

So how does a birder go about learning bird sounds? Most experts, even those who produce bird recordings, agree that the best way to learn bird sounds is to hear and see the birds in the field, in the context of their habitats. The longer you bird, the more sounds you will learn and remember.

Many recordings are available to help birders learn bird song. Some birders play these at home or in the car. The advantage of recordings is the ease in which one can access many different songs and make comparisons of similar vocalizations.

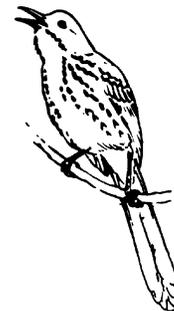
Recordings do have their shortcomings. For some people who are visually oriented, all the different songs on a recording may start sounding alike. It takes great effort for some people to process information by ear alone.

The medium that has been most helpful to me has been the CD-ROM. While the CD-ROM bird guides have few advantages over printed guides, the ability to see and hear birds at the same time has made learning bird song much easier for me. Video recordings can be helpful, as well, showing behaviors and habitats along with sounds.

No matter which recorded medium you prefer, always be aware that your recording is of a single bird at a single location. Individual birds will often put their own spin on their songs. Birds of the same species sound different in different parts of their range.

Despite the wide availability of recordings, I still strongly discourage birders from trying to learn all the songs at once. If you are hunting for a specific bird, then study recordings of that species. Prior to spring migration, it certainly doesn't hurt to review the songs of warblers or other groups that you haven't seen since last year. But the best way to learn bird sounds is to experience them one by one in the field. If you hear a sound you don't know, take the time to find the songster and study him at length. The knowledge gained by direct experience will be far more detailed than any recording, and will stick with you throughout your birding career.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net



KOS Board Positions Available !!

Interested Members Please Apply

As you may have read in other parts of this issue, there will be several positions on the KOS Board opening up this fall. To be specific, we need interested candidates for the positions of: Vice-president, Treasurer, Membership Development Coordinator, Business Manager and two Directors. Following is a brief description of these positions and their responsibilities.

The **Vice-president** is responsible for running meetings when the president is not present and serving as program chair for the spring and fall meetings. The program chair works with the local committee to make sure that each meeting is ready to go. They usually serve as emcee of the presented papers session as well. While not required so by the By-laws, the Vice-president often moves up to president. The Vice-president may serve two consecutive one year terms.

The **Treasurer** serves as a custodian of all KOS funds. They pay all the bills, coordinate with Membership Development Coordinator to keep an accurate listing of current members, prepare annual financial statements and other required reports. The current treasurer and the immediate past treasurer also serve on the KOS Finance Committee.

The **Membership Development Coordinator** (MDC) is responsible for keeping the record and history of KOS members in conjunction with the Treasurer. Additionally, the MDC has the opportunity to create and oversee

activities to help increase and retain KOS membership, and to develop outreach programs for youth and the general public on birds and the Kansas Ornithological Society.

The **Business Manager** is responsible for conducting the business activities of KOS including overseeing the printing and distribution of the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark*. The Business Manager also has oversight responsibilities of all for sale items of the Society.

The last three positions are one year positions and may succeed themselves as elected.

The two **Directors** serve a two year term and are not reelected, although they can be elected to an officer position. The directors provide input and direction to the rest of the KOS Board. These are good “entry level” positions to help a member learn more about KOS and help them decide if they might be interested in serving as an officer at some future date.

A last minute addition at press time: we will also need to elect a new **Corresponding Secretary**.

More information on the responsibilities can be found at the KOS web site (go to the history page) where the By-laws can be read. If you are interested in serving please contact KOS President, Greg Farley, or newsletter editor, Chuck Otte.

Proposed By-laws Change

To be voted on by the KOS membership at the Annual Meeting, October 7, 2000

Explanation: If adopted, the following change would create an appointed position of Sales Manager to serve under the Business Manager. The Sales Manager would be appointed by the President and would be responsible for managing all for sale items for KOS, maintaining inventory, taking orders, creating new sale items, etc. Any questions regarding this change may be directed to Chuck Otte.

The following items are proposed to be added:

Article V., Section 3. Appointed Positions

[G. The President may appoint a Sales Manager, to serve under, and assist the Business Manager with all aspects of KOS sale merchandise. This would include, but not be limited to: ordering merchandise, maintaining an accurate inventory, taking and filling mail/e-mail orders, having items available for sale at KOS meetings, and other activities as determined by the Business Manager.]

Article VI., Section 7. The Business Manager shall:

[I. Oversee the activities of the Sales Manager and report such activities to the Board of Directors.]

Submitted for consideration by Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor, for the KOS Board.

Perceptions

by Chet Gresham

We all have a story that shows how we became birders. Sometimes it is a relative that gave us some insight into the birds around us or an encounter with a particular bird. Any number of instances have helped spark our interests in birds, but it usually begins from a yearning to discover more about what is going on in the world around us. Birds are a wonderful vehicle for this. We want to understand their lives, know their names, marvel in their beauty and ingenuity and revel in the power of discovery.

I suppose that is why I titled my column "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird". The name comes from a poem of the same name by Wallace Stevens. I don't think Steven's was a birder, but in his poem he gets to the way I try to look at birding and how I connect with birds and all the earth around them and me. He writes of being the blackbird and seeing as a blackbird, and from the outside by seeing a blackbird's eye as the only moving thing among twenty snowy mountains, as a frame of sight, as a catalyst to movement, he mainly realizes so many ways of "looking at a blackbird". And when I read this poem, just as when I observe birds I always learn more, more about birds, about me, about how we can reach that feeling of discovery through different angles and perceptions.

How do we see? As birders we seem to have a heightened sense of hearing and sight, maybe just a sixth sense of our surroundings and how they pertain to birds. But when you expand this to all life, to animals (including people), even the plants and rocks, the movement of water, the wind, the dust, the feel of every possible way of seeing - then is when we begin to see. And for me this is when I feel an understanding of why I even started birding. I wanted to open my eyes.

Every day I need to remind myself to find that spark that helped me to start seeing. Without it we lose something. We begin to bend and twist our way into a box already labeled for our convenience. Being a birder does not put you in a box, but frees you, gives you wings - it is a state of being, not a job. And when I see us start labeling how we see I feel sad. "He's an academic" - "she's a lister" - "oh, she doesn't know a house finch from a purple finch!" This is not how we found our spark.

We need to remember to feel that spark - that first red-breasted nuthatch that came to your suet feeder. You ID'd it yourself and took pictures of it. You watched it for hours as it flitted from branch to branch to feeder, scooting underneath and completely upside down - and that is still there inside you.

There are more than thirteen ways of looking at a blackbird and the more that we find the better off we are. We need to return to those feelings of discovery that were there at those first instances that drew us to birds. Birds open our perceptions as if they were wings and soon we are flying with possibilities. We are allowed to perceive the world in so many ways and to build on those perceptions, those true and varied sights and feelings that carry us through each day.

Chet can be reached at cogresha@juno.com



Young Burrowing Owl by Chet Gresham

SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2000 through May 31, 2000

by Pete Janzen

Another spring, another migration. How did it turn out this year? Well, there were three species potentially new to the state checklist, (depending on how the KBRC votes on them) a whole bunch of record early arrivals, and the usual assortment of records that defy categorization! This spring, the big story in Kansas birding was the many early arrival dates of migratory species. As a mild winter gave way to an early spring, many species took advantage of the weather pattern to return north ahead of schedule. Some of the most significant early records are recorded here, but many common species which did not set all-time records for early arrival still showed up in numbers far earlier than expected. On the other end of the temporal scale, several winter residents lingered longer than expected, although this trend was not nearly as broad.

The warbler/vireo/passerine flight was quite good east of the Flint Hills, but west of the hills, birders had to work hard to find unusual species, although some outstanding finds were made. I'd really have to say that here in Wichita, we had fewer neotropical passerine migrants than in any year out of the past 10, and these sentiments were echoed by many in the western 2/3 of the state.

Here are a few specific comments on the season's birding in Kansas. Grebes

put on a real good showing, with all 6 species reported, and numbers of Western Grebes in particular seemed to be very good across the state. Black-necked Stilts continue to increase, with records coming from new locations with regularity. Hudsonian Godwits were very abundant at Cheyenne Bottoms this year. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to a number of nesting sites from last year. Bald Eagles enjoyed good nesting success, with a new nesting location reported at Waconda Lake. The range expansion of the Fish Crow marches on, with multiple birds now reported in Cowley County, and increasing numbers in Montgomery County. Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported in three separate locations on May 6. Lazuli Buntings drifted east even more than usual this year, with a variety of reports from the eastern half of the state. The Black-shouldered Kite report from Greensburg was of interest, even though details were second or third hand and rather sketchy.

The Painted Redstart and Pyrrhuloxia were both reported from Quivira by birders from out of state. The Redstart would represent a new species for the state checklist, and was documented to the KBRC for consideration.

The Western Gull record was from Wichita's famous sandpits, and was of a bird in the dreaded 1st year plumage.

It remains to be seen whether this report will pass muster with the records committee, but I just had to run it up the flagpole for review at least. While not utterly outrageous, this would represent one of a very few records east of the Rocky Mountains.

The "wild and unbelievable" record of the season goes to Alexi Powell, Sebastian Patti, Mike Rader, and Scott Seltman, who got killer looks at a Flammulated Owl at the Cimmaron Work Station in Morton County on May 20. This was a first state record, and while they were unable to photograph the bird, the description left no doubt as to the identity of the bird.

You just never know what you're going to find out there.....

Abbreviations: CB: Cheyenne Bottoms, MDC: Marais Des Cygnes, m.ob. denotes multiple observers too numerous to list

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

Pete can be reached at: prarybrd@southwind.net

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
Common Loon	1 at Tuttle 1 at Wichita sandpit	5/14 5/13- <u>27</u>	Riley Sedgwick	DB DV, JB, PJ
Horned Grebe	1 at Bruno pits, Garden City	4/26	<u>Finney</u>	TS, m.ob.
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	1 at Wichita sandpit	4/12-13	Sedgwick	CG, m.ob.

Clark's Grebe	1 on Elkhart lagoons	4/19	Morton	EW, m.ob
	1 still there	5/8	Morton	CG
Western Grebe	5 at LaCygne power plant lake	3/12	Linn	MM, GP
	Still there	3/25	Linn	AG, MG
	13 at Liberal sewage ponds	5/9	Seward	CG
	1 at Scott Lake	5/13	Scott	DR, LE, m.ob
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	1 on Lawrence sandpit	3/3-8	Douglas	GP, MG, DW.
	Many birders saw this cormorant. It had an injured or broken left leg. 1 near Quivira HQ	5/18	Stafford	CG, GF, DL, PJ
American Bittern	1 at Hargis Lake	4/13	Barber	DA
	1 near Attica	4/21	Harper	PJ, DL, CG
Least Bittern	1 at Walmart parking lot-Wichita	5/20	Sedgwick	BG
	Note: This bird was uninjured, and the Walmart staff kept it fed with tropical fish before taking it to the Great Plains Nature Center, where it was released into the wetlands there.			
<u>Tri-colored Heron</u>	1 at Quivira	4/23	Stafford	LE
	1 at Quivira	5/6	Stafford	GP, DS
Cattle Egret	3 early arrivals in Wichita	3/28	Sedgwick	PJ
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	1 at prior Winfield nest site	3/21	Cowley	MA
	1 at Towanda	3/27	Butler	R&WJ
	1 at prior year's nest site	4/2	Douglas	KM, SSh
	1 at prior year's nest site	4/13	Sedgwick	DV
	1 in yard	4/16	Marshall	DT
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 breeding plumage at Quivira	5/6	Stafford	GP, DS
Wood Duck	2 apparent mated pairs	3/24	<u>Cheyenne</u>	MC, GP
Black Duck	1 with Mallards at MDC	3/18	Linn	MG
Cinnamon Teal	1 at CB	3/4/00	Barton	CG
	3 at CB	3/7	Barton	C&IH
	1 near Colwich	3/12-13	Sedgwick	PJ, R&WJ
	1 at Elkhart lagoons	3/31	Morton	CG, MG
	1 at Milford	4/2	Geary	C&JO
	20 at CB	4/6	Barton	CG
	1 at CB	5/31	Barton	DG
Cinn X BW Teal hybrid	1 at CB	4/17	Barton	DWe
Greater Scaup	several at Lone Star	3/1-11	Douglas	PW, m.ob.
	4 at Elkhart lagoons	3/31	Morton	CG, MG
Red-breasted Merganser	3 at Cheney	3/12	Reno	CG, PJ
	8 at Lake Shawnee	3/19	Shawnee	DG
	1 below Milford Dam	4/2	Geary	C&JO
	2 at New Strawn lagoons	4/10	Coffey	AS
	1 at Wichita sandpit	4/29	Sedgwick	JB, PJ
	1 female at Perry	5/19	Jefferson	DS

Hooded Merganser	70 in one pond@Kaw Fish Farm <u>Female w/8 young at MDC</u>	3/26 4/28	Douglas Linn	DW MG
Common Goldeneye	1 female very late at Lawrence	<u>5/28</u>	Douglas	RA
Mississippi Kite	1 early at Park City Pair returned to 1999 nest site	<u>4/7</u> 5/8	Sedgwick Douglas	CS RW
<u>White-tailed Kite</u>	1 reported at Greensburg	5/21	Kiowa	GS
Bald Eagle	pr. Building new nest @Waconda 10 nests statewide Adult at Neosho NWR	3/22 4/25 5/28	Mitchell various Neosho	HA DM MB
Broad-winged Hawk	1 <u>dark morph</u> at Oak Park 1 at Scott Lake	4/21 5/13	Sedgwick <u>Scott</u>	H&SG DR, LE, m.ob.
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 imm. near Big Salt Marsh <u>1 with nesting mat.</u> at Eldorado 1 1 in Maple Grove Cemetery	3/21 4/02 4/20 5/16	Stafford Butler <u>Morton</u> Sedgwick	CG LF, PJ, AT EW, m.ob. CG
Northern Goshawk	1 near Timken	3/13	Rush	SS
Peregrine Falcon	1 1 at Wash. Co. St. Lake	3/25 4/25	Gove Washington	JN DT
Merlin	1 at CB 1 near Iuka 1 very pale adult near Nekoma 1 late at Scott Lake 1 late at Quivira 1 along Hwy 56	3/7 3/15 3/16 5/13 5/18 5/18	Barton Pratt Rush Scott Stafford Haskell	C&IH LL SS DR GF, DL, m.ob. PJ
Virginia Rail	1 at Chisholm Creek	5/4	Sedgwick	D&ST
Black Rail	1 singing at CB Pool #2 3 singing at Coldwater Lake	5/21 5/21	<u>Barton</u> Comanche	DW, TW PJ, m.ob.
Sora	1 near Towanda in prairie brush Several at Chisholm Creek	4/29 4/30-5/8	Butler Sedgwick	JB, PJ CM, m.ob.
Sandhill Crane	30,000 at Fowler area	3/15	Meade	TF
Black-necked Stilt	1 at CB 4 at Quivira several at CB nest with 1 egg at Liberal 2 on playa area	3/27 3/31 4/27 5/21 5/21	Barton Stafford Barton Seward Pratt	DWe MR, SS HH LE, m.ob. LL
Snowy Plover	1 possible nesting pair at CB	5/21	<u>Barton</u>	DW, TW

Piping Plover	2 at Quivira	4/21	Stafford	CG
	1 at CB	4/21	Barton	CG
	1 at Quivira	4/22	Stafford	GF, LH
	1 at Quivira	4/29	Stafford	m.ob.
Mountain Plover	1 basic plumage at Mt. Hope	4/1	<u>Sedgwick</u>	BL
Hudsonian Godwit	<u>several thousand</u> at CB	4/20	Barton	HH
	600 at CB	4/21	Barton	CG
	several hundred at CB	4/27	Barton	HH
	Still hundreds	5/4	Barton	HH
	4 near Towanda	5/7	Butler	PJ
	5 at Oak Park in river	5/10	Sedgwick	CG
Marbled Godwit	31 at Tuttle	4/11	Riley	TC
	7 at Clinton	5/13	Douglas	M&PW
	50 at CB	4/21	Barton	CG
Red Knot	3 at Tuttle mudflats	5/13	<u>Riley</u>	DB
Whimbrel	1-2 at Quivira	4/16-23	Stafford	CG, m.ob
	1 at Quivira	5/13	Stafford	CG
	<u>29</u> at Lakeview playa	5/21	<u>Meade</u>	PJ, CG, DL
Long-billed Curlew	4 east of Liberal	3/10	Seward	LE
	35 west of Meade	3/24	Meade	LE
	1 in burned field	3/27	<u>Cowley</u>	GY
	1 at Quivira	4/17	Stafford	CG
	3 north of CB office	4/20	Barton	HH
Dunlin	6 at Quivira	3/31	Stafford	MR, SS
	12 at Quivira	4/8	Stafford	CG
	several at CB	4/20	Barton	HH
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at Wilson campgrounds	5/6	Russell	MR
Short-billed Dowitcher	6 calling birds near Montezuma	5/18	Gray	GF,CG,PJ,DL
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at Tuttle mudflats	5/13	<u>Riley</u>	DB
	5 at Quivira	5/18	Stafford	GF,CG,PJ,DL
Laughing Gull	1 at CB	5/10	Barton	MR, m.ob.
<u>Little Gull</u>	3 with Bonaparte's at Tuttle	4/23	Riley	DB
<u>Western Gull</u>	1 1 st winter at Wichita sandpit	3/1	Sedgwick	JB, DD, PJ
California Gull	1 at K-96 bridge, Wichita	3/4	Sedgwick	JB
	1 sub-adult at sewage lagoon	5/20	Morton	SS
Bonaparte's Gull	2 at Elkhart lagoons	4/1	<u>Morton</u>	CG, MG
Caspian Tern	1 at Perry Lake-very early date	<u>4/7</u>	Jefferson	RR

Common Tern	1 at Clinton 3 at L. McCoid-Liberal	5/13 5/21	Douglas <u>Seward</u>	M&PW PJ, m.ob
Least Tern	2 along Tuttle Dam	4/24	Riley	DB
Inca Dove	5 at feeders through period Courting pair in Garden City Courting pair in Hugoton	4/2-5/31 4/26 5/27	Meade Finney Stevens	TF T&SS LE
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2 in Oakley Several in Meade 2 in backyard	3/25 4/2 4/17	<u>Gove</u> Meade <u>Riley</u>	JN TF PF
Black-billed Cuckoo	Chicken Creek Rd	5/6	Douglas	MW, PW, RW
<u>Flammulated Owl</u> AP,SP,MR,SS	1 at Cimm. Work Station		5/20	Morton
Long-eared Owl	12 at Lyon Co. St. Lake	<u>3/26</u>	Lyon	H&SG
Short-eared Owl	3 at Quivira 2 s. of Medicine Lodge 1 near McCracken	3/9 3/28 4/22	Stafford Barber Rush	CG SPA SS
Common Poorwill	1 early in rural yard 1 near CB	<u>4/5</u> 5/1	Riley Barton	GS AG, m.ob.
Whip-poor-will	1 calling on county line	4/29	Ellsworth/Russell	DK,MR
<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u>	1 male at Work Station	5/20	Morton	MR, SP, SS
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u> SS	1 northeast of Bushton	5/9-11	Ellsworth	M&JD,LQ,
<u>Red-naped Sapsucker</u>	m/f pair on Cimm. R.-good video	4/1	Morton	CG,MG
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 in Mission Hills, KC 1 at Martin Park, Lawrence	5/7 5/13	Johnson Douglas	MM DW
Acadian Flycatcher	2 at Woodland Park, Wichita	5/6	Sedgwick	H&SG, PJ
Dusky Flycatcher	1 singing at Work Station	5/20	Morton	SS
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1	5/20	Morton	AP
E. Wood Peewee	1 very early at Eldorado L.	<u>4/2</u>	Butler	PJ, AT
Say's Phoebe	1 near Nekoma	<u>3/16</u>	Rush	SS
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 1 at spring, 2 at work station more than 12 pair countywide	4/20 5/8&9 5/31	Morton Morton Morton	EW, m.ob. CG JRa
Cassin's Kingbird	1 on south river road 1 at river crossing	5/9 5/20	Morton Morton	CG MR,SS

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 near Wichita 2 north of Ark. City	<u>3/6</u> 3/14	Sedgwick Cowley	CS GY
Northern Shrike	1 at Stockdale area 1 on TAS trip 1 near Nekoma	2/27 3/24 3/29	Riley Jefferson Rush	LJ DL SS
White-eyed Vireo	1 in Burcham Park 1 in Oak Park	4/27-5/17 5/1-7	Douglas Sedgwick	RA,JH CG. PJ, P&RB
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 at Ft. Riley 1 at Presbyterian Camp 1 at Elkhart	4/25-5/2 5/13 5/19-20	Geary Sedgwick <u>Morton</u>	C&JO PM m.ob.
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at Martin Park 1 at Oak Park	4/27 5/3	Douglas Sedgwick	DW P&RB
<u>Western Scrub-Jay</u>	1 at Dodge City feeder	3/13-19	Ford	JD
Fish Crow	several small flocks 8-10 near Galena 7 near Ark. City-1 st county rec.	4/9 4/21 5/28	<u>Montgomery</u> Cherokee <u>Cowley</u>	TH,CG DW GY
Chihuahuan Raven	5 seen 1 east of Elkhart	3/5 3/31	Stanton Morton	BP CG,MG
<u>Violet-Green Swallow</u>	several with Tree Sw, at Tuttle	3/28	<u>Riley</u>	KSU class
Red-Br. Nuthatch	still lingering in Lawrence Pair still in Wichita <u>2 fledges being fed by adults</u>	5/5 5/21 5/28	Douglas Sedgwick Sedgwick	RA H&SG H&SG
Rock Wren	1 saved from cat in Satanta	5/21	<u>Haskell</u>	MR
Sedge Wren	1 north of Towanda 1 below Cheney Dam	4/29 5/13	Butler Sedgwick	JB,PJ JB
Mountain Bluebird	1 very late on Lake City road	<u>4/20</u>	Barber	DA
Veery	1 singing at Wilson marina 1 at Overland Park arboretum 1 eastern race at shelterbelt	4/14 5/7 5/20	Russell Johnson <u>Morton</u>	MR DG, m.ob. MR,SS,SP
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 1 at Elkhart	5/4 5/19	Pawnee Morton	SS SS,MR
Sprague's Pipit	small flock near Lenora	4/24	Norton	SS
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 in Bonner Springs	4/22 5/5-11	Johnson Wyandotte	AG,MG,AM CH, GP,DS

Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence		4/30	Douglas	RA
	1 at Tuttle tubes		5/3	Riley	DM
	1 in Bonner Springs		5/5	Wyandotte	CH
	1 at MDC		5/7	Linn	CG, MG, AG
	1 at Overland P. Arboretum		5/7	Johnson	CG, MG, AG
1 at Oak Park		5/13	Sedgwick	CG, DV, m.ob.	
Northern Parula	1 at Elkhart cemetery		4/20	<u>Morton</u>	EW, m.ob.
	6 north of Towanda	4/29	Butler	JB, PJ	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1 on WSU campus		4/25	Sedgwick	CM
	1 on WallaWalla Rd.		4/30	Geary	C&JO
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 in Manhattan yard		5/13	Riley	PF
	1 in Burcham Park		5/19	Douglas	RA, GP
<u>Black-thr. Blue Warbler</u>	1 male in Oak Park		5/6-7	Sedgwick	BM, m.ob.
	1 male at MDC		5/6	Linn	MM
	1 on Shunga Trail, Topeka		5/8	Shawnee	JBr
<u>Painted Redstart</u>	1 reported at Quivira HQ		4/5	Stafford	
Yellow-thr. Warbler	2 at Marais des Cygnes		4/9	Linn	MM, GP
	1 at Lawrence feeder		4/19	Douglas	KM
	1 at MDC		5/7	Linn	CG, MG
<u>Prairie Warbler</u>	1 west of Lawrence		5/13	Douglas	M&PW
Palm Warbler	1 w. race in Burcham Park		4/27	Douglas	RA, JH
	1 in Burcham		5/1	Douglas	RA, m.ob.
	1 at Felker Park		5/1	Shawnee	DG
	2 at different locations		5/7	Douglas	M, P&RW
	1 on Shunga Trail, Topeka		5/8	Shawnee	JBr
	1 in Elkhart		5/20	<u>Morton</u>	MR, m.ob.
Cerulean Warbler	1 singing at MDC		4/29	Linn	DL
	1 singing male at Perry		5/13-18	<u>Jefferson</u>	RR, JB, GP, DS
Black & White Warbler	1 singing male		5/3	Pawnee	SS
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Schermerhorn Park		5/9	Cherokee	AS
	1 singing near Cheney spillway		5/13	Sedgwick	JB
Ovenbird	1 at cemetery shelterbelt		5/9	<u>Morton</u>	CG
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 male Oak Park, Wichita		5/13-14	<u>Sedgwick</u>	CG, DV, m.ob.
Hooded Warbler	1 in Bonner Springs		5/5	Wyandotte	CH
	1 female in Oak Park, Wichita		5/5	Sedgwick	CG
	1 in Manhattan yard		5/8	Riley	AS
	1 in Burcham Park, Lawrence		5/9	Douglas	RA
	1 male in Elkhart		5/20	<u>Morton</u>	MR, SS, SP
	1 female banded at Ft. Riley		5/31	Riley	JR, DR

Canada Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	5/15	Douglas	RA
Yellow-breasted Chat	1 in Oak Park 1 at Sand Prairie Res.	5/4 5/5	Sedgwick Harvey	JB DP
Western Tanager	2 in cemetery shelterbelt 1 at shelterbelt	5/19 <u>5/31</u>	Morton Morton	WC, CS, m.ob. JRa
Summer Tanager	1 at Oak Park, Wichita 1 at Martin Park, Lawrence	5/3-5 5/2-5	Sedgwick Douglas	P&RB, CG DW, RA
Scarlet Tanager	1 at Grouse Creek 1 at Baldwin Woods 2 at Ft. Riley	4/23 4/30 5/6	Cowley Douglas Geary	JN DW C&JO
Eastern Towhee	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	4/24	Sedgwick	JB
Brewer's Sparrow	1 at Boy Scout Area	5/19	Morton	SP, m.ob.
Lark Sparrow	1 very early near Larned	3/24	Rush	SS
Baird's Sparrow	1 in Udall pasture	4/23	Cowley	MT
Henslow's Sparrow	1 at MDC 1 at Unit F-2, MDC	5/7	<u>3/25</u> Linn	Linn AG, MG AG, CG, MG
LeConte's Sparrow	2 near Cowley State Lake 1 in F2 field @MDC	3/27 4/8	Cowley Linn	GY DW
Dark-eyed Junco	1 late at Rock Springs	5/7	Geary	C&JO
McCown's Longspur	1 with H. Larks near Spearville	3/27	Ford	CM
Chestnut-coll. Longspur	1 near Lenora	4/14	Norton	SS
Lapland Longspur	1 near Lenora, late date	<u>4/14</u>	Norton	SS
Northern Cardinal	1 in Elkhart	3/4	<u>Morton</u>	BP
<u>Pyrrhuloxia</u>	1 female reported	5/21	Stafford	??
Indigo Bunting	1 male early in Garden City	<u>4/22</u>	Finney	T&SS
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Meade feeder 1 1 reported 1 at Chis. Creek, Wichita 3 at Scott Lake 1 at Blue Rapids feeder 2 on NAMC 6 seen countywide	4/29 5/9 5/9 5/16 5/13 5/13 5/13 5/20	Meade Morton <u>Washington</u> Sedgwick Scott <u>Marshall</u> Harvey Morton	TF CG ? CG DR TP GF MR, m.ob.
Painted Bunting	1 imm. in Wichita	5/8-10	Sedgwick	JB, CG

	1 at Perry Lake	5/20	Jefferson	MG
Bobolink	3 near Patterson 40 near Yale	5/6 5/4	Harvey Crawford	GF RM
Pine Siskin	nest building in Winfield	3/14	Sumner	MT
Common Redpoll	1 male at Wichita feeder	<u>3/16</u>	Sedgwick	LMa

Marilyn Albright, Dennis Angle, Robert Antonio, Henry Armknecht, James Barnes, Pat Beckemeyer, Roy Beckemeyer, Mavis Benner, Joanne Brier, Doris Burnett, Ted Cable, Wally, Champeny, Mark Corder, Joyce Davis, Duane DeLong, Marvin Dohrman, Jack Dohrman, Lisa Edwards, Tom Flowers, Pat Freeman, Gregg Friesen, Lawrence Frisch, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Bob Gress, Helen Hands, Joe Harrington, Larry Hesed, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Carol Hoogheem, Irwin Hoogheem, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Rena Johnson, Wallace Johnson, Dave Klema, Bill Langley, Dan Larson, Linda Loomis, Linda Mallonee(LMa), Robert Mangile, Patty Marlett, Aaron Mitchell, Cheryl Miller, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Kylee Moon, Dan Mulhern, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Shawn Papon, Tom Parker, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Dwight Platt, Alexi Powell, Jane Queal, Lee Queal, John Rakestraw (Jra), Mike Rader, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, Glen Salisbury, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Alan Selig, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Scott Sharp (SSh), Guy Smith, Glen Stephenson, Art Swalwell, Ann Tarver, Dan Thalman, Dan Tholen, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Edge Wade, Margaret Wedge, Phil Wedge, Roy Wedge, Dave Weible (Dwe), Dave Williams, Tracy Wohl, Ron Wolf, Gene Young

Thank You KOS!

Dear Kansas Ornithological Society,

I want to take this time to say a sincere thank you for the grant provided by KOS to aid in the assistance of my master's research. This grant was very generous and is greatly appreciated.

At this time in my research, I have over 60 nest boxes occupied by House Wrens and over 240 individuals banded. My research is going very well. The first brood will soon be completed by many of the House Wrens, thus preparing me for the second brood. I am in the process of banding adults, nestlings, and conducting feeding rates, keeping me real busy. I hope to soon begin behavioral observations of fledglings.

Thank you once again, and I will keep you informed with pending results. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jamie Timson

editor's note - Jamie is a student at Fort Hays State University and received a \$600 grant from the Student Research Fund.

Thank You Spring Meeting Coordinators!!!

We want to thank Pete Janzen and Lisa Edwards for all their hard work in coordinating with the Oklahoma folks for the spring meeting in May. This was Lisa's first opportunity to help with a KOS meeting, but she had a good coworker. Pete has been involved in several recent KOS meetings and definitely deserves some time off to just go birding!

These spring and fall meetings don't just happen. There is a lot of work that goes into seeing that all the little details are taken care of. Turn back to page 2 and see where upcoming meetings are being planned. If there's one in your part of the state, why not volunteer to help. Sure, there is some work involved, but you get to meet a lot of new birders. Plus, there's that great feeling of knowing that you have helped KOS and your fellow birders in the Society.

Thanks again to Pete and Lisa. Thanks to everyone who attended, and plan to attend the fall meeting in Johnson County. Dave and John have been busy preparing some new and different activities for your enjoyment!

Cattle Grazing at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

by Helen Hands

About a year and half ago, there was some discussion on KSBIRD-L about the cattle grazing project at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA). Some of the concerns expressed related to nutrient inputs and fears that birds would collide with fence wires. In this article, I will update the status of this project.

For the past 20-30 years, managers at CBWA have struggled to keep cattail from taking over the marsh. A variety of techniques, including controlled burning, mowing, disking, excavating, and herbicides, have been used singly or in combination with varying degrees of success. Except for burning, which is ineffective by itself, these techniques are time-consuming and/or expensive. As a result, managers have sought more effective, less labor-intensive, and cheaper methods for slowing the spread of cattail. One technique that was discussed, but never implemented, was grazing by cattle. Historically, bison undoubtedly grazed in Cheyenne Bottoms. Although cattail was extremely rare back then, the marsh plants would have been subject to periodic grazing and hoof action of large herds of bison. While cattle are not bison, cattle are a reasonable substitute. Grazing is certainly more natural than disking, excavation, and herbicides. Cattle have been used at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and at marshes in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas to control cattail. Cattle grazing was never implemented at CBWA due to the anticipated logistical problems of hauling drinking water to the cattle and the potential for a dry cattail area to become flooded overnight. When the Bureau of Reclamation offered the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks sufficient money to study the effectiveness of various cattail control techniques at CBWA, a cattle grazing study was the highest priority.

The cattle grazing study is being done by Charlie Lee, extension wildlife biologist and Ph.D. candidate at Kansas State University. The goals of the study are to determine if cattle grazing at CBWA will be beneficial in terms of reducing cattail cover and if cattle grazing is feasible enough for local ranchers to risk grazing their cattle at the Bottoms. This study and the associated aquatic invertebrate study will also assess whether cattle grazing could have potential negative effects on the marsh and its inhabitants.

Specifically, the effects of grazing on beneficial plants; nesting pheasants, blue-winged teal, and red-winged blackbirds; bird use during summer, fall, and spring; aquatic invertebrates; and water quality will be evaluated.

As in any grazing study, stocking rate (i.e., the density of cattle) is a critical variable. In this study, 5 stocking rates are being evaluated: 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 steers per 27-acre pasture. With 2 pastures per stocking rate, 10 pastures were constructed. Although the approximately 7 miles of fencing required for this study pose some risk to flying birds, birds deftly avoid the far more abundant fences outside the Bottoms. In addition, much less fencing would be necessary to graze the same total area (270 acres) when/if grazing becomes operational.

During the study, cattle will graze cattail 15 May-15 August for 3 consecutive years. Each pasture will be grazed at the same stocking rate all 3 years. 1999, the first year of the study, was too wet. Heavy rain the night after the cattle were put into the pastures raised water levels enough to require the cattle to be moved to higher ground for about 3 weeks. Meanwhile, the cattail kept growing and the cattle were unable to catch up. The cattle had to be taken out of the cattail after approximately 4 inches of rain on 1 August. Even when the cattle were in the pastures, the ground was usually wet and the cattle expended a lot of energy slogging around. As a result, their weight gain was less than expected.

Despite less than optimal conditions, cattle, especially in the 15 and 20-head pastures, cleared a lot of cattail. During fall and spring, large numbers of ducks used the pastures. As water levels receded during April, many shorebirds used the pastures. Through June of this year, conditions have been more favorable for the cattle. However, it's too early to tell whether cattle grazing will be beneficial for the Bottoms. We'll just have to keep an open mind until all the data are in.

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

Rare Bird Alert Hotline - 316-229-6133

Spring Meeting Bird List

compiled by Pete Janzen

This is the complete list of birds that were found in Morton County, Ks., Cimarron County, Oklahoma, and Baca County, Colorado, by members of the Kansas Ornithological Society and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, on May 19 & 20, 2000. The list is impressive. A number of birders were in the field that weekend. This is a great area to bird. I thank all who made this event a success, especially Marty Kamp, Lisa Edwards, Keith Martin, John Sterling, Sebastian Patti, Carolyn Schwab and many others. Total: 180 species, according to Victoria Lea Janzen, who was compelled to compile the totals to fulfill contractual agreements with parental figures. Species marked with an * indicate species seen in Kansas

Pied-billed Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper*	Eastern Kingbird*	Orange-crowned Warbler*
Horned Grebe	Long-billed Curlew*	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	Palm Warbler*
Eared Grebe*	Baird's Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike*	American Redstart*
Western Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher	Yellow-throated Vireo*	Yellow Warbler*
Clark's Grebe	Wilson's Phalarope*	Red-eyed Vireo*	Yellow-rumped Warbler*
Great Blue Heron*	Franklin's Gull*	Plumbeous Vireo	Northern Waterthrush*
Snowy Egret*	California Gull*	Blue-headed Vireo*	Mourning Warbler*
Green Heron*	Forster's Tern*	Warbling Vireo*	MacGillivray's Warbler*
Black-crowned	Black Tern*	Blue Jay*	Common Yellowthroat*
Night-Heron*	Rock Dove*	Western Scrub-Jay	Hooded Warbler*
White-faced Ibis	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Pinyon Jay	Wilson's Warbler*
Turkey Vulture*	Mourning Dove*	Black-billed Magpie*	Yellow-breasted Chat
Canada Goose	Black-billed Cuckoo*	American Crow*	Western Tanager*
Wood Duck	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Common Raven	Spotted Towhee*
Gadwall*	Greater Roadrunner	Chihuahuan Raven*	Canyon Towhee
American Wigeon	Barn Owl*	Horned Lark*	Cassin's Sparrow*
Mallard*	Western Screech-Owl	Violet-green Swallow	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal*	Eastern Screech-Owl*	Northern Rough-winged	Chipping Sparrow*
Cinnamon Teal	Great Horned Owl*	Swallow*	Clay-colored Sparrow*
Northern Shoveler*	Flammulated Owl*	Bank Swallow*	Brewer's Sparrow*
Northern Pintail	Burrowing Owl*	Cliff Swallow*	Field Sparrow*
Green-winged Teal	Common Nighthawk*	Barn Swallow*	Vesper Sparrow
Canvasback*	Common Poorwill*	Bushtit	Lark Sparrow*
Redhead	Chimney Swift*	Rock Wren*	Black-throated Sparrow
Ruddy Duck*	Black-chinned Hummingbird*	Canyon Wren	Lark Bunting*
Osprey	Belted Kingfisher	Bewick's Wren*	Grasshopper Sparrow*
Mississippi Kite*	Lewis's Woodpecker	House Wren*	Lincoln's Sparrow*
Northern Harrier	Red-headed Woodpecker*	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	White-crowned Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ladder-backed	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Northern Cardinal*
Cooper's Hawk	Woodpecker*	Eastern Bluebird*	Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
Swainson's Hawk*	Downy Woodpecker*	Mountain Bluebird	Black-headed Grosbeak*
Red-tailed Hawk*	Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush*	Blue Grosbeak*
Ferruginous Hawk*	Northern Flicker*	Gray-cheeked Thrush*	Lazuli Bunting*
Golden Eagle	Olive-sided Flycatcher*	Veery*	Indigo Bunting*
American Kestrel*	Western Wood-Pee-wee*	Hermit Thrush*	Bobolink
Prairie Falcon	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	American Robin*	Red-winged Blackbird*
Ring-necked Pheasant*	Dusky Flycatcher*	Gray Catbird*	Western Meadowlark*
Wild Turkey	Gray Flycatcher*	Northern Mockingbird*	Yellow-headed Blackbird*
Scaled Quail*	Least Flycatcher	Sage Thrasher	Common Grackle*
Northern Bobwhite*	Eastern Phoebe	Curve-billed Thrasher	Great-tailed Grackle*
American Coot	Say's Phoebe*	Brown Thrasher*	Brown-headed Cowbird*
Killdeer*	Ash-throated Flycatcher*	European Starling*	Orchard Oriole*
Mountain Plover*	Great Crested Flycatcher*	American Pipit*	Baltimore Oriole*
Black-necked Stilt*	Cassin's Kingbird*	Cedar Waxwing	Bullock's Oriole*
American Avocet*	Western Kingbird*	Tennessee Warbler	House Finch*

52nd Meeting of The Kansas Ornithological Society

Johnson County Community College

Fall 2000

The Kansas Ornithological Society will be meeting at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) on October 6, 7, and 8, 2000. JCCC is located on the southwest corner of College Boulevard. & Quivira in Overland Park. From I-435 take Exit 82 south on Quivira. There are entrances to the college campus on both College, and Quivira. The buildings we will be using are in the center of the campus. A map of the JCCC campus is found on page 18 and also on the web at <http://www.jccc.net>.

Program

Friday, October 6

6:30-9:00 p.m. Informal reception and bird identification workshop SCI 222

Saturday, October 7

6:30-9:00 a.m. Field Trips to local birding hotspots. Possible locations include Overland Park Arboretum, Ernie Miller Nature Park, and Mill Creek Streamway Parks.
All trips depart from JCCC Library South Parking Lot .

8:30-9:00 Set up posters COM 319

8:30-10:00 Registration GEB 233
Poster session & Silent Auction COM 319
(Silent Auction will run all day)

10:00-12:00 Morning Paper Session GEB 233

12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own at JCCC Food Court or other nearby restaurants.
(KOS Board Meeting during lunch.)

1:00-2:00 Birdwatchers' Hour GEB 233

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Paper Session GEB 233

4:30-5:00 Business Meeting GEB 233

6:30-9:00 Social Time, Banquet, Best Bird, Resolutions, and Guest Speaker (to be announced) COM 319

Sunday, October 8

6:30-12:00 Field Trips (all depart from JCCC Library South parking lot)

12:00-1:00 Lunch and compilation. Overland Park Arboretum

Silent Auction - Details are still being worked out on the Silent Auction. Please bring bird related items for inclusion in the Silent Auction. All proceeds will go towards the Student Research Fund. If you have an item that you plan to bring, please notify John Schukman.

All of the buildings that we will be using, are immediately adjacent to and connected to each other.

A listing of some of the hotels in the area follows on page 18.

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.

Hotels

*Days Inn - 9630 Rosehill Road, Lenexa, Kansas, (913) 492-7200

If we rent 10 rooms or more rates are \$52.00 per room for two people. \$5.00 for each additional person. Continental breakfast included. Take I-35 from north or south and exit at 95th Street. Turn east on 95th. Turn right on Lenexa Drive and then left on Rosehill Road.

Doubletree - 10100 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas (913) 451-6100

Room rates are \$74.00 for two double beds, or one king size bed. Take Alternate 69 from the north or south and exit at College Blvd. Hotel can be seen from the exit. (This is the closest hotel to JCCC)

Hampton Inn - 12081 S. Strang Line Road (913) 393-1111

Room Rates are \$75.00 plus tax for two double beds; \$70.00 for king size bed. Continental breakfast included. Take I-35 from the north or south and exit at 119th Street. Turn east on 119th Street and make a right on Strang Line Road. Hotel a short distance on the east side (left) of road.

Motel 6 - 9725 Lenexa Drive (913) 541-8558

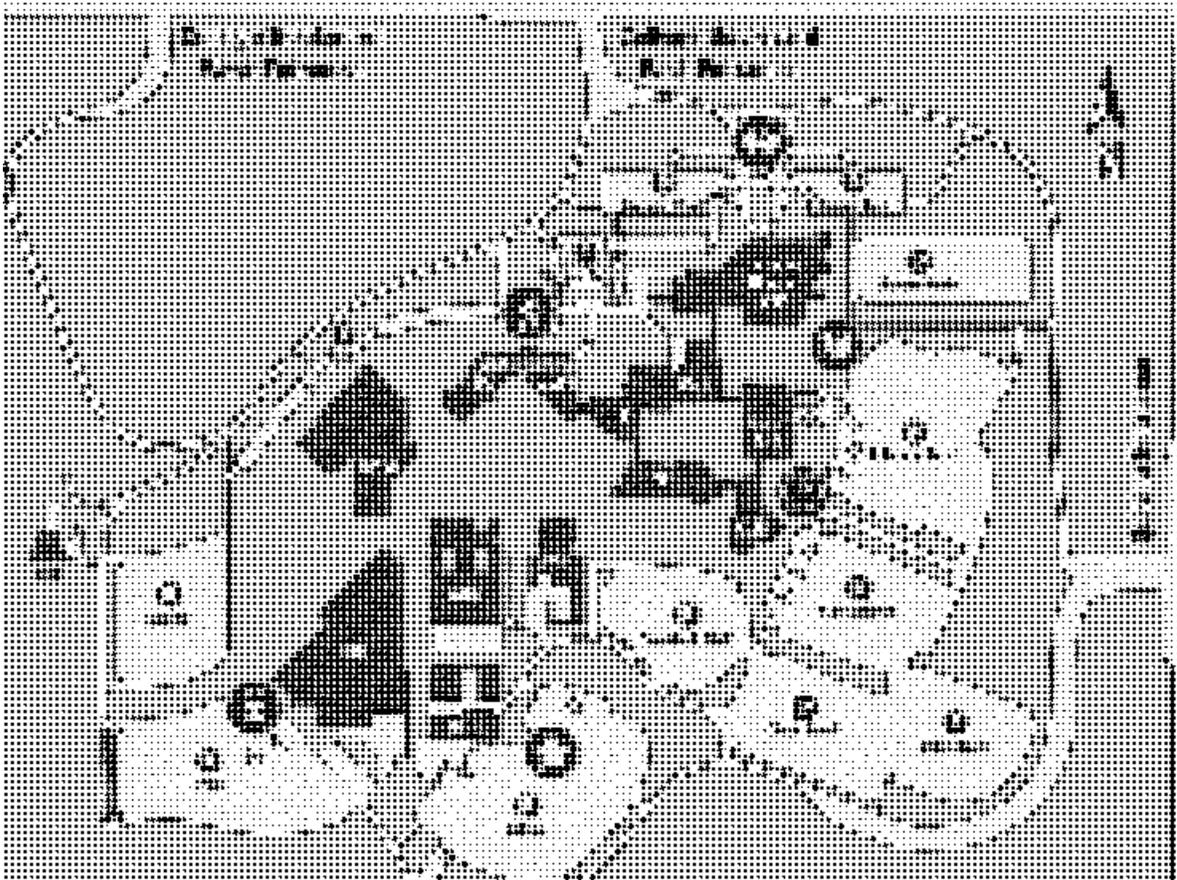
\$51.99. From I-35 north or south take Exit at 95th St., motel on east side to south of 95th.

Super 8 - 9601 Westgate at 95th and I-35 (913) 888-8899

\$55.00 plus tax for one bed, \$61.00 plus tax for 2 beds.

From I-35 take Exit at 95th.

*preferred option to obtain discount



We regret that the Kid's Page is not available
in this electronic format.

**CALL FOR PAPERS OR POSTERS
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL 2000**

The KOS will meet on October 6, 7, and 8 at Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. The contributed paper and poster session will be presented on Saturday, October 7. Posters can be set up Saturday morning beginning at 8:30. The only requirement is that the presentations deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. Interesting papers are often given by people who consider themselves amateurs, but who nevertheless have considerable expertise. We encourage you to share your experiences with the members and guests who will be attending. Please submit a short abstract (approximately 150 words) of your presentation. We are scheduling 15 minutes for each paper presentation. If at all possible e-mail your abstract or submit it on disk; otherwise, mail this completed form to the address below.

Complete this form and mail by September 15 to:

**John Schukman
Vice President, KOS
14207 Robin Rd.
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Phone: 913-727-5141
E-mail: schuksaya@aol.com**

Contributed paper or poster for KOS Fall Meeting, 2000

Author(s): _____

Address: _____

Paper/Poster Title: _____

Abstract:

Audio visual equipment needed: ___ 35 mm slide projector, ___ overhead transparency projector, ___ video cassette player, ___ computer (please specify PC/Mac or other special requirements: _____), ___ other (please specify: _____)

**KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL MEETING
FALL 2000
JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

		Number	Amount
Registration Fee:	\$8.00 (KOS members)	_____	\$ _____
	\$10.00 (non-members)	_____	\$ _____
Banquet	\$13.00/person	_____	\$ _____
Sunday Lunch	\$6.00/person	_____	\$ _____
Registration deadline: September 29, 2000		Total	\$ _____

Make checks payable to KOS. Mail to: John Schukman, KOS, 14207 Robin Rd., Leavenworth, KS 66048.

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM
(for period since October 1, 1999)

Mail to:
Max Thompson
1729 East 11th St.
Winfield, KS 67156

Or e-mail to Max at: maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

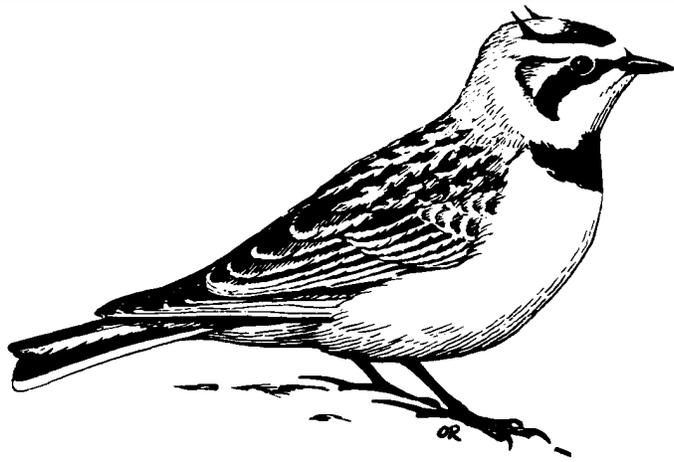
Species: _____

Observer(s): _____

Location: _____

Details:

You may duplicate this form for more than one bird to report. (Reminder: Also please be sure to report all noteworthy observations to the Kansas Bird Records Committee for review and official archiving. You can do this on the web at <http://www.ksu.edu/audubon/rarebirdform.html> or else contact Dave Rintoul, KBRC Secretary.)



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 2000

Vol. 27, No. 2

From The Keyboard -

There are so many things that I wanted to write about in this tiny little space. Many of us are having a better spring than in recent years and by the time you get this, many of us will have been actively running Breeding Bird Survey routes. A true labor of love if ever there was one!

My birding spouse, Jaye, and I have not run up as big a list, so far, this year as in past years. Work and family requirements have limited our ability to pursue as we might like. To compensate, we have spent more time birding closer to home. Sure, it's fun to bird the big name draws, but to regularly visit the same spot close to home can pay some really big dividends. It also ties you and connects you (see Chet's inaugural column on page 5) to a place close to home. When you see the seasons come and go in a favorite birding place, it causes you to start coming up with names for those places. Special names that no one else may be able to relate to, but they mean the world to you. Next time you're in Junction City, let me take you to "The Cathedral"!

By pure Internet fate, Jaye and I connected with a "young" soldier at Ft. Riley this winter. He had recently been hooked on birding by some of his family members. He will soon be getting out of the army to return to Wyoming and then to school in Spokane, WS this fall. So he wanted to see as many eastern birds as possible before heading west across the divide. Will is a good young birder with a lot of potential. He's also a lot of fun to bird with. His enthusiasm is contagious and he asks good questions. He doesn't just want to mark off another bird, he wants to learn the bird. I know that even after he leaves Kansas this summer, we'll stay in touch.

What Jaye and I really found this spring, was that birding seems to be best, when it is shared. Yes, we enjoy seeing the Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, but the thrill of showing a new birder his first tanagers was great. We had a fun day at Quivira and The Bottoms. Now more opportunities to share Kansas birding awaits us (page 13). I encourage all of you to share your love and share your knowledge of Kansas birds. Share it with friends, neighbors, even strangers. Share it with younger birders, and some day, the student may well become the teacher. Trust me! See you in October in Johnson Co.

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2000

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept. of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St., Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213 bard_owl@mindspring.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr., Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St. North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St., Sedgwick, KS 67135

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barn_owl@mindspring.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St., Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

October 6 - 8, 2000

Johnson County Community College

Look for registration information in September issue!

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barn_owl@mindspring.com

Checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for nonmembers.

Membership Memo

This year, we used e-mail to reach as many members as possible when it was time for renewals, with great success. Many members found receiving their renewal notices via e-mail much more efficient than using snail mail and appreciated the effort to spend less money on KOS administrative costs. This year's mailing expenses for membership renewals has so far been less than 50 percent of what was spent last and in previous years. E-mail has also made keeping contact between the membership coordinator, Susan Barnes, and the members much easier than via letters or telephone calls.

If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact Susan at bard_owl@mindspring.com. If you're not sure she has your e-mail address, please send her a note & update the database! If you don't have e-mail, don't worry, we still want to keep in touch as much as possible & look forward to your cards & calls.

Remember, it's YOUR Kansas Ornithological Society - help us make it work for you!

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!

**Spring 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area
(aka the Crossed Timbers area)**

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg (need local committee!)

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Keep a close watch on your mailbox in late August! The September *Horned Lark* will be arriving about that time and it will have all the details for the fall meeting at Johnson County Community College. There could be some changes in store..... like maybe some early field trips????? Keep checking out the web site (URL below) for call for papers and other early information!!!!!!

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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Bird Names

by John Rakestraw

On the Ohio-birds e-mail list recently the subject of bird names came up. Someone wrote in to ask what the heck a Blue-headed Vireo was. She assumed it was an old name since she could not find any reference to it in her field guide. (It is actually a new name for Solitary Vireo.) A short time later, someone wrote in about seeing a number of Sycamore Warblers. Within a week's time two people asked me what a Sycamore Warbler was, assuming that this was a new name. (It is an old name for the western race of Yellow-throated Warbler.)

But why do bird names change at all? How do we keep up with these changes and why should we?

Taxonomy is the process of classifying organisms into various categories, starting with the broadest category, Kingdom, and ending with the narrowest category, species or subspecies. In scientific literature, organisms are referred to by the last two categories, genus and species (and sometimes subspecies). This way, no matter what language the reader may speak, the identity of the organism is clear. Common names of organisms may vary from country to country. (The Black-bellied Plover found in the United States is called Gray Plover in England.)

Organisms are placed into these categories according to their relationship to other organisms. Research sometimes reveals new information about these relationships, so organisms are given new designations and a new place on the taxonomic list. For example, a few years ago it was determined the Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) was actually three separate species. The new designations for these three species were *Vireo solitarius*, *Vireo plumbeus*,

and *Vireo cassinii*. In the U.S., the most accepted common names are those given by the American Ornithologists Union (A.O.U.). These three species were called Blue-headed Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, and Cassin's Vireo.

Some birders get upset with name changes. When Roger Tory Peterson tells you a bird is called a Rufous-sided Towhee, then, by gosh, no egghead scientist is going to persuade you to call it a Spotted Towhee.

But there is good reason to keep up with the most current standardized bird names. If you are sharing information with others, we all have to use the same terminology. If you report a Solitary Vireo in Morton County, this information is useless because the name could refer to any one of three distinct species of bird.

So how do you keep up with current bird names? At this writing, the only field guide that is up to date is the third edition of the National Geographic. If you prefer to use another guide, consult the most recent KOS checklist for current names. Go ahead and write the changes in your field guides. These are tools for field use, not sacred scrolls. The entire A.O.U. checklist is available online at <http://pica.wru.umd.edu/AOU/birdlist.HTML>.

Whether you are an obsessive lister or just a casual birder who shares your sightings with others, it is important to keep up with current bird names. While some may consider it a bother, changes in bird taxonomy can provide new opportunities and challenges for your birding and listing pleasure.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

Proposed By-laws Change

To be voted on by the KOS membership at the Annual Meeting, October 7, 2000

Explanation: If adopted, the following change would create an appointed position of Sales Manager to serve under the Business Manager. The Sales Manager would be appointed by the President and would be responsible for managing all the sales items for KOS, maintaining inventory, taking orders, creating new sale items, etc. Any questions regarding this change may be directed to Chuck Otte.

The following items are proposed to be added:

Article V., Section 3. Appointed Positions

[G. The President may appoint a Sales Manager, to serve under, and assist the Business Manager with all aspects of KOS sale merchandise. This would include, but not be limited to: ordering merchandise, maintaining an accurate inventory, taking and filling mail/e-mail orders, having items available for sale at KOS meetings, and other activities as determined by the Business Manager.]

Article VI., Section 7. The Business Manager shall:

[I. Oversee the activities of the Sales Manager and report such activities to the Board of Directors.]

Submitted for consideration by Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor, for the KOS Board.

KOS Board Positions Available !!

Interested Members Please Apply

As you may have read in other parts of this issue, there will be several positions on the KOS Board opening up this fall. To be specific, we need interested candidates for the positions of: Vice-president, Treasurer, Membership Development Coordinator, Business Manager and two Directors. Following is a brief description of these positions and their responsibilities.

The **Vice-president** is responsible for running meetings when the president is not present and serving as program chair for the spring and fall meetings. The program chair works with the local committee to make sure that each meeting is ready to go. They usually serve as emcee of the presented papers session as well. While not required so by the By-laws, the Vice-president often moves up to president. The Vice-president may serve two consecutive one year terms.

The **Treasurer** serves as a custodian of all KOS funds. They pay all the bills, coordinate with Membership Development Coordinator to keep an accurate listing of current members, prepare annual financial statements and other required reports. The current treasurer and the immediate past treasurer also serve on the KOS Finance Committee.

The **Membership Development Coordinator** (MDC) is responsible for keeping the record and history of KOS members in conjunction with the Treasurer. Additionally,

the MDC has the opportunity to create and oversee activities to help increase and retain KOS membership, and to develop outreach programs for youth and the general public on birds and the Kansas Ornithological Society.

The **Business Manager** is responsible for conducting the business activities of KOS including overseeing the printing and distribution of the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark*. The Business Manager also has oversight responsibilities of all for sale items of the Society.

The last three positions are one year positions and may succeed themselves as elected.

The two **Directors** serve a two year term and are not reelected, although they can be elected to an officer position. The directors provide input and direction to the rest of the KOS Board. These are good “entry level” positions to help a member learn more about KOS and help them decide if they might be interested in serving as an officer at some future date.

More information on the responsibilities can be found at the KOS web site (go to the history page) where the By-laws can be read. If you are interested in serving please contact KOS President, Greg Farley, or newsletter editor, Chuck Otte.

Cyberbirding Update

by Chuck Otte

State Birding Discussion Lists - Nearly 300 birdwatchers are now members of the Kansas Bird Discussion List. We exchange information and bird sightings. Sometimes, potential visitors to our state join up and ask for Kansas birding advice. Many of us have been able to help these “Kansas migrants”. Several of us have also joined other state lists to prepare for an upcoming visit. I’ve lurked on lists from Oregon and Mississippi, to name a few. Many states now have state oriented discussion lists. They welcome folks joining up and joining in. A word of advice: join several weeks before your coming trip so you can get a feel for the list you are joining. Each list has a personality and you sure don’t want to step on the toes of those you want to help you! For a good listing of different state’s birding lists, visit: <http://www.virtualbirder.com:80/vbirder/realbirds/index.html> and just click on the state you want to visit!

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.

Connections

by *Chet Gresham*

Our migrants have become someone else's residents. The frenzy of fueling up has slowed and the business of defending territories, reproduction, nest building, and feeding young is under way. Already young robins, chickadees, and house finches have found their wings and are scattering about the yard in the muggy mornings of late May. Watching their daily rituals I think of the birds that we can no longer observe in this way.

Extinction. It's a word that conjures up so much. Not only names, but the romantic pictures of massive flocks of passenger pigeons and eskimo curlews darkening the sky. The ghost-like flight of a massive woodpecker through a darkened cypress swamp. It all seems to bring out a feeling of loss and regret, but these images aren't what these birds were or are.

How are we to connect to these birds? Should we try? Today I've ducked into the climate control of a bookstore to escape the mid-day heat and start on Christopher Cokinos' new book, "Hope Is The Thing With Feathers". This book chronicles the lives and extinctions of the Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Heath Hen and Labrador Duck and also Mr. Cokinos' own reactions and feelings toward these birds.

Like Mr. Cokinos I have tried to understand and come to some resolution with the extinction of these and other birds. I'm finding it hard to read. It is painful to come so close to the true lives of these birds that are now completely absent. I find it hard to look at a picture of a live Carolina Parakeet. At one time these birds were a mere thought and now this book is turning them into live, vibrant and real creatures that went through life just as the birds I watch now do.

I've always dreamt of seeing an Eskimo Curlew. I've read about the massive flocks feeding in burnt fields of the Flint Hills during migration. And I've always heard the rumors of populations still living. I've looked through "Birds in Kansas" and read about the "little curlew" Ed Martinez observed in 1982 and I strain to see brown lumps in the middle of charred fields as I drive I-70. But his sighting is almost 18 years past now and the likelihood seems to be getting smaller and smaller. But still I look.

A few years ago I chased a "little curlew sized" bird on the

north side of Quivira. My heart doubled its pace. My hands shook and I began to sweat. What if it was? What would that mean? I almost didn't want it to be what I thought. Would it be anything more than a check on my life list? Would there be any hope to save the slim remains of a once prolific species? Their food, their habitat, their gene pool - all gone. What remains are only spirits and dreams and that's all that bird was that I was chasing. A wish for the past. If these ghosts still haunt their arctic breeding grounds I wish them life and their daily rituals of courtship and nest building. I can see them eyeing a snowy owl while snatching up crowberries, alert and alive and that is what I want to hold on to not this dream that I will be given this bird, an epiphany, a revelation on wings. It isn't for me. And the same goes for all extinct birds. Regret helps nothing, but remembering and learning the way they lived and died can only bring us closer to understanding ourselves and the birds we live with.

We must watch and learn and remember what could happen. I think of the young chickadees roaming the backyard, begging and harassing their parents and I can see young carolina parakeets. They once lived each day. They had their specialized habitats, just as birds do now. They weren't doomed from the start. We need to know that even chickadees need certain things to live, just as we do. We must keep learning what human intrusion does to the land and its life. It's cliché to say the environment is a delicate balance, but there is no doubt that it is true.

And as I read I realize that being sad will do nothing. In reading this book we can learn from our past and help the future. I don't want to be reading a book in fifty years titled "Where Did We Go Wrong?: The Decline and Demise of North American Birds". In a composition class I taught while I was a graduate student I used the word "extinction" as the start of a brain storming project. When we got to bird species not one student could name an extinct bird from North America. These birds need to be remembered and Mr. Cokinos' book does just that. We need to relate the lives of these birds to others. Show people what we have lost and what we could still lose.

Birds are my connection to the world around me. Their wings carry me into the lives of so many wonderful places and that connection is precious to me. We must keep this connection vibrant between us and birds and always remember.

WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 1999 through February 29, 2000

by Pete Janzen

This winter season's weather was very similar to the previous year, with very mild temperatures for the most part, interrupted by a few short periods of cold weather. The large lakes remained at least partially unfrozen throughout the period. It was also a very wet season across most of the state. In Wichita it was the second-wettest winter on record.

As one might expect given this weather, a majority of the unusual bird sightings were of southern species lingering well north of their usual winter haunts, sometimes in surprisingly large numbers. Sparrows in particular seem to be shifting their winter range in recent years. Song, Savannah, and White-throated Sparrows were all found across the state in higher than usual numbers. More unusual sparrow species, such as Henslow's and LeConte's, also appeared in unexpected places. Christmas counts turned up some interesting patterns, with House Wrens appearing in Medicine Lodge and Elkhart on the same weekend, and Eastern Phoebe on 3 widely separated counts. Wetland and water birds also appear to be shifting their winter ranges northward. Species such as Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant all survived the winter period at a variety of locations, sometimes in surprising numbers. Really odd finds in the "should be way south of here by now" category included White-faced Ibis, Willet, multiple Whooping Cranes, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, and Cape May and Pine Warblers. No you aren't seeing

things, there really were two different Anna's Hummingbirds seen in Kansas this winter!

Wichita once again was a mecca for gull watching. The unique conjunction of a massive landfill with numerous adjacent lakes, ponds, and rivers seems to act as a powerful magnet for gulls from across the region, which often include outstanding rare species from both ocean coasts, as well as the Arctic. The peak was probably Feb. 12, when an amazing eight species of gulls were identified in the dump/river/sandpit area. One more winter remains for this gull mecca, so it's next year or nothing for all you gull freaks out there....you know who you are!! Other areas were productive for gulls as well, with Cheyenne Bottoms producing a Great Black-backed Gull, and other good gull sightings from John Redmond, Clinton, Wilson, and elsewhere.

Several interesting waterfowl species included Surf and White-winged Scoters, and 2 Barrow's Goldeneye reports. Long-tailed Duck (formerly Oldsquaw), and American Black Duck both appeared in a good variety of locations. A waterfowl die-off was reported at Quivira in late November and early December, but seemed to dissipate before becoming a major event.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion, first noted in the fall, continued unabated throughout the winter. Many observers commented on the large scale of the invasion. Few birders missed this bird on trips out this

winter. Purple Finches put on perhaps their best showing in years. Pine Siskins were considered common by at least some observers, an encouraging change from recent years. White-winged Crossbills and Snow Buntings made a couple of cameo appearances, but other northern invasive species seemed to be absent this year.

The west was more quiet this winter, but the Western Scrub Jay was reported from two locations, and a surprise find was made of two Barred Owls along the Cimmaron R. at the state line, of considerable interest to Colorado birders in particular. How about 4 million Lapland Longspurs in a single flock? This incredible sight, reported by Scott Seltman in Pawnee County on Jan. 17, represented a reasonable estimate based on the acreage covered, and was reported to be louder than a jet engine when the birds all took flight at once.

Hope you enjoy the report, don't forget to keep those records coming to me, either on KSBIRD or by letter or phone. As always, all bird records listed here are subject to review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
Common Loon	11 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	12/28/99	LM
	1 at Cheney Res	Reno	1/7-19/00	CG
Note: Up to 5 Common Loons were seen at once at Cheney over the winter months				
	1 at Burlington Lake	Coffey	1/16/00	MM,MC
	3 at Wilson Lake	Russell	2/2	MR
Pacific Loon	1 at Cheney Res.	Reno	10/31/99 -2/2/00	CG
Horned Grebe	1 at Marion Dam	Marion	12/13	DWE
	2 on Olsburg CBC	Pottawatamie	12/22	CJ
Western Grebe	3 at Cheney Res	Reno	12/7/99	CG
	3 at Marion Dam	Marion	12/13/99	DWE
	4 at Cedar Bluff Res	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 on Manhattan CB	Riley	12/18/99	TC,DB
	5 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	1/31-2/26	MC
	1 possible Western/Clark's hybrid		Sedgwick	2/3-5 DV,
m.ob				
American White Pelican	8 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	2/18/99	GP
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	1/3/00	LM
	1 at Cheney Res.,	Reno	1/7/00	CG
	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	1/8/00	MM
	11 at Cheney Res.	Reno	1/19/00	CG
<i>Note: White Pelicans successfully overwintered at several lakes and marshes this winter.</i>				
Double-crested Cormorant	100 at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/26	CG,TH
	several at Tuttle	Riley	2/26	TC
<i>Note: DC Cormorants also survived the winter successfully at several locations.</i>				
Black-crnd Night-Heron	3 at Wichita,	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PM, ES
Note: these birds were present for at least most of December on the grounds at the zoo.				
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/26/99	GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3/00	MG
White-faced Ibis	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/18/99	BG,MR
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3/00	MG
Turkey Vulture	2 seen near McClouth, 1 st of spring	Jefferson	2/21	WO
Trumpeter Swan	1 N of Wakefield	Clay	12/19/99	CO
	4 NE of Ottawa	Franklin	12/15	MS
	5 at Tuttle Creek	Riley	12/20/99	DB
	3 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/99	RR
	4 at Dodge City	Ford	12/31/99	JD
	2 N of Chanute	Neosho	2/31/99	RM
Note: Chanute birds were found shot, 1 dead, 1 survived but lost a wing				
	2 at Harvey Co. East Lake	Harvey	2/3	GF
Tundra Swan	2 imm. At Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/10/99	KDWP
	6 SW of Nekoma	Rush	2/6	SD & StS
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/20-26	CG

Ross's Goose	50+ at Cedar Bluff Res	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 blue phase at Cheney	Reno	12/24	CG
	55+ in	Pawnee	12/27/99	SS
	1 first county record	Meade	2/27	TF, m.ob.

Note: Many other sightings of Ross's Geese were reported statewide this year

Mallard/N. Pintail hybrid	1 at Quivira	Stafford	1/3	MG
Black Duck	2 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/9	GP
	2 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/99	LM
	1 N Lawrence Sand Pit	Douglas	1/8/00	MM
	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	2/14	GP,MC
	1 at Wichita (2d Co. record)	<u>Sedgwick</u>	2/15-16	PJ,CG,DK,WC
Blue-winged Teal	6 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	2/26	MM
	2 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	2/26	CG, TH
Greater Scaup	10 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	2/10/99	JH
	3 on Oldsburg CBC	Pottawatomie	12/24/99	CJ
	5 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/26/99	PW
	10 at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/14	JB,CG,TH
Surf Scoter	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/3/99	LH
	1 at Wichita	Sedgwick	1/24/00	PJ
White-winged Scoter	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	1/30-2/12	AS,RP. M.ob
Oldsquaw	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	12/19-28/99	AM,mob
	1 at Emporia	Lyon	12/19	MS
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/28/99	BB
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	1/3/00	LM
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	2/8	MP
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 imm. male at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	2/9-17	PJ,CG,W&RJ
	1 imm. male at Emporia	Lyon	2/12	MS
Red-breasted Merganser	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/28	TC, MR
Hooded Mergansers	30+ at Cheney Res	Reno	12/7/99	CG
	225 at Cedar Bluff Res.	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	200+ at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	1/30/00	MC
Bald Eagle	150 at Milford	Geary	12/27/99	CO
<i>Note: While Bald Eagles were common in the north, many southern lakes had very few this year.</i>				
Osprey	1 at Neosho WMA	Neosho	<u>12/11/99</u>	SAS
Northern Goshawk	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/99	GP
	1 on Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/18/99	HA, SS
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 imm. At Marion Lake	Marion	1/7/00	CG
	1 near Eureka	Greenwood	1/30	BBR
	1 imm. at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/8/00	CG
	1 near Yates Center	Woodson	2/14/00	MC, GP

Ferruginous Hawk	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	1/16/00	MM,MC
	2 on El Dorado CBC	<u>Butler</u>	12/19/99	WAS
	1 dark morph near Ellinwood	Barton		DW
Golden Eagle	2 imm. at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	2 adult at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/24/99	MR
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	DV
	imm. near Cassoday	Butler	1/7/00	BL
Merlin	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/9/99	MR
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/12/99	MR
	3	Pawnee	12/12/99	SS
	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/99	GP
	1 on Olsburg CBC	Pottawatomie	12/24/99	CJ
	1	Kiowa	12/31/99	GF
	6 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	12/31/99	SP, m.ob.
2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	PJ, JNI	
Peregrine Falcon	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19	WAS
	1 in downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	2/25/00	BG
Virginia Rail	6 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3</u>	PJ, DW, TW
	5 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	<u>2/26</u>	CG,TH
Sandhill Crane	1500-2000 E of Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>12/26/99</u>	CG, DW
	5-10 thousand at Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/7	CG
Whooping Crane	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/3/99</u>	LH
	2 flying over Great Bend	Barton	<u>12/11/99</u>	LH
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/28/99-1/1/00</u>	MR,TC
Killdeer	3 on Bonner Spgs. CBC		<u>1/3/99</u>	GP & others
	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	<u>1/8/00</u>	MM
	1-2 all winter on Ark R., Wichita	Sedgwick	all winter	m.ob
Greater Yellowlegs	2 near Dorrance	Russell	12/7/99	MR
	1 at Lakeview	Douglas	2/4/99	GP,DS
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/12/99	MR
	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19	WAS
	3 on Slate Creek Marsh CBC	Sumner	12/22/99	GY
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/20	CG
	3 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	2/26	MM
	25 in Sumner, Stafford	Barton	2/26	CG,TH
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton.	2/20	CG
	4 at	Stafford/Barton	2/26	CG,TH
Willet	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>12/18/99</u>	BG,MR,SF,JL
Least Sandpiper	4 at Lakeview	Douglas	12/4-18/99	GP,DS
	17 at Wichita	Sedgwick	12/18/99	CG, PJ
	6 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	12/18/99	AS
Common Snipe	6 at Lakeview	Douglas	12/4-18/99	GP,DS
	5 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	2/26	CG,TH

American Woodcock	several displaying in SE	Jefferson	2/24	GP
<u>Franklin's Gull</u>	1 in alternate plumage, Lawrence 1 in alt. plumage, Wichita	Douglas Sedgwick	<u>1/8/00</u> <u>1/18-2/29</u>	MM CG,mob
Bonaparte's Gull	200+ at Wilson Lake 150 at Cheney Res. 20 at Baxter Springs	Russell Reno Cherokee	12/19/99 12/19/99 1/23/00	MR CG CG, MG
California Gull	1 2 nd yr at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Clinton Lake 1 adult at Wichita 1 1 st yr at Tuttle Creek 1 1 st yr at Wichita 1 1 st yr at Wichita landfill 1 1 st yr at John Redmond Res. 1 adult at Wolf Creek Lake	Barton Douglas Sedgwick Riley Sedgwick Sedgwick Coffey Coffey	12/12/99 12/18/99 1/23 1/26 1/26 2/5 2/12 2/14	MR MM PJ TC,MR JB DW,JB,LE MM GP,MC
Thayer's Gull	1 at Wichita 1 1 st year at Clinton Lake 1 1 st year at Wichita 1 1 st year at Wichita 2 1 st year at John Redmond Res. 1 adult at Wichita. 1 1 st yr at John Redmond Res.	Sedgwick Douglas Sedgwick Sedgwick Coffey Sedgwick Coffey	12/18/99 12/28/99 1/4/00 1/23/00 1/30/00 2/5 2/12	PJ LM CG PJ AS,RP PJ,DW,JB,LE MM
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	1 2 nd winter at Wichita	Sedgwick	1/24-2/18	PJ,CG
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	1/17-2/10	CG
Glaucous Gull	3 at Clinton Lake 2 at Clinton Lake 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 3 rd year at Wichita landfill 2 1 st yr at Wichita landfill 4-5 at Wichita landfill 1 at Wilson Lake	Douglas Douglas Barton Sedgwick Sedgwick Sedgwick Russell	12/24/99 12/18-23/99 12/28/99 2/5 2/12 2/18 2/25	DG MM MR,TC DW,LE PJ CG,PJ MR
<u>Glaucous-winged Gull</u>	1 1 st yr at Wichita landfill Seen again near K-96 bridge	Sedgwick Sedgwick	2/12 2/17	DW,PJ DV
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 3 rd year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/26-2/8/99	GP
Jaeger species	unidentified jaeger at Perry	Jefferson	12/4/99	RR
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1 at Hardtner 5 at Burdett 19 at Girard 2 in Manhattan 18 in Hugoton	Barber Rush Crawford Riley Stevens	12/26/99 12/1/99- 1/16/00 1/1-3/00 1/22	CG GS,SS MP DR
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	2/3-7	D&MC

Inca Dove	1 at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	12/15/99	CH
	1 at Oxford	Sumner	12/15/99	WC
	4 in Greensburg	Kiowa	1/14/00	SS
	6 at Feeder in Meade	Meade	1/?-2/29	TF
Greater Roadrunner	3 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3	ME, GJ, m.ob
Barn Owl 16+ at Cedar Bluff Res	3	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	2 on Cimarron NG CBC	Geary	12/19/99	C&JO
	2 in barn near Lehigh	Morton	12/31/99	SP, m.ob
		Marion	through period	CN
Burrowing Owl	3 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP & others
Barred Owl	2 at state line, Cimm. R	<u>Morton</u>	1/20/00	BP, CW
Snowy Owl	1 near Glen Elder	Mitchell	1/7/00?	<i>Fide</i> HA
Long-eared Owl	2 at Cedar Bluff Res.	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	1/3/00	MG
	3 near Salina	Saline	1/3/00	DW
	25-30 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	1/5/00	CG
	12 in cedar grove Hillsdale Lake	Miami	1/24/00	MG,AM
Short-eared Owl	3 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	1/6/00	CG
<u>Anna's Hummingbird</u>	1 adult female at Salina residence	Saline	<u>1/13-25</u>	DR
	1 adult female at Overland Park	Johnson	<u>2/7</u>	CH
Eastern Phoebe	1 on Slate Creek CBC	Sumner	<u>12/22</u>	GY
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	<u>12/29/99</u>	PW
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3/00</u>	DA,GF,SR,ES
	2 at Oxford	Sumner	2/26	CG,TH
Northern Shrike	1 N. of Keats	Riley	12/15/99	DR
	1	Pawnee	1/8/00	SS
	1	Rush	1/13/00	SS
	1 imm. At Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/7	CG
<u>Western Scrub Jay</u>	1 at residence in Dodge City	Ford	12/12/99	JD
	1 at Boy Scout area, Cimarron NG	Morton	1/20	BP,CW
American Crow	75,000 at Wichita roost	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PJ
<u>Tree Swallow</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	TC,DB
	Several at Flint Hills NWR	Coffey	2/26/00	C&JO
Sedge Wren	2 in Fancy Canyon	Comanche	12/26/99	CG
	1 s. of Medicine Lodge	Barber	1/3/00	DA,CG,DW,TW
<u>House Wren</u>	1 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP & others
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3/00</u>	GF, AP, SR

Mountain Bluebird	25 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/9/99	MR
	20 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	50 in	Barber	12/26/99	CG
	120	Kiowa	12/31/99	GF
	1066 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	PJ & others
	12 at Wilson State Park	Russell	2/3	MR
	56 (3 flocks)	Morton	2/6	BP, MJ
	25 at Wilson State Park	Russell	2/26	MR
Hermit Thrush	2 at Presbyterian camp, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>12/13/99</u>	CG
	1 on Webster Res. CBC	Rooks	<u>12/26/99</u>	SS
	1 on Ark City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/26/99</u>	GY
	1 in Manhattan yard	Pottawatomie	<u>1/1/00</u>	ASE
<u>Gray Catbird</u>	1 at Olathe residence	Johnson	<u>1/3-28</u>	MC
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler</u>	1 in Lawrence	Douglas	<u>12/12/99 – 1/5-7/00</u>	RR
	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/1/00</u>	BM
	1 at SW College	Cowley	<u>2/17</u>	CG
<u>Northern Parula</u>	1 at Southwest College, Winfield	Cowley	<u>12/19/99</u>	MT
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 imm. at Lawrence feeder	Douglas	<u>1/30-31</u>	JC,PW
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	DR
Eastern Towhee	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19/99	WAS
	1 at Harvey West Park	Harvey	1/13/00	GF
<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	1 at Cimarron NG	Morton	<u>1/20/00</u>	BP,CW
<u>Lark Bunting</u>	1 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP, m.ob
Savannah Sparrow	30 near Winfield	Cowley	1/29/00	MT
	<i>Note: Savannah Sparrows were reported from many locales this winter.</i>			
<u>Henslow's Sparrow</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	MS
	1 W of Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>12/26/99</u>	CG
LeConte's Sparrow	8 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	12/18/99	RB
	3 on Slate Creek CBC	Sumner	12/22/99	GY
	1 at Medicine Lodge	Barber	1/3/00	CG, m.ob
	2 at Lyon Co. St. Lake	Lyon	1/29/00	DR, JSC
White-throated Sparrow	1 in Elkhart	Morton	1/21/00	BP, CW
	Unusually common all winter	Sedgwick		m.ob
	Ditto for Harvey Co. all winter	Harvey		m.ob
Song Sparrow	330 at Wichita	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PJ
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Wolf Creek Lake	Coffey	1/26	MS

Off-the Beaten-Path Birding Hotspots at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

by Helen Hands

This past spring was not unusual in that there were excellent birding opportunities off the main road through Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (between Highway 156 and the office). Water levels were high enough that few shorebirds could be seen from the main road. Although this route goes by some excellent viewing areas, areas off the main road frequently offer additional birding opportunities. These out-of-the-way places include the parking lots behind Pools 3 and 4, the DOT rest area along Highway 156, the Pool 3A-3B and 4A-4B dikes, and the Mitigation Marsh.

On the CBWA map, the parking lots are marked with stars and the names of the best for wildlife viewing are labeled. Habitat features near parking lots that attract birds include shallowly excavated and disked areas with sparse to no cattail and tree belts. In addition, all parking lots provide access to grassland habitat where you can find a variety of songbirds. The roads to some of the parking lots are not as good as the main roads. So, be careful after rains.

Redwing Lot – Check for shorebirds in ditch on north side of road to parking lot.

Pike Lot – Look for shorebirds and ducks if water is abundant in Pool 3B.

Schrepel Lot – If lots of water in Pool 4A, check for shorebirds, ducks, and wading birds in flooded grass. Tree belt for woodland birds.

Deadman Lot – Tree belt for woodland birds.

White Rock Lot – Check for shorebirds and ducks in shallow excavations and in flooded grass.

Ridge Road Lot – If ample water in Pools 4A and/or 4B, check for shorebirds.

DOT Rest Area – If high water in Pool 4B, look for shorebirds, ducks, and wading birds in flooded grass.

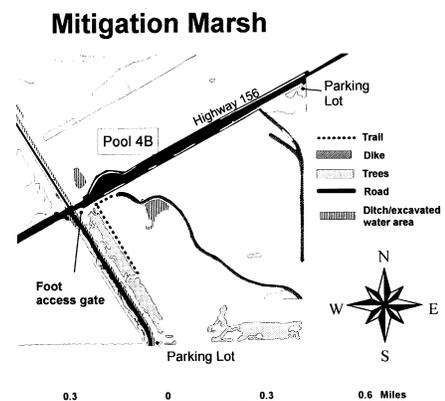
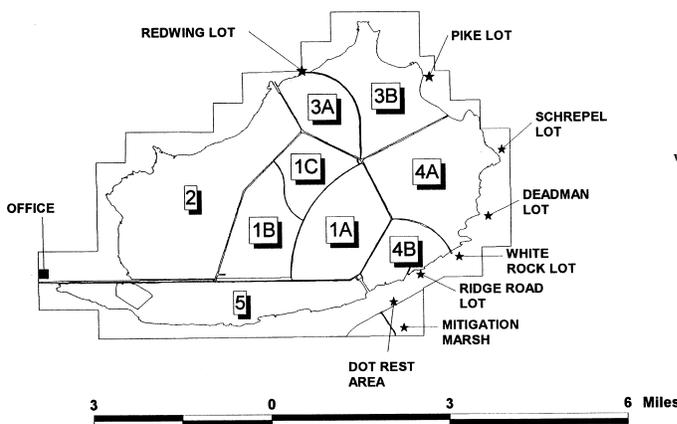
Pool 3A-3B dike – If portion of Pool 3A visible from main road is too dry for ducks and shorebirds, try walking this dike from Redwing Lot.

Pool 4A-4B dike – Additional viewing of birds in Pools 4A and 4B that might not be visible from main road.

Mitigation Marsh (see map) - The wetland features of this former crop field were enhanced in the early 1990s with 2 low dikes and a pump station. The dike, which runs northwest to southeast, splits the Mitigation Marsh into 2 pools. Thousands of shorebirds and ducks used both pools of the Mitigation Marsh this past spring. Unfortunately, you can't see most of these birds from a road. It's about a ¼-mile walk to good viewing locations.

These off-the-beaten-path birding spots may take some time and effort to reach. However, when conditions are right, these spots can provide excellent birding.

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



We regret that the Kid's Page is not available in this electronic format.



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 2000

Vol. 27, No. 1

From The Keyboard -

I was out on the road the other day, traveling from one meeting to another. The weather was spring like and I was playing a tape that has natural sound interludes between the songs. This particular tape contained numerous bird songs from the Midwest. There was a House Wren, an Eastern Phoebe and a Summer Tanager. It set my mind "wandering".

I started longing for those days of April and May that will soon be here. I thought of that one morning that I would walk out to the driveway to pick up the morning paper and hear the House Wren singing from the hedge row. I thought about that day I would get to work and hear the chatter of Chimney Swifts overhead and the scold of the Western Kingbird from the power pole and transformer next to where I park my car. I thought of the Pet Cemetery Nature Trail and the ki-ti-tuck scold of Summer Tanagers. Yup, I'm ready for spring!

As the days of winter begrudgingly give way to the green of spring all birdwatcher's minds turn to spring migration. Mike Rader has decided that it's time for him to migrate on to other things so his farewell 'Musings' is in this issue. Thank you for all your contributions, Mike!

Speaking of contributions, we're going to need quite a few in many forms. We have a student at Southwest College that could use some Student Research Funds for a very special, and very important, project. Consider contributing. I would like to have some one take over for Mike, writing a short column each issue. Consider contributing. We're going to need to fill quite a few positions on the KOS Board. Some of these will take some of your time. But there is a tremendous feeling of good will when you give back to an organization that has given you so much. Consider contributing yourself and your time.

Spring is always a time of starting new, of exciting rebirth and return. A good way to do that is to attend the spring field trip that Pete Janzen has planned for KOS. It'll be a chance to get back together with old friends and to meet new friends. I hope you all have a spring full of good times and good birding!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2000

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept. of Biological Science,
Albertson Hall, 600 Park St., Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road,
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington,
KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425
S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213 bard_owl@mindspring.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr., Independence,
KS 67301

Board Members:

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St. North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St., Sedgwick, KS 67135

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS
67213, 316-265-4059, barn_owl@mindspring.com

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,
Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Spring Meeting

May 19 - 21, 2000

Morton County, KS / Black Mesa, OK
in conjunction with the Oklahoma Ornith Soc (OOS)

Look for registration information in this issue!

Officers and Board Members Needed!

Every year we have openings for two directors to serve on the KOS Board. This year we also have three officer positions and the Business Manager position that will need to be filled at our Annual Meeting in October. We need interested people who are willing to serve!

Look for information on each of the positions in this issue, give it some serious thought and then contact KOS President, Greg Farley, or Newsletter Editor, Chuck Otte, to express your interest.

Dues are Due!!

You should have already received notice! Make sure you send in your 2000 dues now! Family membership is \$20, individual \$15, sustaining individual \$25, sustaining family \$30. Send those dues to: **Edwin J. Miller, KOS Treasurer, 218 Bermuda Drive, Independence, KS 67301.** Make checks payable to the Kansas Ornithological Society.

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barn_owl@mindspring.com

Checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for nonmembers.

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!

Fall 2000 - Johnson County

Spring 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area
(aka the Crossed Timbers area)

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg (need local committee!)

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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Roadside Birding

by John Rakestraw

I hate birding from the car. I always have. I want to be out there with the birds. I want to be able to see all around me without the distortion of a curved windshield or a dirty window. I want to be able to see birds flying directly overhead. I want to be able to hear all the little rustlings and chip notes around me. None of this is possible while birding from the car.

Now that I have gotten that off my chest, I will give you some tips on birding from the car. Because, like it or not, there are certain times when the only way to see birds is from your vehicle.

One benefit a vehicle may provide is protection. You have probably seen, or experienced, wild animal parks where visitors view lions and other beasts from the relative safety of their car. Now, the largest predators I have encountered while birding in Kansas are Coyotes and Badgers. But any birder who has visited Quivira's Big Salt Marsh on a calm day in June knows the perils of mosquitoes. Even with repellent and protective clothing, birders have little chance of concentrating on birds while thousands of insects are buzzing around their eyes and ears. The protection provided by your car can allow you to focus on birds, even if the views are not as clear.

A car will also protect you from the weather. A light rain usually does not bother the birds too much, but it can make binoculars hard to use and is uncomfortable to be out in. Likewise, when the Kansas winds are blowing, making it impossible to hold your optics steady, your car makes a great windbreak. Roll your window down to a comfortable level and rest your binocular on the edge of the glass. Use a window mount for your scope.

One reason many people bird from their cars is the amount of distance they can cover in a short time. Birders on foot can search a small area much more thoroughly than can someone in a car. But there are times when more birds will be found by quickly covering more territory. For example, if I wanted to search for longspurs in milo stubble, I could walk the four miles around a section of farmland, hoping to find a flock somewhere along the way. If I did find the birds in this open habitat, I would have to stand or sit perfectly still in hopes that the flock would not be startled by the large creature walking up to them. In the same amount of time it took me to walk those four miles, I could slowly drive along 25 miles of road, greatly increasing my chances of finding a flock of longspurs. If I did find a flock, I could turn off the engine and use the car as a blind, since the large inanimate object is usually less threatening to birds than is a person on foot.

In addition to actual birding trips, any driving will provide some birding opportunities. Getting from point A to point B anywhere in Kansas usually demands some time on the road. If you are speeding along the interstate, the birds you identify will generally be the larger distinctive species perched on fences and power lines or flying along the roadway. Raptors, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Upland Sandpipers, and nighthawks fall into this category. If you have the time, traveling county roads usually affords better birding. The slower speeds enable you to notice more birds and the light traffic makes it easier to pull over if necessary.

It is generally safer if the passenger does most of the birding, pointing out good finds to the driver. The phrases, "Watch the road, Dear" and "The road is that way" are often heard in our car when I am driving.

When traveling, don't neglect the good bird habitat found at many roadside rest areas. These areas may provide the only trees or water for miles around.

When given the choice, I will always bird on foot. But there are times when birding from the car is more effective. If you need to cover many miles of open habitat in a short time, or if pockets of good habitat are separated by great distance, a vehicle is the only way to cover the territory. Your car provides protection from swarming insects and weather, and serves as an observation blind when no natural cover is available. And if you have to be behind the wheel anyway, you might as well enjoy the high-speed birding along the way.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net



Cyberbirding Update

by Chuck Otte

New Home For KOS Web site

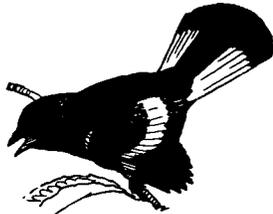
After several years of hanging around at K-State, the KOS Web site has finally migrated to its new home. For those of you who have bookmarked the old address you need to change that to: <http://ksbirds.org>

Why the change? Well, let's face it. The previous address was awfully hard to remember. Ksbirds.org is much simpler. Secondly, by moving to the new location, Dave Rintoul doesn't have to do it all himself. Keeping a web page up to date, functioning and useful can become a lot of work. Now Dave and I can share the responsibilities, or add other webmasters as needed.

A lot of what you'll see is the same that you saw at the old site. The first screen will give you the option of going on to the opening page that we all had grown used to. But it also gives you a chance to jump right to some of the hot current topics.

Some of those hot topics include: a link to the KSBIRD-L Internet discussion list, the information page for the Kansas Birds Record Committee, the Kansas County Checklist Project page and web pages with pictures of the Salina January hummingbird, the January mystery duck at Pottawatomie County Lake #2 and the Rocky Ford Snow Bunting.

In the first two months at the new address there had been over 1500 visitors. Take some time to visit the page, browse around it and let us know what you like, what you didn't like and what you'd like to see. Dave and I have a lot of ideas for this web page, and not nearly enough time to do them, but we'd like to hear your ideas. You can send us e-mail at drintoul@ksu.edu or otte@jc.net.



KOS Treasurer's Report

*From 1999 Year End Report
prepared by Ed Miller, KOS Treasurer*

1999 Financial Activity Report

1999 Dues	\$4,015.00
1999 Sales	\$1,079.05
1999 Donation to General Fund	\$1,000.00
Total	\$6,094.05

1999 Expenses	\$7,909.84
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1999 Interest and Dividend Disbursement

General Fund	\$1,889.55
Book Royalty Fund	\$850.00
Endowment	\$1,250.00
Student Research Fund	\$200.00
Total	\$4,189.55

Year End KOS Assets

Assets, restricted funds

Book Royalty Fund	\$12,988.84
Dingus Natural Area	\$7,737.62
Endowment	\$62,581.02
Life Membership	\$19,022.00
Student Research Fund	\$2,949.01

Assets, unrestricted funds

General Fund	(\$901.74)
Business Manager Expense	\$477.81
Total	\$104,854.56

Kansas Ornithological Society 2000 Budget

Horned Lark	\$2,700
Bulletin	\$3,000
Business Manager	\$1,200
Membership	\$500
KBRC	\$150
Meeting Expense	\$200
Treasurer	\$120
Miscellaneous	\$330
Total	\$8,200

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, Time For A New Start

by Mike Rader

Spring! Is it truly here? As of this writing, the snow from a week ago has melted and given way to thunderstorms and rain. Migration has been going on for weeks, with more birds arriving every passing day. The ponds are teeming with waterfowl, the skies filled with cranes and blackbirds.

Robins are here, setting up territories, singing and chasing rivals. Other species are setting up territories, as well, with the songs of meadowlarks and calls of pheasants filling the mornings with sound. I was greeted at work today by the singing of the resident Bewick's Wren, rather than the normal scolding that it has been doing. Maybe that is a sign?

Spring is a wonderful time to go outside and enjoy all that nature has to offer. Many of us tend to concentrate on getting big lists of bird species this time of year, but there is so much more to appreciate. I saw my first butterfly of the year out on a warm early March day and heard several Chorus Frogs, as well. I am learning to look down once-in-a-while and I like that! I would encourage everyone to try to learn more about the other groups of animals and plants that we are lucky enough to have at our doorstep. (After hearing what the expectations are for gasoline prices in the coming months, I may be doing lots of looking very close to my doorstep! ! !)

It is also the time to start thinking of various projects to be involved with in the outdoors. Migration surveys are available to participate in and take many forms. Early season nesting surveys, such as the playa lake work coordinated by Tom Flowers, need volunteers. Many of us conduct Breeding Bird Survey routes and are involved with other worthwhile activities, such as KAMP (Kansas Amphibian Monitoring) and more. Many organizations (i.e. KOS, Kansas Herpetological Society, Kansas Wildflower Society) have spring field trips that can be great fun. There is a whole network of folks out there that are interested in the nature of our state. Take some kids along with you and enjoy!

Spring is the time we think of things being fresh, new. In that line of thinking, I am going to put this column to rest and let someone else give it a try. Certainly, there are some capable people in KOS that can teach the rest of us something. Besides, Chuck is an easy boss to write for! I have truly relished the opportunity to express some of my musings' to you. Thanks for reading!

Mike can be reached at mike_rader@hotmail.com

- - *Notes from Bill*

Kansas Adds Breeding Bird Survey Routes

Kansas is adding 23 new BBS routes this year, bringing the total to 61 routes that are run each year. The additional routes will provide more information on population trends on the state's breeding birds and help us better understand which species have increasing and decreasing populations. Over 3500 Breeding Bird Survey routes are conducted each year across the United States and southern Canada by volunteers. Additional information can be found at <http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/> Most of the new Kansas routes have been assigned to volunteers, but a few routes, mostly in the northwestern part of the state, are still available. Each route is run once a year in June. Please contact Bill Busby (Kansas Biological Survey, 2041 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047; 785-864-7692; w-busby@ukans.edu) if you have good bird identification skills and are interested volunteering for one of the remaining routes.

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Status Report

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas is in press at the University Press of Kansas. The book is scheduled to be completed and available for sale in the spring of 2001.

FALL SEASON ROUNDUP

August 1, 1999 through November 30, 1999
by Pete Janzen

The fall of 1999 was in many ways a repeat of the previous fall season. Mild weather again dominated across most of the state, lasting well into November. As in 1998, many warm-weather species again lingered well beyond their usual departure dates, especially herons, shorebirds, and warblers. While some Kansas birders bemoaned the lack of exciting birds, the composite picture reveals that actually this was a fairly interesting fall migration.

The most significant reports were of two species that would represent new additions to the Kansas checklist: Reddish Egret and Ringed Kingfisher. Both records were submitted to the KBRC for review. I have not yet seen the documentation for the Ringed Kingfisher, but the egret was viewed by a birder with extensive prior experience with the species, and was carefully described. Another southern wanderer of interest was a Fulvous Whistling-Duck found by Mike Rader as he was searching for the Reddish Egret!

It was nice to see a series of regular reports from Cheyenne Bottoms this fall, most of them from Rich Kostecke, who was conducting non-bird related biological studies for CBWMA, and found the time to make and pass on a few bird sightings in the process. Its been awhile since anyone reported daily observations at this refuge. As a

result, Cheyenne Bottoms put in its best showing in this report in some time. Morton County provided a string of good birds, as it continues to attract more and more birders, especially in the fall months. Stafford, Barton, Morton, Sedgwick and Douglas Counties provide a disproportionate number of reports because of the extensive coverage they receive from birders. I encourage you all to venture off the familiar ground once in awhile!

It is always difficult to decide which bird species to include in this report. For reasons of space, I sometimes omit birds that are of interest to many birders. Missing from this report are most records of species such as Merlin, Common Moorhen and Black-bellied Plover. These are all species which are exciting to find, yet are not particularly unexpected in the proper habitat, and which were reported by many observers this fall. On the other hand, I sometimes include birds in this same category which are reported from the less-birded counties. Hence the inclusion of, say, Sedge Wren and LeConte's Sparrow from Butler County. Unexpected there? Not really. Seldom reported from there? You bet.

A few random musings on the report this fall: Rare loons were scarce this fall. Fish Crows are obviously continuing to expand their range, at least in the Neosho and Verdigris

watersheds, if not beyond. The Snow Bunting reports from Cheyenne Bottoms were very early, but mirrored a major invasion of the species into the northern plains at the same time. The Bank Swallow reported in Wichita was at an extremely late date for anywhere in North America, and may possibly have been an unusually marked immature Tree Swallow. The juvenile towhee reported by Tyler Hicks at Mulvane was not identified to species, and may have represented a very unusual southern Kansas nesting record. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were unusually widely reported this fall.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring migration!!!!

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Pacific Loon	1 ad. and 1 imm at Cheney At least one Pacific Loon remained at Cheney through the end of the period.	D&FV, m.ob.	10/30	Sedgwick
Red-throated Loon	1 at Clinton	MG	11/29	Douglas
Western Grebe	6 at Cheney	WAS	11/14	Kingman
Pied-billed Grebe	adults with fledges	PJ	8/7	Sedgwick
Eared Grebe	1 at Harvey East Lake	BD	8/30	Harvey

Neo-tropic Cormorant	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	WC, DK, DV	9/20-29	Barton
Tri-colored Heron	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	RK	9/20-23	Barton
Great Egret	300 near Elwood 1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	H&DC RK	8/21 <u>11/9</u>	Doniphan Barton
Snowy Egret	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	RK	<u>11/9</u>	Barton
Cattle Egret	2 on CNG 1 in Hell Creek Cove, Wilson 1 still at Cheyenne Bottoms	CH, SP MR RK	10/17 10/31 <u>11/5</u>	Morton Russell Barton
<u>REDDISH EGRET</u>	1 potential first state record at CB	RK	9/21	Barton
Green Heron	1 late bird in Big Ditch, Wichita	PJ	<u>10/10</u>	Sedgwick
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	1 at Point of Rocks ponds 1 late bird in Big Ditch, Wichita	DG PJ	9/4 <u>10/10</u>	Morton Sedgwick
Least Bittern	1 calling at Redmond Dam 1 at Elwood mudflats 1 late at Quivira	AS JH AG, MG	8/23 8/29 10/24	Coffey Doniphan Stafford
White-faced Ibis	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	RK	11/3-9	Barton
Turkey Vulture	1 near Ellsworth 1 south of Lawrence	ER PW	<u>11/17</u> <u>11/20</u>	Russell Douglas
<u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	9/23	Barton
American Black Duck	1 at Melvern	MG, AM	11/21	Osage
Surf Scoter	1 adult male at Clark Co. St. Lake 2 females at Milford Res.	CH, SP CO	10/16 11/11	Clark Geary
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Liberal sewage lagoon	LE	11/6	Seward
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at McCoid Lake	LE	<u>8/22</u>	Seward
Mississippi Kite	adults feeding fledges	R&JW	8/10-12	<u>Douglas</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	1 in Elkhart	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 at NW corner of Quivira	TH, CG	11/6	Stafford
Golden Eagle	1 near Tuttle Creek Res	DBU	11/6	Riley?
Merlin	1 very pale bird near Nekoma	SS	10/28	Rush
Virginia Rail	1 at Sedgwick Co. Park	PJ	11/28	Sedgwick
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	60 south of Ark. R.	DM	11/22	Kearny

Sora	1 at Cimm. Rec. Ponds	TW	9/4	Morton
Black Rail	1 at Ft. Riley field	JK	8/17	Riley
	1 at Quivira on wildlife loop	SM	10/10	Stafford
	1 in Big Ditch/25 th St.	CG	10/27	<u>Sedgwick</u>
Whooping Crane	4 at Quivira	KM, MP	10/17	Stafford
	17 at Quivira	MG, AG	10/24	Stafford
	2 on Nature Conservancy land	RK	10/27	Barton
Piping Plover	1 at Clinton	AP, DT	8/12	Douglas
	1 at Quivira	MR	9/2	Stafford
	1 on Ark R., Wichita	CG, PJ	9/11	Sedgwick
Semipalmated Plover	1 on Ark. R. near Oxford	WAS	10/16	Cowley
	1 late at Quivira	AG, MG	10/24	Stafford
Black-bellied Plover	8 at Quivira	MR	10/31	Stafford
Mountain Plover	1 at Quivira	CG	9/11	<u>Stafford</u>
	3 flocks totaling 75 on Hwy. 51	MR, SS	9/19	Morton
American Avocet	5 at Neosho WMA	JS	8/20	Crawford
	1 at Lawrence	GP	8/21	Douglas
	1 late at Quivira	AG, MG	10/24	Stafford
	1 at Ark. R., Wichita	CG	10/31	Sedgwick
	1 at Quivira	TH, CG	11/6	Stafford
	1 at Cheney	WAS	<u>11/14</u>	Reno
	2 at John Redmond	MG	<u>11/15</u>	Coffey
Upland Sandpiper	1 record late bird w. of Larned	SS	<u>10/4</u>	Pawnee
Long-billed Curlew	1 near Clark Co. Lake	CG, DW, m.ob	9/3	Clark
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Quivira	SC, DWe	9/4	Stafford
Sanderling	12 at Cheney sandbar	CG, PJ	9/15	Reno
Western Sandpiper	1 at Quivira	MR	10/31	Stafford
Dunlin	1 at Quivira	DA, DW	9/3	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at sod farms	AS	8/1	Miami?
	1 at Kyle Marsh	LM, GP	8/8	Jefferson
	1 at Clinton L.	AP	8/14	Douglas
	2 near Elwood	JH	8/29	Doniphan
	4 near Colwich	PJ	9/1	Sedgwick
	4 at Quivira	DA, DW	9/3	Stafford
<u>Ruff</u>	1 basic plumage male at Quivira	RMC, m.ob	9/6	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Kyle Marsh	LM	8/16	Jefferson
American Woodcock	1 in Manhattan yard	JG, C&IH	11/12	Pottawatomie
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 at Liberal sewage lagoons	LE	11/6	Seward

Wilson's Phalarope	1 late at Quivira	CH, SP	10/16	Stafford
	1 late at Liberal lagoon	CH, SP	10/16	Seward
	1 very late at Quivira	AG, MG	10/24	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Quivira	SC, DWE	9/4	Stafford
	1 at Elkhart Sewage lagoon	PJ, m.ob.	9/5	Morton
	4 at Quivira	DA, DW	9/6	Stafford
	2 at Quivira	MR, SS	9/19	Stafford
<u>Red Phalarope</u>	1 at Quivira	MR, SS	9/19	Stafford
Jaeger species	1 unidentified jaeger at Cheney	PJ	10/30	Reno
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1 possible 1 st winter at C. Bottoms	RK	11/9	Barton
California Gull	1 adult at Winfield Lake	GY	9/5	Cowley
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 possible 1 st year at Tuttle	AS	9/20	Riley
	1 1 st year at Perry	MM	10/3	Douglas
<u>Little Gull</u>	1 1 st year at Cheyenne Bottoms	RK	9/28	Barton
Caspian Tern	1 at Ridgeport area in Wichita	H&SG	8/8	Sedgwick
	8 at Winfield	GY	9/5	Cowley
	2 along Ark. R. at Wichita	CG	9/15	Sedgwick
	25 at Tuttle Creek	TC, DM, GS	9/21	Riley
Forster's Tern	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	RK	<u>11/5-9</u>	Barton
Common Tern	5-7 in breeding plumage	GY	9/5	Cowley
	4 at Farlington SP	JA	9/12	Crawford
Least Tern	2 pair w. juveniles in NW Wichita	PJ, m.ob.	8/8-12	Sedgwick
	Pair feeding 2 juveniles	LM, GP	8/8	Jefferson
	2 adults w/ juvenile	GY	9/5	Cowley
White-winged Dove	1 shot by hunter near Linwood	<i>fide</i> BB	9/1	Leavenworth
Eurasian Collared Dove	up to seven in Elkhart through Sept.	BP, m.ob	9/2-?	Morton
	4 in Smith Center	TP	11/25	Smith
Inca Dove	1 at feeder several weeks	J&LQ	8/30-?	Pratt
	1 at Oxford feeder	WC	11/14-11/30	Sumner
Short-eared Owl	1 in W. Wichita	BM	11/6	Sedgwick
Long-eared Owl	1 in Sim Park, Wichita	RB	11/5	Sedgwick
<u>Western Screech-Owl</u>	1 heard at Wilburton Crossing	BF	9/4	Morton
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 calling at Lone Star	PW	8/29	Douglas
Common Poorwill	1 at Work Station	m.ob.	9/4-5	Morton
	Still there	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 male at Liberal feeder	LE	8/22	Seward
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at Satanta feeder	MR, SS	9/18	<u>Haskell</u>

Black-chin. Hummingbird	1 in Elkhart	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
<u>RINGED KINGFISHER</u>	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	BA	8/14	Barton
<u>Red-naped Sapsucker</u>	1 in Elkhart	CH, SP	10/17	Morton
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 late at Shawnee Trail area	RM	<u>10/3</u>	Crawford
Hammond's Flycatcher	1 in Elkhart	BP	9/2	Morton
Dusky Flycatcher	1 in Elkhart 2 at Boy Scout Area	BP SP, m.ob	9/2 9/10	Morton Morton
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 well seen in Elkhart	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
Say's Phoebe	1 very late at Quivira	MT, m.ob	11/9	Stafford
Great Crested Flycatcher	1 at Boy Scout Area	m.ob	9/4-5	Morton
Purple Martin	10,000 in Wichita roost 1 in Elkhart	KG GP, m.ob	8/11 9/11	Sedgwick Morton
Barn Swallow	2 at Redmond Dam	MG, AM	<u>11/21</u>	Coffey
Bank/Tree Swallow	1 immature at Oldsquaw pond	DV, m.ob	<u>11/17</u>	Sedgwick
Violet-green Swallow	1 at close range-Elkhart ponds 1 at Elkhart Cemetery 1 at Satanta	TD, BP BP MR, SS	8/27 9/9 9/18	Morton Morton <u>Haskell</u>
Northern Shrike	1 in s. Dickinson Co. 1 near Rozel	DG SS	10/30 10/29	Dickinson Pawnee
Blue-headed Vireo	1 near Weskan 1 at Elkhart Cemetery	CW CH, SP	8/22 10/17	Wallace Morton
Cassin's Vireo	1 at Work Station 1 along Cimm. R.	PJ, m.ob. LE, m.ob	9/4-5 9/11	Morton Morton
Plumbeous Vireo	1 at Boy Scout Area	MM	9/10	Morton
Philadelphia Vireo	1 on river near Mulvane 1 at Oak Park	TH RB	8/28 9/5	Sedgwick Sedgwick
Fish Crow	2 calling near Oswego 1 calling at Neosho WA	DM DM	8/24 8/25	<u>Labette</u> <u>Neosho</u>
Barn Swallow	several at Quivira	AG, MG	10/24	Stafford
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 in Wilson 1 at Oak Park, Wichita	MR LE, PJ	8/5 8/15	Ellsworth Sedgwick

Red-breasted Nuthatch, cont.	1 at Lone Star	AP	8/29	Douglas
	2 at Elkhart Cemetery	m.ob	9/2-5	Morton
	10+ at Junction City Cemetery	SC, Dwe	9/4	Geary
RB Nuthatches were in very high numbers this fall, and also arrived early. These were some of the first reports. Unusually common to downright abundant statewide throughout the period. On 10/10 Dave Bryan and Scott Seltman estimated as many as 50 at the Ft Hays State University Experiment Station.				
Sedge Wren	1 at Seven Springs	CO	8/29	Geary
	1 window-stunned in Topeka	DG	10/1	Shawnee
	2 near El Dorado Res.	BL	10/10	Butler
Mountain Bluebird	1 rare county record	ER	11/27	Haskell
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at Work Station	JR	8/26	Morton
	2 at Work Station	DW, m.ob	9/4-5	Morton
most birders in Morton Co. this fall found Curve-bills at the Work Station				
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1 at Boy Scout Area	BF	9/4	Morton
	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	MM, BP, SP	9/10	Morton
Northern Parula	1 female at Elkhart shelterbelt	TD, BP	8/27	Morton
	1 female at Elkhart-same bird?	TH, m.ob.	9/4-5	Morton
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	JN, RB, H&SG	8/30-9/5	Sedgwick
	1 male at Cimm. Rec. Area	BP, TH, m.ob.	9/4	<u>Morton</u>
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Oak Park	H&SG	9/4	Sedgwick
	2 at Oak Park	JW	9/6	Sedgwick
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1 at Burcham	RA	9/6	Douglas
Magnolia Warbler	1 near Mulvane	L&TH	10/3	Sedgwick
Black-th. Blue Warbler	1 fem. at Boy Scout Area	BF	9/4	Morton
	1 at Wilburton and 1 at Western Cr.	BP, TH	9/5	Morton
	1 dead in Topeka tower kill	MT	10/10	Shawnee
Black-th. Gray Warbler	1 at Wilburton Crossing	NL, TW, m.ob	9/4	Morton
	1 east of Newton	CS, BD	<u>10/16-17</u>	Harvey
Black-th. Green Warbler	1 near Mulvane	TH	8/12	Sedgwick
	1 near Junction City	CO	8/21	Geary
	1 in Elkhart shelterbelt	BP, m.ob.	9/2-10	Morton
Townsend's Warbler	1 in Elkhart shelterbelt	BP, m.ob	9/4-10	Morton
Blackburnian Warbler	1 at Burcham	RA	9/6	Douglas
Pine Warbler	1 at Maple Grove	CG	9/8	Sedgwick
	1 at Sedgwick Co. Park	CG	10/2	Sedgwick
	1 in Elkhart	MR, SS	9/18	<u>Morton</u>
Prairie Warbler	1 near Clinton	RF	8/8	Douglas
Palm Warbler	several at Baker Wetlands	EH	10/3	Douglas

Worm Eating Warbler	1 at Wilburton Crossing	MC	9/4	Morton
Northern Waterthrush	1 at Middle Springs 1 in Wichita yard 1 in Elkhart	BP BM CH, SP	9/2 9/28 <u>10/17-18</u>	Morton Sedgwick Morton
Ovenbird	1 in Wichita yard	DK	<u>10/17-19</u>	Sedgwick
Mourning Warbler	1 immature at Boy Scout Area	TD, BP	8/27	Morton
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 at Boy Scout Area	MR, SS	9/19	Morton
Blackpoll Warbler	1 near Mulvane	TH	8/14	Sedgwick
Canada Warbler	1 at Burcham Park 1 in Wichita yard	RA DK	9/4 9/11	Douglas Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	1 immature at Oak Park	JN	9/3	Sedgwick
Western Tanager	1 at Middle Springs 1 at Elkhart	BP BP	9/2 9/3	Morton Morton
Summer Tanager	1 winter plumage at Baker Wetland	EH	<u>10/3</u>	Douglas
Spotted/Eastern Towhee	1 juvenile near Mulvane	TH	<u>8/14</u>	<u>Sedgwick</u>
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Point-of-Rocks	MR, SS	9/19	Morton
Chipping Sparrow	1 in breeding plumage Osage Trail	BD	8/30	Harvey
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 late at Quivira	TH, CG	<u>11/6</u>	Stafford
Baird's Sparrow	2 in alfalfa field near Larned	SS	9/29	Pawnee
LeConte's Sparrow	1 near El Dorado Lake 10 at Baker Wetlands	BL MG, m.ob	10/10 10/17	Butler Douglas
Henslow's Sparrow	4 at Dove Roost trail, Redmond 1 at Baker Wetlands	AS MG, m.ob	8/23 10/17	Coffey Douglas
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 dead in Topeka tower kill 1 at Baker Wetlands 2 at Slate Creek Wetland 1 in Big Ditch in Wichita	RK MT ML WAS CG	9/12 10/10 10/17 10/16 10/23	Barton Shawnee <u>Douglas</u> Sumner <u>Sedgwick</u>
Smith's Longspur	120 at Lyon Co. State Lake	CG	10/24	Lyon
Snow Bunting	several reported 1 confirmed sighting	fide RK RK	<u>10/29</u> <u>11/1</u>	Barton Barton
Indigo Bunting	1 late bird in Big Ditch	JB, PJ	10/3	Sedgwick
Dickcissel	near Nekoma 4 late near Junction City	SS CO	10/9 10/11	Rush Geary

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 at Work Station	CH, SP	10/17	Morton
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 at Felker Park	<i>fide</i> DL	9/12	Shawnee
Blue Grosbeak	1 late in Elkhart	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
Purple Finch	1 at Work Station	CH, SP	10/17	Morton
	1 at Topeka feeder	KM	11/1	Shawnee
many birders in the east reported more Purple Finches than usual this fall				
Lesser Goldfinch	2 at Cimm. Rec. Area	SP, m.ob	9/10	Morton
	2 at Western Crossing	MR, SS	9/18	Morton
Evening Grosbeak	3 in Wichita	PJ	11/26	Sedgwick

Barbara Allen, Robert Antonio, Debarah Arnett, Jim Ausemus, Roy Bekemeyer, Dave Bryan, Doris Burnett (DBU), Bill Busby, Ted Cable, Wally Champeny, Donna Chance, Herb Chance, Elaine Corder, Mark Corder, Steve Crawford, Bob Dester, Todd Dilley, Lisa Edwards, Richard Field, Bob Fisher, Jan Garton, Matt Gearhart, Dan Gish, Allan Godwin, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Eric Hanley, Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Jack Hilsabeck, Chris Hobbs, Carol Hoogheem, Irwin Hoogheem, Pete Janzen, Jeff Keating, Dan Kilby, Rich Kostecke, Mark Land, Bill Langley, Nancy Leo, Robert Mangile, Kathy McDowell, Bert McClard, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeil (RMC), Steve Metz, Aaron Mitchell, Lloyd Moore, Dan Mulhern, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Alexis Powell, Jane and Lee Queal, Mike & Ellen Rader, John Rakestraw, Dave Rintoul, Carolyn Schwab, Scott Seltman, Guy Smith, Art Swalwell, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Phil Wedge, Don Weiss (DWE), Dave Williams, Tracy Wohl, Chris Wood, Gene Young.

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777** or, join the Kansas Bird Internet Discussion List (KSBIRD-L) and report it there. To join this list, send an e-mail message to listowner Chuck Otte at otte@jc.net.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://ksbirds.org>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option. From this point you can also find a link and fill out an online rare bird report. The report will be automatically filed with the KBRC and you can request an electronic copy of your report be sent to your e-mail address. It can't get much simpler than that!

-- Resources

Reservoir Maps Now Available

For years, people who wanted detailed maps of Kansas reservoirs had to splice together several different topographic maps. Now the Kansas Geological Survey has produced individual topographic maps for each of the state's major lakes and several of its wildlife refuges. Each map depicts an entire lake, along with surrounding roads, houses, quarries, and other features. The maps are printed on water-resistant paper, ideal for use while fishing, hunting, canoeing, or hiking. Maps are available for Tuttle Creek, Wilson, John Redmond, Glen Elder, Kirwin, Cedar Bluff, Marion, Clinton, Perry, Melvern, Norton, Pomona, Cheney, Toronto, Fall River, Elk City, Milford, Kanopolis, Webster, El Dorado, La Cygne, Lake Shawnee, and Lovewell reservoirs, along with the Cheyenne Bottoms and Marais des Cygnes waterfowl areas and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The maps cost \$15 each, along with taxes and handling. Most of the lake maps show lake-bottom topography. For more information, to order a map, or to get a copy of a brochure that describes all the maps, call the Survey at 785-864-3965 or check the Survey's home page at <http://www.kgs.ukans.edu> *Reprinted, with permission, from The Kansas Geologic Survey's newsletter, The Geologic Record.*

Plans for Spring Habitat at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area by Helen Hands

As I write this article, snow is falling and it's hard to believe that spring and migrating birds will be here soon. So, I thought you'd be interested in the plans for spring habitat management at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA). Bear in mind that despite excellent water-management capabilities, Mother Nature can foil our plans with heavy spring rains.

Pool 3A will be drawn down starting in late February. The goal is to have Pool 3A dry by early May to prepare for cattle grazing starting on May 15th. Last year, some disagreed with our decision to test the effectiveness of cattle grazing for cattail control. Concerns included pollution from cattle waste and birds being killed by flying into fence wires. We believe that depending on the effectiveness of cattle grazing for controlling cattail, the benefits of grazing could outweigh any potential negatives. However, we are not dismissing concerns about bird collisions and pollution. Cattle grazing at CBWA is experimental and besides evaluating the effectiveness of grazing for cattail control, we are evaluating the effects of grazing on water quality (nitrates and nitrites); the invertebrate community in the soil, water column, and on the vegetation; and on bird use during the nesting season and migration.

The drawdown in Pool 3B will start in mid-March. Staggering drawdown dates in these pools should lengthen the time that mudflats are available for shorebirds.

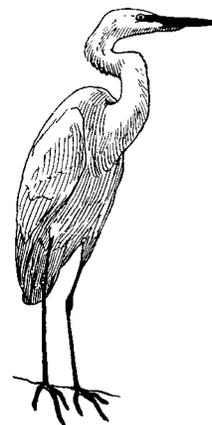
As soon as Pools 3A and 3B dry out, disking for cattail control will begin. All cattail stands outside the grazing study site will be disked. If conditions permit, a few 1-acre areas will be excavated to a depth of 8-12 inches with a scraper. These "scrapes" will be located in dense cattail stands in higher portions of the pool near the boundary between the marsh and the grass. Water quality, invertebrate density, and migratory bird use of these scraped and disked areas will be compared to two other treatments, grazing and burning, and a control (i.e., no treatment).

Shorebird habitat in the Mitigation Marsh, located southeast of the rest area on highway 156, will be provided by either evaporation or drawdown. This 150-acre marsh attracts a wide variety of waterbirds, but few people visit it because it's accessible only on foot.

Depending on habitat conditions, shorebird numbers typically peak in late April to early May. To celebrate the end of the renovation effort and hopefully the peak of shorebird migration, we will be having an open house on May 6th from 9 am to noon at the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area headquarters. Everyone is welcome. We'll have donuts and coffee. Hope to see you there.

I still need volunteers to help with an annual survey of breeding birds in the grasslands of Cheyenne Bottoms. These surveys will involve walking transects in the grassland portions of Pools 2, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 5 during late May to mid-June. If you would like to help, contact me at 316-793-3066 or helenh@wp.state.ks.us.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks*



Who Is That?

Identifications are needed for the 1998 KOS Group Photo taken in front of the Natural History Museum at the University of Kansas during the 50th meeting. With the help of Dr. Boyd, Max Thompson, Mike Rader, Dr. Seibel, Scott and Diane Seltman we have all but 6 of the 100 people in the Dave Bryan photo identified. If you are one of the 6 mystery people or know one, please drop Tom Shane a note at 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846; or shane@pld.com for an e-note. If responding, please use the identification code below each photo. We realize that using these reproduction techniques we don't have the highest quality images, but any help would be appreciated!



Lady #23



Lady #25



Lady #27



Lady #67



Man #29



Man #96

Bulletin Editor: Max reported that the March *Bulletin* is being proofed and should be ready in a couple more weeks. He has good material for the June issue but could still use some more for the September issue.

Horned Lark Editor: Chuck reported that the *Horned Lark* is in production. Since the spring meeting is later than normal, they moved deadlines on the March issue by a couple of weeks so there would not be such a big time spread between the arrival of the March issue with all the registration information and the actual date of the spring meeting. He also reported that Dave Rintoul had moved the KOS web site to its new home at <http://ksbirds.org>. This will make it easier for Chuck, or others, to help maintain it, plus the web address is easier to remember.

Finance Committee: Max reported that the Finance Committee (Max Thompson, Ed Miller and Gregg Friesen) met in January and created the year 2000 budget. The yearly interest from the trust account is being reinvested into medium risk investments with slightly higher earnings potential. Over 80% of the trust is in low risk investments.

Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC): The KBRC had met to nominate new members and elect officers. The terms of Pete Janzen and David Seibel have expired. Gene Young and Lloyd Moore were nominated to fill those positions. Richard Rucker was elected chairman and Dave Rintoul secretary. Max moved to accept the KBRC report and committee member nominations. It was seconded by Chuck and passed 6 - 0. Concern was expressed by the board regarding the all male membership of the KBRC. This is a concern for KBRC members also and they are actively searching for women to serve on the committee.

Future Meetings: Greg reported that the Hays meeting essentially broke even. Pete Janzen reviewed the proposed schedule for the Spring 2000 meeting in conjunction with the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Most of the meeting will take place in Oklahoma. The board expressed its approval and thought that it all looked good. Pete was thanked for his hard work. Chuck moved and James seconded that Pete be authorized to spend up to \$50 on door prizes for the spring meeting. The motion carried 6 - 0.

The Fall 2000 meeting will be at Johnson County Community College, October 6 - 8, 2000. John Schukman will work with David Seibel on this meeting.

Max moved, Chuck seconded that the Spring 2001 meeting will be in the Crossed Timbers area of southeastern Kansas, headquartered out of Independence. The motion carried 6 - 0. Ed will organize this event with Max's assistance.

The tentative schedule following that is:

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg area - Ed will contact KOS members and interested individuals to help coordinate that meeting.

Spring 2002 - Junction City

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2003 - Emporia

There was discussion on the board elections for the upcoming fall meeting. There will be several vacancies to fill. John Schukman will be moving up to President so the Vice-president position will be open. Ed Miller has chosen not to run for Treasurer, James and Susan Barnes have decided not to run for Business Manager and Membership Development Coordinator respectively. The director terms of Suzanne Fellow and Carolyn Schwab will expire and those two positions will be open. Chuck will write announcements for the *Horned Lark*, asking for interested parties to run for these positions.

Greg had received a letter from the Curator of Birds at the Sedgwick County Zoo asking for KOS to put up a booth at the zoo on April 1st for a special event in honor of International Migratory Bird Day. It appeared that there was good support for this event and Greg had several leads of interested participants that he would follow up on. Anyone interested in assisting with the International Migratory Bird Day event at the zoo should contact Greg Farley (gfarley@fhsu.edu) or (785) 628-5965.

Gene Young requested a donation of Birds of Kansas checklists for a project involving high school students. He felt that less than 50 lists would be required. There were no objections from the board.

Gene also reported that there is growing interest, both nationally and at the state level, in the Tower Bird Kill Project. Gene has been in touch with the National Research Committee on this project and let them know there is a great deal of interest in Kansas. There is a possibility of this leading to grants and research with the possibility of censusing of towers across Kansas. Gene will keep the board informed of progress in this area.

Gene reported that the Rare Bird Alert (RBA) has been slow, reflecting the low level of rarities currently being seen. Phone calls are minimal, with most reports coming via e-mail and the Internet. It was discussed whether we still needed to have a phone line for the RBA, but since the phone is being provided at no charge to KOS it was decided that there was no need to drop the phone line at this time.

James brought up that we are running low on membership brochures. Since the information on the brochure changes when we have a treasurer change, it was decided to try to stretch the supply until fall, after the new treasurer has been elected.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/Chuck Otte
Acting Secretary

Proposed By-laws Change

To be voted on by the KOS membership at the Annual Meeting, October 7, 2000

Explanation: If adopted, the following change would create an appointed position of Sales Manager to serve under the Business Manager. The Sales Manager would be appointed by the President and would be responsible for managing all the sales items for KOS, maintaining inventory, taking orders, creating new sale items, etc. Any questions regarding this change may be directed to Chuck Otte.

The following items are proposed to be added:

Article V., Section 3. Appointed Positions

[G. The President may appoint a Sales Manager, to serve under, and assist the Business Manager with all aspects of KOS sale merchandise. This would include, but not be limited to: ordering merchandise, maintaining an accurate inventory, taking and filling mail/e-mail orders, having items available for sale at KOS meetings, and other activities as determined by the Business Manager.]

Article VI., Section 7. The Business Manager shall:

[I. Oversee the activities of the Sales Manager and report such activities to the Board of Directors.]

Submitted for consideration by Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor, for the KOS Board.

**Deadline for submissions
for the June, 2000 *Horned Lark* is
May 1, 2000**

KOS Board Positions Available !!

Interested Members Please Apply

As you may have read in other parts of this issue, there will be several positions on the KOS Board opening up this fall. To be specific, we need interested candidates for the positions of: Vice-president, Treasurer, Membership Development Coordinator, Business Manager and two Directors. Following is a brief description of these positions and their responsibilities.

The **Vice-president** is responsible for running meetings when the president is not present and serving as program chair for the spring and fall meetings. The program chair works with the local committee to make sure that each meeting is ready to go. They usually serve as emcee of the presented papers session as well. While not required so by the By-laws, the Vice-president often moves up to president. The Vice-president may serve two consecutive one year terms.

The **Treasurer** serves as a custodian of all KOS funds. They pay all the bills, coordinate with Membership Development Coordinator to keep an accurate listing of current members, prepare annual financial statements and other required reports. The current treasurer and the immediate past treasurer also serve on the KOS Finance Committee.

The **Membership Development Coordinator** (MDC) is responsible for keeping the record and history of KOS members in conjunction with the Treasurer. Additionally, the MDC has the opportunity to create and oversee

activities to help increase and retain KOS membership, and to develop outreach programs for youth and the general public on birds and the Kansas Ornithological Society.

The **Business Manager** is responsible for conducting the business activities of KOS including overseeing the printing and distribution of the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark*. The Business Manager also has oversight responsibilities of all for sale items of the Society.

The last three positions are one year positions and may succeed themselves as elected.

The two **Directors** serve a two year term and are not reelected, although they can be elected to an officer position. The directors provide input and direction to the rest of the KOS Board. These are good "entry level" positions to help a member learn more about KOS and help them decide if they might be interested in serving as an officer at some future date.

More information on the responsibilities can be found at the KOS web site (go to the history page) where the By-laws can be read. If you are interested in serving please contact KOS President, Greg Farley, or newsletter editor, Chuck Otte.

Student Research Fund Needs Donations! Help For Student Is Needed!

A young ornithologist, Tanner Lundy, plans to study bird kills at towers less than 500 ft. in south central Kansas this spring and fall. Studies of this type have been almost nonexistent in this part of North America. It is an extremely important study because of the proliferation of this size tower due to more people using cell phones, etc. every day. Many bird kills have been recorded from the 1,000 ft. towers. The extent of avian mortality at the short towers is not known.

Tanner is a junior at Southwestern College, Winfield, and needs only a modest amount of funding for travel and equipment. We only need an additional \$200 above what is already in the fund for Southwestern students. Any thing you can afford will help us reach the goal.

Please help Tanner. Send a check made to: KOS Student Research Fund, mark the memo line; Maurice Baker Fund, and send it to, Tom Shane, KOS Student Research Fund Committee Chair, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846. KOS has 501(c)(3) status, so your donation is tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

We regret that this electronic version does not
contain the KOS Kid's Page.

We regret that this electronic version does not
contain the KOS Kid's Page.

SPRING FIELD MEETING

OKLAHOMA & KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

KENTON, OKLAHOMA MAY 19-21, 2000

The Kansas Ornithological Society and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society cordially invite you to their joint spring field meeting in Kenton, Oklahoma. Field trips will explore a variety of birding destinations in nearby Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. This entire area is well known for producing interesting birds, and is wonderfully remote and unspoiled. The meeting will be based at Camp Billy Joe near Kenton, in the rugged Black Mesa country at the tip of the Oklahoma Panhandle. It will feature excellent speakers, outstanding birding, good fellowship, and a wonderful opportunity to explore this fascinating area. We hope you will be able to attend this special joint event in the final year of 20th Century birding!

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 19:

- Informal Kansas field trips departing from the El Rancho Motel in Elkhart, Ks. (316-697-2117), by or before sunrise. Excellent opportunity for Lesser Prairie-Chickens.
- Registration at Camp Billy Joe from 5:00-9:00. Don't miss the specimen ID contest!
- Dinner from 6:30-7:30
- General meeting at 8:00. Speaker will be Max Thompson, co-author of *Birds of Kansas*, and Professor of Biology at Southwestern College.

Saturday, May 20:

- Breakfast 7:30-8:15. Those anticipating early field trip departure may wish to bring breakfast provisions. The caterer will provide sack lunches.
- Field trips to a variety of locations. These are tentatively scheduled as follows:
 - Texakeet Canyon/Regnier Ranch, Oklahoma
 - Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks
 - Nature Conservancy Monument, Oklahoma
 - Cottonwood Canyon/Carrizo Watershed, Colorado
 - Elkhart migrant traps/Cimarron Grasslands, Kansas (two groups)
 - Capulin Volcano, New Mexico
- Dinner 6:30-7:30.
- General meeting at 8:00. Speaker to be announced.

Sunday, May 21:

- Breakfast 7:30-8:15
- Cleanup/Checkout 9:00

MEALS

Catering options are available for all meals between Friday evening and Sunday morning. See the registration form for prices.

LODGING

The primary lodging will be at Camp Billy Joe, a church camp located 3 miles east of Kenton, on the south side of the road. The entrance is clearly marked. The camp is located in a rural setting and has species such as Canyon Towhee and Greater Roadrunner on the grounds. This facility has 160 beds, 12 showers and 14 toilets. There are 8 bunk buildings, each with 10 bunk beds (20 persons per bunk building). These will be designated by gender as the registration dictates. Two of the bunk buildings are connected by a bath with two showers and two toilets. The remaining showers and toilets are located in the main building. The main building easily seats 160 persons at tables, and is air-conditioned. The bunkhouses are not air-conditioned. The meeting hall has a screen and PA system for the evening speakers. Tents are allowed on the grounds, and those using tents may use the facilities in the main building. There are 7 RV electrical hook-ups, but no sewer connections. RV campers must self-contain sewage or use the facilities on the grounds. Our contract includes cleanup and trash disposal responsibilities.

Those who prefer motel lodging may stay at one of several motels in Boise City or Kenton:

The Hitching Post B&B
HC Box # 2
Kenton, OK 73946
580-261-7413

Virginia's B&B
117 N. Freeman
Boise City, OK 73933
580-544-2596

Longhorn Motel
Highway 287 & 64
Boise City, OK. 73933
580-544-3495

Santa Fe Trail Motel
North Highway 287
Boise City, OK., 73933
580-544-3495

Townsmen Motel
Highway 287 East
Boise City, OK 73933
580-544-2506

Gasoline and food are available in Kenton if you are there at the right time of day. However, stocking up in Boise City is highly recommended. Many trips will visit very remote areas, and all contingencies should be planned for. Climate can vary a lot in this region. Nights may be a bit cool.

2000 KOS/OOS SPRING MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

FEES:

REGISTRATION/LODGING FEE:	\$20.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____
FRIDAY DINNER:	\$6.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____
SATURDAY BREAKFAST	\$6.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____
SATURDAY SACK LUNCH	\$5.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____
SATURDAY DINNER	\$9.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____
SUNDAY BREAKFAST	\$4.00/PERSON	X ___ =	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

CHECK HERE TO RESERVE AN RV HOOK-UP _____

Saturday lunch sandwich preference is requested. Please indicate whether you would prefer a ham ___, turkey ___, or tuna ___ sandwich with your lunch. These will be made in advance with names on them.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 6.

MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO:

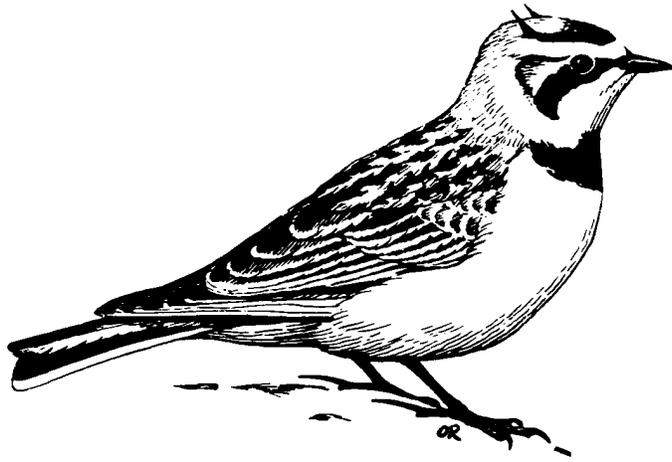
LISA EDWARDS
2111 VIOLET LANE
LIBERAL, KANSAS 67901
E-mail: lagh@swko.net

KOS members and friends should make checks payable to The Kansas Ornithological Society, OOS members and friends to the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. For additional information, contact Pete Janzen at 316-832-0182 (e-mail prarybrd@southwind.net), or Keith Martin at 918-343-7706 (e-mail KMartin@rsu.edu)



If you check the official report of the Scott Lake Christmas Bird Count you may not see a Snowy Owl listed. However, Steven Seltman holds the proof that one was there!

Photo by Tom Shane



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 1999

Vol. 26, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

Hays was fun! I'd missed the 1998 fall meeting in Lawrence (talk about a meeting to miss!) so really felt out of the loop. It was good to get back together with KOS members and have some fun! The spring meeting will be a little later than normal because of our collaborating with the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Pete Janzen is in charge of this and it should be a lot of fun. Look for information in the March 2000 *Horned Lark*.

Don't miss Mike's Musings on page 5. It may be a little departure from his usual writings, but take the time to read it twice. I think you'll find that it touches all of us.

One of my goals with the newsletter has always been to help you, or make you, stretch yourself a little bit. I'm not a big fan of complacency so I want to try to keep all of you striving to better tomorrow than you were today. The KDWP Forum may stretch you a little bit or maybe a lot. Birds are all part of a bigger picture known as the global ecosystem. This is a complex issue and we can't extract any part of it and expect it to exist on its own. We may not like the other parts, but we have to understand how it all fits together.

The world population is growing. Many "wild areas" are being converted to land to grow food or into urban housing. Every change impacts the global ecosystem and the ripples are like a stone tossed into a pond - they spread out, they reflect back and in the end, everyone is influenced. We must keep striving to understand this complex web of life which we are a part of also. Just some deep Chuck philosophy to launch you into the holiday season!

It's Christmas Bird Count season again. Find one close to you (or two or three) and get involved. If there aren't any close to

you, start one. We have lot's of gaps across the state that we could fill in with more count circles.

Finally, the holidays are filled with lots of travel. Travel to see family, travel to see birds. Regardless of where you're going, travel safely, alertly and sober. Happy Holidays to one and all!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2000

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science,
Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road,
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington,
KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425
S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213 bard_owl@mindspring.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence,
KS 67301

Board Members:

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Jan Boyd, PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 65006

David Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS
67213, 316-265-4059, barn_owl@mindspring.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St,
Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Spring Meeting

Dates somewhat tentative but mark down

May 19 - 21, 2000

Morton County, KS / Black Mesa, OK
in conjunction with the Oklahoma Ornith Soc (OOS)

Look for more details in the March 2000 issue

Do You Have A Desire To Serve?

You would think that with over 400 members in KOS there'd be no shortage of people to fill the many roles that it takes to keep the organization running. And while there probably are many members out there willing and capable to serve..... no one knows unless you speak up! Every year there's a couple of board positions to fill, plus special projects and activities and occasionally officers, business manager and spring or fall meeting committees. If you have a desire to become more involved let Chuck, or one of the other board members know of your willingness to serve.

Dues are Due!!

You will probably be receiving information in the mail in the near future but why not help KOS save the postage and send in your 2000 dues now! Family membership is \$20, individual \$15, sustaining individual \$25, sustaining family \$30. Send those dues to: **Edwin J. Miller, KOS Treasurer, 218 Bermuda Drive, Independence, KS 67301.** Make checks payable to the Kansas Ornithological Society.

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barn_owl@mindspring.com

New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for non-members.

New checklists will be available at the fall meeting. You'll also be able to pay your year 2000 dues at that time and save postage!

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!

May 19 - 21, 2000 (tentative) - Morton County/Black Mesa in conjunction with OK Ornithological Society

Fall 2000 - Johnson County

Spring 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area (aka the Crossed Timbers area)

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg (need local committee!)

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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Feeding Birds

by John Rakestraw

The vast majority of birders put food out for wild birds. In fact, there are millions of people in this country whose only birding experience is watching birds at their feeders. But there is growing concern about the ramifications of this activity. Some of these concerns are legitimate. Some are not. In this column we will explore the pros and cons of bird feeding. Afterwards, if you decide to do so, I will offer suggestions for safely and effectively feeding the birds in your yard.

The first question you should ask about bird feeding is why do it at all? Some believe that the birds in their neighborhood NEED the food that is put out for them. But birds existed for approximately 150 million years before the first Wild Birds Unlimited store opened. They are well adapted to finding the food they need. The only time when bird feeding may actually contribute to bird survival is during times of heavy snow cover. The true purpose of bird feeding is to attract birds for easy viewing. In hunting circles this is known as baiting. While it is usually illegal for hunters to put food out to attract game, it is still legal for back yard bird watchers.

So what's the harm in putting food out to attract birds to your yard? Several concerns were raised during a session at the recent Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio. The first concern is the spread of disease. Birds are opportunists. If a source of easily obtained food becomes available, birds will congregate in that area to take advantage of that resource. Whenever birds are concentrated in a small area, the risk of transmitting diseases and parasites greatly increases. Two common conditions seen at feeding stations are an eye disease similar to pink-eye that afflicts House Finches and baldness in Cardinals, a condition caused by feather parasites. Other health problems can result from food that has spoiled or from feeders that are not kept clean.

In addition to obvious health concerns, some birders have suggested that bird feeding could have broader impacts. While these concerns have not been extensively studied, they are certainly worth considering. For example: Baltimore orioles normally eat fruit on their wintering grounds but switch to a diet of insects while nesting. If fruit is offered during the summer and the orioles make it a significant part of their diet, what effect might this have on the health and development of the birds' young?

Some flowering plants rely on hummingbirds for pollination. Every time a hummingbird visits a feeder, a plant fails to become pollinated. While probably not a problem in Kansas, in western states, where hummingbirds and hummingbird feeders are very common, this can change local plant communities. Likewise, seed-eating birds are responsible for

dispersing the seeds of many plants. When a bird visits a feeder, it is not dispersing the seeds of native plants.

One concern that is often voiced about bird feeding, especially the feeding of hummingbirds, is that making food readily available will prevent or delay a bird's migration. This simply isn't so. Birds are genetically programmed to migrate, and they will do so when they are ready. The lure of your bird feeder is not strong enough to cancel countless years of evolution.

Despite these concerns, most birders, myself included, continue to offer food to wild birds. Many rare bird sightings are made at feeders. Even the more common species provide a lot of enjoyment when you can watch them at close range from the comfort of your home. When shopping for wild bird food, you may be overwhelmed by the many choices available. Below is a quick run-down of the more common types of bird food.

Sunflower – Black oil sunflower is probably the most popular seed with both birds and birders. In a hanging feeder or on a platform, this seed will attract almost anything. If you care about your lawn, be aware that sunflower hulls will kill grass. If this is a concern, use sunflower hearts or chips, sunflower seeds with the hulls removed. This might seem expensive. But remember, you are not paying for the weight of the hulls, so it works out to be about the same price as whole seeds.

Safflower – If grackles and squirrels are dominating your feeder, try offering safflower seeds. Many birds like them, but blackbirds and squirrels do not.

Millet – This small inexpensive seed is very popular with sparrows and doves. It is best offered on a platform feeder.

Suet – Suet is rendered beef fat. It is a high-energy food that attracts woodpeckers and other birds in winter. A vegetarian alternative is dough made by mixing peanut butter with corn meal.

Niger – Commonly called thistle, this small seed is imported from Africa and is popular for feeding finches. The seed is supposed to be sterilized before entering this country, but there has been concern in recent years that this alien seed might be sprouting. Sunflower chips work just as well in finch feeders and cannot sprout.

Continued on page 5 -

We regret that photos are not available in
this electronic newsletter format.

KOS members relax and visit during the “flocking” hour prior to the banquet.
The Fort Hays State University Student Union hosted the enjoyable evening.
photo by David Bryan

We regret that photos are not available in
this electronic newsletter format.

KOS members enjoying a delicious Bar-b-que buffett and lots of good
conversation. The evening program was highlighted by Dr. Eugene Fleharty’s
enjoyable discussion of the early historical view of wildlife in western Kansas.
photo by David Bryan

Gifts

by Mike Rader

As I write this offering of Mike's Musings, I have a lot on my mind. I just finished helping with the Kansas ECO-Meet State Finals at Rock Springs Ranch, just south of Junction City. It was a beautiful day at a marvelous venue. The ECO-Meet is a competition for high school & some junior high aged kids in outdoor events. They included a wildlife identification event, insect identification event, interpretation event, and a native plant scavenger hunt. This program is aimed at getting youth more involved in learning about the wonderful things the outdoors of Kansas has to offer.

I have also just recently attended the fall meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society. It was a great time, with many interesting papers given on various reptiles and amphibians by students of the field. I have been a member of the KHS for some time, but never took the opportunity to attend a meeting (they usually conflicted with bird stuff!). I'm certainly glad I did. It was a fun group of people, sort of like the KOS folks.

A few weeks ago I was lucky enough to have a couple of wildflower experts, Iralee Barnard and Marge Streckfus, visit me at Wilson Lake. They wanted me to take them out and look for some plants around the lake. What a learning experience (for me more than them)! It is exciting to see what a variety of beautiful things I had growing so close to where I work.

All of this is leading me to a point. We are in the time of year that lends itself to the gift of giving, whether it be Thanksgiving, Christmas, or just thinking of others. The

Christmas Bird Count season is near and wouldn't that be a great way of sharing or giving of your expertise in the love of the outdoors of Kansas to someone young? Take a kid on a bird count with you - let them share in your enthusiasm. Most of us have some knowledge of the world around us and the variety of things that make Kansas great. Let them in on it!

Maybe someone close to you has an interest in nature, but has yet to explore it. This is a great time to help. Instead of buying another video game or the latest fad toy, buy them a field guide. Any way we can get young people out to experience the natural world around them, we should pursue it. Watching the joy and excitement of kids competing at the ECO-Meet was as good for me as it was for them. Seeing people at the Herp Society meeting be excited about things that other have contempt for as, "just slimy creatures that crawl on the ground" was satisfying, as well. Learning something about the tremendous variety of plant life we have in Kansas (and being able to remember some of it) was a great experience.

Looking at the night sky with my kids and having them tell me about constellations has been very satisfying to me. Things like these show me that maybe I'm doing a pretty good job in passing on my love for natural things to my kids and maybe the children of others also. Really, isn't that the job of all of us?

Mike can be reached at mike_rader@hotmail.com

Winged Tips continued -

Peanuts – Peanuts are rather expensive. Many birds love them, but so do squirrels and deer.

Mixed Seed – I don't recommend seed mixes. The birds pick out their favorites and scatter the rest on the ground.

Whether you offer food or not, the best way to attract birds to your yard is to provide good habitat. Chuck Otte has offered great advice on what to plant to provide food and shelter to birds. If you do feed birds, do so in moderation. If you are feeding fifty pounds of seed each week, you should probably reevaluate your motives. In my little yard, I offer one hanging feeder with sunflower chips, a platform feeder

with millet, and a hummingbird feeder. Don't forget to offer water. Water is just as attractive to birds as food, especially in the arid regions of the state. Feeders and birdbaths should be thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis to reduce the risk of disease. For the same reason, don't allow hulls to accumulate under your feeders. Either rake them up or move your feeders around.

Bird feeding is a great method for viewing birds up close. Imagine how few vagrant hummingbirds would be seen in Kansas without the use of feeders. But in order to protect the birds that we seek, we must feed responsibly and in moderation.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

SUMMER SEASON ROUND-UP

June 1, 1999 through July 31, 1999

by Pete Janzen

You never can tell what the birding is going to be like in Kansas. This summer brought us a few outstanding finds in terms of rarities, some lingering migrants, and some birds that just shouldn't have been where they were.

In Oklahoma and Texas, there was a major northward movement of coastal wading species, especially White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Tri-colored Heron. At least a few of these birds made it as far north as Kansas, with two sightings of White Ibis, and one of Tri-colored Heron. Another class of southern invaders, the southwestern doves, (Inca and White-winged Doves) made a token showing as well, although these species are raising the eyebrows of birders much less than they once did.

Two eastern warbler species, Prairie and Blue-winged Warbler, caused considerable excitement in northeast Kansas. Both had males holding territory throughout June and into early July. The Blue-winged Warbler was observed with two fledglings on July 2, but only one birder was lucky enough to witness this.

In Kearny County, west of Garden City, Art Nonhof documented a significant

colonial nesting of Eared Grebes at Lake McKinney. This also came relatively late in the season. Perhaps these birds were responding to unfavorable nesting conditions elsewhere. Also present at Lake McKinney was a pair of Clark's Grebes, always of interest in Kansas.

Another perennial summer birding phenomenon is lingering migrants that should be farther north than they are. This group is typically most well represented by shorebirds, and even more than usual seemed to hang around this June. This summer was also marked by a significant number of late waterfowl records. Mergansers, Goldeneye, and Scaup were among the most significant of these. A Dark-eyed Junco and a Harris's Sparrow both turned up in Sedgwick County this summer.

And then there are bird records that defy explanation. Riley County was the winner in this category this summer. The Institute for Bird Populations conducted some mist-netting and banding at Ft. Riley this summer, and banded a Virginia's Warbler on July 17. What this bird, of the Rocky Mountain foothills, was doing in the Flint Hills in July is hard to understand.

Other interesting birds banded at Ft. Riley that day included Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. Another very surprising find was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow found by some visiting birders from Nebraska on May 29, as reported by Rick Schmid. This bird was seen again one time, but then vanished. This species is not expected anywhere in Kansas except for the Red Hills and Morton County.

My file of records for the fall season is already pretty voluminous, but if you didn't report any good bird sightings to KSBIRD or the hotline, I'd appreciate receiving your sightings by the end of the year, for the period of August 1 through November 30. Good birding to all!

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Eared Grebe	20 seen, 13 nests at L. McKinney	AN	7/5	Kearny
	<u>125 seen, 89 nests at L McKinney</u>	AN	7/14	Kearny
Western Grebe	2 ad, 4 imm at Cheyenne Bottoms	SP,CH	7/18	Barton
Clark's Grebe	2 at Lake McKinney	AN	7/5	<u>Kearny</u>
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	TC, MR	6/24	Barton

Least Bittern	1 at Mt. Hope Marsh	JB, PJ	6/13	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	15 at Quivira	BG	6/24	Stafford
Tri-colored Heron	1 at Quivira	BG	6/24	Stafford
	1 in "late June" at Ft. Leavenworth	?	?	Leavenworth
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	8 at Quivira	MR	6/29	Stafford
<u>White Ibis</u>	1 immature at Quivira	SP, CH	7/18	Stafford
	1 immature at Cheyenne Bottoms	TC, MR	7/29	Barton
Wood Duck	1 female w/10 fledges	SS	6/19	<u>Decatur</u>
American Widgeon	1 male at Cheney Goose Refuge	JB, PJ	<u>6/13</u>	Reno
Lesser Scaup	5 at Quivira	TC, MR,SS	<u>6/10</u>	Stafford
	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	<u>7/29</u>	Stafford
Common Goldeneye	1 female at Cheyenne Bottoms	TC, MR, SS	<u>6/10</u>	Barton
Hooded Merganser	2 at Cheney Goose Refuge	JB, PJ	<u>6/13</u>	Reno
	1 in small pasture pond	SS	<u>7/9</u>	<u>Pawnee</u>
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at Quivira	CH, SP	<u>7/14</u>	Stafford
Mississippi Kite	nesting pair at Lawrence	m.ob	all summer	<u>Douglas</u>
Osprey	1 at Milford Lake	JK	6/7	Geary
Broad-winged Hawk	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	7/6	Leavenworth
King Railadult w/ 5 young at Quivira		MR	6/29	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira	CH, SP	7/17	Stafford
	2 on Smoky Hill R.	C&JO	7/23	Geary
	1 at Kyle Marsh	AS	7/31	Jefferson
Black-bellied Plover	2 at Quivira	TC, MR	7/29	Stafford
Mountain Plover	58 including young	JC	7/1	Morton
	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	7/29	<u>Stafford</u>
Marbled Godwit	3 at Cheney Goose Refuge	JB, PJ	<u>6/13</u>	Reno
	1 at Quivira	MR	<u>6/29</u>	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	25 at Lawrence Sod Farm	GP, DW	7/29-30	Douglas

Note: many shorebird species lingered late at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms this summer. On June 10, Cable, Rader, and Seltman found numbers of several species, including both yellowleg species, as well as Least, White-rumped, and Stilt Sandpipers. As usual, returning shorebird migrants were apparent by mid-July. Hobbs and Patti found 19 species on July 17-18.

Laughing Gull	2 at Tuttle Creek Res.	TC	6/6	Riley
	1 juvenile/1 st winter at Cheney	CG, PJ	7/18	Reno
California Gull	1 adult at Quivira	CH, SP	7/17	Stafford

	1 adult at Quivira	TC, MR	7/29	Stafford
Common Tern	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	TC, MR, SS	6/10	Barton
Least Tern	1 imm. at Cheney Goose Refuge	CG, PJ	7/18	Reno
	1 at Kyle Marsh, Perry WA	AS	7/31	Jefferson
Eurasian Collared-Dove	pair nesting in Mulvane	TH	6/2	Sedgwick
	1 calling in Wichita	CM	6/1	Sedgwick
	2 in Hugoton	MR	6/3	Stevens
	3 in Mulvane	TH	7/19	Sedgwick
	8 in Hugoton	MR	7/17	Stevens
Inca Dove	1 in Wichita	PJ	7/23	Sedgwick
White-winged Dove	1 east of Dodge City	MR	6/3	Ford
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Quivira	MR	6/29	Stafford
Long-eared Owl	1 at Junction City Cemetery	TC, MR	7/29	Geary
Common Poorwill	Adult with fledgling near Wilson	DK, MR	7/12	Russell
	1 found dead near Mulvane	TH	7/30	Sedgwick
<u>Broad-tail. Hummingbird</u>	1 at Dodge City feeder	JD	6/5-7	Ford
Rufous/Allens Humm.	1 at Elkhart feeder	CH, SP	7/16	Morton
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at Harvey Co. West Park	DRz, CSw	6/2	Harvey
	1 near Junction City	CO	<u>7/10</u>	Geary
Traill's Flycatcher	1 banded at Ft. Leavenworth	IBP staff	7/6	Leavenworth
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 at CNG Work Station	MR	6/4	Morton
	Nest with 4 eggs at W. Crossing	MR	6/4	Morton
	1 near Garden City	DL	6/5	<u>Finney</u>
	Ad. Feeding young in nest box at Middle Sp.	CH, SP	7/17	Morton
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	pair 2 miles n. of Elkhart	JC	7/14	Morton
Tree Swallow	fledged young at Cheney Goose Refuge	CG, PJ	7/18	Reno
Red-eyed Vireo	1 singing male on Solomon River	SS	6/19	<u>Sheridan</u>
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Quivira	MR, SS	<u>6/11</u>	<u>Stafford</u>
	1 near Pittsburg	E&RM	6/19	Crawford
Yellow-throated Vireo	active nest near Valley Falls	JBr	6/24	Jefferson
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 at Junction City cemetery	TC, MR, SS	<u>6/10</u>	Geary
	2 at Junction City cemetery	TC, MR	<u>7/29</u>	Geary
Sedge Wren	4 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottomlands	JS	7/11	Leavenworth
	1 at Mined Land Area	MM, GP	7/11	Linn
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	1 at Bonner Springs	m. ob.	6/1 - 7/7	Wyandotte
	1 adult with 2 fledged young	DH	7/2	Wyandotte

Note: The two young were seen by a single observer, and only on the 2d of July. This represents the only reported nesting confirmation of Blue-winged Warbler in Kansas.

<u>Prairie Warbler</u>	1 singing male near Kanopolis Res.	CS	6/5	Ellsworth
	1 male on territory through 7/7	m.ob	6/5	Douglas
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1 banded at Ft. Riley	IBP	7/8	Riley
Black-and-White Warbler	1 in Pittsburg	EM	6/16	Crawford
Kentucky Warbler	1 banded at Ft. Riley	IBP	7/17	Riley
Ovenbird	1 banded at Ft. Riley	IBP	7/17	Riley
Yellow-breasted Chat	nesting pair at Upper Ferguson Marsh	DG	6/12	Jefferson
	1 on Osage Nature Trail	BD	6/20	Harvey
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Tuttle Creek Res. Dam overlook	RS, m.ob	5/29	Riley
	1 at Tuttle Creek Res. Dam overlook	LJ	6/6	Riley
Lark Bunting	numbers reported very low in NW Ks.	SS	6/21	Gove, Hodgeman
	Ditto	MT	6/13	Logan, Cheyenne
Chipping Sparrow	probable nesting pair at Wilson Res	MR	7/7	Russell
Henslow's Sparrow	1 singing male	E&MR	6/16	<u>Osborne</u>
Song Sparrow	adults feeding 2 young near Mulvane	TH	7/13	<u>Sedgwick</u>
Harris's Sparrow	1 apparently healthy bird at Boeing complex	KG	<u>6/25</u>	Sedgwick
Dark-eyed Junco	1 injured bird in Mulvane	TH	<u>6/10</u>	Sedgwick
Scarlet Tanager	1 banded at Ft. Riley	IBP	<u>7/17</u>	Riley
Northern Cardinal	2 in Elkhart	MR	6/4	Morton
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2 territorial males at Kanopolis	BW	6/27	Ellsworth
	Adults with fledge at Cheney	CG, PJ	7/18	Reno
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 singing male N. Fork Solomon R.	SS	6/19	Sheridan
	1	SS	6/19	Gove
	1	SS	6/19	Hodgeman
Lazuli Bunting	1 singing male west of Syracuse	DL	6/5	Hamilton
Lesser Goldfinch	1 female identified by call	CH, SP	7/17	Morton
Bobolink	2 singing males near Valley Falls	DG	6/11	Jefferson

OBSERVERS: James Barnes, Joanne Brier (JBr), Ted Cable, Jeff Chynoweth, Joyce Davis, Bob Dester, Dan Gish, Bob Gress, Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Chris Hobbs, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Jeff Keating, Dave Klema, Dan Larson, Bob & Elizabeth Mangile, Cheryl Miller, Lloyd Moore, Art Nonhof, Chuck & Jaye Otte, Sebastian Patti, Mike & Ellen Rader, Donna Ratzlaff, Mark Robbins (MRb), Rick Schmid, John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab(CSw), Chris Smith, Scott Seltman, Art Swalwell, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Dave Williams, Brad Williamson, Phil Wedge, Institute for Bird Populations (IBP).

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777** or, join the Kansas Bird Internet Discussion List (KSBIRD-L) and report it there. To join this list, send an e-mail message to listowner Chuck Otte at otte@jc.net.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option. From this point you can also find a link and fill out an online rare bird report. The report will be automatically filed with the KBRC and you can request an electronic copy of your report be sent to your e-mail address. It can't get much simpler than that!

Cyberbirding Update

It seems that computers, the Internet and the World Wide Web have made a major impact on birdwatching, just as it has on many facets of today's life. If you need some information about any bird or any birdwatching location, you can probably find it on the Internet,

KSBIRD-L

I've mentioned before the Kansas Bird Discussion List, officially known as KSBIRD-L but often referred to as the Kansas Bird List or KSBirds. However, there is another group of KOS members who may be getting their first computer this Christmas and will finally be able to hook up to the Internet. So for those who have heard this before, please be patient as there may be a little new information in here for you!

Internet discussion groups are like an old fashioned party line. You send a message and it gets sent out to everyone on "the list". There is no charge to "subscribe" to KSBirds. Once you have a connection to the Internet, you can join. You can join the list two different ways. You can send an e-mail message to the computer. The message is simply: sub KSBIRD-L Your Name You send this message to the address: listserv@listserv.ksu.edu

What is new, as of a few months ago, is that you can also do all this via the World Wide Web. Using your web browser (for most of you that will be Netscape or Internet Explorer) go to the address: <http://listserv.ksu.edu/archives/KSBIRD-L.htm> The KSBIRD-L does not have to be capitalized. I write it that way so that you don't confuse a lowercase letter L (l) with the number one (1). See how confusing that might be! Once you get to that web page it should say Archives of KSBIRD-L@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU. From this point you can do a lot. You can join the list or change your

subscription settings. If you are a member of KSBirds you can post a message from here.

Regardless of whether you are a member of KSBirds or not, you can also read all the messages that have been posted since KSBirds was started in March 1996. You can even search the archives looking for a word anywhere in the message. The beauty of this interface is that if you don't have a computer you can still go to a local library or anyplace that provides Internet access and catch up on the discussions of KSBirds.

Other Lists

It has gotten to the point that just about every state has an Internet discussion list. Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma all have discussion lists. If you need information on them, drop me an e-mail message (otte@jc.net).

There are also discussion lists that run nationwide and international in scope. BirdChat is probably the best known of these. You can contact me for information on it or visit <http://listserv.arizona.edu/lsv/www/birdchat.html> Once again you can join the list, read the archives, etc. just like you can at the KSBirds archive site.

Of course, let's not forget the KOS web site. We are in the process of moving this to a new site, but it's not quite there yet. That address is <http://www.ksbirds.org/> For now you can start there and then click on a link to take you to the full pages. Once you get there, Dave Rintoul has several good birding links to take you to many different web pages brimming with more information. But beware! Once you go to one site you find a link to another site, and one thing leads to another, and then all of a sudden it's 1 a.m. and you're still on the Internet. But that's what makes it fun out there in cyberbirding land!

KOS Fall Meeting Bird List

The birding at the fall meeting in Hays, October 8 - 10, 1999, was a reflection of the birding across Kansas during the late summer and fall of 1999; not a total flop, but there has been more exciting birding in years past. This is probably what we would refer to as "paying our dues"! Most of the birds on the following list were seen on the Sunday morning field trips that ventured to Cedar Bluffs Reservoir (Trego County), areas around Hays (Ellis County), and Webster Reservoir (Rooks County). Thanks to Scott Seltman, Jim Strine and Mike Rader, respectively, for leading these field trips! A total of 105 species were seen as well as a couple of subspecies.

Common Loon	American Avocet	European Starling
Pied-billed Grebe	Lesser Yellowlegs	American Pipit
Horned Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Sprague's Pipit
Eared Grebe	Wilson' Phalarope	Cedar Waxwing
Western Grebe	Franklin's Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Clark's Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Nashville Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Rock Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Mourning Dove	Black-throated Green Warbler
Great Egret	Great Horned Owl	Spotted Towhee
Cattle Egret	Common Nighthawk	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Chimney Swift	Clay-colored Sparrow
Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Field Sparrow
Wood Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Vesper Sparrow
Gadwall	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Lark Sparrow
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Grasshopper Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Yellow-shafted race	Lincoln's Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Red-shafted race	Swamp Sparrow
Redhead	Eastern Phoebe	White-throated Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Loggerhead Shrike	Harris's Sparrow
Osprey	Blue-headed Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-billed Magpie	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Indigo Bunting
Swainson's Hawk	Horned Lark	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Barn Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Harlan's Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Common Grackle
Ferruginous Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Great-tailed Grackle
American Kestrel	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Merlin	Rock Wren	House Finch
Prairie Falcon	House Wren	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Pheasant	Marsh Wren	American Goldfinch
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
American Coot	Eastern Bluebird	
Killdeer	American Robin	

**Deadline for submissions for the
March, 2000 Horned Lark is
February 10, 2000.**

Why Hunting at Cheyenne Bottoms?

by Helen Hands

Quite often birders and other visitors are surprised to learn that hunting is allowed at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA). It seems that many people assume that the Bottoms, as a world renowned hot spot for birds, would be off-limits to hunters. Similarly, perhaps, those who call the marsh Cheyenne Bottoms "Refuge" presume that hunting is not permitted.

However, as many know, CBWA is equally famous among hunters. In this article, I'd like to explain why hunting is allowed at CBWA.

Hunting has long been an important activity at Cheyenne Bottoms. Around 1825, two Indian tribes, the Cheyenne and Pawnee had such a fierce battle over hunting rights to the Bottoms that one creek that flows into the Bottoms was later named Blood Creek. Apparently, the Cheyenne won the battle and thus the Bottoms was named for them. Undoubtedly, Indians had hunted at the Bottoms for centuries before white man finally wrote about it.

After the Indians had been driven off their ancestral lands and forcibly settled on reservations, people continued to hunt at the Bottoms. Many of these early hunters took more than they needed for themselves and their families and sold the rest. Market hunting ended in 1916 when the U.S. and Canada signed the Migratory Bird Treaty.

In 1930, Congress passed a bill to provide \$250,000 to purchase Cheyenne Bottoms with the intention of making it a National Wildlife Refuge. However, only \$50,000 was allocated, so the project stalled. Sufficient money became available for the Kansas Forestry, Fish, and Game Commission to undertake the project in 1942. The Commission's objectives for purchasing the Bottoms were to protect habitats for migratory birds and to provide a place to hunt them.

Funding to purchase CBWA came from the Pittman-Robinson Act of 1937, which levied an 11% tax on the purchase of sporting arms and ammunition. The federal government collects this tax and allocates the revenues to the states based on number of license buyers and land area. States receive this money as reimbursement for money they spend on wildlife management and research. In other words, for every

dollar a state spends on wildlife they can be reimbursed 75¢. Most states raise matching money from the sale of hunting licenses and permits. Only a few states, such as Missouri and Arkansas, supplement hunter dollars with taxes on the general public.

Acquisition of wetlands by state conservation agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also supplemented by state and federal duck stamp monies. Thus, in Kansas, wildlife management is funded primarily by hunters. Without hunters, places like CBWA might never have been protected. Hunters also contribute voluntarily to wildlife management at CBWA through donations to organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Quail Unlimited. (Nonhunters have started to contribute to wildlife management in the past 20 years or so. At CBWA, we have been fortunate to receive contributions from Chickadee Checkoff and the Kansas Audubon Council.)

Hunting at the CBWA is justified for more than because it is a major source of revenue. Hunting is a highly regulated activity, which no longer contributes to the decline of wildlife populations as market hunting did a hundred years ago. If you've never duck hunted at a place like Cheyenne Bottoms, you've missed a wonderful experience. Sitting quietly in the marsh for a few hours listening to the ducks quack, watching the teal whiz by and the ibis and yellowlegs feeding near the decoys, trying to stay still while the mosquitoes suck your blood, sinking 6 inches into the mud with every step you take, enjoying a beautiful sunrise or sunset. These experiences are similar, but perhaps more intense, than we get from driving along the dikes looking at birds. To be successful, hunters need to learn which portions of the marsh ducks prefer, flight patterns, and marsh bird identification. As they learn, hunters come to appreciate the marsh as more than just a place to shoot ducks. Because hunters are

KDWP Forum continued next page -

Winter Cover

by *Chuck Otte*

Most birders know that if you want to find birds in the middle of winter head for cover. Most gardening books and bulletins tell you that once the growing season has ended in the fall you should clean up all off the year's growth, put the debris in the compost pile and then mulch your tender plants. Does anyone else see a conflict here?

I may drive my neighbors crazy, but I like to leave as much of the past summer's plants in place until spring. Why? Because if you want to find birds in the middle of winter, head for cover.

We try to create habitats in our yards that are inviting to wildlife so that we can more easily view them. Cover, or shelter, is one of the critical factors that can make birds feel welcome.

Many of our flowers and vegetable plants will contain seeds as they die in the cold autumn weather. While some of these seeds may hold little interest or value to the birds, others are of vital interest. They may also hold some over wintering insects that will be of special interest to those insectivores trying to make it through a tough Kansas winter.

Many of us have a real Christmas tree in our houses during the holidays. Then sometime after January 1st, we reluctantly remove the decorations and move the tree (often minus about half of it's needles) out of the house. The worst fate that this wonderful tree can have is for you to place it on the curb where the sanitation crews will pick it up and haul it away.

Evergreens make wonderful "bird trees". Their thick foliage and fine stemming create a lot of cover. Cover to protect birds from winter winds. Cover to protect birds from predators, both land and air based.

You can lay the tree down near a ground or low feeder to help break the wind and have cover close by. Or, you can tie the tree up with some strong twine to a deciduous tree. If you tie it upright it creates another opportunity of putting small suet bird feeders in it.

This is something you can do with youngsters in the house over the holidays. Gather up some pine cones before the holidays. Austrian pine cones are great because they are a good size to work with and are a fairly open cone. This is important.

Mix up some peanut butter, bird seed and perhaps a little suet along with some corn meal. The exact proportions aren't critical, just get a mixture that's thick enough to work with. You're going to tie a sturdy string on to one end of the pine cone and then pack it full of the peanut butter mix. Put some cones on the tree and keep the rest of the cones cool until they are needed.

Chuck can be reached at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 or otte@jc.net

KDWP Forum continued -

supporters of CBWA through their monetary contributions and their love of its wildlife, they should be viewed by others in the conservation community as allies, desiring and working for many of the same objectives.

As many of you know, we monitor numbers of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl; duck pairs; and broods of ducks, pied-billed and western grebes, and coots as a way to evaluate marsh management. Because there are approximately 3,000 acres of grassland at

CBWA and we have little data on its birds except ducks, we would like to initiate an annual survey of breeding birds in the grasslands at CBWA. These surveys will involve walking transects in the grassland portions of Pools 2, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 5 during June. This is a lot of ground to cover and because calm mornings are few and far between in Kansas, we need help. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 316-793-3066 or helenh@wp.state.ks.us.

Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks

KOS Fall Board Meeting

Ft Hays State University, Stroup Hall
Hays, Kansas
October 9, 1999

Attendance: Greg Farley, chm Max Thompson
Roy Beckemeyer Dave Seibel
Suzanne Fellows Ed Miller
Carolyn Schwaab John Schukman
Karen Ganoung Gene Young
Chuck Otte

After a lunch of sandwiches, chips and sodas, the meeting was called to order at 12:15. The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer Ed Miller presented a brief financial report, he reported a recent \$1,000 donation to KOS from Hazel Moore of Dodge City.

There was discussion on advisability of having a liability release form at future meetings, perhaps one that names both KOS and the site college. Chuck Otte moved to consult legal counsel to formulate a "hold harmless" release form for persons registering for KOS activities, and to investigate, and obtain if necessary, general liability insurance for the KOS board. This motion was seconded and carried.

Max Thompson reported on content plans for *The Bulletin* in December and March. It was suggested to include the report on Lesser Prairie-Chickens, that Randy Rogers had presented earlier in the day, and other reports from the fall meeting, as the editor chose. All presenters were to receive free registration for the meeting, and free tickets to the banquet.

Chuck Otte reported on the status of *The Horned Lark* newsletter; Mark Land is continuing with Kids Page. Roy Beckemeyer was asked to contribute the Nighthawk report that he had presented earlier at the general meeting. Chuck stated that the web page, KSBirds.org, was nearly ready to function.

Gene Young said the Hot Line was receiving only 5-7 calls per week; the phone number is in the Wichita daily papers.

Since Galen Pittman has retired from KBRC after 8 years service, and since \$200 has been collected to purchase a thank-you award, Greg moved that KOS donate \$50 to use for framing this appreciation gift. This motion was seconded and carried.

Tyler Hicks, a 17-year-old student at Newton, plans to visit Costa Rica with a Bethel College interterm group in January 2000; he asked KOS for financial help toward the estimated \$2,000 expenses. Chuck Otte moved that KOS contribute \$200 from the general fund, to ask Tyler for two newsletter articles, to ask that Tyler meet beforehand with Dwight Platt for structured preparation planning, and that Tyler make a presentation at a future KOS session, telling of the birds that he saw. This motion was seconded and carried. Another board member, Carolyn Schwaab will also be going on this trip to Costa Rica.

The next board meeting will be at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, 26 Feb. 2000. The meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Karen Ganoung, Secretary

KOS General Meeting

9 October 99

Albertson Hall, FHSU

3:45 John Schukman, presiding

Chuck Otte, editor of the Horned Lark newsletter, explained CARA, the Conservation And Reinvestment Act of 1999, and urged that KOS members become informed. He asked that the planned dates of all CBC (Christmas Bird Counts) be sent to him so that they can be printed in a future newsletter.

The general KOS body made an affirmative vote on the existing slate of new officers for the coming year. (*Editor's note:* President - Greg Farley, Vice-president - John Schukman, Corresponding Secretary - Karen Ganoung, Membership Development Coordinator - Susan Barnes, Treasurer - Edwin Miller, Business Manager - James Barnes, *Bulletin* Editor - Max Thompson, *Horned Lark* Editor - Chuck Otte, Board Members Jan Boyd and David Rintoul. All officers will serve one year terms. Board Members serve two year terms. Board Members Suzanne Fellows and Carolyn Schwab will be serving the second year of their terms)

The silent auction closed at 4:10; top bidders were asked to pay for and collect their items.

Greg Farley expressed appreciation for the helpers and workers during the day; John Schukman thanked Greg for serving as host for this meeting. Roger Boyd announced he had several boxes of black walnuts from a bumper crop in Eastern Kansas.

Karen Ganoung, Secretary

Thank You Hays!

The 90+ KOS members who attended the 51st Annual Meeting in Hays were treated to a great time. The Friday evening reception at the Sternberg Museum was outstanding. The Saturday meetings and paper sessions were interesting and held in a wonderful lecture hall, the banquet was great fun and Dr. Fleharty's address quite entertaining. And of course, the Sunday field trips are always a jovial time! The local committee, under the leadership of Dr. Greg Farley did a great job, had fun and helped all of us have fun as well. Thank you Greg, the city of Hays and especially the following members of the local committee: Connie Chen, Mark Eberle, Karen Hickman, Nicole Lambrecht, Deanne Newland, Scott Newland, Richard Packauskas, Mark Roberts, Brandy Spresser, Bill Stark, and Jim Strine.

Check out page two for locations of upcoming meetings and if you see one close to your home volunteer to help. You'll be glad you did!

Annual Meeting Odds and Ends / Wrap Up

Abstracts of papers that were submitted for presentation follow in this newsletter. These were great presentations - contact the authors for more information.

Spring and Fall Meeting schedule for the next few years was outlined at the Fall Board Meeting. Check page 2 for the listing. These are being moved around to some new locations. I hope to see you at some of them. If a meeting isn't planned for your region, get a local committee formed and put in a bid for 2003 or 2004!

Ten Best Birds list is missing! Chuck didn't write it down and Max can't find his list. If you did write them down, or have the list, please contact Chuck or Max!

Christmas Bird Count Season December 1999 - January 2000

Here are all the dates and whatever else information I have collected. It is often best to contact the compiler ahead of time for any last minute changes or meeting information. Check your KOS directory if you are not sure how to get in touch with the compiler. But most importantly, dress warm, get out and have fun!

TBA (Contact compiler if you are interested)

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Thursday, December 16

Cedar Bluff Reservoir - Scott Seltman, 785-372-5411, sselt@ruraltel.net

Friday, December 17

Quivira NWR - Gary Meggars, 316-486-2393

Saturday, December 18

Dodge City - Joleen Fromm, 316-227-6342

Halstead/Newton - Dwight Platt, 316-283-6708, platword@southwind.net, please contact if you are planning to attend.

Hays - Greg Farley, 785-628-5965, gfarley@fhsu.edu

John Redmond - Bob Culbertson, 316-364-2522

Lakin - Leonard Rich

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105, glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, 785-532-6663, drintoul@ksu.edu

Olathe - Don Weiss, dweiss@step1inc.com, Meet at 7 a.m. at Ernie Miller Nature Park, Hiway 7 and 127th St, Olathe

Parsons - Paul Milks

Salina - Harold Lear

Sawyer - Ken Brunson

Topeka - Gary Haden, 785-273-5598

Waconda - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wichita - Pete Janzen, 316-832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net, Meet at Lawrence Dumont Stadium at 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 19

Emporia - Jean Schulenberg

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake - Richard Rucker

Syracuse - Art Nonhof

Wakefield/Upper Milford Lake - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161, otte@jc.net, Meet at Lakeview Restaurant at 7 a.m.

Wilson - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Winfield/Udall - Max Thompson, 316-221-1856, maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Monday, December 20

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, 316-793-3066, helenh@wp.state.ks.us, Meet at the office at 8 a.m.

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, 785-468-3587 Meet at the Randolph Cafe between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at the Jeffrey residence.

Sandhills - Debra Bolton

Tuesday, December 21

El Dorado - Bill Langley, Meet at McDonalds in El Dorado at 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 22

Canyonlands (SE Logan County) - Tom Shane
Slate Creek Wetlands - Gene Young, 316-221-8380, youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Sunday, December 26

Arkansas City - Gene Young, 316-221-8380, youngg@jinx.sckans.edu, Meet at Newman Park by the US77 bridge in Arkansas City at 8 a.m.

Monday, December 27

Baldwin - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, Meet at 7:20 a.m. at the Santa Fe Depot on the west end of High Street in Baldwin.

Junction City - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161, otte@jc.net, Meet at Sapp Bros. Truck Stop, I-70/US77 Exit 295 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, December 29

Linn County - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Texaco station just south of the LaCygne interchange on Highway 69.

Old Garfield County - Barbara Campbell

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Christmas Bird Counts, continued

Friday, December 31

Cimarron National Grasslands (Morton County)

- Sebastian Patti

Leavenworth - John Schukman, 913-727-5141,
schuksaya@aol.com, Contact John for details.

Saturday, January 1

Black Mesa, OK - Sebastian Patti

Kirwin NWR - Bill Schaff

Southeast KS Mined Land

Sunday, January 2

Bonner Springs - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105,
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Liberal - Sebastian Patti

Red Hills - Barber County - Pete Janzen,
316-832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net Please
contact Pete ahead of time in case they need to
reschedule due to weather.

Scott Lake - Tom Shane

Saturday, January 8

Blackwolf - NW Ellsworth County - Mike Rader,
785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, 316-276-8145,
moster@midusa.net

Sunday, January 9

Kanopolis - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Ulysses - Dan LaShelle

We regret that photos are not available in
this electronic newsletter format.

An interested KOS audience listens to Roy Beckemeyer discuss Common Nighthawk
casualties. I'm sure many a professor has hope for such an attentive audience!

photo by David Bryan

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 1999 Fall KOS Meetings in Hays, Kansas

Patterns of Development in Passerine Birds *Scott Newland, Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ., Hays, KS*

In passerine birds the rate of development from time of hatching to fledging is surprisingly rapid; many species fledge in as few as 9 to 14 days. My thesis research addresses the question of what factors affect this rapid development rate. Current hypotheses suggest diet, parental behavior and phylogeny are all important factors. During the summer of 1999 I quantified how development rate was affected by these factors at nests of six passerine species at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. These data include measurements and changes in chick morphology such as: mass, length of tarsus, color of feather tracts and feather development over time; food availability and provisioning by parents; and descriptions of parental foraging behavior. Combinations of these factors contribute to the complex pattern of development observed in these passerine species.

Reassessing Population Trends of Neotropical Migrants: Considering Influences of Weather *Constance Y. Chen, Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ., Hays, KS*

Mist-netting has been a common method of monitoring bird populations. According to many of these studies, populations of Neotropical migrants have been declining in recent decades. However, the accuracy of these data remains uncertain. Traditional studies interpret mist-net data as true representations of population fluctuations but may not consider other factors that affect the number of individuals captured at a given time. One of these factors, weather, was analyzed in conjunction with several years of historical mist-netting data from the Fort Hays State University bird-banding station in order to determine if there was a relationship between weather variables and capture rates during the fall season. Weather variables measured included temperature, wind speed and direction, and barometric pressure. Historical weather data were taken from the KSU Experimental Station in Hays, and weather variables for the 1999

fall season were measured and recorded on the bird-banding site at FHSU. Preliminary observations and data suggest that there may be a relationship between weather variables associated with cold front systems and high capture rates of birds.

Mortality and Injury in Common Nighthawks During Fall Migration - A Request for Help in Gathering Specimens *Suzanne Fellows, Roy Beckemeyer, and Bob Gress, USFWS and Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, KS*

A seemingly disproportionate number of injured or dead common nighthawks are found by the public and brought to the attention of naturalists and other wildlife professionals in the fall. Many of the victims have broken wings. This may simply be the result of the aerobic foraging flight habits of the birds coupled with the increased numbers passing through during the fall. There is also some anecdotal data indicating that most recovered birds are young of the year. However, not enough is known currently to determine with any certainty what is happening. We are attempting to collect enough specimens to gather meaningful data on types of injuries sustained, age, class and sex of birds, weight and size, and perhaps pertinent physiological data as well (e.g., bone density or even bone strength measurements if they appear warranted). This is a request for any interested parties to help in gathering specimens. Handling procedures for specimens, data that would be helpful, and contacts for depositing specimens will be reviewed (Specimens will be held under the following collecting permits: USFWS Special Purpose Salvage #PRT-752063 and State Permit # SC-012-99).

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A Successful Eared Grebe Colony in Kearny County, Kansas *Arthur G. Nonhof, Thomas G. Shane, Sara J. Shane, and Marie B. Osterbuhr, Garden City, KS*

On 17 June 1999 over sixty Eared Grebes were observed on Lake McKinney in eastern Kearny County, Kansas. Two nests were present about 100 meters out from the southern shore of the lake. Over 130 grebes were present on 23 June with only two nests present. The first egg was observed on 26 June. The first sign of major nest construction was observed on 5 July with 13 nests present and by 9 July the colony held 91 nests and on 14 July, 92 nests were observed. All-out nest construction appeared to be delayed until sufficient submergent vegetation was present. No emergent vegetation was present in this colony. Nest numbers declined until none were found on 4 August. The first chick was observed on the back of an incubating female on 24 July. Seven pairs were observed to be carrying chicks on 1 August. This Eared Grebe colony appears to have made the first successful fledging of young in the state.

The Limited Role of Food Availability on Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) Reproduction *Douglas A. Robinson, Jr. and Elmer J. Finck, Division of Biological Sciences, Emporia St Univ, Emporia, KS*

Life history traits have hypothetically evolved to maximize lifetime reproductive success. Food availability, predation, and breeding experience interact with life history traits and impose limitations on avian reproduction. Of the three variables listed, food availability is the most accepted limiting factor associated with the timing and success of avian breeding attempts. We investigated how food supplements affect eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) reproduction by comparing morphological characteristics, fledging success, and age at fledging between supplemented and unsupplemented nestlings. Food supplements did not consistently aid eastern bluebird breeding attempts, and might not act as the sole resource limiting eastern bluebird reproduction. Further experimentation with food supplementation in conjunction with other potentially limiting factors might help to elucidate current reproductive strategies and characteristics.

Programs Underway for Lesser Prairie Chicken Populations in Kansas *Randy Rogers, Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Hays, KS*

Lesser prairie chickens throughout their 5-state range began a sharp population decline in the early 1990s. Concern over this decline and a petition to list the species as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act has prompted greater attention to this species. A recent expansion of lesser prairie chicken populations in Kansas, apparently associated with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), has been documented and populations on more-traditional range appear to be rebounding. Steps have been and are being taken to benefit this species through the CRP. Additional research and population monitoring efforts are being conducted and increased extension efforts are in the planning stages.

Hawai'i Bird Conservation and the A'lala (Hawaiian Crow) *Mary Schmidt, Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ, Hays, KS*

Hawai'i contains one-third of endangered bird species in United States, and it also has the highest current rate of avian extinction. Endemic birds on the island have drastically reduced in numbers due to habitat destruction, introduced species, and disease. The Hawai'i Bird Conservation program was initiated to increase the number of individuals in some endemic species. One of the main species in dire straits is the A'lala (Hawaiian Crow), which has population of less than thirty individuals. The only place in the world to find wild A'lala is on a 260 sq. km ranch on the island of Hawai'i. The A'lala is a critically endangered species whose numbers have declined to the point where less than ten remain in the wild, and those may soon be removed and placed in captivity to preserve the species' gene pool.

Forest Birds from the Missouri Ozarks to the Kansas Tallgrass Prairie *John M. Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd., Leavenworth, KS*

Using breeding bird atlas data from Missouri and Kansas, spatial occurrence relationships of 23 forest birds are compared along a forest to prairie/farmland gradient. Studies from Missouri provide evidence for area sensitivity for many of these birds; however,

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little data is available from Kansas. In this study, where the western part of the study area in Kansas is dominated by tall grass prairie with only ribbons or islands of forest, the way these birds adapt to a near naturally-fragmented landscape could add to knowledge of species' tolerances. A Habitat Based Model (HBM) shows clusters of species at distinct levels; conservation plans for those sharing similar ecological, life history and distribution features could be formulated even without detailed autecological studies. Results from this study are compared with conservation recommendations from Illinois.

Notes from an Initial Study of Cassin's Sparrow

Thomas G. Shane, Sara J. Shane, and Marie B. Osterbuhr, Garden City, KS

Two 14 stop mini Breeding Bird Survey routes were run in lightly grazed Sandsage Prairie and in prairie where sagebrush control methods had been taken in southwestern Finney County, Kansas. Cassin's Sparrow populations were found to be 5.75 times less where sagebrush had been removed. Mid-sized grasshoppers with hind legs removed accounted for 90% of the food brought to four day old nestlings. Males normally land on the same or another perch after skylarking. During a high wind the male makes his flight-song then returns to the sagebrush canopy between plants then flies against the wind horizontally to a perch in a sage plant.

The Response of a Kansas Winter Bird Community to Weather, Photoperiod, and Year

Christopher C. Smith, Martin A. Stapanian, Elmer J. Finck, Div of Biology, Kansas St Univ., Manhattan, KS

Using data from weekly censuses of 16 stops over 14 years and comparing the average number of terrestrial bird species detected per stop and the total number of species detected per census, we measure the effect of year, photoperiod, time in the winter, and weather variables to determine what influences the ability of observers to detect birds during the period between November 1 and February 28. Year, photoperiod, day after November 1, wind speed, and temperature all had significant effects on our ability to detect the presence of bird species in varied upland Flint Hills habitats.

Mist-Netting of Bird Species During Fall Migration at Fort Hays State University

Jamie E. Timson,

Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ., Hays, KS

Mist net studies have been conducted at Fort Hays State University since 1961 on Neotropical migrants as well as residents birds. During the past four years we have collected data in order to assess population trends of these species. Dr. Greg Farley and a team of students use a standard array of twelve mist nets set up on a small wildlife sanctuary. The study site is located along Big Creek in Ellis County, Kansas. This area contains a combination of mature hardwood trees, mixed-grass prairie, and agricultural fields. Bird banding begins the last week of August and continues through the end of October. We operate mist-nets six days a week from sunrise to approximately noon. Each captured individual is banded, identified to species, inspected for molt, fat, and various morphological measurements are also taken. What makes our study so unique is that our data are comparable to the historical data collected by Dr. Charles Ely. I will summarize the results of these various activities.

The Importance of the Presented Papers

It never ceases to amaze me as I listen to the paper presentations each fall. There is some really neat ornithological research being done around the state each year, some of it very formal, some of it very informal. The ornithological knowledge database has been greatly enriched over the years by this research and these papers.

During the coming months, think about this, review the preceding abstracts and consider presenting a paper yourself. You don't have to be a college student, you don't have to be a college professor or employee, just decide on a topic and dive in. (But don't be afraid to ask some of these folks for some guidance or direction.)

As an encouragement to paper presenters, the KOS board several years ago agreed to waive registration fees for paper presenters. A committee also selects the best student paper each year and awards the winner a one year membership in the professional ornithological society of their choice. This year's winner was **Scott Newland** who will receive a membership to the Wilson Ornithological Society. Congratulations Scott!

Silent Auction Results

For the past several years, a silent auction of bird related items (books, gear, art, etc.) has been held with the proceeds going to the Student Research Fund. This year, over \$375 was raised from the auction.

While this is pretty good, there are always more student research projects to fund than we have funds. Several of the fine papers presented in Hays were the results studies funded, in part, by the Student Research Fund. This money goes to very good uses!

Start planning now for donations to next fall's meeting and silent auction. But don't feel that this is your only opportunity to support the student research fund. The fund is made up of numerous "sub-funds" based on where students are going to school, so you can target your giving if you like. Consider making a tax deductible donation to the Student Research Fund. For more information contact Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846, 316-275-4616.

But Don't Stop There!

KOS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations to it's activities carry certain tax advantages. We have made good strides to the KOS Endowment Fund and it is helping support some of the activities of the society. But you can never have too much money in an endowment fund. As you wrap up the tax year (something everyone wants to think about right now!) consider making a donation to the KOS Endowment Fund or the KOS General Fund. If you need more information on either, please contact treasurer Ed Miller or Max Thompson. Contact information is on the front page of the *Horned Lark*.

Need A Gift Idea?

With the holidays upon us everyone is busy gift shopping. If you have a relative or friend that is interested in birds, why not give them a gift subscription to KOS. This is a great idea for that youngster who has shown an interest in birds!

Great Backyard Bird Count

I know that many of you participate every year in different backyard feeder watches. They're fun, it helps break up the regular winter routine and you help gather some valuable data while you are at it.

For the third year, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon are conducting the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The dates for this are February 18 - 21, 2000. This is a web based count. All your data is entered via your computer over the World Wide Web. There is no registration, no fees, just count birds, go to the web site and fill out the checklist. (What do you think Ken?) The directions and guidelines are pretty much like other feeder count type activities. If you don't have a computer you might be able to find one at your local library or through a friend.

The web site is very helpful and tells you all you need to know. Go to: <http://www.birdsource.org> and start looking around. You'll find the information you need, plus a whole lot more. It looks like fun and I know I'll participate!

CARA Update

Those of you who attended the fall meeting heard me talk about the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, CARA. Briefly, this pending federal legislation would take income from offshore oil drilling proceeds and funnel it into conservation activities around the country. In short, it could provide several million dollars annually to Kansas for use in areas, like non-game wildlife, that have had little funding historically.

Just before the House or Representatives adjourned in November, the CARA legislation was "marked up" and came out of committee. The bill looks pretty good right now and could sure use some support. It won't be acted on now until the House reconvenes after the first of the year. At that time we will need to rally some support and get Kansas legislators to back it. If you need more information and are interested in helping, drop me a note!

Chuck Otte

We regret that photos are not available in
this electronic newsletter format.

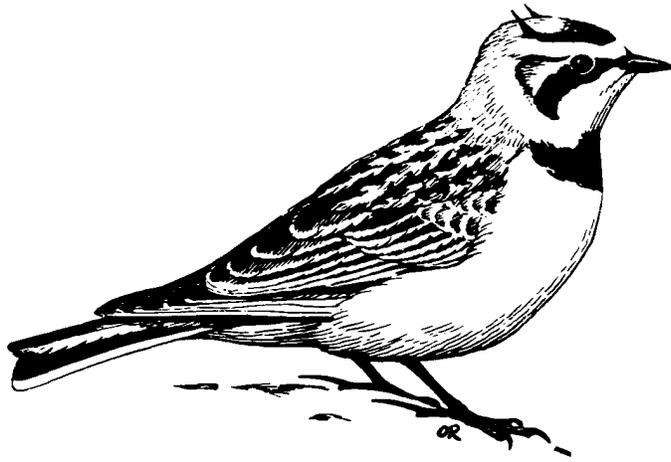
You're never too young to start birdwatching! Diane Seltman helps son Steve
look for birds.

photo by David Bryan

We regret that photos are not available in
this electronic newsletter format.

A scene that is recreated annually. A group of KOS members and their
vehicles, pulled off to the side of the road, while the group intently scans for
birds of interest.

photo by David Bryan



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 1999

Vol. 26, No. 3

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Annual Meeting Issue Registration Information in Center Pull Out Section Register Today!

From The Keyboard -

Here it is already time to start planning for another KOS Fall Meeting! Of course right in the middle of getting this newsletter ready for printing I had to deal with the reality of my "real job" so there's a week spent at the County Fair!

I had started work on this issue way ahead of my normal time frame. It had become time to start using the new word processing program for the *Horned Lark*. The newsletter was the only thing that I hadn't converted over from the old version. Unfortunately conversions are never painless and some tasks ended up taking much longer than normal as I learned how the "new" program handled everything. Then to further complicate production of this issue my favorite proofreader became unavailable due to a death in the family. Sooooo, if you find a few errors, blame it on that!

I'm really looking forward to the fall meeting in Hays. It's always fun to head out west to go birding, and after missing last year's fall meeting, it'll be good to see many of you again. If there's one thing I've learned to treasure over the years, it's the friendships I've developed through KOS.

I've always felt that life is a journey through many different stages. We all are just entering a new stage of birding. The information explosion is becoming very apparent in ornithological circles and a whole generation of new bird books was heralded with first out of the chute, National Geographic Society's 3rd Edition *Birds of North America*. Adding to the wealth of information are the Breeding Bird Atlases. We are all anxiously awaiting the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas and enjoying the results from other states. The

future is about to descend upon us and it's an exciting future to be sure. Grab hold with both hands, it's going to be an exhilarating ride! See you in Hays....

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1999

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St, Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barnowls@integrityonline26.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

**October 8 - 10, 1999
Ft. Hays State University**

Details within

**Keep digging,
fill out the form,
and we'll see you there!**

Do You Have A Desire To Serve?

You would think that with over 400 members in KOS there'd be no shortage of people to fill the many roles that it takes to keep the organization running. And while there probably are many members out there willing and capable to serve..... no one knows unless you speak up! Every year there's a couple of board positions to fill, plus special projects and activities and occasionally officers, business manager and spring or fall meeting committees. If you have a desire to become more involved let Chuck, or one of the other board members know of your willingness to serve.

Clarification

In the December, 1998, *Horned Lark*, photos were published from the 1998 Fall Meeting/50th Anniversary Meeting. Several people had contacted me wanting to know about the Ornithological Ambassadors award bestowed upon Chris Hobbs and Sebastian Patti. Having not been able to attend the 1998 Fall Meeting I had to do a little digging. The awards were not KOS awards, but were presented by the KU Natural History Museum. The photo caption should have explained that and I apologize for any confusion!

Chuck

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@integrityonline26.com.

New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for non-members. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

New checklists will be available at the fall meeting. You'll also be able to pay your year 2000 dues at that time and save postage!

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!

**Spring 2000 - Morton County/Black Mesa in
conjunction with Oklahoma**

Ornithological Society

**Fall 2000 - Northcentral Kansas, location to be
announced.**

Spring 2001 - Make a bid for your area!

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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The Sparrows of Autumn and Winter

by John Rakestraw

Last time we discussed several sparrow species that regularly nest in Kansas. If you took some time this summer to track down and study these birds, you should now be ready to tackle the influx of migrant sparrows that arrive in September and October. One disadvantage we face during fall migration is the fact that most migrating sparrows are not as vocal as the local breeders were during the summer months. Without distinctive songs to help clinch the ID, we may have to look a little more closely at our autumn migrants.

As with any group of birds, the sparrows are easier to learn if you familiarize yourself with a couple of "reference species," then compare new birds to those you know well.

The first sparrow you should learn is the **Song Sparrow**. This bird is common at feeders and in a variety of habitats. The Song Sparrow has a heavily streaked breast, usually with a dark central spot. The tail is fairly long and rounded. Song Sparrows can be rather shy, but they are common enough that you shouldn't have any trouble studying them at length. With the Song Sparrow under your belt, the following species become much easier to recognize.

Savannah Sparrow - Very similar to the Song Sparrow, but with a short, notched tail and without the dark central spot on the breast. Savannah Sparrows often show a little yellow above the eye

Fox Sparrow - Like a Song Sparrow on steroids, this big chunky sparrow usually shows contrasting areas of gray and rust on the upper parts.

Lincoln's Sparrow - Note the contrast between the gray supercillium and the buffy breast. The breast streaks are very fine.

Swamp Sparrow - Similar to the Song Sparrow in behavior, the Swamp Sparrow sports a rusty crown and wings, and a dull gray breast with little or no streaking.

Vesper Sparrow - A fine, but obvious white eye ring helps to identify this streaked sparrow. In flight, the white outer tail feathers and chestnut lesser wing coverts are dead giveaways.

Another reference species you should learn is the **American Tree Sparrow**. This common winter resident has a rusty crown, long tail, and a clear breast, often with a dark central spot. Note that the upper mandible is dark, while the lower mandible is yellow. The American Tree Sparrow can serve as a handy comparison to other clear-breasted species.

White-crowned Sparrow - While the bold black and white stripes on the crown of the adult White-crowned Sparrow are an obvious field mark, immature birds will sport dull brown and gray stripes. This can lead to confusion with the American Tree Sparrow. But the bill of the White-crowned is a uniform pinkish or yellowish color, unlike the two-toned effect shown by the tree sparrow.

Clay-colored Sparrow - Adult Clay-colored in breeding plumage have a bold facial pattern that is hard to miss. But immature or winter plumaged birds may show a great similarity to the winter plumaged Chipping Sparrow. When the birds fly, check the color of their rumps. Clay-colored will show a brown rump, Chippies will show gray.

LeConte's Sparrow - This sought-after fall migrant resembles the Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows that we studied this summer. The LeConte's Sparrow shows bright orange-buff tones on the face, a prominent white stripe on the dark crown, and distinct dark streaks on the sides and flanks. At close range, the gray nape with chestnut streaks is distinctive.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Similar in color to LeConte's Sparrow, this rare migrant has a dull gray crown stripe. The streaks on the sides and flanks are indistinct or lacking.

The other two species common in autumn and winter are White-throated Sparrow and Harris's Sparrow. Both of these birds are large and distinct enough to make identification easy, even for beginning sparrow watchers.

There are a few other sparrows to be found in Kansas, mostly western species, that I will not attempt to cover here. But if you become comfortable with all the species listed above, you will have all the skills you need to notice and identify any other sparrow you may come across.

Late Summer/Early Fall in the Garden

by *Chuck Otte*

As summer wanes and early fall appears on the northern horizon, a lot of gardeners are ready to abandon their gardens. In fact, all too many gardeners have grown sick and tired of their gardens and want to mow them down, till them under or burn them off, just to get rid of the evidence of good intentions that ran dry.

Good gardening practices would dictate that the tangle of weeds and grasses that used to be a garden should be cleared off in the fall. All that debris certainly makes good cover for insects and diseases to overwinter. BUT all those weeds, grasses and debris also make good food and cover for many of our soon to be arriving fall and winter visitors.

Those nasty foxtails, barnyardgrass and even crabgrass provide a wealth of seeds for sparrows and finches. Lambsquarter, kochia, Russian thistle, ragweed even wild hemp can all be heavy seed producers that will attract a host of small avian friends. Have you got a fence row full of sunflowers? Count your blessings and worry about cutting them down next spring. Siskins, goldfinches, sparrows, finches and even that sought after Redpoll will find food and shelter in that wonderful state flower.

The truth is that by late summer most of these plants have already produced and released enough seeds to guarantee that you will see their offspring next year. Mowing, burning or removing the weedy residue won't decrease your weed crop enough to worry about. If there is anything that I would want to get out of the garden before winter, it would be the remnants of your tomato plants. Several common tomato diseases can overwinter on the old tomato plant residue. Pull the old vines and burn them up, but leave everything else alone.

By late winter, February or early March, you can clean off what's left of the debris on your garden and till everything under. Make sure that the soil is not too wet or you will wind up fighting clods and compacted soil all spring and summer long. If possible, till as much of the organic material into the soil as you can as it will add a wealth of humus and nutrients into the soil. Add some well rotted livestock manure or compost to the garden before tilling to further improve the soil!

Flower beds can be treated the same way. While neighbors may look in consternation at all that frosted, dead, weedy or overgrown tangle of plants, they don't know what you know; it'll be a great attractant to many bird species. There'll be plenty of time come spring to clean those flower beds and in the mean time all those mum plants will provide good cover and help collect snow and leaves for protection from winter's potential icy blasts.

I have a wonderful crop of volunteer sunflowers that come up every year along my fence from spilled sunflower seed. Wherever possible I let those plants grow and bloom as I know that many bird species will find enjoyment in them in late summer and fall.

Fall is also a great time to plant new trees and shrubs. Select those that have blossoms, berries or fruit that are attractive to birds. Your local nursery or County Extension Office can provide you with a list of desirable and adapted species.

Chuck can be reached at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 or otte@jc.net

Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Again this year there will be a silent auction at the fall meeting with the proceeds going to the Student Research Fund which is in need of support! Anything bird related is acceptable and remember it all goes to a good cause!

If you know that you are bringing something please either let Greg Farley or Chuck Otte know ahead of time - Chuck's contact information is on the front page of the *Horned Lark* and Greg's can be found on the Call for Papers form! We'll see you, and your donations, in Hays!

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

Fall?

by *Mike Rader*

It's strange to be writing about Fall when the temperature is hovering around 100 degrees, but though it seems like an eon away, short days and frosty night are just around the corner. Shorebirds and hummingbirds have (as of this writing) already begun their annual journey south. Hopefully, many of you took the opportunity to get out and enjoy the multitude of birds going by. It only gets better!

September signals the beginning of the southbound migration of flycatchers, warblers, and many other families of birds. It is truly an exciting month to be outdoors. I encourage anyone interested in Kansas birding to make a trip to Morton County in September. Find out what Scott Seltman and others have known about for a long time - the southwest part of the state is a great place to see bird species that are uncommon or nonexistent over much of the rest of Kansas.

October and November are "sparrow" months for Kansas, usually giving birders the challenging fun of trying to ID the little brown rockets shooting by and diving into the grass. Some sparrow species that breed here in Kansas usually pull up stakes and leave, such as Grasshopper, Chipping, and Cassin's, not to be seen again until next spring. But they are replaced by the influx of species that come from further north, such as Lincoln's, Vesper, and Song. Later in November we can look for the "treats", like LeConte's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed, and the return of the winter species, Harris's, White-crowned, and Dark-eyed Juncos. I failed to mention many of the sparrow species that are found in Kansas during parts of the year, but they are no less important to me. I consider sparrows very beautiful and one of my favorite groups of birds. Identification takes practice and patience - try it!

Waterfowl become more abundant in October and November, providing awesome spectacles at Kansas lakes and marshes. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT! Some of my favorite birding memories are of being at Quivira's Big Salt Marsh or the dikes of Cheyenne Bottoms at sunset, getting lost in the myriad of ducks, geese, and cranes coming in to roost. It's kind of like an avian Serengeti in the middle of Kansas.

November is also the month of the return of loons, grebes, and galls to Kansas lakes. Go out and test those identification skills. Take lots of good notes and photos, if possible. Identifying some of these species constitutes a great challenge to even the most careful of birders. The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) really appreciates the

reports submitted by observers. Good details and thoughtful time spent on the observation make a good report. By submitting reports of bird sightings, you can help document some of the more unusual species of birds found in Kansas. Please consider doing so.

Remember to come on out to Hays for the KOS meeting in October. Many interesting bird-related presentations will be slated and field trips are planned to surrounding lakes. It should be an extremely enjoyable weekend. Have a great Fall and I hope to see many of you in Hays.

Whispers of Autumn

I sat outside tonight and felt the heat fade.
The day had been hot, but a front had passed
And the wind was cool out of the north.
It was the middle of August, and I listened...

Slowly the daytime noises faded away.
Even in town, it was starting to get quiet.
As a quarter moon rose in the eastern sky
I heard the calls coming from overhead...

There! An Upland Sandpiper, maybe three or four.
And there! Was that a Greater Yellowlegs?
Then a chip and a whistle of some southbound bird,
Whispering to us all that autumn is on its way...

Chuck

KOS Fall Meeting
October 8, 9 & 10, 1999
Ft. Hays State University
Hays, Kansas
Information in the center pullout section.

SPRING ROUND-UP

March 1, 1999 through May 31, 1999
by Pete Janzen

This is a compilation of significant bird records from Kansas for the spring period, March 1 through May 31. Many birders spend more time afield in spring than in any other season, and consequently the number of reports is a bit daunting, especially with the Internet making it easier for us to generate and exchange information. However, this makes for a great report!

One species was a potential addition to the Kansas checklist, a Lesser Nighthawk found by Sebastian Patti, Mick McHugh, Chris Hobbs, and Galen Pittman in Elkhart. While not yet reviewed by the KBRC, this species may well be added to the hypothetical list for Kansas, since no photographs were taken as far as I know. While not entirely unexpected, since the species has "heard-only" records from Morton County, this was undoubtedly the best bird of the season.

One of the topics for discussion on the KSBIRD Internet chat group this spring, revolved around "fallouts", a term used to describe weather-related occurrences of unexpected numbers of migrants. What constitutes a fallout is open to question, since migrants are on the move in some kind of numbers all during the spring. One point made in the discussion was that the majority of any given species' population migrates all at once, and sometimes a number of species northbound movements are triggered simultaneously. There are some excellent examples of broad movements within a relatively narrow time frame in this report. These include the following: Glossy Ibis occurring in two locations less than 24 hours apart, Cinnamon Teal broadly distributed across eastern and central

Kansas between April 2-April 10, American Golden-Plovers appearing in large flocks in both Cherokee and Sedgwick Counties on March 29-30, flocks of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in three counties on May 8, Cape May Warblers in three counties on the weekend of May 2-3, followed by two sightings of Cape Mays on the weekend of May 14-15, and Hooded Warblers found from border to border in the last few days of April. After a winter with almost no sightings, suddenly a flurry of Northern Goshawk reports came in early April, but where these birds were going to or coming from was a bit unclear. Who knows how broad these trends would appear if birders were distributed evenly across the state?

Weather certainly played a part in the birding this spring. The period was very wet. It was the wettest spring in recorded history in Wichita, and heavy rains were widespread across the state, although the northwest was a bit drier. Shorebirds were found in a variety of locations, as temporary wetlands were all over the place this spring. After a big explosion of rare migrants on May 2-3 in Wichita, things died out really quickly, but easterners enjoyed great birding well into the third week of May. Meanwhile, out in Rush County, Seltman pronounced the warbler migration as the worst in memory, with only six species recorded there for the entire season.

Several waterfowl species lingered late across the state, as shown below. Surf Scoter and Oldsquaw are both species expected more in the fall than the spring, so were pleasant surprises. Sabine's Gull is another species encountered much more in the fall than

the spring, so the Hillsdale sighting was interesting. The 17 Whimbrels at Garden City must have been a nice surprise.

The dove invasion marches on, with multiple sightings in Pawnee County of White-winged Doves, and those darned Eurasian Collared Doves are just popping up all over, with confirmed nesting in Harvey and Sedgwick County, and who knows where else. Another invasive species, Fish Crow, is colonizing new territory in southeastern Kansas.

Another good bird was the Cassin's Vireo reported in Pottawatomie County. While birders should beware of dull Blue-headed Vireos, this was a bird was carefully studied and described, and is quite unexpected anywhere on the plains in spring.

As always, I could ramble on about these records for a long time, but that's enough from me. Read on, and don't forget to keep those records flowing on the Internet, the phone lines, or however. This report is only as good as the information I get!

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Western Grebe	3 at LaCygne Lake	GP, m.ob	4/19	Linn
	1 at Washington Co. St. Lake	DT, m.ob	5/8	Washington
Eared Grebe	1	RM	4/16-18	Crawford
	1 albinistic bird at Quivira	JS	4/30	Stafford
American Bittern	1 early at Quivira	DWl	3/29	Stafford
Least Bittern	1 at Mt. Hope Marsh	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	1 at Slate Creek	GY	5/13	Sumner
Great Egret	1 near Lawrence	GP	3/24	Douglas
Cattle Egret	20 near Pittsburg	RM	3/1	Crawford
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 at Lawrence Airport	GP, m.ob.	4/7-19	Douglas
	1 at Slate Creek Wetlands	KOS	5/1	Sumner
	1 at Quivira	GP,m.ob.	4/30	Stafford
Tundra Swan	6 at Quivira	LE	3/3	Stafford
	4 at Quivira	RB, m.ob	3/15	Stafford
	1 near Winfield	MT	4/4	Cowley
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	CH, m.ob.	5/14	Barton
Ross's Goose	3 at Elkhart	BP	4/16	Morton
Blue-winged Teal	1 at Lassiter Marsh	AS	3/15	Jefferson
Cinnamon Teal	1 at Neosho WMA	JA	4/2	Neosho
	1 at Slate Creek on April 5	MT, m.ob.	4/5	Sumner
	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	ML	4/8	Johnson
	1 at Lawrence Airport	GP, m.ob.	4/7-11	Douglas
	1 at Harvey East Lake	BD	4/7-9	Harvey
	1 at Baker Wetlands	AP	4/10	Douglas
	2 at Marais des Cygnes	RM, m.ob	4/10	Linn
	1 near Mulvane	TH	4/17	Sedgwick
Falcated Teal	escaped bird on farm pond	fide RM	3/26	Crawford
Greater Scaup	3 near Parsons	M&Egd	3/22	Labette
	12 at Lone Star	DW	3/24	Douglas
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	1 at Quivira	LE, MR, SS	<u>4/24-29</u>	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at Sedgwick Co. Park	H&SG, m.ob	<u>4/4-10</u>	Sedgwick
	<u>2</u> at Sedgwick Co. Park	DV	<u>4/10</u>	Sedgwick
Bufflehead	1 female at Cheyenne Bottoms	CH, m.ob	<u>5/13</u>	Barton
Common Goldeneye	1 at Bone Creek Res	RM, m.ob	<u>5/8</u>	Crawford
Common Merganser	1 drake at Cheyenne Bottoms	SP, m.ob	5/13	Barton
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	<u>5/29</u>	Leavenworth

Red-breasted Merganser	8 males at Lone Star	PW	3/25	Douglas
	several at Shawnee Mission Lake	ML	4/8	Johnson
	2 at Lake Shawnee	DL	4/8	Shawnee
	1 male, 9 females	RM	4/18	Crawford
Bald Eagle	1 at Kaw Wildlife area	MT, GY	5/8	Cowley
Broad-winged Hawk	1 early arrival near Manhattan	HH	3./3	Pottawatomie
	1 at Spring River Wildlife Area	JA	3/27	Cherokee
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	KH, BP	4/26	Morton
	3 in Liberal	SP, m.ob.	5/1	Seward
	2 at the shelterbelt	JH, DM	5/4	Morton
Swainson's Hawk	1 st of season near Larned	DS	3/24	Pawnee
Ferruginous Hawk	1 near Upland	DB, DR	4/25	Dickinson
Northern Goshawk	1 near Larned	SS	3/14	Pawnee
	1 at Perry Lake	RR	4/2	Jefferson
	1 near Colwich	PJ	4/3	Sedgwick
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
	1 at Baker Wetland	AP	4/10	Douglas
Golden Eagle	1 at Konza	DR	4/4	Riley
Prairie Falcon	1 at Marais des Cygnes	MG	3/6	Linn
	1 in Oak Park	H&SG	<u>4/27</u>	Sedgwick
Peregrine Falcon	1 near Rozel	SS	4/5	Pawnee
	1 in downtown Wichita	BG	4/28	Sedgwick
	4 at Quivira	NAMC	5/8	Stafford
Merlin	1 at Konza	DR	4/4	Riley
	2 seen	DB, DR	4/26	Riley
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	1 near Macksville	SS, m.ob.	5/8	<u>Stafford</u>
Black Rail	1 dead in downtown Topeka	TW	5/11	Shawnee
	1 at Quivira	TP, m.ob.	5/13	Stafford
	2 at Quivira	Topeka Audubon	5/15	Stafford
	2 calling at Coldwater Lake	PJ	5/30	Comanche
Common Moorhen	1 at Neosho WMA	RM	5/1	<u>Neosho</u>
Whooping Crane	8 in flight	LH	4/20	Rush
American Golden-Plover	approx. 30 near Colwich	PJ, DV	3/30-4/14	Sedgwick
	22 east of Cassoday	BL	4/16	Butler
	26 near Lawrence	GP	4/21	Douglas
	200 south of Pittsburg	RM	3/29	Cherokee
Mountain Plover	17 along Hwy. 51	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
	3 sighted	BP	4/16	Stanton
	several along Hwy. 51	AS	5/14?	Morton

Snowy Plover	1 early at Quivira	RB, m.ob.	3/15	Stafford
Piping Plover	at Quivira	DB	4/15	Stafford
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	LE, m.ob.	4/24	Barton
	4 at Quivira	MR	4/28	Stafford
	4 at Quivira	NAMC	5/8	Stafford
	1 near Colwich	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at Lawrence	DW	3/14	Douglas
Black-necked Stilt	1 at Hargis Lake	PJ	5/30	<u>Barber</u>
Whimbrel	<u>17</u> at sandpit near Garden City	BC, T&SS	5/2	<u>Finney</u>
	1 at Quivira	MR	5/7	Stafford
	3 at Quivira	MR, MS	5/23	Stafford
Long-billed Curlew	numerous southwest of Holcomb	L&SB	3/23	Finney
	10 at Liberal	LE	4/1	Seward
	5 along Hwy. 51	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
Hudsonian Godwit	1 near Lawrence	GP	4/15	Douglas
	300+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR, m.ob.	4/24	Barton
	12 on Kansas R.	LM	4/28	Wyandotte
	400-500 at Cheyenne Bottoms	SP, m.ob.	5/1	Barton
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 near Mulvane	TH	4/17	Sedgwick
	3 east of Cassoday	BL	4/16	Butler
	2 w/ Golden Plovers in burn	NAMC	5/8	Harvey
	37 displaying near Mt. Hope	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	10 displaying near Lawrence	DW	5/8	Douglas
	15 at Quivira near Bobolink field	H&SG. m.ob.	5/15-17	Stafford
Pectoral Sandpiper	several at Lawrence	DW	<u>3/14</u>	Douglas
Ruddy Turnstone	4 at Quivira	SS	5/17	Stafford
	2 at Clinton Lake	DG	5/25	Douglas
Dunlin	1 at Kaw Fish Farm	GP	4/14	Douglas
	5 at Lawrence Airport	DG	4/19	Douglas
	3 at Marais des Cygnes	MM. M.ob.	4/19	Linn
	12 at Kaw Fish Farms	DT	5/6	Douglas
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Topeka Audubon	5/15	Barton
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 near Colwich	PJ	3/8	Sedgwick
	1 during snowstorm	MB	3/13	Crawford
	9 near Colwich	PJ	3/10	Sedgwick
American Woodcock	ad w/3 fledges Maxwell Res	RC, others	4/12	<u>McPherson</u>
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Mt. Hope Marsh	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	3 at Quivira	MR, m.ob.	5/8	Stafford
	1 female at Quivira	CH, m.ob.	5/13	Stafford
Laughing Gull	1 at Tuttle Creek Res.	GS	4/24-25	Riley

<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 ad. Lawrence Riverfront	MRb	3/11	Douglas
	1 ad. N. Lawrence	AP	3/14	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1 1 st yr. at Clinton	AP	3/20	Douglas
	1 ad. & 1 immature near Lawrence	MRb	3/11	Douglas
	1 2d winter at Cheney	CG, PJ	3/14	Reno
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1 imm. at Hillsdale L.	ML, AM	3/24	Miami
Short-eared Owl	4 in grasslands	CS	3/14	Anderson
	1 in fresh burn	C&JO	3/20	Geary
Burrowing Owl	1 st of yr. near Liberal	LE	3/16	Seward
<u>Lesser Nighthawk</u>	1 st state record in Elkhart	CH, MM,GP,SP	4/30	Morton
Hummingbird sp.	1 unidentified in Colwich	PJ	4/3	Sedgwick
White-winged Dove	1 at Emporia	MSc	4/3	Lyon
	2 at Larned feeders	SS	5/1-2	Pawnee
	1 near Rozel	SS	5/1-4	Pawnee
	1 along Cimarron R.	DM, JH	5/2	Morton
	1 near Rozel	SS	5/31	Pawnee
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 near Girard	RM	3/7	Crawford
	1 in Goodland	SS, JP	3/19	Sherman
	Pair nesting in N. Newton	GF	4/1	Harvey
	1 at feeder in Sedgwick	CS	5/27	Harvey
Black-billed Cuckoo	2 at Nelson area	GP	5/11	Jefferson
	1 at Clinton	PW	5/28	Douglas
	1 yard bird in Manhattan	DR	5/31	Pottawatomie
Common Poorwill	calling in sandhills near Quivira	SP, m.ob	5/13	Stafford
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Burcham Park	RA	5/11	Douglas
	1 in Mission	MM	5/19	Johnson
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2 at W. Sta., 1 at Boy Scout Area	KH, BP	4/26	Morton
	6 in various locations	MM. M.ob	5/2	Morton
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2 at Wilson State Park	MR	5/11	Russell
Cassin's Kingbird	1 well seen	JHk, DM	5/4	Morton
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	1 well seen near Tuttle	DM	5/7	<u>Pottawatomie</u>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 in Oak Park	TW, m.ob.	5/3	Sedgwick
	5 in Martin Park	DW	5/5	Douglas
Purple Martin	1 in Wichita yard	BM	3/8	Sedgwick
	Pair in Emporia	KB	3/9	Lyon
	Several at Clinton	FB	3/16	Douglas
	1 at Southwestern College	MT	3/18	Cowley

Fish Crow	3 in Coffeyville 5-6 near Caney	CH., m.ob. MM. M.ob.	5/2 5/2	<u>Montgomery</u> <u>Chautauqua</u>
Carolina Wren	nest w/5 eggs near Baldwin	RB	3/17	Douglas
Winter Wren	1 fairly late	DB, DR	4/25	Pottawatomie
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 late in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
Townsend's Solitaire	1 near Wilson	DK	3/6	Russell
Wood Thrush	1 at Chisholm Cr. Park	ST	5/23-27	Sedgwick
Veery	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	LM	5/11	Wyandotte
Bohemian Waxwing	1 in Garden City	TS	3/30	Finney
Brown Thrasher	1 over-wintered near Wilson	DK	3/1	Russell
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Fitch Reserve 2 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Martin Park 1 at Bonner Springs 1 at Nelson Area 1 at Baker Wetlands 1 at Oak Park	KM MG DW CH GP, m.ob. DM KG	5/1 5/2 5/3 5/11 5/12-13 5/14 5/14	Douglas Johnson Douglas Wyandotte Douglas Douglas Sedgwick
Blue-winged Warbler	2 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 in Bonner Springs still there	MG CH GP	5/2 5/11 5/26	Johnson Wyandotte Wyandotte
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 near Caney 1 yard bird near Sedgwick 1 at Oak Park 1 female at Ft. Leavenworth 1 female at Lake Shawnee	MM, m.ob. CS JN MR, RR CS, m.ob.	5/3 5/1 5/2 5/13-14 5/15	Chautauqua Harvey Sedgwick Leavenworth Shawnee
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 in N. Newton	JN	5/8	Harvey
Blackburnian Warbler	1 near Harvey East Lake	BD	5/22	Harvey
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Oak Park 1 female at Lake Shawnee	JN. M.ob CS, m.ob.	5/2 5/15	Sedgwick Shawnee
Worm-eating Warbler	1 in Oak Park 1 at Ft. Leavenworth	DW, m.ob RR	5/2-3 5/15	Sedgwick Leavenworth
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 yard bird in North Newton 9 at Ft. Leavenworth	RRg JS	4/12 4/11	<u>Harvey</u> Leavenworth
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Dornwood Park 2 at Lake Shawnee gazebo area 3 in Bonner Springs	DL DG CH	5/11 5/12 5/18	Shawnee Shawnee Wyandotte
Pine Warbler	1 heard by at Ft. Leavenworth	MR	5/15	Leavenworth

Prairie Warbler	1 in Topeka yard	DG	4/21	Shawnee
	1 at Marais des Cygnes	RA, JH, EH		Linn
	1 near Lawrence	PW, m.ob.	5/8-16	Douglas
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Shawnee Lake gazebo area	RM, m.ob	5/12-13	<u>Shawnee</u>
Connecticut Warbler	1 at Camp Naish	CH, MR	5/26	Wyandotte
Hooded Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	RA	4/26	Douglas
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	KH, BP	4/26	<u>Morton</u>
	1 at Oak Park	ST. m.ob	4/27-5/4	Sedgwick
	1 female in Kinsley	GP, m.ob.	4/30	<u>Edwards</u>
	1 yard bird in Manhattan	DM	5/9	Riley
	1 in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
1 at Ft. Leavenworth	MR, RR	5/15	Leavenworth	
Canada Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	RA	5/11	Douglas
	1 at Marais des Cygnes	MM	5/14	Linn
	1 in Bonner Springs	TP, m.ob.	5/13	Wyandotte
	6 in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
Yellow-breasted Chat	2 at Ferguson Marsh	DG	5/22	Jefferson
Scarlet Tanager	1 at Martin Park	DW	4/28	Douglas
	2 at St. Francis	MRe	5/9	Cheyenne
	1 at Lake Shawnee gazebo area	RM, m.ob	5/12	Shawnee
	1 in Wichita yard	JN	5/30	Sedgwick
Cassin's Sparrow	1 near Macksville	SS, m.ob	5/8	Stafford
Brewer's Sparrow	1	Jhk, DM	5/4	Morton
Lark Bunting	1 near Manhattan	LJ	5/7	<u>Riley</u>
	1 near Cheyenne Bottoms	H&SG, m.ob	5/15	Barton
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 very early at J. Redmond Res.	MM	3/6	Coffey
Henslow's Sparrow	2 territorial males near Milford	CO	5/13	Geary
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Wilson Res	MR	3/3	Russell
	1 in Unit F, Marais des Cygnes	LM, M.ob	4/19	Linn
	1 in Burnett yard	DB	4/25	Pottawatomie
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Lassiter Marsh	DG, DLs	5/22	Jefferson
Song Sparrow	feeding young at Marais des Cygne	MM	5/14	Linn
Harris's Sparrow	1 at Pittsburg feeder	RM	<u>5/16-28</u>	Crawford
White-throated Sparrow	1 near St. Francis	MRe	5/6	<u>Cheyenne</u>
Golden-crowned Sparrow	present all of March in Garden City	MO, m.ob.	thru 3/28	Finney
Dark-eyed Junco	1 late bird in Leavenworth	C&JO	<u>5/22</u>	Leavenworth

Smith's Longspur	20 near Hoyt 1 near Larned	BT SS	3/11 3/2	Jackson Pawnee
Lazuli Bunting	1 seen 1 yard bird in Liberal 1 at Slate Creek Wetlands 1 near Lawrence	MR,SS LE GY KM, MP	4/29 5/8 5/13 5/16	Barber Seward Sumner Douglas
Painted Bunting	1 near Olathe 1 near Elk Falls	DSe, MSt GW	5/12 5/21	Johnson Elk
Bobolink	50-100 near Lawrence	DW, m.ob	5/12-16	Douglas

Cited observers: Robert Antonio, Jim Ausemus, Mavis Benner, Franklin Bidinger, Roger Boyd, Ken Bradstreet, Larry Bradstreet, Sandy Bradstreet, Doris Burnett, Barbara Campbell, Randy Clark, Bob Dester, Todd Dilley, Lisa Edwards, Gregg Friesen, Mike Gearhardt, Dan Gish, Ewleen Good(EGd), Max Good(MGd), Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Eric Hanley, Joe Harrington, Larry Hesed, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Ken Hollinga, Jerry Horak (JHk), Pete Janzen, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Bill Langley, Dan Larson, Robert Mangile, Richard Martin, Bert McClard, Kathy McDowell, Aaron Mitchell, Kylee Moon, Dan Mulhern, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, John Palmquist, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Town Peterson, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Alexis Powell, Marlin Reeb (MRe), Robert Regier(RRg), Mark Robbins (MRB), Richard Rucker, Marvin Schwilling(MSc), David Seibel(DSe), Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Guy Smith, Julie Stielestra, Mike Stoakes(MSt), Marge Streckfus, Art Swalwel, Bill Trelk, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Phil Wedge, David Weible(DWI), Dave Williams, Gloria Jones-Wolf, Tracy Wohl

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

Information Infusion

When the 3rd edition of the National Geographic Society's *Birds of North America* hit bookshelves this summer, it started what is going to be a flood of new books. In this issue, Tom Shane reviews a great book bargain from Nebraska. I had the opportunity to write a review of the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas (a worthy addition to your library.) A trip to the Dakotas and I came back with a copy of the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. Several more new field guides are scheduled to hit the shelves in 2000 and 2001. Better start saving up now! Gregg Friesen graciously called to my attention a great web site <http://www.avisys.net>, that has a free downloadable file, in several formats, which is a quick index for your new National Geographic Guide. You can paste it right in the back cover and have a quick reference as you relearn which birds are where in the new guide AND the new taxonomic order!

Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira: A Tale of Two Wetlands

by Helen Hands

Frequently, we at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) are asked, "Why is there so much cattail growth at CBWA and not at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge?" The answer is that although CBWA and Quivira are only 20 miles apart, the two wetlands couldn't be more different.

Logistically, cattail is easier to manage at Quivira because it has fewer wetland acres than CBWA. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and manages 22,135 acres at Quivira, only 7,000 acres are regularly flooded. The rest of the Refuge is grassland that floods only during very wet periods. At the state-owned and managed CBWA, 12,500 of its 19,857 acres are regularly wet. At CBWA, close to twice as many wetland acres are managed by less than half as many full-time employees as at Quivira. This higher ratio of wetland acres to full-time employees contributes partially to cattail management being less successful at CBWA than at Quivira.

Manageability of these wetland acres probably is more important than the wetland acres to full-time employee ratio in influencing the success of cattail control. Although the Big Salt Marsh at Quivira encompasses 1,500 acres, most of the other 17 pools are 200-300 acres in size. At CBWA, pool size ranges from 24 to 2,940 acres and averages 828 acres. Only the six pools in the goosepen and the Mitigation Marsh are smaller than 700 acres, however, these pools comprise less than 2% of the wetland area at CBWA. Cattail in smaller pools is easier to control because smaller pools can be drained, treated, and flooded quicker than larger pools. This quickness could be the difference between accomplishing effective cattail management or not.

Independent pool management is another component of manageability. The advantage of independent pool management is that each pool can be drained or flooded without affecting management of another pool. Managers at Quivira have had the ability to independently manage water levels in all 18 pools since the early 1970s. Independent pool management didn't become possible at CBWA until 1993, when the three new pump stations were constructed.

Perhaps the most important difference between Quivira and CBWA that affects cattail management is salinity. Quivira is classified as a salt marsh and CBWA as a freshwater marsh. Salinity is lowest when water levels are high and increases as water evaporates. During droughts, salinity in

the last puddles of water in Quivira's Big Salt Marsh has been measured at three times that of sea water. Although salinity also varies among Quivira's 18 pools, salinity typically is 10 to 33% of sea water. The highest salinity recorded at CBWA was about 80% of sea water, but typically is less than 10% of sea water. Cattail apparently doesn't thrive as well in the saltier water at Quivira because cattail management isn't even necessary in the Big Salt Marsh.

So what should be done to improve the effectiveness of cattail management at CBWA? The renovation effort involving the subdivision of pools and addition of pump stations has significantly improved the Department of Wildlife and Parks' ability to manage cattail. The acquisition and extensive use of a large, tracked tractor and 30-foot disk have dramatically reduced cattail cover in Pools 4A and 4B during the last 3 years. However, more needs to be done. The most important factor affecting success of cattail management at CBWA and Quivira, salinity, can't be feasibly altered and biologically shouldn't be. Pool size can be reduced by constructing new dikes. However, it would be very expensive to construct enough dikes to make all pools 200-300 acres in size.

Furthermore, if more dikes were constructed, much marsh area would be replaced by dikes, more pump stations would be needed to maintain independent pool management, and more employees would be needed to maintain so many more water control structures and pump stations. Thus, adding more dikes wouldn't be a realistic option. A better option would be to acquire and/or rent more cattail management equipment (e.g., another large tractor and disk) and hire more maintenance personnel who would be responsible for managing cattail. Two bills, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and Resources 2000, being considered in Congress may provide the funds to do just that.

Special thanks to the Quivira NWR managers, Dave Hilley and Kathy Owens for providing the information on Quivira.

(Helen can be reached at: bottoms@greatbend.com)

KOS Spring Meeting Bird List

The following list was graciously compiled by Max Thompson following the spring meeting held in Winfield. Due to the short time frame between the end of the meeting and the deadline it could not be included in the June issue. It is presented here to let you know what wonderful things you could have seen had you attended and to hopefully encourage you to go to the fall meeting in Hays and the spring 2000 meeting in Morton County. The following sightings were from Cowley and Sumner counties for the period April 30 through May 2, 1999. Thank you to Max and to everyone who hosted and attended the spring meeting!

Common Loon	Baird's Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Kentucky Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Pectoral Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Double-crested Cormorant	Stilt Sandpiper	House Wren	Hooded Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Long-billed Dowitcher	Sedge Wren	Wilson's Warbler
Great Egret	Common Snipe	Marsh Wren	Northern Cardinal
Snowy Egret	Wilson's Phalarope	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Cattle Egret	Franklin's Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Green Heron	Forster's Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Indigo Bunting
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Rock Dove	Veery	Dickcissel
Yellow-crowned	Mourning Dove	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Eastern Towhee
Night-Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swainson's Thrush	Spotted Towhee
Glossy Ibis	Great Horned Owl	Hermit Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Clay-colored Sparrow
Canada Goose	Common Nighthawk	American Robin	Field Sparrow
Wood Duck	Chuck-will's-widow	Gray Catbird	Vesper Sparrow
Mallard	Whip-poor-will	Northern Mockingbird	Lark Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Ruby-throated	American Pipit	Baird's Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Hummingbird	Sprague's Pipit	Grasshopper Sparrow
Gadwall	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing	Henslow's Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Red-headed Woodpecker	Loggerhead Shrike	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Lincoln's Sparrow
Osprey	Downy Woodpecker	Bell's Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Hairy Woodpecker	Solitary Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Northern Flicker	Warbling Vireo	Harris' Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	Red-winged Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Tennessee Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Least Flycatcher	Orange-crowned Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
American Kestrel	Eastern Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Common Grackle
Ring-necked Pheasant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wild Turkey	Western Kingbird	Yellow Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Northern Bobwhite	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Sora	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Black-throated Green	House Finch
American Coot	Horned Lark	Warbler	Pine Siskin
Semipalmated Plover	Purple Martin	Blackburnian Warbler	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Palm Warbler	House Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Blackpoll	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Bank Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler	
Solitary Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	American Redstart	
Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Prothonotary Warbler	
Upland Sandpiper	American Crow	Worm-eating Warbler	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Ovenbird	
Least Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Waterthrush	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Louisiana Waterthrush	

Membership Report by Susan Barnes

As of July 1, 1999, KOS membership stood at 418 which is up nearly 30 members from the first of the year. Several current members have been busy recruiting new members. Current honor roll is: Ed Miller with three new members, Gene Young, John Schukman, and Mike and Ellen Rader who've all recruited two new members and with one new member each are: David Pantle, Brent Brock, Jim Nickel, Ted Cable, Don Weiss, Phil Wedge and Walker Butin. If others have recruited new members be sure to contact me and let me know or, if you are in the process of recruiting new members, write your name on the membership form that you give those potential new members!

Following is a list of new members and their hometown.
Denver, Colorado: Robert Righter; **Baldwin City:** Richard B. Garrett, Bill Nye; **Hepler:** Jim Ausemus;

Kansas City: Alan R. Godwin; **Manhattan:** Doris Burnett, Todd Hoernemann, Dusty Becker, Mark Hollingsworth, Luke Westerman, Christine Wooley; **Mayetta:** Maren N. Harding; **Newton:** B. Aileen McCune, Donna Ratzlaff, Chad "Jethro" Runco; **North Newton:** Vel Teichroew; **Olathe:** Lori Weiss; **Overland Park:** D.O. Smart; **Parsons:** Paul L. Milks; **Pittsburg:** Robert J. Mangile; **Pratt:** Gordon Hedrick; **Randolph:** Sara Baer, Matt Whiles; **Salina:** Jonathan Conrad, Marge Streckfus; **St. Mary's:** Brandon Magette; **Stafford:** Kathy Owens; **Stillwell:** G. Ken Baum; **Wichita:** Patricia L. Butin, Mary Ann Lowry, Lowell W. Wilder; **Edgartown, MA:** E. Vernon Laux.

*Susan can be reached at:
barnowls@integrityonline26.com*

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

You meet some of the most interesting people when you are birding!

A Review of *The Birds of Nebraska* *by Thomas G. Shane*

The Birds of Nebraska by Paul A Johnsgard. Available from Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0118. 1998: 138 pp., 2 numbered text figures, 248 range maps. \$10 postage paid (plastic spiral bound). As Nebraskans and their neighbors await the long overdue breeding bird atlas of Nebraska, another useful book has emerged. This is an updated version of the 1980 edition of *A Preliminary List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*.

The book is divided into two sections. Part 1. includes: Birdwatching Through the Year in Nebraska; Fundamentals of Birdwatching; Optical Equipment and Acoustic Aids; Reference Materials; Vernacular and Technical Names of Birds; Backyard Birding Opportunities; and Monitoring Bird Populations, which are all nicely condensed for the beginner and the serious ornithologist on the first 12 pages.

Part 2. includes an Introduction with the parameters for the List of Species that follows along with a section on the Vegetation and Topography of Nebraska. Examining the species accounts, you quickly realize the value of the book when three to four paragraphs are found on the common species and three to four lines on the vagrants. Johnsgard opens an account with an introduction on the status of the species then moves on to an excellent description of the migration. The third section is a very brief description of the species habitats. The final paragraph is a comments section which usually concludes with the Breeding Bird Survey trends for that species.

Johnsgard uses his same map outline as previously used in his 1980 book, which includes all or parts of eleven states (entire Kansas) from North Dakota to Oklahoma. He states that half the maps have been updated. The most important change is the blackened areas on the range maps showing the areas of highest relative abundance obtained from the Breeding Bird Survey data. For those bird students that were not able to afford the 1995 book by Price et al., *The Summer Atlas of North American Birds*, this is a welcome addition. Although the book is primarily about Nebraska, many, not all of the additions to the Kansas records have been incorporated into the maps. A few of the maps do need some urgent updating especially in regard to Kansas and Colorado, i.e. Mississippi Kite, House Finch, and Great-tailed Grackle.

Almost every avian species with some history in the state is mentioned. The reader spots this immediately with the first species listed, the Crested Tinamou, an unsuccessful introduction in 1970. All respectable observations are reported as hypothetical, even though the author is not convinced and it has not been accepted by the Nebraska Records Committee. The reference section is short, however, records from the *Nebraska Bird Review*, and other journals are noted in the text by volume and page number only.

At only \$10, this may be the last great bird book deal of the millennium!

Tom can be reached at: 1706 Belmont, Garden City, Kansas 67846.

What do you think was the best bird of the past twelve months? It could be an uncommon or rare bird, or it could be a fairly common bird out of range or at an uncommon time of the year. Maybe a breeding record for Kansas for a species that hasn't bred in Kansas or seldom breeds in Kansas. Look in the pull out section for the Annual Meeting, fill out the Best Bird nomination form and mail it in, or e-mail your nomination to Max Thompson at maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

**Deadline for submissions for the
December, 1999 Horned Lark is
November 10, 1999.**

More Spring Meeting Photos!

photos by Debarah Arnett

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

Everyone looks on with rapt attention as Dr. Max Thompson explains the finer identification points of some of the study skins in the Southwestern College collection.

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

Everyone knows the proper position when engaged in spring time birding activities. Keep reading in future issues for home remedies for “Warbler Neck”!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 1999

Vol. 26, No. 2

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From The Keyboard -

Another spring migration season is winding down and many of us are gearing up to do Breeding Bird Survey routes or maybe travel to Oklahoma to assist them in their Breeding Bird Atlas project. Perhaps some of you are taking a few weeks off just to get ready for the start of fall migration in a couple more months.

Whatever the case summer will pass by quickly and before we know it another fall KOS meeting will be upon us. Start making plans to travel to Hays the second weekend in October. It looks like Greg is preparing a great meeting! Also start to think about the spring 2000 meeting (assuming we all survive the Y2K situation!) A joint meeting with OOS (Oklahoma Ornithological Society) is being planned by Pete Janzen with a target area of Morton County/Black Mesa. I think Pete could use a little more help so get in touch with him if you are interested. That meeting is still very nebulous so get involved early! AND, looking even further down the road, there is interest in going to north central Kansas in the fall of 2000. Anyone from that area or with ties to that area should get in touch with one of the officers (or me) so this meeting can be planned. Spring and fall meetings are a great way to meet other KOS members, see different parts of the state and see new birds. I know I'm very disappointed when I can't attend a spring or fall meeting!

Don't skip the short article on birding ethics. It describes a recent situation that turned out okay, but could have been very ugly, very unfortunate and some very bad press for bird watchers. State and federal lands have certain restrictions and we need to be aware of these and obey them. Just like we need to respect private land and work with the landowners, respecting their requests, we need to be just as respectful of public lands. Refuges are often set aside as, well, refuges for wildlife. There are bound to be certain areas that must be protected at different times or else why bother?! The better

citizens and stewards we become, the better we will represent KOS and birdwatching in general.

If you're traveling around the state or country this summer on vacation, gather some information ahead of time. It's amazing how much birdwatching information is now on the Internet and how much birding you can do on the go with the family!!

It's time to send this issue to the proofreaders and the printers. Once that's done I can get my breeding bird survey's ready to run, then county fair, then another issue of the *Lark* to pull together. My goodness where did the summer go?

- chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1999

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science,
Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road,
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96,
Hoisington,
KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425
S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence,
KS 67301

Board Members:

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100
College St, Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita,
KS

67213, 316-265-4059, barnowls@integrityonline26.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

**October 8 - 10, 1999
Ft. Hays State University**

Full details will be in the September *Horned Lark*, but be sure to mark this date down on your calendar now! Greg Farley is busy getting details together, but there's going to be a lot of new things for everyone to see since our last visit to Ft. Hays several years ago. And of course, the fall birding in Hays can be exciting! See you there!

Address Update

I just about fell out of my chair the other day when I received an e-mail from none other than John Zimmerman! John wanted me to pass on his "new" address and send you all greetings from his new home, Virginia.

**John Zimmerman
1046 Blackburn Bluff
Charlottesville, VA 22901-0608
804-974-9293
jozimmva@aol.com**

Errata

In Mike's Musings in the March *Horned Lark* a typographical error occurred by the editor. In referring to Richard Rucker the column reads "good fiend." I know Richard and I know Mike and neither one deserves to be called a fiend. It obviously should have read "good friend" and the editor apologizes for that *fiendish* error!

Chuck

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for non-members. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

Have you paid your 1999 Dues yet?? Please mail them to Ed Miller, today.

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 8 - 10, 1999 - Hays NEW DATE!!!!!!

**Spring 2000 - Morton County/Black Mesa in
conjunction with Oklahoma
Ornithological Society**

**Fall 2000 - Northcentral Kansas, location to be
announced.**

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

KDWP Forum 12

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The Sparrows of Summer

by John Rakestraw

Most beginning birders consider the sparrows to be among the most challenging groups of birds to learn. In the field guides, the sparrows appear as page after page of nearly identical little brown birds. Kansas is blessed, or cursed, depending on your point of view, with over thirty of these little birds on its checklist. The trick to learning any group of birds is to start with a few species, learning as much as you can about their appearances, habits, and vocalizations. Then as new species are encountered, you can compare them to the birds you know well. After the frantic pace of spring migration, summer provides an excellent opportunity to learn a manageable number of sparrows. The birds are in breeding plumage and are singing their little hearts out. As the season progresses, you get a chance to see the young birds in their sometimes confusing plumages. So go out early in the morning, before the temperature and the wind speed get too high, and get to know these summer sparrows. Then you will have a solid foundation from which to build your sparrow repertoire.

CHIPPING SPARROW - This small sparrow, most common in the eastern part of the state, can be found in yards, parks, golf courses, and open woodlands. In breeding plumage, the Chipping Sparrow is instantly recognized by its rusty cap, white supercilium, black eye line, and clear gray breast. In flight, this bird shows a gray rump, which can be an important field mark in the fall, when the Chipping Sparrow's pattern is less distinct. The song is a rapid repetition of chip notes, all on one pitch.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Henslow's Sparrows are limited to mature stands of tallgrass prairie, that is, grassland that has not been mowed or burned within the past couple of years. This bird is recognized by its large, flat head which has an olive green cast. The breast is buffy with dark streaks, and the wings are chestnut colored. The Henslow's Sparrow, like many grassland species, is most easily located by its song, a rather feeble, two-syllabled "ka-CHIP."

FIELD SPARROW - Field Sparrows are found in eastern, central, and southwestern Kansas. Field marks for this species includes a pinkish bill, rusty cap and post-ocular stripe over a grayish face, and two white wingbars. A thin white eye ring gives the Field Sparrow a wide-eyed look. Southwestern birds may lack the rusty tones. Field Sparrows inhabit open areas with brush or small trees. The song is a series of whistles which accelerate into a rapid

trill. Compare the song with a ping pong ball bouncing on a table.

LARK SPARROW - Found throughout the state in prairies, farmlands, and open woods, the large Lark Sparrow is instantly recognized by its bold face pattern of chestnut, black, and white. The clear breast sports a dark central spot, and the tail is edged in white. The song of the Lark Sparrow is variable, but usually consists of two clear notes followed by a combination of whistles, trills, and buzzes.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - This short-tailed little bird of the grasslands becomes more common in western Kansas. The Grasshopper Sparrow has a clear buffy breast and a pale central stripe on a dark crown. Like the Henslow's Sparrow, the Grasshopper Sparrow appears flat-headed. The song consists of two high chip notes, followed by an insect-like buzz.

CASSIN'S SPARROW - Limited to the short grass prairies of western Kansas, Cassin's Sparrows are rather nondescript in appearance. The face is mostly gray with a brown crown and post-ocular stripe. The outer tail feathers are tipped in white, a field mark visible on flying birds. While the Cassin's Sparrow may be somewhat lacking in field marks, its singing is fairly exuberant. Like other species of the treeless plains, the Cassin's Sparrow often sings in flight, making singing males easier to locate. The song begins with two faint whistles, followed by a trill, and ends with two more clear notes.

There are other sparrow species known to nest in Kansas, but these six can be found with regularity in appropriate habitats. Listen to recordings of their songs. Then get out in field and find these birds. Make a morning of it and study them at length. Notice not only their obvious field marks, but their shapes and mannerisms. Commit their songs and chip notes to memory. Once you are comfortable with these nesting sparrows, you will find it easier to notice and identify migrants and winter residents. If you are looking for a book to help you with your study of sparrows, I strongly recommend *A Guide To The Identification And Natural History Of The Sparrows Of The United States And Canada*, by former Kansas City resident James D. Rising. With a little homework and some time in the field, you can transform the sparrows from a confusing group of "little brown jobs" to a challenging, subtly beautiful group of birds that are well worth your time and effort.

Summer Flowers for the Birds

by Chuck Otte

There isn't a home owner out there that doesn't like flowers in their yard. The double advantage for bird watchers is that they can have flowers for beauty AND have flowers that will help attract birds!

The first thing that most of us think about are flowers for hummingbirds. We all know that hummers like red flowers so plan your flower garden with that end of the color spectrum in mind. When trying to decide which red flowers to plant, look for those that have a trumpet style of blossom.

Trumpet vine always comes to mind and its reddish orange blossom is very attractive to hummingbirds as well as orioles. But be forewarned about trumpet vine, this is a rambunctious, rank perennial vine that needs a lot of space. Not only does it grow aggressively, it also develops lots of root shoots and volunteers readily from seed. Give it a windmill tower or the corner of an old barn and lots of room to ramble. Don't try to shoe horn this plant into a small lot - you'll regret it!

But there are numerous other reddish, trumpet shaped flowers that are annuals and should still be available for planting. Salvia, petunia, snapdragon and nicotiana all are available in red shades. In the perennial category there's also penstemon, columbine, gladiolus and daylily. Not only will these help attract hummingbirds, butterflies will also find them attractive.

One often overlooked secret to making a flower bed or flower box look attractive to you and the birds is a technique known as massing. Don't buy your flowers a handful at a time. Buy them by the dozens! When you plant a lot of something you create a large splash of color, a mass that is hard to overlook.

Once you have a lot of flowers to plant, don't get them too lonely. I like to plant annual flowers in a grid with seven to nine inches of spacing between the plants. This tight spacing may require a little more fertilizer and water from you, but it will help you achieve the massing effect much quicker.

In flower pots or flower boxes use a good soilless potting mix. You should never use garden or field soil in any container. Soil simply does not have the right physical properties to work well in containers. When you plant into containers, pack the flowers in even tighter than in a flower bed. Two to three inches between plants is a great plenty. Just remember to water daily. It's also important to "dead head" or remove spent and dying blossoms as they fade. This will stimulate production of more flowers.

I feel that you need to fertilize all flowers every three to four weeks during the growing season. You need to use a "balanced" garden fertilizer or one specifically for blooming plants. What we mean by balanced is where there is as much, or more, phosphorus (the nutrient that makes blossoms) as there is nitrogen (the nutrient that creates green growth.) Every fertilizer has three numbers, i.e., 13-13-13 or 16-20-0, on the container. The first number is the percent nitrogen, the second number the percent phosphorus and the third number is potassium. Stick with garden fertilizers and avoid the fifty pound bags of agricultural grade fertilizer. Follow the label directions and apply as directed to not burn the plant with too much nitrogen.

But there are other flowers that will attract birds other than hummingbirds and orioles. Seed producing plants like sunflower and safflower can serve double duty. You have the pleasure of the flowering plant and then you let it go ahead and make seed. There are many very attractive sunflower varieties out there today that produce rapid growth, lovely flowers and good seed production. Just remember not to dead head these seed producers - in this case you need the seed crop. There are a few sunflower hybrids that have been developed for the cut flower industry. While these produce attractive blooms they are also sterile and will produce no pollen, or seed! Avoid these if you want to attract birds. You can also take some of the safflower from your feeder and plant it. It is another short season plant with an attractive little flower that is also a good draw for birds. Have some fun this summer and let part of your garden go to the birds!

**Deadline for submissions for the
September, 1999 Horned Lark is
July 20, 1999.**

Spring Birding

by *Mike Rader*

Spring has got to be my favorite time of year. It is a time of renewal, with longer days, warmer temperatures (usually!), leaves on the trees, and as importantly - the influx of more birds!

Spring brings the promise of migration, with shorebirds, sparrows, and warblers being the focus of birders all over the state. It also means "good-bye" to many of the species that kept us interested in birding in the depths of Winter, like Harris's Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and a plethora of waterfowl. It almost makes me wish they wouldn't go - almost! It's time to enjoy the changing of the seasons - Spring is fleeting.

There are many activities geared to get birders out in the field, including the Spring KOS meeting, NAMC (North American Migration Count), various birding festivals, and "Birdathon" Big Day events. They are all great ways to interact with friends, with that common bond of a love of birds.

NAMC in Stafford County was exciting, as usual, with awesome numbers of birds present and a high species count. I would encourage folks to participate in the event next year. Let's get some more counties involved statewide in this project. The importance of getting the 'snapshot' of migration patterns doesn't just lie in the heavily populated or "birded" counties. It would be very interesting to see what is going on in everyone's part of Kansas.

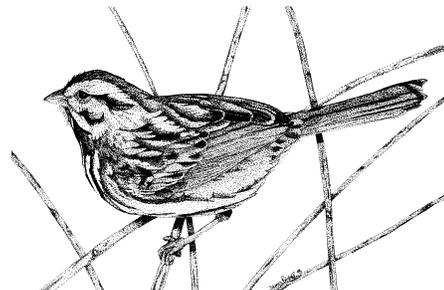
I am assisting with an annual bird festival at Quivira this month (May) and hope that people all over Kansas will take advantage of organized activities where they can. I know that other areas are beginning efforts in providing public participation bird-watching events, such as Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge. Let's get out and support them, whether it is assisting with the programs or as willing participants, eager to learn from the presenters. It also provides a great opportunity to get acquainted with other people interested in birds.

Summer will be here soon enough, with its good and bad aspects. We get to see the temperatures rise (along with the number and size of mosquitoes!). The days are long -

sometimes seemingly too long. It is also the time to observe birds coping with the struggle to reproduce, and raise their families. It is also the time to watch for the return of migrant shorebirds, busily feeding - "tanking-up" and heading to their wintering grounds.

Some think that summer is just the season that gets in the way of seeing birds on fall migration, but I think it is special in its own way. We get to do more fun stuff, such as BBS routes (Breeding Bird Survey), assist with other bird census projects, and have more time in the day to do a "Big Day!"

I hope everyone has a good spring and summer. I also look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall KOS Meeting at Ft. Hays State. Let's see if we can recruit more KOS members before that meeting. We can then share the pleasure of birds and bird-watching with a lot more people. Safe & happy birding!



Fall Meeting Preview

October 8 - 10, 1999

Ft. Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

Friday evening reception at new Sternberg Museum

Paper presentations in renovated Albertson Hall

Banquet/Student Union/Wildlife Art

Dr. Eugene Fleharty

Birding around Hays!!

Interested????

Details/Registration in September Horned Lark!

WINTER ROUND-UP

December 1, 1998 through February 28, 1999

by *Pete Janzen*

This was a very mild winter across Kansas, with a few winter storms to spice things up a bit. The results of this prevalent mild weather are very apparent in this season's birding highlights. Many "half-hardy" species wintered successfully in unprecedented numbers, such as Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Coot, Marsh Wren, and many others. Other lingering birds included several reports of Gray Catbird, Blue-winged Teal, House Wren, LeConte's Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and many others. A surprising number of shorebird species lingered well into December, and even January, and had already begun returning by late February. Black-throated Green Warbler in December? Black-and White Warbler in mid-January? Yes, this really is the WINTER report for KANSAS, no kidding!!

Gulls provided more of the now expected excitement, although the wild "gull-mania" of last year had subsided somewhat. Of course, that is a relative comparison, since this winter brought additional sightings of Iceland and Mew Gulls, which were only added to the state checklist within the last couple of years. Glaucous Gulls put on a mild invasion in January, but only an echo of last year's explosion. Both

"black-backed" species were seen again, at the Wichita Dump. Whether the continuing spate of rare gull reports is the result of changing distribution or increased scrutiny by birders is open to question. Likely a bit of both, in my opinion.

Rare waterfowl included a Brant at Wichita and a Black Scoter at John Redmond Reservoir, and at least here in Wichita, it is apparent that more and more species of waterfowl are spending the winter. Northern Shoveler, for example, is present through the winter now in flocks of up to 70 birds, which would have been almost unheard of 10 years ago. Garden City birders reported an excellent variety of waterfowl as well, in addition to many other areas of the state.

Townsend's Solitaires pushed east almost to the Missouri line this winter, quite a bit further east than ordinary. A couple of Sage Thrasher sightings in February were interesting, but whether these were over-wintering birds or early migrants is impossible to know.

One thing this was not was a "northern invasion" winter. None of the northern finches that we all hope manage to make it past the "benign Maginot Line of bird feeders in the northern tier of

states" (thanks Kenn Kaufman for the quote) showed up in the area. I guess the food supply was good up north, or more likely the weather just never pushed them south to speak of. Northern Shrikes were widespread in western Kansas, and pushed a bit further east than normal. Toss in a few Bohemian Waxwing and Northern Goshawk reports, and that about does it for "northern" species this winter. Can't get 'em all all of the time.

Looking over the list of records, this really was a rather odd winter for birds in Kansas, not notable for a great number of "rarities" but distinguished instead by its eclectic composition. All part of the changing tapestry we all enjoy observing. Please let me know of any errors or omissions, as always.

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
Common Loon	8 at Hillsdale Lake	Emc, et. al	12/3	Miami
	2 at Wilson Res.	SS, MR	12/5	Russell
	2 at Lake Waconda	CBC	12/19	Mitchell
	1 at Cedar Bluff Res.	CBC	12/27	Trego
	2 at Webster Res	M, E&JR	12/28	Rooks
	1 at Wichita sandpit	PJ, m.ob	1/5	Sedgwick
Pied-billed Grebe	123 at L. Waconda	CBC	12/19	Mitchell
	59 at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego

Note: Pied-billed Grebes lasted all in winter at Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira, Cedar Bluff, and Wichita, sometimes in significant numbers.

Western Grebe	3 at LaCygne L.	LM	12/5	Linn`
	1 remained at LaCygne L. through the period			
	1 at Quivira	SS, MR	12/5	Stafford
	5 at Tuttle Creek	GS	12/6	Riley
	3 at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego
	1 at Tuttle Creek	TC	12/28	Riley
American White Pelican	63 at Waconda Lake	CBC	12/19	Mitchell
	1 at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego
	2 at Webster	M, E&JR	12/28	Rooks
	6 at Wilson Res.	MR	1/5-6	Russell
Turkey Vulture	1 at Melvern Lake	JB	12/6	Osage
	2 in western Johnson	JL	2/15	Johnson
	1	IH	2/18	Riley
Ross's Goose	50 at Quivira	SS, MR	12/5	Stafford
	135 at Quivira	CBC	12/5	Stafford
	6 at Wilson Res.	MR	1/20	Russell
<u>Brant</u>	1 at Wichita sandpit	JN	12/21	Sedgwick
Trumpeter Swan	1 at Quivira all winter	m.ob		Stafford
	5 at Wyandotte Co. L.	DH, m.ob	12/30-1/17	Wyandotte
	3 at Cedar Lake	GP	1/3	Leavenworth
	1 at Tuttle Pond	GS	1 / 4	Riley/Pott.
	4 at Tuttle Cr. Res.	TC	1/10	Riley
	5 near Chanute	BBr	1/15	Neosho
	3 on small pond	RM	thru Jan.	Crawford
	Note: one of the Crawford Co. birds was killed with a firearm in January.			
Tundra Swan	1-3 all winter		m.ob.	Stafford
	6 at Wilson	BM	12/20	Russell
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	AM	2/23-24	Barton
American Black Duck	2 at Marsh of the Swans	Emc	12/3	Osage
Blue-winged Teal	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	SS, MR	12/5	Barton
Greater Scaup	2 at New Strawn	MM	12/11	Coffey
	4 at John Redmond	ML	12/23	Coffey
<u>Black Scoter</u>	1 female at Redmond	Emc, m.ob	12/3-12	Coffey
Oldsquaw	1 at Quivira	SS, MR	12/5	Stafford
	1 at Kaw Fish Farms	Mrb	12/6	Douglas
	1 at John Redmond	ML	12/23	Coffey
	1 at Clinton Lake	AP	12/22	Douglas
Common Merganser	20,000 at Wilson Res.	MR	1/6	Russell
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at River Pond SP	DR	1/ 2	Riley
	2 at Wichita sandpit	PJ, m.ob	1/5	Sedgwick
	2 at Wilson Res.	MR	1/6	Russell

Northern Goshawk	1 at Wilson Res.	CBC	12/20	Russell
	1 at Milford Lake	C&JO	12/13	Geary
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 near Medicine Lodge	JB, PJ	1/9	<u>Barber</u>
	1 near Mulvane	TH	1/18	<u>Sedgwick</u>
Peregrine Falcon	1 in downtown Wichita	JB	2/9	Sedgwick
Merlin-over 20 reports statewide this winter				
Golden Eagle	1 imm. n. of Kanopolis	MR	2/17	Ellsworth
Virginia Rail	1 at Wilson Res.	CBC	12/6	Russell
	2 near Medicine Lodge	JB, PJ	1/9	Barber
American Coot	<u>1520</u> at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego
Sandhill Crane	100,000 at Quivira	TH, CS	12/6	Stafford
	1 at Wichita	BG, m.ob.	1/5-20	Sedgwick
	667 w. of Med. Lodge	CBC	1/9	Barber
Whooping Crane	4 at Quivira	MR, SS	12/5	Stafford
Note: One of these four was the crippled adult female that eluded all capture attempts by refuge staff. This bird was not seen again after this date, and did not make it to Aransas NWR.				
Killdeer	20 at Kaw Fish Farms	Emc, MG	12/12	Douglas
Greater Yellowlegs	20 at CB	MR, SS	<u>12/5</u>	Barton
	2 at Kaw Fish Farms	Mrb	<u>12/7-19</u>	Douglas
	8 at CB	AM	<u>2/23-24</u>	Barton
Lesser Yellowlegs	7 at CB	MR, SS	<u>12/5</u>	Barton
Spotted Sandpiper	1 in Leawood	JR	<u>12/16</u>	Johnson
Least Sandpiper	8 at Melvern Res.	Emc, m.ob	<u>12/3-11</u>	Osage
	19 at Kaw Fish Farms	MRb	<u>12/7</u>	Douglas
	1 at Sedg. Co. Park	CG, PJ	<u>1/2</u>	Sedgwick
Dunlin	1 at Perry Lake Marsh	MM	<u>12/11</u>	Jefferson
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 at CB	MR, SS	<u>12/5</u>	Barton
Bonaparte's Gull	300 at Paola	LM	12/5	Miami
	700 at Waconda L.	CBC	12/19	Mitchell
<u>Mew Gull</u> 1 1 st yr. Shawnee Lake		SM	12/20	Johnson
	1 adult at Tuttle Res	GS	2/6	Riley
	1 adult at Tuttle	GP, LM	2/7	Riley
Note: The adults reported on Feb. 6 & 7 were <u>different</u> individuals, based on reported field marks.				
California Gull	1 1 st yr at Barton Landfill	TH, CS	12/19	Barton
	2 at Wilson Res.	MR	1/4	Russell

Thayer's Gull - numerous reports statewide

<u>Iceland Gull</u>	1 1 st yr. at Wichita dump	GP, DS	12/24	Sedgwick
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult in Ark R., Wichita	RB, m.ob	1/30	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	1 1 st yr. Wichita Dump	JN	12/21	Sedgwick
	1 3 rd yr. Wichita Dump	GP, m.ob	12-24-27	Sedgwick
	1 at Webster Res	M,E&JR	12/28	Rooks
	1 at CB	SS	1/23	Barton
	1 2d yr. at Wilson	MR	1/24	Russell
	1 2d yr. at CB	SS	1/24	Barton
<u>Greater Black-backed Gull</u>	1 2d yr. at Wichita Dump	JN	12/21	Sedgwick
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 1 st yr. at Melvern Res.	B&AK	12/8	Osage
Inca Dove	5 at Garden City Zoo	DB	thru Dec.	Finney
<u>Eurasian Collared Dove</u>	12 at Barhard	LD	12/23	Lincoln
	12 at Scott City	T&SS	12/27	Scott
Greater Roadrunner	1 near Lawrence	m.ob	all winter	Douglas
	1 in Pratt	KB, m.ob	1/20-2/20	Pratt
Long-eared Owl	15 at Lyon St. L	Emc	12/3	Lyon
	15 at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego
	10 near Quivira	PJ, DV	2/10	Stafford
	6 in Wichita	PJ, m.ob	all winter	Sedgwick
	2 near Parsons	M&EG	January	Labette
Eastern Phoebe	1 at Pomona L.	DL	2/27	Osage
	1 near Sedgwick	CM	2/27	Harvey
Northern Shrike	1 near Towanda	BB	12/21	Butler
	1 at Winfield L.	MT, GY	12/15	Cowley
Note: numerous reports of N. Shrikes from the western half of the state.				
Black-billed Magpie	1 at Wichita Dump	JN	12/21	Sedgwick
	3 at Junction City	CBC	12/29	Geary
N. Rough-winged Swallow	1 at Perry Marsh	AP, RR	<u>2/7-9</u>	Jefferson
Carolina Wren	1 at Pratt feeder	MMn	1/1	Pratt
Bewick's Wren	1 at Wilson Res.	MR	All winter	Russell
House Wren	1 at Wilson	MR, SS	12/5-20	Russell
Marsh Wren	multiple birds at Quivira	m.ob	all winter	Stafford
	2 at Webster Res	ME&J R	12/28	Rooks
Mountain Bluebird	100 at Wilson	MR, SS	12/5	Russell
	150 on Gyp Hills Tour	PJ, DV	2/10	Barber

Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Olathe	BW	12/13	Johnson
	1 at Slate Creek	CBC	12/23	Sumner
	1 near Lansing	CBC	1/3	Leavenworth
	1 at Strong City	MP	1/24	Chase
Gray Catbird	1 at Wilson	CBC	12/20	Russell
	1 in KC	LM	12/31	Wyandotte
	1 at Sedg. Co Zoo	PJ, m.ob	1/30	Sedgwick
Sage Thrasher	1 in Pratt	PJ, DV	2/10	Pratt
	2 in Cimm. Grasslands	JC	2/25	Morton
Brown Thrasher	1 in Topeka	JB	12/31	Shawnee
Bohemian Waxwing	1 near Wakefield	CBC	12/20	Clay
	1 near Ft. Riley	TC	12/29	Geary
Yellow-rumped Warbler	180 at Quivira	CBC	12/18	Stafford
	45 at Cedar Bluff	CBC	12/26	Trego
Note: Once considered a rare species across most of Kansas in winter, Yellow-rumps are now almost common in parts of the state during the winter. This year numbers of them successfully over-wintered even in the harsher climates of western Kansas.				
Black-and-White Warbler	1 at Winfield feeder	fide MT	<u>1/4</u>	Cowley
Black-Throated Green Warbler	1 in Mulvane	TH	<u>12/1</u>	Sedgwick
American Pipit	200 at Mined Lands	RM	1/1	Cherokee
Eastern Towhee	1 at Wichita	PJ	1/16	Sedgwick
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Wichita	ST	1/6	Sedgwick
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Garden City	MO	all winter	Finney
Note: This bird wintered in the same barnyard where several were last winter!				
	1 at Wilson Res.	MR	12/13	Russell
Chestnut-collared Longspur		SS	1/18	Pawnee
Purple Finch	1 at Scott Lake	CBC	12/27	Scott
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 at Towanda feeder	BB	1/8	Butler

Observers cited: Daniel Baffa, Roger Boyd, Larry Bradstreet, Bill Brecheisen, Joanne Brier, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Ted Cable, Jeff Chynoweth, Leo Dowlin, Matt Gearhardt, Eweleen Good, Max Good, Chet Gresham, David Heness, Tyler Hicks, Irwin Hoogheem, Pete Janzen, Jeff Keating, Bill and Anne Ketterman, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Jane Leo, Milt Martin, Ed McCollough, Mick McHugh, Brad McCord, Stephen McDaniel, Lloyd Moore, Cheryl Miller, Robert Mangile, Aaran Mitchell, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Alexis Powell, Michael Powers, Mike Rader, Ellen Rader, Jennifer Rader, Mark Robbins, Jack Revare, Dave Rintoul, Richard Rucker, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Sara Shane, Guy Smith, Carolyn Schwab, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Brad Williamson, Dave Williams, Phil Wedge, 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.

Rare Bird Alert Numbers From Neighboring States

It's often fun to keep up on bird sightings from surrounding states, whether in anticipation of migration to come, preparation for an upcoming trip or just because it's fun. Following is a list of the Rare Bird Alert numbers for Kansas and our neighboring states. Most states have one or more hotlines or rare bird alerts (only Mississippi and Hawaii are without). If you need a hotline number give Chuck Otte a call. Many states are also setting up Internet discussion groups about birds, and these hotlines are often posted on those lists. Information on joining the Kansas group or those in neighboring states is found in the column to the right!

Kansas, Statewide - (316) 229-2777
Burroughs Audubon, Kansas City Area
(913) 342-2473
Wichita - (316) 681-2266
Oklahoma, Statewide - (918) 669-6646
Oklahoma City - (405) 373-4531
Missouri, Statewide - (573) 445-9115
St. Louis - (314) 935-8432
Nebraska, Statewide - (402) 292-5325
Colorado, Statewide - (303) 424-2144

A Call for Cooper's Hawk Information

Vic McLeran, KOS member and former editor of the old *Kansas Fish & Game* magazine, is writing a book on the Cooper's Hawk and invites other members to share their observations. He is particularly interested in stories or anecdotes that provide insight into the behavior, ecology and natural history of these accipiters. Please take a moment; if an interesting incident involving this hawk comes to mind, (things like unusual activities or situations, odd nesting sites, spectacular pursuit or capture of prey, interactions with other predators including interpredation, encounters with other birds, or piracy of prey by or from another raptor) he would appreciate hearing from you. Just write, e-mail or call him collect with a brief account of the incident. If it's selected for inclusion, he'll contact you for additional details. Thanks in advance for your help. Contact: Vic McLeran, 434 S. Moore Ave., Dewey, OK 74029; phone, 918/534-3627; e-mail, coops@ionet.net

Send In Those Sightings

As you look at Pete Janzen's seasonal roundup each issue, you always see numerous species that really should have documentation written up and submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. But if you're like me that means finding a copy of the form (or pulling it up in the word processor) and then getting out the notes and transcribing them. Well, I'll do it tomorrow, or next week or the next rainy weekend when I can't go birding.

Instead of putting yourself through all that (and then never getting the documentation written up) why not do it on the web? If you have access to the World Wide Web (and our

sources tell us that over half of you do) then you can use the electronic submittal form and make the job much easier. Simply point your web browser to:

<http://www.ksu.edu/audubon/rarebirdform.html>

and start filling in the blanks. It is very straightforward and self explanatory. More importantly it is then finished, you can go birding with a clear conscience and the ornithological knowledge base for Kansas will be enriched. And you didn't even have to waste any paper!

C.E.O.

Do You Want To Receive the Rare Bird Alert Electronically??

Then send the message: **sub KSBIRD-L Yourfirstname YourLastname** To the e-mail address: **listserv@listserv.ksu.edu** Not only will you receive the Kansas and Kansas City rare bird alerts electronically, but you'll also get to share in the on-line discussions of over 200 other Kansas birders as they discuss bird sightings, bird identification challenges, bird habitat and bird conservation issues and occasional birder silliness!

Cattail Control and Implications for Shorebirds at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

by Helen Hands

The shorebird article in the March/April issue of *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine prompted some comments on KSBIRD-L as to how shorebirds can be the number one priority at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) if issues relating to water availability, cattail, and avian botulism could deter us from providing shorebird habitat during July through September. Perhaps I should have clarified that controlling cattail is the number one management priority and shorebirds the number one wildlife priority at CBWA. Reducing cattail coverage and increasing the availability of unvegetated mudflats is essential to providing habitat for migrating shorebirds. In this article, I will discuss the cattail problem and how we're dealing with it.

Cattail cover is increasing and has become a problem at many freshwater wetlands throughout the U.S. The increase in cattail is partly a natural phenomenon and partly due to man-made changes. Marshes naturally cycle through phases in which vegetation becomes denser and sparser depending on water availability and muskrat consumption. Man has lengthened the more vegetated phase of this cycle in the few remaining wetlands by increasing siltation of wetlands, disrupting natural water flow, and attempting to manage water levels in some wetlands, such as CBWA and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Although cattail probably has occurred in Cheyenne Bottoms for 30,000 years, fluctuations in water levels and fires kept cattail in check until recently. By the 1970s, controlled burning alone became insufficient to prevent the spread of cattail. Consequently, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has attempted numerous other methods for controlling cattail. These methods can be grouped into water level, chemical, and mechanical.

Cattail at CBWA can grow in a wide range of water depths from wet mud to 6 feet deep. However, cattail doesn't thrive if completely submerged for a month or two during the growing season. Unfortunately, it's difficult to submerge a mature plant that can grow faster than we can raise water levels in the 1,000 to 2,500 acre pools at CBWA. Thus, water management at CBWA is successful primarily for limiting seed germination and expansion of existing cattail

stands. To minimize seed germination, we avoid manipulating water levels such that wet mud to water less than 6-12 inches deep occur during June through September. This conflicts with shorebird management for southward migration, but is necessary to slow the spread of cattail. Fortunately, spring drawdowns for shorebirds usually don't result in much cattail seed germination and are a necessary preparation for disking and fall burning.

Rodeo is the most cost-effective herbicide that the Environmental Protection Agency has determined is safe for use in wetlands. Rodeo can kill cattail if applied just before pollen is released during late May or early June, or when the plant is transporting carbohydrates to the roots in mid- to late summer. Large-scale use of Rodeo at CBWA is not a preferred treatment because it's expensive (\$70/acre), kills beneficial plants, sprayed areas still are covered with standing dead cattail for several months after spraying, and cattail can recover quickly if water levels allow cattail seeds to germinate. Thus, for Rodeo to be cost-effective, we need to ensure that sprayed areas are flooded with at least 12 inches of water for at least 1-2 years after treatment.

Mechanical methods used at CBWA include disking, digging, and scraping. These methods require that cattail be burned first to remove most of the above-ground portion of the plant. Disking involves chopping and turning the soil to a depth of about 6 inches. This depth is adequate to chop an entire cattail root and move it to the surface where it is subjected to freezing and drying depending on weather conditions. Disking is relatively economical (\$6/acre/disking) and fast (65 acres/day), but its effects are short-term (a few weeks or months) if the disked area is not kept dry during the growing season. It is often necessary to disk an area 2-4 times if cattail is able to resprout due to wet conditions. Disked areas can remain relatively free of cattail for up to 3 ½ years.

Digging and scraping are slower (<1 acre/day) and more expensive (>\$300/acre) than disking. Thus, we use them in limited areas. Digging with the amphibious backhoe is

KDWP Forum continued next page -

KDWP Forum continued -

used to restore borrow ditches that parallel the dike and remove silt that accumulates around water control gates and pump stations. Scraping involves removing about 8-10 inches of silt from approximately 1-acre areas. The advantage of digging and scraping is that they treat the cause of the cattail problem (silt deposition) and remove cattail seeds and roots. Thus, openings last at least 5 years.

Quivira National Wildlife Area also manages cattail. In the next newsletter, I'll discuss why cattail management often is more successful there than at CBWA.

(Helen can be reached at: bottoms@greatbend.com)

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<http://ksbirds.org>

This site is under heavy construction, so check back

Student Research Funds Need Help!

The KOS Student Research Fund is divided into seven separate funds based on the various colleges and universities that have active faculty members in KOS. Over the past several years, members attending the KOS Fall Meeting have had the privilege of seeing and hearing presentations from the students performing ornithological research assisted by these funds. These funds come primarily from your donations.

The fund for Kansas State University students is called the Gier Fund after Professor Herschel T. Gier, a charter member and past president of KOS. The Gier fund has been depleted and there is a student in need of some modest assistance to complete a research project.

If you can support this, or any of the student research funds, please send your tax deductible donation to: Tom Shane, SRFC Chair, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846. KOS is a 501(c)(3) organization and your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

A Review of Life of the Flycatcher

Life of the Flycatcher by Alexander F. Skutch, illustrated by Dana Gardner, University of Oklahoma Press, 1999, 192 pages, 16 color plates, 32 black-and-white illustrations, \$22.95.

This book is full of information gathered over years of observations by Skutch and it provides a wonderful, insightful examination of the life histories of New World flycatchers. Skutch does a nice job describing natural history events based on the literature and his years of field observations. His writing style draws you into the lives of these birds.

Two important components of this book are how Skutch 1) describes interactions of flycatchers with other species of birds along with 2) the amount of natural history described in an easy to understand manner that should be a real joy to amateur bird enthusiasts. For example, in Chapter 11, Flycatchers as Neighbors, Skutch discusses how North American Flycatchers have been known to feed other species of birds at the nest (Eastern Phoebe fed nestling Tree Swallows; Eastern Kingbird fed nestling Baltimore Orioles; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher fed Common Grackles; Least Flycatcher fed Chipping Sparrows; and an Eastern

Wood-Pewee fed Eastern Kingbird nestlings). He even mentions local (Kansas) ornithology as he refers to incidents of a House Sparrow feeding Western Kingbirds and Eastern Kingbirds (two separate occasions). These are examples of the amount of detail that Skutch has included in this book.

Other chapters deal with a general introduction to the New World Flycatchers, food and foraging, daily life, two chapters on songs (a nice elaborate discussion of vocalizations), and four chapters on courtship and nesting. In the bibliography, there are key references of the primary literature for each chapter, which can lead the reader to more specific information.

The illustrations by Gardner are attractive, especially the 16 color plates. Overall, I think this is a book for both the professional and amateur ornithologist. Its most important components will be especially useful for the beginning bird watcher because of the depth of natural history covered along with a solid bibliographical section for each chapter.

Eugene A. Young, Department of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas 67156.

Nocturnal Birding

by *Chuck Otte*

Several weeks ago, several car loads of birders were at one of our state's National Wildlife Refuges after dark looking for, among other species, Black Rails. The group was using lights in an attempt to gain a glimpse of these reclusive little marsh denizens. There was no deliberate intent to harm any species, these were just birders trying to see a bird.

Unfortunately, several federal laws were broken including being present on a National Wildlife Refuge after sundown and using an artificial light. The refuge manager happened to be on patrol that evening and performed an excellent job of making this an educational opportunity not only for those embarrassed birders present, but for many of us the next week on the Kansas Bird Internet Discussion group.

Quite simply, it is illegal to be on a national wildlife refuge after dark and to use an artificial light to view wildlife ***without permission***. If there happens to be a "public road" i.e., county or township road, state highway, etc. that also passes through the refuge you may be on that road without permission, BUT you can not go onto refuge roads without permission nor can you use the spotlight from the county road shining it onto the refuge itself.

The state of Kansas has different laws regarding artificial lights, etc. and we'll try to have a follow up column to discuss the use of lights as well as access to state lands after dark.

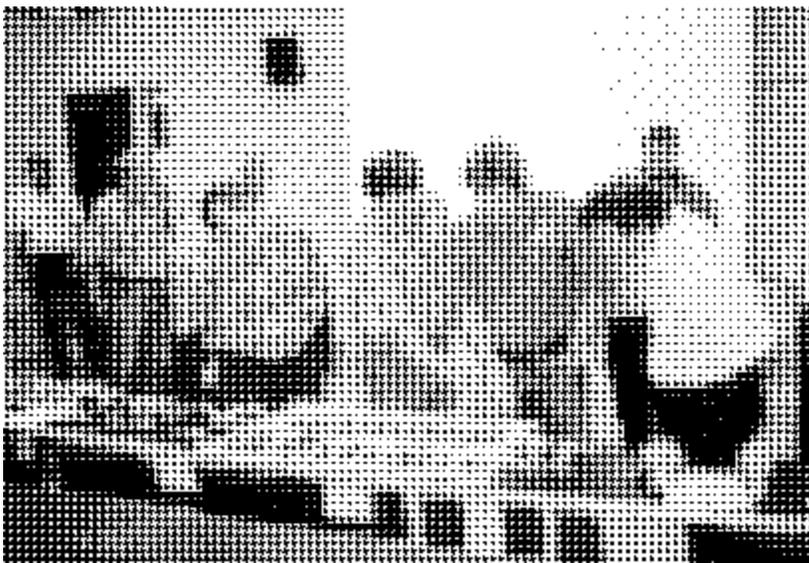
It is very important that we as birdwatchers and member of KOS work with these federal partners. They provide some

fascinating and valuable natural resources that we use on a regular basis. We need to be aware of the rules and follow them. None of us are so special that we should think that the rules don't apply to ME!

If you are going to be doing anything other than daytime driving of the normal roads and trails check in with the refuge headquarters to see what is allowed and if special permission is needed. These refuge managers and employees are great people and want to work with us. By staying in contact with them we will not only prevent future problems, but we'll also help them have a better idea of how many non-game users are accessing the refuge.

And finally, be very very careful about the use of tapes at any time. We sometimes dash into an area and try to immediately find out "what's there" without ever allowing the natural world to settle back down and resume their normal activities after our arrival. With a little patience tapes are often not even needed. Always take a few seconds to ask yourself, what is the potential impact of my activity on the natural world around me?

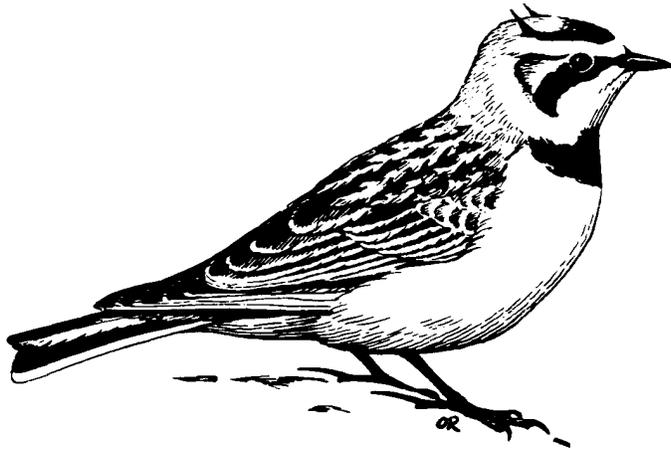
"Take only pictures and memories, leave only the lightest of tracks," and have a good time birding!



Left - KOS Spring Meeting participants examine some of the shorebird study skins in Southwestern College's collection.

photo by Debarah Arnett

We regret that the KOS kids page, "The Bird's Nest"
is not available in this electronic format.



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The Horned Lark

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

As I finish up this issue, February is on the wane. Purple Martins are being reported through much of Texas and Turkey Vultures have been seen in Kansas for a couple of weeks already. Winter, such as it has been, may not be done yet, but every bird watcher I've talked to is already dreaming of spring migration and the warblers that weren't present last year.

Again this spring, KOS ventures to the southern borders of the state in hopes of making an early intercept of north bound migrants. The field trip locations mentioned in the announcement are all places you're heard or read about from the Rare Bird Alert. It's important to make your motel reservations early as the weekend of the spring field trip is the same weekend as Southwestern College's graduation. Rooms will be go in a hurry, don't be left stranded!

You'll find a return of the *Horned Lark's* kid's page, The Bird's Nest. KOS member Mark Land from Overland Park answered the call and stepped forward to produce this popular page. Thank you Mark from this editor, and don't hesitate to drop Mark a note and give him thanks and suggestions!

My apologies to James Barnes! James often provides an avian drawing for the *Horned Lark*. This issue filled up so fast (thank you all that contributed articles) that his Forster's Tern drawing was relegated to the very back page. The next drawing will have a more prominent placement James, I promise!

KOS is an organization that is growing. You'll get a tickler about the "1000 by 2000" campaign here, and more information soon. The KOS "virtual presence" is in for some changes also. There will be more on this in later issues with teasers and ticklers present on the following pages. But even with all these fine things we have going for our organization, our most important advertising asset is you the KOS member.

You probably have friends who also enjoy birds either just birds in their backyard or bird watching. Let them know about the Kansas Ornithological Society. Offer to purchase their first year of membership. Take them out birding or even to a spring or fall meeting. Offer to lead birding field trips in your area. Set the date well in advance and drop me a note - we'll publish it here. I lead a monthly bird walk around the Milford Lake area (usually, but not always, the third Saturday of the month). We have a lot of fun and it seems like every month there is someone new along. Our organization has a lot to offer, but we're depending on your help to accomplish our growth. The winds of spring bring birds and change. Let's all be looking to the future!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1999

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St, Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barnowls@integrityonline26.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Spring Meeting Details

On page 23 of this issue you will find the registration form for the KOS Spring Meeting (also known as the Spring Field Trip). If you have not been on a spring field trip then you need to go! They are FUN. The birding is great, you learn new birding skills, birding locations and you meet lots of new friends.

This year the Spring Field Trip is in Winfield, April 30 through May 2, with field trips being taken to places such as Slate Creek Marsh, Chaplin Nature Center, Winfield City Lake and Camp Horizon to mention a few. You'll be birding in the extreme south of Kansas, where the migrants first arrive each spring.

The following is very important. **Make your motel reservations immediately!** This is graduation weekend at Southwestern College so if you wait until the week before you may find yourself staying in Wichita. Start making plans now to attend. If you want to read a first timer's view, grab a copy of the June 1998 *Horned Lark* and read Reflections.... on page 3!

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!

May 1 - 2, 1999 - Winfield

October 8 - 10, 1999 - Hays *NEW DATE!!!!!!*

Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

Fall 2000 - Northcentral Kansas, location to be announced.

Wanted! KOS History

Jim Mayhew is spearheading the effort to assemble the KOS history for its first 50 years. If you have any items, stories, photos or anything else to share you can contact Jim at:

Jim Mayhew
1909 Judson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5121
jdmayhew@kansas.net

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

There are a limited number of Stokes 1999 Bird calendars left over from the fall meeting. \$9 including postage, first come, first served. New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. 1 is \$0.25; 2 - 24, \$0.20 ea; 25 - 49, \$0.15 ea; 50 or more, \$0.10 each. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

1999 Dues notices are being mailed so please send your dues to Ed Miller.

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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Birding and Luck

by John Rakestraw

If you check any rare bird alert on a regular basis, you probably notice the same birders mentioned over and over again. Why don't you find rare or vagrant birds every week like these birders seem to do? Are these people just lucky, or do they know something you don't?

Luck certainly plays a part in birding success. Was it anything but luck that brought a Swainson's Warbler to the Seltmans' yard in Rush County? Was it anything but my own luck which brought a flock of Whooping Cranes over my yard in St. John at the precise moment I was in the bathroom? We have all been lucky enough to see birds missed by others. Likewise, we have all "just missed" our share of good sightings. This element of chance adds a great deal of excitement and anticipation to our favorite pastime.

But the greater part of birding success has nothing to do with luck. Much of our birding success is affected by factors which we can control. These factors include time spent in the field, quality of habitat, thoroughness of the observer, and expertise of the observer.

TIME IN THE FIELD

The first factor that affects your birding is the amount of time you spend out in the field. This seems obvious, but how much time do you actually spend birding? If your trips are limited to a couple of hours every other weekend, then you will obviously find fewer birds than the person who is out every day.

If you are unable to take many all-day birding trips, try to schedule short trips before or after work or during lunch breaks. Even a half hour birding a local park or sewage pond is better than no birding at all.

QUALITY OF HABITAT

The next factor that affects your birding success is the quality of the habitat you are birding. Since birds do have wings, they can turn up anywhere, even in poor or marginal habitat. But you will greatly increase your chances of finding large numbers of birds, rarities, or vagrants if you concentrate your efforts in areas of high quality bird habitat. Your chances improve even more if this habitat serves as a migrant trap or lies within a major migration corridor.

If you live close to such a place, you have a definite advantage. But no matter where you live in Kansas, you are within a few hours' drive of some excellent bird habitat.

While road trips are great, don't ignore the marginal habitat close to home. If you visit the local parks, fields, and farm ponds often enough, you will probably find your share of interesting birds.

THOROUGHNESS OF THE OBSERVER

Birders who regularly find rare or vagrant birds do not wait for rarities to jump out at them. These birders actively seek out rarities. Unusual birds are seldom solitary adult males in breeding plumage. Most rarities are in juvenal or basic (winter) plumage and are associated with flocks of local birds. To find rarities, scan every bird in the flock. You need to actually look at every bird you find. This needn't take long; you will soon learn to instantly recognize the more common birds in your area. But don't just assume since the first few birds in the flock are the same species that the entire flock is the same.

EXPERTISE OF THE OBSERVER

Birding expertise will develop if you bird long enough, but you can speed up the process by doing your homework.

Study your field guides and other bird references at home, not in the field. Find out what birds are common in your area and learn to recognize them at a glance. The more familiar you are with your local birds, the more likely you are to recognize a rarity when you find one. Network with other birders, either personally or electronically. Make use of their expertise, and their luck. Check rare bird alerts to discover which birds have been seen in your area and in surrounding areas. If you hear of a species you are unfamiliar with, research that bird so you can recognize it if you see it. Many rarities can go unnoticed unless you know what to look for.

Every bird seen is a "good bird." But if you want to find more rare or vagrant species, or just want to build a bigger bird list, take a look at how you go about your birding. You probably can't change your luck, but you do have control over several other factors that affect your birding success.

- - *Membership Report*

Membership Renewal Time
OR
Dues are Due!

Even as this newsletter is getting ready to go to press membership renewal forms are being mailed out. Some of you have already paid your 1999 dues, but for all of the rest of us it's time to get that check in the mail to KOS Treasurer, Ed Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr., Independence, KS 67301. This might be a good year to consider upgrading your membership. If you've been a regular member move up to the Sustaining level. If you've been at Sustaining member move up to Contributing. And if you're tired of those annual dues checks consider becoming a life member. Make one lump sum or two annual payments and your dues free for ever.

"Why," you may ask, "aren't the dues notices just sent out in the newsletter in December?" Well, the board of directors voted in 1996 to send the renewal notices out in March. It was decided that December is a pretty crazy time anyway. Which is not to say that you can't send in your dues anytime you want, just indicate what year they are for, and you can even pay for several years at once if you want to. Although, if you're going to do that you might as well consider the Life membership!

As 1998 came to an end KOS had 401 members. There were 124 life members, 119 regular individual members, 35 regular family members, 28 complimentary, 25 sustaining individuals, 18 libraries, 18 students, 13 sustaining families, 11 exchanges, 6 contributing, 3 honorary life members and 1 partially paid life member.

New members since the last report include: Pete Dunne, Jacob Goheen, Ron Klataske, Kylee Moon, Patrick A. Wakeman and Joe Yoder. Welcome to these members and let's all start looking for more. Looking for more? Read on!

1,000 by 2000 - All we need is an average of 9.5 members per Kansas county and we will have 1,000 KOS members. At the winter KOS board meeting (see minutes on pages 19 & 20) the board approved the 1000 by 2000 membership campaign goal with the objective to have 1000 KOS members by the annual meeting in October of

2000. If every KOS member could sign up one other member we'd immediately be at 800+ members. You will soon be seeing (or have seen) more information on this campaign and it will be exciting. There will be clothing prizes and free memberships for the top recruiters. We all think we've got a pretty good organization here. Once we get people into the fold, we think we can keep them on as members. But we need everyone's help to first get them in the fold. If you have questions contact our membership development coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S. Wichita Street, Wichita, KS 67213-5249, or Susan can be reached via e-mail at: barnowls@integrityonline26.com

A Few Kind Words

Speaking of members, Wichita KOS member and former KOS Board Member, Pete Janzen took it upon himself to say thank you. Many of you will recall the "gull mania" that struck the state in the winter of 1997-98. One of the gull hot spots was the landfill in Wichita. Pete went out of his way to work with the management of this private operation to make sure that birders would continue to have access to this location and then worked with the birders so that there wouldn't be a conflict. Pete went the extra mile and had a framed certificate made and presented it to management expressing the appreciation of Kansas birders. In response Pete received the following letter.

Herzog Environmental, Wichita KS
November 2, 1998

Mr. Pete Janzen, Wichita, KS
Dear Mr. Janzen:

Thank you for the wonderful framed certificates of appreciation. They are very nice and much appreciated. I will make sure all of our employees are aware of your message. Your thank you is all we need. I'm sure all employees share my thoughts in thanking you and all in your organization in recognizing them. The cooperation your members display whenever they are on site is terrific. We don't even know they are on site. Thanks again and good watching this winter.

Respectfully
Rick Boczek
Project Manager, Brooks Landfill

Thank you Pete for your good will gesture!!

**Deadline for submissions for the
June, 1999 Horned Lark is
May 10, 1999.**

Backing Into A Big Year

by *Mike Rader*

Birders are a very strange and diverse bunch of people. Interests run the gamut from those who are happy watching the cardinals and chickadees that visit their backyard feeder, to those who drop everything to try to add a new species to their "list". These lists could be 'life list', 'state list' or any other list imaginable. I admit to being somewhat of a "lister", but to quote a sage "I just try not to think about it". I do, however, try to do listing in moderation. I usually only chase birds that I believe are within reasonable chances of finding, or were seen in parts of the state where I have friends to bird with or stay with. Basically, I seek circumstances where there are not a lot of wasted resources. With that approach in mind, I'd like to tell a little story about how I "backed" into a Kansas Big Year.

I don't know where the concept of doing a "Big Year" originated - I suppose a bored birder was looking for a new game or competition. There have been several Kansas Big Years attempted by many birders, in the past. My typical approach to each year is that it isn't a competition with others as much as it is a competition with myself. It is also a way to compare birds I see from year-to-year. I did, however, do a proclaimed "Big Year" for Kansas in 1991. Scott Seltman and I decided to see that if the record of 327 species seen in Kansas in 1990 was indeed extraordinary or if that year total could be eclipsed by diligence, determination, and good luck in any given year. When 1991 was over, I had tied the mark of 327 (330 with current species splits) and Scott ended with a total of 332 (335 with species splits). We thought those totals were pretty good, but were open to the fact that a species total for Kansas could be even higher.

I started out 1998 pretty much as any other year, with no intention of trying to do another Big Year. They can take a tremendous amount of spare time and a substantial amount of money - neither of which I have. My job at Wilson Lake does, however, provide me the opportunity to spend a lot of time outdoors, which is extremely important. Other factors that prove very beneficial include: proximity to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, in-laws that live in southwest Kansas, a few well-timed (but basically unplanned) trips with friends, and tremendous luck.

Christmas count season, on or after the first of the year, always gives me the excuse to go birding. I participated on the Kirwin CBC in 1/1/98, which usually is good to rack up lots of species. January was pretty fruitful, with seven owl species, seventeen waterfowl species and ten raptors

observed. February, sometimes a slow month for birding turned out to be great, with lots of good birds, including several rarities. Six more waterfowl species, Northern Goshawk, Gyrfalcon, Mew Gull, Iceland Gull, Great Blackbacked Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake highlighted this month. March was the slow month of early spring, but my wife's discovery of an Inca Dove in our yard provided a pleasant surprise. The Black-bellied Whistling Duck reported from Salina was exciting, as well. I certainly never expected to add that bird to any list I had.

April always holds the promise of many new species for the year, with the return migration of herons, shorebirds and sparrows. I was able to add 7 herons, 27 shorebirds, 7 sparrows and several other expected birds. The best bird I added in April was the Glossy Ibis at Quivira on 4/18. May is always one of the most exciting to bird in Kansas - 1998 was no exception to that! Several of the best finds of the year were in May, with a Rednecked Grebe and Clark's Grebe added from Cheyenne Bottoms and White Ibis, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, and Red Phalarope seen at Quivira. This was also the month to get a lot of the shorebirds missed in April, as well as many of the flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and warblers. A trip to Leavenworth and Lawrence with old fiend, Richard Rucker, provided a great opportunity to get a lot of the "Eastern" birds that I sometimes miss in a given year. We did well on finding warblers and a few "odds & ends". The most exciting find of the month was the Gull-billed Tern at Quivira with buddies, Gene Young and Max Thompson. Adding a new bird to the state's list always jump-starts the ole' heart, and this was no exception!

June is the month to see several of the breeding birds of the state, and is a great time to visit southwest Kansas. What I found there was certainly more than I had anticipated! I added Scaled Quail, Mountain Plover, Western Wood-pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-headed Grosbeak, all of which I thought were probable. I was surprised by the discovery of a Laughing Gull at Liberal and Canada Warbler, just north of Hugoton. I was extremely lucky to find those "lost" birds! I was feeling pretty good about my "year list" at the close of June. It was at around 295, and the year was only half over. July brought me back to reality, though, with no new species. I still had no intention of actively pursuing a record "Big Year". That was reinforced by the summer "dog days".

- continued next page

Mike's Musings, continued -

August brings shorebirds back in force through Kansas, but I had seen most of those species in the spring. I didn't think that there was too much to add, but I really love birding any time of the year, so the suggestion of doing an August "Big Day" with Ted Cable sounded fun. Big Days are sort of like the Big Year concept, except a birding team tries to see as many species as possible in a 24-hour period. They are great for the really birding-insane to do! What started as a trip with little planning and forethought, ended with a record Kansas August species list and several birds added to my year list, as well. The "Big Day" yielded very cooperative flycatchers in Morton County, including Olive-sided, Dusky and Hammond's, with the latter two calling - simplifying the ID tremendously! We also had a good look at a Violet-green Swallow, an added bonus. A stop at Lake McCoid on the northeast side of Liberal provided Ted and I with the identification challenge of the trip. We determined that a Curlew Sandpiper was indeed the shorebird that was different than the rest! A stop in Hugoton provided my "life" Eurasian Collared Dove, another big surprise. What a great trip!

The month of September always brings birders out in-force to find species that may have been missed in the spring or challenge the ID skills in separating the infamous "confusing fall warblers". A trip to southwest Kansas was in order for me, not to actively pursue year-birds, but to join in with the groups of birders looking for the western specialties that can occur there. Morton County did not disappoint, with good birds such as Western Screech-owl, Cordillerian Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, Cassin's Vireo, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Western Tanager. A bonus bird for the month was the out of range Red-shouldered Hawk I found at Wilson State Park. October affords the chance of seeing sparrow migration back through Kansas, making for sometimes frustrating, but very rewarding birding. It also gave me the opportunity to do another "Big Day" with some friends, which turned out to be a boost to my year species total. Good species we observed that weekend included: Caspian Tern, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Painted Bunting, and Fox Sparrow. Other birds I added in October were Golden Eagle, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

November brought colder weather and the next water-bird re-invasion. A Pacific Loon at Wilson Lake, Red-throated Loon at Council Grove Reservoir, White-winged Scoter at Cheyenne Bottoms, Whooping Crane at Quivira, Varied Thrush and Golden-crowned Sparrow at Garden City, Smith's Longspurs at Lyon Co. Lake and McCown's Longspurs in Morton County highlighted November for me. December and Christmas Bird Counts gave me an excuse to spend a lot of time out in the field bird watching. December is a tough time to add very many species to a year list, especially if many hours are spent out earlier in the year. I did, however, add birds missed earlier including: Trumpeter Swan, Oldsquaw, and Purple Finch. I did end the year looking for a few misses, but not really out of my normal birding activities for any given year. I maintained the attitude that 1998 would be "Big", not because of a bunch of extra effort and trips, but because I had put myself in the appropriate situations to see what birds I could find in a given area.

I missed several species of birds that were in Kansas in 1998. Some of them were fairly obtainable, such as American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Veery, Yellow-throated Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Henslow's Sparrow. These birds are either residents or birds that are regular migrants. Other reported birds seemed unlikely to provide a reasonable chance of re-finding, such as the Black and Surf Scoters, the jaeger species, Little Gull, Sabine's Gull, White-winged Dove, a number of warblers, and several more. The lack of a Winter-finch invasion was also a factor in a few species missed. I believe that if I had spent the time and effort to see the birds in the first category and chase some of the others, the list would have totaled a dozen or more than it did. My year total for Kansas did end at 339, breaking Scott's record of 335. I had hoped for 340, but a marginal look at a possible Bohemian Waxwing on the Junction City CBC wasn't good enough to include it. Oh, well!

Kansas is an excellent state to birdwatch in, as most of you know. Lots of luck, determination, and diligence (not imagination!) could lead to a year-list of around 350 species. I'm sure that someone will surpass the record that I set - which is fine. That's what records are for. I doubt it will be me, though. This was probably the first and only time I will "back" into a Kansas Big Year.

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.

Landscaping for the Birds

by *Chuck Otte*

Many birds are attracted to landscape and garden plants. Just as a bird feeder or a bird bath in and of itself is not a guarantee of attracting birds, appropriate plants are not guaranteed to always attract birds either. BUT, if you combine feeders, water, habitat, structures and plants, you will eventually have success. Be aware, however, that what attracts birds will also attract other forms of wildlife, so be prepared! Be careful using pesticides in landscapes where you are attracting wildlife. Use them only as a last resort; use the safest material available. Consider using pesticides like insecticidal soap, BT, etc. Remember that birds are often predators of insect pests. If you are patient, they MAY take care of the problem without too much loss of plant material.

Following are some groups of plants and species to consider planting for wildlife in Kansas.

Annuals - Amaranthus, Bachelor Button, Calendula, California Poppy, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Gloriosa Daisy, Annual Ornamental Grasses (Quaking Grass, etc.), Marigold, Pinks, Portulaca, Sunflower, Zinnia.

Perennials - Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Globe Thistle (Echinacea spp., including purple coneflower), Grasses (include the natives, i.e. the bluestems, switchgrass and indiagrass), Dianthus, Scabiosa, sedums (especially the Stonecrops), Statice, Sunflower.

Woody Species - Shrubs - Aromatic Sumac, Boxwood and Holly (in protected locations), Dogwoods, Elderberry, Euonymous (Wintercreeper and Winged Euonymous, a.k.a. Burning Bush), Honeysuckle, Juniper, Mugo Pine, Privet, Pyracantha, Rose, Sumac spp., Viburnum, Witchhazel, Yew.

Small Trees - Japanese Maple, Crab Apple, Apple, Hawthorn, Amur Maple, Cherry and Plum (edible and ornamental, all prunus spp. are good, this includes such things as wild plum and choke cherry), and Mountain Ash.

Medium/Tall Trees - Maple spp., Pine, Hackberry, Elm, Mulberry, Oak

Vines - Bittersweet, English Ivy, Grape, Honeysuckle, Trumpet Vine, Virginia Creeper. Plants that attract hummingbirds (also orioles) - Trumpet Vine, Catalpa, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coralberry, Weigela, Nicotiana, Petunia, Salvia, Hollyhock, Columbine, Delphinium, Foxglove, Gentian, Gladiolus, Daylily, Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon), Liatris, Tiger Lily, Penstemon, Phlox, Sweet William, Snap Dragon, Larkspur. Plants that attract hummingbirds also will attract butterflies (as well as bees and wasps, you have been warned!).

Remember that Kansas is a big state with a big range in natural forces and weather. Rainfall ranges from 40+ inches in Cherokee county in the southeast to 16 inches in Morton county in the southwest. I strongly encourage you to visit with an experienced local nurseryman or your local county extension agent for additional specifics for your location.

**Bookmark This,
Add it to your Favorites**

<http://ksbirds.org>

This site is under heavy construction, so check back regularly for updates, additions and news!

**Mountain Plover Recommended to
Threatened Species List**

On February 12, 1999, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced it will propose to list the Mountain Plover as a threatened species. According to the USFWS, the population of Mountain Plovers has declined by more than 50% since 1966 to fewer than 10,000 birds. For more details contact *Horned Lark* editor Chuck Otte or the FWS Web site: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/pressrel/99-02.htm>

KOS Spring Meeting, April 30 - May 2, 1999 in Winfield Kansas

Make your motel reservations TODAY!!!!

Registration information on Page 23.

HURRY!

FALL ROUND-UP

August 1, 1998 through November 30, 1998

by Pete Janzen

Here is the compilation of interesting bird records from the state of Kansas, recorded between Aug 1, 1998, and November 30, 1998. These are compiled from the two Rare Bird Alerts in Kansas, gleanings from the online discussion group for Kansas birders, and other reports from Kansas birders.

This fall was much warmer than usual across much of the state. Extreme heat in August and September gave way to an exceptionally balmy October and November. In some areas, drought was very pronounced until late in the period. The unusually warm weather resulted in many records of birds lingering later than expected, such as several heron and swallow species. Perhaps the single most exceptional weather event was the strong front around Nov. 10, which produced very strong west and north-westerly winds that blew for a couple of days. This storm resulted in many records of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes from eastern parts of the state, outside of the normal west-central migration corridor. A Mew Gull which appeared at this time near Wichita may have been driven by this weather as well. Outside of Kansas, this weather event also produced a number of Franklin's Gull records all the way to the east coast, where they are an exciting vagrant for birders.

The rare bird of the season award goes to Ted Cable and Mike Rader, for the Curlew Sandpiper they found at scenic McCoid Lake at Liberal. This Asian stray is represented only by 2 or 3

previous records, and is rare anywhere in North America, most especially out on the High Plains.

Certainly some species were much commoner than usual this fall. Good examples of this were Ross's Goose, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Pine Warbler. Certainly Ross's Goose is enjoying a huge population explosion, as flocks of 500 in Kansas would have been considered impossible twenty, or even ten, years ago. Buff-breasted Sandpipers may be being found more due to increased searching for them by birders, but flocks of multiple hundreds are encouraging news for this species, which has a comparatively small population. Pine Warblers popped up in lots of places this fall, for whatever reason.

Parties of birders visited Morton County in every weekend in September, all of which found some of the highly sought western (and eastern) vagrants, which this area is so famous for during migration. The 214 Mountain Plovers found in a single day in August by Suzanne Fellows and Bob Gress are worthy of mention.

Gulls put on an early showing, most notably the three separate reports of Little Gull, all likely involving different individuals. Other good gull sightings included Mew, Great Black-backed, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Another species with far more reports than in the past years was the Inca

Dove, which appeared in scattered locations almost statewide this fall. There has been a steady increase in the number of reports for this invader from the south. Eurasian Collared Dove reports subsided a bit this fall, although this is likely only a temporary lull.

Finally, the November influx of waterfowl, loons, and grebes was a pretty good one this year. All three scoter species appeared, any of which are always cause for excitement for Kansas birders.

Keep sending those reports to the KSBIRD discussion group and the Kansas hotline, and thanks to those who sent me additional records. Don't forget to send me any significant bird records for the period of Dec. 1-Feb. 28, the period that will be covered by the next round-up report. I hope you all have a great spring of birding!

Underlined species name:
Exceptionally rare bird species

Underlined dates, locations or information: Exceptional location, date, or information for that species.

Bird records submitted to the KOS Bird Records Committee are denoted with a *.

*Pete can be reached at:
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location/comments</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
<u>Red-throated Loon</u>	11/8	1 at Lake Wabaunsee	DL	Wabaunsee
	11/10	1 at Council Grove Reservoir	AS	Morris
	11/22	1 at Council Grove	TC, MR	Morris

Pacific Loon	11/13&14	1 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Kingman	
	11/16	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	Russell	
	11/26	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	Russell	
	11/27	1 at Clark Co. State Lake	GP	Clark	
Common Loon	9/11	3 off of Perry dam	RR	Jefferson	
	11/11	<u>14</u> in single flock	TC	Riley	
Horned Grebe	11/16	<u>86</u> at Wilson Reservoir	MR	Russell	
Western Grebe	8/9	2 ad, 1 imm at CB	DW	Barton	
	9/14	1 adult with 6 young	GP, m.ob.	Barton	
	11/8	2 at Clinton Lake	MM	Douglas	
	11/14	1 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ	Reno	
	11/14	1 at Meade State Lake	LE	Meade	
	11/14	4 at Perry Reservoir	GP	<u>Jefferson</u>	
	11/15	10 at Wilson	MR	Russell	
	11/22	Council Grove Reservoir	TC, MR	Morris	
	<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	10/17	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	DB, SS	Barton
		11/15	4 at Wilson	TC, MR, SS	Russell
11/22		Council Grove Reservoir	TC, MR	Morris	
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	8/4	2 at Kirwin NWR	SS	Phillips	
	8/13	1 at Big Salt Marsh	MR	Stafford	
	8/20	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	Stafford	
American Bittern	9/7	1 flying at Western Crossing	DWm, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>	
	11/8	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	GY	Barton	
	<u>11/15</u>	1 even later at CB	MR	Barton	
	<u>11/15</u>	1 at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford	
Least Bittern	8/15	1 in Wichita	JN	<u>Sedgwick</u>	
Great Egret	8/5	10 at Wilson Res	MR	Russell	
	8/5	Wichita rookery estimate 314 birds	AM, m.ob.	Sedgwick	
	11/5	15 in flooded fields at Ark. City	GY	Cowley	
	<u>11/10</u>	1 at Lake Afton	PJ	Sedgwick	
Snowy Egret	8/5	Wichita rookery estimate 942 birds	AM, m.ob	Sedgwick	
	11/5	4 at Ark City	GY	Cowley	
	<u>11/14</u>	1 at Quivira	GF	Stafford	
Little Blue Heron	8/5	Wichita rookery estimate 942 birds	AM, m.ob	Sedgwick	
	<u>11/5</u>	11 at Ark City	GY	Cowley	
Cattle Egret	8/5	Wichita rookery estimate 3770 birds	AM, m.ob.	Sedgwick	
	11/8	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	GY	Barton	
	<u>11/15</u>	1 late at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford	
Black-cr. Night-Heron	8/5	Wichita rookery estimate 314 birds	AM, m.ob	Sedgwick	
	<u>11/8</u>	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	GY	Barton	
White-faced Ibis	9/27	1 at Big Hill Lake	CS	Labette	
	10/3	2 at K-96 bridge	Jba, CG, PJ	Sedgwick	
<u>Bl.-bell. Whistling Duck</u>	9/4	1 at Quivira	PJ	Stafford	
Tundra Swan	11/14-28	1 at Quivira	GF, m.ob	Stafford	
	11/20	9 at Perry wetlands	RR	Jefferson	
	11/?	Flock of 6 near Lake City for about a week	ES	Barber	
Trumpeter Swan	11/14	1 at Quivira	GF	Stafford	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	<u>8/20</u>	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	Stafford	
	8/30	still there	L&TH	Stafford	
Ross' Goose	11/6	1 at Wilson Res.	MR	Russell	
	11/15	35 at Perry Reservoir	LM	Jefferson	
	11/15	50 at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford	
	11/21	300 at Quivira	SS	Stafford	
	11/28	500 at Quivira	SS	Stafford	
	11/28	80 at TNC property near Cheyenne Bottoms	SS	Barton	

American Black Duck	10/2	several at Quivira	KB	Stafford
	10/17	1 female at Cheyenne Bottoms	DB, SS	Barton
Mottled Duck	9/13	1 at Quivira	SP, m.ob	Stafford
Blue-winged Teal	<u>11/15</u>	1 late at Cheyenne Bottoms	TC, MR, SS	Barton
Oldsquaw	11/10-28	1 at Quivira	SS, M.ob.	Stafford
	11/25	1 at Perry Reservoir	EP	Jefferson
	11/26	1 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
<u>Black Scoter</u>	11/26-27	1 at Alma Stabilization Ponds	LM	Wabaunsee
Surf Scoter	11/14-15	1 female at Reading sewage ponds	LM, m.ob	Lyon
	11/7	1 at Hillsdale Reservoir	ML	Miami
White-winged Scoter	11/5	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	TB, MR	Barton
	11/24-27	1 imm. at Perry Reservoir	GP	Jefferson
Red-breasted Merganser	11/8	1 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Kingman
	11/8	several at Milford Reservoir	CO, m.ob.	Geary
	11/14	23 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Kingman
	11/14	4 at Lyon Co. State Lake	CH, BAS	Lyon
	11/15	30 at Melvern	GP, m.ob	Coffey
	11/21	many at Clinton	AP, DT	Douglas
Osprey	<u>8/10</u>	1 early sighting at Clinton	AS	Douglas
	11/7	1 late at John Redmond Reservoir	MC, MM. GP	Coffey
	11/8	1 late at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Reno
	<u>11/15</u>	1 late at John Redmond Reservoir	JB	Coffey
Mississippi Kite	8/8	1 imm. in Overland Park	SR	Johnson
	9/28	1 late bird in Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Bald Eagle	8/12	1 adult at Tuttle	TC	Riley
<u>Harris Hawk</u>	9/9	1 near Parsons	AH	Labette
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/26	1 at Wilson	MR	Russell
	9/10	1 near CNG ponds	JC, DS	<u>Morton</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	9/5-9/19	1 imm at Elkhart Cemetery	BP, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
	9/29	7 in small kettle near Lawrence	DWm	Douglas
Ferruginous Hawk	9/21	1 imm. at Quivira	DW	Stafford
	9/23	1 imm. at Shawnee Mission Park	ML	<u>Johnson</u>
Golden Eagle	11/17	1 in Mitchell County	JK	Mitchell
	11/27	1 north of Council Grove	LM	Morris
Merlin	9/12	1 at Woodson Co. Lake	TH	Woodson
	9/18	1	MR, SS	Pawnee
	9/19	1 at Lawrence Sod Farms	SR	Douglas
<u>Note: Many other Merlin records statewide this fall, too many to detail here</u>				
Prairie Falcon	<u>8/21</u>	1 in n. Meade Co.	TC, MR	Meade
	11/5	4 in Pawnee and 2 in Rush Counties	SS	Pawnee/Rush
Peregrine Falcon	9/5	1 at Elkhart sewage ponds	PJ, m.ob	Morton
	8/23	1 at DeWeese Park, Cheney	PJ	Reno
	9/13	1 at Tuttle Cr. Res	TC	Riley
	9/19	1 in Reclaimed Mine Area	CH, RM	Linn
	9/19	1	SS, m.ob.	Morton
	9/21	1 at Tuttle Cr. Res	TC	Riley
	9/22	1 in Iola	WB, BE	Allen
<u>*Gyrfalcon</u>	10/16	1 near Tonganoxie	MW	Douglas
Prairie-Chicken {Gr?}	8/8	3 adults & 7 chicks at Quivira	DW	Stafford
	8/22	1 near Mt Hope	PJ	Sedgwick
	8/30	1 male at Quivira-Lesser or Greater?	L&TH	Stafford
Black Rail	<u>10/1-3</u>	7 or more flushed by hunters at Ft. Riley	JK	<u>Riley</u>
Common Moorhen	10/17	8 juveniles at Cheyenne Bottoms	DB, SS	Barton

Whooping Crane	10/21	1 st report from Quivira	D&LMa	Stafford
		Many Whooper reports almost to the end of the period at Quivira		
	10/27	3 at Waconda Lake	HA	Mitchell
	11/11	3 east of Salina on I-70	USFWS	<u>Saline</u>
	11/12	3 at Rocky Ford/Tuttle Creek Res.	DR	<u>Riley</u>
Sandhill Crane	11/14	6 miles southeast of Pratt	LK	Pratt
	11/11	47 at Tuttle Ponds	DBn	<u>Riley</u>
	11/12	26 near Nelson Experimental Area	GP	<u>Jefferson</u>
	11/12	many seen	CO	<u>Clay</u>
	11/12	many seen	CO	<u>Washington</u>
	11/14	2 near John Redmond Reservoir	CH, BAS	<u>Coffey</u>
Black-bellied Plover	11/28	100,000 estimated at Quivira by staff		Stafford
	10/17	150 at Quivira	DB, SS	Stafford
	11/5	<u>56</u> at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford
	11/15	10+ late at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford
	<u>11/25</u>	3 at Quivira	GP	Stafford
Snowy Plover	<u>10/31</u>	1 late at Quivira	RM	Stafford
Semipalmated Plover	<u>11/21</u>	1 below Melvern Dam	BF	Osage
Mountain Plover	8/5	<u>214</u> in various plowed fields	SF, BG	Morton
Am. Avocet	<u>11/15</u>	2 late at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	11/25	5 at Quivira	GP	Stafford
Long-billed Curlew	8/22	1 juvenile at Quivira	JB	Stafford
Marbled Godwit	8/13	2 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Red Knot	8/13	6 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Least Sandpiper	<u>11/14</u>	7 at Melvern Res., below dam	CH, BAS	Lyon
Dunlin	11/15	1 at Melvern below dam	GP, m.ob	Lyon
	<u>11/25</u>	2 at Quivira	GP	Stafford
Stilt Sandpiper	<u>11/15</u>	2 late at Quivira	TC, MR, SS	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	8/3	31 at Flint hills NWR	TC	Lyon
	8/8	2 at sod farms	LM	Johnson
	8/9	1 at sod farms	ML. SR	Johnson
	8/15	1 at Quivira	EP	Stafford
	8/21	11 at Myers Turf Farm	MM	Johnson
	8/22	200-300 in alfalfa field south of Great Bend	ML. M.ob	Barton
	8/23	35 near Mulvane	L&TH	Sumner
	8/23	2 in mowed alfalfa	GP	Leavenworth
	8/24	2 at MDC	LM	Linn
	8/24	39 at Clinton Res.	DG	Douglas
	8/25	11 in NE Lawrence	GP	Douglas
	9/18	7-8 at Lawrence Sod Farms	GP	Douglas
	Note: BB Sandpipers were reported on many other dates in the Lawrence area and elsewhere in E. Kansas this fall.			
<u>*Curlew Sandpiper</u>	8/21	1 at McCoid Lake	TC, MR	Seward
Short-billed Dowitcher	9/13	1 at Kaw Fish Farms	AP	Douglas
	9/24	6 at Pratt hatchery	KB	Pratt
American Woodcock	11/10	1 yard bird	TC	Riley
<u>Red Phalarope</u>	11/2	1 at Quivira	JV	Stafford
	11/5	seen again	TB, MR	Stafford
Jaeger sp.	11/8	1 dark phase jaeger at Quivira	GY	Stafford
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	9/3	1 probably a Pomarine at Tuttle	TC	Riley
Laughing Gull	10/2	1 at Riverponds State Park	TC	Pott.
	10/31	1 at Clinton Reservoir	MM, EP	Douglas
Franklin's Gull	10/24	approx. 200,000 at John Redmond	LM, GP	Coffey
	10/31	approx. 100,000 at Cheney	Jba, PJ	Reno

<u>Little Gull</u>	*10/2	1 1 st winter on Ark. R., K-96 bridge	BG, PJ	Sedgwick
	11/1	1 1 st winter at John Redmond Dam	AS	Coffey
	11/14	1 adult at John Redmond Dam	BAS	Coffey
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	10/3	1 probable at K-96 bridge	PJ	Sedgwick
Bonaparte's Gull	8/4	1 at Kirwin NWR	SS	
	10/24	3000 at John Redmond Res.	LM, GP	Coffey
* <u>Mew Gull</u>	11/9,10	1 1 st winter at Lake Afton	PJ, DV	Sedgwick
Ring-billed Gull	10/24	10,000 at John Redmond Res.	LM, GP	Coffey
California Gull	11/8	1 2d winter at Clinton Dam	MM	Douglas
	11/13	1 1 st year at West St. sandpit	PJ	Sedgwick
	11/28	1 at Elkhart Sewage ponds	MR	Morton
	11/29	1 at Eldorado Reservoir	H&SG	Butler
Thayer's Gull	10/17	1 1 st winter at Clinton	MM, GP	Douglas
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	11/22	1 1 st winter at Wichita Landfill	PJ	Sedgwick
* <u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	11/20	1 adult at Windmill Lake, Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Bl.-legged Kittiwake	*11/12	1 at Tuttle Dam	DR, GS	Riley
	11/26	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	GP	Barton
Sabine's Gull	9/22	1 imm. on turf at KSU Memorial Stadium	LJ	Riley
	10/3	1 juvenile on West St. sandpit	JBa, CG, PJ	Sedgwick
Caspian Tern	9/14	15 at Tuttle Cr. Res	GS	Riley
	9/15	11 at Rock Cr. Park, Perry Res.	RR	Jefferson
	9/16	2 at Winfield City Lake	GY	Cowley
	9/20	1 at Cheney Res	PJ	Reno
	9/20	10 at Clinton Lake	MM, GP	Douglas
	9/25	1 at Big Hill Lake	CS	Labette
Common Tern	9/25	1 at Lake Afton	PJ	Sedgwick
	<u>11/8</u>	1 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Kingman
Forster's Tern	<u>11/8</u>	5 at Cheney Reservoir	PJ, DV	Kingman
				Reno
Least Tern	8/24	2 at Marais des Cygnes	LM	<u>Linn</u>
* <u>White-winged Dove</u>	8/13	1 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
Inca Dove	8/20	1 in Elkhart	TC, MR	Morton
	9/12	1 in Elkhart	GP, m.ob	Morton
	9/13	1 near Mulvane	TH	Sedgwick
	9/27	1 at Sim Park	PJ	Sedgwick
	10/26	several at Meade Co. State Lake	TF	Meade
	10/30	1 in Dodge City	JD, RR	Ford
	11/8	several at feeders	BM	Washington
<u>Eur. Collared Dove</u>	8/11	1 at Valley Falls-present for weeks prior	RR, m.ob.	Jefferson
	8/6	1 in Sharon Springs	MM	Wallace
	8/21	2 at Hugoton	TC, MR	Stevens
	8/22	1 at Garden City	TS	Finney
Greater Roadrunner	8/22	1 in Lawrence alley	RJ	Douglas
	9/23-11/1	1 on farm near Lawrence	DWm	Douglas
<u>Western Screech Owl</u>	9/4-19	2 on Cimm. R. at state line	DA, m.ob	Morton
Long-eared Owl	9/5	1 at North Fork	PJ, BP	Morton
	10/7	1 at mid-day in Oak Park	PJ	Sedgwick
	11/14	1 at Lyon Co. State Lake	CH	Lyon
Whip-poor-will	9/4	1 calling in Topeka	TW	Shawnee
Greater Roadrunner	8/22	1 in Lawrence	RJ	<u>Douglas</u>
	11/4	1 in Pratt	MMa	Pratt
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	9/12	1 at Elkhart feeder	GP, m.ob	Morton
<u>Black-ch. Hummingbird</u>	8/20	1 at Elkhart feeders	TC, MR	Morton
	9/12	1-3 at Elkhart feeders		

Rufous Hummingbird	7/27	1 at Larned	DK	Pawnee
	8/25	1 imm. selasphorus at feeder	PW	Douglas
	8/27	1 imm. at Manhattan	NW	Riley
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	9/25	1 in timber at Big Hill Lake	CS	Labette
	9/27	2 near Pittsburgh	RM	Crawford
Ladder-back. Woodpecker	9/12	1 at Wilburton Crossing	GP, m.ob	Morton
Pileated Woodpecker	9/7	2 at Pawnee Prairie Park	RB	Sedgwick
Hammond's Flycatcher	8/20	1	TC, MR	Morton
	9/5	1 well studied at Middle Springs	TH, m.ob	Morton
	9/12	1 at Middle Springs	MC, m.ob	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9/19	1 near Clinton Cemetery	LM	Douglas
Dusky Flycatcher	8/20	1	TC, MR	Morton
	8/26	1	JR	Morton
	9/5	1 at North Fork	DW, m.ob	Morton
Cordilleran Flycatcher	9/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	PJ, DWm, m.ob	Morton
	9/19	2	MR, m.ob.	Morton
Say's Phoebe	8/20	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	Stafford
Ash-throated Flycatcher	8/20	1 at Western Crossing	TC, MR	Morton
	9/4	1 at Middle Springs	BP	Morton
	9/12	1 at Western Crossing	SP, m.ob	Morton
Cassin's Kingbird	9/7	1 in large kingbird flock-Western Crossing	TH	Morton
	9/19	2	SS, m.ob.	Morton
Purple Martin	8/13	1500 in roost at Tuttle	TC	Riley
	8/4-21	20,000-50,000 in roost at Century II	CG, PJ, m.ob	Sedgwick
Tree Swallow	<u>11/7</u>	1 late bird at John Redmond Reservoir	MC, MM, GP	Coffey
Violet-green Swallow	8/20	1 at sewage lagoons	TC, MR	Morton
	9/5-7	1 at sewage lagoons	PJ, m.ob	Morton
Rough-winged Swallow	<u>11/26</u>	2 at Neosho Wildlife Area	RM, M.ob.	Neosho
Barn Swallow	11/7	12 late birds at John Redmond Reservoir	MC, MM, GP	Coffey
	<u>11/14</u>	1 still hanging on at John Redmond	CH	Coffey
Black-billed Magpie	8/1	two small flocks	TC	Washington
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8/21	1 at Junction City Cem.	CO	Geary
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8/30	1 near K-96 bridge	PJ	Sedgwick
Rock Wren	10/13-18	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	BG, m.ob.	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	10/8	1 on farm near Lawrence	RB	<u>Douglas</u>
	10/28	1 in n.w. part of county	SS	Pawnee
Sedge Wren	8/20	1 at Quivira	TC, MR	Stafford
	8/25	10 calling Nelson Exp. Area	GP	Douglas
	10/3	1 near Harvey East Lake	TH, CS	Harvey
	10/3	3-7 in Big Ditch	Jba, CG, PJ	Sedgwick
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	11/23	1 in Garden City yard	MO	Finney
Gray Catbird	<u>11/2</u>	1 late in Elkhart	KH, BP, DRk	Morton
Sage Thrasher	9/5-7	3 seen various locations	DWm, m.ob	Morton
	9/12	1 in hardlands near Boy Scout area	SP, m.ob	Morton
Northern Shrike	10/27	1 st of season n.w. part of county	SS	Pawnee
Blue-headed Vireo	9/5	1 at North Fork	BP, m.ob	Morton
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	9/19	1	MR, m.ob	Morton
<u>*Plumbeous Vireo</u>	9/5	1 at cemetery shelterbelt	LE, BP, m.ob	Morton
	9/11	1 at Cimmaron Campground	GP, m.ob	Morton
White-eyed Vireo	8/22	1 singing near Mulvane	TH	Sedgwick
	9/14	1 near Quivira	GP, m.ob.	<u>Stafford</u>
Yellow-throated Vireo	10/25	1 late bird at Overland Park Arboretum	NL, JL	Johnson
Blue-winged Warbler	9/29	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	DV	Sedgwick
Golden-winged Warbler	9/8	1 east of Topeka	KM	Shawnee
Orange-crowned Warbler	11/14	1 in Wichita	JN	Sedgwick

Northern Parula	9/5-7	1 at cemetery shelterbelt	BP, TH, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
Black-th. Blue Warbler	9/2	1 in Manhattan yard	PF	Riley
	10/5	1 female in Maple Grove Cemetery	PJ	Sedgwick
	10/18	1 in yard	JS	Leavenworth
	9/20	2	SS, m.ob	Morton
Townsend's Warbler	9/20	2	SS, m.ob	Morton
Black-th. Green Warbler	9/12	1 in Elkhart alleys	SP, m.ob	Morton
	9/20	1	SS, m.ob.	Morton
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/2	1 in Topeka yard	JB	Shawnee
	9/7	1 at Middle Springs	TH, CS, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
Pine Warbler	8/30	1 singing near Harvey East Lake	BD	Harvey
	9/12	2 singing at Maple Grove cemetery	BD, PJ	Sedgwick
	9/21	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	PJ	Sedgwick
	9/25	1 at Oak Hill Cemetery	AP	Douglas
	9/30	1 at Lake Afton	DV	Sedgwick
	10/1	1 south of Andover	PJ	Butler
	10/3	2 at Junction City Cemetery	CO, m.ob	Geary
Prarie Warbler	9/11	1 at CB campground	GP, m.ob	<u>Barton</u>
Palm Warbler	9/20	1 at Middle Spring	SS, m.ob	Morton
	10/3	1 at Junction City Cemetery	CO, m.ob	Geary
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/5	1 at cemetery shelterbelt	BP, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
	10/3	1 at Junction City Cemetery	CO. m.ob.	Geary
Northern Waterthrush	9/5-7	1 at Middle Springs	TH, m.ob.	Morton
Mourning Warbler	9/12	1 along Cimm. R.	GP, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	SC, m.ob	Morton
	9/12	1 along Cimm. River	GP, m.ob	Morton
Canada Warbler	9/9	1 yard bird	CS	Harvey
	9/19	1	MR, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
Summer Tanager	8/22	adults feeding juv near Mulvane	TH	<u>Sedgwick</u>
Scarlet Tanager	9/12	1 at Woodson Co. Lake	TH	Woodson
Western Tanager	9/11	1 at Cimmaron Campground	GP, m.ob.	Morton
	9/12	1 at Wilburton Crossing	SP, m.ob.	Morton
Cedar Waxwing	8/5	juveniles at Wilson	MR	Russel
Lazuli Bunting	9/5	1 at Western Crossing	TH	Morton
	9/12	1 at Western Crossing	SP, m.ob.	Morton
	9/12	1 at Woodson Co. Lake	TH	Woodson
Painted Bunting	9/12	1 at Woodson Co. Lake	TH	Woodson
	<u>10/2</u>	1 at Cedar Cr. Cemetery	MR, SS	Pott.
	<u>10/2</u>	1 south of Andover	PJ	Butler
	<u>10/24</u>	1 at Prairie Village feeder	NL	Johnson
Cassin's Sparrow	9/7	1 at Western Crossing	PJ, m.ob	Morton
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	9/13	1 at Point of Rocks	SP, m.ob.	Morton
	11/27	2 below spillway at Clark Co. St. Lake	GP	<u>Clark</u>
American Tree Sparrow	<u>9/13</u>	1 yard bird near Sedgwick	CS	Harvey
Baird's Sparrow	10/25	1 on Osage Trail	BD, DRz, CS	Harvey
	10/25	1 at Lake McCoid	MR	Seward
	10/29	1 flushed from alfalfa field	SS	Pawnee
Henslow's Sparrow	8/2	Still singing on territory	DR	Riley
	9/12	1 singing in the rain, Woodson Co. Lake	TH	Woodson
	10/3	1 imm. in Big Ditch	Jba, CG, PJ	Sedgwick
LeConte's Sparrow	10/3	1 at Melvern Res	MC, MM, GP	Osage?
	10/5	1 in yard birdbath at Mulvane	TH	Sedgwick
	10/13	good numbers at Curtis Creek	CO	Geary
	10/13-29	good numbers at Slate Creek	DV, m.ob	Sumner

Nel. Sharp-tailed Sparrow	10/13	1 probable at Curtis Creek	CO	Geary
	10/13	several at Slate Creek Marsh	DV	Sumner
	10/21	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	Russell
	10/25	1-2 at Slate Creek Marsh	WAS	Sumner
	10/26	KCPL wetlands near Gardner	DW, m.ob	Johnson
Song Sparrow	8/22	1 singing at Quivira	JB	Stafford
Lincoln's Sparrow	9/6	1 at Quivira	JS	Stafford
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	11/28	1 near Garden City	MR	Finney
Smith's Longspur	11/27	45 at Carnahan Cove, Tuttle Creek Res.	DR	Riley
McCown's Longspur	11/17	several small flocks near Lakin	DM	Kearny
Baltimore Oriole	<u>11/26</u>	1 at Winfield Cemetery feeding on berries	MT	Cowley
Purple Finch	11/11	3 at Wichita feeder	JN	Sedgwick
Red Crossbill	8/?	6-7 at feeders in Hesston during August	NP	Harvey
	11/11	3 at Wichita feeder	JN	Sedgwick
Evening Grosbeak	11/11	1 female at Wichita feeder	JN	Sedgwick

Observers cited:

Henry Armknecht, Debarah Arnett, Tim Barksdale, James Barnes (Jba), Richard Bean, Roy Bekemeyer, William Brecheisen, Joanne Brier, Ken Brunson, Dave Bryan, Doris Burnett (DBn), Burroughs Audubon Society (BAS), Ted Cable, Sherry Chapman, Jeff Chynoweth, Mark Corder, Joyce Davis, Bob Dester, Lisa Edwards, Brandon Evans, Suzanne Fellows, Bob Fisher, Ton Flowers, Pat Freeman, Greg Friesen, Dan Gish, Bob Gress, Chet Gresham, Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Ken Hollinga, Alan Hynek, Lowell Johnson, Richard Johnson, Don Kasmier, Jeff Keating, Lucas Koch, Mark Land, Dan LaShelle, Jane Leo, Nancy Leo, Donald and Linda Mallonee (D&Lma), Robert Mangile, Milt Martin (MMA), Alan Maccarone, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeil, Bill Moffitt, Lloyd Moore, Dan Mulhern, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Norman Pankratz, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Eric Preston, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Donna Ratzlaff (DRz), Don Reinking, Dave Rintoul, Steve Rhoades, Ruth Roberts, Richard Rucker, Carolyn Schwab, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, John Shuckman, Guy Smith, Eddie Stegall, Dan Svingen, Art Swalwell, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), John Vanderpoel, Don Vannoy, Maggie Watson, Phil Wedge, Don Weiss, Norma Jean Wesley, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Dave Williams (DWm), Tracy Wohl, Gene Young

Rare Bird Alert Numbers From Neighboring States

It's often fun to keep up on bird sightings from surrounding states, whether in anticipation of migration to come, preparation for an upcoming trip or just because it's fun. Following is a list of the Rare Bird Alert numbers for Kansas and our neighboring states. Most states have one or more hotlines or rare bird alerts (only Mississippi and Hawaii are without). If you need a hotline number give Chuck Otte a call.. Many states are also setting up Internet discussion groups about birds, and these hotlines are often posted on those lists. Information on joining the Kansas group or those in neighboring states is found immediately below!

Kansas, Statewide - (316) 229-2777
Burroughs Audubon, Kansas City Area
(913) 342-2473
Wichita - (316) 681-2266
Oklahoma, Statewide - (918) 669-6646
Oklahoma City - (405) 373-4531
Missouri, Statewide - (573) 445-9115
St. Louis - (314) 935-8432
Nebraska, Statewide - (402) 292-5325
Colorado, Statewide - (303) 424-2144

Do You Want To Receive the Rare Bird Alert Electronically??

Then send the message: **sub KSBIRD-L Yourfirstname YourLastname** To the e-mail address: **listserv@listserv.ksu.edu** Not only will you receive the Kansas and Kansas City rare bird alerts electronically, but you'll also get to share in the on-line discussions of over 200 other Kansas birders as they discuss bird sightings, bird identification challenges, bird habitat and bird conservation issues and occasional birder silliness!

Microcassette Tape Recorders

by *Ted Cable*

Have you ever been in a situation where you encountered trees dripping with birds, each undoubtedly a lifer? Have you faced bushes brimming with never before seen birds? As a beginner, maybe it was your first trip to Ft. Leavenworth during spring migration, or warbler migration at a birding Mecca like Pt. Pelee or Cape May. Maybe it was on a first-time vacation to a foreign country.

Whatever the circumstances, encountering multiple unidentified birds, can be both exhilarating and frustrating. Flitting and fleeting birds competing for attention result in information overload. How does one respond to this joyfully hectic overstimulation? Do you stick with this bird that is playing hard to get and ignore the others? Do you give up on the elusive one to get to look at seemingly more cooperative one in your peripheral vision? Do you take your eyes off of a flock of songbirds to study the raptor flying-by overhead? Or do you merely glance at the raptor and stick with the songbirds? Most birds don't offer time for deliberation and these split-second decisions determine which, and how many, birds you identify. Certainly, to thumb through a field guide, especially when you may not even know to which family the bird belongs, would mean letting birds get away unseen.

My first such experience occurred during my first year of birding on my first trip to Florida. On the first morning at the very first pool along the entrance road at Merritt Island NWR, I added 13 lifers in less than a minute. I didn't know where to look first or how long to stick with a bird before leaving for another. I didn't dare look down and flip through a field guide to determine relevant field marks nor did I have the discipline to methodically identify one bird at a time while potential lifers were escaping my view. Faced with the choice of sticking with each bird to gather potentially important details or looking superficially at many birds, hoping to see and remember just barely enough to identify most of them, I chose the latter strategy. Fortunately, most of these new birds were waders that cooperated by staying put beyond that first minute.

What is a birder to do when faced with this delightful dilemma? To search for relevant information, or to write notes, would mean taking your eyes off the bird in question and many others as well. To not record information would mean seeing lots of birds that may never be identified because the key distinguishing field marks were missed. I am the kind of birder that wants to savor every new

species, but I also want to see as many different birds as possible especially when I know I may never get to see these birds again. It is more than the lure of the list. These escaping birds may be gems that I will never have another opportunity to behold. So I want to take second looks, yet I know that a second look will cost me the opportunity to see other birds flitting just out of sight. A few years ago I discovered a piece of equipment that helped minimize the conflict, chaos and confusion.

While living in West Africa several years ago I regularly encountered this situation of being overwhelmed by unfamiliar birds. Almost weekly I'd find myself in a new setting and I'd be a beginner all over again. Invariably, I'd see more birds than I could deal with at one time. My solution turned out to be a microcassette recorder (sometimes known as a dictaphone) that I had taken with me to Africa to use in conducting interviews. It quickly became as important as my binoculars or scope.

Using the microcassette recorder, I could record information without looking down at a piece of paper or book. I could verbally describe the birds rapidly and in great detail. Later, at home, I could spread out the relevant books and articles and replay the taped descriptions and identify the birds after the fact. Sometimes I could even hear them singing in the background.

This microcassette recorder proved to be a godsend. I could hold it in the same hand that I used to raise my binoculars to my eyes. As I raised my binoculars to my eyes, the microphone on the recorder would be positioned near my mouth so I could speak into it as I looked through the binoculars.

This proved much better than writing field notes because I speak faster than I write and because effort is reduced I tended to record many more details than I would have had I been writing the descriptions. The information was immediate, whereas field notes are often written by necessity after the bird has left the scene. And, of course, it was impractical to write field descriptions of 20 new species. The detail on numbers 17 through 20 could not help but be influenced by having written 16 other species descriptions from memory.

- continued next page

- - *Tools of the Trade, continue*

As birders become more experienced they have to go farther afield to find situations where they are overwhelmed by mystery birds. However, a microcassette recorder has other uses closer to home. It is a convenient way to record any field data, especially if the sequence of sightings is of interest. You can use it to record data on Christmas Counts, Big Days, bird behavior studies, and in any situation where you want to record data without having to stop observing.

Microcassette recorders range in price from \$39 to \$149. Some are voice activated. I have used both voice activated and those requiring a flip of the switch. Both work fine in the field. I found no problem switching the recorder on with my thumb as I held the recorder and binoculars up to my face.

Only after I returned home from my last trip to Africa, did I come to fully appreciate an unexpected pleasure of using a microcassette recorder to tape field observations. In fact this perhaps is the single greatest benefit. Recently while replaying the tape from Africa, I could hear the excitement in my voice as I frantically called out field marks of strange and beautiful birds, some of which are still unidentified today. The between spurts of my excited and ecstatic chatter, I could hear the sound of drumming from a nearby village. Back in Kansas, with microcassette playing, I sort through flocks of birds laid out before me on the pages of books, and once again I bird to the beat of "talking drums." You too can capture and retain bird information and memories and then re-live those birding moments using a microcassette recorder.

Ted can be reached at: tcable@oz.oznet.ksu.edu

Photo of KOS Fall Meeting participants.

Due to space and production constraints this photo is unfortunately not available in this electronic edition.

KOS members attending the Fall Meeting in Lawrence view some of the mounts and study skins in the KU ornithology collection.

photo by Debarah Arnett

Declines In Water Availability And Implications For Shorebirds At Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

by Helen Hands

In the last issue of the *Horned Lark*, I initiated this column as a forum to discuss issues and respond to comments and questions relating to Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), shorebirds, and webless migratory game birds. However, I only received one general comment. This month's article somewhat responds to this comment, but also pertains to a subject that I had planned to address sometime.

Although we at CBWA have received no direct comments or questions, we are aware, through reading KSBIRD listserv discussions, that many birders are concerned about seeing fewer shorebirds at CBWA than they did 10 or more years ago. I don't doubt that numbers of shorebirds observed were higher back then. However, I do dispute the position that shorebirds have a lower priority today than they did 10-30 years ago. What has changed in the past 30 years of managing CBWA is water availability, the dominance of cattail, and the strategy for dealing with avian botulism.

I discussed how these problems affect shorebird management at CBWA in Lawrence. In this article, I'll talk about the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) efforts to deal with the water problem.

Shorebirds don't need a lot of water -- depending on the species, just saturated mud to depths less than 3 inches. Unfortunately, providing these shallow water conditions during the heat of the summer can result in high evaporation losses. Although CBWA has large water rights to the Arkansas River and Wet Walnut Creek to supplement natural flows from two small creeks, runoff, and rainfall; these water rights are unreliable and the amount diverted to CBWA has decreased since the 1970s.

Flows in the Arkansas River and Wet Walnut Creek have declined with the increase in irrigation. In the early 1990s, KDWP, with help from the Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Audubon Council, and Kansas Natural Resources Council, asked the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) to take steps to allow CBWA to receive its full water right to the Wet Walnut Creek, which is senior to the rights of most others. DWR responded by establishing an Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area, halting the allocation of more water rights on the Walnut, and temporarily reducing water allocated to those with

water rights junior to CBWA's. These measures are intended to restore regular flow in the Walnut. KDWP has considered requesting DWR's help to receive CBWA's full water right on the Arkansas River. However, this would be a much more complex case because the Arkansas River flows through more than one state and has many more tributaries.

Because the Arkansas River and Wet Walnut Creek don't flow as much or as often, KDWP has had to change its strategy for diverting water. In the past, managers avoided diverting water after heavy rains to reduce the amount of silt brought into the Bottoms. Nowadays, we must divert water whenever the River and the Creek flow, usually only after heavy rains, as long as this diverted water doesn't interfere with management plans. The drawback to this strategy is the added tons of silt deposited in the Bottoms.

Dealing with declining water availability was also a major justification for the multi-million dollar renovation effort nearing completion at CBWA. Efficiency in water storage (i.e., reduced evaporation rates) was improved by subdividing the existing water storage pool, Pool 1, and raising its surrounding dikes to store water at a greater depth. Additional water control gates and the three new pump stations allow water to be transported among pools quicker, thereby permitting available water to be utilized better.

Despite the renovation effort, having less water available means that CBWA is more likely to go dry than it has since the state developed it in the 1950s. Thus, we're more careful with the water we get today than managers were 30 years ago. Being careful with water means balancing the benefits of using water relative to the amount of water needed for that purpose. For example, water evaporates more quickly in a pool shallowly flooded for shorebirds and ducks than in Pool 1A, the 6-foot deep water storage pool. Thus, we're hesitant to shallowly flood a pool in the heat of the summer, when water can be lost at a rate of an inch per day. Habitat provided in these conditions would be short-lived unless water was continually added, but lots of water would be lost in the process. However, high evaporation losses are not the only drawbacks to managing water levels for shorebirds in summer-fall as I'll discuss in future articles.

(Helen can be reached at: bottoms@greatbend.com)

KOS Winter Board Meeting
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita, Kansas
February 13, 1999

Attendance:	Greg Farley	Max Thompson
	Roy Beckemeyer	John Schukman
	Ed Miller	Jim Mayhew
	James Barnes	Gene Young
	Carolyn Schwab	Karen Ganoung
	Suzanne Fellows	Susan Barnes

Minutes: Greg Farley, President, brought the meeting to order at 10:00. After the minutes of October 4, 1998 were read, Susan pointed out that financial records need to be kept seven (not five) years, and Greg corrected the date for the fall meeting in Hays to October 8-9, one week later due to scheduling conflict with college activities. Susan moved the minutes be approved, and the motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller presented copies of the KOS statement of accounts, dated 12-31-98, Attachment A. There was some discussion of 1998 expenses, which included the fall 50th anniversary meeting expenses, and the expected membership dues.

Finance Committee: Max Thompson explained the expense budget for 1999; he urged all KOS departments to present a total of projected expenses to the finance committee in November of each year, enabling a more realistic budget to be compiled. Susan moved the treasurer's report be accepted; motion seconded and carried. Roy moved the finance committee report be approved; this motion also was seconded and carried.

Membership: After some discussion of the importance of membership organization development articles in newsletters, Greg agreed to consult with The Horned Lark editor, Chuck Otte, and to keep the membership development coordinator informed of possible news to distribute. For example, our KOS Vice-president, John Schukman, is the author of 'Say's Phoebe', printed in a recent *Birds of North America* publication.

Five hundred copies of new membership directories are ready for the printer, at a cost of \$540. Notice of changes in this directory will appear in newsletters as necessary. It was suggested that overseas complimentary directories and newsletters be sent surface instead of air mail. Life membership dues will be moved into the endowment fund, upon notice of death. Total number of members, including life, regular, libraries, students, and complimentary, is now 414 members. Attachment D.

Susan is unable to pursue the project of putting the Bird of the Month articles by Richard Johnston into all Kansas newspapers; perhaps another board member can do this.

After discussion of the value of KOS exhibits at local and public shows/activities, and the membership help available for such exhibits, for the purpose of informing and attracting new members, the board agreed that public exhibits were useful, and to choose smaller and manageable venues.

The board approved a membership renewal letter, Attachment B, promoting the membership goal of "1,000 by 2,000", and also to give incentives to sign up new members; these incentives are commemorative KOS 50th anniversary T-shirts, and free KOS 1 year memberships.

Greg will find addresses of those persons who asked for KOS information on the backyard birdfeeder surveys. Non-KOS members who consult List Serv will also receive KOS information. Attachment C.

Great Plains Nature Center is allowing KOS to make public presentations on topics of choice for 2 hours each on one Saturday a month. Several board members scheduled a presentation time in 1999.

Susan showed samples of proposed KOS commemorative wear, including a KOS logo patch, T-shirts and other shirts, an embroidered denim shirt, and a cap. Max moved to allow \$1000 to buy such clothing, and to allow Susan to make decisions on the details. The motion was seconded and carried.

After discussion of adding an emeritus membership category, the board agreed it would be better to provide honorary memberships on case-by-case decisions.

- continued next page

KOS Board Meeting Minutes, continued - -

Since field trips are often planned locally and spontaneously, and anyone can be a coordinator, Susan was asked to keep copies of the membership list on hand, and at board meetings, if this would help coordinators to promote such field trips.

Business Manager: James Barnes said the last newsletter mailing was 400 copies @ 20 cents, and he informed the board members of the current inventory. Max moved that items for sale cost non-members \$5 more, or at an increase set at the business manager's discretion. This motion was seconded and carried.

It was agreed that the editor of the newsletter should make the decisions about its size, and about the number of photos included.

The necessity of finding a place to store old bulletins and newsletters was again discussed; an Abilene Museum and the Kansas Historical Society are two possibilities.

When a person donates items for KOS use, Susan will provide a receipt to be used for tax purposes.

Reports: The March *Bulletin* is ready, and Max has enough material through September. To include a color photo costs \$300 more.

The March issue of the Horned Lark newsletter will be completed about February 20; deadlines for future issues are May 10 and July 20. Mark Land is doing a Kid's Page in the March issue. This electronic report listed the twelve state groups, including KOS, that are members of the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Council, which serves to advise the KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks in matters relating to nongame wildlife.

The hot-line voice mail is very slow, probably because most reports come in electronically. Perhaps a phone line will become unnecessary in the future.

The KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee) met January 30, and the minutes were forwarded to Greg. He thought there were no decisions to be made, and the minutes circulated among the Board members.

Future meetings: Spring 1999 - April 30, May 1-2 in Winfield; Fall 1999 - Oct 8-9 at Hays; field trips, speaker, silent auction, banquet buffet, ID emphasis on sparrows, the new Sternburg museum open. Spring 2000 - plans are not yet firm; Pete Janzen is looking at plans in southeast Kansas, perhaps with Oklahoma; Fall 2000 - perhaps at Concordia Community College.

Other business: James proposed a KOS web page, including the KBRC, local checklists, migration data, archival papers; the cost is \$70 for a 2 year license, and \$20 a month. Gene moved to approve \$300 for a web site, KSBirds.org, with James and Chuck in charge. Having more than one person will help in keeping the site current. The motion was seconded and carried.

Susan moved to adjourn. Motion seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm; the group had recessed at noon for lunch that had been brought in.

Attachments A - Treasurer's report
 B - Membership renewal letter
 C - letter sent to List Serv users (non-KOS)
 D - Membership report
 E - Horned Lark editor's report

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Karen Ganoung
Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society

**We regret that the KOS Kid's Page, "The Bird's Nest"
is not available in this electronic format.**

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is not available in this electronic format.**

KOS Spring Meeting, 30 April – 2 May 1999 In Cowley And Sumner Counties

This spring's Kansas Ornithological meeting will be held in Cowley and Sumner Counties from 30 April – 2 May 1999. This is graduation week at Southwestern College so make your hotel reservations early. The following motels are available in Winfield:

Quail Ridge Comfort Inn – 316-221-7529 (new)
Sonner Motor Inn – 316-221-4400
Town House Motel – 316-221-2110
Camelot Motor Inn – 316-221-9050
Motel 6 or 8 – brand new should be completed by the meeting, no phone number available at this time.

Arkansas City, 11 miles south of Winfield, has several hotels available as well. Camping is available at Winfield City Lake, 7 miles northeast of Winfield. You can call 316-221-5635 for cost and details of camping at the lake.

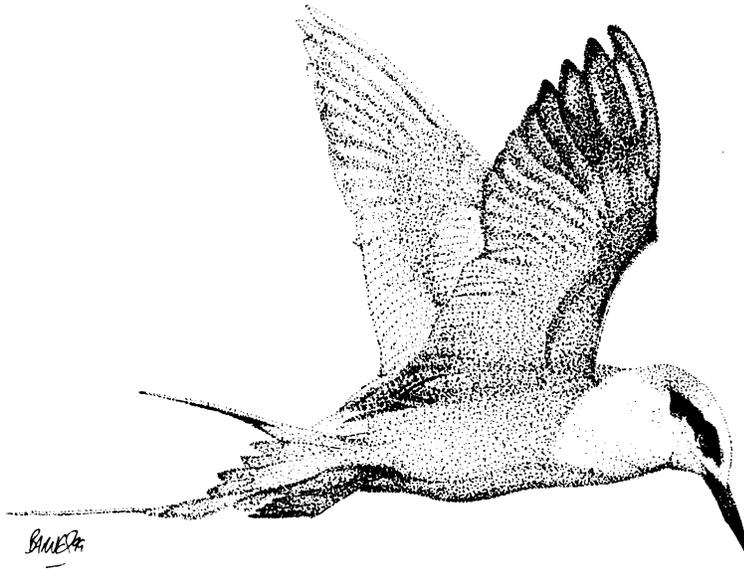
Friday night, 30 April, there will be a shorebird workshop at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield. The workshop will start at 8:00 p.m. and will consist of identification hints for Kansas's shorebirds, with additional clues to help ID some of the other more exotic North American shorebirds. Specimens from the Natural History Museum will also be used, including a series of skins of Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, and more. There will also be a display of Ruddy Turnstones demonstrating how brightness in the plumage changes with age. Culminating the workshop will be a shorebird identification quiz on shorebirds of North America.

Saturday field trips will be taken to various locations in Cowley and Sumner Counties including Camp Horizon, Kaw Wildlife Area, Chaplin Nature Center, Slate Creek Wetlands, Thompson Prairie, Girl Scout Camp, and Winfield City Lake. There will be a bird banding demonstration on Sunday. South-central KS has a diverse assemblage of avifauna because of its geographic location. Birds from the east and west and north and south are commonly found in the area during spring migration. There are over 300 species that have been recorded for Sumner and Cowley counties. Some of these species are consistently recorded at some of our field trip locations, but area rarely recorded outside of those areas within the south-central region. For example: Cinnamon Teal; Red-shouldered Hawk; King Rail; Virginia Rail; Sora; Black-bellied Plover; Snowy Plover; Semipalmated Plover; Piping Plover; American Avocet; Willet; Hudsonian Godwit; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Dunlin;

Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher; Least Tern; Chuck-will's Widow; Common Poorwill; Pileated Woodpecker; Tree Swallows; Black-capped and Carolina Chickadee including hybrids.

Camp Horizon is a nice place to find Summer Tanagers, warblers, including the possibility of finding Prairie Warblers, and Painted Buntings. The Kaw Wildlife Area and Chaplin Nature Center has large tracts of floodplain forests that usually provide nice views of thrushes, Pileated Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, Wood Ducks, herons, Empidonax Flycatchers and warblers including Prothonotary and Louisiana Waterthrush. If river conditions are just right shorebird migration along the river can be quite large and even Least Terns are a possibility. Winfield City Lake typically has large numbers of waterfowl and other waterbirds, including terns, and grebes. Slate Creek Wetlands is home to more than 250 species of birds and the end of April and early May is usually the peak of shorebird migration. Past years in late April and early May have yielded Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Least Terns, Caspian Terns, Forster's Terns, Black Terns, Common Terns, Piping Plover, Snowy Plover, White-faced Ibis, golden plovers, Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, most of the other KS shorebirds, herons, nesting waterfowl, LeConte's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and a myriad of other upland and woodland birds. Thompson's pasture frequently contains Sprague's Pipits, and if burned Upland Sandpipers, and golden plovers. The Girl Scout Camp southeast of Winfield is a great place to observe Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Empidonax flycatchers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Thrush, Summer Tanager, and warblers. In recent years, three Golden-winged Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers and a Yellow-throated Vireo have been found in one day.

There is no registration fee for this trip, because all participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. However, we request that you register for the weekend, using the [form below](#), so that the committee can have an idea of how many people to expect. This will help us prepare for the shorebird workshop, and in determining how many trip leaders are needed. Compilation on Sunday will be at Black Creek Park, 19th and Wheat Road, Winfield, at noon. Lunch will be on your own. For additional details contact Max Thompson at 316-221-8304, maxt@jinx.sckans.edu, or Gene Young at 316-221-8380, youngg@jinx.sckans.edu.-



Forster's Tern
by James Barnes

This page intentionally left partially blank with the exception of that wonderful drawing above by James Barnes.

Go to the other side of this page to find some very exciting, interesting, and important news about the KOS Spring Meeting in Winfield, Kansas on April 30 - May 2, 1999.

Registration form is also inside!!

KOS SPRING MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
30 April – 2 May 1999

I plan on attending the KOS spring meeting on the following days.

- Friday night, 30 April. Shorebird Workshop, Southwestern College.
- Saturday field trips, 1 May. Please indicate preference of trip:
- Slate Creek Wetlands/Oxford (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Camp Horizon/Kaw Wildlife Area (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Kaw Wildlife Area South side (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Winfield City Lake and area, including Thompson Pasture and Girl Scout Camp (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Saturday night get together to discuss and view more birds at the SC museum (meet at Beech Science Center at 7:30 p.m.)
 - Nocturnal birding and herping (depart Beech Science Center at 8:00 p.m.)
- Sunday field trips, 2 May.
- Slate Creek Wetlands (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Winfield area (depart Beech Science Center 6:30 a.m.)
 - Bird banding demonstration (departure time will be determined and announced at the Friday night workshop and Saturday departures)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Please return completed form to:

Max C. Thompson
Southwestern College
100 College St.
Winfield, KS 67156

or by e-mail to:

maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Phone inquiries made be made by calling Max at 316-221-8304 or Gene at 316-221-8380.



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 1998

Vol. 25, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

This issue started off harmlessly enough. But the further into it that I got, the more it reminded me of a runaway train. It was headed straight to 24 pages, but I refused to let it go past 20. So a snip here and a snip there and push some of Debarah Arnett's great Fall Meeting photos back to the March issue and I think we've got it made.

The great part about editing an issue like this is that I get to be more of an editor and less of a writer. All of a sudden we had members popping up with articles they wanted to write! First of all we welcome back John Rakestraw and his column "Winged Tips". John has written for the *Horned Lark* in the past and his work has also been seen in some of the popular birding press. It's great to see his by-line back here! Helen Hands, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Biologist at Cheyenne Bottoms then volunteered to write a regular article and create an open forum to discuss many wildlife management issues. I, for one, am glad to see this attempt to bring about open discussion of critical issues. I look forward to future articles from Helen.

Occasional sage and *Horned Lark* contributor, Mike Rader, brings us "Mike's Musings." Mike has been on the KOS Board as long as I have and it will be strange to not see his cheery face and listen to his thoughtful comments at Board Meetings. I guess that just gives me the excuse to get together with him and go birding more often!

Of course there is Pete's seasonal birding roundup and a whole lot of stuff from the Fall Meeting. More photos by Debarah Arnett and another great drawing from our multi-talented Business Manager James Barnes. If there are any other aspiring artists out there send me your work. I'll return your originals to you and you get to see your work published.

What's missing, still, is a KOS kids page. I know that there has to be a very talented author/birder out there. Several members have mentioned how much the kid's page is missed and I agree. If you are interested drop me a note and I'll help you get started.

Another issue draws to a close and the Christmas Bird Count season is drawing nigh. The holidays are a great time to gather with old friends, enjoy the wonders of nature and get in some great birding. The way things are shaping up it could be a very interesting birding season! Whatever you wind up doing this holiday season, enjoy the friends and the fellowship of loved ones and family! Happy Holidays!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1999

President, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, barnowls@juno.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barnowls@juno.com

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WANTED! Authors

Some of my favorite areas of coverage weren't written about in this issue, BECAUSE we need more authors! Pete Janzen has taken over the Birding Roundup so we need someone to take over a birding tips/hints column. Other responsibilities have forced Amy Rose to give up the Kid's Page. And we are always looking for articles about what you, the KOS members, are doing.

Don't use the excuse of, "I'm no writer." Just get your ideas and thoughts down on paper and this old editor will take it from there! Mail your stories, thoughts, ideas to :

Chuck Otte
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or e-mail me at:
otte@jc.net

I'm waiting to hear from you.....

Wanted! KOS History

Jim Mayhew is spearheading the effort to assemble the KOS history for its first 50 years. If you have any items, stories, photos or anything else to share you can contact Jim at:

Jim Mayhew
1909 Judson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5121
jdmayhew@kansas.net

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

There are a limited number of Stokes 1999 Bird calendars left over from the fall meeting. \$9 including postage, first come, first served. New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. 1 is \$0.25; 2 - 24, \$0.20 ea; 25 - 49, \$0.15 ea; 50 or more, \$0.10 each. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

Someone sent James \$1 and an envelope for a KOS decal. James has misplaced the envelope, so if you ordered a decal and haven't received it yet, please call and let James know who you are!!

1999 Dues notices will be mailed around the end of the year, BUT you can send your dues to Ed Miller at any time! Avoid the rush!

Look for more membership info in the March issue!

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!

May 1 - 2, 1999 - Winfield

October 2 - 3, 1999 - Hays

Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

Fall Meeting photos scattered within. Look for more Fall Meeting photos in the March 1999, *Horned Lark*.

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Birding With Beginners

by John Rakestraw

One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it. This adage is true for many subjects, including birding. Guiding an inexperienced birder is not only helpful for the neophyte, but it can vastly improve your own birding skills at the same time. Most of us, when we were beginners, received a great deal of knowledge and assistance from more experienced birders. Birders seem especially inclined to share information and experiences. But sometimes birders seem to forget what it was like to be a beginner. They may offer too much information or give the impression of being snobbish or superior to a new birder. With a little effort and patience, we can be a source of knowledge and encouragement, allowing the beginner to catch the birding bug for themselves.

START SLOWLY

To most of us, the idea of standing for hours on a mudflat scanning flocks of shorebirds or crawling on our hands and knees through sand-sage prairie to get a look at Lesser Prairie-Chickens is perfectly logical. However, to some unfortunate people who have not caught the birding bug, this behavior seems odd. If a person is just learning to appreciate birds, they are probably not ready to spend all day in the car or to walk several miles. If you are guiding a beginning birder, take a short walk or stake out a bird feeder or watering hole. Short doses of birding allow the beginner to absorb a few new birds at a time. Answer any questions they may have, but don't feel obligated to tell them everything you know about every bird you see.

START BIG

As experienced birders, we appreciate the challenges of identifying small sandpipers, sparrows and warblers. But beginning birders have not reached that point. You may be trying to explain the differences between the Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, but the beginner is thinking, "Wow! Look at the size of that Great Blue Heron." Big flashy birds capture the beginner's attention and provide satisfying views. A Pileated Woodpecker

pounding on a tree or a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on a fence post - now those are birds. If you think about it, a Swainson's Warbler is a pretty dull, little brown bird which usually hides in the underbrush anyway. Let the beginner have great views of big flashy species until they discover for themselves the joy of the Little Brown Jobs.

PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE

Every person learns at a different rate, but most would agree that learning to identify every species of bird in Kansas takes some time. One of the hardest things for experienced birders to accept is the beginner's willingness to let many birds go unidentified. To the beginning birder, each new species learned is a challenge and a joy. It doesn't matter if you counted 400,000 Red-winged Blackbirds on your last Christmas count, these are beautiful birds. The beginner may want to spend some time appreciating them, allowing other birds to fly by unnoticed. During one of my first visits to Cheyenne Bottoms, when I was just beginning to learn shorebirds (and when Cheyenne Bottoms actually had shorebird habitat), I met some other birders who had found a Ruff within a huge flock of Dowitchers. I knew Ruffs were very rare in Kansas and went back to the spot to try to find the bird. But after a few minutes of being buffeted by high winds and not finding the Ruff, I moved on. Today, I would be happy to spend as much time as needed scanning every bird in that huge flock in order to find the vagrant. But back then I wasn't at that point in my birding development. There were too many other birds to see. I wasn't worried about finding one lost Ruff. Encouraging new birders is one of the easiest and most important things we can do to promote the conservation of birds and their habitat. The more the general public knows about wildlife, the more likely they are to want to preserve it. Guiding beginning birders can be great fun. You get to relive the excitement of each new species. But beginners require a little finesse. Take a break from your hard-core birding and enjoy the slower pace. Allow the newcomer the time needed to catch the birding bug for themselves. Eventually, they will be anxious to spend a few hours helping you find that Ruff.

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.

Kansas Ornithological Society Fall 1998 Meeting Field Trip Species List
October, 11, 1998
Lawrence, Douglas County and vicinity

(Thanks to David Seibel for compiling this list for the Horned Lark) Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Peter Dunne, Cape May Bird Observatory, gave the Friday evening program at the Fall Meeting entitled:
"Small-headed Flycatcher, Seen Yesterday, He Didn't Leave His Name"

photo by Debarah Arnett

Deadline for submissions for the
March, 1999 Horned Lark is
February 1, 1999.

KOS Reflections

by Mike Rader

I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what it has meant to me to be associated with and involved in the Kansas Ornithological Society. I first joined KOS, in 1987, at the suggestion of a good friend, Ted Cable. Ted was one of my major professors at Kansas State University, but we developed the friendship out of our common love for a couple of things - Chicago professional sports teams and, of course, birds.

I have always had an interest in watching birds. I was lucky enough to have grandparents that owned a fruit orchard, which was a haven for birds. They also let me keep a "flock" of my own birds, consisting of domestic ducks, geese, chickens, guinea fowl and peafowl. I would spend countless hours watching both the tame and wild birds in that orchard.

I maintained my interest in birds throughout my youth, and into college. Classes taught by John Zimmerman in ornithology and field ornithology were extremely influential on me. A switch in college majors led me to Ted's realm, which included park resources management and almost as importantly, "birding". I can recall many trips around the Manhattan area with the "Noon Birders". This group of guys, Ted, Dave Rintoul and Duane Kerr, spent many a lunch hour in search of birds and encouraging students to become as wrapped up in birding as they were. With influences like that, it's really no wonder I turned out this way!

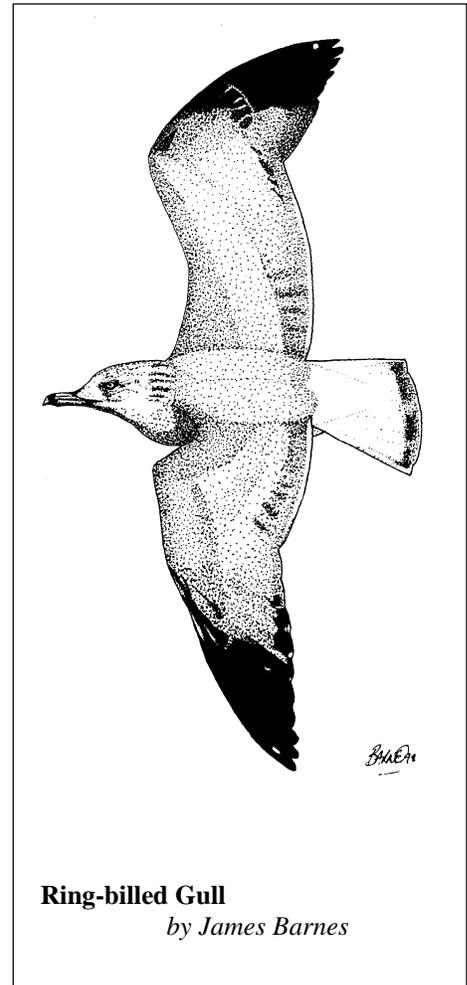
The first aspect of KOS that I was introduced to was the field trips to various areas of the state led by KOS members. Ted and I participated in a trip to Cherokee County in the mid-1980's, led by KOS member, Scott Seltman. It was an exciting,

memorable experience, with lots of "life" birds for me and the beginning of a "life" friendship as well. My life changed drastically from that point on. Birding became a passion that will burn forever.

The next KOS function I attended was a field trip to the southwest part of Kansas, Morton County and the Cimarron National Grasslands. I can still vividly remember stepping out of my car at Point of Rocks and meeting a large group of people. The first person to introduce himself to me was an intensely excited man named Mick McHugh. I think that before he even told me his name, he asked me a question. "Do you have Sage Thrasher, Rock Wren, and Brown Towhee on your Kansas bird list?" When my answer to that was "no", he said "Well, we just saw them here, let's see if we can find them again!".

KOS means a great many things to me. It means exciting Spring field trips, educational and interesting Fall meetings, and two outstanding publications. It means meeting people with similar interests sharing enthusiasm and knowledge, and having the opportunity to interact with folks from all walks of life. Most of all, KOS promotes a sense of camaraderie between people that love to watch, learn about, and teach others about birds.

I have been privileged to be involved in the operations of the Kansas Ornithological Society, first as a member of the Board of Directors, later as Vice-President, then serving as President. I was fortunate enough to have great people to learn from in each position I held. As my time on the Board as Past-President comes to a close, I look back and I am proud. I am proud of what has been



Ring-billed Gull

by James Barnes

accomplished in the organization, not so much by my actions, but the overall forward movement of KOS. I believe we are a better organization than we were ten years ago.

Personally, I am proud that I am more knowledgeable about birds and I am a better birder because of my involvement in KOS. It will be difficult to not attend Board meetings after so many years of doing so. That will take some adjustment. But the most important thing that I have gained from KOS is the friendships of many outstanding people. These friendships will last a lifetime and if a person is judged by the friends he has, I should fare pretty well.

Christmas Bird Count Season 1998 - 99

As the holiday season approaches many birdwatchers thoughts turn to planning, conducting and participating in Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Christmas Bird Counts were started in the early 1900's as an alternative to the traditional Christmas hunt. They have grown over time to be very very popular.

The dates are traditionally spread over a 2 1/2 week period from about a week before Christmas to about a week after Christmas. In Kansas, some counts are sent in to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in their large database and report. However, virtually all Kansas counts are compiled into the KOS report for the March *Bulletin*. Last year there were 50 such counts conducted in Kansas, and some that are normally held were canceled due to inclement weather.

Some counts are large with over 50 observers. Others are somewhat limited with just 1 or 2 brave souls daring the elements. Some counts are relatively new, while others have long histories of 40 and 50 years or more. The Junction City CBC celebrated their 40th last year and the Manhattan and Halstead-Newton counts will be celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year. The two things that all counts have in common is fun and fellowship. You meet new birding friends, get together with old birding friends and you have fun birdwatching. Some counts you freeze your binoculars (not to mention other extremities) and other counts are so mild that the birding gets dismally slow in the afternoon.

If you've never been on a CBC, make 1998 the year to start! Following is a partial list of dates and contact people. Make a few calls, get in touch, and have some fun! (Some of these counts are not in Kansas, but are included because of their close proximity to KOS members.)

Friday, December 18

Quivira NWR - Gary Meggers, 316-486-2393

Saturday, December 19

Dodge City - Joleen Fromm, 316-227-6342, Meet at the Inn Pancake House, 1610 West Wyatt Earp Blvd, at 7 am

Halstead/Newton - Dwight Platt, 316-283-6708

Hays - Greg Farley, 785-628-5965 bigf@fhsu.edu

Lakin - Leonard Rich, 316-275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, 785-532-6663
drintoul@ksu.edu

Olathe - Don Weiss, 913-780-6588, dweiss@primenet.com

Southeast Kansas - Paul Milks, 316-421-3427, Meet at Braums at the east edge of Parsons (US 160) at 7 am.

Topeka - Gary Haden, 785-273-5598

Waconda Lake - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wichita - Don Vannoy, 316-838-4062, Meet at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium at 7:30 am.

Kansas City, Missouri - Meet at the Lakeside Nature Center in Swope Park, 4000 E Gregory Blvd, at 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 20

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake - Richard Rucker, 785-842-3845 - call Richard ahead of time to be assigned an area.

Udall/Winfield - Max Thompson, 316-221-1856
maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161 otte@jc.net Meet at the Lakeview Restaurant at 7 am.

Wilson Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Monday, December 21

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, 785-468-3587

Tuesday, December 22

Canyonlands - Debra Bolton

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, 316-793-3066
bottoms@greatbend.com

Wednesday, December 23

Camp Naish - Stan Roth, 785-843-4764,
jroth@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Slate Creek - Gene Young, 316-221-8380 (work)
youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Saturday, December 26

Arkansas City - Gene Young, 316-221-8380 (work)
youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Cedar Bluff - Scott Seltman, 785-372-5411,
sselt@ruraltel.net

Linn County - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu

Sunday, December 27

El Dorado - Mike Lesan, 316-524-6332 Meet at McDonald's in El Dorado at 7:30 am.

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, 316-275-4616

Tuesday, December 29

Junction City - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161 otte@jc.net
Meet at West Acres Floral west parking lot, 316 West 6th
at 7 am.

Old Garfield County - Barbara Campbell, 316-275-5430
at 7:00 a.m.

Friday, January 1, 1999

Mined Land - Steve Ford, 316-235-4745

Morton County - Sebastian Patti

Saturday, January 2

Baldwin City - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu Meet at Sante Fe depot, in west
Baldwin at 7:15 am.

Red Hills - Pete Janzen, 316-832-0182
prarybrd@southwind.net

Leavenworth - John Schukman, 913-727-5141,
schuksaya@aol.com Meet at McDonalds in Leavenworth.

Black Mesa, OK - Sebastian Patti

Lake McConaughy, Nebr. - Stephen Dinsmore,
970-782-5264, Steve_Dinsmore@usgs.gov

Sunday, January 3

Bonner Springs - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, 316-276-8145
moster@midusa.net

Liberal - Sebastian Patti

Saturday, January 9

Syracuse - Art Nonhoff, 316-277-2087

Sunday, January 10

Ulysses - Dan LaShelle, 785-296-0344

Saturday, January 16

Blackwolf - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com (**tentative**)

To Be Announced

contact Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com if interested!

Webster Reservoir

Kanopolis Reservoir

Participants of one of the KOS 1998 Fall Meeting Sunday morning field trips look over a wet field.

photo by Debarah Arnett

SUMMER ROUND-UP

1 June, 1998 through 31 July, 1998

by Pete Janzen

While many birders put their binoculars on the shelf for the most part during the summer, there are many rewards for those who continue birding during the nesting season. This summer brought an interesting mix of bird reports from across the state. Read on and see what the birders of Kansas turned up this summer!

One of the big rewards of summer birding is the possibility of extending , or filling in, the range maps of nesting species, something veteran KBBAT volunteers can certainly appreciate. I saw lots of birds this summer, but the ones that I found most interesting were the Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, and Song Sparrows, which I confirmed as nesting right here in the Wichita area, where they have rarely, or never, been known to do so. Other interesting nesting records, (some only probable), were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Crawford County, Cedar Waxwings in Olathe and near Fort Riley, Chipping Sparrows at Olathe, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Hesston, and Chuck-wills-widow in Comanche County. Piping Plovers and Least Terns returned again to nest on the Kansas River sandbars, which were first colonized a couple of years ago. The injured Peregrine Falcon reported here was one hatched by a nesting pair hacked out in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Shorebirds put on a good showing this summer. Northbound birds often have barely departed our area when the first returning southbound migrants begin to return, and this year was no exception. I assume the 2

Willetts seen at Clinton on June 16 were late migrants, but likely the 2 seen at Cheney on July 11 were early returning birds. Shorebirds present in the summer are sometimes non-breeding individuals that just never make it all the way to the breeding grounds.

Continuing the trend of late migrants noted during the spring, a number of flycatcher and warbler species were seen well into June, much later than normally expected. Quite a few waterfowl species were seen in early June as well, later in the season than expected.

Another spring trend, the invasion of southern species, continued into the summer as well, at least in a minor way, as White-winged Doves and Laughing Gulls were reported in multiple locations across the state. Eurasian Collared Dove turned up in yet another new location, at Kinsley. Keep an eye out for this latest foreign invader, destined to become a fixture of urban birding over the next decade or so.

Then there are those birds records that just plain defy classification. How do you explain two loon species appearing at the same time on a Kansas reservoir in July? Or a Broad-tailed Hummingbird on the high plains in June? Must be stuff like that that keeps us out in the field.

It is good to see some reports coming in from places like Salina and Pittsburg, which been under-represented in this column in recent years. I encourage all of you to send

me records of even moderate interest, especially from those places that are off of the beaten track, birding wise.

Finally, a few corrections from my previous reports. The Brown-headed Nuthatch reported in Mission Hills this past winter was in Johnson County, not Wyandotte County. The Connecticut Warblers reported from Ft Leavenworth were actually seen across the river, in Weston Bend State Park, located in Missouri. Also, I omitted a number of names from the list of observers in the winter report. If you were one of them, I apologize. If you see any errors such as these, please let me know, and I will be happy to correct them in the following column. I never appreciated the amount of work required to compile this report until I started doing it myself.

By the time you read this, it will almost be time for the Christmas Bird Counts. I hope you all have happy holidays, and don't forget to send me all those great bird reports for the period of Aug. 1 - Nov. 30, which will be compiled in the next issue.

Underlined species name indicates an especially exceptional sighting.

Underlined dates and/or locations are exceptional for the species.

* denotes a sighting that was submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
*Pacific Loon	<u>6/28-7/6</u>	1 alternate plumage at Milford	CO, m.ob	Geary
Common Loon	<u>6/30-7/5</u>	1 basic plumage at Milford	GS, m.ob	Geary

Pied-billed Grebe	6/16	adult w/7 young in Wichita	PJ	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	7/2	9 juveniles at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
	7/4	1 at Stockdale Area	LJ	Riley
Eared Grebe	6/4	8 at Lake McCoid-courtship display.	MR	<u>Seward</u>
Western Grebe	6/4-6/21	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
	<u>6/29-7/2</u>	1 at Lone Star Lake	AS, PW	Douglas
Clark's Grebe	6/4-6/21	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
Least Bittern	6/9	1 at Lassiter Marsh	JB	Jefferson
Yellow-cr. Night-heron	7/26	1 near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
Mottled Duck	6/25	1 at Quivira	BP	Stafford
Northern Pintail	6/2	1 at Kyle Marsh	JB	Jefferson
	6/4	12 at McCoid Lake	MR	Seward
Cinnamon Teal	6/20	male/female pair	SC, BP	Stafford
Northern Shoveler	7/2	1 at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
Canvasback	6/2	1 male at Wichita sandpit	PJ	Sedgwick
Lesser Scaup	6/6	1 drake at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Common Merganser	<u>7/11</u>	1 molting male at Cheney	Jba, ,PJ	Reno
Hooded Merganser	6/6	1 female at Quivira	DG	Stafford
Mississippi Kite	6/3	1 on KU Campus	DS	Douglas
	7/21	2 at Hays	MR	Ellis
	7/21	1 at Salina	DW	Saline
Bald Eagle	8 nests found statewide, 5 successful, 11 fledged in all			
Peregrine Falcon	6/4	1 on KU Campus	DK	Douglas
	7/25	injured juvenile at Tecumseh	MB	Shawnee
Black Rail	6/6	1 at Lassiter Marsh	GK, DL	<u>Jefferson</u>
Common Moorhen	6/25	adult w/5 young	SC, BP	Stafford
American Coot	6/2	adults with new fledglings	BG, PJ	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	7/2	23 fledges & juveniles same pond	PJ	Sedgwick
Black-bellied Plover	6/1	4 at Quivira	DW	Stafford
	6/6	13 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Semipalmated Plover	6/6	3 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Piping Plover	6/11	1 nest on Kansas R.	JH, DM	Wabaunsee
	7/25	Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Mountain Plover	6/5	adult w/chick	MR	Morton
Willet	6/1	1 at Lake McCoid	MR	Seward
	6/6	2 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	<u>6/14</u>	1 at Quivira	SP, MR	Stafford
	<u>6/16</u>	2 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
	<u>7/11</u>	2 at Cheney Dam	Jba, PJ	Sedgwick
Upland Sandpiper	6/27	pair near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
	7/22	100's of migrants	SS	Pawnee
	7/22-23	100's of migrants	MR	Russell
Whimbrel	<u>6/14</u>	2 at Quivira	SP	Stafford
Long-billed Curlew	7/25	1 at Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Hudsonian Godwit	<u>7/25</u>	2 at Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	<u>6/6</u>	5 at Quivira	DG, MR, CS	Stafford
Sanderling	<u>7/11</u>	1 at Cheney Res.	Jba, PJ	Reno
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7/19	7 in burn near Colwich	PJ, DKi	Sedgwick
Long-billed Dowitcher	6/20	3 at Quivira	BP	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	6/4	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
Franklin's Gull	<u>6/16</u>	95 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Laughing Gull	6/4	1 at Lake McCoid	MR	Seward
	6/7	1 at Clinton Lake	MM	Douglas
	7/11	1 at Cheney Res.	Jba, PJ	Reno
	7/19	2 at Cheney Res.	PJ, DKi	Reno

Laughing Gull	7/25	1 at Milford Res.	C&JO, BR	Geary
Forster's Tern	6/16	2 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Black Tern	6/16	110 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Caspian Tern	6/7	3 at Clinton Lake	MM	Douglas
	6/16	2 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Least Tern	6/11	6 colonies/sites on Kansas R.	JH, DM	Wabaunsee
	7/19-20	1 at Cheney Res.	PJ, Dki, DV	Reno
<u>*White-winged Dove</u>	6/7-9	1 near Bloom	GP	Clark
	6/1-21	1 at Wichita feeder	G&PT, m.ob	Sedgwick
<u>Eurasian Collared Dove</u>	7/20	1 at Kinsley	GP	Edwards
Black-billed Cuckoo	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Barn Owl	6/?	nest w/4 young central Crawford Co.	BM	Crawford
This was the second brood of the year for these Barn Owls. 1st brood fledged in early May				
Burrowing Owl	7/2	nest w/young Garden City	LB	Finney
Barred Owl	7/26	2 calling on Salt Fork	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Chuck-wills-widow	7/25	egg shells on Salt Fork & 3 calling	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Common Poorwill	7/23	fledge at Konza	DR	Riley
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	6/3	possible nesting pair Hesston	NP	Harvey
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	6/3-5	1 male at feeder	TS	Finney
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6/9	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Western Wood-Pee wee	6/4	1 in small woodland	MR	Stevens
	6/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	MR	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	6/6	1 at Lone Star	PW	Douglas
Acadian Flycatcher	6/12	35 on canoe survey of MDC River	BB	Linn
Alder Flycatcher	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
	6/10	1 on Smoky Hill R.	JH, DM	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	6/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	MR	Morton
	6/5	1 at nest box w/4 young-W. Crossing	MR	Morton
<u>Violet-green Swallow</u>	7/3	1 in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Carolina Wren	7/28	1 at Wilson Res	MR	Russell
Swainson's Thrush	6/10-12	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Cedar Waxwing	6/16	nest w/eggs in Olathe	DA	Johnson
	6/27	Olathe eggs hatch	DA	Johnson
	7/8	pair at Ft. Riley	LJ	Geary
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/1	1 in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/6	another in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/9	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Magnolia Warbler	6/1	1 in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/4	1 male in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Black-th. Green Warbler	6/4	1 female in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Blackburnian Warbler	6/6	1 at Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Yellow-throated Warbler	7/5	2 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	Leavenworth
Prothonotary Warbler	6/12	35 on canoe survey of MDC River	BB	Linn
American Redstart	6/2	1 fem at Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
	6/5	1 fem on Cimarron River	MR	<u>Morton</u>
Mourning Warbler	6/5	1 in yard	BR	Harvey
	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Hooded Warbler	6/5	1 on KU Campus	PW	Douglas
Wilson's Warbler	6/1	1 female in yard	H&SG	Sedgwick
	6/6	1 female in Lawrence	JY	Douglas
Canada Warbler	6/4	1 in small woodlot	MR	<u>Stevens</u>
Scarlet Tanager	6/8	1 on Fort Riley	C&JO	Riley
	7/5	1 yard bird	KM	Shawnee
Northern Cardinal	6/5	nesting in Elkhart	MR	<u>Morton</u>

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/1-22	female at Pittsburg feeder	AB, BM	<u>Crawford</u>
	7/22	male at same feeder	BM	<u>Crawford</u>
	6/13	singing on Jester Creek	CSc	Sedgwick
Black-headed Grosbeak	6/5	2	MR	Morton
Painted Bunting	7/4	3 singing males at Stockdale	TC, LJ	Riley
	7/6	1 singing at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
	7/13	4 males & 1 female at Stockdale	DA, TC	Riley
	7/23	still there	DA, TC, NH	Riley
	7/26	<u>15+</u> at Swartz Canyon	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Eastern Towhee	7/4	1 singing male at Stockdale	TC, LJ	Riley
	7/23	still there	DA, TC, NH	Riley
Cassin's Sparrow	7/25	4 near Aetna	PJ, JNi	Barber
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	7/26	3 in Swartz Canyon	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Chipping Sparrow	7/1	pair w/fledges	DA	Johnson
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	6/5	1 at state line	MR	Morton
Song Sparrow	6/9	1 at Lassiter Marsh	JB	Jefferson
	7/11	1 singing male at Cheney	Jba, PJ	<u>Reno</u>
	7/12	2 singing males at Cheney	JBa, BG, PJ	<u>Reno</u>
	7/19	adult with juvenile	PJ, DKi	<u>Reno</u>
Great-tailed Grackle		colony throughout summer near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
Pine Siskin	7/27	1 at Salina feeder	DW	Saline

Robert Antonio, Debarah Arnett, JBa-James Barnes, Larry Bradstreet, Joanne Brier, A. O. Brown, Marty Birrell, Ted Cable, Sherry Chapman, Mark Corder, Dan Gish, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Bob Gress, Nancy Harrington, Jerry Horak, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, DKi-Dan Kilby, Dan Kluza, Glen Koontz, Dan LaShelle, Jane Leo, Nancy Leo, Bob Mangile, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Dan Mulhern, JNi-Jim Nickel, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Nancy Peachey, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Bob Regier, David Rintoul, Barb Robbins, CSc-Carol Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Chris Smith, Art Swalwell, Gene Tipton, Phyllis Tipton, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Joe Yoder

Rare Bird Alert Numbers From Neighboring States

It's often fun to keep up on bird sightings from surrounding states, whether in anticipation of migration to come, preparation for an upcoming trip or just because it's fun. Following is a list of the Rare Bird Alert numbers for Kansas and our neighboring states. Most states have one or more hotlines or rare bird alerts (only Mississippi and Hawaii are without). If you need a hotline number give Chuck Otte a call.. Many states are also setting up Internet discussion groups about birds, and these hotlines are often posted on those lists. Information on joining the Kansas group or those in neighboring states is found in another article in this issue!

Kansas, Statewide - (316) 229-2777
Burroughs Audubon, Kansas City Area
(913) 342-2473
Wichita - (316) 681-2266
Oklahoma, Statewide - (918) 669-6646
Oklahoma City - (405) 373-4531
Missouri, Statewide - (573) 445-9115
St. Louis - (314) 935-8432
Nebraska, Statewide - (402) 292-5325
Colorado, Statewide - (303) 424-2144

Do You Want To Receive the Rare Bird Alert Electronically??

Then send the message: **sub KSBIRD-L Your Name** To the e-mail address: **listserv@listserv.ksu.edu**
Not only will you receive the Kansas and Kansas City rare bird alerts electronically, but you'll also get to share in the on-line discussions of over 200 other Kansas birders as they discuss bird sightings, bird identification challenges, bird habitat and bird conservation issues and occasional birder silliness!

Changes *by Helen Hands*

Starting with this issue I'm initiating a regular column to discuss issues relating to Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), shorebirds, and webless migratory game birds (i.e., Sandhill Cranes, snipe, rails, and mourning doves). I decided to do this for a couple of reasons. First, these subjects, either alone or in combination, have generated much discussion and controversy in recent years. However, considerable inaccurate information has been used to support some positions. These discussions could have been more productive if more questions and comments had been directed to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). This would have allowed those concerned to learn the reasons for KDWP's decisions, which are based primarily on the needs of the resource and secondarily on the needs of recreational users. Second, since the KOS meeting in Lawrence I have heard the sentiment that birdwatchers haven't really been welcome at CBWA for the past 30 years. In the 9 years that I've worked at CBWA, we (Karl Grover, area manager, and I) have tried to be fair to all users: birdwatchers, hunters, anglers, or researchers. Still, birders complain that we manage too much for hunting. Conversely, hunters complain we manage too much for birdwatchers. Maybe we've struck a good balance, but we're willing to listen to your thoughts. If you have any comments or questions about the management of CBWA; write us, give us a call, or stop in the office. We'd be glad to talk to you.

One example of an unpopular decision is the gated roads at CBWA. There are 6 dike roads with gates at CBWA. Four go between refuge pools and 2 between open pools. The dike roads between Pools 3A and 3B and between 4A and 4B were completed within the last 3 years and are open to foot traffic year round. (The only exception would be if whooping cranes were using any of these pools.) These roads are not open to vehicles because they are narrower than the other roads and, thus, would not permit 2-way traffic. KDWP built these dike roads, and all other dike roads on the wildlife area primarily to divide the marsh into smaller, more manageable pools. The Department chose to build these roads narrower than others on the Wildlife Area to reduce the costs of construction. Furthermore, by restricting vehicular access, these roads require less maintenance. This is an important consideration at CBWA because the staff already has more than enough to do.

Probably more unpopular than prohibiting vehicles on the new dikes in Pools 3 and 4 is the Department's decision to prohibit any access on the new dike roads in Pool 1 and on the dike road between Pools 1 and 5. The decision to close the road between Pools 1 and 5 was especially controversial because it had been open for years. However, this road was used by many primarily as a shortcut between highways 156 and 281

These road closures are based on our policy to restrict all access (either vehicle, boat, or foot) into refuge areas, which provide areas where wildlife are not disturbed by people. Some may feel that watching birds is not a significant source of disturbance to birds and other wildlife, whereas, hunting is. However, studies have shown that people don't have to shoot at wildlife to disturb them (e.g., Skagen et al. 1991, Human disturbance of an avian scavenging guild, *Ecological Applications* 1:215-225; Klein, M. L. 1993, Waterbird behavioral responses to human disturbances, *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 21:31-39). Activities such as driving, walking, boating, even canoeing, can interfere with the normal activities of wildlife. In fact, walking and canoeing may be more disruptive than driving or operating a motor boat because the former activities are slower and the disturbances last longer than the latter activities.

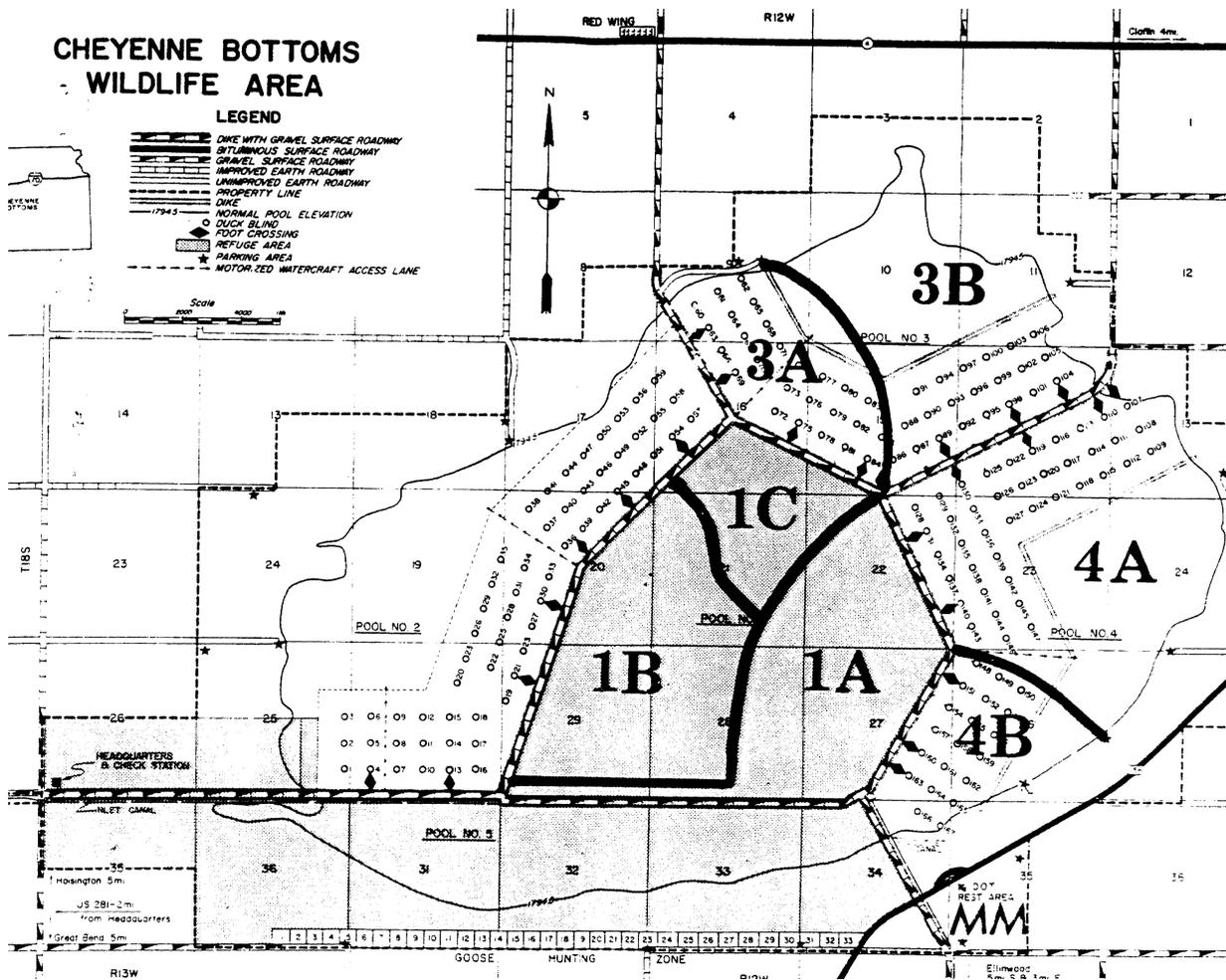
Although we recognize that designating some areas as refuge is unpopular and reduces the area open for recreational activities, our primary objective is to meet the needs of wildlife, primarily birds, that depend on CBWA. Throughout the year, be it during migration or the nesting season, birds need habitat where they can rest, feed, nest and raise their young undisturbed. If birds are disturbed too much while stocking up their energy resources for migration, they may be delayed in getting to their breeding areas or may not put on enough fat to make it to the next good staging area. Excessive disturbance during the nesting season may cause birds to abandon nests or reduce nesting success. Inability to perform these activities ultimately can lower the chances of survival for an individual and/or its offspring.

Individually, our recreational activities could be detrimental to an individual bird, but probably not to a population (group of individuals of the same species) or community (group of species in an area). However, if you

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multiply each individual's activities by the 40-50,000 people that annually visit CBWA, our cumulative activities could negatively impact wildlife if we don't provide refuge areas. Thus, please do your part to allow refuges to function properly for wildlife at CBWA and other public areas. When you see a road with a gate at CBWA or other public area, look for and obey the sign that will tell you whether or not you are permitted to walk down the road.

I want this column to be a forum in which to discuss issues or answer questions you have. To do this, I need your participation. Please send me any questions or comments and I'll try to address them. My e-mail address is bottoms@greatbend.com and regular mail address is Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, 56 NE 40 Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.



Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area
New Pool Numbering Plan
 map courtesy Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Notes:

Congratulations to our newest life member Don Weiss. Don and his wife Lori are birders from the Olathe, KS area. Two long time KOS members slipped away from us this past year. E. Maurice Nuss was a charter member and Phyllis Henney had been a member since 1969. We are saddened by their passing.....

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 1999 Fall KOS Meetings Lawrence, Kansas

Update on the Breeding Status of the Least Tern in Kansas Roger L. Boyd, Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS

In the early 1980's there were an average of 92 Least Terns (*Sterna athalassos*) nesting in 9 colonies in the state. These colonies were found in Stafford County at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, 1 colony, 48 adults; Meade County, 3 colonies with 30 adults; and Clark County, 5 colonies with 14 adults. Breeding success was quite variable from zero to as high as 0.95 young fledged per nesting pair. During the 1998 breeding season there were 102 adults nesting in 8 colonies across the state. The location and makeup of those colonies was as follows: Quivira NWR, 1 colony, 40 adults; Meade County, 1 colony, 10 adults; Clark County, no colonies, no adults; Jefferson County, 1 colony, 10 adults; Pottawatomie County, 3 colonies, 16 adults; Wabaunsee County 2 colonies, 26 adults. Discussion will focus on habitat changes which have led to the current condition and the prospects for the future of the species in Kansas.

Migration of Least and Traill's Flycatchers in Northeast Kansas Calvin Cink, Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS

Migrations of Least and Traill's Flycatchers were studied at a mist-netting station at the Baker Wetlands in northeast Kansas, where both are regular but low-density transients. A total of 110 *Empidonax minimus* and 84 *E. trailli* were handled during 5 years. Fall migration of *minimus* was gradual, without pronounced peaks and extended from 25 July to 28 September, with a straggler on 10 October. There appears to be differential migration, with adults preceding immatures. Spring migration of *E. minimus* extended between 2 May and 8 June. Fall migration of *E. trailli* extended from 28 July to 18 September with a small peak in August. Adults appear to precede immatures. Spring extreme dates were 10 May through 15 June but about 80% of all birds were recorded from 20-28 May.

A Half Century of Change in Birds of the KU Natural History Reservation Henry S. Fitch, 2060 East 1600 Rd., Lawrence, KS

Changes in numbers and local distribution have occurred in all species of the local avian community. A major habitat trend has been the encroachment of the forest into former pastures and cultivated fields. Common species

eliminated include: Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Screech Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow. Twelve other species have undergone significant reduction and nine others have undergone one or more reversals in population trends. About one-third of the species have shown little change. The only species gained are the Wild Turkey and the White-breasted Nuthatch.

Rodent Density and Foraging Behavior as Indicators of Risk of Nest Predation Jacob R. Goheen, Kenneth A. Schmidt, and Richard S. Ostfeld, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS (JRG), Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (KAS and RSO)

Over the past several decades, populations of neotropical migratory songbirds have undergone significant decline in numbers. Decreased reproductive success due to increased levels of nest predation may be one factor responsible for these declines. During the summer of 1998, we investigated the role of white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*) as nest predators in an oak-dominated forest in south-central New York. We monitored 54 artificial nests baited with plasticine clay eggs and zebra finch (*Poephila guttata*) eggs over a 14-day period. Using dental impressions from clay eggs, we found that white-footed mice were responsible for 56% of all predation events within contiguous forest. Eastern chipmunks and medium-sized predators were responsible for fewer predation events. Nest survivorship was influenced by surrounding vegetation cover and foraging activity of mice. Further, risk of nest predation may increase following years of high masting (acorn production) by oaks, as rodent densities have been shown to fluctuate with mast production.

Status of Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway Helen Hands, KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Great Bend, KS

Sandhill cranes occurring in the Central Flyway are part of the mid-continent population, one of 9 Sandhill Crane populations in North America. Population estimates from the last 2 years are near the upper threshold set by the Management Plan for the Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes (1993) and are the highest recorded since surveys began in 1982. The large number of cranes in the

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mid-continent population has allowed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to permit hunting since 1961. Although number of cranes harvested has increased since 1982, the annual harvest rate including cripples has remained between 5 and 8%, which is lower than the population's estimated recruitment rate of 11%. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission did not permit Sandhill crane hunting until 1993. However, despite concerns from some, Kansas crane hunting season has not significantly increased the Flyway or North American crane harvest and has not resulted in cranes migrating through the State faster. Concern for the mid-continent population's 2 subpopulations and 3 subspecies has also been expressed. However, recent data show that these subgroups are more numerous than previously estimated.

Shorebird Management at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area *Helen Hands and Karl Grover, KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Great Bend, KS*

Cheyenne Bottoms has long been an important stopover area for migratory shorebirds and has been designated as a Hemispheric Reserve by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. In recent years, shorebird numbers at the Bottoms have declined and concerns about the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks commitment to shorebird management have been expressed. Shorebird management involves providing very shallow water in areas with little to no vegetation during the migratory period. However, in addition, managers must consider invertebrate densities, effects on cattail, water availability, avian botulism potential, construction, and the needs of other wildlife species before manipulating water levels to provide shorebird habitat.

Analysis of Long-eared Owl Pellets from Southwest Nebraska *Scott A. Kimball, Kristen Mitchell, Douglas A. Robinson, Jr., Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS (SAK, KM), Biology Div, Emporia State Univ, Emporia, KS (DAR)*

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) pellets were collected from a communal roost in southwestern Nebraska and analyzed to determine preference for prey type. Also, small mammal trapping was preference for prey type. Also, small mammal trapping was conducted to determine any correlation with pellet content. Twenty-two pellets were used to determine a percentage of skeletal material. As pellet weight increased, the percentage of skeletal material remained relatively constant. The remaining pellets were dissected to determine prey content only. *Reithrodontomys* spp. were the most abundant prey type whereas *Microtus*

spp. made up the majority of biomass. Small mammal trapping data, while not extensive, suggested that traps and Long-eared Owls are not sampling small mammal populations in the same manner.

Least Terns and Piping Plovers Nesting on the Kansas River, 1996-1998 *Dan Mulhern, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Manhattan, KS*

In July 1996, while working on a Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas block, Bill Busby discovered an active Piping Plover nest on a sandbar on the Kansas River in Wabaunsee County. This was the first ever documented account of nesting by this species in the state. He also observed several Least Terns foraging along the river immediately upstream of the plover nest site. During subsequent surveys by state and federal biologists, an active tern nesting colony was located, in which 14 adults and 12 pre-fledged young were found. In 1997, approximately this same number of adults was again discovered, separated into two smaller colony areas seven miles apart. In 1998, extensive river surveys were conducted from Milford Reservoir downstream to Lawrence. Terns and plovers were located at several sites, including four active Least Tern colonies containing over 40 adults, as well as evidence of at least four Piping Plover nests.

Nutrient Contents of Invertebrates on Different Sites: The Potential to Impact Avian Reproductive Success *Shawn G. Papon and Robert J. Robel, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS (SGP), Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS (RJR)*

Invertebrate biomass commonly comprises over half of the dietary intake of breeding grassland birds. The nutrient content of the insect forage base for birds differs by taxonomic category and site. One of the reasons proposed to explain the differences in nutrient contents of insects from different sites was the food substrate quality of the insects collected. To test this hypothesis we collected insects from sites of different soil fertility (determined by total C and N content) and compared the nutrient contents of those collections. Pitfall traps were used to capture representatives of Carabidae, Gryllidae, and Acrididae from annually burned and 6-yr burned sites on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area in eastern Kansas and from a sand sagebrush site in southwestern Kansas. Total C and N content in soil samples from the southwestern Kansas were significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) than those from eastern Kansas sites; total C and N in soils of annually burned sites were not significantly different than those of 6-yr burned sites. Total C contents of insects were significantly higher

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on Konza, and total N (crude protein) contents of the herbivorous insects, i.e., Gryllidae and Acrididae, were significantly higher in more fertile sites. Data collected in this study indicate that the site-related differences reported earlier in nutrient and energy contents of invertebrate biomasses could be associated with the food substrates of invertebrates. We believe the quality of the food source for breeding grassland birds could impact nesting success, nestling growth rate, and other reproductive outcomes.

Ornithology at the KU Natural History Museum: Past, Present, and Future *Richard O. Prum, KU Natural History Museum, Lawrence, KS*

Ornithological studies at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum have been on going for over a century. I will review the history of the faculty, student and staff ornithologists at KU and their ornithological contributions. I will also give a portrait of current research in the Division of Ornithology and our plans for the future of research and education in ornithology at KU.

An Inventory of Avian Ectoparasites from North-central Argentina *James W. Rivers, Troy G. Smith, and Mercedes R. Rouges, Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS, 363 Broken Oak Loop, Eugene, OR, Dept of Biology, Univ of Missouri - St. Louis*

In order to document the avian ectoparasites from a north-central Argentina montane forest, we visually examined mist-netted birds for the presence of ectoparasites at three sites during the 1996 rainy and dry seasons. In 2271 mist-net hours we captured 653 individuals of 47 bird species and found ticks, mites, and

chewing lice (Mallophaga) to be common avian ectoparasites. Most captured individuals (41.7%) had at least one ectoparasite type yet only 5.4% were captured with all three types present. Species in the family Muscicapidae had the highest mean parasite scores while members of the family Tyrannidae had the lowest mean parasite scores; differences in mean scores between Fringillidae and Furnariidae family members were not significantly different. This preliminary analysis may serve as a basis for future investigations into the relationships between birds and ectoparasites in this distinct ecosystem.

Botany for Birders: The Application of Habitat Ordinations to Ornithology *David M. Watson, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS*

Ornithologists have long been aware of the close association between habitats and birds, and have struggled to find repeatable, objective ways of quantifying habitat characteristics. This is further complicated by the array of possible habitat characteristics that can be measured, without anyway of knowing which ones are especially important. Habitat ordinations have been used with some success, and here I present the three main methods used in the literature, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of each. The commonly used method Principal Components Analysis is shown to be inappropriate for most ecological work, with a relatively new method, Multidimensional Scaling, proving superior on all counts. I use community-level data from a previous study, and demonstrate just how useful MDS can be at unraveling the often complex relationships between birds

Membership Report by Susan Barnes

It's taken me a few months to get this all together but here are all the "new" members for 1998. I appreciate everyone's patience and hope that if you have any questions you will e-mail, write or call me (see front page for specifics). Happy Holidays!! (Space does not allow printing of hometowns for the new members, the Editor apologizes but be on the lookout for the new membership directory which should have everyone's pertinent information! ceo)

Christa Edwards, PJ Grayman, Zach Palmer, Jeff Chynoweth, Michael Sevigny, Jim Strine, Jim Fuller, Kimberly Bostwick, Jennifer Delisle, Steve Polson and Marjorie Wholey, Daniel Thalmann, Judy and Wayne Doyle, Steve and Kathy McDowell, Neal Whitaker, Debarah Arnett, John and Jennifer Perry and Family, Brad and Carol Williamson and Family, Michael Stoakes, Judy and Wayne Doyle, John Wachholz, Nancy Harrington, John and Jennifer Perry, Gary Crook, Cassie Dodge, Allen Engle, Kevin Groeneweg, Mr. Jones' Biology Class/Franklin Elementary School, Kalob McCaffrey, Jan McLaughlin/Earhart Environmental Magnet School, Nicole Ryan, Casey Schuetz, Jon Seltz, Carolyn and Harold Smith, Preston Unruh, Jessica Whitehead, Shawn Papon, Raymond Davis, Louis Schweizer, Eric Preston, Jack Hilsabeck, Vic McLeron. Pete Dunne, Jacob Goheen, Ron Klataske, Patrick A. Wakeman, Joe Yoder, Calvin Wohler, Mark Land.

KOS Fall Board Meeting
Kansas Union, University of Kansas, Lawrence
10 October 1998, noon

Attendance: Greg Farley Max Thompson
 Roy Beckemeyer Richard Johnston
 Pete Janzen Karen Ganoung
 Gene Young Ed Miller
 Mike Rader

Minutes: The meeting was chaired by Greg Farley, after lunch. Pete Jantzen moved the minutes be approved as corrected in the Horned Lark issue of September 1998; motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller presented a KOS statement of accounts dated 10-1-98. It was agreed that financial records need be kept for 5 years only, being alert to keep those of possible historical value.

Membership: Roy Beckemeyer plans to recognize at a later gathering the one charter member present, plus 11 members present who have been members of KOS for 40 years or more.

Reports:

- * Max Thompson, editor of the Bulletin, said the September issue had gone to press.
- * Since the Dingus area is changing, Board members thought it desirable to have a chairman and committee to plan and execute proper management of that property, using money from the Dingus Fund.
- * Richard Johnston has another bird-of-the-month column ready; his October bird is the Great Horned Owl. New checklists are available for those who registered at the meeting.

Other Business:

Gene Young described the NY and TN plans to study "tower kills", especially at peak migration times. Tower kills are affected partly by weather, guywires, height of tower, etc., and a commercial business such as a wind generating station wants such information before deciding on location and construction. His idea of KOS supporting such a study, along with other conservation groups, met with a positive response from the Board. He was asked to make a presentation before the entire membership later that day.

Karen Ganoung mentioned how useful the Kid's Page had been in the Horned Lark, to attract kids and to inform younger and experienced members alike. Perhaps a plea to the general membership could attract a writer willing to produce another Kid's Page.

Future Meetings: The winter Board meeting is to be 13 February 1999 at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. The spring general meeting is scheduled in Winfield 1-2 May 1999: the emphasis of an ID contest will be shorebirds. The fall meeting will be in Hays 2-3 October 1999.

Max Thompson moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:55.

/s/Karen Ganoung
Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society

Thank You KU Local Committee!

A big thank you to the local committee responsible for the 50th Anniversary celebratory meeting: Rick Prum, Mark Robbins and Town Peterson, KU faculty members and: Lisa Ball, Kim Bostwick, Guojun Chen, Brian Barber, Dan Kluza, Oliver Kumar, Nate Rice, Kristof Zyskowski and Dave Watson, KU students! A job well done!!!!

Downs Auditorium, Dyche Hall 4 October 1998, Saturday evening

Silent Auction, of 49 items, earned \$594; this was half the items of last year, but \$200 more.

Door prizes, 3 gifts from the Museum gift shop, were distributed by Lisa Ball.

New life member is Don Weiss.

Roy Beckemeyer expressed appreciation for the planning and efforts of the local committee. Members of long standing, that were present, included Dr. Fitch, Catherine Kelley (Charter Members), and 14 others who had been members at least 30 years. Free registrations and memberships to an ornithological magazine were given to all students who gave papers, or who helped on a planning committee.

A special logo honoring the KOS 50th anniversary was displayed by Susan Barnes.

The Ten Best Birds of the year were announced, out of 453 on the state list. Gene Young listed the ten given honorable mention; Max Thompson named the top 10, which were:

- Long-billed Murrelet
- Gull-billed Tern
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Mew Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Western Bluebird
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Common Raven
- Black Vulture

Two Ornithological Ambassadors, Chris Hobbs and Sebastian Patti, were recognized by Town Peterson, for their efforts to "bring science into the world."

Named adjunct curator, Max Thompson received an award for his contribution to the KU Museum.

A flamboyant resolution in honor of the 50th Anniversary was read by Roy Beckemeyer. The enthusiastic audience repeated the closing in unison: "... in 50 years, we shall return, in body or in spirit."

Dr. Glen Woolfenden, who graduated from KU 40 years ago, dedicated his presentation, *Jays of Our Lives: Nature's Soap Opera*, to Dr. Henry Fitch who served on his M.S. committee at the University of Kansas.

Officers Notes from the Program, Morning and Afternoon Business Meetings

On Friday night, Mark Robbins introduced Pete Dunne, of the Cape May Bird Observatory, who entertained us with his outstanding presentation, "Small-headed Flycatcher. Seen Yesterday, He Didn't Leave His Name.

Dr. A. Townsend Peterson opened the meeting on Saturday and welcomed everyone to Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

General Meeting held prior to lunch: 11:00 - 11:25 am

Slate of nominations offered for board and officer positions was presented by Greg Farley. Nominations were also opened to the floor. No nominations from the floor were offered. Nominations moved, seconded and approved were for:

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Greg Farley, President
John Schukmann, Vice President
Ed Miller, Treasurer
Karen Ganoung, Secretary
James Barnes, Business Manager
Susan Barnes, Membership Secretary
Jim Mayhew, 2nd year of 2 year term as board member
Gene Young, 2nd year of 2 year term as board member
Carolyn Schwab 1st year of t year term as board member
Suzanne Fellows 1st year of t year term as board member
Chuck Otte, Horned Lark Editor
Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor

Greg Farley also reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws. There were no questions from the floor concerning these. Both officer/board positions and the by-law amendment will be subject to a vote at the afternoon meeting.

Ed Miller read a brief treasurer's report that indicated that the organization is in good financial health. We are awaiting end-of-year income reports from our investments, and will summarize financial status in the newsletter issue following receipt of the investment summary. Recall that the finance committee chose to invest 80% of our funds in fixed income accounts, and 20% in equity accounts.

Membership report indicated that there are currently 401 members, 124 life, 119 regular, 35 family, 28 complimentary, 25 sustaining, 13 sustaining family, 18 library, 18 student, 11 exchanges, 6 contributing, 3 honorary life, and 1 partially paid life member. Of our total membership, 7 are international and 99 are non-Kansas, with 35 states represented (most from MO, CO, and OK, with 15, 12, and 10, respectively). Attendance at this meeting was 126 pre-registered, 15 walk-ins, and 5 no-shows, for a net of 136.

Members were reminded to look over the history table to review what was there and to see what they might be able to contribute, either in the form of identification of people on photos, or to add to the collection.

The business meeting was closed so that the attending members could convene for a group portrait on the steps of the Natural History Museum building. Photographs were taken throughout the meeting by Town Peterson (with a digital camera) and by Deb Arnett (with a 35 mm camera).

Afternoon General Meeting: 4:10 - 4:30 pm

The Student Paper Award committee consisted of Bill Busby, Greg Farley and Richard Johnston. They unanimously selected Jacob Goheen of Kansas State University to receive a one year membership in a North American ornithological society of his choosing.

The elections for officers and board members proceeded, and all nominees were unanimously elected.

The by-law change was brought forward, and Richard Johnston asked why it was felt necessary to change the title of the position. Roy Beckemeyer explained that the change in responsibilities made the position one which was much more active and involved not simple book-keeping of membership information, but more active development of membership, and that the change in title was felt to more accurately reflect the change in role. The by-laws change was voted on and unanimously approved without further discussion or debate.

The meeting was closed by the new president.

Above - KOS Charter members Catherine Kelley and Dr. Henry Fitch (left to right) with one of KOS's newest members, Tyler Hicks.

Left - Long time KOS member, Board Member and *Bulletin* editor, Max Thompson, was recognized as Adjunct Curator of Ornithology by the KU Natural History Museum.

Below - Chris Hobbs (left) and Sebastian Patti (right) were recognized as Ornithological Ambassadors.



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 1998

Vol. 25, No. 3

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

50th Anniversary Annual Meeting Issue Important Information Inside Register Today!

From The Keyboard -

What a summer! It's been going by fast and giving us everything we could ask for. Good birds, bizarre weather, fall fast approaching. After a disappointing spring migration it appears that the early stages of fall migration are looking good and maybe, just maybe, we'll have a decent fall migration. It'll be interesting to see what kind of summer totals Pete writes up for the Round-up in the December issue.

As you can see by the banner above, this issue has all the information for the 1998 Fall/Annual Meeting. This will also be the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Kansas Ornithological Society. The program actually gets started a little earlier than normal with a keynote presentation on Friday evening by Pete Dunne. Pete is a birdwatcher and a writer. If you haven't read any of his books, buy at least one between now and October. My personal favorite is still *Feather Quest!*

Of course there are the normal Saturday activities with the presented papers session, business meeting, banquet. Oh, the banquet location is going to be fun, and the banquet presentation, by Dr. Glen Woolfenden, has to rank high on the most creative titles in some time, "Jays of Our Lives: Nature's Soap Opera". I have often felt that no other hobby invites such word play as bird watching... but I'm not sure why!

Summer's gone by fast (just ask any youngster who's about to go back to school), but the best part of the year is yet to come! If you've never attended a KOS Annual Meeting, this will be a good one to start with! Have a good autumn everyone and get me those Christmas Count dates for the next newsletter!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1998

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WANTED! Authors

Some of my favorite areas of coverage weren't written about in this issue, BECAUSE we need more authors! Pete Janzen has taken over the Birding Roundup so we need someone to take over a birding tips/hints column. Other responsibilities have forced Amy Rose to give up the Kid's Page. And we are always looking for articles about what you, the KOS members, are doing.

Don't use the excuse of, "I'm no writer." Just get your ideas and thoughts down on paper and this old editor will take it from there! Mail your stories, thoughts, ideas to :

Chuck Otte
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or e-mail me at:
otte@jc.net

I'm waiting to hear from you.....

Local Birdwatching Trips, Leaders and Locations Desired!

The interest in birds and birdwatching continues to grow. One of the ways that KOS can benefit from this is to gain more members by showing these members that there are local opportunities for birdwatchers. Start leading a bird walk in your community. You don't have to be a Pete Janzen, Mike Rader or Chuck Otte to lead a bird walk.

Just set up a time and place and let the public know (via radio, newspaper, television and word of mouth) that it is going to happen. You don't have to tell them what your skill level or experience as a birder is or isn't. Simply tell them that you're all going on a walk together and your going to learn together. It's fun, you make new friends and you learn a lot in the process. The more eyes you have, the better your chance of seeing something unusual. If you do get something set up please let Susan Barnes or Chuck Otte (contact information on the front page) know about it so that they can help get the information out to more people. And if you need KOS membership brochures to hand out, just let us know!

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!

Fall 1998 - 50th Anniversary Meeting, Lawrence
Spring 1999 - Winfield
Fall 1999 - Hays
Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues, he is your contact also.

In this issue -

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Discussion Lists

Getting in Touch with Other Birders

by Chuck Otte

By now, many of you have read in *The Horned Lark* about the Kansas Bird Discussion List, also known as KSBIRD-L. Discussion lists are run by programs on computers on the Internet. You "subscribe" to this list, no cost involved. Then when a message is sent to "the list" it is automatically re-sent to everyone who is a subscriber on that list.

There are lots of discussion lists on the Internet, a recent review turned up over 75. There are quite a few regional and national discussion lists such as BirdChat which now has nearly 2,300 subscribers. There are also many state lists, like KSBIRD-L that will usually have a couple of hundred subscribers. Some subscribers are very active and you may see messages from them every day. Others are called "lurkers" who seldom write a message, but appreciate all the information that they receive from the list.

Colorado has had a list for several years. The Kansas list has been running for almost two years now. Within the past few months we now also have state discussion lists for Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska. How do you subscribe? Anyone with an Internet e-mail address can join these lists. There are different programs that manage these lists but they all require two e-mail addresses.

One address is the list manager address. You send messages to this address to control your subscription. The other address is the list address. This is where you send messages to go out on the list to all the other subscribers. Following is a quick listing of how you can get on each list. With each list you will receive a message back confirming your subscription along with a message that has all the information you need on how to send messages to the list as well as to manage your subscription. Keep this message, it is very important and saves the listowner a lot of work later on!

Kansas - Send a message to Chuck Otte, otte@jc.net, giving your first and last name and that you wish to subscribe to KSBIRD-L.

Colorado - Send the message: subscribe CObirds Your Name to the following address: listproc@lists.colorado.edu
The list address is: cobirds@lists.colorado.edu

Oklahoma - Send the message: subscribe OKbirds Your Name to the following address: listserv@listserv.ou.edu

Missouri - Send this message: subscribe MOBIRDS-L Your Name to this address:

majordomo@proteus.mig.missouri.edu

Nebraska - Send this message: subscribe NEBirds Your Name to the address: AutoShare@rip.physics.unk.edu

As I said, it seems that there are now discussion lists for most states and areas. I have frequently joined a list a month or so before vacationing in an area just to get a feel for what birds are being seen or to make contact with local birdwatchers for additional information.

Many of the state ornithological societies also now have World Wide Web pages making it even easier to obtain information. In preparation for an upcoming trip I was able to obtain state checklists, as well as National Park and Wildlife Refuge checklists, and lots of other local information, on the Web. Many of these home pages have links to each other so once you get on one you can find others. A good place to start is at the KOS home page, <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos> and click on **Other Ornithological Societies**. If you do not have Internet access at home or work, don't despair. Many public libraries now have computers connected to the Internet for their patrons to use!

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the

Last Call for Silent Auction Donations for Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society is coming on fast and will be here before we know it. The local committee has been hard at work in Lawrence and at KU and they have an outstanding program lined up for this very special event. There is still time to contribute to the 1998 KOS Silent Auction. **Anything** bird related is acceptable - be creative! The proceeds from this auction go to a very good cause, the Student Research Fund. These funds provide scholarships to students at our various colleges and universities around the state who are involved in research and studies of Kansas birds.

This year it is important that you contact Susan Barnes (316-265-4059 or barnowls@juno.com) and tell her what you intend to submit. Susan is trying to have all the bid sheets and item information prepared in advance. Walk-in items will be accepted but prior notification would be preferred. For more information, or if you have questions, call or e-mail Susan - she loves to answer questions!

Don't let this wonderful opportunity pass you by!
Donate an item and be sure to bid at the fall meeting!

Send In Your Christmas Bird Count Dates

As in past years we like to include as many of the Christmas Bird Count dates and contact persons as possible in the December issue. If you are an organizer or compiler and you already know the dates of your count(s) please contact Chuck Otte at 785-238-8800 or 613 Tamerisk, Junction City KS 66441 or FAX at 785-238-7166 or e-mail at otte@jc.net. We need those dates by November 1st.

Correction to the KOS Board Minutes Regarding the Bird Records Committee

I wish to alert the membership of an error in the winter board meeting notes published in the June 1998 issue of the Horned Lark: Under the KBRC notes on p. 6 appears the statement, "It was explained again that KBRC rules were accepted and voted on by the membership; therefore, these rules can be changed and refined by agreement of the membership."

In fact, KBRC rules are not voted on directly by the KOS membership, as the minutes say, but by the committee itself, subject to approval by the KOS Board of Directors (KBRC Procedural Rules [rev. 26 Feb. 1994], V. Rules). I point this out to avoid potential confusion for anyone who might wish to initiate changes in KBRC procedural rules. Suggestions should initially be directed to the KBRC for discussion by the committee, not to the KOS membership at large nor to the Board of Directors. Before changes to KBRC Procedural Rules would become final the KOS Board of Directors would have to approve the changes.

Dave Seibel, Chairman, KBRC

*[editors note: the full KBRC Procedural rules can be reviewed in the June 1994 Horned Lark or at the Home Page of the Kansas Ornithological Society:
<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos/kbcregs.htm>]*

Wanted! KOS History

Jim Mayhew is spearheading the effort to assemble the KOS history for its first 50 years. If you have any items, stories, photos or anything else to share you can contact Jim at:

Jim Mayhew
1909 Judson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5121
jdmayhew@kansas.net

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.

Proposed change to KOS by-laws:

To be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting

October 10, 1998

Susan Barnes, Membership Secretary of KOS since last fall's election in Wichita, has been quite active during her tenure and has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at increasing membership and developing awareness of KOS among Kansas citizens. The current definition of the duties and responsibilities of the Membership Secretary as defined in the by-laws are quite limited, involving essentially only record keeping functions. The proposed changes will make the position a more active one. These changes were requested by Susan at the Board meeting in Medicine Lodge and are included here for review by the membership prior to the October meeting, where they will be presented for approval.

In each proposed change, the existing language being changed is stricken through, and the new language proposed is enclosed in square brackets:

"Bylaws for the Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.

...

Article IV. The Governing Body.

Section 1. The Governing Body shall consist of a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) made up as follows:

A. Elected officers: President (Chairman of the Board), Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary (Secretary of the Board), ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], Business

Manager, four (4) Directors at large, Editor of the *Bulletin* and Editor of the Newsletter.

...

Article V. Officers and Appointed Positions.

Section 1. Elected positions.

A. Officers: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], Treasurer, Business Manager, Editor of the *Bulletin* and Editor of the Newsletter.

...

Section 2. Elections.

...

C. The Corresponding Secretary, the ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], the Treasurer, the Business Manager, the Editor of the *Bulletin* and the Editor of the Newsletter. may succeed themselves as elected.

...

Article VI. Duties of Officers and Appointees.

...

Section 5. The ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], shall:

A. Prepare and preserve a record of all members and their attendance at each meeting and make such records available.

B. Issue membership receipts (sent only on request), dues reminders, membership applications and invitations.

C. Advise the Business Manager of membership changes.

D. Make a written report at the annual meeting.

E. Be responsible for the local chapter program.

F. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

[G. Develop communications media for use in KOS membership development activities.

H. Develop activities to educate the public about KOS, its aims, and the benefits of membership.

I. Encourage interest of young people in birds and ornithology as part of long term membership development.

J. Develop outreach programs whereby KOS members can interact with the public, schools, and other organizations to further interest in ornithology in Kansas.]

...

Article VIII. Local Chapters.

...

Section 2. Applications for local chapter designations shall be made to the ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator] and approved by the KOS Board. The affiliation may be revoked by the Board at any time. ..."

Submitted for consideration by Roy Beckemeyer, President, KOS

**Deadline for submissions for the
December, 1998 Horned Lark is
November 1, 1998.**

SPRING ROUND-UP

1 March, 1998 through 31 May, 1998

by Pete Janzen

There are endless ways in which a person can dissect and analyze a set of bird records such as these. Spring brings more birders into the field than any other season of the year, and the amount of information I have distilled to produce this report is quite voluminous. I think the advent of the KSBIRD on-line discussion group has resulted in a large increase in the amount of available bird records.

While many of the records posted to the chat group are not spine-tingling rarities, it is really fun to see how birders across the state did, for example, on a Saturday morning in May, when many of us are out seeking those elusive rare warblers.

One thing I really liked about Scott Seltman's and Chuck Otte's versions of this report were their insightful comments on the weather, and the corresponding effects on bird populations and movements. I'm afraid I am not so good at recalling the sequence of weather events beginning back in March. It takes a farmer (or an extension agent) to have that degree of awareness of the weather. With that caveat, it is pretty obvious that the odd El Nino weather pattern had effects on the birds that lingered well into the spring. A few of the gulls from the big winter invasion lingered in the area. Long-eared Owls seemed to hang around in their winter roost at Wilson much later than usual, but this may have been due primarily to an excellent food supply more than anything. The shorebird flight was good. For reasons of space, I have omitted some of the very many

shorebird records I received. Birds like Black-bellied Plover would take up an entire page if I printed all of the reports. The big shorebird "zootie" was the Red Phalarope found by Bob Fisher at Quivira, and the amazing number of Whimbrel records was a close second. The 86 seen in a flock by Vern Laux at Quivira must have been quite a sight!!!

The warblers and other neo-tropical migrant passerines were a bit of a disappointment to many. The strong southern winds of early and mid-May seemed to send many of these birds right over the state without even touching down, although a big front on the weekend of May 9 and 10 seemed to help many of the North American Migratory Bird Counts produce a lot of good finds. One striking feature of the NAMC was the large number of counts reporting flocks of Bobolinks on the 9th. Apparently they were in the right place at the right time to get forced down in numbers throughout the state. After this weekend though, many ardent warbler seekers were disappointed by the showing for the remainder of the migration. The numbers and diversity just weren't there. Hopefully this was only a local trend, although you can't help thinking those dark thoughts about rainforest destruction and North American habitat destruction as well. Curious was a flurry of interesting warbler records in the last few days of May, much later than would be expected in a typical year.

But the most notable bird event was the large number of southern species that appeared in both Kansas and adjoining states this spring. Certainly the Gull-billed Tern, a first record for our state, was the most exciting example. Found fittingly enough by Max Thompson, Gene Young, and Mike Rader, three of the best birders in Kansas, this bird lingered a few days at Quivira before disappearing. The Black Vulture found by Sebastian Patti and others in Cherokee County was the first recorded in Kansas in many years. This species is expanding its range in Oklahoma, and birders in southeastern Kansas need to be on the lookout for this bird in the future. Some other southern birds appearing were Black-bellied Whistling Duck, White Ibis, Neotropic Cormorant, Laughing Gull, Inca Dove, White-winged Dove, and Black-throated Sparrow. Perhaps the strong southern winds that made the passerine flight a disappointment, also sent these southern wanderers to us.

Lots of other things to say, but I promised to keep this down to six pages, and I'm getting real close! So read on, and dream of all those great fall birds coming your way!

CAPITAL LETTERS-first state record
* -report of sighting submitted to records committee

Species underlined-especially noteworthy

Date underlined-noteworthy date for species

County underlined-noteworthy county for species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>County</u>
<u>Red-throated Loon</u>	4/18	1 alt. plumage at Marion Res.	TH,CS	Marion
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	5/19	1 alt plumage at Cheyenne Bot.	MR.MT,GY	Barton
Western Grebe	4/18	3 at Perry Res	LM,GP	Jefferson

Clark's Grebe	4/25	10 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
	4/25	1 courtship display w/Western	BV	Barton
	4/19-4/25	1 at Elkhart lagoons	JC	Morton
White Pelican	3/2	1 at El Dorado Res.	BL	Butler
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	3/26	1 at Tuttle Park	GS	Riley
Great Egret	4/4	4 near Milford	CO	Geary
Little Blue Heron	3/28	2 at Salina	DW	Saline
<u>Tri-colored Heron</u>	5/24	1 at Quivira	GS	Stafford
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	4/18	1 at Quivira	MR,SS	Stafford
	5/2	1 at Quivira	CH, m.ob	Stafford
<u>White Ibis</u>	*5/6-19	2 at Quivira	DK	Stafford
<u>Black Vulture</u>	*4/25	1 at Schemmerhorn	SP et. al	Cherokee
<u>Black-bellied Whist. Duck</u>	*3/28-5/10	1 on pond in Salina	DWb, m.ob	Saline
	*3/28	1 at Moorings, Wichita	LI,m.ob	Sedgwick
Tundra Swan	3/2	11 at Slate Creek Wetlands	GY	Sumner
Ross's Goose	3/1	2 at 29th & West landfill	PJ	Sedgwick
	3/1	1 at El Dorado Res.	TH	Butler
	3/17	5 at Clinton	DW	Douglas
Mottled Duck	5/24	1 at Quivira	SP,MR,AS	Stafford
Greater Scaup	3/16	7 at Lone Star	AS	Douglas
	3/22	2 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	4/30-5/24	1 drake at Quivira	JN, m.ob	Stafford
Common Merganser	5/3	1 late at Clinton	M&PW	Douglas
Red-breasted Merganser	3/25	6 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
	3/22	2 at Melvern	Mo. Audubon	Coffey
	3/4	6 at Milford	CO	Geary
	4/26	1 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	5/1	3 at Lone Star	PW	Douglas
	5/10	3 at Quivira	m.ob	Stafford
Hooded Merganser	5/10	1 late fem. at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	5/22	<u>adults w/chick at Benedictine Bottoms</u>	BB, JS	Leavenworth
Bald Eagle	3/26	7 active nests statewide	DM	various
Ferruginous Hawk	5/1	1 near Salt Fork	KOS	Comanche
Broad-winged Hawk	3/24	1 early near Topeka	HH	Shawnee
	5/3	1	Bbr	Butler
	5/3	1 on Medicine R	KOS	Barber
Swainson's Hawk	3/3	1 early arrival	RJ	Linn
Golden Eagle	5/4	1 imm.	BB,KZ	Meade
Prairie Falcon	3/24	1 at Slate Creek	GY	Sumner
	5/2	1 near Belvidere	MS, m.ob	Kiowa
	5/3	1	M&PW	Osage
	5/4	1 at Quivira	DK, WH	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	3/13	pair regular in Topeka in March	JB	Shawnee
	3/22	1 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	5/3	1 attacking Lesser Pr-Chicken lek	BB, KZ	Clark
Northern Goshawk	3/1	1 adult near Osage Trail	JN	Harvey
Merlin	3/2	1 near El Dorado Dam	BL	Butler
	5/2	1 near Sawyer	PJ, m.ob	Pratt
	5/3	1	Bbr	Butler
Lesser Prairie Chicken	5/2	several active leks	KOS	Barber, Comanche, Kiowa
Black Rail	4/26	first of season at Quivira	BV	Stafford
	5/1	1 at Coldwater L.	KOS	Comanche
Black Rail -Many May reports from Quivira, often of birds well seen in the open along the Wildlife Drive				
King Rail	4/30	1 at Coldwater L.	KOS	Comanche
Virginia Rail	4/23	6 flushed during burn	KK	Linn

Sora	4/23	12 flushed during burn	KK	Linn	
	4/25	1 yard bird in Shawnee	NC	Johnson	
	5/1	2 at Coldwater L	KOS	Comanche	
	5/3	1	BB,KZ	Clark	
<u>Yellow Rail</u>	5/8	1 seen and heard at Quivira	WC,DKy,DV	Stafford	
	4/25	1 flushed near Prescott	DG	Linn	
Whooping Crane	4/9&10	2 west of Viola	DZ, m.ob	Kingman	
Sandhill Crane	<u>5/4</u>	600 n. of Meade	BB, KZ	Meade	
	<u>5/4</u>	9 more late birds near Dodge	JD	Ford	
Amer. Golden Plover	3/25	10 at Marais des Cygnes	BF,JG,EJ	Linn	
Piping Plover	3/30	<u>10</u> at Quivira	GS	Stafford	
	4/26	1 at Quivira	MR	Stafford	
	5/2	<u>10</u> at Quivira	SS, m.ob	Stafford	
Mountain Plover	5/4	2	CH, m.ob	Morton	
Whimbrel	5/2	1 near Kiowa	MT,GY	Barber	
	5/4	1 at Quivira	Dwb	Stafford	
	5/5	1 at Quivira	CH, m.ob	Stafford	
	5/13	<u>86</u> at Quivira	VL	Stafford	
	5/19	9 at Quivira	MT, m.ob	Stafford	
	5/25	2 at Quivira	GF	Stafford	
	Long-billed Curlew	4/6	<u>100's</u> 3 miles w. of Holcomb	L&SB	Finney
		4/26	1 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
5/4		4	CH, m.ob	Morton	
5/27		adult w/2 chicks	LH	Morton	
Ruddy Turnstone	5/2	1 at Quivira	CH, m.ob	Stafford	
	5/4	several at Quivira	WH	Stafford	
	5/17	1 at Clinton	MM,GP,PW	Douglas	
	5/20	1 at Kaw Fish Farm	LM	Douglas	
Red Knot	4/30	1 at Quivira	PJ,JN	Stafford	
Dunlin	5/10	5 at Quivira	MR	Stafford	
	4/2	6 at Quivira	MR	Stafford	
	5/2	4 at Quivira	SS, m.ob	Stafford	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	5/17	1 at Clinton	LM	Douglas	
	4/14	1 on slough near Derby	L&TH	Sedgwick	
	4/24	3 at Slate Creek Wetland	GY,WAS	Sumner	
	5/2	flock near Kiowa	DV, m.ob	Barber	
Short-billed Dowitcher	4/26	6 at Quivira	MR	Stafford	
	5/2	near Kiowa	MT,GY	Barber	
	5/3	Quivira	M&PW	Stafford	
	5/10	2 at Quivira	MR	Stafford	
American Woodcock	3/1-3/10	Displaying birds various locations	RH,RM	Johnson	
	3/24	1 in Zimmerman yard	JZ	Pott	
Red-necked Phalarope	5/25	1 at Quivira	JBa	Stafford	
	5/27	1 at Quivira	CO	Stafford	
<u>Red Phalarope</u>	5/10	1 alternate plumage at Quivira	BF, m.ob	Stafford	
Laughing Gull	5/14	1 on Nature Cons prop near CB	CH,SP	Barton	
	5/21	1 at Tuttle Creek	GS	Riley	
	5/25	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	M&MG, ML	Johnson	
	3/1	1 adult at K-96 bridge	PJ	Sedgwick	
Thayer's Gull	3/1	1 1st yr. at K-96 bridge	PJ	Sedgwick	
	<u>3/14</u>	1 ad. & 1 first year at Clinton	AP	Douglas	
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>3/1</u>	1 1st year near landfill	PJ	Sedgwick	
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	5/2	1 imm at Quivira	D&SS	Stafford	
Caspian Tern	5/3	1 at Kaw Wildlife Area	TH	Cowley	
	5/9	2 at K-96 bridge	JB,PJ	Sedgwick	

GULL-BILLED TERN	5/17	20 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
	*5/19	1 at Quivira	MR,MT,GY	Stafford
	5/20-24	seen again by many	m.ob	Stafford
Common Tern	4/25	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	JZ, m.ob	Barton
	5/22	1 at Quivira	GP, m.ob	Stafford
Least Tern	5/4-7	1 along Tuttle Dam	TC	Riley
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	4/24-4/27	1 at feeder in Winfield	MT	Sumner
	*5/5-7	1 yard bird in Elkhart	GC,L&RS	Morton
Inca Dove	3/3-3/7	1 at feeder in Wilson	M&ER	Ellsworth
	3/3	1 present since Feb. at feeder	TM	Sedgwick
	4/28	1 feeder bird in Elkhart	JC, m.ob	Morton
	4/30-5/4	2 nest building in Larned	GSc, m.ob	Pawnee
<u>Eurasian Collared Dove</u>	4/23	pair copulating in Pratt	KB	Pratt
	4/28	1 at Wichita feeder	MH	Sedgwick
	5/9	2 at Topeka	NAMC	Shawnee
Greater Roadrunner	4/30-5/2	3 seen various locations	KOS Barber,	Comanche
Barn Owl	4/15	1 at Osage Trail	BD	Harvey
Long-eared Owl	3/10	1 10 miles n. Council Grove	EF	??
	3/20	<u>20</u> still at winter roost-Wilson Res	MR	Russell
	3/22	1 at Lyon Co. Lake	Miss. Audubon	Lyon
	4/19	2 at Wilson HQ	MR	Russell
	4/30	1 probably on nest-Coldwater L	KOS	Comanche
	5/3	1 confirmed nesting	CH, MM, SP	Morton
Burrowing Owl	<u>3/4</u>	1st date for Garden City	MO	Finney
Chuck-wills-widow	5/22	calling at night on Smoky Hill R.	MR	<u>Russell</u>
Common Poorwill	5/1	1 on nest w/eggs Swartz Canyon	KOS	Comanche
	5/15	1 near Partridge	H&SG	Reno
Pileated Woodpecker	2/11	1 on Ft. Riley	JK	<u>Geary</u>
Acadian Flycatcher	5/10	1 singing in Oak Park	PJ	Sedgwick
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	5/9	1 at Presbyterian Camp	JB,PJ	Sedgwick
Dusky Flycatcher	5/4	1	CH, m.ob	Morton
Ash-throated Flycatcher	5/4	2	CH, m.ob	Morton
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	4/2	early arrival at Harvey East L	BD	Harvey
<u>Fork-tailed Flycatcher</u>	5/4	1 possible near Wellington	MC	Sumner
Barn Swallow	3/31	2 at Milford	C&JO	Geary
Tree Swallow	5/11	nest w/5 eggs at Slate Creek	GY	Sumner
Fish Crow	4/25	nest constructing near Galena	SP et. al	Cherokee
Sedge Wren	4/18	1 at Quivira	MR,SS	Stafford
	5/3	2 at Quivira	M&PW	Stafford
	5/17	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	GP, MM,PW	Leavenworth
Veery	5/4		CH, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
	5/10	1 at Oak Park	ST, m.ob	Sedgwick
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/4		CH, m.ob	<u>Morton</u>
Hermit Thrush	5/4		Ch, m.ob	Morton
Mountain Bluebird	<u>3/4-3/20</u>	5 at Wilson Res.	MR	Russell
Brown Thrasher	3/12	1 early arrival Sim Park	RB	Sedgwick
White-eyed Vireo	4/17-5/4	1 at Sim Park	RB	Sedgwick
	5/21	pair at Sim Park	RB	Sedgwick
	5/4	1 at Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
	5/25	1 at Burcham	RA	Douglas
Northern Shrike	3/1	1 near LaCrosse	SS	Rush
Golden-winged Warbler	5/10	1 yard bird	DV, m.ob	Sedgwick
	5/9	1 at Fancy Creek Park	LJ	Riley
	5/13	1 at Marais des Cygnes	RA, JH	Linn
	5/19	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS, MS	Johnson

	<u>5/27</u>	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS	Johnson
Blue-winged Warbler	5/3	1 at Oak Park	ST, m.ob	Sedgwick
Tennessee Warbler	5/27	1 late sighting	GP	Leavenworth
Magnolia Warbler	4/26	1 early at Burcham	RA	Douglas
	5/20	1 late at Burcham	RA	Douglas
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/24	1 late at Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
	<u>5/28</u>	1 late yard bird in Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
	<u>5/29</u>	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	5/12	1 at Baldwin Woods	BB, m.ob	Douglas
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	5/5	1 yard bird in Olathe	MC	Johnson
Townsend's Warbler	5/4		Ch, m.ob	Morton
Black-throated. Green Warbler	4/30	1 at Coldwater L.	KOS	Comanche
Blackburnian Warbler	5/24	1 rather late at Burcham	RA	Douglas
	5/24	2 at Ft. Leavenworth	JAS	Leavenworth
	5/24	Osage Nature Trail	BD	Harvey
	<u>5/27</u>	1 even later at Overland Park	DS	Johnson
Pine Warbler	4/30	1 at Belle Plaine	TH	Sumner
	5/10	1 in Oak Park	PJ	Sedgwick
Prairie Warbler	5/12	1 in Burcham Park	DK	Douglas
	5/16-19	2 in Shawnee	CH	Johnson
Palm Warbler	4/19	1 at Oak Park	HG,D&FV	Sedgwick
	5/9	1	NAMC	Leavenworth
	5/9	3	NAMC	Shawnee
	5/10	1 eastern race at Burcham	DK, RA	Douglas
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/12	1 at overland Park Arboretum	MM	Johnson
	5/17	1 yard bird in Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Blackpoll Warbler	5/24	1 late at Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Kentucky Warbler	5/10	1 at Oak Park	PJ,ST	Sedgwick
Mourning Warbler	5/2	1 in Elkhart	CH, MM, SP	<u>Morton</u>
MacGillivray's Warbler	5/22	1 at Oak Park	PJ	<u>Sedgwick</u>
<u>Connecticut Warbler</u>	5/11	1 male well seen at Burcham	RA	Douglas
	5/24	1 at Weston Bend	DA,CH,EP	Leavenworth
Hooded Warbler	5/22	1 male at Oak Park	DV	Sedgwick
Canada Warbler	5/19	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS, MS	Johnson
	5/22`	1 at Oak Park	PJ	Sedgwick
	5/24	2 at Ft. Leavenworth	JAS	Leavenworth
	<u>5/27</u>	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS	Johnson
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/2	Pair nest building Swartz Can	SR, BW	<u>Comanche</u>
Scarlet Tanager	5/9-10	1 at Oak Park	BL, m.ob	Sedgwick
	5/10	1	BD	Harvey
Black-headed Grosbeak	5/2	1 near Belvidere	KOS	Kiowa
	5/2	1 female at feeder	BM	Sedgwick
	5/6	1 at feeder	Bmc	Riley
	5/9	1 at Presbyterian Camp	JB,PJ	Sedgwick
Painted Bunting	5/24	1 on Walla-Walla Rd	CO	Geary
Lazuli Bunting	5/10	2 yard birds near Newton	CM	Harvey
Dickcissel	<u>3/3</u>	1 at feeder in Olathe	MC	Johnson
Green-tailed Towhee	5/3-4	2	CH, m.ob	Morton
Canyon Towhee	5/3	1	CH, m.ob	Morton
Cassin's Sparrow	5/1	several singing at Swartz Canyon	KOS	Comanche
	5/14	1 singing near Quivira	CH, SP	Stafford
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	*5/1	2-3 at Swartz Canyon	KOS	Comanche
Tree Sparrow	3/10	many at feeders statewide during blizzard/cold snap		
Chipping Sparrow	3/25	1 early arrival in yard	CH	Wyandotte
Brewer's Sparrow	5/4		CH, m.ob	Morton

Lark Sparrow	3/22	6 early at Pawnee Prairie	D&LM	Sedgwick
<u>Black-throated Sparrow</u>	*3/5-4/1	1 feeder bird in Wichita for weeks	PG	Sedgwick
LeConte's Sparrow	4/18	6 at Marais des Cygnes	CH	Linn
	4/19	several at Marais des Cygnes	MC,LM,GP	Linn
	4/30	1 at Quivira	PJ	Stafford
	5/11	2 at Slate Creek	GY	Stafford
Henslow's Sparrow	4/18	4 at Marais des Cygnes	CH	Linn
	4/19	several at Marais des Cygnes	MC,LM,GP	Linn
<u>Baird's Sparrow</u>	5/4	2 at Kaw Fish Farms	DT	Douglas
Savannah Sparrow	3/2	1 at El Dorado Res.	BL	Butler
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3/4	1 still at Garden City feeder	MO	Finney
White-crowned Sparrow	5/17	1 very late Ft. Leavenworth	GP, m.ob	Leavenworth
McCown's Longspur	3/13	1 in large Lapland flock	SS	Pawnee
Lapland Longspur	3/7-3/13	flocks up to 10,000	SS	Rush
Smith's Longspur	3/4	flocks on K-177 near El Dorado	BL	Butler
	3/13	1 in large Lapland flock	SS	Pawnee
	4/4	small flock	DA	Johnson
Chestnut-collared. Longspur	3/13	2 near Rozel	SS	Pawnee
	4/18	5 very late N. Pawnee Co.	SS	Pawnee
Bobolink	5/9	small flocks statewide	NAMC	Sedgwick
Purple Finch	3/8	15 at feeders	KM	Shawnee
	4/26	1 still at feeder	PW	Douglas

RA-Robert Antonio, DA-Debarah Arnett, JBa-James Barnes, RB-Roy Bekemeyer, LB-Larry Bradstreet, SB-Sandy Bradstreet, JB-Joanne Brier, BB-Bill Busby, TC-Ted Cable, WC-Wally Champeny, JC-Jeff Chynoweth, NC-Nancy Clark, GC-Gene Cooper, MC-Mark Corder, JD-Joyce Davis, BD-Bob Dester, EF-Elmer Finck, BF-Bob Fisher, GF-Greg Friesen, JG-Joanne Garrett, DG-Don George, M&MG-Mike and Matt Gerhardt, HG-Harry Gregory, SG-Sharron Gregory, PG-Paul Griffin, JH-Joe Harrington, TH-Tyler Hicks, CH-Chris Hobbs, WH-Wayne Hochstetler, HH-Hoogy Hoogheem, Ron Huber, LH-Lynea Hynchman, PJ-Pete Janzen, EJ-Evelyn Johnson, LJ-Lowell Johnson, RJ-Richard Johnson, JK-Jeff Keating, DKy-Dan Kilby, DK-Dan Kluza, ML-Mark Land, BL-Bill Langley, VL-Vern Laux, DM-Don Mallonee, LM-Linda Mallonee, TM-Tom Mason, BM-Bev Maxey, KM-Kathy McDowell, MM-Mick McHugh, RM-Roger McNeill, BMc-Barry Michie, CM-Cheryl Miller, LM-Lloyd Moore, JN-Jim Nickel, CO-Chuck Otte, SP-Sebastiam Patti, GP-Galen Pittman, AP-Alexis Powell, EP-Eric Preston, MR-Mike Rader, ER-Ellen Rader, JS-John Schukman, CS-Carol Schwab, GSc-Gary Schmidt, DS-David Seibel, SS-Scott Seltman, GS-Guy Smith, LS-Lawrence Smith, RS-Ruth Smith, MS-Mike Stoakes, AS-Art Swallowell, DT-Dan Thalman, BV-Beverly VanDyke, DV-Don Vannoy, FV-Fran Vannoy, MW-Margaret Wedge, PW-Phil Wedge, DWb-David Weible, DW-Dave Williams, GY-Gene Young, DZ-Dennis Zehr, JZ-John Zimmerman, KZ-Kristof Zyskowski, JAS-Jayhawk Audubon, KOS-KOS spring meeting, NAMC-North American Migratory Bird Count

Rare Bird Alert Numbers From Neighboring States

It's often fun to keep up on bird sightings from surrounding states, whether in anticipation of migration to come, preparation for an upcoming trip or just because it's fun. Following is a list of the Rare Bird Alert numbers for Kansas and our neighboring states. Most states have one or more hotlines or rare bird alerts (only Mississippi and Hawaii are without). If you need a hotline number give Chuck Otte a call.. Many states are also setting up Internet discussion groups about birds, and these hotlines are often posted on those lists. Information on joining the Kansas group or those in neighboring states is found in another article in this issue!

Kansas, Statewide - (316) 229-2777
Burroughs Audubon, Kansas City Area
(913) 342-2473
Wichita - (316) 681-2266
Oklahoma, Statewide - (918) 669-6646
Oklahoma City - (405) 373-4531
Missouri, Statewide - (573) 445-9115
St. Louis - (314) 935-8432
Nebraska, Statewide - (402) 292-5325
Colorado, Statewide - (303) 424-2144

50th Anniversary Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

Fall 1998; University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

The Kansas Ornithological Society will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding with a meeting at the University of Kansas, where the Society was founded. The Division of Ornithology, at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum, will host the meeting on the weekend of **9-11 October**. The meeting headquarters will be in the Kansas Union, although several meeting activities will focus in the Natural History Museum.

The meeting program will consist of a wide array of activities. Because of this year's special anniversary, there will be two keynote speakers.

Friday evening, award-winning author and renowned birder **Pete Dunne** of the Cape May Bird Observatory will give a presentation. Pete's unique and hilarious views on birders have bestowed him with such labels as "bard of America's birding community". Some of Pete's books include "Feather Quest," "Tales of a Low Rent Birder," "Hawks Aloft," and "Before the Echo."

The Saturday night banquet will feature **Dr. Glen E. Woolfenden**, Archbold Biological Station, Professor Emeritus at University of South Florida and early KOS member. Glen has spent over three decades studying the social system of the Florida Scrub-Jay. In 1985, he along with John Fitzpatrick, received the prestigious William Brewster Award for their jay work. We believe you will find both of these speakers highly entertaining!

Additional activities will include an identification workshop using museum specimens, exhibitions from KU's world bird holdings, demonstrations of new technologies applied to bird distributions for biodiversity conservation, local birding trips, a banquet in the Museum's Panorama Hall, and the traditional silent auction. A scientific program is open to everyone.

PROGRAM

Friday, October 9th -- Big Twelve Room at the Kansas Union (see map, back cover).

6:30 p.m.	Registration
8:00	Keynote presentation by Pete Dunne , Cape May Bird Observatory, NJ

Saturday, October 10th -- Big Twelve Room at the Kansas Union.

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:45 -- 11:00	Scientific presentations
11:00	Business meeting
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch -- available at the Union or in several restaurants near campus
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon will consist of additional scientific presentations, ID workshop (details are being worked out), 2nd half of business meeting
6:30 -- 7:00	Reception at Panorama, main entrance to KU Natural History Museum
7:00 -- 8:00	Dinner
8:00	Recognitions -- Roy Beckemeyer Student Paper Award -- Greg Farley Top Ten Birds of the Year -- Max Thompson & Gene Young Resolution -- Roy Beckemeyer
8:30	Keynote presentation by Dr. Glen Woolfenden , Archbold Biological Station, Venus, Florida, "Jays of Our Lives: Nature's Soap Opera"

Sunday, October 11th Local field trips -- details yet to be worked out

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM: Information and forms for presentations should be addressed to:

Dr. Greg Farley
Dept. of Biology
Fort Hays State Univ.
Hays, KS 67601
phone: 785-628-5965; email bigf@fhsu.edu
See page 15 for form

REGISTRATION:

Registration fee: \$15 K.O.S. members; \$25 nonmembers
Banquet: \$12 per person

Please send registration form, fees, and general inquiries to:

Local Committee, K.O.S. 50th Meeting
Division of Ornithology
Natural History Museum
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045

phone: 785-864-3657
fax: 785-864-5335
email: town@ukans.edu

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel reservations are up to you. Below are several options in Lawrence:

Comfort Inn: 800-228-5150
Day's Inn: 800-329-7466
Hampton Inn: 800-426-7866
Ramada Inn: 800-272-6232
Travelodge: 800-578-7878
Travelodge: 800-578-7878

DIRECTIONS: Arriving from the east: take **East Lawrence exit** off interstate 70. Left (south) at traffic light (on highway 59). Immediately after crossing Kansas River bridge make right then get in left hand turning lane to go south on **Tennessee St.** Take Tennessee to 9th street. Make right (headed west) on **9th** street. Make left (go south) on **Indiana Street** -- drive up hill past traffic guard post -- this will lead directly to the Kansas Union & Natural History museum. There is limited parking in front of the museum and in a lot across the street. If these lots are full pass by the museum (headed south) and make a right at the first stop sign. This is **Mississippi St.** There is a large visitor parking lot at the south end of the stadium (on the left). Option: instead of turning on Indiana off 6th street, make a left at the stop light (this is Mississippi St.). As mentioned above, there is a large visitor parking lot on the south side of the stadium.

Arriving from the west: take **West Lawrence exit** off interstate 70. Continue south on Iowa Street to 2nd traffic light (at 9th Street). Turn left (east) at this light and go to Mississippi St. or 1 block further to Indiana St. Follow instructions given above.

**50th Anniversary Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society
 Fall 1998; University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
 REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

		NUMBER	TOTAL
Registration Fee.	\$15.00 (K.O.S. members)	_____	\$_____
	\$25.00 (non-members)	_____	\$_____
Banquet	12.00/person	_____	\$_____

(Registration Deadline, September 25, 1998) TOTAL \$_____

Make checks payable to **KU Bird Division**. Mail to: **Local Committee, K.O.S. 50th Meeting, Division of Ornithology, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045**

Best Bird of the Year Nomination Form

(for the period since 1 October, 1997)

Mail To: Max Thompson
 1729 East 11th St.
 Winfield, KS 67156

or e-mail to Max at: maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Species: _____

Observer(s) _____

Location: _____

Details:

Note: You may duplicate this form if you have more than one bird to report.

CALL FOR PAPERS
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING, 1998

The KOS will meet October 9, 10 and 11, 1998 in Lawrence, KS. The contributed papers will be presented on Saturday, October 10. The only requirement is that the papers deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. Interesting papers are also often given by people who consider themselves amateurs, but who nevertheless have considerable expertise to share. We encourage you to share your experiences with the members and guests who will be attending. Both long and short presentations are welcome. Please submit a short abstract (approximately 150 words) of your presentation. If at all possible, Papers Session Chair, Greg Farley requests that you e-mail your abstract to him or submit it on disk (PC) preferably in Word or Wordperfect format.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 12, 1998, TO:

Prof. Greg Farley
Vice President, KOS
Fort Hays State University
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Albertson Hall
600 Park St.
Hays, KS 67601-4099
Phone: (913) 628-5965
E-Mail: BIGF@FHSUVM.FHSU.EDU

Contributed Paper for KOS Annual Meeting, Oct. 10, 1998

AUTHOR(S): _____

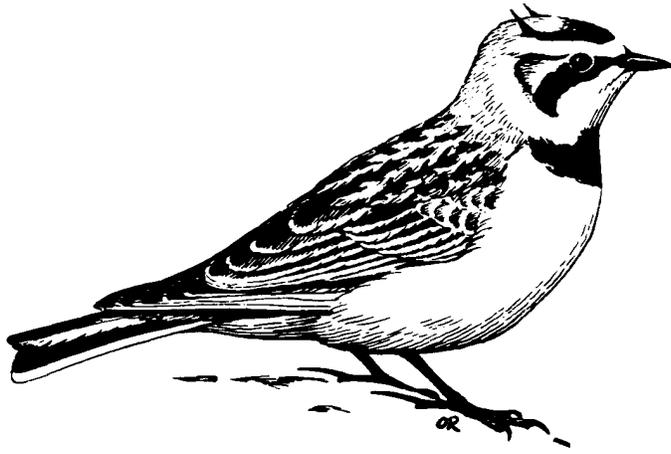
ADDRESS: _____

PAPER TITLE: _____

ABSTRACT: _____

Time for presentation and questions (circle one): 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-Visual equipment required: _____ 35 mm slide projector, _____ overhead transparency projector, _____ video cassette player and monitor, _____ other (please specify) _____



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 1998

Vol. 25, No. 2

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

As I write this, to finish up another edition of the *Horned Lark*, May is just about history. In many ways the spring migration was disappointing. Everyone mentioned the lack of warblers and vireos. Bird numbers and bird distribution was somewhere between unusual and bizarre. And yet, at the same time, really good birds showed up around the state. But maybe, just maybe, we were a little jaded after the winter (and fall) of the gulls, the murrelet and a nuthatch. But birdwatchers are an optimistic lot and there are Breeding Bird Surveys to be done, and fall migration actually gets started in mid-July, most years, and who knows what that will bring!

This is an issue of introductions. Pete Janzen is introduced as the new Round-up editor. Each new editor (Pete is the fourth) for this popular feature brings a slightly new twist. Despite what Pete says in his first few paragraphs, he is very qualified to handle this important task and his debut is outstanding (even though a fourth of it is gulls... seriously)!

You also get to meet new KOS member Debarah Arnett. Debarah is a photographer and shares her visual thoughts of the Spring Meeting with us. I wish you could see these pictures in color - they are even more stunning. Debarah exemplifies what many of us know; the KOS membership is a very talented group! We are glad to have her as a contributor to this issue.

Some features are missing either due to lack of space, or, more likely, lack of material. See the plea for authors on page 2. You can write, you really can, and I'm here to help you. Get your rough thoughts down on paper and I'll help you polish them up. One consistent comment that I get from the membership is how much they enjoy hearing what other members are doing. I'd love to go around and interview each and every one of you, but I just don't get paid enough to do that. Help me out and send me your thoughts!

Fall is going to be here before we know it (yes, I know it isn't even summer yet, officially), so start making plans for the 50th Anniversary KOS Annual Meeting in Lawrence, October 9, 10 and 11. The local committee is putting together a great program with some special opportunities that don't come along every day. You'll get to meet and rub shoulders with KOS and other ornithological legends as well as regular birdwatchers like you and me. It'll be a great opportunity to, as one new KOS member said in Medicine Lodge, put some faces with some names. You'll be sorry if you miss this meeting!

Have a great summer!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1998

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Photo Op!

Sometimes a unique set of circumstances occur with wonderful results. I first "met" Debarah Arnett last year via e-mail. Debarah is a photographer and note card producer who likes birds and hosted a White-winged Crossbill (and a whole lot of birdwatchers) at her Johnson County home last fall. Shortly thereafter she joined KOS. I got to put a face with the name when I went to Johnson County in late December to see the Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Debarah, and her cameras, were at the Spring Field Trip in the Red Hills. The rest is now "photographic history!" Debarah's written impression of her first KOS meeting is on page 3. But you know the old story about a picture being worth a thousand words. Some of Debarah's pictures of the spring field trip start on page 4 and are scattered across several pages in this issue. Thank you, Debarah, for sharing your "impressions" of the spring field trip. Be on the lookout for Debarah at future KOS meetings. She'll be the one with the camera!

WANTED! Authors

Some of my favorite areas of coverage weren't written about in this issue, BECAUSE we need more authors! Pete Janzen has taken over the Birding Roundup so we need someone to take over a birding tips/hints column. Other responsibilities have forced Amy Rose to give up the Kid's Page. And we are always looking for articles about what you, the KOS members, are doing.

Don't use the excuse of, "I'm no writer." Just get your ideas and thoughts down on paper and this old editor will take it from there! Mail your stories, thoughts, ideas to :

Chuck Otte
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or e-mail me at:
otte@jc.net

I'm waiting to hear from you.....

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!

Fall 1998 - 50th Anniversary Meeting, Lawrence
Spring 1999 - Winfield
Fall 1999 - Hays
Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues, he is your contact also.

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Reflections on the Spring KOS Meeting

by Debarah Arnett

If only allowed two words to describe my first KOS Spring Meeting, I would have to use my favorite Chuck Otte term "Sensory Overload". I had envisioned adding maybe ten new birds to my life list, I never expected forty new birds.

I have only been a birder for four years and the majority of that was just backyard birding to take bird photos. I became an avid birder after having the White-Winged Crossbill visit my feeders back in November 1997. I met a number of KOS members at my home when they came to see the Crossbill. One visitor told me about KOS and I decided to join. After the Crossbill I became an avid (or was that rabid) birder.

I wanted to share with other beginner birders like myself just how welcome the experienced birders of KOS made me feel. I can't remember when I last felt such warmth from a group of people. They truly shared in my excitement each and every time I added a new bird to my life list. They kept busy seeking out new birds for me to see.

I think Pete Janzen and Dave Williams will be a little more careful in their terminology with regards to promising certain species. They now refer to them as probable sightings. I held them to their promised sightings and they fulfilled each one. They almost failed by one species but produced it in our final 1/2 hour. It was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. (Thanks Pete and Dave.)

I enjoyed the way the entire group birded together at times and then broke off in smaller groups and birded with different and new people throughout the day. I came alone to the KOS trip, but never felt like I came alone after I arrived. I feel like I made some permanent friendships that weekend. We have been busy e-mailing one another since I returned home. I truly enjoyed the birding, but I must say the second thing I enjoyed the most was the people. If you have not been to a KOS trip, don't wait until you get a rare bird at your feeder like I did, or you might miss the Fall meeting. Hope to meet you there.

Don't Forget! Participate!

The fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be here before we know it. There is an active committee hard at work in Lawrence and at KU getting ready for this very special event. This would be a good time to start thinking about what items you want to contribute to the 1998 KOS Silent Auction. **Anything** bird related is acceptable - be creative!

This year it is important that you contact Susan Barnes (316-265-4059 or barnowls@juno.com) and tell her what you intend to submit. Susan is trying to have all the bid sheets and item information prepared in advance. Walk-in items will be accepted but prior notification would be preferred. For more information, or if you have questions, call or e-mail Susan - she loves to answer questions!

Don't forget those dates - **October 9, 10 & 11, 1998, University of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas**

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

KOS Spring Meeting Photo

Above - Sometimes the really good birds require just a little more effort. Between KOS Spring Field Trip participants and the Rufous-crowned Sparrow was the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River (and yes, the water was chilly!)

Below - Everyone made it across, though, and enjoyed the picturesque walk through a beautiful section of the Red Hills.

photo by Debarah Arnett

KOS Spring Meeting Photo

Proposed change to KOS by-laws:

*To be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting
October 10, 1998*

Susan Barnes, Membership Secretary of KOS since last fall's election in Wichita, has been quite active during her tenure and has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at increasing membership and developing awareness of KOS among Kansas citizens. The current definition of the duties and responsibilities of the Membership Secretary as defined in the by-laws are quite limited, involving essentially only record keeping functions. The proposed changes will make the position a more active one. These changes were requested by Susan at the Board meeting in Medicine Lodge and are included here for review by the membership prior to the October meeting, where they will be presented for approval.

In each proposed change, the existing language being changed is stricken through, and the new language proposed is enclosed in square brackets:

“Bylaws for the Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.

...

Article IV. The Governing Body.

Section 1. The Governing Body shall consist of a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) made up as follows:

A. Elected officers: President (Chairman of the Board), Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary (Secretary of the Board), ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], Business Manager, and four (4) Directors at large.

...

Article V. Officers and Appointed Positions.

Section 1. Elected positions.

A. Officers: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], Treasurer, and Business Manager.

...

Section 2. Elections.

...

C. The Corresponding Secretary, the ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], the Treasurer, and the Business Manager may succeed themselves as elected.

...

Article VI. Duties of Officers and Appointees.

...

Section 5. The ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator], shall:

A. Prepare and preserve a record of all members and their attendance at each meeting and make such records available.

B. Issue membership receipts (sent only on request), dues reminders, membership applications and invitations.

C. Advise the Business Manager of membership changes.

D. Make a written report at the annual meeting.

E. Be responsible for the local chapter program.

F. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

[G. Develop communications media for use in KOS membership development activities.

H. Develop activities to educate the public about KOS, its aims, and the benefits of membership.

I. Encourage interest of young people in birds and ornithology as part of long term membership development.

J. Develop outreach programs whereby KOS members can interact with the public, schools, and other organizations to further interest in ornithology in Kansas.]

...

Article VIII. Local Chapters.

...

Section 2. Applications for local chapter designations shall be made to the ~~Membership Secretary~~ [Membership Development Coordinator] and approved by the KOS Board. The affiliation may be revoked by the Board at any time.

...”

Submitted for consideration by Roy Beckemeyer,
President, KOS

**Deadline for submissions for the
September, 1998 Horned Lark is
July 15, 1998.**

KOS Winter Board Meeting

Great Plains Nature Center

Wichita Kansas

Saturday , 28 February 1998, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 -p.m.

Attendance: Roy Beckemeyer, Town Peterson, Mike Rader, James Barnes, Susan Barnes, Pete Janzen, Chuck Otte, Greg Farley, Ed Miller, Bill Busby, Karen Ganoung, Richard Johnston, Gene Young, Max Thompson, Jim Mayhew.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller presented a balance sheet as of 12-31-97. He noted that 96% of total assets are restricted funds with designated purposes; the Silent Auction raised \$548 at the fall meeting for the Student Research Fund; the balance from the fall meeting registration and meals was \$119. Attachment B

Minutes: The minutes of the Fall Board Meeting of 4 Oct 97 were read; Chuck Otte moved they be approved, motion seconded and carried.

Membership: Susan Barnes explained that the current membership canvass is intended to put information into computer files; a new directory, including e-mail addresses, is planned in the spring, and new membership cards are expected. By consensus of members present, she was given permission to pursue her idea of a calendar with picture-postcards in collage. Her idea of KOS-sponsored kids programs at local bird centers seemed good, if she can find suitable programs.

Business Manager: James Barnes discussed mailing expense and inventory; he was instructed to order more sweatshirts and some ball caps. After discussion on the values of an improved printing method, Susan Barnes moved that it be used; motion seconded and carried. Extra copies of the *Horned Lark* can be distributed free to schools, stores, etc.

KOS 50th Anniversary: Town Peterson, of the KU Museum, presented several plans and ideas for the fall meeting to be held in Lawrence Oct 2-4. Those of special interest include an exhibit of special museum collections; explanations of certain technological efforts at the museum; an effort to invite charter members and other past members. Ideas from the group included having two types of speakers-- academic and general interest; inviting exhibits from outside organizations, such as a zoo; spending money for this special meeting. Max Thompson moved that up to \$1000 of KOS funds be allowed to use as desired for this 50th Anniversary meeting; if expenses exceed this, the Board can then reconsider the extra amount. Motion

seconded and carried. Tasks for planning and arrangements are to be shared by Town and Greg Farley.

Spring meeting: Pete Janzen shared plans for the May 1-3 meeting in Medicine Lodge; registration forms are to be in the coming issue of the *Horned Lark*. Attachment C

Horned Lark: Chuck Otte reminded the Board that material for the March issue must be in by March 4; May 16 is the deadline for the June issue, which will contain information about the fall meeting. Amy Rose has ended her KIDS' PAGE --another such writer would be welcome.

Bulletin: Max Thompson thinks the next three publications have adequate material; the June issue will use a color picture.

Finance Committee: Max Thompson expressed disappointment that every officer had not yet presented a formal budget.

Hot Line: Gene Young updates this feature 13 times a month; he receives information about rare birds from others by both telephone and e-mail.

KBRC: Pete Janzen reported that a new checklist will be out in May to coincide with publication of the 7th edition of the AOU list. An identification workshop is being planned for the fall meeting. Persons nominated and approved by the Records Committee to fill expired terms in May are Mike Rader, Tom Flowers, and Richard Rucker, alternate position. Pete moved that these nominations be accepted by the Board; motion seconded and carried. It was explained again that KBRC rules were accepted and voted on by the membership; therefore, these rules can be changed and refined by agreement of the membership. Attachment C

10 Best Birds of the Year: The Board agreed that this event at the fall meeting is more fun if nominations for the Best Birds come from the membership instead of from the KBRC.

Future meetings: Mike Rader is to look at possibilities of a North Central Kansas meeting, perhaps at Waconda Reservoir; Pete Janzen will continue to explore the idea of a joint meeting with Oklahoma, in northeast OK. This year the Colorado group meets in Lamar on May 8-10, and KOS members are welcome to attend.

Newspaper column: Richard Johnston has compiled 10 Bird-of-the-Month articles on common Kansas bird species. They have appeared in the Lawrence Journal-World but he hopes they will appear in additional state-wide newspapers. Susan Barnes volunteered to help in this effort by using computerized distribution. Attachment D

History Committee: Jim Mayhew and Chuck Otte are collecting information in preparation for the 50th anniversary in Lawrence on Oct 2-4; additional pertinent information is solicited. Mention was made again of the need for KOS to have a permanent repository for papers of historical value, perhaps a state museum or Historical Society.

Milford Wetlands: Chuck Otte presented plans from the Corps of Engineers to develop a series of wetlands; construction to begin in '99 with Wildlife and Parks in charge. His motion for KOS support was seconded and carried. Chuck will draft this letter of support for the Wakefield Wetland project, including a suggestion of reviewing said plans with an expert, especially one who will consider the impact on non-game wildlife. Attachment E

KBBAT Financial Report: KOS has been asked to help with the funding of publishing expense, and this question will be given to the finance committee for recommendation. A majority of the board seemed to feel that some amount should come from KOS; a decision is required by Dec. '98. Attachment F

Seaboard Hog Operations: KOS Board members Roy Beckemeyer and Richard Johnston attended a small forum in Topeka on 23 Feb. 98 to discuss the establishment of a hog-finishing facility near Great Bend, specifically, the effect on Cheyenne Bottoms, and related considerations. Members are urged to become informed, and to contact legislators. Attachment G

Dingus Natural Area: This area of 146 acres, west of Mound City in Linn County (east of Emporia), belongs to KOS, although many members are unfamiliar with it. A suggestion was heard to prepare a KOS brochure to describe this beautiful area. Jim Mayhew moved that money from the Dingus Fund be approved for the necessary survey and fencing; motion seconded and carried. Max Thompson moved to adjourn; motion seconded and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 1:05. A snack lunch was provided.

Attachments: A - Great Plains Nature Center, B - treasurer's report, C - Records Committee and Spring '98 meeting, D - Birds of the Month (house finch, bald eagle, pigeon), E - Milford Wetlands project, F - KBBAT Financial Summary, G - Hog-finishing facility forum,.

Karen Ganoung
Corresponding Secretary

Thanks Pete!

As you can see throughout the *Horned Lark* there was a lot of fun at the spring KOS meeting in the Red Hills. Pete Janzen spearheaded this effort and was helped by Bill Busby and several others. New members were signed up, new friendships were forged and old friendships were strengthened. And while the warblers and vireos didn't really cooperate, the birding was great anyway and the scenery was fantastic. Thank you Pete and crew for getting a lot of us into the beautiful Red Hills! Start thinking now about spring 1999 and Winfield!

Wanted! KOS History

Jim Mayhew is spearheading the effort to assemble the KOS history for its first 50 years. If you have any items, stories, photos or anything else to share you can contact Jim at:

Jim Mayhew
1909 Judson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5121
jdmayhew@kansas.net

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.

WINTER ROUND-UP

1 December, 1997 through 28 February, 1998

by Pete Janzen

This is the Kansas Seasonal Birding Roundup for the winter period, Dec. 1, 1997 through Feb. 28, 1998. This report has to date been compiled by others, whom I consider to be more qualified than myself, but I am gratified to be asked, and will attempt to do an adequate job. I welcome all comments, corrections, and suggestions about this report from readers.

The winter season in Kansas this year was uncommonly mild for the most part, although the western and northern parts of the state experienced a number of substantial snowstorms. The warm water event in the eastern Pacific, known as El Nino, was the big weather maker for much of the US. Here at Wichita, the big lakes never froze over at all, and this was the case across most of the state. The weather elsewhere, however, had a major effect on Kansas birding. A series of strong storms pounded the west coast, apparently pushing a number of west coast gull species inland, including two new species for Kansas, Glaucous-winged and Mew Gulls. At the same time, some of the strongest "nor'easters" in recent memory were lashing the east coast, and this may have been the reason that a number of North Atlantic gull species showed up at numerous inland locales, including Kansas. These included Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and Iceland Gull. Thirteen gull species in all were reported for the season in Kansas, and in many cases were reported from multiple locations, although the Wichita garbage landfill, Waconda Reservoir, and the Tuttle Creek spillway were perhaps the hottest locations. By the end of the season, an article appeared in the Wichita Eagle, describing this author and others as a "birding maniacs", simply because we spent hours on end staring at gulls in the heart of the landfill. Some folks just don't understand.

Northern finch species also put on a good showing, with the most White-winged Crossbill records that I can ever recall in a single season. Common Redpolls and Purple Finches were also widely reported, although the statewide Red Crossbill invasion of last year was not repeated.

Another northern visitor, the Gyrfalcon, made it this far south for the only about the 4th time. Another one was apparently trapped at Cheyenne Bottoms by a falconer in January. While legal, I personally think it is abhorrent that a person can trap and keep such a regal and powerful bird. At the least it is selfish to keep such a rare bird for one's personal enjoyment, at the worst, it is a shame to see

such a free-spirited bird held captive. But this isn't the editorial page, I guess.

The oddest bird of the season was the Brown-headed Nuthatch that spent nearly a month in Mission Hills, Ks., just a city block from the state line. Many birders were able to add this fairly cooperative bird to their life and state lists. I seriously doubt that this species will ever be reported again in Kansas, as it wanders very, very, rarely from its southeastern pine woods. Sure was a cute little guy, too.

Eurasian Collared Doves are destined for "ho-hum" status within a decade or so, but still cause a stir out here on the leading edge of their range expansion. The two at Topeka were the only records for the winter, but the spring season has brought several additional reports. Tune in next time for details.

In the west, a major owl invasion took place. Based on comments from hunters and his own observations, Seltman estimated that hundreds of Short-eared Owls were present in Pawnee and Rush Counties in the first week of December. Long-eared Owls also formed several large roosts in various locations, and 2 reports of N. Saw-whet Owl were received.

I could comment more on these records, but this looks like enough space to me. You can glean out the rest of the gems for yourself.

I feel that I should comment briefly on the criteria used to select bird records for this report. It has never been the stated policy of this column to act as an arm of the Records Committee. Some of the rarer birds that are reported to the hotline or the KSBIRD chat group are not documented for the Records Committee. I have always whole-heartedly supported the concept of a records committee, and have for some years been a part of its proceedings. I recognize that some members of KOS do not share this support, for a variety of reasons. I will not use the submission of documentation to the KBRC as a criteria for inclusion in this report. I will note KBRC-documented records with an asterisk. This is not a judgmental notation, merely an archival one. As the compiler, I reserve the final judgment on the inclusion or exclusion of records. Omitted records are done primarily for economy of space.

I have detected many errors in proofreading this column several times, but I am sure that I still missed some. Please bring to my attention any errors that you are aware of.

It is very obvious that many areas of the state are poorly represented here, especially the southeast. I actively encourage the submission of all bird records for this report.

Species underlined-Exceptional sighting.
Date underlined-Unusual date for the species..
Location underlined-Unusual location for the species.
Species name capitalized -First state record
Asterisk denotes that the sighting was submitted to the records committee.

Key to observer's initials follows the report.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	12/13	1 at Waconda Res.	Mitchell	MR,SS
Common Loon	12/21	2 at Winfield L.	Cowley	CBC
Common Loon	1/2	1 at Clinton	Douglas	AP
Common Loon	1/23	1 at Winfield L.	Cowley	MT, GY
Common Loon	2/7	1 at LaCygne L.	Linn	SR
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	12/20	1 at Wilson L.	Russell	MR
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	12/22	1 at Winfield L.	Cowley	MT,GY
<u>*Red-throated Loon</u>	12/16	1 at Wilson	Russell	MR
<u>Red-throated Loon</u>	12/21	1 at Winfield L.	Cowley	CBC
Horned Grebe	12/23	1 at Winfield L.	Cowley	MT, GY
Horned Grebe	12/20	1 at Clinton L.	Douglas	MC
Eared Grebe	12/14	3 at Melvern	Osage	CH,mob
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	12/13	1 at Waconda Res.	Mitchell	MR,SS
<u>Western Grebe</u>	1/2	1 at Clinton	Douglas	AP
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	12/13	1 at Waconda Res.	Mitchell	MR,SS
White Pelican	1/13	1 at Tuttle Creek	Riley	DR
Great Egret	12/6	1 at El Dorado Res.	Butler	CS
Black-crowned Night-Heron	12/28	2 on Junction City	Geary	CBC
Tundra Swan	12/8	1 at Marion Res. dam	Marion	NW
Tundra Swan	2/7-2/14	3 at Quivira	Stafford	WH,mob
Tundra Swan	2/19-2/27	11 at Slate Creek	Sumner	SP,GY
Tundra Swan	2/23	1 in Meade area	Meade	TF
Tundra Swan	2/24	1 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	LM
Trumpeter Swan	2/23	1 in Meade area	Meade	TF
Trumpeter Swan	12/8?	3 w/orange tags	Miami	V&RO
Trumpeter Swan	12/10	5 at Perry	Jefferson	RR
Trumpeter Swan	1/25	tagged birds at Clinton	Douglas	AP, DT
White-fronted Goose	late Dec.	<u>98,000</u> at Quivira	Stafford	Q staff
Snow Goose	late Dec.	<u>60,000</u> at Quivira	Stafford	Q staff
Ross's Goose	1/1	2 on Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	CO, PJ, JB
Ross's Goose	1/17	2 at Perry	Jefferson	AP
Ross's Goose	1/24	2 at Harvey East Lake	Harvey	BD
Ross's Goose	1/24	1 at Milford	Geary	CO
Ross's Goose	2/7	1 at McCoid L.	Seward	BG
Ross's Goose	2/15	2 at L. Shawnee	Shawnee	DL
Canada Goose	late Dec.	<u>381,000</u> at Quivira	Stafford	Q staff
Canada/White-fronted hybrid	1/25	1 at K-96 bridge	Sedgwick	JB
American Black Duck	2/15	1 at Melvern	Osage	GP
Cinnamon Teal	2/27	2 at Slate Creek	Sumner	GY
Greater Scaup	1/1	7 at Lone Star	Douglas	DW
Oldsquaw	12/30	1 at Liberal	Seward	SP
Oldsquaw	1/2	1 on Wakefield	Geary	CBC
Oldsquaw	1/11-2/1	1 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	TH, mob
White-winged Scoter	12/26	1 at Lone Star	Douglas	CS
Common Merganser	1/19	5000 at Milford	Geary	CO

Red-breasted Merganser	1/23	9 at Winfield L.	Cowley	MT, GY
Bald Eagle	2/20	incubating at Clinton	Douglas	DM
Bald Eagle	2/20	incubating at Hillsdale		DM
Bald Eagle	2/22	incubating at Wolf Creek	Coffey	MM,GP
N. Rough-winged Hawk	1/15	<u>18</u> in one day	Pawnee	SS
Ferruginous Hawk	1/17	1 near landfill	Sedgwick	JB, PJ
Northern Harrier	12/2	25 in one field	Pawnee	SS
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/19	1 at Slate Creek	<u>Sumner</u>	SP,GY
Northern Goshawk	12/6	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	DB
Northern Goshawk	1/2	Leavenworth CBC	Atchison?	CBC
Northern Goshawk	2/3	1 imm. at Wilson	Russell	MR
Northern Goshawk	2/8	1 at Tuttle	Riley	DR
Northern Goshawk	2/8	1 at Chisholm Cr	Sedgwick	ML
Golden Eagle	1/12	1 n. of Rozel	Pawnee	SS
Golden Eagle	1/18	1 at Redmond	Coffey	MM,RM,GP
Golden Eagle	2/7	1 at Cimm. bridge	Seward	BG
Merlin	1/11	1 at Newton	Harvey	GF
Peregrine Falcon	1/2	1 on Wakefield CBC	Geary	CBC
Peregrine Falcon	2/1	1 near Lawrence	Douglas	RA
Peregrine Falcon	approx. 2/4	1 videotaped in Topeka	Shawnee	JK
Peregrine Falcon	2/15	2 near nest box	Shawnee	Jbr
Prairie Falcon	12/12	1 at Lawrence airport	Douglas	GP
Prairie Falcon	12/6	4 at Cedar Bluff	Trego	SS
Prairie Falcon	1/14	7 in one day	Pawnee	SS
<u>*Gyrfalcon</u>	2/12	1 near Waconda	Mitchell	CH,SP,MR
Lesser Prairie Chicken	2/21	several early boomers	Morton	SS, T&SS
Whooping Crane	2/19	1 imm at Koppenhaver L.	Meade	USFW
Sandhill Crane	/late Dec.	<u>25,000</u> at Quivira	Stafford	Q staff
Sandhill Crane	1/3	15 near Med. Lodge	Barber	GF, PJ
Virginia Rail	12/23	1 at Milford	Geary	CO
Virginia Rail	12/24	3 at Slate Creek	Sumner	CBC
Virginia Rail	12/20-1/1	2 at Sedg. Co. Park	Sedgwick	ES, mob
Snowy Owl	1/6	1 north of Russell	Russell	MR
Long-eared Owl	12/8	<u>19</u> at Wilson Res.	Russell	MR
Long-eared Owl	12/13	<u>40</u> at Wilson Res.	Russell	MR,SS
Long-eared Owl	1/9	roost at Slate Creek	Sumner	GY
Long-eared Owl	1/4	12 at Milford	Geary	GS
Long-eared Owl	1/25	several at Milford	Geary	GS
Long-eared Owl	2/22`	6 at Lyon Co. L	Lyon	MM,GP
Short-eared Owl	12/6	30+ in CRP land	Pawnee	SS
Short-eared Owl	12/6	20+ in CRP land	Pawnee	SS
Short-eared Owl	1/4	3 at Milford	Geary	GS
Short-eared Owl	1/8	8 on consecutive posts	Rush	SS
Short-eared Owl	1/23	2 near Towanda	Butler	BB
Short-eared Owl	2/7	1 at Quivira	Stafford	WH
N. Saw-whet Owl	early Dec.	1 at Bennington (photo)	Ottawa	fide MR
N. Saw-whet Owl	1/7	1 at Wilson Res.	Russell	MR
<u>*Pomarine Jaeger</u>	12/5	1 at Melvern Res.	Osage	ML
Franklin's Gull	1/18	1 alt. plumage at Redmond	Coffey	MM. GP
Franklin's Gull	2/3	1 alt. plumage at dump	Sedgwick	JN, ST
Bonaparte's Gull	12/14	15 at Melvern	Coffey	CH,mob
Bonaparte's Gull	1/18	50 at John Redmond	Coffey	MM.RM.GP
<u>*MEW GULL</u>	1/14-1/18	1 ad. at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	TH, PJ, m.ob
<u>MEW GULL</u>	1/16	1 first-winter at sandpit	Sedgwick	JB, PJ, JN
<u>MEW GULL</u>	1/28	1 first-winter at landfill	Sedgwick	TH

<u>*MEW GULL</u>	2/1-2/14	adult at Tuttle outlet	Riley	JR, m.ob
<u>*MEW GULL</u>	1/29	2d winter at Waconda	Mitchell	MR,SS
<u>MEW GULL</u>	2/13	1st winter at landfill	Sedgwick	DV, m.ob
California Gull	12/14	1 adult at Milford	Geary	C&JO
California Gull	1/16	2 at K-96 bridge	Sedgwick	DV
California Gull	1/16	and 1 near the landfill	Sedgwick	DV
California Gull	1/17	2 at river and sandpits	Sedgwick	m.ob
California Gull	1/20	1 at Wilson	Russell	MR
California Gull	1/24	1 at landfill	Sedgwick	m.ob
*California Gull	1/30	1 at Waconda	Mitchell	MR
California Gull	1/31	1 at Redmond outlet	Coffey	MM, GP
California Gull	2/3	1 at K-96 bridge	Sedgwick	PJ
California Gull	2/13	2 at landfill	Sedgwick	SP, m.ob
Thayer's Gull	12/13	<u>10</u> 1st winter at Waconda	Mitchell	MR,SS
Thayer's Gull	1/10	2 at Tuttle outlet	Riley	GS, m.ob
Thayer's Gull	1/18-1/24	1 at Tuttle outlet	Riley	GS
Thayer's Gull	1/17	1 first-winter at K-96	Sedgwick	JB
Thayer's Gull	1/24	3 at landfill	Sedgwick	m.ob
Thayer's Gull	2/8	2 at Milford	Geary	C&JO
Thayer's Gull	2/13	2 at landfill	Sedgwick	SP,m.ob
<u>*Iceland Gull</u>	1/24	2 at Wilson	Russell	MR,SS
<u>*Iceland Gull</u>	2/13	1 near landfill	Sedgwick	SP,m.ob
<u>*Iceland Gull</u>	2/15	1 1st winter at CB	Barton	MR, C&JO
<u>*Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	12/4-12/10	3rd yr. at K-96 bridge.	Sedgwick	PJ, m.ob
<u>*Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1/24-1/28	1-3rd and 1-4th yr at landfill	Sedgwick	PW, m.ob
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	2/13	1 1st winter at landfill	Sedgwick	SP, m.ob
<u>*GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL</u>	1/24	1 2d year at landfill	Sedgwick	PW, m.ob
<u>*GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL</u>	2/5	1 adult at Tuttle outlet	Riley	GS
<u>GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL</u>	2/13	1 2d yr. near landfill	Sedgwick	SP, m.ob
Glaucous Gull	12/14	1 1st winter at Waconda	Mitchell	MR,SS
Glaucous Gull	1/4	1 1st winter at Redmond	Coffey	AS
Glaucous Gull	1/12	1 1st winter at K-96 br	Sedgwick	PJ
Glaucous Gull	1/16	2 at K-96 bridge	Sedgwick	DV
Glaucous Gull	1/17-1/24	1 in landfill area	Sedgwick	JB, PJ, JN
Glaucous Gull	1/15-1/22	1 at Tuttle Creek outlet	Riley	BC
Glaucous Gull	1/18	1 at Redmond	Coffey	AP
Glaucous Gull	1/24	1 at Tuttle	Riley	DR
Glaucous Gull	1/25	1 at Milford	Geary	GS
Glaucous Gull	1/24	<u>9</u> at Waconda	Mitchell	MR, SS
Glaucous Gull	1/28	1 at Harvey East L.	Harvey	NV
Glaucous Gull	2/3-2/5	1 near Tuttle dam	Riley	GK, DM
<u>*Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1/16	1 1st winter at bridge	Sedgwick	MC
<u>*Great black-backed Gull</u>	1/17	still there	Sedgwick	TH
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1/26	1 1st winter in Redmond spillway		AS
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	2/13	1 1st winter near landfill	Sedgwick	SP, m.ob
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	2/14	1 1st winter at CB	Barton	SP, SS
Black-legged Kittiwake	1/4-1/27	1 1st winter at Redmond	Coffey	AS, m.ob
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/3-2/18	1 1st winter at Tuttle	Riley	C&JO
<u>*Eurasian Collared Dove</u>	2/21	2 at Topeka feeder	Shawnee	DK
<u>*Rufous hummingbird</u>	12/2	1 fem. at feeder	Johnson	NL, JG
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2/21	1 on Cimm. River	Morton	SS, T&SSh
Pileated Woodpecker	12/21	1 near Manhattan	?	CBC
Black-billed Magpie	12/4	1 at Mulvane	<u>Sedgwick</u>	TH
<u>*BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH</u>	12/25-1/22	1 in Mission Hills	Wyandotte	MM, mob
Carolina Wren	12/24	1 in St Francis	<u>Cheyenne</u>	MRu

Marsh Wren	12/24	1 at Slate Creek	Sumner	CBC
Marsh Wren	1/1	1 at Sedg. Co Park	Sedgwick	CO,PJ,JB
Mountain Bluebird	12/6	6 at Wilson Res.	Wilson	MR
Mountain Bluebird	12/21	23 on Winfield CBC	Cowley	CBC
Mountain Bluebird	1/20	7 at Wilson Res.	Russell	MR
Mountain Bluebird	1/4	200 SW of Med. Lodge	Barber	TH,CS, JNk
Townsend's Solitaire	1/19	1 at Junction City	Gearly	CO
<u>*Varied Thrush</u>	12/7	Tuttle Creek	Riley	TC
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	12/23	1 found dead at Eldor.L	Butler	CBC
Northern Shrike	12/3	1 at Nekoma	Rush	SS
Northern Shrike	Dec. 6	1 at Cedar Bluff	Trego	SS
Northern Shrike	12/8	1 near Russell	Russell	MR
Northern Shrike	12/6	1 near Lebo	Coffey	BF,MM
Northern Shrike	1/10	1 at Rozel	Pawnee	SS
<u>*Pine Warbler</u>	1/6	1 at Perry	Jefferson	RR
Chipping Sparrow	1/14	1 at feeder in Manhattan	Pottawatomie	DB
Lark Bunting	12/23-2/28	2 at feeder near G. City	Finney	MO, mob
Savannah Sparrow	12/24	14 at Slate Creek	Sumner	CBC
Savannah Sparrow	12.20	1 at Camp Hawk	Harvey	CBC
Savannah Sparrow	1/3	1 near Med. Lodge	Barber	CBC
Savannah Sparrow	2/14	1 at Quivira	Stafford	SP,SS
LeConte's Sparrow	12/24	3 at Slate Creek	Sumner	CBC
LeConte's Sparrow	12/20	2 along Ark R.	Sedgwick	JN,PJ
<u>*Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	12/23-2/28	2 at feeder near G. City	Finney	MO, mob
Lapland Longspur	1/25	1000's dead in tower kill	Hamilton	
Smith's Longspur	12/4	5-6 in flight	Marshall	DM
Smith's Longspur	1/24-1/28	flock at Osage Trail	Harvey	BD
Smith's Longspur	2/8	15 at Lyon St. L.	Lyon	BF
Smith's Longspur	2/22	2 at Lyon Co. St. L	Lyon	MM, GP
Rusty Blackbird	2/14	3 at CB	Barton	SS
Bullock's Oriole	1/17	1 in Garden City yard	Finney	TS
Purple Finch	12/8	several at feeder	Shawnee	KM
Purple Finch	12/15	6 at Marion Res.	Marion	DW
Purple Finch	1/2	1 at Lone Star	Douglas	PW
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	12/12	1 feeder in St. Mary's	Pottawatomie	BMg
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	1/18-1/21	1 at Wichita feeder	Sedgwick	fide BM
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	1/20	2 at feeder near Perry	Jefferson	JV
Red Crossbill	12/14	2 pair at Perry	Jefferson	AP
Red Crossbill	1/3-1/10	12 at Perry	Jefferson	AP
Common Redpoll	1/14	1 at Salina feeder	Saline	DRk
Common Redpoll	12/20	1 on SE KC CBC	?	CBC
Common Redpoll	12/1-?	feeder in Andover	Sedg.	KJ, mob
Common Redpoll	2/4	1 at Manhattan feeder	Riley	DM

RA-Robert Antonio, DA-Debra Arnett, JB-James Barnes, JBr-Joanne Brier, BB-Bob Broyles, DB-Doris Burnett, CBC-Christmas Bird Count, TC-Ted Cable, BC-Bill Charlton, BD-Bob Dester, BF-Bob Fisher, TF-Tom Flowers, GF-Greg Friesen, JG-JoAnne Garrett, BG-Bob Gress, TH-Tyler Hicks, CH-Chris Hobbs, WH-Wayne Hochstetler, KJ-Kris Jackson, JK-Jim Kelley, DK-Dan Kilby, GK-Greg Kramos, DL-Dan Larson, NL-Nancy Leo, ML-Mike Lesan, BMg-BRandon Magette, BM-Bert McClard, RM-Roger McNeil, DM-Dan Mulhern, JNk-Jim Nickel, JN-John Northrup. MO-Marie Osterbuhr, Spp-Shawn Papon, SP-Sebastian Patti, GP-Galen Pittman, AP-Alexi Powell, MR-Mike Rader. SR-Steve Rhoades, DR-Dave Rintoul, RR-Richard Rucker, DRk- Doug Rudick, MRu-Marlin Rueb, JR-Jethro Runco, CS-Carolyn Schwab, SS-Scott Seltman, TS-Tom Shane, GS-Guy Smith, ES-Eddie Stegall, AS-Art Swalwell, DT-Dan Thalman, ST-Sandra Tholen, MT-Max Thompson, DV-Don Vannoy, JV-Joyce Volmut, NV-Nada Voth, PW-Phil Wedge, DW-Dave Williams, GY-Gene Young

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 1998 FIELD TRIP

APRIL 30 - MAY 3, RED HILLS

An even 50 persons attended the 1998 spring meeting of KOS, held in the Red Hills of south-central Kansas. Excellent weather prevailed, and many interesting birds were found. Field trips visited portions of Barber, Comanche, and Kiowa Counties. Please find listed below a list of species, with county codes where available, and also a listing of all participants.

SPECIES - County codes: B=Barber, C=Comanche, K=Kiowa, *compiled by Pete Janzen*

Pied-billed Grebe-B,C	Sora-C	Downy Woodpecker -B,C
Eared Grebe-C	American Coot-C	Hairy Woodpecker-B,C
American White Pelican-C	Semipalmated Plover-B	Northern Flicker -B,C
Double-crested Cormorant-B,C	Killdeer-B,C	Eastern Wood-Pewee
American Bittern-B	American Avocet-B	Willow Flycatcher-B
Great Blue Heron-B,C,K	Greater Yellowlegs-B	Least Flycatcher-B,C
Great Egret-B	Lesser Yellowlegs-B,C	Eastern Phoebe -B,C
Snowy Egret-B	Solitary Sandpiper-C	Great Crested Flycatcher-B,C
Cattle Egret-B	Willet-B	Western Kingbird -B,C
Green Heron-C	Spotted Sandpiper-B,C	Eastern Kingbird-B,C
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Upland Sandpiper-C	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher-B,C
White-faced Ibis-C	Whimbrel-B	Horned Lark-B,C
Canada Goose-B,C	Hudsonian Godwit-B	Purple Martin-C
Wood Duck-B,C	Marbled Godwit-B	Tree Swallow
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper-B,C	Northern Rough-winged Swallow-C
Mallard-B,C	Western Sandpiper-B	Cliff Swallow-B,C
Northern Pintail -	Least Sandpiper-B,C	Barn Swallow-B,C
Blue-winged Teal-B,C	White-rumped Sandpiper-B	Blue Jay-B,C
Cinnamon Teal-B	Baird's Sandpiper-B,C	Black-billed Magpie
Northern Shoveler-C	Stilt Sandpiper-C	American Crow--B,C
American Wigeon	Buff-breasted Sandpiper-B	Carolina Chickadee-B,C
Redhead-C	Short-billed Dowitcher-B	Tufted Titmouse-B
Ring-necked Duck-B	Long-billed Dowitcher-B,C	White-breasted Nuthatch-B
Ruddy Duck-C	Wilson's Phalarope-C	Rock Wren-C
Turkey Vulture-B,C,K	Franklin's Gull-B,C	Carolina Wren-B
Osprey-C	Ring-billed Gull-C	Bewick's Wren-C
Mississippi Kite-C	Herring Gull-C	House Wren-B,C
Northern Harrier-B	Forster's Tern -C	Marsh Wren-B
Sharp-shinned Hawk-C	Rock Dove-B,C	Ruby-crowned Kinglet-B
Cooper's Hawk	Mourning Dove-B,C	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-B,C
Broad-winged Hawk-B	Yellow-billed Cuckoo-B	Eastern Bluebird-B,C
Swainson's Hawk-C	Greater Roadrunner-B,C	Swainson's Thrush-B
Red-tailed Hawk-B,C,K	Barn Owl-C	American Robin-B,C
Ferruginous Hawk-C	Eastern Screech-Owl-C	Gray Catbird-C
American Kestrel-B,C,K	Great Horned Owl-B,C	Northern Mockingbird-B,C
Merlin-B,K	Barred Owl-B,C	Brown Thrasher-B,C
Peregrine Falcon-C	Long-eared Owl-C	Cedar Waxwing-B
Prairie Falcon-K	Common Nighthawk	Loggerhead Shrike-B,C
Ring-necked Pheasant-B,C	Common Poorwill-C	European Starling
Lesser Prairie-Chicken-B,C,K	Chuck-will's-widow-B	Bell's Vireo-C
Wild Turkey-B,C	Chimney Swift-B	Warbling Vireo-B,C
Northern Bobwhite-B,C	Ruby-throated Hummingbird-B	Tennessee Warbler
Black Rail-C	Belted Kingfisher-B,C	Orange-crowned Warbler-B,C
King Rail-C	Red-headed Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler-C
Virginia Rail-C	Red-bellied Woodpecker-B,C	

continued next page

Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler-B,C
 Black-throated Green Warbler-C
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush-K
 Louisiana Waterthrush-C,K
 Common Yellowthroat-B,C
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Northern Cardinal-B,C,K
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak-B,C
 Dickcissel
 Spotted Towhee-B,C
 Cassin's Sparrow-C

Rufous-crowned Sparrow-C
 Chipping Sparrow-B,C,K
 Clay-colored Sparrow-B,C,K
 Field Sparrow-B,C,K
 Vesper Sparrow-B,C
 Lark Sparrow-B,C,K
 Savannah Sparrow-C
 Grasshopper Sparrow-B,C
 Song Sparrow-C
 Lincoln's Sparrow-C
 White-throated Sparrow-B
 White-crowned Sparrow-B,C
 Harris's Sparrow-B,C

Red-winged Blackbird-B,C,K
 Eastern Meadowlark-B,C
 Western Meadowlark-B,C
 Yellow-headed Blackbird-B,C
 Great-tailed Grackle-C
 Common Grackle-B,C
 Brown-headed Cowbird-B,C
 Baltimore Oriole-B,C
 House Finch-B,C
 American Goldfinch-B,C
 House Sparrow-B,C, K
 TOTAL 172 SPECIES

TRIP PARTICIPANTS - Debarah Arnett, James Barnes, Susan Barnes, Roy Bekemeyer, Stefanie Boice, Johnnie Brockaway, Ken Brunson, Bill Busby, Ted Cable, Roberta Curtis, Joyce Davis, Suzanne Fellows, Greg Friesen, Joanna Friesen, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Laura Groeneweg, Hannon Harrick, Gerald Horak, Bill Howe, Allen Jahn, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Anda Johnson, Ron Little, Samantha Long, Don Mallonnee, Linda Mallonnee, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Jennifer Perry, John Perry, Joe Quinlan, Dale Randall, Mike Rader, Stan Roth, David Seibel, John Shuckman, Eddie Stegall, Savilla Stegall, Mike Stoakes, Sandra Tholen, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, John Wacholz, Martha Wiewel, Dave Williams, Brad Williamson, Scott Williamson, Gene Young

KOS Spring Meeting Photo

KOS members at the spring field trip to Swartz Canyon are all focused in on the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. With so many good birds seen it was hard to pick a "best one", but this was a life bird and state bird for many on this field trip.

photo by Debarah Arnett

KOS Spring Meeting Photo

Above - It's a long walk up Swartz Canyon, and sometimes you just have to sit and let the birds come to you. Shortly after this picture was taken the group flushed a Common Poorwill and subsequently found it on eggs at the nest!

Below - It's lunch time and this group appears to be a little low on energy. A hike in the Red Hills can have that affect on birdwatchers. The afternoon birding was not nearly so vigorous!

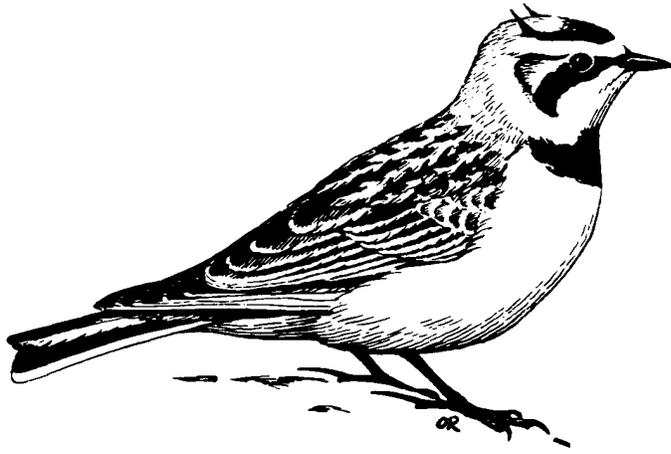
photos by Debarah Arnett

KOS Spring Meeting Photo

Be watching for exciting news and
registration information about the
Kansas Ornithological Society
50th Anniversary Meeting
October 9 - 11, 1998
KU Museum of Natural History
Lawrence, Kansas

Special guests
Special events
A unique opportunity for
KOS Members and Friends

More information arriving in late August!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 1998

Vol. 25, No. 1

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

We've had a mockingbird in our backyard since early January. It'll sit in the spirea or forsythia bush, then fly up into the holly bush by the kitchen window, pluck a few berries then fly back out. Its gray plumage seems to have been a perfect match to the constant cloudy weather. Yet, its white wing patches bring a bright flash to remind us that spring will arrive, someday.....

The Seasonal Roundup will be the last written by Chris Hobbs. Chris has done a fine job and enjoyed doing it. But a person can only do so much and family has to come first. Thank you, Chris, for a job well done. Pete Janzen is already compiling the next Roundup. I don't regret handing off this responsibility. With all the gulls that were seen from December to February this will truly be a big challenge. Pete has been writing another column for the *Horned Lark* and since Pete tries to have a family life also he can only do one. Authors are needed to fill the vacated space!

You will find in this issue announcements of events or activities from other states. This is the start of a trend to try to help our members become aware of opportunities in our surrounding states. I'm starting to work with the editors from our neighboring states as we share information, hints and frustrations related to our positions. I hope you enjoy this information.

You'll find an update inside on the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) project. Ken Brunson is the state coordinator for Kansas and a tireless worker with the Chickadee Check-off program. If we can get TWW through Washington it could literally mean millions of dollars for conservation, education and recreation for Kansas. Read Ken's article and contact your senators and representatives in Washington. There are also a lot of state issues pending that could have major impacts on birds and ecosystems in Kansas. Follow these issues and don't hesitate to contact your local legislators to let

them know how you feel. Your silence will only add to the problem. We all sometimes feel dwarfed by government and big business and think that we can't make a difference. But a short visit or phone call from us "real people" can make all the difference in the world!

Finally, take a look at the Spring Meeting information at the very back. Pete Janzen and his committee have lined up some great birding in a wonderful area of Kansas. Much of this area is on private land and you probably won't get another chance to visit this unique area. The cost is minimal, but the potential fun is incredible. I'm looking forward to it and I hope to see you there!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1998

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, BARNOWLS@JUNO.COM

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Spring Meeting Information May 1 - 3, 1998 Red Hills of Kansas

Pete Janzen has a great spring meeting lined out with some exciting, once in a lifetime, fieldtrips arranged. Turn to the very back of the newsletter for all the pertinent information.

Not quite all the way back is important information regarding the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) Convention May 8 - 10, 1998 (the following weekend) in Lamar, Colorado (about 100 miles west of Garden City on Hwy. 50.) One of the highlights of this convention is their banquet speaker, Jon Dunn. Jon is the author of the recently published *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America* along with Kimball Garrett. KOS members are more than welcome to attend!

WANTED! Authors

I'm always looking for articles to put in the *Horned Lark*. "Oh, I'm not a writer!", you say. "Nonsense!", I say. If you can get an idea on paper I can "clean it up" and we can probably use it. Go to page 7 and read Don Kazmaier's article on what he's done for hummingbird habitat in his backyard. We'd like to hear from more of you. This is a newsletter for the members and I'd like to see more members contributing to it.

There are two gaping holes in this issue. Pete Janzen is switching over to take on the Seasonal Roundup. We need someone to take his place in writing a regular article on birding tips, birding topics, just about anything.

Amy Rose, who has done such a wonderful job with the Kid's Page had to pack it in. She did a great job and we'll miss her. Did you enjoy or use the Kid's Page? If so let me know, and if you want to be it's new author just drop me a note or a completed page!

Chuck Otte, editor

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!

Fall 1998 - 50th Anniversary Meeting, Lawrence
Spring 1999 - Winfield
Fall 1999 - Hays
Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues, he is your contact also.

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KOS Fall Board Meeting

Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

4 October 1997, Saturday, noon

Attendance: James Barnes; Roy Beckemeyer; Mike Rader; Max Thompson; Pete Jantzen; Ed Miller; Greg Farley; Karen Ganoung; John Schukman; Richard Johnston; Chuck Otte; Bill Busby.

Minutes: Mike Rader moved the minutes of the Spring board meeting, 20 April 1997, be accepted. Motion seconded and carried.

Financial reports: Ed Miller, Treasurer, distributed copies of the financial report, as of 1 October 1997. Since the KBBAT (Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project) totals are now completed, Greg Farley moved to transfer the KBBAT fund to the general fund; motion seconded and carried. Chuck Otte moved that this report stand as is; motion seconded and carried.

The Finance Committee met in Winfield, on 6 September 1997, and Max Thompson, Chair, presented a written summary of their recommendations. Others present at that time were Roy Beckemeyer, Gregg Friesen, and Ed Miller.

Presentations: James Barnes moved that 1 year of KOS membership be given to those who present papers, and registration fees for that meeting be waived, beginning in 1997; motion seconded and carried. Chuck Otte moved that the Student Awards Committee present subscriptions to two ornithological magazines (North American Ornithological, and AOU/American Ornithological Union) to one student presenter. This motion was seconded and carried.

Bulletin: Max Thompson thinks he has sufficient material for the December issue, including a story on Madge Hilbish, who recently left a sum of money to KOS through her will. He has other material for the March issue, also.

Internet: Chuck Otte plans to have a shortened version of the *Horned Lark* on-line; he hopes to be able to include advertisements in the printed Newsletter. There is a KOS Web page.

Conservation: John Schukman and Greg Farley discussed "Partners in Flight", stating that a full-time coordinator was desirable. Funding comes from State Fish and Wildlife, cooperating with NE. They encourage KOS members to host beginning birding trips, putting into the newsletter plans for what/when/where.

Bird Records Committee (BRC): The bird identification contest at this meeting is a welcome sign of more publicity for the Committee. The BRC selects ten best birds of the year, and solicits more documented reports; voting can be done electronically now, which is much faster than in the past. Taken from "How to Write a Documentation: Take field notes; Use the form for basics of who/what/when/where; Describe the relative size and shape; List any striking feature; Compare the colors of feet and beak; Describe relevant parts, behavior, movements; Describe any vocalizations; Include sketches, a photo or video; Use only enough detail to make the point"Galen Pittman, KBRC Secretary

Newspaper column: Richard Johnston believes none of his six Bird of the Month articles have been printed in a state-wide newspaper. He has prepared columns on the Sandhill Crane, Red-tailed Hawk, and Purple Martin, in addition to the first three of meadowlark, robin, and Horned Lark.

continued next page

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

KOS Board Meeting Minutes, continued

Hot-line: Scott Seltman has resigned as the Rare Bird Alert Hot-line coordinator, after seven years. Chuck Otte moved that Gene Young of Winfield fill this position. He will be reimbursed the initial charge of \$50 hook-up costs. Motion seconded and carried; the present phone number will remain active until the next news-letter reports the new number for this service.

KOS Meetings: Pete Jantzen is coordinating plans for a spring meeting May 1-3 in Medicine Lodge, and for area field trips. Specific information will be available by February 1.

The mid-winter board meeting will be February 28. The fall 1998 meeting is October 2-4 in Lawrence at the KU Museum. This will be a celebration of 50 years.

The spring 1999 meeting is planned for Winfield, the fall 1999 at Hays; the spring 2000 meeting is planned for Pittsburg. A joint meeting with OK is a future possibility, perhaps in the spring 2000.

Ideas and suggestions for future meetings are welcomed and can be given to the officers. Meeting adjourned.

/s/Karen Ganoung
Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society

KOS Annual Meeting
Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita
4 October 1997, Saturday, 4:35 pm

New Board Members: Gene Young and Jim Mayhew were elected new board members. Susan Barnes was elected the new membership secretary, replacing Margaret Wedge, who wished to resign her position.

Student Research Fund: A written report from Tom Shane was distributed, including a detailed financial record from 10/1/90 to 7/30/97. Also of interest were the names of research grant recipients. Funds from the current Silent Auction will go to the Student Research Fund. (\$553...kg) Of the five students funded, three presented papers. Financial help and suggestions from KOS members is requested.

Finance Recommendations: The report presented earlier by Max Thompson and his committee was approved.

Hot-line: Those in attendance expressed thanks and appreciation to the out-going coordinator, Scott Seltman. The meeting stood adjourned.

/s/ Karen Ganoung
KOS Corresponding Secretary

50th Anniversary Annual Meeting
KU Museum of Natural History
October 9 - 11, 1998
Lawrence, Kansas
Special Events - Special Guests

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.

Teaming With Wildlife Update

by Ken Brunson

There are over **TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED** organizations and businesses endorsing Teaming With Wildlife (TWW). In Kansas there are now 32 groups (listed next column) The Kansas Ornithological Society is one of them. For Kansas, one of the most important recent companies to jump on this wildlife wagon is Orscheln Farm and Home, Inc. Orscheln sells bird seed and a variety of other wildlife feed and supplies and has two dozen retail outlets in Kansas. If you have an Orscheln store in your area be sure to stop in and say thanks to them. Thanks to Carol Cumberland, we have also recently had two Wild Bird Center stores and Wild Birds Unlimited all of Wichita join ranks. Additionally, Kansas Quality Hardwood & Flooring Center in Wichita recently joined the TWW effort.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is on the verge of lining up some very important bi-partisan sponsorship and has decided that it is worth waiting in order to shore up this support prior to bill introduction. There are a number of manufacturers and retailers besides organizations that depend on wildlife and have profited from wildlife programs. These include bird-oriented stores, outdoor equipment suppliers, and many sporting goods stores. The best support for Teaming With Wildlife could be shown by letting views be known to our Congressional delegation. For politicians wishing to get "greener", Teaming offers an excellent opportunity. Here's what to do: (1) write your congressman and tell him you support Teaming With Wildlife as a logical, "user pay" concept to support wildlife viewing, education, and recreation programs in Kansas, and (2) contact Leann Harrell, Kansas Audubon Council, 12615 School Creek Rd., St. George, KS 66535-9712 Phone: 913-494-2556 for more information.

Kansas TWW Coalition Members

Kansas Ornithological Society
Great Plains Nature Center
Wild Bird Center, 2250 Rock Rd., Wichita
Wild Birds Unlimited, Wichita
Wild Bird Center, 8414 W. 13th, Wichita
Leavenworth Audubon Society
Kansas Quality Hardwood & Flooring Center
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Olathe Community Sportsman's Club
Kanza Audubon Society
North American Falconers Association (national)
Smoky Hills Audubon Society
Kansas Canoe Association
Burroughs Audubon Society
Geary County Fish and Game Association
Kansas Wildflower Society
Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society
Pure Water for Kansas
Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club
Topeka Audubon Society
Southeast Kansas Chapter of the Audubon Society
Kansas Audubon Council
Wichita Audubon Society
Jayhawk Audubon Society
Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Kansas Herpetological Society
Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Friends of Smoots Creek
Washburn College Republicans
Organization of Fish and Wildlife
Information Managers (national)
American Fisheries Society-Introduced
Fishes Section (national)
Wild Bird Crossing, Salina



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Deadline for submissions for the
June, 1998 Horned Lark is
May 10, 1998.

Kansas Ornithological Society
12-31-97 Balance Sheet
Edwin J. Miller, Treasurer

Assets... Restricted Funds

Book Royalty Fund	\$10,204.44
Dingus Natural Area	8,065.98
Endowment	56,467.40
Future Dues	390.00
Life Membership	18,272.00
Student Research Fund	1084.74

Assets... Unrestricted Funds

Business Manager	\$58.71
General Fund	2,858.56
<u>Southwestern College</u>	<u>18.57</u>
Total Assets	\$97,420.40

Liabilities

1997 Dues & Interest	\$6,176.98
1997 Income	2,424.46
Expenses	(7,030.87)
Future Dues Cap	390.00
Restricted Funds Cap	94,291.64
Retained Income	2,522.65
<u>Scholarships</u>	<u>(1,355.00)</u>
Total Liabilities	\$97,419.86

In February 1998, KOS received a partial distribution from the estate of Phyllis J. Henney amounting to \$3,300. Ms. Henney had been a KOS member since 1969 and was well known in the Topeka area. Look for more information on Ms. Henney and this bequest in future KOS publications.

It's Never Too Early....

The fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be here before we know it. There is an active committee hard at work in Lawrence and at KU getting ready for this very special event. This would be a good time to start thinking about what items you want to contribute to the 1998 KOS Silent Auction. **Anything** bird related is acceptable - be creative!

This year it is important that you contact Susan Barnes (316-265-4059 or barnowls@juno.com) and tell her what you intend to submit. Susan is trying to have all the bid sheets and item information prepared in advance. Walk-in items will be accepted but prior notification would be preferred. For more information, or if you have questions, call or e-mail Susan - she loves to answer questions!

Don't forget those dates - **October 9, 10 & 11, 1998, University of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas**

Hummingbirds in Kansas The Perspective of a Novice

by *Don Kazmaier*

If three years ago, you had told me what I'm about to tell you now, it would have been hard to believe. One hummingbird was all that this writer had ever seen in nearly fifty years of residence in this state. That being said, this fall (1997) we recorded a record number of 22 hummers IN OUR YARD! Notwithstanding that, one, a female broadtail had never before been reported in Pawnee County. So what's the catch? No catch at all. A very intense program of planting on our lot (87' x 150') has proven that even in old dusty, hot, inhospitable Kansas, hummers do exist. The "catch" is in providing them something to first make them stop, and second to make them stay for awhile (about 2 days in the spring to 7 - 10 days in the fall).

By no means do I consider myself an expert, only one who loves hummingbirds, and was naive enough to believe what I read in books about hummers. Book after book related of attracting hummers with their favorite flowers. To say I was skeptical was the understatement of the year. But because my wife Kathy is a butterfly and flower nut, we decided to pursue a planting program to attract hummers and butterflies. If nothing came, we would have at least decorated the yard!

But did they ever come! The first year was fairly sparse, since many of the perennials were just beginning to get a foothold. One hummer that first spring came to a feeder briefly. That fall, we were encouraged when we actually saw "our hummer" chase a second bird away from the feeder. This year (1997) spring again only produced three birds. But, one of these was a mature male Ruby-throat. Hoping that possibly we had been discovered, we threw ourselves into a more serious study of the "books" and an accelerated planting program. As stated at the beginning, you already know the results of our efforts.

The plants that have proven most effective for us in order of preference by the hummers are: Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Cardinal Climber (*Ipomea*)*, Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia Leucantha*), Penstemmon (any variety tagged in your gardening book to attract hummers), *Salvia**, Pineapple Sage (*Salvia Elegans*), and many more [* indicates annuals.] Understand that this is not a complete list of plants earmarked to attract hummers, only what has so far worked for us. We still have many other plants that have yet to bloom and prove their potential. I would recommend any book you can lay your hands on about hummers and attracting them. There are several good ones as close as your local discount store or book

store. Our favorite is *How to Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies* by Ortho. When reading these articles and books, bear in mind that what you're about to plant has distinct timing as to when it blooms. Also consider that perennials should be hardy for zones 5/6. Because of this, in Kansas it is difficult to have flowers when the first hummers come through in early spring (late March - more likely early April) With this in mind, we've only found one consistent bloomer that time of year the good old Trumpet Honeysuckle. Not only does this guy start trying to bloom in early (March) spring, he stays in bloom until late fall after the first killing frost. Very hardy, this vine can take light frosts and continue to produce.

Our first fall hummer arrived August 9, 1997. The female Broadtail arrived August 20. Noteworthy for amateurs like myself, is that the male birds normally arrive first, followed by the females and last by the immatures. Our last bird (a mature female Ruby-throat) departed October 26, 1997. Our early cold weather this year seemed to cause an early departure, as last year (1996) we had fall birds well into November, even after it had snowed! One other comment here may be necessary if your not experienced with hummers. They don't feed continuously. So grab yourself a comfortable chair, and watch. There average feeding cycle in Larned seems to be about every 10 - 15 minutes if not disturbed.

Should you be interested, I firmly believe you can attract hummers to your backyard. If you live in a community that has avid flower gardeners, so much the better for your opportunity to be successful. Since the majority of our hummers are migratory, keying your flower production to those times is mandatory. Although the hummers will readily come to feeders, their real preference is the flowers. There were times when a week would pass without seeing a hummer at a feeder because they were using the various flowers exclusively. Also, do NOT take your feeders down when you think the birds should be going south, they know when! You may just save some little guy who's late from starving to death, especially if it's after a hard freeze and the bugs and flowers are both gone. (Yes, they eat bugs, gnats is more like it. One of our odd ball drawing cards was our vegetable garden. The hummers not only liked the gnats and other small flying insects but even tried the blooms on the tomato plants!) Our ultimate goal is to continue to provide habitat to encourage hummers to spend the summer and raise little ones. Should you be interested we're home at: Don Kazmaier, 1111 Main, Larned, KS, 67550, 316-285-2970.

FALL ROUND-UP

1 August through 30 November, 1997

by Chris Hobbs

What happened to the post breeding wanderers this year? As Mark Robbins pointed out, very few 1st and 2nd year Little Blue Herons were present at Quivira NWR in early and mid-August, when large numbers are normally expected. No reports were received of sizable congregations of large waders in general.

Little wind shifts from the south to the north during September always produce excitement! After a week of southerly winds, a shift to the north brought migrants pouring through the state beginning 20 September. Grebes, raptors, shorebirds, and many passerines moved through the state during the third week. Pete Janzen described 'clouds' of Vesper Sparrows, as thousands were grounded in Morton County alone!

After balmy temperatures during the first half of October, a northwest cold front marched across Kansas beginning 13 October. What followed over the next 2-3 day period was a massive movement of birds! The first wave of southbound Sandhill and Whooping Cranes appeared in central Kansas, and hundreds of thousands of Franklin's Gulls brought up the rear. The front apparently pushed Western Bluebirds into the southwest, where three individual reports were received. Baird's Sparrows also extended east of their typical migration path, and *Ammodramus* sparrows in general made a good showing, with respectable counts of the normally elusive Nelson's Sharp-tailed and LeConte's, particularly at Slate Creek Wetlands.

Sebastian Patti and Mike Rader were in a state lister's dilemma while birding at Point of Rocks in Morton County on 8 November – relocate that female Western Bluebird that just flew by, or pay attention to those 3 large ravens soaring with that 'little' Red-tailed Hawk?! They opted for the latter, documenting three Common Ravens for Kansas!

Without a doubt, the birding prize was Mike Rader's discovery of a Long-billed Murrelet on 21 November at Wilson Reservoir! Early birders caught sight of the little Asian alcid the following day, but latecomers settled for leftovers, as the bird vanished sometime during the afternoon of 22 November.

Thanks to all who contributed reports directly, or indirectly through the KSBIRD Listserve and KOS Hotline! Both of these resources are invaluable aids for compiling bird sightings in the state, and thanks goes to Chuck Otte, Scott Seltman, and Gene Young for creating and maintaining these important data gathering and distributing services! Also, our thanks should go to the members of the Kansas Bird Records Committee for their careful review and analysis of rarity reports, and for maintaining lofty standards that provide clean, valid data! Finally, I especially wish to thank Pete Janzen for agreeing to take over this reporting job beginning next issue! Good birding! As always, all sightings are tentative pending action by the Bird Records Committee.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Red-throated Loon	1 – Clinton Lake	Powell, m.ob	10-25/11-08	Douglas
Pacific Loon	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Janzen, et al	11-22	Russell
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-26	Russell
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman, et al	11-28	Russell
Common Loon	2 – Pottawatomie Co. Lake	Hedinger	10-29	Pottawatomie
	2 – Wilson Rsvr.	Rader	10-29	Russell
Pied-billed Grebe	66 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	09-20	Wyandotte
Horned Grebe	9 – Liberal's Sewer Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
	5 – Harvey Co. East Lake	Dester	10-27	Harvey
	20 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	10-29	Russell

Eared Grebe	6 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
Western Grebe	5 pair at Lake McKinney	Dunn	08-22	Kearny
	5 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	10-29	Russell
	3 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-03	Russell
	3 – Cheney Lake	Janzen, et al	11-07	Sedgwick
	1 – Harvey Co. East Lake	Dester	11-08	Harvey
	1 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford
	4 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-26	Russell
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman, et al	11-28	Russell
Clark’s Grebe	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	10-29	Russell
	2 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-03	Russell
American Bittern	1 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
	2 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
	1 – Quivira NWR	Regier	11-20	Stafford
Snowy Egret	10 – Tuttle Creek	Hedinger	08-13	Riley
	120 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
	5 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
Little Blue Heron	1 ad. along Cimarron R.	Percival	08-29	Morton
	20 imm. Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-02	Sumner
	35 imm. – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
Tri-colored Heron	1 – Quivira NWR	Hicks	09-27	Stafford
Cattle Egret	75+ - Wilson Reservoir	Rader	09-19	Russell
	300 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1 juv. – Lake McKinney	Dunn	08-22	Kearny
	2 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
White-faced Ibis	1 – near Colwich	Janzen	09-08	Sedgwick
	30 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
	4 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young, Thompson	10-02	Sumner
Turkey Vulture	1 – near La Cygne	McHugh	11-15	Linn
	1 – near Lawrence	J & E Zellmer	11-23	Douglas
Greater White-fronted Goose	50,000 – Quivira NWR	Hilley, manager	11-01	Stafford
Ross’ Goose	1 – John Redmond Rsvr.	F Young, Brobisky	10-24	Coffey
	1 – Pawnee Co. 1 st ?	Seltman	11-09	Pawnee
Trumpeter Swan	1 – Lake McKinney	Nonhof, et al	11-20	Kearny
Tundra Swan	1 ad. – Alma Sewage Ponds	LaShelle	11-01/02	Wabaunsee
	3 – Quivira NWR	Seltman	11-15	Stafford
	3 still present – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford
Mottled Duck	1 male – Nature Conservancy prop.	Seltman	08-07	Barton
Cinnamon Teal	1 – Colwich Wetlands	Janzen, Hicks, Schwab	08-24/30	Sedgwick

Surf Scoter	1 fem. – Lake Wabaunsee sew. pond	LaShelle	11-02	Wabaunsee
	7 – Lake Quivira	Cooper	11-08	Johnson
	1 – Lake Wabaunsee	LaShelle	11-08	Wabaunsee
White-winged Scoter	1 – Milford Lake	Otte	10-21	Geary
	1- Cheyenne Bottoms	Janzen, et al	11-22	Barton
	1- Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-26	Russell
	1 fem – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman, et al	11-28	Russell
Black Scoter	1 male – Tuttle Creek Rsvr.	Cable	10-26	Riley
	2 – Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	Runco	11-11	Pottawatomie
Oldsquaw	5 (3 fem, 2 males) - Quivira NWR	Robbins, et al	11-07	Stafford
	5 still present – Quivira NWR	Seltman	11-15	Stafford
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rucker, Ottes	11-23	Russell
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman, et al	11-28	Russell
Common Goldeneye	12 – new arrivals at Wilson Rsvr.	Rader	10-29	Russell
Red-breasted Merganser	3 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	11-03	Russell
	1 – fem. at Wilson Reservoir	m. ob.	11-22	Russell
	17 – Winfield City Lake	Thompson	11-23	Cowley
	10 – Winfield City Lake	Thompson	11-28	Cowley
Osprey	1 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	10-25	Wyandotte
Mississippi Kite	1 – summered in Prairie Village	Leo	08-21	Johnson
	50 migrants at Cheyenne Bottoms	Land, et al	08-30	Barton
	1 – Liberal	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
	23 imm. – Garden City	Shane	09-27	Finney
Northern Harrier	100+ in Pawnee Co.	Seltman	10-07	Pawnee
Cooper's Hawk	1 – Towanda	Broyles	08-14	Butler
	1 – Greensburg	Broyles	08-18	Butler
	1 – imm near Towanda	Broyles	08-19	Butler
Northern Goshawk	1 ad – near Lenora	Seltman	10-22	Norton
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 – near Ark R. at OK border	Janzen	09-01	Cowley
	1 – Quivira NWR	Seltman, Rader	11-15	Stafford
Broad-winged Hawk	1 – along Cimarron R.	Percival, Rader, et al	09-14	Morton
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	09-17	Russell
	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	09-19	Russell
	10 (incl. 1 dark morph) – Mulvane	Hicks	09-29	Sumner
Swainson's Hawk	40+ roosting in Seltman's yard	Seltman	09-14	Rush
	325 – bean fields near Walnut R.	Young, Thompson	10-08	Cowley
Ferruginous Hawk	1 – Cheyenne Bottoms	Land, et al	08-30	Barton
	1 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford
Golden Eagle	1 – Butler Co.	Broyles	11-20	Butler
	1 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford

Merlin	1 – Harvey Co. West Park	Friesen, Hesed	09-28	Harvey
	1 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
	1 – Cheyenne Bottoms	Thompson, Young, et al	11-04	Barton
	1 – Lake Afton	Janzen, et al	11-15	Sedgwick
Peregrine Falcon	1 – dark individual – Chey. Btms.	Patti, Preston, Siglar, et al	09-11	Barton
Scaled Quail	10 – near Elkhart	Janzen, et al	09-20	Morton
<u>Yellow Rail</u>	1 – Baker Wetlands	Kluza, Bostwick	10-18	Douglas
Common Moorhen	2 – Cheyenne Bottoms	Thompson, Young, et al	11-04	Barton
	1 – Quivira NWR – late record	Robbins	11-07	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	1 st southbound wave over Rush	Seltman	10-15	Rush
	90,000 – Quivira NWR	Hilley, manager	11-01	Stafford
	1000’s present – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford
Whooping Crane	1 – 1 st report – Cheyenne Bottoms	Smeltzer	10-16	Barton
	3 – near Wichita	Northrup	10-23	Sedgwick
	13 – Quivira NWR	Hilley, manager	10-25	Stafford
	4 ad – Garden City	Shane	10-26	Finney
	1 – flying over sw. Rush Co.	Seltman	10-26	Rush
	4 – Quivira NWR-late!	Regier	11-04	Stafford
Black-bellied Plover	1 - Clinton Lake	McHugh & Fisher	08-02	Douglas
	3 – Tuttle Creek	Hedinger	08-13	Riley
	3 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
	2 – Quivira NWR	Beckemeyer	11-07	Stafford
Snowy Plover	30 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
Semipalmated Plover	8 – Wichita	Janzen	08-10	Sedgwick
	1 – Lake Shawnee	Arbesy	10-27	Shawnee
American Avocet	42 – Wilson Rsvr.	Rader	10-21	Russell
	2 – Quivira NWR	Robbins	11-07	Stafford
	7 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-22	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	1 – Quivira NWR	Regier	11-20	Stafford
Solitary Sandpiper	7 – pond near Derby	Janzen	08-04	Sedgwick
	1 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young, Thompson	10-02	Sumner
	1 – near Lawrence	Robbins	10-18/22	Douglas
Upland Sandpiper	100’s – Great Bend & Quivira	Robbins	08-10	Barton/Stafford
Whimbrel	8 – pond near Derby	Hicks	08-04	Sedgwick
Long-billed Curlew	1 – Quivira NWR	McNeill	09-14	Stafford
	2 – Quivira NWR – late!	Janzen, Vannoy	11-04	Stafford
Marbled Godwit	6 – Quivira NWR	Land, et al	08-31	Stafford
	1 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Siglar, et al	09-12	Seward

Ruddy Turnstone	1 – Liberal Sewer Lake – Co. 1 st	Thompson	08-31	Seward
Red Knot	16 – pond near Derby	Hicks	08-04	Sedgwick
	14 – pond near Derby	Janzen	08-05	Sedgwick
	1 – basic plumage – Colwich	Janzen	08-24	Sedgwick
Sanderling	1 – pond near Derby	Janzen	08-04	Sedgwick
	1 – Elkhart sewage ponds	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
	24 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
	1 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-04	Stafford
Semipalmated Sandpiper	104 (!) – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
Least Sandpiper	577 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
Baird’s Sandpiper	3 – Quivira NWR	Robbins	11-23	Stafford
Dunlin	2 – Fish Farms at Lawrence	Moore	10-28	Douglas
	28 – Quivira NWR	Thompson, Young, et al	11-04	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 - Ferguson Marsh, Perry Lake	McHugh, Fisher	08-02	Jefferson
	1 – pond near Derby	Hicks, Janzen	08-04/05	Sedgwick
	2 – sod farms near Stilwell	McHugh	08-22	Johnson
	4 – Colwich Wetlands	Janzen	08-24	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 – nw Wichita	Janzen	08-03	Sedgwick
	1 – Elkhart sewage ponds	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
	2 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
Long-billed Dowitcher	10 – Quivira NWR	Rader	09-27	Stafford
	25 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Young	10-07	Sumner
Common Snipe	50 – Fish Farms at Lawrence	Moore	10-28	Douglas
American Woodcock	1 – Osage Nature Trail	Dester	10-26	Harvey
Red-necked Phalarope	1 juv. North of Garden City	Dunn	08-21/22	Finney
	1 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Thompson, et al	08-31	Seward
	2 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Patti, Preston, et al	09-12	Seward
	10 – Quivira NWR	Hobbs, Patti, Preston	09-15	Stafford
	16 – Liberal’s Sewer Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Seward
Franklin’s Gull	(1 albino) – Cheney Rsvr.	Northrup	10-23	Sedgwick
	100,000+ - John Redmond Rsvr.	F Young, Brobisky	10-24	Coffey
	500,000 – Cheney Rsvr.	Janzen	10-24	Sedgwick
Bonaparte’s Gull	300 – Clinton Lake	Moore	10-28	Douglas
California Gull	1 – Basic II – Clinton Lake	McHugh/Swalwell	11-08/09	Douglas
Sabine’s Gull	1 - 1 st year – Cheyenne Bottoms	Siglar, Percival, et al	09-11	Barton
	1 - 1 st year – Quivira NWR	Hobbs, Patti, Preston	09-15/27	Stafford
Common Tern	7 imm. – Clinton Lake	McHugh, Pittman, Seibel	10-11	Douglas

<u>Long-Billed Murrelet</u>	1 – Wilson Rsvr. – 1 st state record	Rader, m.ob	11-21/22	Russell
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	2-3 in Goodland – still present	Cable, m.ob	08-09	Sherman
<u>White-Winged Dove</u>	1 at feeder in Hutchinson (photos)	Willbanks	08-30/09-15	Reno
<u>Inca Dove</u>	1 – in Wichita since first of year	Gilmore, m.ob	thru 09-02	Sedgwick
	1 – Elkhart	Rader, et al	09-13	Morton
	2 – Elkhart	R & L Smith	10-25/31	Morton
<u>Western Screech-Owl</u>	2 – along Cimarron R. at CO border	Patti, et al	08-29	Morton
	1 – along Cimarron R. at CO border	Patti, et al	09-12	Morton
Long-eared Owl	1 – work station at Cimarron NG	Rakestraw	08-11	Morton
	1 – suburban Topeka	Brier	11-02	Shawnee
Chuck-will's-Widow	1 – KSU Horticultural Center	Janzen	09-09	Sedgwick
<i>Archilochus, sp.</i>	1 fem at Elkhart	Giddens residence	08-30	Morton
	1 – Elkhart	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 ad male at Liberal	Patti	08-31	Seward
<u>Broad-Tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 female at Larned	Kazmaier	08-20/22	Pawnee
Rufous Hummingbird	1 ad male in Winfield	Steiners	08-31/09-02	Sumner
	1 – north Wichita	McFarland	09-12/14	Sedgwick
	1 – Overland Park	Taylor, Garrett, Leo	11-20/30	Johnson
<u>Lewis' Woodpecker</u>	1 – Yocemento	Kraus, m.ob	10-28/11-04	Ellis
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 male – Middle Spg, Cimarron NG	Seltman	10-18	Morton
	2 – near Point of Rocks	Patti, Rader	11-10	Morton
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 – near Newton	Dester	08-10	Harvey
	1 – Emporia	Trelc	08-17	Lyon
	1 – Cheyenne Bottoms	Kluza, Watson	08-18	Barton
	1 – near Arkansas R. at OK border	Janzen	09-01	Cowley
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 – Marais des Cygne WA	McHugh	09-06	Linn
	4 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	09-10	Wyandotte
Hammond's Flycatcher	2 – Elkhart alley	Janzen, et al	09-20	Morton
<u>Dusky Flycatcher</u>	1 – North Fork	Percival, Rader, et al	09-13	Morton
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 – work station, Cimarron NG	Percival	08-28	Morton
	1 – Boy Scout area, Cimarron NG	Vannoy, et al	09-14	Morton
	1 – Boy Scout area, Cimarron NG	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 – Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt	Patti, et al	08-29	Morton
	1 – North Fork of Cimarron R.	Patti, et al	08-30	Morton
	10+ total observed in county	Thompson, et al	08-30	Morton
	1 – work station near Elkhart	Siglar	09-14	Morton

Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 – below Point of Rocks 1 – Marais des Cygne – pend MBRC	Rakestraw McHugh	08-11 09-06	Morton Linn
<u>Cassin's Kingbird</u>	1 – Middle Spgs, Cimarron NG	Patti, Siglar, et al	09-12	Morton
Western Kingbird	50+ migrants – Great Bend area 300+ migrants – near Elkhart only 3 left! - near Elkhart 4 – near Elkhart	Robbins Thompson, et al Thompson, et al Janzen, et al	08-08 08-30 08-31 09-21	Barton Morton Morton Morton
Eastern Kingbird	50+ migrants – Great Bend area 100's migrating – Tuttle Creek	Robbins Cable	08-08 08-30/31	Barton Riley
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 – Olathe	Arbesy	10-28	Johnson
Northern Shrike	1 juv – near Lenora 1 adult near Larned 1 adult – Rozel 1 adult – Wilson Reservoir 1 adult – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman Seltman Seltman Rader Seltman, et al	10-22 10-28 11-04 11-16 11-28	Norton Pawnee Pawnee Russell Russell
Blue-headed Vireo	1 – Wilson Reservoir 10+ – Maple Grove Cemetery	Rader Gresham	09-21 09-24	Russell Sedgwick
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	2 – Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt	Preston, Percival, et al	09-12	Morton
Warbling Vireo	10+ - Chisholm Creek Park	Janzen	09-12	Sedgwick
Philadelphia Vireo	3 – Cheyenne Bottoms 1 – Chisholm Creek Park 1 – Woodson Co. State Fishing Lk.	Land Janzen Schwab	08-30 09-12 09-25	Barton Sedgwick Woodson
Blue Jay	400+ - Slate Creek Wetlands	Young, Thompson	10-02	Sumner
<u>Common Raven</u>	3 – Point of Rocks	Patti, Rader	11-08	Morton
Purple Martin	100's migrating – Tuttle Creek	Cable	09-01	Riley
Carolina Chickadee	3 – Meade State Lake	Janzen, et al	09-21	Meade
<u>Bushtit</u>	a few in Elkhart	Patti, Rader	11-08	Morton
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 – Junction City Cemetery	Otte	09-04	Geary
White-breasted Nuthatch	'high' numbers along Cimarron R.	Seltman	10-18	Morton
<u>Canyon Wren</u>	1 – Point of Rocks	Vannoy, et al	09-14	Morton
Carolina Wren	1 – St. Francis	Rueb	11-15/16	Cheyenne
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	09-20	Wyandotte
<u>Western Bluebird</u>	1 female – Bear Creek 1 – Elkhart sewage ponds 1 female – Point of Rocks	Seltman R & L Smith Patti	10-18 10-20 11-08	Stanton Morton Morton

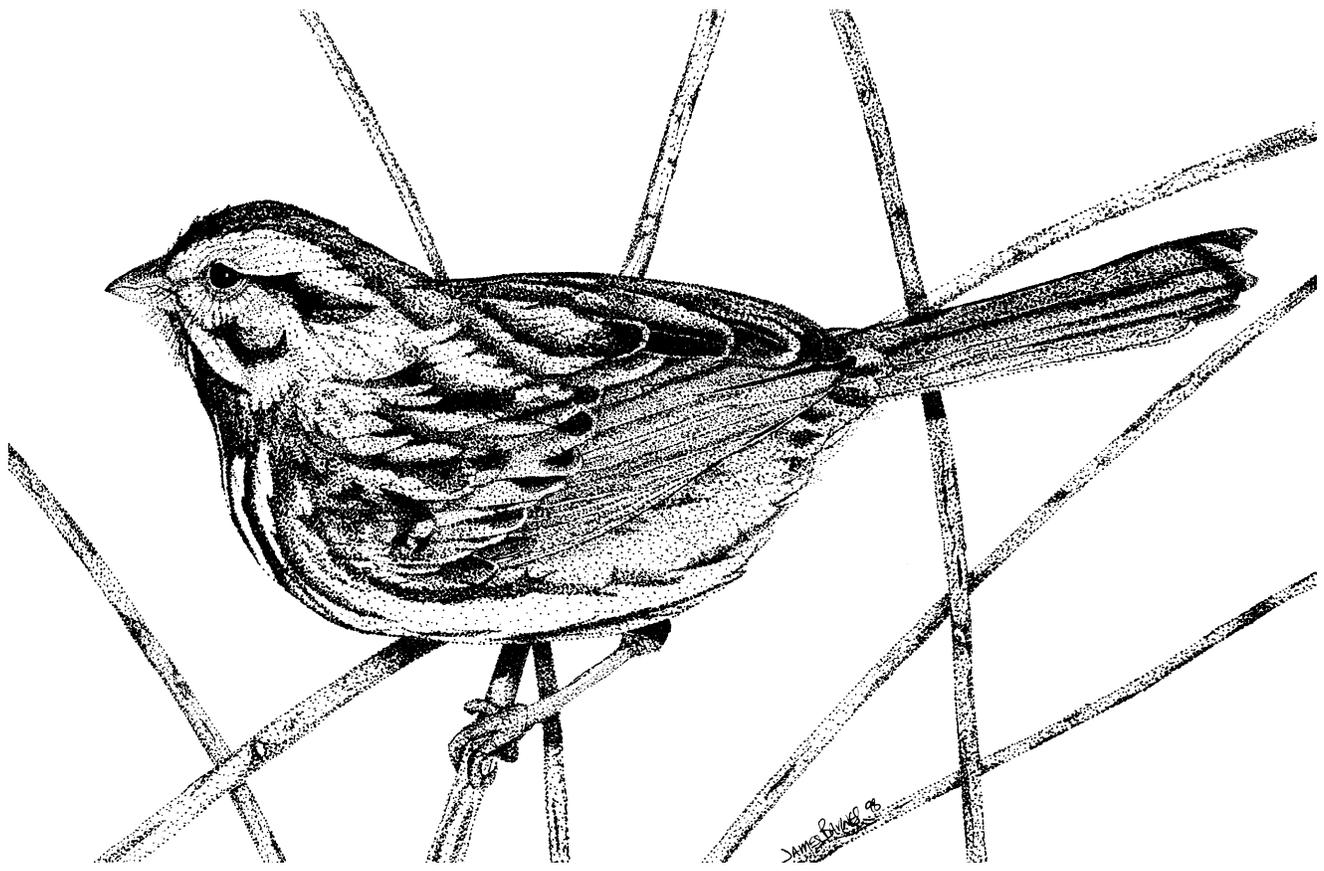
Mountain Bluebird	a few migrants near Elkhart 3 – Wilson Reservoir	Seltman Hicks	10-18 11-23	Morton Russell
Hermit Thrush	1 – Wilson Reservoir	Rader	10-21	Russell
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	1 - Elkhart	R & L Smith	10-27	Morton
<u>Sage Thrasher</u>	1 – Middle Spg, Cimarron NG 1 – nw of Larned	McNeill, et al Seltman	09-16 09-21	Morton Pawnee
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 – near work station 1 – near work station	Vannoy, et al Janzen, et al	09-14 09-20	Morton Morton
Sprague's Pipit	a few northwest of Larned	Seltman	09-30	Pawnee
Blue-winged Warbler	1 imm. – Marais des Cygne WA	McHugh	09-06	Linn
Golden-winged Warbler	1 – along River Road	Plinsky, McDowells	09-23	Shawnee
Tennessee Warbler	2 – Chisholm Creek Park 1 – Grantville	Janzen Volmut	09-22 09-28	Sedgwick Jefferson
Nashville Warbler	25 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	09-20	Wyandotte
Yellow-rumped Warbler	100's at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	10-25	Wyandotte
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1 – work station 1 – work station	Percival Patti, Percival et al	08-28 09-12	Morton Morton
Black-throated Green Warbler	25+ – Maple Grove Cemetery	Janzen	09-25	Sedgwick
Pine Warbler	1 – near Newton 1 – Richardson Zoo, Garden City 1 – McPherson Valley Wetland 1 – Maple Grove Cemetery	Dester Dunn Hicks, Schwab Gresham	08-02 08-22 08-31 09-24	Harvey Finney McPherson Sedgwick
Blackpoll Warbler	1 – Boy Scout area, Cimarron NG	Cable, Percival, et al	09-12	Morton
Cerulean Warbler	1 imm. at Marais des Cygne WA	McHugh	08-22	Linn
Mourning Warbler	2 – Junction City Cemetery 1 – Marais des Cygne WA 2 – Wilson Reservoir 1 – Grantville	Otte McHugh Rader Volmut	09-04 09-06 09-21 09-28	Geary Linn Russell Jefferson
Hooded Warbler	1 imm male at Perry Lake	McHugh	08-09	Jefferson
Canada Warbler	1 – Wolf Creek Power Lake 5 – Marais des Cygne WA 1 – Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt 1 – Maple Grove Cemetery	Trelc McHugh Percival, et al Gresham	08-31 09-06 09-12 09-24	Coffey Linn Morton Sedgwick
Scarlet Tanager	1 female – Maple Grove Cemetery	Janzen	09-25	Sedgwick
Western Tanager	1 imm. at Cimarron R. near Elkhart	Kluza, Watson	08-17	Morton

Green-tailed Towhee	1 – Elkhart alley	Janzen, et al	09-20	Morton
Eastern Towhee	1 male – Seltman’s yard 1 – Wyandotte Co. Lake	Seltman Moore	10-22 10-25	Rush Wyandotte
Spotted Towhee	5 – Chisholm Creek Park	fide Janzen	09-29	Sedgwick
American Tree Sparrow	4 – Rush County	Seltman	09-24	Rush
Vesper Sparrow	1000’s of grounded migrants	Janzen, et al	09-20	Morton
<u>Baird’s Sparrow</u>	2 – Harvey Co. East Lake Trail 1 – near Topeka	Janzen, Dester Koontz, Frey	10-14 10-21	Harvey Shawnee
LeConte’s Sparrow	9 – Milford Reservoir 2 – Rush County 17 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Cable, Otte Seltman Young	10-17 10-27 10-28	Geary Rush Sumner
Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow	2 – Milford Lake several’ – Slate Creek Wetlands 4 – Slate Creek Wetlands 6 – Slate Creek Wetlands	Otte Thompson, et al Hicks Young	10-03 10-23 10-26 10-28	Geary Sumner Sumner Sumner
Dark-eyed Junco	1 st of the fall – Harvey Co. West Pk.	Friesen, Hesed	09-28	Harvey
<u>‘White-Winged’ Junco</u>	1 – banded in Winfield	Thompson	11-25	Cowley
Lapland Longspur	10,000 – Rush Co.	Seltman	11-15	Rush
Smith’s Longspur	2 – Melvern Rsvr. – Eisenhower SP	Brier	10-29	Coffey
Chestnut-collared Longspur	‘many’ migrants heard overhead	Seltman	10-18	Morton/Stanton
Northern Cardinal	1 juv being fed by adult – Elkhart	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 female – Elkhart	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
Lazuli Bunting	1 – Middle Spring, Cimarron NG	Janzen, et al	09-20	Morton
Painted Bunting	1 ad. male – K-96 bridge in Wichita	Barnes, Janzen	08-09/10	Sedgwick
Dickcissel	3 – overhead migrants - Elkhart	Janzen, et al	09-21	Morton
Bobolink	1 LATE imm. male – Lawrence	Robbins	11-09	Douglas
Orchard Oriole	100+ near Elkhart	Thompson, et al	08-30	Morton
Bullock’s Oriole	1 – Mulvane	Hicks	09-09	Sedgwick
Purple Finch	2 – Clinton Lake	Moore	10-28	Douglas
Red Crossbill	1 fly over – Elkhart	Patti	08-30	Morton
White-Winged Crossbill	1 – Olathe	Arnett, m. ob	11-10/17	Johnson

Common Redpoll	1 – early fall record – Lawrence	Robbins	11-09	Douglas
Evening Grosbeak	4 early migrants – west Wichita	Northrup	09-30	Sedgwick

OBSERVERS: Michael Arbesy, Debarah Arnett, James Barnes, Pat & Roy Beckemeyer, Kim Bostwick, Joanne Brier, Curtis Brobisky, Bob Broyles, Ted Cable, Mike Cooper, Bob Dester, Jon Dunn, Greg Farley, Bob Fisher, John Frey, Gregg Friesen, JoAnne Garrett, Chet Gresham, Chod Hedding, Larry Hesed, Tyler Hicks, Dave Hilley, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Dan Kluza, Glen Koontz, Charlie Kraus, Mark Land, Dan LaShelle, Nancy Leo, Erin & Kathy McDowell, Jane McFarland, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill, Lloyd Moore, Art Nonhof, John Northrup, Chuck & Jaye Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Alexis Powell, Eric Preston, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Bob Regier, Mark Robbins, Richard Rucker, Chad Runco, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Sara & Tom Shane, Andy Siglar, Keith Smeltzer, Ruth & Lawrence Smith, Joe Steiners, Art Swalwell, George Taylor, Max Thompson, Bill Trelc, Don Vannoy, Joyce Volmut, Dave Watson, Linda Willbanks, Fred Young, Gene Young, Jim & Ellen Zellmer.

Kansas Rare Bird Alert - 316-229-2777



Song Sparrow by James Barnes

Bird Records - What Happens To Them?

by Eugene A. Young, Hotline Compiler

All bird records assist ornithologist across the country in understanding the distribution of birds, their migrational patterns, population status etc. To that extent all records are important. While each of us may collect bird records for different reasons (enjoyment, listing, hobby, profession etc.) one must keep in mind that all records, sight, photo, video, specimen etc., are a valuable tool.

Recent controversy over bird records is nothing new. What is new is the number of people providing records, the mechanism by which records are obtained (i.e. video), and the way in which records are evaluated. In KOS there are three main avenues to report bird records: 1) the bird roundups in the KOS Newsletter; 2) the KOS and Southwestern College sponsored Rare Bird Alert (RBA); and 3) the Kansas Rare Bird Records Committee (KBRC). I want to take a few moments to explain how records from each of these are obtained.

KOS Roundups -- Over the years several people (Scott Seltman, Chuck Otte, Chris Hobbs, and currently Pete Janzen) have been involved in gathering records for the KOS Newsletter. These records can come from a variety of sources: personal communication, letters, e-mail, the Kansas List Serve, and the RBA. Most of these records are unconfirmed sight records.

RBA -- The RBA was started in June 1984, by Marvin Schwilling. Scott Seltman took over responsibility in February 1990 and ran it until I took it over last fall. Records for the RBA come from the hotline voice-mail, e-mail, Kansas List Serve, and personal communication. Most of these records are of unconfirmed sight records.

KBRC -- This committee was formed to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state. It is a vigorous attempt to determine the status of species for which there are few records. Records are obtained from individuals who fill out a form that is submitted to the KBRC committee. The KBRC committee evaluates the documentation submitted and then votes on the record to determine if it is accepted or rejected.

Knowing how these records are obtained is important, because it can help you in deciding how much effort you want to put into documenting a bird. Not all birders want to take time to photograph or to make lengthy reports on the rare birds they see. In an ideal world, I suppose we would all be happy to have the time to obtain the physical

evidence or to write down detailed notes about the birds we see.

Perhaps the most important point of all of this is that all records reported to the Roundups, RBA, and KBRC are available for scientific scrutiny. All records that are received for the Roundup and RBA are saved and distributed to the various databases on Kansas birds, even if they are not included in the Newsletter or on the RBA. Sometimes records are deleted from these by mistake or for specific purposes (for a variety of reasons). For example, on the RBA, people frequently call about their Song Sparrows singing, or they provide a detailed list of 15 species of waterfowl with corresponding numbers and the only rare one is a Brant, which is the only one put on the hotline. I save all of these records and forward them so they can be put in one of the state's databases.

As most of you know, Max C. Thompson and Charles Ely have been documenting and working together on birds in Kansas for almost 40 years. Thompson and his students update county records via a database that was developed for Kansas birds through a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Chickadee Check-off Program. Ely continues to compile records and add them to his database of Kansas birds at his retirement home in Texas. Many of their records come from those reported to the Round-up and RBA coordinators. In addition, some people are working on county checklist or certain taxa and records are distributed to them as well.

KBRC records are also scrutinized by those working on county lists or state lists. All records, rejected or accepted, are archived as well. A rejected record by the KBRC does not necessarily mean that a person(s) working on a county list or those working on the state list will reject the record. Accepted KBRC records may even be rejected by some.

All of this means, that ultimately, all records are subject to a certain degree of examination, albeit, some more than others. Do not be dismayed if your record is rejected by KBRC, or omitted from the Roundups or the RBA. The data from each record is still used, it is not lost. Each and every KOS member has the opportunity to add to the wealth of knowledge already known about KS birds, but more is needed. So please continue to send in records to KOS because they play a key role in understanding ornithology in Kansas.

- - a call for assistance

The Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas Project

The Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas Project consists of a statewide survey of nesting birds which is conducted by volunteer birders. Atlas projects have been undertaken in over 40 states and are usually conducted over a five-year period. Our project began in 1997 and will continue through 2001. The areas surveyed (called random blocks) are about 10 square miles in size and are randomly located throughout all regions of the state. About 600 of these blocks need to be surveyed by 2001 in Oklahoma. The final product will be a published encyclopedic-type atlas displaying maps with the most up-to-date and complete information available on Oklahoma's breeding bird life. The Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville and the Oklahoma Biological Survey at the University of Oklahoma are coordinating the project.

Sign up sheets and inquiries may be sent to:

Dan Reinking
Sutton Avian Research Center
P.O. Box 2007
Bartlesville, OK 74005-2007
Phone: (918) 336-7778
e-mail: GMSARC@aol.com

(editors note: It appears that the Oklahoma project is very similar to our own. Ten hours is considered the minimum time per block. If you live close to Oklahoma, or want to take some vacation time to go down and help, please contact Dan and let's give Oklahoma a hand on this!)

The Canyonlands: Southeast Logan County Winter Bird Count participants ready to move on after a break and a change to dry socks. The count, conducted on December 30, 1997, covered 8.5 miles on foot. Left to right are: Debra Bolton, Barbara Campbell and Greg Farley. *photo by Tom Shane*

Colorado Field Ornithologists Convention

May 8 - 10, 1998

Lamar, Colorado

KOS members have been invited to the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) Spring Convention. There are several things that make this convention attractive. It is close to Kansas. Lamar is just 100 miles west of Garden City on Hwy. 50. It is at a good time of the year for migrants. CFO members are going to southeastern Colorado to look for eastern vagrants, so it only stands to reason that Kansas birders could go there looking for some of the western specialties! The registration brochure for the meeting is 8 pages in length. I'll try to condense the highlights and important contact information down to one page.

Friday, May 8th, Lamar Colorado, The Cow Palace, 1301 North Main, 6 pm to 10 pm check-in/social.

Saturday, May 9th, Field Trips - listing follows schedule - Member slide show at 7 pm.

Sunday, May 10th, 1/2 day morning field trips. Afternoon Paper Session at 1:30 p.m. Banquet Buffet at 7:00 p.m., program at 8:15. Program Speaker will be Jon Dunn. Mr. Dunn was a chief consultant for *The National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. His latest book, *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*, with Kimball Garrett, was published late last summer.

Saturday Field Trips:

1/2 day trips

1. Hasty and John Martin Reservoir areas, leaders: Clif Smith and Pearle Sandstrom-Smith
2. Great Plains Reservoirs, leader: Duane Nelson.
3. Fort Lyon area, leader: Brandon Percival.
4. Two Buttes Reservoir, leader: Joey Kellner

Full Day Trips

5. Cottonwood Canyon and Baca County, leader: Mark Janos
6. LaJunta area, leader: Van Truan

Sunday Field Trips

1. Bent's Fort (combined birder/non-birder trip)
2. Great Plains Reservoir
3. Fort Lyon area
4. Two Buttes Reservoir
5. Holly area

If you want to attend this meeting you need to hurry as pre-registration needs to be in by April 15. Pre-registration is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. The banquet buffet is \$14. Field trip sack lunches are \$5. The registration brochure has a list of nine motels in Lamar ranging in prices from the mid \$20 to the mid \$40.

How do you register? Contact their registration chairperson!

Pearle Sandstrom-Smith
2823 5th Ave
Pueblo, CO 81003

719-543-6427

Or contact the Horned Lark editor (see front page, Who's Who) and I can FAX or mail you a copy of the registration brochure.

Miscellaneous Stuff

Great Plains Nature Photographers

This group got organized with a successful meeting last fall with over 100 photographers in attendance at Lindsborg. They have set dates for their next two meetings.

Their spring meeting will be April 18th at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. The fall meeting will be November 21, tentatively scheduled for Emporia. Single registration for the spring meeting is \$10, \$15 for a family registration. To register, or to get more information) contact: Larry Rosenkoetter, 204 W. Columbus, Lindsborg, KS 67456, (785) 227-3294

Gleanings

There have been a couple of recent meetings that this editor has attended. The KOS Winter Board Meeting met in Wichita on February 28th.

Quite a bit of the morning discussion centered around the upcoming 50th Anniversary meeting in Lawrence. This will be a gala celebration which will include the chance to visit with and listen to some of the legendary figures of Kansas Ornithology. If you can squeeze in the time, you could get a chance to view some of the study skins at KU including those of extinct or extirpated species. Jim Mayhew and Chuck Otte are compiling an updated history of KOS. If you have anything you can share with us please let us know as soon as possible, (addresses are on the front page).

There was a report from the Kansas Bird Records Committee. They had met at KU recently and spent time studying skins of recently split species (the former Solitary Vireo complex for one) and other confusing groups. Look for more good projects out of this committee to help KOS members sharpen their ornithological skills.

We also discussed the Dingus Natural Area. KOS owns this area near Mound City and we will need to be getting some volunteer help together to do some upkeep and improvements. If you would like to help, contact Jim Mayhew.

Local Field Trips

If there is one thing that will get more people joining and involved in KOS it's local activities. I encourage other members to lead local field trips. You don't have to be a Roger Tory Peterson, just set a date, time and place; advertise it; show up and lead it. If you are just learning yourself let everyone know that this is definitely a beginners trip and have fun. Encourage families and children to come along. Contact our KOS Business Manager, James Barnes (see front page) and ask him to send you some membership brochures and hand them out.

Some of the information that Ken Brunson has gotten together to support the Teaming With Wildlife effort is pretty astounding. In Kansas 586,000 people observe wildlife, 126,500 photograph wildlife, 761,100 feed wildlife and 109,000 people maintain natural wildlife plantings. In total, more than 844,000 Kansans and out of state visitors attend events relate to, or making use of, Kansas' outdoor resources. The amazing part of all of this is that these figures are from a 1991 study. Since that time, everyone is pretty well in agreement that the numbers have increased dramatically. Let's take advantage of this interest and get these folks familiar with KOS.

To put my time where my mouth is here are dates for upcoming bird walks in the **Milford Lake** area. All these walks are on Saturdays, they start at 8:00 a.m., and will leave from the Milford Nature Center, below the dam at Milford Lake (look for the signs.) April 18, May 16, June 20 and July 18. All trips will be lead by Chuck Otte, they usually last about 2 hours, birders of all experience are welcome - especially beginners and youth, and we will explore areas around and near Milford Lake.

If you are leading local field trips please drop me a note and I will announce those in future issues!

I've spent most of my life birding. The rest I've just wasted! *Modified after a sign in a Garden City establishment by Tom Shane*

KOS Spring Field Trip Announcement and Registration Form
May 1 - 3, 1998
(with optional activities April 30)
The Red Hills of Kansas

The Spring Field Trip of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be in the scenic Red Hills of Kansas this year. Plan now to attend for a chance to view some of the most appealing scenery in Kansas, and a chance to find some of the more sought-after birds in the state. The trip planning committee, composed of Bill Busby, Gregg Friesen, Pete Janzen, Jim Nickel, and Eddie Stegall, invites you to participate in this exciting event! Non-members are welcome to attend as well.

The weekend will start with a campout at Coldwater Lake Thursday night, April 30. There is a \$7.00 fee for overnight camping at the lake. The primary goal is to listen for Black Rails and other marsh birds. On Friday, the group will meet arriving birders by 10 am, and depart the lake for a tour of the Red Hills area, which will arrive at Medicine Lodge in the late afternoon.

Headquarters for the remainder of the weekend is the Copa Motel in Medicine Lodge. A block of rooms has been set aside for the 1st and 2nd of May. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of KOS. I have been quoted \$41.95 for a room with 2 queen-size beds. There are only a handful of eating establishments in Medicine Lodge. These include a Pizza Hut, a mom & pop burger stand, a truck stop, and a couple of convenience stores. The group will meet at a quaint tavern in Sun City on Saturday night for compilation, and at the Pizza Hut in Medicine Lodge for the noon meal on Sunday. Trip participants are responsible for paying for these meals. All other meals are on your own. Please plan accordingly.

There will be two main field trips on Saturday. One will visit the canyons along the Salt Fork in south-eastern Comanche County. This trip offers some up-close looks at seldom-visited areas, including Swartz Canyon, where Rufous-crowned Sparrow is a possibility, and species such as Rock Wren and Painted Bunting are surprisingly common. People planning to go on this trip are advised to drive vehicles with high clearance and/or 4 wheel drive, as some of the roads are very poor. This trip will also include 3-5 miles of hiking across some fairly rugged terrain. Also, be aware that the possibility of encountering several species of rattlesnakes is not impossible on this trip. Be sure to plan for this trip accordingly, including bringing a good supply of water, etc. Leaders for this trip are Bill Busby and Pete Janzen.

The other Saturday trip will be less challenging from a logistical standpoint, and will visit the beautiful areas of western Barber County and southeastern Kiowa County. This trip will be led by Eddie Stegall and Ken Brunson, two of the more interesting members of our society. For those who have not seen the Red Hills before, this trip will offer a great opportunity to explore them, with two of the naturalists who know the area the best. These two people have a wealth of knowledge about the natural life and history of the Red Hills.

The trips on Sunday will visit a number of areas closer to Medicine Lodge. Plans at this point are for up to four trips, in order to keep the group size as small as possible. Permission has been obtained from several local landowners to trespass on their property. The compilation will be at noon at the Pizza Hut.

We have decided that it would be too difficult to incorporate trips to Lesser Prairie Chicken leks with the other field trips, so these are not planned. Maps will be available to those wishing to view a lek before or after the meeting.

There is not a registration fee for this trip, because all of the participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. It is requested that you register for the weekend, using the form below, so that the committee can have an idea of how many people to expect. Also we need to warn Buster's how many people to expect!! Hotel reservations are up to you. The number for the Copa Best Western is 316-886-5673. Anyone seeking lodging in Coldwater for Thursday night (other than camping), is advised to contact the Comanche Motel at 316-582-2104.

KOS Spring Field Trip Registration Form
May 1 - 3, 1998
(with optional activities April 30)
The Red Hills of Kansas

Yes I plan on attending the KOS Fall Meeting on the following days

Thursday, April 30. Evening campout at Coldwater Lake.

Friday tour of the Red Hills, departing Coldwater Lake at 10:00 AM sharp.

Saturday field trips. Please indicate preference of trip:

Southeast Comanche Co/Swartz Canyon

Western Barber Co/Belvidere area.

I plan to attend the compilation at Buster's in Sun City. He should make some dinner for me.

Sunday field trips.

Sunday compilation at the Pizza Hut

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail address _____

Return completed form to:

Pete Janzen

3137 Mascot

Wichita, Ks. 67204-4407

or by e-mail to:

prarybrd@southwind.net

Phone inquires may be made by calling Pete at **316-832-0182**

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(But don't forget to mark down the dates of the 50th Anniversary KOS Annual Meeting

October 9 - 11, 1998

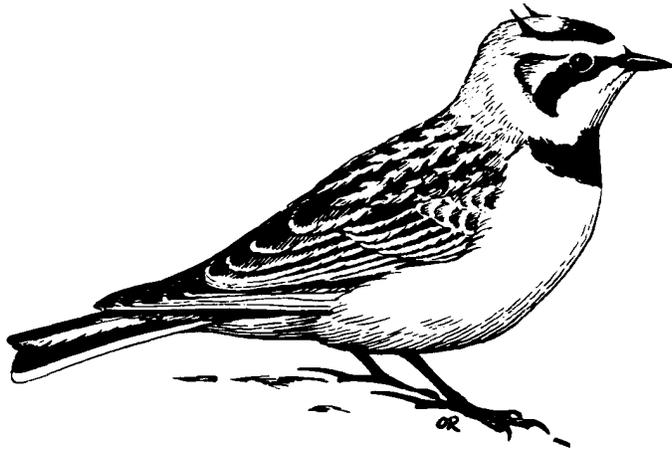
Special Events

Special Guests

Special Activities

Be part of this historical gathering

Plan now to attend!)



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1997

Vol. 24, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

I made the mistake of asking my wife for some suggestions recently. Besides being a bird watcher my wife is a florist. She has an artists eye and an artists mind. I, on the other hand, am a scientist. I see things as formulas, as descriptions, as facts printed on a page. I was feeling particularly good about a recent issue of *The Horned Lark*. My wife looked at the newsletter, looked at me and said something like, "You like it don't you?" I answered in the affirmative and my wife so delicately struck a blow for reality. "Well," she responded, "you're not normal. These are birdwatchers you are sending this to. These are visually oriented people and you're sending them a newsletter full of WORDS."

I love my wife, but I hate it when she's right. Well, the reality is that we can't turn this newsletter into a slick full color bird photo magazine (there's enough of those out there already.) But we can start to break up the columns of print a little bit more. As always I'm very thankful when Tom Shane sends some photos. They help to document some of the activities in KOS. You'll also find a wonderful drawing by our own James Barnes, KOS Business Manager. We hope to be including more drawings by James and other artists in future issues. We hope you like the changes.

The 1997 KOS Annual Meeting in Wichita was well attended, well put together, well run and a lot of fun. The paper sessions were outstanding and the banquet speaker was very entertaining. If you have not been able to attend a fall meeting recently plan to attend the 50th Anniversary gala celebration in Lawrence October 9, 10 & 11, 1998. We've got committees working on this, trying to bring in a lot of folks that have had major impacts on Kansas Ornithology over the years. Note that this is the second weekend of October, not the first. The KOS Board felt that it was better to move to the second weekend rather than try to compete with a home KU football game! Plan to attend, you'll be sorry if you miss this one.

There's notice of other changes inside. The KOS Rare Bird Alert has a new phone number, compiler and location. It has served the membership well and will continue to do so!

I have to give you my annual plug to go out and get involved in those Christmas Bird Counts. I compile two counts myself and we all depend on all of you to help out with those. Not only is it an excuse to go birding, it's a chance to meet new birdwatching friends and discover new birding locations.

Finally, I have to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Holidays are for family and friends. Let's keep them as the focus and enjoy every day we're given! Happy Holidays...

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1997

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

New Hotline Number!!!!

Thanks to the generosity of Southwestern College the KOS Rare Bird Alert has a new home and a new number. Starting November 1st, Scott Seltman turned the reins of the Rare Bird Alert over to Gene Young. Gene is a staff member at Southwestern College in Winfield. The College was generous enough to allow the hotline to take up residence there at a substantial savings. Additionally we'll have access to additional features found in larger phone systems.

The new number for the Kansas Rare Bird Alert is:

316-229-2777

I'm sure that you will find that Gene gives the same outstanding service that was the hallmark of the hotline for the seven years that Scott was in charge. Please call in with your sightings because without your information the hotline is nothing. Gene can also be reached via e-mail at youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Thank you for all your service Scott and hello Gene!

Welcome New Members!

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge "retired" at this year's Annual Meeting. One of the last items of business she took care of, though, before passing the books to Susan, was to dutifully hand me a list of the new members that had joined KOS prior to the Annual Meeting. Thank you Margaret for your fine work the past several years and welcome to the following new KOS members:

Esther Rieschl - Olathe, Cecil Kersting - Metairie, LA, Charles Green - El Dorado, Stephen Barnett - Chanute, Jim Bergin - Ames, IA, John Manry - Topeka, E. Cliffory Manry - Larned, Alexis Powell, Megan Miller - Lawrence, Dennis and Janine Brawning - Wichita, Daniel Thalmann - Lawrence, Jack Hilsabeck - St. Joseph, MO.

We hope to see all of you at as spring or fall meeting soon! For all you current members, it's time to send in your 1998 dues!!!!

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!

May 1998 - Red Hills/Barber County
Fall 1998 - 50th Anniversery Meeting, Lawrence
Spring 1999 - Winfield
Fall 1999 - Hays
Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla)

Colorado's Spring Meeting

May 9, 10 & 11, 1998
Lamar, Colorado

Kansas birders have been invited to join the Colorado Field Ornithologists for their spring 1998 meeting. The CFO group is headed for Southeastern Colorado looking for those wandering eastern migrants. It's a busy weekend with migration count and all, but their banquet speaker will be Jon Dunn, author of the recently released *Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. Look for more information in the March *Horned Lark*.

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LATE FALL BIRDING

by Pete Janzen

In my last article, I talked about some of the aspects of birding in Kansas during the early fall migration in August and September. This time, as promised, I thought I would do the same for the other half of the fall migration, the months of October and November.

This time of the year is exciting for birders who get out in the field. While almost all of the flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and orioles have departed for warmer climes, a whole new set of birds now appears. I always think of October as the best month for finding a variety of sparrows, while November is most productive for loons, grebes, and waterfowl.

Kansas is an excellent place to look for sparrows. We have 37 species of them on our checklist, if you include the towhees and longspurs. At least 10 of these are extremely rare or very local, but that still leaves 25 species that are reasonably common in some part of Kansas, and the vast majority of them can be found in the latter half of the fall. I make note of the progression of the season by the sparrow migration. The earliest migrant sparrows are Vespers, Savannahs, and Clay-colored. Beginning in late September, many thousands of these species can be found in grassy habitats statewide. Soon the next wave begins to mingle with the first, as Lincoln's, White-crowned, Field and Chipping Sparrows begin to filter in. Middle and late October are very good times to seek LeConte's and Swamp Sparrows in wet prairies and marshes, and lucky birders might find Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the same habitats at this time of the year as well. This fall, surprising numbers of Sharp-tails were found at the Slate Creek Wetlands near Oxford. It's hard to say whether this was an unusual concentration, or whether they have just been overlooked there over the years. Often found with LeConte's on many occasions are Sedge and Marsh Wrens, also perhaps more common at this time of the year than at any other time, at least in Kansas. You know the winter season is nearly upon us when the last group of sparrows shows up, which is made up mostly of Harris and American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. Of course, these are broad generalizations, and the range of overlap is very great among all of these species, but it's fun to watch the proportionate mix of species change. This is one of the things that long-time birders enjoy the most, I think.

Nature sends many subtle signals about the seasons and the weather, to those who know how to interpret them.

Later in October, as the first serious cold fronts reach Kansas, many migratory hawks start to appear, especially accipiters and buteos from the north. The first Rough-legged Hawks arrive now, and the local Red-tailed Hawk population is swelled by immigrants from the north who will spend the winter. Also in the latter part of October, large flocks of waterfowl arrive at the marshes and lakes, especially the diving ducks such as Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ring-necks. Another dramatic bird event in October is the huge flocks of Franklin's Gulls that appear on the large reservoirs. These flocks typically start to build up in early October, and by the end of the month, they can number in the tens of thousands of birds. But then one day they are suddenly gone, leaving only a few lost stragglers behind. On October 24 of this year, at Cheney Reservoir, I saw what I estimated to be 500,000 Franklin's. Less than 10 days later, only 5 of them seemingly remained on the lake. Gone to coastal Peru, where the majority of them winter.

"November is the cruelest month..." said the poet, but for me, November is one of the most exciting birding months of the year. I visit my friendly local lakes and reservoirs just as often as I can, because this is when chances are the best for seeing some of the rarest waterbirds that are found in Kansas. These include all four species of loons, all six species of grebes, all three species of scoter, Oldsquaws, and an excellent variety of gulls, including vagrants such as Little Gull or Black-legged Kittiwake. Of course, no one can predict when and where any of these will show up, but the most likely scenario is to find them on reservoirs in November. A lot of persistence is required to find these birds. I have had pretty good success at November lake birding, but this is probably because I am willing to drive out to Cheney Reservoir a couple of times a week, often in less than ideal conditions. In fact, bad weather seems to often act as a catalyst for these birds to appear. I remember the day last year when Gresham, Northrup, and I found the Yellow-billed Loon at Cheney. The wind just howled out of the south for hours that day, with lots of clouds and precipitation. As we arrived at the lake, conditions suddenly calmed, and we got outstanding looks at a lot of birds, probably because they were a bit fatigued from the weather. An hour after we left, the

-- Pete's Perspective, continued

wind turned to the north and blew very hard for over a day, and many of the birds that we saw that day were not seen again. The point being that we went birding on a day when many would not have, and were rewarded for our trouble. So visit your local reservoir as often as possible in November, stay home when the weather is nice, and you too may find exciting waterbirds.

These are just a few random observations on late fall birding, a topic which could occupy many pages of text. I hope that these columns I have been writing for the

Horned Lark have entertained some of you. I enjoyed writing them. Starting in the June, '98 issue, Chuck "Coach" Otte is switching me to the Seasonal Reports page, and I hope I can fill Chris Hobb's capable shoes. Seems like he went a job too far on birding stuff, and something had to go. Hats off to Chris for his fine job! And while I'm at it, ditto to Scott Seltman for his many years of fine service as KOS Hotline operator. I have always felt that Kansas had one of the best hotlines in the country, and it's all because of Scott's diligence. Looks like Gene Young is going to pick up right where Scott left off, based on the great reports so far. Happy holidays to all, and don't forget to participate in your local CBC!

Checklist from the Fall KOS Meeting, October 5, 1997 Wichita, Kansas

Registration for the fall KOS meeting was somewhere around, or slightly over, 80. Unfortunately we were still waiting for a cold front to really start moving birds in from the north so birding was slow and only about 25 stayed around for the Sunday morning field trips. Three groups birded in and around Wichita including Cheney Reservoir, Chisholm Creek Park, etc. There was a total of 83 species found. Not great, but it was one of those warm windy days in early fall just before things get exciting. Nothing too extraordinary or unexpected. The group I was with at Cheney had a few exciting moments when a small real white gull got a lot of us excited. It was a real treat to watch three members of the Kansas Bird Record Committee work this bird over. It was a real workshop in bird identification when you are dealing with something you just aren't sure about. By process of elimination, it was determined that the bird was, as Pete Janzen put it, "...a very odd Franklin's Gull, masquerading as one of those all-white rare gulls." It was fun just the same! Thanks to Pete for compiling the following list.

Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, Northern

Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

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.

Bluebird Trail??

Did you know that Kansas has a coordinator for bluebird nesting information? We have had for the past four years! Jim Piland would like to hear about your bluebird nesting success regardless if you have one box or one hundred boxes. In 1996 Jim received 51 responses from 23 counties, 1,030 nesting boxes and 2,271 bluebirds fledged. Jim can provide you with a standardized report form that is fairly simple to fill it and he would love to hear from you about the success of your nesting boxes. Jim can be reached at:

Kansas Bluebirds
Jim Piland
516 US Hwy. 281
Waldo, KS 67673

This project is funded by the Chickadee Check-off and is operated in conjunction with the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks and the American Bluebird Society.

KBBAT Withdrawal?

Suffering from Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project withdrawal symptoms? Not sure what you're going to do with all your free time?? Afraid that Christmas Counts, Migration Counts and just plain old mundane listing won't cut it anymore?? There may be help in the form of the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas project. It got started in the spring of 1997 so there's still four more years that you can help with! There's 700 blocks across the state. Contact Chuck Otte or Pete Janzen for information on how to get involved!

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues he is your contact also.

New KOS Board Members

We will have a fairly stable transition from the 1997 KOS Board to the 1998 Board. Susan Barnes was elected Membership Secretary, and Gene Young and Jim Mayhew were elected to board positions. The rest of the board remained unchanged. Susan will serve a one year term and will be eligible for re-election annually. Our four board members serve staggered two year terms (two board members are elected annually) and are not re-elected, however they can be elected to officer positions and continue to serve there. We are always looking for new board members and even though the annual meeting is just over please let any of the board know if you are interested in serving. The entire board is listed on the front page of every issue of *The Horned Lark*. Feel free to contact us with questions, ideas or concerns that you may have!

Thank You Wichita!

We need to send a real big thank you out to the local committee in Wichita. The facilities were outstanding, the banquet was truly fun and memorable, and while the birding on Sunday wasn't the stuff that books are written about, the company couldn't be beat!

A tip of our hat to Susan and James Barnes, Roy Beckemeyer, Suzanne Fellows, Pete Janzen, Linda Mallonee, Bob Gress, all the staff at the Great Plains Nature Center and to those who led field trips on Sunday. It was a wonderful weekend in October. Thank you very much!

Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to outgoing Membership Secretary Margaret Wedge and board members Bill Busby and John Schuckman. Margaret has been on the board for three years, Bill and John for two years. Thank you for jobs well done!!

**Deadline for submissions for the
March, 1998 Horned Lark is
February 1, 1998.**

Kansas Christmas Bird Counts - 1997

It's time once again to start making plans for those wonderful holiday treats, Christmas Bird Counts. That opportunity to get together with new and old friends, freeze your fingers and toes, fog up your binoculars, have family and friends question your sanity and have loads of fun counting birds!

In the 1996 season there were a record high 54 counts run in Kansas. Five-hundred-ninety-four participants counted a record high 164 species. In all there were 2,812,863 birds seen. The late fall season has been very interesting. What we see in the 1997 Christmas counts just depends on the weather between now and count day. The following list is not all inclusive. The map on the following page shows where counts were held last year

and the circle indicates the area included in the count circle. For a complete list of 1996 counts see the March, 1997 *KOS Bulletin*. For last minute changes, additions and updates be sure to check the Kansas Rare Bird Alert (316-229-2777) or the Burroughs Audubon Rare Bird Alert in the Kansas City area (913-342-2473). It is also advisable to check with the compiler of the count if you are going to be new to the count for meeting location, meal plans, etc.

Please note that **some** of these counts are National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas counts as well and participants in these counts will be charged the mandatory \$5.00 NAS Christmas Bird Count participant fee.

The following list is in chronological order. The compiler or principle contact person is listed with phone number(s) and/or e-mail address, if known.

Friday, December 19

Dodge City - Joleen Fromm, 316-227-6342, meet at the Inn Pancake House, 1610 West Wyatt Earp Blvd., at 7 a.m. for breakfast.

Quivira NWR - Gary Meggers, contact refuge office at 316-486-2393 for details.

Saturday, December 20

Hays - Greg Farley, 785-628-5965, bigf@fhsu.edu

John Redmond - Bob Culbertson, 316-364-2522, meet at the John Redmond Corps Office near New Strawn or the Flint Hills Refuge Office near Hartford at 7 a.m.

Lakin - Leonard Rich, 316-275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105, glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, 785-537-0781 (home), drintoul@ksu.edu

Newton/Harvey County - Lorna Harder, 316-367-8479, lornah@juno.com Meet at the Kauffman Museum in North Newton by 6:30 a.m.

Parsons - Paul Milks

Topeka - Gary Haden, 785-273-5598

Wichita - Pete Janzen, 316-832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium in Wichita at 7:30 a.m.

Wilson Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 21

Emporia - Jean Schulenberg, 316-342-2380

Perry Lake/Oskaloosa - Richard Rucker, 785-842-3845

Waconda Lake - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, 785-238-8800 (*home*), otte@jc.net

Winfield - Max Thompson, 316-221-1856, maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Monday, December 22

Cedar Bluff - Scott Seltman (date tentative, confirm with Scott 785-372-5411), sselt@ruraltel.net

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, 785-468-3587

Tuesday, December 23

El Dorado - Bill Langley, 316-320-1255, meet at the McDonald's in El Dorado at 7:30 a.m.

Slate Creek - Gene Young, youngg@jinx.sckans.edu, Meet at the Slate Valley Baptist Church, 7 miles south of Oxford on the main blacktop, at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 26

Linn Co. - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu

Saturday, December 27

Arkansas City - Max Thompson, 316-221-1856, maxt@jinx.sckans.edu, meet at Newman Park on Hwy. 77 at 8 a.m.

Baldwin City - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu

Cimarron National Grasslands - Sebastian Patti

Sunday, December 28

Kenton/Black Mesa, OK - Sebastian Patti

Junction City - Chuck Otte, 785-238-8800 (*home*),
otte@jc.net

Monday, December 29

Liberal/Seward Co - Sebastian Patti

Thursday, January 1

Kirwin Reservoir - Contact refuge headquarters

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, 316-275-4616

Southeast Kansas Mined Land - Steve Ford

Friday, January 2

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 3

Barber County - Pete Janzen, 316-832-0182,
prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at the Indian Grill
Restaurant on Hwy. 160 in Medicine Lodge at 8 a.m.

Black Wolf/NW Ellsworth County - Mike Rader,
785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, 316-276-8145,
moster@midusa.net

Leavenworth/Atchison - John Schukman, 913-727-5141,
schuksaya@aol.com

Pomona - Jeff Bender, 785-828-4933, meet at the Pomona
State Park Office near Vassar at 7 a.m.

Sunday, January 4

Bonner Springs/Lansing - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105,
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Kanopolis Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 10

Syracuse - Art Nonhof, 316-277-2087

Old Garfield County - date not yet set, contact Tom
Shane, 316-275-4616

Participate, dress warm and have fun!!

The Kansas Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) of 1996. Circle indicates approximate location and area of inclusion of the count circle. Many, but not all, of these locations will also be having a CBC in 1997. See above article for details.

SUMMER ROUND-UP

June, 1997 through July, 1997

by Chris Hobbs

Although this report covers only two months, Kansas birders racked up impressive finds in nearly every category - rare visitors, extralimitals, early and late migrants, and breeding successes! Southbound shorebirds were plentiful and varied, with twenty-five species present in central Kansas during July!

Black-billed Cuckoos were uncharacteristically conspicuous, as evidenced by the multiple reports. A

quick scan of the following list will reveal few patterns. Instead, western birds wandered east, southern birds north, and eastern birds west! We had our share of "lazy" or injured individuals that hung around for the summer, and yet others that made efficient use of suitable nesting habitat.

As you peruse this list, you may sense that something isn't quite right - the list is compiled in the yet-to-be-published A. O. U.'s new order. Just a taste to see how well you'll adapt!

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Common Loon	2 basic plumage, Wilson Reservoir	Kluza & Rice	07-09	Russell
Western Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Patti, et al	07-13	Stafford
BROWN PELICAN	1 at Wilson Reservoir	McCord & Nichols	07-03	Russell
	1 still present	Kluza & Rice	07-09	Russell
Greater White-fronted Goose	1 at Quivira NWR	Patti, et al	07-13	Stafford
Snow Goose	1 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Seltman, Busby	06-14	Seward
Cinnamon Teal	2 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Seltman, Busby	06-14	Seward
	4 at Quivira NWR	Patti, et al	07-13	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	1 at Quivira NWR	Patti, et al	07-13	Stafford
Hooded Merganser	a female at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Rader	06-15	Seward
Osprey	1 at Glen Elder Reservoir	Kluza & Rice	07-08	Mitchell
Mississippi Kite	1 in Prairie Village	Leo	07-30	Johnson
Northern Harrier	nesting in high densities	Seltman	06-06	Pawnee/ Rush
Black Rail	6 at n. end of Coldwater Rsvr.	Janzen, et al	06-12	Comanche
	several at Coldwater Rsvr.	Gress	06-28/29	Coldwater
King Rail	2 at n. end of Coldwater Rsvr.	Janzen, et al	06-12	Comanche
	4 se. of Greenburg	KBBAT atlassers	mid-June	Kiowa
Virginia Rail	several at Coldwater Rsvr.	Janzen, et al	06-12	Comanche
Snowy Plover	1 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Seltman, Busby	06-14	Seward
Piping Plover	1 so. of Marion Reservoir	Powell	07-09	Marion
	6 at Kyle Marsh, Perry Lake	McHugh	07-20	Franklin
	2 near Lawrence	McHugh	07-20	Douglas

Mountain Plover	2 pairs near North Fork adult w/ 3 chicks near No. Fork 4 adults / 9 juv. near North Fork	Hicks Seltman Patti, Seltman	06-13 06-21 07-12	Morton Morton Morton
Willet	1 near Marion Reservoir 10 at Quivira NWR / Chey. Btm 8 at Kyle Marsh, Perry Lake	Powell Patti, et al McHugh	07-09 07-13 07-20	Marion Stafford / Barton Franklin
Long-billed Curlew	nesting near North Fork 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Seltman Moore, et al	06-21 07-13	Morton Barton
HUDSONIAN GODWIT	2 at Quivira NWR	Hobbs, et al	07-13	Stafford
Marbled Godwit	3 at Quivira NWR / Chey. Btms	Patti, et al	07-13	Stafford / Barton
Red Knot	2 at Quivira NWR	Vannoy, Janzen	07-22	Stafford
Western Sandpiper	2 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Seltman, Busby	06-14	Seward
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 injured at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Seltman, Busby	06-14	Seward
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Quivira NWR	Vannoy, Janzen	07-22	Stafford
Laughing Gull	adult at Quivira NWR	Vannoy, Janzen	07-22	Stafford
Franklin's Gull	one at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti, Rader	06-15	Seward
Common Tern	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Janzen, Vannoy	07-22	Reno
Least Tern	Lake McCoid, Liberal 1 at Coldwater Lake	Patti, Rader Gress	06-15 06-28	Seward Coldwater
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE	4 in Goodland	Palmquist	thru period	Sherman
Black-billed Cuckoo	6 along BBS route 3 at Coldwater Lake several in Atlas Blocks	Seltman Gress KBBAT atlassers	06-07 06-28 mid-June	Hodgeman Coldwater Kiowa
Long-eared Owl	at Wdson. Co. St. Fishing Lake	Hicks	06-27/29	Woodson
Short-eared Owl	3 adults / 3 fledglings many ca. 35 mi. w. of Great Bend 1 at Cimarron Nat'l Grasslands	Seltman Seltman Forsythe	06-06 06-20 07-17	Rush / Pawnee Pawnee Morton
Rufous Hummingbird	adult male in Garden City adult male at Perry Lake	Campbell Rucker	07-24 07-28/29	Finney Franklin
Say's Phoebe	nesting in sw. Reno Co.	Janzen, Nickel	06-28	Reno
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	far, far east - Overland Park	Seibel	07-15	Johnson
Fish Crow	40-50 near Baxter Springs	Swalwell	06-01	Cherokee
White-breasted Nuthatch	fledgling at Indian Creek	Janzen	06-13	Comanche

Cedar Waxwing	juveniles at Lenora Lake	Seltman	06-16	Norton
Chestnut-sided Warbler	male near Haviland	Janzen	06-11	Kiowa
Prairie Warbler	male at Camp Horizon	Hicks	06-01/16	Cowley
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Schermerhorn Park	Swalwell	06-01	Cherokee
Ovenbird	1 at Junction City	Otte	07-03	Geary
Kentucky Warbler	pair at Fort Riley	Otte	06-21	Geary
Hooded Warbler	imm. at Perry Lake	McHugh	07-20	Franklin
Scarlet Tanager	Wdson. Co. State Fishing Lake	Hicks	06-27/29	Woodson
Spotted Towhee	male along Cimarron River nesting pair at Lenora Lake	Patti, Seltman, Busby Seltman	06-15 06-16	Seward Norton
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	in se. Comanche Co.	Busby	early July	Comanche
Henslow's Sparrow	2 pair at Wdson. Co. St. Fish Lk.	Hicks	06-27/29	Woodson
Northern Cardinal	1st nesting pair in Elkhart juvenile at North Fork	Smith Patti	late June 07-12	Morton Morton
Black-headed Grosbeak	at Lenora Lake	Seltman	06-16	Norton
Painted Bunting	1 male along Chikaskia River	Janzen, Nickel	06-28	Kingman
Bullock's Oriole	female at Coldwater Rsvr.	Janzen	06-13	Comanche
Red Crossbill	15-20 in Garden City fledglings at Garden City 2 at Coldwater Reservoir 1 in Fancy Canyon still present in Elkhart	T & S Shane T & S Shane Janzen, et al Patti Smith	06-01 06-07 06-12 06-12 late June	Finney Finney Comanche Comanche Morton
LESSER GOLDFINCH	1 at Lake McCoid, Liberal	Patti	07-14	Seward

OBSERVERS: Joanne Brier, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Bill Busby, Barbara Campbell, Dennis & Donna Forsythe, Bob Gress, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Dan Kluza, Glen Koontz, Nancy Leo, Brad McCord, Mick McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Greg Nichols, Jim Nickel, Chuck & Jaye Otte, John Palmquist, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Alexi Powell, Eric Preston, Mike Rader, Nate Rice, Richard Rucker, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Lawrence & Ruth Smith, Art Swalwell, Don Vannoy, Tracy Wohl

Remember that all sightings are tentative, pending action of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Galen Pittman, 12042 258th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

Letter to the Editor

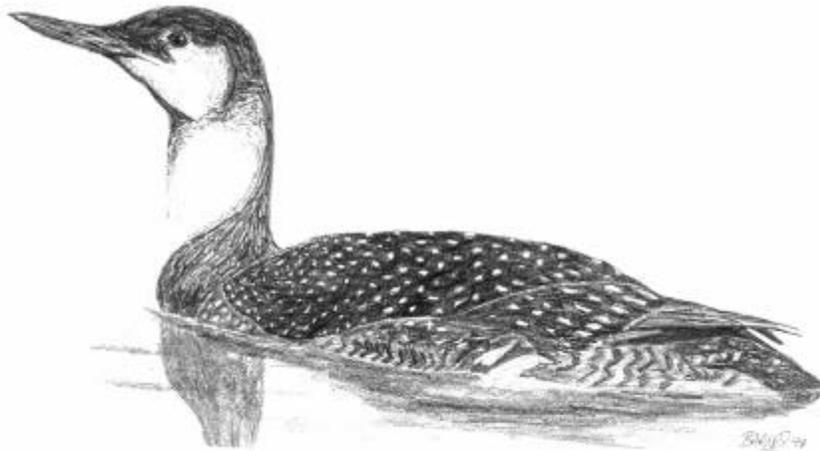
Dear Editor:

The KOS meeting in Wichita was an outstanding success! The Wichita members need to be thanked again for all their highly productive time and effort. Every KOS meeting I have attended in the last thirty-four years has always been great fun and highly informative. I continually hear compliments from our neighbors in surrounding states on KOS and our Kansas ornithologists.

The noticeable loss of change that has occurred was the absence of the call for "Best Bird of the Year" in the

meeting announcements or at the meeting. "Best Bird of the Year" was always one of the fun parts of the KOS Banquet. It wasn't fun this year due to the rigorous constraints. If the KBRC wants to have its ten best birds of the year then it should happen. But I call on the KOS board to give back the KOS "Best Birds of the Year" to the members so it can become once again that fun and exciting part of the KOS Banquet.

Respectfully,
Tom Shane



Red-throated Loon

by James Barnes

Teaming With Wildlife

What is Teaming With Wildlife? It could very well be the biggest thing to happen to wildlife conservation and habitat protection since National Wildlife Refuges, Duck Stamps and Ding Darling. It would create a funding mechanism that would generate dollars from goods sold for outdoor activities including camping gear, birdwatching supplies, bird feed, even binoculars and film. To us, the end users, it would be invisible. There is a coalition of manufacturers, private citizens and organizations (like KOS) who have endorsed the idea and support it. Ken Brunson and I (Chuck Otte) will be putting together more information for the March *Horned Lark* to detail what Teaming With Wildlife does, and what you can do to help. If you don't want to wait for the March issue contact myself or Ken Brunson and we'll fill you in on the details.

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 1997 Fall KOS Meetings Wichita, Kansas

EDGE EFFECTS ON THREE GRASSLAND BIRD SPECIES: A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Authors: William E. Jensen and Elmer J. Finck, Div. of Biol. Sciences, Emporia State Univ, Emporia, KS

Grassland birds have been shown to experience elevated levels of nest predation and brood parasitism when their nests are located near wooded edges in fragmented tall grass prairie. We examined the effects of wooded edges as well as agricultural edges on daily mortality and brood parasitism of Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), and Grass-hopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) nests in east-central Kansas. Preliminary analyses indicate that daily mortality and brood parasitism may be higher when nests are located within 100 m of edges relative to distances between 100 and 200 m. However, the effects of edges are not consistent among the three species investigated, at distances greater than 200 m from edges, or among edge types. Additional analyses may reveal possible effects at the microhabitat and landscape levels.

MIGRATORY BEHAVIOR OF WARBLERS IN WEST CENTRAL KANSAS

Author: Jennifer M. Sevigny, Dept of Biological Sciences, Ft Hays State Univ, Hays, KS

Passerine migration and stopover ecology have been studied more extensively in some regions of North America, resulting in models and perceptions that may not apply elsewhere. Relatively little work has been conducted in the western, interior portions of the continent. The term stopover indicates a stay in a preferred area to replenish fat reserves; in the west this may be an episodic phenomenon controlled by factors other than hyperphagia. I used standard mist-netting procedures to assess the migratory behavior of warblers in west central Kansas, and captured 122 Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*), 50 Nashville Warblers (*V. ruficapilla*), 14 Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*), and 13 Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*) between 20 August and 30 October, 1996. Average fat scores for the four warbler species were 2, 4, 4, and 3 respectively. Given the relatively high levels of stored fat, other factors such as weather may stimulate western birds to interrupt migration in a fallout pattern. Of 199 captured, only four were recaptured, suggesting most individuals did not stay in the sample area for more than 24 hours. Differences in migratory behavior between some western and eastern migrating passerines may be due to the current lack of a geographic barrier in the interior of the continent.

AVIAN COMMUNITIES OF BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG COLONIES AND NON-COLONIZED AREAS IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS

Authors: Stephen L. Winter and Jack F. Cully, Jr. Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS

Species richness and relative abundance of bird communities were quantified at prairie dog colonies and non-colonized areas in southwest Kansas during May-June in 1996 and 1997. In 1996 six species were recorded at prairie dog colonies and seven species were recorded at non-colonized sites. Relative abundance of all birds was not significantly different between prairie dog colonies and non-colonized areas, but western meadowlarks were significantly more abundant on prairie dog colonies than on non-colonized sites. In 1997 eight species were recorded on prairie dog colonies and nine species were recorded on non-colonized sites. Relative abundance of all birds was significantly higher on non-colonized sites than on prairie dog colonies. Relative abundance of horned larks was significantly higher on prairie dog colonies than on non-colonized sites but the relative abundance of grasshopper sparrows and lark buntings was significantly higher on non-colonized sites than on prairie dog colonies.

BENEFIT OF CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS TO WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRDS

Authors: Chris Frey, Mike Taylor and Bill Langley, Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS

The Texaco refinery at El Dorado recently constructed a wetlands as part of its tertiary waste water treatment process. Our goal was to determine the use of wetlands by waterfowl and shorebirds. The approach was to compare the birds' use of Texaco wetlands to two other important water habitats in the area, El Dorado lake and a deep pond. During the 1997 spring migration, 26 surveys were conducted. A total of 5093 waterfowl and 3172 shorebirds were observed at Texaco wetlands. The migration was typical of that reported for Kansas. The waterfowl used the lake the most, but the Texaco attracted more surface-feeding waterfowl species and more individuals during late spring. The wetlands proved particularly attractive to shorebirds. Eleven shorebird species were recorded for the first time in Butler County. Clearly, the Texaco wetlands proved beneficial to migrating waterfowl and shorebird species.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SOME ROADSIDE BIRD CENSUSES IN HARVEY COUNTY Author: Dwight R. Platt, Bethel College, North Newton, KS

In the years 1966 to 1969 and 1972, 311 bird censuses were made along 131/2 miles of 36th street while traveling between North Newton and Sand Prairie Reservation for field study on the reservation. These counts were made at different times of the day between April 12 and November 23. Seventy-two species of birds were recorded on these censuses, but only 28 species were recorded with a frequency of 25% or more. Patterns in activity that varies with time of day, season and year will be described for some species that are common along this roadside. Twenty-two censuses made in 1997 along this route provide preliminary indication of some changes in bird populations. Others are encouraged to census birds along routes that are often traveled.

EVIDENCE OF FORAGING EFFORTS BY MIGRATING SPRING WARBLERS Author: Michael S. Seigny, Dept of Biological Sciences, Ft Hays State Univ, Hays, KS

Neotropical migratory passerines are selected to recognize suitable foraging habitat during periods of stopover or fallout. A migrant's ability to optimize foraging efforts can increase the chance of completing a successful migration. During the spring migration birds that can effectively forage en route will potentially arrive on their breeding grounds earlier and in better physical condition. I collected a total of 90 foraging observations for four migrating warbler species along sample transects on the North Fork of the Solomon River and Bow creek at Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Phillips Co. Observations were recorded in seven tree species. Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) appeared to be the preferred foraging substrate for the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) and Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*). Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) were most often observed in hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), while Yellow Warblers (*D. petechia*) were found in both hackberry and green ash. All warblers appeared to concentrate their foraging efforts along the outside of trees. These data indicate these foraging migrant warblers are distributed unevenly across the landscape, suggesting individuals may be actively selecting sites which contain more prey.

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SALPINCTEAN CLIFF NOTES: AN INITIAL INVENTORY OF ROCK WREN VOCALIZATIONS Authors: Thomas G. Shane, Sara J. Shane and Jennifer J. Matiasek, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS and Dept of Biological Sciences, Ft Hays State Univ, Hays, KS

An individual male Rock Wren may have over one hundred songs in its repertoire (Kroodsma, Condor 1975). This study concentrated on identifying vocalizations used during the breeding season other than songs. Courtship, nest hole inspection, and alarm calls along with begging and location calls of fledglings are identified for the species using an eight mm video camera.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE I. "NEW" KANSAS BIRDS: A KBRC IDENTIFICATION MINI-WORKSHOP Author: David E. Seibel, Chairman, Kansas Bird Records Committee

The Forty-first Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds has resulted in changes to the Kansas Checklist. The Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius* sensu lato) has been divided into three species: Blue-headed Vireo (*V. solitarius*), Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*) and Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*). A brief review of the characteristics allowing field identification of these and other "new" Kansas species will be given.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE II. DOCUMENTING RARE BIRDS IN KANSAS: THE KBRC AND YOU Author: Galen L. Pittman, Secretary, Kansas Bird Records Committee

The KBRC performs the function of critical review of rare bird sightings for entry into the scientific record. With careful note-taking and documentation, additions to our personal life lists can become contributions to science. Galen will review the criteria and level of rigor required for documenting rare bird records.

UPDATE ON PARTNERS IN FLIGHT Author: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS

Partners in Flight is an cooperative program that seeks to reverse the population declines in Western Hemisphere land birds. Recent Partners in Flight efforts in the Great Plains include development of regional conservation plans that identify priority bird species and needed conservation actions. Draft regional plans covering portions of eastern Kansas have been produced. In addition, the Kansas Partners in Flight technical committee has begun work on identification of priority species and habitat management priorities across the state.

OSPREY RELEASE PROJECT UPDATE - YEAR TWO Authors: *Katy Jones and Mike Taylor, Butler Co Community College, El Dorado, KS*

Once again four young osprey were hacked at El Dorado Lake and Wolf Creek Nature area in Burlington, Kansas. Procedures were the same. The birds responded similarly with one exception. One bird is being held over the winter because of a injured wing.

FACTORS INFLUENCING NEST-SITE SELECTION IN ROCK WRENS Author: *Jennifer J. Matiassek, Dept of Biological Sciences, Ft Hays State Univ, Hays, KS*

A variety of environmental factors appear to influence successful nest-site selection in birds. Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) breed in areas with cliffs or rocky outcrops where they use existing holes to shelter their nests. Because few studies have involved this species, the strategies it may employ to increase offspring survivorship are not known. I measured the height, orientation, and cavity dimensions of 50 active and 25 old wren nests from a migratory population in the Scott Lake State Park area of Scott County, Kansas, in order to assess which factors might protect nests from predation and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism. Successful nests appear to be located at heights approximately equal to the population average and to occupy cavities with openings smaller than the population average. My observations indicate that small openings prevent cowbirds from entering to lay eggs, and that nests of an average height should be both out of the reach of some predators and below a level that cowbird's select. Only 20% of nests were preyed upon, but 48% were parasitized by cowbirds. Predation did not have a significant effect on reproductive success, and parasitism caused reproductive failure only when more than one cowbird chick hatched.

SONG VARIATION IN THE HERMIT THRUSH Author: *James W. Rivers, Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS*

Although the singing behavior of many Neotropical migrant bird species is well documented, song variation in the Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) remains undescribed. Hermit Thrushes were found to usually cycle through their entire repertoire within 20 consecutive

songs, sing with immediate variety, and have an average repertoire of nine song types. Song characteristics from the Audubon's (*C. g. auduboni*) and Eastern Hermit Thrush (*C. g. faxoni*) races were significantly different in nine measured categories. Although both races had similar repertoire sizes, individuals from the faxoni race had less variation in repertoire size and took longer to cycle through their repertoires than individuals from the *auduboni* race.

BALD EAGLE USE OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER WATERSHED OF NEBRASKA DURING WINTER Authors: *Douglas A. Robinson, Jr., Elmer J. Finck, John J. Dinan, Katie M. McGrath, and Kristen Mitchell, Div. of Biological Sciences, Emporia State Univ, Emporia, KS and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE*

We studied bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) use of the Republican River watershed in Nebraska during the winters of 1995-1997. Our objective was to identify areas of bald eagle use relative to land management decisions. Estuarine bald eagle use areas were located with aerial surveys. We flew a total of 16 aerial surveys (seven in 1995-1996; nine in 1996-1997), and counted 802 bald eagles in 1995-1996, and 2060 bald eagles in 1996-1997. Although large concentrations of bald eagles were found at reservoirs within the watershed, 50-78% of all bald eagles were found at or along river segments east of Harlan County Reservoir. Since a majority of the bald eagles were seen on segments of the Republican River, we recommend land management agencies focus on joint ventures with private landowners to ensure that wintering bald eagle habitat is maintained.

KBBAT: DATA COLLECTION IS COMPLETED Authors: *Bill Busby and John Zimmerman, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS, and Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS*

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project conducted its sixth and final year of field work in 1997. Nearly all blocks have been completed. A summary of completed blocks, including geographical patterns in species richness, will be presented. Plans and progress on the next phase of the project, publishing species distribution maps and other information in book format, will be discussed.

**50th Anniversary Kansas Ornithological Society Annual Meeting
October, 9, 10 & 11, 1998
Lawrence, Kansas**

Ten Best Birds

as selected by the Kansas Bird Records Committee

1. Tufted Duck (first state record)
2. Northern Wheatear (first state record)
3. Iceland Gull (first state record)
4. Eurasian Collared-Dove (first state record)
5. Lesser Black-backed Gull
6. Yellow-billed Loon
7. Western Screech-Owl
8. Fish Crow
9. Black-headed Gull
10. White-winged Dove

- - *The Plant Connection*

What, When, Where

As you are out birding in the fall and winter I'm sure many of you keep lists of the birds that you see. But do you keep a list of which birds you saw in association with what plants? If you are looking for finches in December or January, or Yellow-rumped Warblers in November do you have a good idea of where to go to find them?

Birds are inextricably tied to their food and if you can find the right food in the right location, you'll probably find the bird. By birding a location or several locations for a period of years you start to learn what birds frequent what habitats and what food you can find them with.

In the fall I can find many things around any plant that has berries. Poison ivy, hackberry and dogwood are usually good berry producers that don't hold their berries long into the season. Find a dogwood thicket full of berries in October or November and you'll find birds. But by Thanksgiving these buffet lines are usually tapped out. Russian Olives are also very attractive and will hold their fruit much later into the fall and winter. Cedars are good throughout the winter and smooth sumac will be one of the last seeds utilized for food.

Find me a big patch of wild sunflowers, ragweed, hemp and thistle and I can find a host of sparrows, goldfinches, siskins and even an errant redpoll or crossbill. So this winter keep a list of what you found but also keep a list of what time and where the birds were.

- - *Cyberbirding*

Discussion Lists and Web Sites

Let's just say that you get a new computer for Christmas and you get hooked up to the Internet and you'd really like to find some neat locations about birds. Here you are all revved up with no place to surf.

Well, fortunately you have two choices. You can go looking for information OR let the information come to you! Once you have access to the Internet through a service provider you will normally have several venues of communication. The two most commonly used are electronic mail or e-mail and the World Wide Web (WWW).

E-mail is a system that allows you to send written messages to others that have Internet access. This requires a program designed specifically for that purpose. The major programs that are used for browsing the WWW also have e-mail capability, but I feel that there are separate stand alone e-mail programs that will do a much better job. Once you have an e-mail address you can "subscribe" to discussion groups. Discussion groups have been established for virtually any subject you can imagine. When you are subscribed to a discussion group you, or anyone, can send a message to "the list" and it is automatically re-sent to everyone on the list. You can subscribe (no charge!) to KSBIRD-L, a list that is for discussion of birds in Kansas. Or you can subscribe to BirdChat (with its 1200+ members) and discuss bird topics on a national and international scope. You can also subscribe to one of the regional rare bird alert lists and receive transcribed hotline reports from the east, west or center of the United States. If you are interested in any of these lists just drop me an e-mail at otte@jc.net.

But what if you are going looking for a very specific bit of bird information? More than likely you can find it somewhere on "the Web." You can find information on most of the Wildlife Refuges. You can find state or regional checklists from all over the country. Most state ornithological societies now have web sites so if you see a rare bird in another state, you can find out where to file a rare bird report form. Of course the Web is a dynamic entity that literally changes daily. So you occasionally wind up on a journey where the road system may have changed from the last time you were there. A good starting place is KOS's home page at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos/> and click on Electronic (Virtual) Birding Links.

KOS Checklist Update

by Galen L. Pittman, KBRC Secretary

Update of the 8th edition of the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas: new species additions and changes precipitated by the publication, in 1997, of the 41st supplement to the AOU Check-list of North American Birds.

The current edition (8th) of the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas was published in March 1996. The 9th edition is on schedule to be published early in 1998. A limited run of the 8th edition of the Checklist was printed in anticipation of the need to update the list again, as soon as, the AOU published its long awaited 7th edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds*. The last "full blown" AOU Check-list (6th) was published in 1983 and after several years of delays, the new 7th edition is finally ready to be published in early 1998. Supplements to the AOU Check-list are published every two years and with the publication of the 41st supplement earlier this year, all the very latest taxonomic decisions are "on the table". Since it is the KBRC's policy to use the AOU as its governing authority on matters related to taxonomy and nomenclature, any changes that the AOU makes to the North American Check-list that involves Kansas birds obligates the KBRC to follow suit and update the Kansas Checklist.

The new edition of the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas will have several new species added, as well as, changes to the status of several others. The AOU Check-list Committee has adopted many taxonomic changes that effect species that occur in Kansas. The 9th edition of the Kansas Checklist will have numerous changes in the checklist order and a few common name changes. By the way, the common names that appear on the Kansas checklist are the "official" common names that have been designated by the AOU. Most organizations that are the authority for naming biological species only "suggest" a suitable common name since they consider the Latin name to be the only proper "official" name of the species. This is very practical and does away with a lot of confusion when scientists communicate and that is why they usually refer to species by their scientific name. However in North America, since bird names are so widely used by scientists and non-scientists alike; the AOU designates BOTH an "official" scientific name in Latin and an "official" common name in English for all North American bird species. So when you look at the bird names on your KOS Checklist you are getting the "official" common names including their spelling, capitalization, and hyphenation! Also, the boldface "group" names that appear on the Kansas list are not just arbitrary place

holders. Not only do these group labels help the user locate a given species on an otherwise long monotonous list, but they also reflect the taxonomic hierarchy. The checklist is arranged in order from the most "primitive" at the beginning to the most "advanced" at the end. In cases where the last name can be assumed (e.g., wrens or terns) the last name is not repeated. In other cases where the last name can not be assumed (e.g., sandpipers or ducks) the full name is listed to avoid confusion.

Now, for the actual changes that will be included in the 9th edition of the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas. This is a preliminary summary and is subject to changes when the Checklist is published next year. Tufted Duck, Mew Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Northern Wheatear will all be added to the list with an "*" (less than ten records) and with "hypothetical" status. Iceland Gull, Gray Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, and Plumbeous Vireo will also be added but all have supporting physical evidence so none of them are "hypothetical". Also, Iceland Gull and Gray Vireo are added to the list with an "*". Solitary Vireo has its name changed to Blue-headed Vireo and four other species get technical name changes: Ross's Goose, Harris's Hawk, Harris's Sparrow, and Western Scrub-Jay (correction from the 8th edition!). Clark's Grebe, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Fish Crow will all lose their hypothetical "bracket". And finally, Clark's Grebe and Barrow's Goldeneye have reached or exceeded the ten record threshold and thus both lose the "*".

Next, I will describe most of the significant changes to the order in which the species appear. Remember the order is a reflection of the taxonomic hierarchy so there is supposed to be a taxonomic reason behind any reshuffling of the order! Referring to the current edition of the Checklist is probably the best way to make any sense of these new order changes. One of the most drastic moves is one that has been considered for quite some time. The new world vultures are now considered to be related to herons, ibises, and storks so will follow the Wood Stork on the Kansas list! The waterfowl have undergone considerable reshuffling with swans now following the geese and the ducks in a word, jumbled. Tundra and Trumpeter Swans trade places as do Canada Goose and Brant. Mottled Duck and Mallard trade places as do Gadwall and the wigeons with Green-winged Teal.

- - KBRC Korner, continued

Northern Pintail and Garganey now follow Northern Shoveler, Oldsquaw follows the scoters, and both goldeneyes now come after Bufflehead. That is really about it for the non-passerines.

The order Passeriformes (perching birds) that makes up half of the Kansas list has several families rearranged. Inserted between the flycatchers and Horned Lark are now three families. The shrikes follow flycatchers and then come the vireos. Jays and crows move up a couple of spots and follow vireos. Cliff and Barn Swallows trade places as do Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees and Great-tailed and Common Grackles. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher will now precede the kinglets and European

Starling is inserted between thrashers and pipits. Finally, the grosbeak/bunting family trades places with the entire sparrow family. One last note: all of the new species that will be added to the Kansas list are inserted in places that you would probably expect, but if you didn't know before.... Northern Wheatear is in the thrush family and will be inserted right before Eastern Bluebird.

Well that is most of the changes to the Kansas Checklist and just when you were getting used to the 8th edition. At least there won't be a new edition of the AOU Check-list for probably at least ten more years..... but don't forget the 42nd supplement is due in 1999!

Michael Sevigny received an \$800 research scholarship for his work on *Evidence of Foraging Efforts by Migrating Spring Warblers*. Jennifer Sevigny received a \$100 research scholarship for her work on *Migratory Behavior of Warblers in West Central Kansas*. Both scholarships were made available through the L. D. Wooster Fund which is part of the KOS Student Research Fund for students at Fort Hays State University. L. D. Wooster was a professor at Fort Hays State College and was a charter member and president of KOS in 1953. The Wooster Fund and the KOS Student Research Fund need your support. Contributions can be sent to Tom Shane, PO Box 876, Garden City, KS 67846. Please mark checks for the KOS Wooster Fund or KOS Student Research Fund.

photo by Tom Shane

"Chasing" Rarities

by Chuck Otte

Several situations which have occurred over the past months brings up some very pertinent and important questions regarding the pursuit of birds that you haven't seen before or haven't seen very often. This is a situation that some of us call, "chasing rarities". I've done it, a lot of you have done it, and there is nothing wrong with it. But as the Dickens's classic starts, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

In mid-November a Brown-chested Martin showed up at Cape May, New Jersey. (No, I didn't fly out to find it!) Daily and at times hourly updates were put on bird hotline machines as well as posted to the Internet. This bird was probably seen and photographed by hundreds if not thousands of bird watchers. Then one weekend, with many birders present and watching one photographer walked right up to where the bird was perched and intentionally flushed the bird into flight just so THEY could get a picture of it in flight. The bird was many hundred miles from where it should have been, the tropical Western Hemisphere, in weather it really wasn't prepared for and many observers felt that it was in very poor health. This one photographer put their own desires above and beyond others trying to watch the bird, but more importantly above and beyond the health of the bird. Not a situation that I would have been proud to have been involved with!

Now let's shift closer to home. How many times in the past three years have you heard about an uncommon or rare bird showing up somewhere in Kansas, and a homeowner literally opens up his/her property to birding public? I can think of no less than a half dozen. And glad to say I feel that Kansas birders have been very gracious visitors. They came, they saw the bird, they visited, they left gifts. Perhaps a bag of bird feed, a KOS membership, or a book. Outstanding ambassadors of the birding world. The way that many of us feel it should be.

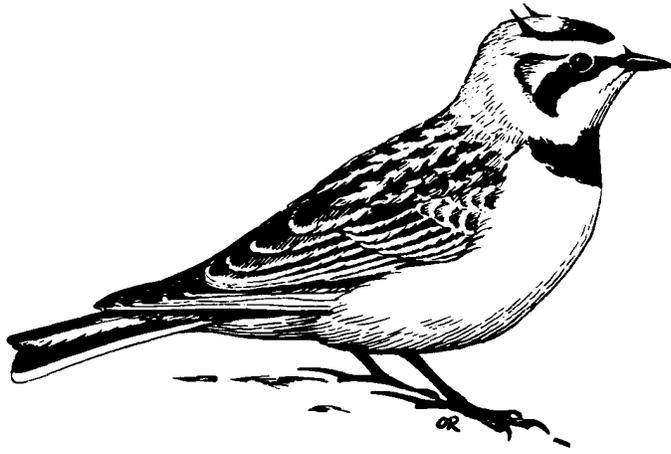
In early November, Debarah Arnett of Olathe had an uncommon bird show up at her backyard feeder. It was a White-winged Crossbill. Debarah is a photographer and took a lot of pictures of the crossbill. But she went above and beyond that. She opened up her property and her

house to those who wanted to see the crossbill. She posted regular updates to the Kansas Birds Internet discussion list. She told people which side of the house to go on to approach the feeders without scaring the crossbill in case she wasn't home. She encouraged people to call her before coming to make sure the bird was still present. Debarah made a lot of friends and even found out that another birder lived just a few houses away. I remember one birder who posted a message on the discussion list who related his horror as he was driving up the her house when it struck him that he was arriving empty handed. This is the example of the mindset that I hope exists throughout the KOS. We should all be ambassadors concerned with promoting the interest and protection of birds and the respect for the owners of the property where they are found.

Many of the birds that are reported on the Kansas Rare Bird Alert and other hotlines around the country are birds that are on private property. The mention of that bird and its location does not give any birdwatcher permission to trespass to view the bird. If we are to expect this kind of continued cooperation from landowners we must place the respect of private property and the protection of the bird ABOVE our own desire to see the bird, to photograph the bird, to add one more "tick" on our life, state or county list!

Perhaps here in Kansas, being a state that is about 98% privately owned, we have a stronger sense of respect for private property than in other areas. Perhaps we still just have that "mid-west" respect ethic more firmly implanted than in other areas. Whatever the reason we just need to remember that every time we are out involved in birdwatching we are in the public's eye. The public's perception of bird watchers may rest entirely on how they see YOU act. If they see us acting disrespectful to the wildlife and to private property then what kind of cooperation can we expect in the future. But if they see us as respectful, thoughtful, pleasant individuals willing to take the time to answer their questions, we've just made a lasting impression that will aid the next birder down the road. Let's make sure that we all go out of our way to be good KOS Ambassadors!

Make plans now to attend the 1998 Fall Meeting in Lawrence, October 9, 10 & 11, 1998



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

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From The Keyboard -

It was a long month of June! Back in May I had stumbled across the Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company's World Wide Web (WWW) site on the Internet and discovered that Kenn Kaufman had a new book due to be released June 30th called *Kingbird Highway*. To make matters worse excerpts from each chapter were being placed on the WWW site approximately every other week. Two weeks wouldn't go by fast enough and June 30th would never arrive! We (birding spouse Jaye and I) traveled to Wichita in late May to hear Kenn address the Wichita Audubon Society. It was a delightful presentation and a great sneak preview of our fall meeting location.

The end of June finally arrived and I became the proud owner of a new book. I read it in short order (and heartily recommend it to anyone who enjoys birding), but found myself becoming more and more restless with each chapter. After all, it was early July, the infamous "dead zone" of birding, and I just wanted to get in my car, drive someplace and go birding! I've been able to get out enough to keep the urge under control and an upcoming trip to Colorado will help satisfy my birding wanderlust.

But my excitement about KOS, birding and birds in Kansas and the upcoming Fall Meeting has not subsided in the least. This issue is all about the future! There'll be more regular features and issue discussions in each Horned Lark. We start a regular article about birding ethics with this issue and our first article is from Tyler Hicks. If you don't know Tyler, meet him. He'll be helping lead one of the birding trips in October. Tyler is about the future!

I'm convinced we can double the KOS membership and reach 1,000 members over the next five years. Yes, it's ambitious and Chuck can't do it by himself. But I have some ideas about how **WE** can do it together.

You're going to see more opportunities to learn about birds and go birdwatching through local get togethers, in workshops and at spring and fall meetings. For those of you computer inclined we'll be bringing you more information on the world of "cyber-birding" and how to find your way around the vast information super-highway.

But if all you want to do is enjoy the birds that come to your feeder in your backyard, don't worry! We will bring you information on that as well.

It's the future and it's kind of scary and it's real exciting. It starts tomorrow and it starts next month and it starts in Wichita in October. I'll see you there!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1997

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Proposed By-Laws Change

The following by-laws change will be voted on at the annual meeting in Wichita, October 4, 1997:
"Article II. Section 4.C. Annual dues shall be payable to the treasurer by ~~January 1~~ **March 1.**"

This means that dues would be payable by March 1 rather than January 1.

KOS Benefits from the Generosity of Madge Hilbish

Through the kind consideration and forethought of deceased KOS member Madge Hilbish, of Burlington, KS, **THE ORGANIZATION HAS RECEIVED A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,650.77 FROM HER ESTATE.** This bequest by Ms. Hilbish will help us to be in a position to announce an extremely successful endowment fund drive by the time our 50th anniversary rolls around.

While not a charter member of KOS she had been a member since 1955! More information on Ms. Hilbish and this generous donation will be in *The Bulletin*.

Remember - most of the 913 area code, outside of the Kansas City area, changed to the new 785 area code as of July 20, 1997. This affects the KOS Rare Bird Alert. That number is now 785-372-5499!

KOS Board Membership Positions Available

Two KOS Board of Directors positions become available this year as Bill Busby and John Schuckmann complete their two-year assignments. If you are interested in joining the Board and helping to make KOS a stronger, more vital organization, please call or write and put your name forward for nomination.

Also, other positions become available from time to time, so if you are willing to serve in any other role (e.g., as an officer), let me know, as it helps to have a list of folks who want to help. Margaret Wedge, Membership Chairperson, has indicated that she would like to "retire" from that position, so we are looking for candidates for her job as well. Please give me a call, drop an e-mail message, or a note to: Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry St., Wichita, KS 67203-3141; (316) 264-0049; royb@southwind.net

Kansas Nature Photographers Organization Forming

If you have any interest in nature photography mark November 22, 1997 on your calendar! Interested individuals are invited to Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas to meet with other interested nature photographers to form a state wide organization of nature photographers.

Larry Rosenkoetter, a professor at Bethany College is the driving force behind this meeting. As of late May, over 50 individuals had indicated their intent to attend. A highlight of the meeting will be a series of 10-minute shows by various nature photographers around the state.

For more information contact Larry Rosenkoetter at: 204 W. Columbus, Lindsborg, KS 67456; (913) 227-3294; rosenkoel@bethany.bethanylb.edu

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Fall Birding

by *Pete Janzen*

By the time this issue of the Horned Lark arrives in your hands, fall migration will be well underway. In fact, it was already underway by the time you received your *last* issue! Returning shorebirds are already returning south by late June, only a couple of weeks after the last northbound ones have departed the mudflats of the big marshes. By mid-July, the night skies regularly echo with the ethereal night calls of Upland Sandpipers, the first big southward push of an avian movement that will continue until early December. Truly “fall” is the longest season for birding, and in many ways the most exciting.

The contrast with the northward spring migration is very dramatic. The northward spring movement is often longer than some appreciate, as waterfowl and raptors are often on the move in large numbers by late February, but no single bird event in the fall is as dramatic as the huge waves of shorebirds and passerines that pour northward during the month of May, in an urgent rush to reach the breeding grounds. While large movements like this also occur in the fall, for the most part these take place along the Atlantic coast. Many species that migrate through the plains on the northbound migration have evolved to take a much more coastal route on the return trip. Those that do return through the plains do so in rather disparate fashion., as food supplies, breeding schedules, weather, and maturing of juveniles dictate.

Here in Kansas, it can sometimes seem like fall migration is nearly non-existent at times. True, migrant shorebirds are abundant and diverse at Quivira and other wetland hotspots, but if you are expecting the large mixed flocks of vigorously singing colorful warblers that you saw in the spring, you will seek in vain. Lots of songbirds are on the move, but their vocalizations are generally only call notes during the fall movement, and fall passerines in general seem to be much less conspicuous, preferring to silently lurk in the brush and weeds, rather than singing loudly from exposed perches. The big “waves” of migrants that we see in the spring are not so frequent in the fall, although the first big cool fronts of the fall often trigger a lot of migrants to move south in numbers. In addition, many species molt into much more non-descript plumages in the fall, which can have confusing similarities. If you are willing to accept these challenges, however, you are likely to find that fall birding is just as exciting and rewarding as it is in the spring, if not more so.

If you haven't really given fall birding much of a shot, here are a few observations on what you might expect as the season progresses, with a few general suggestions on where and when to look.

Late July through September: The majority of the shorebirds move south during this period, although individuals of some species will linger as late as November. Peak movement is in August. The later in the season, the more likely that the birds are juveniles, as the adults fly south before the juveniles do.

This is also the time to put up your hummingbird feeders, in hopes that one of those rare western wanderers will show up. Maybe you won't always have the kind of wild fall that the Shanes and others in Garden City enjoyed last year, but you can hope for a Rufous anywhere in the state, and who knows what else?

Most insectivorous birds migrate during this period as well. Flycatchers, swallows, vireos, and warblers all have mostly departed by the end of September, although again, lingerers often hang around well into October, and a few species, most notably Yellow-rumped Warblers, remain common through October. Empidonax flycatchers appear as early as the first week of August some years, with the first two weeks of September being the peak of the warbler/vireo/flycatcher migration in the east, and perhaps a week to 10 days later in the west. Here in Wichita, I always start hitting places like Chisholm Creek Park and Maple Grove Cemetery during the last week of August, although in some years passerines don't start to get moving much until a few weeks later. It really depends a lot on the weather. When the cool fronts start to roll, so do the birds.

Mid-September is the time when many of the most serious rarity chasers visit Morton County, as a number of migrant unusual western species drift out onto the plains at this time. Some of my fondest birding memories center around September trips to Morton County. My list of Kansas birds would be a lot smaller without these trips. This is also a great way to meet all of the most serious birders in Kansas, because they are all out there!

continued next page - -

- - *Pete's Perspective, continued*

One habitat that many birders overlook when seeking fall warblers, as well as other passerines, is wild sunflower patches. These are very popular with warblers in the fall. I don't know if it's the seeds, or the insects that lurk there, or both, but these areas should not be ignored, especially when they are located near brushy edge habitats. I also have found that here in Wichita, the large conifer plantings at Maple Grove Cemetery are often more attractive to warblers in the fall than the riparian forest at Oak Park, which is the local spring hotspot.

Swallows often form immense flocks at favored staging areas such as Cheyenne Bottoms during August. These mixed flocks are made up of Barn, Bank, Cliff, and Rough-winged Swallows. Careful checking might turn up a vagrant Violet-green Swallow. These huge flocks are really spectacular to see, regardless of what species they are made up of.

Looks like this is getting long enough for one column. Next month I will write about Kansas birding in late fall and early winter, in many ways my favorite time for birding.

Jennifer Matiasek received a \$100 research scholarship from the H. W. Menke, KOS Student Research Fund for her Masters studies at Fort Hays State University on the breeding biology of the Rock Wren. The KOS Student Research Fund needs your support! Donations can be sent attention: Tom Shane, KOS SRF Committee Chair, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846.
photo by Tom Shane

Silent Auction Donations Requested for Fall Meeting

Once again there will be a silent auction at the KOS Fall Meeting to raise funds for various activities and causes. For this auction to be successful we need two things: 1) items to be donated, and 2) people to bid on these items.

Anything birding related of an interesting, unique, or otherwise potentially money-making nature is desired for this auction. Contributions can be sent to Susan Barnes at 1425 S. Wichita Street, Wichita, KS 67213-5249. Contributors should determine a value for each contribution so a notice of the contribution can be returned for tax purposes and so a minimum bid can be established. If anyone has any questions, they can call Susan at 316-265-4059 or e-mail at barnowls@juno.com.

Possible items of interest include (but are certainly not limited to): birding books, particularly ones autographed by the author. birding prints/art, same note as above, birding rarities -- first-ever things, books no longer in print, interesting surveys, whatever. Any items related to the outdoors that might be of interest are desired!

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues he is your contact also.

Send In Your Christmas Bird Count Dates

As in past years we like to include as many of the Christmas Bird Count dates and contact persons as possible in the December issue. If you are an organizer or compiler and you already know the dates of your count(s) please contact Chuck Otte at 785-238-8800 or 613 Tamerisk, Junction City KS 66441 or FAX at 785-238-7166 or e-mail at otte@jc.net or just tell me when you see me at the KOS Fall Meeting in Wichita in October. We need those dates by November 1st.

The 5th National Big Sit October 19, 1997

Choose a spot anywhere in the county, state, country you wish to represent. Draw an imaginary 17 foot circle (diameter) in that spot and count how many birds you, or you and your teammates, can see or hear within 24 hours while you are within that circle. Last year 21 states with 158 individuals in 48 circles counted 296 species. You can have all sorts of fun with this! We can see who can get the most birds within a single circle in the state of Kansas!

Do your backyard, do your favorite birding area, bring a lawn chair, have a barbeque, fall asleep and watch the patterns of nature from your stationary vantage point. Call John Himmelman at (860) 663-3225 for more information and to register your spot. Or, even better, send e-mail to jhimmel@connix.com.

**Deadline for submissions for the
December, 1997 Horned Lark is
November 1, 1997.**

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.

NOTES: On the Effects of Tape Playing and Close Observation of Birds

by Tyler Hicks

The subject of tape playing has been fought and argued over for a very long time, but no long term studies have been done on this subject. I have put together a few notes and articles about the effects of tapes on a few species of birds.

Tape playing is a relatively new technique used in attracting birds (particularly such secretive species as owls, rails, wrens, and warblers). One such case of over zealous birders in Southeastern Arizona was mentioned in ABA's *Winging It*, July 1997 issue. When, in early June, a Fan-tailed Warbler appeared at the Patagonia Roadside Rest stop, they speculated that the overplaying of tapes and too-close approaches were the reason for its quick departure. A similar thing is happening to the Elegant Trogon. I recently talked to a VENT Tour leader who informed me that this species is becoming more and more difficult to see, because of the disturbances of their nest sites by enthusiastic birders and photographers. This species nesting is easily disrupted by any disturbance.

Another species of which I'm sure is affected by tape playing is wrens. One year in early spring I heard a House Wren singing near my house. So I grabbed my tapes and rushed to the backyard and played the tape in hopes of getting to see the wren. Immediately after I started playing the tapes the wren stopped vocalizing and for the rest of the summer I did not have one wren set up a territory or use one of my numerous nest boxes. The next year I refrained from using the tapes and I had House Wrens using two of my boxes. A similar thing happened with Bewick's Wren when I got "*Tape Happy*" and I never saw the Bewick's Wren again.

This has also been noted in Thompson & Ely's *Birds in Kansas*, Volume II. When a tape was used to draw a male House Wren in closer to an Australian observer, "The male came in, took one listen to the horrendously loud wren song, decided it must be bigger than he, and took his mate and abandoned the bird house and all the babies."

The presumed problem with tape playing is that it will often drive the female off the nest or interrupt the normal nesting routine. Tape playing is now being discouraged more and more especially for rails and owls in their breeding season and has been banned in Texas State Parks.

The rail species, especially, are probably attracted more often by tape than any other species. These species are still some of the least known in the United States, because, they are very difficult to study. You may think, "If I only play it for a little while it won't hurt." But what if you had over 20 people play tapes for just a little bit, over a month period, during the breeding season? That could severely disrupt their nesting. A species I had in mind is the Black Rails at Coldwater Lake. I know numerous people have gone to see this local and rare species and I'm sure they all played tapes. I wonder what effects it has had on this species?

This subject is in need of considerable study in the near future, as birding participation continues to grow. Please remember the next time you are offered the chance to see a wonderful bird that patience will almost always pays off.

The Plant Impact - -

Follow The Food

In many parts of Kansas we are already starting to see a repeat of last year's massive fall webworm infestations. Barring unforeseen circumstances many entomologists are expecting this year's fall webworm infestation to even exceed last year's. What this means to birders is that as we head in to August and early September start looking for the webby trees and spend a little extra time looking for

birds who are looking for lunch. Not all trees are equally attractive to webworms. Walnut and pecan trees seem to be especially attractive (to Walnut caterpillars as well which also have a webby habit!). Apples, mulberries, locust and elm should be examined carefully also. Homeowners need not be overly concerned about the webworms except on very small, young trees. While unsightly and a nuisance their feeding does very little long term damage to mature trees so spraying with insecticides really isn't necessary!

Chuck Otte

Getting Connected Mysteries of the Internet - A Primer *by Chuck Otte*

I frequently am asked questions about the internet. How much does it cost to get connected? How much does it cost to get e-mail (electronic mail) and the World Wide Web? How much does it cost to get all those messages like you talk about on BirdChat or the Kansas Birds List?

For starters you need a computer. If you have a computer that will run Windows 95 (or the equivalent Macintosh - any Mac pro is welcome to send me the Mac equivalent specifications) then you have a machine that will comfortably access the internet.

Next you need a modem. This is a device that takes your computer information and converts it into something that will go across the phone line. Modems have different speeds of transmission expressed in kilobauds or "kbs". You will usually just hear people talk about their 28.8 or 33.6 modems. The bigger the number the faster the speed that it sends and receives data. The big talk right now is about the 56 kb modems. By late 1997 or early 1998 many of the providers (more on providers later) will have 56 kb modems in place. If you have a 28.8 or a 33.6 right now wait a few more months before you upgrade. If you just have a 28.8 don't upgrade to a 33.6, save your money for a 56 later on.

To finish your Internet connection (assuming that you already have a phone line that you can hook into your computer) you need computer programs (software) and an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The programs allow your computer to "dial up" and connect to your ISP, they allow you to send and receive e-mail and access the World Wide Web (WWW). Often these programs are sold by your ISP or provided at little or no charge. Sometimes these are evaluation or limited edition programs. They will work just fine, they simply won't have as many features as the full edition versions.

Your ISP has the computer that is hooked directly into the Internet via high speed high volume data communication lines. Many communities in Kansas, and around the country, now have local companies offering Internet connections. Kansas now has a law in place to make sure that everyone can get an Internet hookup. If you can't seem to find an ISP contact a computer store or your local phone company (or the author) and one of us should be able to track down a service provider.

How much does it cost? Many local ISPs have a variety of services based on how much help you may want or need, how many hours of connect time you want, etc. My local provider gives me 150 hours of connect time per month for \$17.95. Most ISPs will have a base package that costs between \$15 and \$25 per month. This connect time is for the total time you are connected regardless of whether it is sending and receiving e-mail or "surfing the Web". There is often additional charges if you want more hours, or want your own WWW page, or need more assistance or go over your hourly base. Don't go overboard buying hours you may not need. I consider myself a "power user" and have never gone over 75 hours in one month and am usually under 50 hours per month!

Once you have your equipment and your service this is often the end of the charges. A few companies may still charge you on the number of e-mail messages you send and receive but most do not. So once you are hooked up there are no "subscription fees" for BirdChat (a national discussion group about birds and birdwatching), or BirdCntr (which is where you can receive transcribed postings of most of the Rare Bird Alerts and Hotlines around the central US), or KSBIRD-L (which is a discussion group centered on birds and bird issues in Kansas). There are some services, both e-mail and on the World Wide Web, that you have to pay a monthly fee to receive, but I haven't found any of these that are bird related.

It doesn't matter if you are sending or receiving a message from the other side of town or the other side of the globe. Once you are connected it is all a "local call", there is no long distance on the internet. You can visit a web site in Germany or Australia just as fast and easy as you can visit our own KOS World Wide Web homepage.

Will the Internet ever replace the KOS hotline or *The Bulletin* or *The Horned Lark*? I don't know. But in the meantime you will find that there is a lot of information out there just waiting to be found (or as we cyber-birders would say - waiting to be accessed.)

Questions? Ask me at the Fall Meeting in Wichita or drop me a note at: otte@jc.net or if you have to - my phone and address are on Page 1.....

SPRING ROUND-UP

March 1997 through May 1997

by Chris Hobbs

March was welcomed relief from the ravages of winter, as temperatures warmed to seasonable highs throughout most of the month. Birders were optimistic about the beginning of the spring migration when - WHAM!! - an April 11 blizzard swept through western and northern Kansas, sending temperatures plummeting and snowfalls up to 24"! Unfortunately, Killdeers were at peak migration when the storm struck, and inestimable numbers were forced down by the heavy snow. Seltman reported Killdeer too weak to fly on the first day, and emaciated, frozen corpses the next. The storm apparently delivered the prize of the season, Kansas' first NORTHERN WHEATEAR! This nuptial-plumaged adult was leisurely observed at a farm near Bird City, in Cheyenne County. As you peruse the bird list below, you will undoubtedly see migration events, and aftereffects, associated with this storm. The Arctic blast accompanying the storm kept wintry temperatures in the

picture for the remainder of that week, but the warm-up was underway by the beginning of the third week.

Many observers commented on the migration being a week to ten days late, perhaps as a result of the blizzard, but another, distant weather event may have been the *real* culprit. My birding addiction has also made me a junkie for The Weather Channel, cable's premier source for migration information! Those of you similarly afflicted may recall a huge, stationary, low pressure system that stretched from northeast New Mexico across Texas to Arkansas during late April. This front dumped all kinds of rain on Texas, but also served as a 'wall' that effectively prevented the direct flow of migrants into Kansas. Instead, many funneled around our state, as witnessed by the outrageous numbers of eastern passerines that appeared in Colorado this spring! Our May weather was pretty consistent, with nary a front to afford a passerine fall-out. That's not to say we didn't have some good birding in Kansas this spring - just a delayed, trickling-through of migrants!

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
RED-THROATED LOON	1 at Lake Afton	Janzen, m.ob	04-13	Sedgwick
	1 at Clinton Lake in Lawrence	Powell	04-20/26	Douglas
Common Loon	11 at Perry Lake	Rucker	04-12	Jefferson
	7 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	04-12	Wyandotte
Pied-billed Grebe	new arrivals at Cheyenne Bottoms	Seltman	03-08	Barton
Horned Grebe	10 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	04-12	Wyandotte
	17 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Moore	04-13	Wyandotte
Red-necked Grebe	1 molting ad. at Quivira NWR	Janzen	03-28	Stafford
	1 below dam at Melvern Reservoir	Swalwell	04-28	Osage
Western Grebe	1 at La Cygne Power Lake	Moore	04-16	Linn
	max. 9 at Quivira NWR	Rader	04-20/05-03	Stafford
	2 at Clinton Lake in Lawrence	Moore	04-26	Douglas
	3 at Dry Lake	m.ob	05-10	Scott
	1 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-10	Stafford
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms paired w/ West.	Janzen, et al	04-26	Barton
White Pelican	many eastern reservoirs	m.ob	early March	
BROWN PELICAN	1 imm. at Quivira NWR	Rhoades, m.ob	05-17	Stafford
Double-crested Cormorant	new arrivals at Cheyenne Bottoms	Seltman	03-08	Barton

Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Quivira NWR's Big Salt Marsh 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Vannoy Van Dyke	04-20 05-24	Stafford Barton
American Bittern	1 at Quivira NWR	Janzen	03-28	Stafford
Glossy Ibis	1 north of Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Quivira NWR	Janzen, et al Pittman	04-26 05-26	Barton Stafford
Tundra Swan	9 at Quivira NWR	Gresham	03-15	Stafford
Greater White-fronted Goose	1000 Marais des Cygne WA 7 at Quivira NWR 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Young McFadden m.ob	03-02 04-23 05-04	Linn Stafford Barton
Ross' Goose	3 east of Ulysses 12 at Marais des Cygne WA 1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Moore Moore McNeill	03-05 03-12 05-10	Grant Linn Linn
American Black Duck	1 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-03/10	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	10 east of Ulysses 2 east of Ulysses 3 at Quivira NWR	M&E Corder Moore McFadden	03-05 03-05 04-19	Grant Grant Stafford
Ring-necked Duck	1 at Quivira NWR	Janzen	05-28	Stafford
hybrid Lesser Scaup x Ring-necked Duck	at Quivira NWR	Janzen	03-28	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 near Redmond Reservoir 1 at Lake Afton 1 at Quivira NWR	Moore, Hobbs Janzen, et al m.ob	03-02 04-13 05-03	Coffey Sedgwick Stafford
Oldsquaw	2 near Redmond Reservoir	Brier, m.ob	02-28/03-23	Coffey
Black Scoter	Milford Reservoir	Keating, m.ob	04-17/23	Geary
Red-breasted Merganser	widespread during mid-March 2 at Harvey Co. East Lake near Newton	Friesen	04-12	Harvey
Mississippi Kite	1 st arrival in Garden City 1 in Overland Park	T&S Shane Dolginoff	05-04 05-17	Finney Johnson
Bald Eagle	nesting at Clinton Rsvr (Douglas Co.); Perry Lake (Jefferson); Hillsdale Rsvr. (Miami Co.); Wolf Creek Power Rsvr. (Co.); and North Fork Ninnescah (Stafford Co.)			
Northern Goshawk	1 adult near Bird City	Busse	04-15	Cheyenne
Broad-winged Hawk	2 (a pair) at Wyandotte Co. Lake 1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Moore Moore, et al	04-18 04-19	Wyandotte Linn
Swainson's Hawk	1 st season report near Haviland	Janzen	03-28	Kiowa
Ferruginous Hawk	far east at El Dorado Lake	Janzen	04-23	Butler

Rough-legged Hawk	still common, though late!	Seltman	04-12	Pawnee & Rush
Merlin	1 at Pomona Reservoir 1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Lake Afton 2 at Quivira NWR	Moore McFadden Janzen, et al m.ob	03-02 03-26 04-13 05-03	Osage Stafford Sedgwick Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	6 at Quivira NWR! 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Preston Seltman	05-03 05-03	Stafford Barton
Yellow Rail	1 (late!) at Baker Wetland in Lawrence	Cink	05-08	Douglas
Black Rail	3 at Quivira NWR	Van Dyke	05-26	Stafford
Virginia Rail	>1 near Milford Reservoir	Otte	03-08	Geary
Sandhill Crane	4 flying over s.e. corner of county 'good #'s at Quivira NWR 5 near Cheyenne Bottoms 8 at Quivira NWR	Pittman unknown m.ob	03-11 05-03 05-03	Jefferson Barton Stafford
Whooping Crane	2 at Quivira NWR 2 at Nature Conservancy property	Preston Seltman	05-02 05-02	Stafford Barton
Black-bellied Plover	100 at Quivira NWR 94 at playa lake east of Meade 15 at Quivira NWR	McFadden Seltman Van Dyke	05-17 05-17 05-26	Stafford Meade Stafford
American Golden-Plover	5 at Quivira NWR 5 near fish farms outside Lawrence 9 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Seltman Moore Van Dyke	04-05 04-13 05-26	Stafford Douglas Barton
Snowy Plover	3 at Quivira NWR	Seltman	04-05	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Kyle Marsh, Perry Lake 3 at Quivira NWR 2 at Quivira NWR Big Salt Marsh	McFadden Janzen, et al Rucker m.ob Otte	04-20/28 04-26 05-02 05-03 05-18	Stafford Barton Jefferson Stafford Stafford
American Avocet	450 at Quivira NWR	McFadden	04-23	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	1 east of Ulysses (early) 5 at Quivira NWR	Moore Rader	03-05 03-14	Grant Stafford
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 at Quivira NWR	Rader	03-14	Stafford
Willet	1 at Quivira NWR 300 at in Pool #1 Cheyenne Bottoms	McFadden m.ob	04-19 05-03	Stafford Barton
Upland Sandpiper	94 in burned field west of Hutchinson	McFadden	05-04	Reno
Long-billed Curlew	1 mile northwest of Yoder	McFadden	04-14	Reno

Hudsonian Godwit	4 at fish farm near Lawrence	Robbins	04-09	Douglas
	4 at Harvey Co. East Lake near Newton	Friesen	04-12	Harvey
	2 in a pasture near Manhattan	Heddinger	04-11/13	Riley
	9 at fish farm near Lawrence	Moore	04-13	Douglas
	2 at Quivira NWR	Rader	04-20	Stafford
	6 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-03	Stafford
	30 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-10/26	Stafford
	21 near El Dorado	Langley	05-15	Butler
	28 at Quivira NWR	McFadden`	05-21	Stafford
3 south of Sterling	Janzen	05-28	Reno	
Marbled Godwit	5 at Harvey Co. East Lake near Newton	Friesen	04-12	Harvey
	1 at fish farm near Lawrence	Moore	04-13	Douglas
	28 at Quivira NWR	McFadden	04-23	Stafford
	30 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-03	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-10	Stafford
Sanderling	2 at Cheney Reservoir	Janzen	05-28	Sedgwick
Baird's Sandpiper	2 at Quivira NWR	Rader	03-14	Stafford
Pectoral Sandpiper	11 at Quivira NWR	McFadden	03-26	Stafford
Dunlin	4 (early) at fish farm near Lawrence	Pittman	04-11	Douglas
Stilt Sandpiper	2 at fish farm near Lawrence	Moore	04-13	Douglas
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	ca. 100 near Quivira NWR office	m.ob	05-03	Reno
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-03	Stafford
	4 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-10	Stafford
	30 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-22	Stafford
	3 at Quivira NWR	Van Dyke	05-26	Stafford
Bonaparte's Gull	65 Coleman Ponds in Wichita	Janzen, et al	04-13	Sedgwick
	30 at fish farm near Lawrence	Moore	04-13	Douglas
	5 at Quivira NWR	m.ob	05-10	Stafford
California Gull	ad, at Cedar Bluff Reservoir	M&E Corder	03-01	Trego
Thayer's Gull	Basic I at Melvern Reservoir	Moore, m.ob	03-02	Osage
ICELAND GULL	Basic I at Melvern Reservoir	Swalwell, m.ob	02-28/03-02	Osage
Forster's Tern	early 1 st arrival at Quivira NWR	Seltman	04-05	Stafford
	4 at Wyandotte County Lake	Gaume	04-19	Wyandotte
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE	3-4 at Goodland	Sanderson	05-15/period	Sherman
<i>Although this species is apparently beginning to colonize North America, the debate continues as to the origin of each, new, population. The KBRC will have the unenviable task of deciding the status of the this, and future occurrences of this species in Kansas.</i>				
WHITE-WINGED DOVE	1 at feeder in Burns	Strotkamp	04-19/24	Marion

Short-eared Owl	late, but still common!	Seltman	04-12	Pawnee & Rush
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 near Marais des Cygne WA	Mulhern	05-29	Linn
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Ft. Leavenworth	m.ob Mulhern	05-10 05-25	Stafford Leavenworth
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 below Clark County Lake	Seltman	04-26	Clark
Cassin's Kingbird	along Arkansas River near Coolidge	Mulhern	04-10	Hamilton
Western Kingbird	early migrants along Arkansas River	Mulhern	04-10/11	Ford
Eastern Kingbird	early migrants along Arkansas River	Mulhern	04-10/11	Ford
Tree Swallow	1 st arrivals at Marais des Cygne WA	Moore	03-20	Linn
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER	1 Ulysses 1 Dodge City	m.ob Stain	01-11/03-29 02-01/04-02	Grant Ford
Fish Crow	several along Shoal Creek near Galena	Mulhern, et al	05-29	Cherokee
Mountain Chickadee	1 at feeder in Ulysses	m.ob	01-31/03-04	Grant
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at Kansas University campus	Wedge	04-25/05-	Douglas
Rock Wren	1 at Quivira NWR	Gresham	04-20	Stafford
NORTHERN WHEATEAR	1 adult male (eastern form) Bird City	Busse	04-12	Cheyenne
Mountain Bluebird	migrating no. of Dodge City	Davis	03-08	Ford
Townsend's Solitaire	2 at Lyon Co. State Lake 1 at Perry Lake	Gish, et al Rucker	03-01 04-23	Lyon Jefferson
Veery	1 at Bonner Springs	Moore	05-26	Wyandotte
CURVE-BILLED THRASHER	Rich residence in Garden City Shane res. in Garden City (same bird??)	L&B Rich T&S Shane	03-30 04-15	Finney Finney
Sprague's Pipit	5 near Cheyenne Bottoms	Seltman	05-02	Barton
Northern Shrike	Melvorn Reservoir	Moore	03-02	Osage
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Lone Star	Crawford Wedge	05-09/11 05-10	Johnson Douglas
Northern Parula	1 in Elkhart, near cemetery	L&R Smith	05-04	Morton
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4 at Wyandotte Co. Lake >1 Walla Walla Rd., Junction City	Moore Otte	05-20 05-24	Wyandotte Geary
Cape May Warbler	1 at Harvey County East Lake 1 south Manhattan along Wildcat Crk.	Schwab, et al Mulhern	05-10 05-10	Harvey Riley

Blackburnian Warbler	1 along Walla Walla Rd., Jct. City	Otte	05-24	Geary
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 at Marais des Cygne WA 3 at Marais des Cygne WA 1 at River Ponds Park, Tuttle Creek 1 at Perry State Park at Perry Lake 1 at Wichita State University 5 at Ft. Leavenworth	Moore Moore, Pittman m.ob Rucker Gresham Schukman	04-16 04-19 04-19 04-23 04-29 05-04	Linn Linn Pottawatomie Jefferson Sedgwick Leavenworth
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 along Walla Walla Rd., Jct. City	Corder Otte	05-16 05-24	Johnson Geary
Worm-eating Warbler	Oak Park in Wichita	unknown	04-20	Sedgwick
Mourning Warbler	6 at Ft. Leavenworth	Mulhern	05-25	Leavenworth
McGillivray's Warbler	1 male along Cimarron River	Seltman	05-17	Seward
Hooded Warbler	male in downtown Wichita male at Ft. Leavenworth	Barnes Hobbs, et al	04-29 05-07/10	Sedgwick Leavenworth
Summer Tanager	Scott Lake State Park	m.ob	05-10	Scott
Scarlet Tanager	Scott Lake State Park	m.ob	05-10	Scott
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 along Cimarron River 1 east of range near Towanda 2 at feeder north of Junction City	Seltman Bob Broyals fide Otte	05-17 05-14 05-24	Seward Butler Geary
Blue Grosbeak	early female near Mulvane	Hicks	04-16	Sumner
Lazuli Bunting	3 in Elkhart, near cemetery 1 at feeder near Junction City 1 at feeder in Paxico 1 at Perry Lake 1 along Walla Walla Rd., Junction City 1 at Wilson State Park	L&R Smith Otte Lamley Hanson Otte Rader	05-04 05-11 05-17 05-19 05-24 05-30	Morton Geary Wabaunsee Jefferson Geary Ellsworth
Painted Bunting	1 at feeder near Tuttle Creek Resvr.	Burnett	05-12	Pottawatomie
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Wilson SP	M&E Corder	03-01	Russell
Henslow's Sparrow	1 near Marais des Cygne 'several' at Harvey Co. East Lake	Moore m.ob	04-19 05-04/17	Linn Harvey
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	in Elkhart near cemetery	&R Smith	05-04	Morton
Harris' Sparrow	100's of late migrants	Seltman	05-10	Stafford
McCown's Longspur	1 near Greensburg	Janzen	03-28	Kiowa
Lapland Longspur	100's - many males in nuptial plumage	Seltman	04-12	Pawnee & Rush

Smith's Longspur	35 at Lyon Co. Lake	Moore, Hobbs	03-02	Lyon
Chestnut-collared Longspur	a few near Greensburg	Janzen	03-28	Kiowa
Yellow-headed Blackbirds	arrived April 15/16, after the storm, to many southern Kansas locations.			
Red Crossbill	'large' # in Ulysses near Perry Lake dam >1 in Dodge City max. 16 in Garden City >1 in Wichita 2 in Lone Star >1 in north Newton 3 near Junction City cemetery	m.ob Rucker Stain T&S Shane unknown Wedge Regier Otte	03-05/29 03-07 04-02 04-09/05-31 04-09 04-10 04-11 05-28	Grant Jefferson Ford Finney Sedgwick Douglas Harvey Geary
Pine Siskin	several in Junction City cemetery	Otte	05-28	Geary
Evening Grosbeak	'large' # in Ulysses >1 in Larned max. 15 in Garden City 20 at Larned	m.ob Donn T&S Shane Cassmeyer	03-05/29 04-08 04-09/05-04 05-02	Grant Pawnee Finney Pawnee

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

ad. = adult	m.ob = many observers
Basic I = winter plumage, 1 st year	NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
ca. = 'approximate'	Rd. = Road
Co. = County	res. = residence
Crk. = Creek	Rsvr. = Reservoir
Ft. = Fort	SP = State Park
imm. = immature	WA = Wildlife Area
max. = maximum	> = 'greater than'

OBSERVERS:

James Barnes, Joanne Brier, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Doris Burnette, Dan Busse, Ted Cable, Don Cassmeyer, Wally Champeny, Cal Cink, Mark and Elaine Corder, Steve Crawford, Joyce Davis, Bob Dester, Elisha Dolginoff, Jim Donn, Greg Farley, Dan Ferman, A. Finkle, Bob Fisher, John Frey, Gregg Friesen, Mike Gaume, Terrell Giddens, Dan Gish, Chet Gresham, Pam Hanson, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Jeff Keating, Dan Kilby, Mary King, Nellie Lamley, Bill Langley, Vern Laux, S. Lewis, Harold McFadden, M. McGlowan, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill, Ed Miller, Lloyd Moore, Dan Mulhern, James Nickel, Art Nonhoff, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck and Jaye Otte, John Palmquist, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Alexi Powell, Eric Preston, Rick Prum, Mike Rader, Bob Regier, Steve Rhoades, Leonard and Betty Rich, David Rintoul, Mark Robbins, Richard Rucker, Ken Sanderson, John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Scott and Diane Seltman, Tom and Sara Shane, Guy Smith, Lawrence and Ruth Smith, Doug Stain, Glen and Dorothea Strotkamp, Art Swalwell, Bill Trelec, Max Thompson, Beverly Van Dyke, Don Vannoy, Phil and Linda Wedge, Fred Young.

Remember that all sightings are tentative, pending action of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC).

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **785-372-5499**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Galen Pittman, 12042 258th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

Forty-First Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds as they affect the Kansas Ornithological Society Check-list

by Max C. Thompson

(Editor's Note - As many of you are aware the names of the birds on the Kansas Ornithological Society's checklist, as well as their order of appearance and what constitutes a full species, usually follows what the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) does with their checklist. Just shortly before deadline the AOU released their 41st supplement to their checklist. There are some fairly major changes with this supplement. Max Thompson, Kansas Birds Record Committee member, volunteered to distill the major changes down into a quick article to beat the deadline. Thank you Max! - ceo)

The 7th supplement to the 6th edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds includes taxonomic and nomenclature changes adopted by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature between March 15, 1995 and March 15, 1997. This is the last supplement before the publication of the 7th edition of the check-list. The following are the changes:

The Turkey Vulture and the Black Vulture in the family Cathartidae are removed from the Falconiformes and placed in the order Ciconiiformes, suborder Ciconiidae following the family Ciconiidae, the ibis.

The sequence of the swans, geese and ducks has been changed: Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, Brant, Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Am. Black Duck, Mottled Duck, Mallard, Garganey, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, King Eider, Common Eider, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck.

The New World quail are elevated to family level Odontophoridae.

The Burrowing Owl's scientific name will be listed as *Athene cunicularia* rather than the genus *Speotyto*.

The scientific name of the Olive-sided Flycatcher is changed from *Contopus borealis* to *Contopus cooperi* because of priority.

The genus *Petrochelidon* for the Cliff Swallow (*pyrrhonota*) and the Cave Swallow (*fulva*) is separated from and follows, *Hirundo*.

The following families have been moved in front of the Alaudidae (larks): Shrikes (Laniidae), Vireos (Vireonidae), and Jays and Crows (Corvidae).

Starlings (Sturnidae) moved so they follow the Thrashers (Mimidae).

One of the major changes is removal of all the North American parids from the genus *Parus*. The Black-capped Chickadee and the Carolina are now placed in the genus *Poecile* and the Tufted Titmouse is now in the genus *Baeolophus*. The new arrangement is Carolina Chickadee, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse.

The kinglets, genus *Regulus*, are removed from the family Muscicapidae and are returned to the rank of family (Regulidae).

The Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*, is divided into three species: *V. solitarius*, Blue-headed Vireo; *V. cassinii*, Cassin's Vireo; and *V. plumbeus*, Plumbeous Vireo. This change adds the Cassin's Vireo and the Plumbeous Vireo to the Kansas list with voucher specimens in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History collection.

The subfamily Cardinalinae is moved to follow the subfamily Emberizinae.

The sequence of the grackles has been changed to: Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle.

The major changes to the Kansas check-list are the addition of two new species and the reordering of many species.

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Cottonwood Falls (a.k.a. the Z-Bar Ranch) is compiling a mailing list of individuals and organizations interested in staying in touch with developments there. Send your name and address to: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, 226 Broadway, PO Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845.

Birding Field Trips at Milford Lake

Chuck Otte will be leading birding field trips around Milford Lake on September 27 and October 25, 1997. Meet at the Milford Nature Center at 8:00 am. For more information contact Chuck at 785-238-8800.

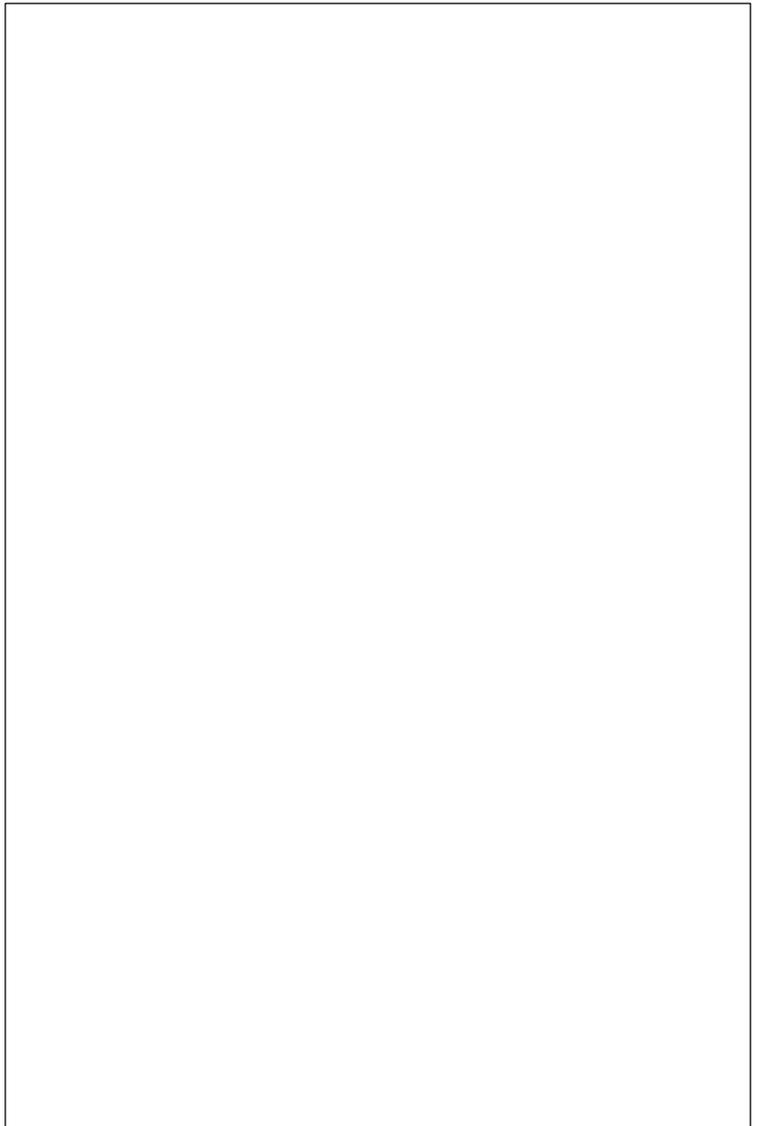
Wanted! Records!

No, we don't want your old 45's and 33 1/3 rpm LPs! We want your bird sighting records. Every time you go out on a bird watching outing take some good notes. Take especially good notes including where you were (get specific). Take good notes of day and time. If you take the time to look into the county records for Kansas we find that there is a lot of "missing data". The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project has started to fill in some of the holes for breeding species, but what about all those migrants?

A group is forming that is interested in promoting better record keeping (including documentation of rarities and submittal to the appropriate committee). And while we may not be ready to take all your records just yet, start getting them together and start keeping better records.

We owe it to ourselves, other bird watchers, ornithologists and future generations to put egos and competition aside and do a better job of documenting and reporting what we see. Stay tuned for more details in coming issues!

- ceo



John Cavitt received a \$355 research scholarship from the H. T. Geir, KOS Student Research Fund for his doctoral studies at Kansas State University on the effects of food supplementation on nest success and allocation of parental effort in the Brown Thrasher. All of the scholarship was made possible by the Charles Edwards Memorial. Charles was a Kansas State University alumunus and an active KOS member for many years.

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1997 FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 4 & 5, 1997
GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER, WICHITA, KANSAS

Make your plans now to attend the fall meeting in Wichita. Headquarters for the meeting will be the fantastic new **Great Plains Nature Center**, a joint venture of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, The City of Wichita Department of Parks & Recreation, and The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The facility is dedicated to nature education, and is located adjacent to Chisholm Creek Park, one of the "Wichita Wild" natural areas owned and maintained by the City of Wichita. It is located at 6232 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67220-2200. From the intersection of the turnpike (I-35) and K-96 on the east side of Wichita, take K-96 north, exit south on Woodlawn, turning west at 29th St. N., and making the first right turn into the parking lot. From I-135, take K-96 east to Woodlawn, then south to 29th St. N. Phone number: (316) 683-5499. FAX: (316) 688-9555.

Our scheduled guest speaker will be the **noted author and Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska, John Janovy, Jr.** John has written a series of wonderful natural history books centered for the most part on the Great Plains. His publications include: "Keith County Journal" (1978, St. Martin's Press, re-issued in paperback by the U. of Nebraska Press), "Back in Keith County", 1981, St. Martin's Press (also re-issued by UNP), "Yellowlegs", 1980, St. Martin's Press, "On Becoming a Biologist", 1985, Harper & Row (re-issued in paper by UNP), "Vermillion Sea", Houghton Mifflin, 1992, and "Dunwoody Pond", 1994, St. Martin's Press. If you haven't read his books, pick one up before the meeting. You can get a taste for John's writing style by accessing the internet web page at: <http://www.unl.edu/jjanovy/books.html>.

Throw together a great meeting site, a great guest speaker, a batch of stimulating papers on ornithology, and some fall birding trips, and how can you stay away?

Here are the particulars:

Friday evening, October 3:

Early arrivals are invited to join us at the Nature Center for cookies and beverages starting at 7:00 pm; get an early look at the facility, do a bit of birding at the adjacent Chisholm Creek Park, chat with old friends you haven't seen for some time, regale us with your fantastic birding tales, arrange the slides for your Saturday talk, and deliver items for the silent auction fund raiser. Then at 8:00 pm, join the special event of the evening, the Kansas Bird Records Committee-sponsored bird identification contest/challenge/seminar.

Saturday, October 4:

Donuts, coffee, tea, juice beginning at 7:30 am at the Nature Center. Morning session paper presenters should visit the slide-organizing room and prepare their materials and check in with Greg Farley, VP and Paper Session moderator or Suzanne Fellows, Great Plains Nature Center coordinator for our meeting. Deliver your items for the silent auction fund raiser to Susan Barnes. Pay your dues to James Barnes, Business Manager, or to Ed Miller, Treasurer, at the KOS Sales & Membership Table.

Sales tables will include:

KOS table - memberships, Kansas Checklists, KOS window decals, KOS T-shirts and Sweatshirts.

Wichita Audubon Society Table - A variety of items with natural history themes, including T-shirts and books. DeLorme Kansas Atlas available.

Photographs by Bob Gress and artwork by Dan Kilby and James Barnes will be on display and available for purchase.

A room will be dedicated to the **silent auction**. There have been some great items available in the past, and we hope this year's offerings will also contain a treasure that you won't be able to do without. Visit often, and make a bid before the day is over.

Paper sessions will begin at 8:30 am. The morning paper session will conclude at 11:00 am. The **morning business meeting** (11:00 am - 11:30 am) will include short reports from officers, and the presentation of the slate of candidates and request for any nominations from the floor for open board and officer positions.

Sack lunch will be catered by the New York Bagel Shop & Deli: sandwich, pasta/potato salad, cookie and beverage. Cost: \$6.00. Eat in the facility or go for a walk in the park, or take your lunch to the auditorium for the member slide show from 12:00 noon till 1:00 pm.

KOS Board Meeting/Working Lunch will be from 11:30 am till 1:00 pm.

Afternoon paper sessions will resume at 1:30 pm and run until 4:00 pm. The **afternoon business session** will focus on election of officers/board members and on a status report on the KBBAT survey, and will go from 4:00 pm till 4:30 pm.

The **banquet** will be held at the Garden Cafe, 2120 N. Woodlawn at 7:00 pm. Cost will be \$14.00 per person. Guest speaker will be Professor John Janovy, Jr. Ten best birds of 1997 will be presented by the Kansas Bird Records Committee based on submittals they have received for confirmation.

Sunday, October 5:

Field trip day. Breakfast on your own. Field trips start at the Chisholm Creek Park parking lot off Oliver Street north of 29th St. N. and south of K-96. (Entrance east side of Oliver). Departure times to be announced. Likely trips include:

Cheney Reservoir and possibly Mt. Hope Marsh. Pete Janzen and Tyler Hicks.

Chisholm Creek Park or another Wichita Wild Park. This will be a beginning birder trip. KBRC members will assist beginning birders in all areas of bird identification. Leaders: Bob Gress and KBRC members.

Lake Afton & Pawnee Prairie Park. Chet Gresham &/or John Northrup.

Other trips may be made available if meeting attendance and member interest warrants.

Sunday Lunch & compilation:

Chisholm Creek Park Picnic Pavillion. Parking area off Oliver Street. Catered lunch, \$5.00 per person. 12:00 noon till 1:00 pm. Compilation by Pete Janzen.

Motel Reservations:

Please make your own reservations.

Some motels fairly close to the Nature Center are:

Best Western Red Coach Inn [915 E. 53rd St. N., @ I-135, Phone (316) 832-9387, \$65.00]

Days Inn [901 E. 53rd St. N., (316) 634-2303, \$40.00 upstairs, \$42.00 downstairs for 1 person, \$5.00 additional per adult, kids free, 2 queen size beds per room] . We have asked them to hold a block of 20 rooms for KOS, so if you make a reservation here, please indicate that you are with the KOS meeting.

While not as close by, Motel 6 has good rates, and with the availability of the by-pass, is a quick drive from the Great Plains Nature Center. It is located at 5736 W. Kellogg (Highway 54), (316) 945-8440. [\$31.99 for 1 adult, \$35.99 for 2, \$37.99 for 3, \$39.99 for 4, plus 11.9% tax]. We have also asked for a block of 20 rooms to be held here for KOS, so again please mention that you are with the KOS meeting.

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REGISTRATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

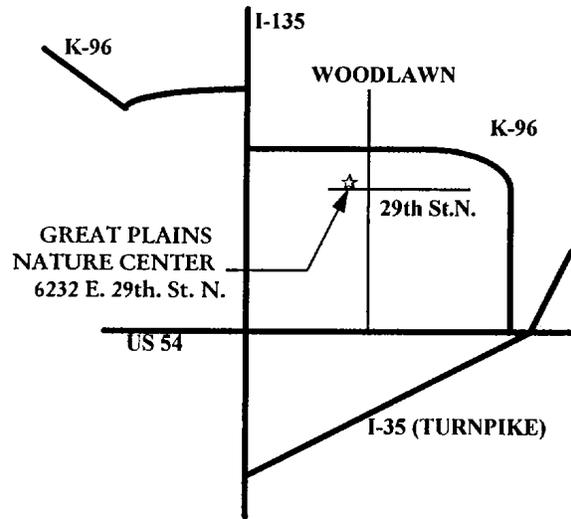
PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

Item:	Cost:	Number:	Total:
Registration:	\$4.00	_____	_____
Saturday Lunch:	\$6.00	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet:	\$14.00	_____	_____
Sunday Lunch:	\$5.00	_____	_____
Total:			_____

Make checks payable to Kansas Ornithological Society. Please mail registration in by Sept. 15th so that we can finalize arrangements with the restaurants and caterers. Mail to: **James Barnes, KOS Fall Meeting, 1425 S. Wichita St., Wichita, KS 67213.** For information call James or Susan Barnes, (316) 265-4059, Roy Beckemeyer (316) 264-0049, or Pete Janzen (316) 832-0182.

Traveling to the Great Plains Nature Center

The Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) is really quite easy to find! Either follow the directions in the announcements or follow the map to the right. You will enter off of 29th Street and immediately enter a large parking lot. There will probably be signs directing you to the meetings. The front entrance (public entrance) is on the northwest side. The long wing on the southwest side houses offices for the various agencies that call the GPNC home. There are lot's of sidewalks and walking trails so arrive early and make yourself right at home!



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Please fill out the other side and return for your Fall Meeting Registration

CALL FOR PAPERS
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING, 1997

The KOS will meet October 4 and 5, 1997 at Wichita, KS. The contributed papers will be presented on Saturday, October 4. The only requirement is that the papers deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. Interesting papers are also often given by people who consider themselves amateurs, but who nevertheless have considerable expertise to share. We encourage you to share your experiences with the members and guests who will be attending. Both long and short presentations are welcome. Please submit a short abstract (approximately 150 words) of your presentation. If at all possible, Papers Session Chair, Greg Farley requests that you e-mail your abstract to him or submit it on disk (PC) preferably in Word or Wordperfect format.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 12, 1997, TO:

Prof. Greg Farley
Vice President, KOS
Fort Hays State University
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Albertson Hall
600 Park St.
Hays, KS 67601-4099
Phone: (913) 628-5965
E-Mail: BIGF@FHSUVM.FHSU.EDU

Contributed Paper for KOS Annual Meeting, Oct. 4, 1997

AUTHOR(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

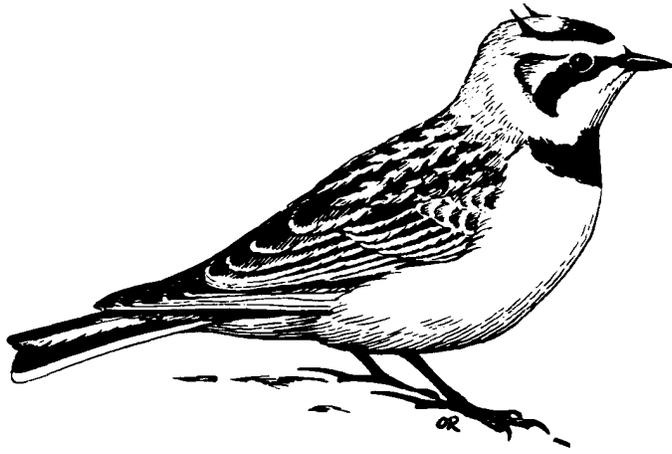
PAPER TITLE: _____

ABSTRACT: _____

Time for presentation and questions (circle one): 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-Visual equipment required: _____ 35 mm slide projector, _____ overhead transparency projector, _____ video cassette player and monitor, _____ other (please specify) _____

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The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1997

Vol. 24, No. 2

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

This has been a hectic, crazy spring! The weather has been crazy, my schedule has been hectic. When it was early spring, 1996, and John Zimmerman asked me to help with the local field trips for the KOS/WOS meeting, April 1997, seemed so far away..... Well, it's now over. I want to thank everyone who helped me with field trips and I know that Dr. Zimmerman is even more relieved that it is over and even more grateful for all the fine help that he received from so many people. Speaking from my little part - we had a lot of fun on the Sunday field trips!

Now let's all get fired up for the Fall Meeting in Wichita. I had the opportunity in May to attend a lecture by Kenn Kaufman at the Great Plains Nature Center. This is truly an exceptional facility and will be very conducive to another excellent fall meeting.

You'll notice a common threat running through several of the articles in this issue. **Get involved!** It wasn't planned.... it just happened. Having been involved in numerous organizations in my life I have observed that the output of an organization can only be equal to the net inputs of its members. If you have a few people trying to do everything the organization is doomed. We have many really good KOS members. And maybe they are just waiting for someone to ask them to get involved. Okay then, I welcome you to get involved! There is no reason why we shouldn't have over 1,000 KOS members. That would only take 10 members from each county in Kansas. Start looking around your town or county for that family that really started enjoying their backyard bird feeder this year. Buy them a gift membership the first year and just maybe they'll stay on.

Start leading local birdwalks in your community. "Oh, I'm not really qualified to do that!" you might say. Well, the best way to learn is to teach. Maybe you'll attract someone to your walk that is more qualified and they'll take it over. If that happens,

buy them a gift membership. If everyone just starts putting in a little more effort the outcome may surprise us all!

And finally I encourage all of you to be good stewards and good representatives of KOS and Birdwatchers in general. The public sometimes has a tainted view of "us". When you are out birding by yourself or with a group ALWAYS give the utmost respect to the wildlife you are watching and to the private property all around us here in Kansas. Don't set one foot on private land without first obtaining permission and if they do say "no" respect that landowner and thank them for their time. The horror stories coming out of other states are something we don't need in Kansas! Have a great summer and let's all get out and wrap up those Atlas Blocks!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1997

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Correction!

Please note that the date on the *Horned Lark*, Volume 24, Number 1 should have read March, 1997 not February 1997. The Editor goofed!

Welcome New KOS Members!

We've had the proverbial bevy of new members this spring. As was started by the KOS Board a few years ago all students who give papers at a KOS meeting receive a one year KOS membership. At the spring KOS meeting, held in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society, there were numerous papers presented. Additionally there were quite a few regular memberships sent in. We welcome all the new members and hope to see them at the fall meeting:

New members are: Caroline French - Prairie Village, Larry Nuss - Fort Scott, Don & Lori Weiss - Olathe, Prairie Raptor Project - Brookville, Don Kazmaier - Larned, Suzanne Fellows - Wichita, Hoogy & Carol Hoogheem - Ogden, Mary King - Ulysses, R.W. McCandless - Parsons, Susan Barnes - Wichita, Steve Winter, David Hoover, Timothy Parker - Manhattan, Lisa Ball, Kimberly Bostwick, Daniel Kluza, Nathan Rice, Dave Watson - Lawrence, Doug Robinson - Emporia, Catherine Bechtoldt, David Craig, Heather Ewell, Kerri Vierling - Boulder, CO, Sheldon Cooper - Logan, UT, Natalie Dubois - Albion, MI, Oliver Komar - Delaware, OH, Tim McCoy - Columbia, MO, Diann Prosser - University Park, PA, Christopher Pusateri - Williamsville, NY, Jeff Walk - Urbana, IL.

Remember - most of the 913 area code, outside of the Kansas City area, changes to the new 785 area code effective July 20, 1997. This will affect the KOS Rare Bird Alert, it becomes 785-372-5499 starting July 20!

KOS Board Membership Positions Available

Two KOS Board of Directors' positions become available this year as Bill Busby and John Schuckmann complete their two-year assignments. If you are interested in joining the Board and helping to make KOS a stronger, more vital organization, please call or write and put your name forward for nomination.

Also, other positions become available from time to time, so if you are willing to serve in any other role (e.g., as an officer), let me know, as it helps to have a list of folks who want to help. Margaret Wedge, Membership Chairperson, has indicated that she would like to "retire" from that position, so we are looking for candidates for her job as well. Please give me a call, drop an e-mail message, or a note to: Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry St., Wichita, KS 67203-3141; (316) 264-0049; royb@southwind.net

Kansas Nature Photographers Organization Forming

If you have any interest in nature photography mark November 22, 1997 on your calendar! Interested individuals are invited to Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas to meet with other interested nature photographers to form a state wide organization of nature photographers.

Larry Rosenkoetter, a professor at Bethany College is the driving force behind this meeting. As of late May over 50 individuals had indicated their intent to attend. A highlight of the meeting will be a series of 10-minute shows by various nature photographers around the state.

For more information contact Larry Rosenkoetter at: 204 W. Columbus, Lindsborg, KS 67456; (913) 227-3294; rosenkoel@bethany.bethanylb.edu

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Birder Diversity

by Pete Janzen

If you were to ask each of our 400 members what aspect of birding they enjoy the most, or what they consider to be a working definition of the term “birding”, you would most likely get about 400 different answers. As those who are on the KSBIRD computer discussion group know well, sometimes these conflicting views can inspire animated, (but civil), differences of opinion. I thought I would use my column this month to discuss some of the diversity within our membership.

The scientists and wildlife management professionals who belong to our society make the most fundamental contribution to the study and understanding of birds. Members such as John Zimmerman, Marvin Schwillig, Max Thompson, Charles Ely, Roger Boyd, and others too numerous to name, have accomplished a great deal in their work. Without the careful record keeping, bird-banding, refuge management, and basic research which these members perform, we would certainly be much more ignorant about birds in Kansas than we currently are. Reading through a volume like “Birds of Konza”, I am humbled by how little I understand about the complex life history of even the commonest birds, such as the Dickcissel or Meadowlark.

Perhaps the most basic division among birders, is between those who pursue the hobby for strictly recreational purposes, and those whose pursuits are more purely scientific. Some recreational birders pursue “listing” to the exclusion of nearly all else. Once they have added a bird to their “life” or “years” list, they have essentially no further interest in the species. Most recreational birders, however, make valuable contributions to our understanding of rare species’ distributions in the state, and often have been among the most active participants in the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas, Christmas Bird Counts, etc. Even so, some of the professional scientists within our ranks still shake their heads privately at the wild shenanigans that go on, such as traveling hundreds of miles to see a single vagrant warbler reported the previous day on the hotline. True, such pursuits of rarities are not going to contribute to the scientific database, but the sporting aspect of birding is what some birders find the most alluring, and that is not a bad thing. While such pursuits often consume a tank full of gas or two, which some consider wasteful, I think the total amount of fossil fuels consumed by birders in search of rarities in our state is dwarfed by the amount consumed by others in pursuit of some of their hobbies. I wonder how many gallons of fuel

are consumed by fans traveling to a single Big 12 football game? Probably about 1000% more than all of the birders in Kansas’ history have cumulatively consumed in all of the Twentieth Century!

Another common type of birder is the backyard birder. These birders are concerned primarily with birds found in their yard or immediate neighborhood. Backyard birders are often very knowledgeable about topics such as the most effective landscaping, bird houses, bird feeders, etc. Backyard birders do a lot to improve both urban and rural yards for birds. Many times birders in this category find unexpected rare birds right in their own yards, while others are out tearing up the countryside in pursuit of the same rarities. While they might go along on a field trip some distance from home on occasion, this type of birder does not hear the siren song of rarity chasing like dedicated listers do.

Some (but not enough) of our members are also politically active on issues that affect birds and the environment. I know that some of our members do not think KOS should be politically involved at all, and should leave those fights to others. I however, have the greatest respect for those who take the time to fight the good fight on behalf of birds. Certainly in Kansas we need all the activism we can get, with a legislature that wants to abrogate all clean water regulations, slaughter all the rattlesnakes in Wallace County for tourism reasons, and recently confirmed the appointment of a new director of KDHE who is on record as thinking that ducks and marshes are “stupid”, and is prone to lunging across conference tables to strangle those opposed to his views. This is not to mention the anti-environmental tone of many of our legislators at the national level.

The birders whom I admire the most are those who combine all of the best traits of these different birder types. Good examples of this all-around birder would be Newton-area birders Dwight Platt, Bob Dester, and Carol Schwab. Bob and Carol both own some adjacent tracts of nice land in eastern Harvey County, and over the past decade they have done a lot of things to improve the habitat there for birds, planting trees and shrubs, building bluebird trails, and clearing tallgrass prairies of invasive brushy plants. This is part of a trend of farmland being returned to prairie in this entire area, and of improving habitat in the riparian corridors along the streams. Dwight Platt has spent decades keeping careful records

- - *Pete's Perspective, continued*

of birds, herps, and plants in Harvey County, and has frequently spoken up on behalf of environmental issues, both locally and at the state and national level.

One of the greatest contributions they made to birding in the area, was the political effort they put forth to get a large area of county owned land at the upper end of Harvey County East Lake to be returned to a natural state, with nature trails, interpretive signs, etc. Despite some fairly stiff resistance on the part of some, they were able to persuade the local powers to pursue this course of action. These three people are among the most civil and unassuming people that I know, yet they took the time to act politically, and accomplished a great deal at the local level, which otherwise would not have happened at all.

Last week, I visited the this tract of land for the first time in ages. The big bird news there is a colony of Henslow's Sparrows, far from their nearest known regular haunts.

This prairie was an overgrazed eyesore only a few years ago. Now it is home to one of the most highly sought, enigmatic species of birds found in Kansas. Hard to find species, such as Sprague's Pipits and Smith's Longspurs, have been found in the prairies here in the past few years, and woodland species as Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker are moving in as nesting species in the riparian woodland.

I really felt excited seeing a singing Henslow's out there in the field. Truly the preservation and restoration of this area is a significant victory on the local level for those who love natural things. Without the concern, dedication, and hard work of a few, it would not have happened at all. Dwight, Carol, and Bob combined a love for birds with a willingness to become involved in the local political process, and won a few rounds with the forces of narrow-mindedness. They are also keen enough birders that they have been able to document a number of rare or uncommon birds in this area. These are birders we can all aspire to emulate. I'm sure gonna try to.

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues he is your contact also.

Proposed By-Laws Change

The following by-laws change will be voted on at the annual meeting in Wichita, October 4, 1997:

"Article II. Section 4.C. Annual dues shall be payable to the treasurer by ~~January~~ **March 1.**"

This means that dues would be payable by March 1 rather than January 1.

KBBAT Blockbuster Weekend

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project (KBBAT) is about to wrap up. There aren't very many more of these Blockbuster Weekends coming up so you'd better grab this opportunity.

KBBAT Southwest Region Blockbuster Weekend

June 27 - 29, 1997

Contact John Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Ackert Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66502-4901

Office 913-532-6659
Home 913-537-0238

**Deadline for submissions for the
September, 1997 Horned Lark is July 25,**

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.

GPNC brings together federal, state and local efforts for wildlife education

by Susan Nicholson Barnes

*“In the end,
We will conserve only what we love,
We will love only what we understand,
We will understand only what we are taught.”*
- Baba Dioum, Conservationist

A love of nature usually is taught. Children learn from family and friends who take the time to share their appreciation of watching migrations in the fall, new life in the spring and sometimes just the changing of leaves or trickling of a stream.

It can be difficult for urban families to build this appreciation. But a recently formed partnership between federal, state and city government, one of the first of its kind, is working to help visitors learn to love the natural world.

The Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) was initiated in a meeting in January 1988, when representatives from the Wichita Dept. of Park and Recreation and the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks met to discuss the possibilities of an interpretation center at Chisholm Creek Park in Wichita. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was added to the team and with the support of former senator Bob Dole, former governor Mike Hayden and other Kansas politicians, development of the plan led to groundbreaking in July 1994. And while there are areas of the center yet to be completed, the GPNC already promises to be a valuable resource for educating the public about the resources, wildlife and habitats of the Great Plains region.

“This cooperative effort between the three agencies is unique in itself as it's the first of its kind in the country,” said Bob Gress, director of the GPNC. Planning and construction of the building was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which also owns the seven acres on which the building sits. The Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks provides the operations budget while the city of Wichita maintains the surrounding grounds as part of Chisholm Creek Park.

Each agency is represented in the GPNC staff, which includes Bob and naturalists Connie Elpers and Jim Mason from the city of Wichita, naturalist Jan Brock and GPNC manager Marc Murrell from the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks and naturalist Suzanne Fellows from

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wichita's school district is represented by teaching specialists Jean Gengler and Joyce Lent, who provide on-site programs for students.

Located at the intersection of 29th Street North and Woodlawn Street (Figure #1, next page), the GPNC faces the southeast corner of Chisholm Creek Park, to which it is linked by two miles of nature trails that travel through tallgrass prairie, wetlands and riparian woodlands. Currently, the facility offers two classrooms, a 200-seat auditorium, offices for the GPNC staff and the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks regional office. Still under construction are a wildlife observatory, a 3400 square foot exhibit hall that will include a 2400 gallon aquarium, and a gift shop.

“We had hoped to host a grand opening for the entire facility in the spring of 1997,” Bob said, “but the loss of the exhibits has postponed the grand opening into 1998.” Exhibits were lost in December 1996, when ice and snow collapsed the roof of the Seattle, Wash., building where they were being built and stored.

In the mean time, the center is maintaining a full calendar of events with activities scheduled nearly every day, ranging from nature programming for children and adults to providing a regular meeting place for groups, including the Flatland Fly Fishers Club, Southwind Sierra Club, Prairiewind Storytellers and the Wichita Audubon Society. In the fall, the GPNC will host the fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society.

Day trips are scheduled through the GPNC for programming at other natural sites in Kansas, such as the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

“The goals of the GPNC include serving as a community resource for conservation and related informational materials, with an emphasis on the importance of habitats to wildlife and people,” Bob said, “and as an environmental education resource for school districts, youth organizations, colleges and universities, conservation organizations, and other groups and individuals interested in wildlife and the environment. We are confident that by providing a central location for

continued, next page

Fall KOS Meeting preview, continued...

groups, collaborative programming, and ultimately exhibits reflecting the Great Plains region, we will be teaching the understanding so necessary for the conservation of our wildlife and habitats.”

For more information about the GPNC or to receive the newsletter, call 316-683-5499 or write to the Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220-2200.

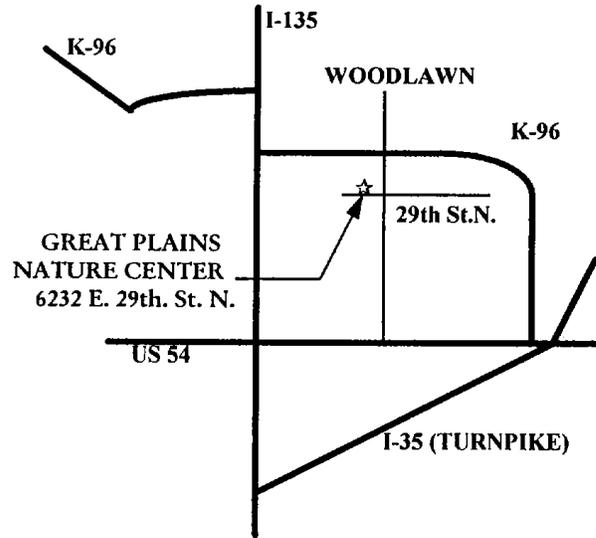


Figure #1 (left), location of Great Plains Nature Center

KOS Spring Board Meeting Excerpts

The KOS Board of Directors held a brief meeting during the KOS/Wilson Ornithological Society Meetings in Manhattan on Saturday, April 20, 1997. The complete minutes will not be printed here at this time, but significant excerpts follow.

The Finance Committee (Max Thompson, Roy Beckemeyer and Ed Miller) have not met yet but will in the near future. They will at that time also discuss how to handle the proceeds from the Madge Hilbish estate. KOS is still waiting to hear what that final amount will be. One possibility is to add it to the endowment fund.

It has been suggested that the membership exchange list (for KOS publications - you send us a copy of your publication and we'll send you a copy of ours) become known as the complimentary membership list to clarify its use.

There was discussion of use of the KOS World Wide Web page (see article elsewhere in *The Horned Lark*.) The general consensus was that this was a valuable informational tool and portions or excerpts of *The Horned Lark* be placed there.

KOS Board member, Dr. Richard Johnston, has started writing a "Bird of the Month" column for use by newspapers. It is currently being sent to the Lawrence Journal-World and the Hays-Daily News. Dr. Johnston welcomes comments and if other newspapers would be interested in using this monthly feature please contact Dr. Johnston.

There was discussion of the KOS Library and accessibility of KOS materials now being stored in the KU libraries. It is probable that KOS members can obtain this literature through the inter-library loan procedure. Please contact your library for information on how this works.

The upcoming KOS Fall Meeting was discussed as well as ways to improve and add to those meetings. Suggestions for additions included: offering of additional seminars or workshops, more local field trips whenever possible, offer alternatives to the regular paper sessions or offering introductory, child-level or entry-level sessions. Additional ideas and suggestions can be sent to Roy Beckemeyer, Richard Johnston or Greg Farley.

It was brought to the Board's attention that there was an omission in the published minutes of the Winter Board meeting. The Kansas Bird Records Committee member nominations were received by the board and approved.

KOS Fall Meeting - October 3 - 5, 1997, Great Plains Nature Center - Wichita, Kansas.

- - *Straight from the 'Net*

Sandpiper Identification

*About a year ago Gerald Reeck and myself (Chuck Otte) decided to start, what is known on the Internet, a discussion list. A discussion list is a big electronic bulletin board or old fashioned telephone party line. You "subscribe" to this (at no charge) and your name and e-mail address are added to the list. Then when you post a message to **KSBIRD-L** the message is automatically re-sent to the 100+ subscribers on the discussion list.*

*The stated purpose of **KSBIRD-L** is to create a forum dedicated to the sharing and discussion of Kansas birds and the many issues surrounding them, such as habitat, conservation, identification, feeding, housing, KBBAT and other projects..... well, you get the picture. One subscriber may ask a question that triggers several responses from various other list members. If you have an e-mail address and would like to join the list just send me a message at otte@jc.net*

One of the list members suggested the idea of taking an excerpts) from these discussions for each issue of the Horned Lark. Following is the first of these "Straight from the 'Net" features. Linda Mallonee raised the question that many of us have had, "How do you tell some of the peeps apart?" Chris Hobbs and David Seibel responded with some excellent and insightful comments. Following are those messages in virtually un-edited format. The messages are re-produced with the permission of all three of the original authors.

Linda's original question:

I appreciated Guy Smith's observations about pectoral and semipalmated sandpipers. Does anyone have a behavior clue for the difference between western and semi-palmated peeps? I was at the Bottoms one day when Ed Martinez was banding. He held one in each hand and I still could not see differences in plumage. If I can't tell the birds in hand, I'm not going to tell them in the water without some other kind of clue. That experience made me almost stop looking at them!

Thanks, Linda Mallonee, Wichita

Chris Hobb's response:

It's refreshing to see a thread relating to shorebird identification! Although separating Pectoral vs. Semipalmated Sandpiper is straight forward, and generally not a concern, the differences between 'Semi-P' and Western can be a little trickier!

Both these stints actually have toe-webbing, as previously mentioned of the semi-p. Under 99.9% of most field conditions, don't expect to see (in the field) this feature in either species!

Behavior is an excellent starting point in separating these two stints. Semipalmated Sandpipers have shorter, blunter bills than Western, and therefore feed by 'surface-picking' their prey in a hurried manner, abruptly stopping, then continuing with this full-speed-ahead foraging style. Westerns have longer bills used for probing. Probing generally requires a slower pace, thus a different style from the more frenetic Semi-p. Because of their differences in bill-length, Westerns tend to wade more into the mudflat than Semi-p, which tends to stay more shoreward.

Foraging behavior is not 'diagnostic' by any means. During migration they may stop at a farm pond with habitat limitations, so many species are forced to forage in the same manner. However, places like Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms afford most shorebirds a preferred habitat choice.

Most field guides point to the bill shape and length in differentiating Western from Semi-p, and generally speaking, this is a necessary feature to determine the correct identification of most individuals. Semi-p typically has a short, blunt, very straight bill, and Western has a proportionately longer, deeper-based bill that often droops at the tip. The dreaded word - 'variability' - also comes into play, however. Male Western bills are decidedly shorter than female Western bills, so much so that individuals can be sexed within a mixed group of male and female Westerns. (In the Fall, juveniles have shorter bills yet, so a juv male Western easily overlaps with Semi-p!) Another variable exists within geographic differences between Semi-p. West coast birds are slightly smaller than east coast birds. An eastern female Semi's slightly longer bill could look less blunt and more pointed, thus appearing more Western-like. In Kansas, I suppose we could get both eastern and western birds (?).

continued next page

-- *Straight from the 'Net, continued*

Overall plumage differences between Western and Semi-p is somewhat more straightforward in the Spring. Westerns typically show warm upperparts with rufous fringed scapulars, tertials, ear coverts, and crown. Semi-p has more subdued upperparts - mostly just brownish-gray. Some will have a hint of rufous similar to Western, but not equalling a 'typical' alternate-plumaged Western.

Vocally, the difference is night and day. A Western has a high-pitched 'jeet' or 'cheep' call, while Semipalmated has a harsh 'chert' or 'chut'.

Finally, Western numbers peak in mid-April and most are gone by the first week of May. Semipalmated numbers peak in mid-May and many are seen until early June. Chris Hobbs, Bonner Springs

David Seibel's response

Linda Mallonee commented that she had difficulty distinguishing Western from Semipalmated sandpipers in the hand, and Chris Hobbs posted some very helpful identification hints in response. (Thanks, Chris!)

I just wanted to add a few general comments for Linda and other aspiring but not overly confident shorebird identifiers (a group that should probably include all of us at least occasionally): First, birds often look quite different in the hand from in the field, and different sets of characters may be needed to identify a bird under these very different viewing conditions. Although the bird can be inspected closely in the hand, virtually all "normal" behavioral and vocal clues are missing, and birds that can be easily distinguished in the field can be pretty tricky in the hand until you learn the "in-hand" characteristics.

Further, while there is no substitute for the careful analysis of detail that is possible in the hand, there is also no substitute for experience with the species in the field. Frequently, field experience will allow seemingly impossible identifications by "gestalt" or "jizz," that is, by overall impression, potentially taking into account almost indescribably subtle features, shapes, postures, and actions. This ability isn't too surprising if you consider that we all have the innate ability to distinguish one human face from another; in birding, we are typically only concerned with differentiating entire species, which ought to be much easier.

In reality, not only can individual, racial, and sexual variation confound the identification process, but lighting conditions, plumage and molt conditions, presence or absence of other species for size comparison, quality of

habitat (as Chris pointed out), observer bias, and innumerable other factors can make it virtually impossible to identify some birds on any given day. This is another point where experience helps: Sometimes it's best to state a bird's identity merely as a probability, no matter how unsatisfying that is. Knowing when to stop short of a definite identification is probably one of the hardest learned lessons in birding, and perhaps the most rarely mastered.

As a rule of thumb, I try to evaluate all evidence I have about a bird's identity (especially for a difficult identification or extralimital sighting), to determine two things: (1) Do I have enough information to eliminate all other species from consideration; and (2) is **every** observed detail consistent with my tentative identification? If the answer to either question is no, or even if there is a slight possibility that the answer is no, then the identification must, for the sake of accuracy, be viewed with doubt. How much doubt is a matter of personal discretion and - again - experience.

Fortunately, gaining field experience is, for most of us, one of the really rewarding parts of birding. Be patient, look - and listen - carefully, and analyze every bird you see (especially ones you see well enough to identify with certainty, as these give you the basis for helpful comparisons later). With perseverance, you will gradually develop the detailed mental picture of each species that will allow you to separate it from similar ones - if conditions are favorable - with the same confidence that you distinguish the faces of two friends.

David E. Seibel, Chairman
Kansas Bird Records Committee

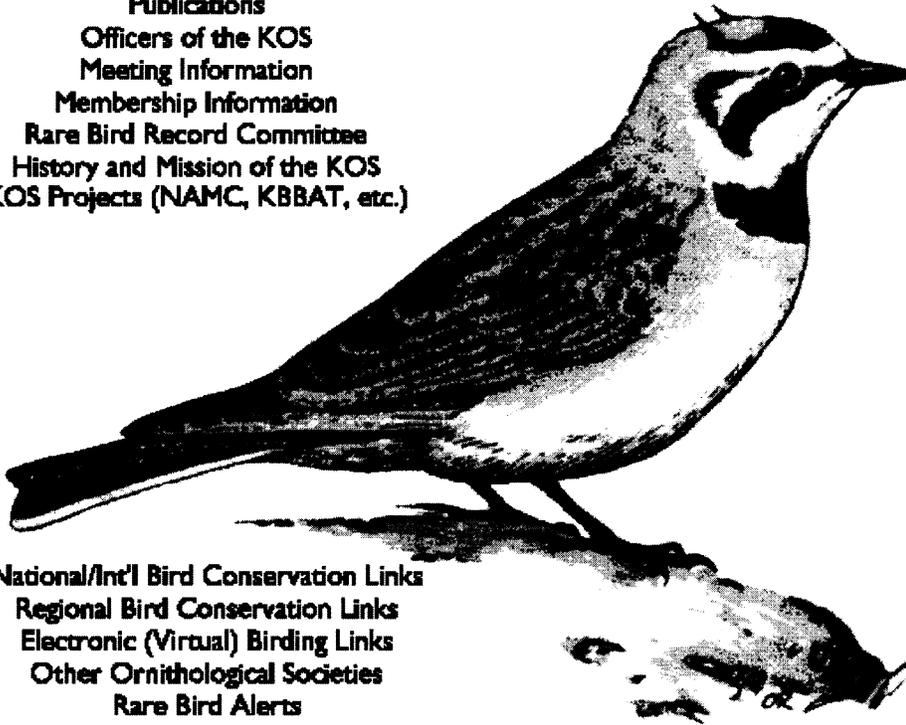
When You Watch a Marriage Between Owl and Mouse

A hollow pulse of wing
through dark air, sliding
around woven vines,
and folded limbs. She has
a warm beat flickering
in her eye. Tiny feet
scrape, nose under tumbled
leaves. His naked tail
flicks and stops. Wind
crushes in his ears pushing
him to run. Crackling,
his feet flash, in flames
of leaves he gives in
to the hot grip
of talons and a swift kiss.

Chet Gresham

Kansas Ornithological Society

Publications
Officers of the KOS
Meeting Information
Membership Information
Rare Bird Record Committee
History and Mission of the KOS
KOS Projects (NAMC, KBBAT, etc.)



National/Int'l Bird Conservation Links
Regional Bird Conservation Links
Electronic (Virtual) Birding Links
Other Ornithological Societies
Rare Bird Alerts

[History and Mission of the KOS](#) | [Membership Information - How to Join](#) | [Officers of the KOS](#)
[Kansas Bird Record Committee](#) | [Publications \(Checklist, newsletter etc.\)](#) | [Meeting information](#)
[Regional Bird Conservation Links](#) | [National & International Bird Conservation Links](#) |
[Electronic Ornithological Information](#) |
[KOS Projects \(KBBAT, NAMC etc.\)](#) | [Regional Rare Bird Alert \(RBA\) transcripts](#)
[Links to other ornithological societies and bird record committees](#)

KOS World Wide Web Home Page Debuts

By now just about everyone has at least heard about the World Wide Web sometimes referred to as the WWW or simply, "The Web". (Look for a feature article in the September *Horned Lark* that goes into much more detail on the Internet, The Web, and what it takes and what it costs to get "hooked up".) Several KOS members decided that the Kansas Ornithological Society needed there own Web page or, as they say, a presence on the web.

The graphic at the top of this page is the KOS home page on the World Wide Web (it looks much better in color when it is viewed on your computer!) Each of the subtitles are what's called a link. They connect your computer to another electronic document. The possibilities are nearly endless and it is available to the millions of computer users connected to the Internet!

Some of the information you can find at this Web site include: membership information on the KOS, the most recent Kansas and Kansas City Rare Bird Alerts, the Kansas Bird Record Committee report form - what birds should be reported and who to report them to, what the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project is and how to get involved, plus additional "links" to take you to other bird related Web pages.

How do you get to the KOS home page? In your web browser type in:

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos/>

See you on the Web!

WINTER ROUND-UP

December 1996 through February 1997

by Chris Hobbs

The weather during the winter of '96 could be summed up in a word - Brutal. Sure it was cold and windy - but it made up for it by snowing a lot! Birders are opportunists, and this winter presented a bounty. Large gulls were forced south when lakes and rivers to the west, north, and east were choked with ice. Kansas birders took advantage, recording two ICELAND (Kumleini) GULLS and two LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, all well documented, including photos/video of three! GLAUCOUS GULLS made an especially early showing, with the majority reported during December. Kansas birders wishing to see the elusive GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL in the state should simply bird with Pete Janzen in late December to late January! For the second year in a row, Pete has discovered a GBBG in Wichita, and unlike some individuals that return each year, these were different individuals.

Remember those nomadic Red Crossbills that started trickling into the state last July? They continued their movement into every corner of Kansas and remained at various locations throughout the period. From the Rocky Mountains came Evening Grosbeaks, whose presence

caused many Kansas birders to keep watchful eyes on the western border for other montane strays. Those expectations were realized with the arrival of several CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS in the southwest corner. A particularly cooperative individual remained in Ulysses through the end of this reporting period, and was seen by all who made the trek. Other related strays included the 'White-winged' Juncos found in the northwest by Seltman; the Cassin's Finch at Morton County by Janzen and Nickel; Bohemian Waxwings at Scott Lake seen by the Shane's; and Mountain Chickadees at Elkhart and Ulysses. There was even a Rosy Finch scare in Hugoton, but the birds were later believed to have been Red Crossbills.

As birders, we may take to the field in groups or singly. As observers, we may be tentative or sure. Regardless of our style, habits, or beliefs, we rely on each other to learn and to enjoy birds and birding. If you've read a field guide, called a hotline, or perused the KSBird-List, you've taken something that someone else has given you. Don't forget to return the favor with your hotline reports, rarity documentations for the Kansas Bird Records Committee, and observations for publication in articles like this! It's a responsibility we must assume if we call ourselves 'birders'. Thanks to all who contributed their data and documentations!

<u>Speices</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
Pacific Loon	Wilson Reservoir	Rader, et al	12-06/14-96	Russell
Common Loon	2 at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-06-96	Russell
	5 at Wilson Reservoir	Rader, et al	12-08/14-96	Russell
	1 at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-21-96	Russell
	1 at Wolf Creek Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25/02-01	Coffey
Horned Grebe	1 at Wolf Creek Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Coffey
Western Grebe	2 at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-13-96	Russell
Tundra Swan	4 Quivira NWR (since 11-23)	Patti, Rader	12-01-96	Stafford
	8, 2mi. south of Peabody	Jim Nickel	02-25-97	Marion
Trumpeter Swan	2 Quivira NWR (since 11-23)	Patti, Rader	12-01-96	Stafford
	2 behind Aloha Motel, Wichita	CBC counters	12-21/22-96	Sedgwick
	3, Lake Shawnee in Topeka	Moore	01-02-97	Shawnee
	3, sand pits in Garden City	T. & S. Shane	01-02/02-06-97	Finney
Ross' Goose	2 at Glen Elder Reservoir	Rader	12-08-96	Mitchell
	1, John Redmond Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Coffey

American Black Duck	2, Lawrence sand pits	Moore	01-02/02-22-97	Douglas
	1, Wyandotte Lake	Moore	01-05-97	Wyandotte
	1, Wolf Creek Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Coffey
	7 at Harvey Co. East Lake	not known	02-09-97	Harvey
	2 at Melvern Rsvr.	Gish	02-15-97	Osage
Greater Scaup	8 at Clinton Lake	McHugh, et al	02-22-97	Douglas
	1 at El Dorado State Park	Hicks	02-23-97	Butler
Oldsquaw	Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-01/21-96	Russell
	Tuttle Creek	Cable	12-26/01-12	Riley
	29th Street sand pit, Wichita	Janzen	01-01-97	Sedgwick
	near Topeka	Cable	02-22-97	Pottawatomie
	2 near John Redmond	Brier	02-28-97	Coffey
Barrow's Goldeneye	Female in Wichita	Janzen	01-01-97	Sedgwick
C. Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid	at Wilson	Rader	12-06-96	Russell
C. Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye	at Wyandotte Lake	Moore	12-27-96	Wyandotte
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at Wilson Reservoir	Seltman	12-14-96	Russell
	2 at 29th St. sand pit, Wichita	Janzen	01-01-97	Sedgwick
	2 at El Dorado State Park	Hicks	02-23-97	Butler
Northern Goshawk	1 on Lansing CBC	Wedge	01-05-97	Leavenworth
	1 ad. 10 mi. n. of Wichita	Northrup	02-14-97	Cowley
Merlin	sw of Wakefield	CBC counters	12-22-96	Clay
	sw of Wichita	not known	01-23-97	Sedgwick
	Wolf Creek Rsvr.	McHugh, et al	02-01-97	Coffey
Prairie Falcon	1, John Redmond Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Coffey
Peregrine Falcon	3, Wichita CBC total	CBC counters	12-21-96	Sedgwick
	sw of Wakefield	CBC counters	12-22-96	Clay
	1, downtown Wichita	Hicks	12-29-96	Sedgwick
Killdeer	1 in Pawnee Co.	Seltman	02-17-97	Pawnee
California Gull	Basic I, Glen Elder Rsvr	Rader	12-08-96	Mitchell
	Basic I, Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-21-96	Russell
	adult, K-96 & Ark. River	Janzen	01-23-97	Sedgwick
	Basic III, Wolf Creek Rsvr.	McHugh, et al	02-01-97	Coffey
Thayer's Gull	2 at Glen Elder Reservoir	Rader	12-08-96	Mitchell
	Basic I, Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-21-96	Russell
	Basic I, sand pit in Wichita	Janzen	01-01-97	Sedgwick
	1, adult at Tuttle Creek	not known	01-05-97	Riley
	2, Basic I at Tuttle Creek	Cable	01-12-97	Riley
	1, Basic II at Clinton Lake	Seibel, et al	02-23-97	Douglas
ICELAND GULL	Basic II at Clinton Lake	McHugh, et al	02-22-97	Douglas
	Basic I at Melvern Rsvr.	Swalwell, et al	02-28-97	Osage

LSR. BL.-BACK GULL	1 ad. at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-21-96	Russell
	Basic I at Clinton Lake	McHugh, et al	12-21-96	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1, Basic I at Tuttle Creek	Rader	12-14-96	Riley
	2 Basic I at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-21-96	Russell
	4 at Tuttle Creek Rsvr.	Cable	12-21-96	Riley
	1, Basic I at Glen Elder Rsvr.	CBC counters	12-22-96	Mitchell
	1, Ark River in Wichita	Barnes	12-22-96	Sedgwick
	1, Basic II at Milford Rsvr.	Otte	12-24-96	Geary
	1, Cedar Bluff Reservoir	CBC counters	12-27-96	Ness
	2, John Redmond Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Coffey
	1, Melvern Reservoir	McHugh, et al	01-25-97	Osage
1, Basic I at Melvern Rsvr.	Swalwell	02-28-97	Osage	
GR. BL.-BACK GULL	1, Basic I at Brooke's Landfill	Janzen, Piori	12-21-96	Sedgwick
Black-legged Kittiwake	2 Tuttle Creek Reservoir	Otte & Cable	12-06/15-96	Riley
	(1 since 11-29, L. Johnson)			
	1 at Perry Lake	Moore	12-22/01-05	Jefferson
Bonaparte's Gull	350 at Perry Lake	Moore	12-09-96	Jefferson
	1 at Perry Lake	Moore	01-05-97	Jefferson
Inca Dove	2, Hugoton	Britbuller	12-27-96	Stevens
	1, Garden City	Seltman, Cable	01-04-97	Finney
W. SCREECH-OWL	1 along Cimmaron R.	Patti, et al	01-18-97	Morton
SNOWY OWL	Meade/ Seward Co. line	not known	early Dec.	Meade/Seward
	7mi sw of St. John	S. Lewis	12-21-96	Stafford
	1 south of Scott City	not known	12-10/01-04	Scott
	1 near Larned	not known	early Dec.	Pawnee
	1 imm. sw of Wichita	not known	01-22/26-97	Sedgwick
	1 in Garden City	T. & S. Shane	01-28-97	Finney
Burrowing Owl	1 at north fork of Cimarron R.	Janzen, Nickel	12-08-96	Morton
Long-eared Owl	1 Ag Station, 2 at north fork	Janzen, Nickel	12-08-96	Morton
	12, Milford Lake	Otte	12-28-96	Geary
	3, south shore of Milford Lake	CBC counters	12-29-96	Geary
	10+ at Scott Lake	not known	01-01-97	Scott
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1 at Scott Lake	not known	01-01-97	Scott
	1 calling at Wilson Lake	Rader	01-21-97	Russell
Pileated Woodpecker	1 at Wolf Creek	Bill Trelc	02-01-97	Coffey
CLARK's NUTCRACKER	in Elkhart	T. Giddens	01-01/05-97	Morton
	1 in Ulysses	M. McGlowan	01-31/period	Grant
	1 Dodge City	Doug Stain	02-01/02-28-97	Ford
Mountain Chickadee	1 in Elkhart	CBC counters	12-28/01-19	Morton
	1 in Ulysses	M. McGlowan	01-31/period	Grant
Rock Wren	1 at Point of Rocks	Janzen, Nickel	12-08-96	Morton

Carolina Wren	105 on Manhattan CBC 1 in Garden City	CBC total Osterbuhr	12-14-96 12-25/02-06-97	Riley Finney
Bewick's Wren	5 singing at Milford Rsvr.	Otte	02-22-97	Geary
Mountain Bluebird	150 at Wilson Lake 485 in Gypsum Hills ca. 20, University Golf Course 125 at Wilson Lake	Rader Janzen, Nickel Cable Rader	12-06-96 12-06-96 12-15-96 02-11-97	Russell Barber Riley Russell
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Gish, Frey	02-01/15-97	Lyon
Hermit Thrush	Hugoton nw. of Larned	not known Seltman	12-28-96 01-27-97	Stevens Pawnee
Brown Thrasher	nw. of Larned	Seltman	01-27-97	Pawnee
BOHEM. WAXWING	3 at Scott Lake 7 at Scott Lake	T. and S. Shane not known	12-29-96 01-01-97	Scott Scott
Cedar Waxwing	500-600 at Milford Rsvr.	Otte	01-03-97	Geary
Northern Shrike	Wilson Reservoir 1 at Jetmore Cemetary 1 near St. Francis	Seltman Seltman, Cable Seltman	12-14-96 01-04-97 01-18-97	Russell Hodgeman Cheyenne
Dickcissel	Wichita CBC	CBC counters	12-21-96	Sedgwick
Vesper Sparrow	Junction City CBC	CBC counters	12-29-96	Geary
D-E (Wh.-winged) Junco	10 near St. Francis	Seltman	01-18-97	Cheyenne
Smith's Longspur	'many' - Lyon Co. State Lake	Gish, Frey	02-01/15-97	Lyon
Snow Bunting	6 at Glen Elder Reservoir 1 at Wolf Creek Rsvr.	CBC counters McHugh, et al	12-22-96 02-01-97	Mitchell Coffey
Rusty Blackbird	30 in North Wichita	Northrup	02-14-97	Sedgwick
Great-tailed Grackle	7500 near Basehor	Corder	01-05-97	Leavenworth
Purple Finch	Wilson Reservoir 1 in Gypsum Hills 5 at Elkhart 2 at Dodge City 1 at Pawnee Prairie Park	Rader Janzen, Nickel CBC counters Joyce Davis Janzen	12-06-96 12-06-96 12-28-96 01-19-97 01-23-97	Russell Barber Morton Ford Sedgwick
Cassin's Finch	8 at Wilberton Crossing	Janzen, Nickel	12-08-96	Morton
Red Crossbill	5 at Ag Station feeder in Ulysses 1 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 30 in Garden City 15 at Sim Park, Wichita 1 in Bushton	Janzen, Nickel McGlowan Cable Shane CBC counters A. Finckle	12-08-96 12-13-96 12-15-96 12-15-96 12-21/01-19 12-22-96	Morton Grant Riley Finney Sedgwick Rice

Red Crossbill, con't	25 in Hugoton	Patti	12-28-96	Stevens
	45 on Cimarron Grasslands CBC	CBC counters	12-28-96	Morton
	'several' at Scott Lake	CBC counters	01-01-97	Scott
	14 at Jetmore Cemetery	Seltman, Cable	01-04-97	Hodgeman
	20 in Atwood	Seltman	01-18-97	Rawlins
	small flock in Elkhart	Patti, et al	01-19-97	Morton
	small flock in Dodge City	Joyce Davis	01-19/02-02	Ford
	small flock in Liberal	Patti, et al	01-19-97	Seward
	30 in Ulysses	M. McGlowan	01-31-97	Grant
	14 on Ft. Hays campus, Hays	Greg Farley	02-01-97	Hays
	3 in Newton	Bob Regehr	02-08-97	Harvey
	3 at Perry Lake	Rucker	02-14-97	Jefferson
	3 at Sim Park, Wichita	Janzen	02-14-97	Sedgwick
	17 in Ulysses	M. McGlowan	02-20-97	Grant
	Evening Grosbeak	18 at Wilson Reservoir	Rader	12-01-96
several in McCracken		C. Thompson	12-04/23-96	Rush
1 in Gypsum Hills		Janzen, Nickel	12-06-96	Barber
2 at Milford State Park office		Otte	12-24/01-03	Geary
'several' at Scott Lake		CBC counters	01-01-97	Scott
5 at Milford Lake		Cable	01-12-97	Geary
2 in St. Francis		Patti, et al	01-18-97	Cheyenne
8 at Wilson Lake		Rader	01-21-97	Russell
several in Hays		not known	02-09-97	Hays
18 at Wilson Lake		Rader	02-11-97	Russell
1 female in Junction City		Otte	02-13-97	Geary
15 at Ulysses		M. McGlowan	02-20-97	Grant

Key to Abbreviations

AG	= Agricultural	Ark.	= Arkansas
ad.	= adult	CBC	= Christmas Bird Count
Basic	= winter plumage	Co.	= County
I	= 1st	ca.	= circa (approximately)
II	= 2nd	NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge
III	= 3rd	Rsvr.	= Reservoir
		R.	= River

OBSERVERS:

James Barnes, Joanne Brier, Ted Cable, Mark Corder, Elaine Corder, Joyce Davis, Greg Farley, A. Finckle, John Frey, Terrell Giddens, Dan Gish, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, S. Lewis, M. McGlowan, Mick McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Dan Mulhern, James Nickel, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Eric Preston, Mike Rader, David Rintoul, Richard Rucker, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Sara Shane, Guy Smith, Doug Stain, Art Swalwell, Bill Trelc, Max Thompson, Phil Wedge,

KOS Fall Meeting

October 3 - 5, 1997

Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, Kansas

See September Newsletter for details and registration form

CALL FOR PAPERS
KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING, 1997

The KOS will meet October 4 and 5, 1997 at Wichita, KS. The contributed papers will be presented on Saturday, October 4. The only requirement is that the papers deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. Interesting papers are also often given by people who consider themselves amateurs, but who nevertheless have considerable expertise to share. We encourage you to share your experiences with the members and guests who will be attending. Both long and short presentations are welcome.

We are again requesting that all contributors submit an abstract or short summary (approximately 150 words) of their presentations.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 19, 1997, TO:

Prof. Greg Farley
Vice President, KOS
Fort Hays State University
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Albertson Hall
600 Park St.
Hays, KS 67601-4099
Phone: (913) 628-5965
E-Mail: BIGF@FHSUVM.FHSU.EDU

Contributed Paper for KOS Annual Meeting, Oct. 4, 1997

AUTHOR(S): _____

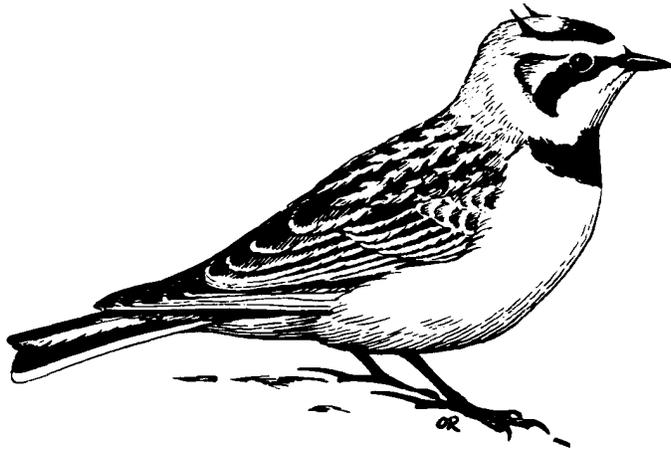
ADDRESS: _____

PAPER TITLE: _____

ABSTRACT: _____

Time for presentation and questions (circle one): 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-Visual equipment required: _____



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March 1997

Vol. 24, No. 1

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

Caution! People at Work. That sign should be anywhere that your KOS Board of Directors or any of the committees, groups and individuals connected with KOS have been lately. We've stepped into the new year with lot's of ideas and action to back it up.

We moved out of 1996 with some great Christmas Bird Counts and you'll have to read the *Bulletin* for more details on that! The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) has been very active reviewing some of the great sightings of recent months but as always if you don't submit the information they can't review it or act on it. Galen Pittman has a good update on what could best be called Kansas Review Species. You'll also find a copy of the KBRC report form towards the back of the newsletter. Use it.. please.. reproduce it... often. What and when do you need to report a bird? Read Galen's article.

The KOS Board met in Wichita on February 15th at the Great Plains Nature Center, location for the 1997 KOS Annual Meeting in early October. It is a wonderful facility and you will enjoy the setting and the birding company! But let's not get the cart before the horse. Under separate mailing several weeks ago you should have received the announcement of the spring meeting which is a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society in Manhattan in April. The local committee has been active for over a year already and we are excited to have an ornithological gathering of this magnitude in Kansas. More details are located within this issue.

The subject has been discussed of having more weekend workshops on such subjects as bird identification, general field ornithology, etc. Tom Shane arranged one some time back and similar workshops in neighboring states have been very successful. Let the Newsletter editor or any board member know if you'd be interested in more workshops.

You should also all be getting a separate mailing very soon, if not already, about an opportunity in the playa lakes. This plus a final KBBAT wrap up is just more opportunity to get out with other birders and learn more about Kansas and its birds.

Finally something very dear to my heart... computers. Before the next issue of this newsletter comes out KOS should have a World Wide Web site. At this location you can find out more about the KOS, access the latest Kansas Rare Bird Report and the most recent issues of KOS publications. Check out the KOS Checklist and learn how to join this great organization. Dave Rintoul, along with Dave Seibel and myself have been working on this. If you want to know its address and can't wait 'til the June issue, drop me an e-mail! Have a good spring! *chuck*

Who's Who in KOS - 1997

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Dues are Due!

They call them dues for a good reason It's because they are due... now. Please be sure to pay your KOS memberships dues for 1997 if you have not already done so. The March newsletter will be the last one received by unpaid members. Also special thanks to members who have alerted us to changes of address as that both saves KOS money and ensures that you receive your newsletter in timely fashion. to notify of change of address, please contact Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana St., Lawrence, KS 66044 (913-842-0382) or James Barnes, 1425 S. Wichita St., Wichita, KS 67213 (316-265-4059).

While we are on the subject of dues and membership let's welcome the following as new KOS members! David and Elsa Durkee - Elkhart, Solomon Valley Birdwatchers - Kirwin, Joel Jorgensen - Blair, Nebraska, Jennifer Matiasek and Michael & Jennifer Sevigny - Hays. Also rejoining our ranks after a brief absence are: Dwight & Cindy Moore and Morgan Puderbaugh - Emporia, Suzi & Myron Plooster - Boulder, CO and Stan Senner - Anchorage, Alaska. It's good to have you back!

We should also note the passing of three long time KOS members. Theodore Sperry of Pittsburg, KS had been a member since 1950 as had Madge Hilbish of Burlington and Yates Center. Annie Laurie Steele of Hays had belonged to KOS since 1977. We are saddened by these losses.....

PERU: Lowland Rainforest to High Andes

Roger and Jan Boyd from Baker University, Baldwin City, KS. will be leading their 2nd Natural History tour to Peru this coming July. The trip will originate in Miami July 19, 1997 and return August 3rd. Areas to be visited include Manu National Park, containing the highest recorded biodiversity of any park in the world; Cuzco area of the Andes at 10,000 ft. elevation and including the spectacular Incan ruin of Machu Picchu as well as the cloud forests of Abra Malaga, northwest from Cuzco; concluding along the Pacific coast at Paracas National Park, one of the largest seabird colonies in the world. There are over 1,400 species of birds and nearly 20 species of primates recorded for the areas visited. Manu is one of the least hunted areas in South America. Jaguars and tapirs still occur with some regularity. On our trip to similar areas last summer we identified 54 species of flycatchers, 33 species of tanagers, 25 species of hummingbirds, 19 species of parrots, 18 species of ant-followers and the list goes on. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime. Cost from Miami is \$3,025.00 per person (dbl. occ.) and includes airfare, guides, accommodations, meals, tips etc. Call today, only a couple of spaces still remain. If interested contact Roger Boyd for complete information at (913)594-3172 or e-mail at:

BOYD@HARVEY.BAKERU.EDU

This trip is announced as a courtesy for those KOS members interested. KOS has no financial involvement in this event.

The 78th meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Annual Spring Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be in Manhattan, Kansas on 17 - 20 April, 1997. If you need more information contact Chuck Otte, Greg Farley or <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/dce/conf/bird/>

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DeLorme's Kansas Atlas & Gazetteer Debuts

Most birders who have traveled to other states are familiar with the DeLorme Company and their maps. For those of you who may not own one or more DeLorme atlases let me elaborate. The DeLorme company, headquartered in Freeport Maine, published their first state atlas in 1976 with the Maine Atlas and Gazetteer. Kansas became the 30th state to be so mapped by the DeLorme Company when the Kansas Atlas was released in February.

For anyone who travels, especially the backroads like birdwatchers do, these atlases become valuable tools. One of the real problems in Kansas has been the lack of detailed maps. USGS (US Geological Survey) topographic maps of the entire state are certainly available but a 1:24,000 scale and single sheet design makes them rather unwieldy. Each sheet is roughly 7 by 9 miles. The detail is incredible but it would take a good portion of the back seat of my car to carry the whole state.

There have also been county maps available that showed roads, major landmarks, etc., but once again 105 sheets were hard to manage and the scale was often so small as to make them virtually unusable. A now out of business firm in Topeka used to make these state maps into a small atlas which was better than nothing, but far from what was needed.

Enter the DeLorme company. Their atlases, depending on the state, are in a scale anywhere from 1:320,000 (1 inch to 5 miles) down to 1:100,000 scale (1 inch per mile). The Kansas Atlas (and Nebraska) are done on a 1:200,000 scale so 1 inch = 3.2 miles. This scale is very usable. It is fine enough to show pretty good detail (I found my parent's 1/4 mile long driveway in Nebraska), yet compact enough to be thrown in the car with the rest of the birding paraphernalia. Each of the 65 pages of maps covers roughly 30 by 44 miles. If you were so inspired you could by two extra copies of the atlas, piece all the pages

together and have a nice wall mosaic of the entire state 11 feet wide and 6 feet high! Hmmmmmm.....

The features on the map are wonderful. They show permanent water, intermittent water (including names for draws, gullies and ravines that I didn't even know were named!) Land use is color coded so that you can distinguish woodland from rangeland from crop land. In counties where the roads have been officially named those names are included (with the exception of some short roads or where space is a limiting factor.) They show all the major (and some minor) land features. Topo lines are included at 120 foot elevation changes. Grid line coordinates are set up so that you can identify blocks very quickly that are roughly 5 by 6.5 miles in size, which are handy if you are trying to give somebody directions, (map 36, G5 gets you to the south end of Milford Lake in a hurry!)

Well, I could go on for another page about the qualities of this wonderful tool. The maps are available from most bookstores, at the retail price of \$16.95. I have also seen them in other states where sporting goods are sold. The American Birding Association Book store carries a complete line of the atlases. Or you can contact the DeLorme Company directly at 1-800-452-5931 or on their WWW site at <http://www.delorme.com> where they have lots of information and an on-line order form.

Other nearby states that are currently available include: Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, actually all states "west" of Kansas except New Mexico. I must confess that I do own atlases of 7 of the states and eventually plan to have a complete collection. Yes, I am a map-aholic, and no, neither I nor the KOS is receiving anything for this fine mention! The atlas is a great asset and I imagine that many Kansas birders will soon have one in their car!

Chuck Otte

"The Bird's Nest " will be back next issue

The *Horned Lark's* youth feature "The Bird's Nest" apparently migrated south for the winter and is not going to believe the groundhog's prediction for an early spring. I think it is safe to say that the Bird's Nest will be back in the state for the next issue!

KBBAT Blockbuster Weekend

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project (KBBAT) is about to wrap up. There aren't very many more of these Blockbuster Weekends coming up so you'd better grab this opportunity.

KBBAT Southwest Region Blockbuster Weekend

June 27 - 29, 1997

Contact John Zimmerman, Division of
Biology, Ackert Hall, Kansas State
University, Manhattan, KS 66502-4901

Office 913-532-6659
Home 913-537-0238

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, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

If you are also having problems getting your newsletter or bulletin let James know. And if you want to purchase back issues he is your contact also.

Be sure to look for the KOS display at the upcoming KOS/WOS meeting in Manhattan in April! There will be items for sale there as well!

North American Migration County 1997

An early warning note regarding the North American Migration Count, to be held on Saturday, May 10, 1997. Last year 173 volunteer counters censused 23 Kansas counties, and found 102,848 birds during the NAMC. Since the NAMC was initiated in KS in 1993, we have had counts in the following 31 counties (although not in all counties in all years):

Barber, Douglas, Finney, Ford, Geary, Greenwood, Greeley, Hamilton, Harvey, Jefferson, Kearny, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Lyon, Logan, McPherson, Morris Montgomery, Morton, Neosho, Pottawatomie, Reno, Riley, Saline, Scott, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sherman, Stafford, and Washington.

This year we would like to cover all of these counties and more, if possible. Therefore I am sending out this message to remind you to keep that date (May 10) open on your calendars, to try to convince you to volunteer as a county coordinator if your county is not listed above, or to contact your county coordinator and volunteer if your county is listed. Names of county coordinators are available upon request, just send a note to me at drintoul@ksu.edu and I can get that information to you asap. If you have any other questions about this event, please do not hesitate to ask. Thanks.

Dave Rintoul

Tagged Trumpeter Swans

Tagged Trumpeter Swans have been showing up in Kansas this winter. These birds have been released from several re-establishment programs and those folks want to know where the swans show up. A good contact is Madeleine Linck with the Trumpeter Swan Society in Minnesota. If you find a tagged Trumpeter and can read the number contact Madeleine at:
mshlinck@lenti.med.umn.edu
or
3800 County Rd 24
Maple Plain, MN 55359

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.

Birding in the Red Hills

Part 2 - Barber County

by Pete Janzen

Going east from Coldwater on US 160 to Medicine Lodge will take you on one of the most scenic sections of highway in the state, as it bisects the heart of the hills. There are several good birding roads that intersect the highway. A scenic lookout is on the north side of the road in central Barber Co., and might be worth a look, although birding isn't usually very good there. Four miles east of the Barber/Comanche Co. line on 160, you can turn north, on a very scenic six mile drive to Sun City. In Sun City, I recommend a stop at Buster's Restaurant, one of those unforgettable local places. Stuffed Bobcats, lots of Remington prints and other western paraphernalia, and a group of the nicest farmhands and cowboys you ever met. That could be a side effect of the 24 oz. beers available for a whopping \$1.50 apiece. Buster died last year, but his son moved here to keep the place running, to the vast relief of people who come from far and wide to patronize this famous establishment.

From here you may take a very scenic paved county road that follows the Medicine River southeast into the town of Medicine Lodge., or return to US 160, and go a little over a mile east on 160, to the Deerhead/Aetna road, and proceeding south from the highway. The road passes through a prairie dog town about 10 miles south of the highway. Look for Ferruginous Hawk, as I have seen them here often, including several interesting June sightings. Twenty miles south of the highway you will intersect the Hardtner road described in the Comanche county tour (December, 1996 issue), 2 miles from the Barber/Comanche line.

The Gyp Hills Scenic Auto Tour is a designated scenic drive that begins and ends on US 160, looping south from the highway about 3 miles east of Medicine lodge, going southwest for approximately 8 miles on a paved road, turning west on a fairly good dirt road, and then zigzagging west and north for about 20 miles, until US 160 is reached again near Deerhead. This is the best road to look for large flocks of Mountain Bluebirds in the winter, often numbering in the hundreds. In years when the cedar berry crop is good they are very, very common throughout all of the hills country. Large numbers of Robins, and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers are present in winter also. Northern Shrike has been seen on all three Christmas counts, always in the more rugged hill country, so examine all shrikes seen in winter carefully.

A good spot for Painted Bunting can be reached by taking the first portion of the Gyp Hills tour. From the corner 8 miles south of US 160, take the gravel road 1 mile west, then turn north on a minimum maintenance road. After a mile or so you cross two tiny bridges, then

cross a cattle guard, after which you are on an oil well access road. Look for the buntings in the vicinity of the bridges, but if you follow the road around a dome shaped hill called Flowerpot Mound, the road climbs a ridge and enters an area of numerous cedar groves, where a lot of Painted Buntings can be found. You will likely have to walk the portion of the road on top of the ridge. A little local history involves some Kiowa tribesman burning a settler to death on top of this mound, in the era when they still had hegemony here. Blue Grosbeaks and Bewick's Wrens are also common here in the summertime.

A couple of other spots in Barber County are worth mention. A few blocks east of the Indian Grill Restaurant in Medicine Lodge, turn right onto a county road that goes south 1 mile, then turns east. A large marsh is south of the road here at this corner, where you might find various herons and egrets in summer, and Northern Harriers in the wintertime. From here, go 1.5 miles east, to where the road turns south again. In a mile or so, the road has a 'Y'. Take the right leg of the 'Y', which proceeds along the Medicine River for a stretch, then dead-ends. This seldom traveled road is a good place to find riparian species, such as White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Barred Owl, and so on. Brushy thickets east of the road here often have good-sized mixed flocks of sparrows during the winter months. Another good riparian area is reached by going 3 miles north of Medicine Lodge on Highway 281, then turning east, proceeding about one half mile to a bridge over Elm Creek, which has outstanding riparian habitats. Lots of Chuck-wills-widows may be heard here in the pre-dawn hour, as well as Barred Owls, and an excellent variety of passerines.

Finally, Barber County State Lake, on the north edge of Medicine Lodge, has some good timbered and brushy areas around it, which attract many birds, especially toward the upper end of the lake. Just take the turn off from Highway 281 on the north edge of town, and follow the park drives around the west side of the lake as far as they will go, then walk around some, especially across the footbridge from the last parking lot to an extensive stand of dense timber. A variety of waterfowl may be expected on the lake in migration and winter.

I hope this article is of assistance to you if you are planning on exploring this interesting area. There are many things yet to be learned about the birds here, and the possibility that you will make a real contribution to our knowledge of birds in this part of the state is very good. If you visit here, I hope you are as impressed with the scenery and the birds as much as I have been.

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING

February 15, 1997

Great Plains Nature Center

Wichita, Kansas

Attendance: Roy Beckemeyer, Greg Farley, Max Thompson, Mike Rader, James Barnes, Richard Johnson, Margaret Wedge, Bill Busby, Pete Jantzen, John Schukman, Chuck Otte, Karen Ganoung

President Roy Beckemeyer called the meeting to order at 10:11; his opening remarks included a reminder to the board that the fall KOS meeting, October 3-5, 1997, would also be held at the GPNC.

Minutes: The minutes of the fall board meeting, October 5, 1996 in Hesston were read and approved as read and as printed in the December, 1996 issue of the *Horned Lark*.

Treasurer's Report: Edwin Miller, treasurer, was absent because of illness; his report, attachments A & B, was presented by Roy Beckemeyer. Discussion concerned investing the endowment funds with twin goals of good return and safety. It was suggested that every newsletter could display a graph to inform members of the current status of the endowment fund. The finance committee has the authority to choose an investment strategy, and will present their decision to the board. Max Thompson was instructed to direct this process.

Business Manager: James Barnes presented a detailed report concerning bulk mailings, low inventories of T-shirts, window stickers and checklists. 600 new brochures are ready for use. Two complete sets of bulletins, no photo copies, are on hand. Back issues, stored at KU since 1949, are overflowing their storage area. By consensus, Mark Robbins, of The Museum of Natural History at KU, was instructed to keep 10 complete sets, and dispose of the remaining issues. Back issues of *The Bulletin* are free to a member who didn't receive one. Max Thompson moved that the price of a complete set of back bulletins be \$125 plus shipping, and a single replacement issue be \$2. Motion was seconded and carried.

Membership Secretary: Margaret Wedge pointed out that KOS needs up to 25 more life membership pins before the fall meeting; Diane Seltman may know details on purchasing these. Roy Beckemeyer moved that Margaret Wedge and James Barnes each inquire about pricing, then confer and place an order. This motion was seconded and carried.

Dues: A discussion dues notices made these points:

*Membership brochures can be marked with a code, so the treasurer can tell which location produced the membership application.

*James Barnes will place the brochures in several Wichita business locations, but each board member can help distribute brochures.

*A separate mailing from the treasurer, instead of an insert in the December newsletter, is an added expense but seems to produce better results.

*A separate mailing in January is a better time than in December, but this needs a change in the by-laws; a proposed change requires a 2/3 vote by the members, and 30 days written notice.

*Margaret Wedge moved that separate dues mailings be in January instead of in December. The motion died for lack of a second. Chuck Otte moved that Article 2 Section 4C of the By-laws be changed from January 1 to March 1 to read, "C. Annual dues shall be payable to the treasurer by March 1." Motion seconded and passed. Notice of this proposed change will be in the June newsletter.

Margaret Wedge inquired if her membership year-end data should include new memberships from the fall meeting. If so, her statistics would be different from the treasurer's data, and these need to agree at least annually. By consensus, the board agreed the year-end membership data should include new memberships from the fall meeting. Roy Beckemeyer moved that the report from the membership secretary, attachment C, be accepted. Motion seconded and carried.

Newsletter Editor: Chuck Otte, newsletter editor, stated that the next issue should be sent in a week to the Business Manager for publication. Pete Jantzen is now a special columnist replacing the loss of John Rakestraw (who has moved to Indiana) and his column Wing Tips.

Bulletin Editor: Max Thompson stated that the March issue is at the press in Winfield and will be ready for publication in early March. There is enough manuscript left for the June issue. The Bulletin is free to each KOS member or contributor.

Playa Lakes survey: Tom Flowers, a KOS member from Meade, asked for the privilege of using the KOS mailing list to ask for volunteer help in a survey of the Playa Lakes, to document the migratory birds using the Playa Lakes in late April through May. Information on this project could be placed in the newsletter. Mike Rader moved to supply the KOS mailing list for this purpose; motion seconded and carried.

Bird Records Committee: Pete Jantzen presented a report from the Bird Records Committee (BRC). Concern had been expressed about lack of written documentation, misidentified birds being published in the Bulletin, lack of documentation for common birds seen out of season, and a possible use of publishing error corrections. It was pointed out that since KOS is the bird records committee sponsor high standards need to be maintained particularly if a BRC report leads to a change on the checklist. Pete Jantzen moved that the Bulletin editor publish only those records that are submitted first to the BRC. After an observation that the Bulletin editor should have complete authority over what is published, the motion died for lack of a second. Roy Beckemeyer moved that the board accept this defining statement: The Bulletin articles will continue to be accepted at the discretion of the editor; the bird records Committee is free to accept or reject articles from the Bulletin for considerations that may change the checklist. This motion was seconded and carried.

Correspondence: Roy Beckemeyer presented 4 items of correspondence received:

1 - News of funds received from the estate of Madge Hilbish, who died in Yates Center on 26 December, 1996. Although not a charter member, she was a KOS member since 1950 and deserves an obituary printed in the Newsletter. Roy will send a list of charter members, compiled by Dwight Platt, to the membership secretary and to the Newsletter editor.

2 - An invitation from Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks to set up a KOS information and promotional items booth at an upcoming event. There was no interest shown by the board.

3 - The American Museum of Natural History asked for copies of the KOS newsletters; the Museum will be added to the mailing list.

4 - Tom Shane asked about the status of the KOS library, including journals and newsletters from other sources. He stated that because some are stored in the bird division, and others are stored in the Science library, this literature is not easily accessible for research. He suggested that all KOS material be placed together and identified as the KOS library. A member commented that all such literature is KU property to bind and store as they wish. Richard Johnston offered to investigate this issue; perhaps the librarian is not aware of the specific factors.

Richard Johnston distributed memos, attachment D, of his idea for a KOS sponsored regular newspaper column, perhaps called BIRD CHAT, for the purpose of providing information on ornithological topics. Such a column needs to be entertaining enough to engage the interest of the general public, and specific enough to educate the readers. Remarks of enthusiastic board members included:

- *send 3 sample columns and poll the media;
- *might be submitted electronically;
- *lead time needs to be at least 3 months;
- *Mark Schupas, Pratt office of WLP, might coordinate this;
- *Keep a local (KS) emphasis to attract local interest.

Chuck Otte will explore the distribution aspect; Greg Farley will inquire about interest in Hays; Richard Johnston will begin some sample columns; the Board will review progress at the April meeting.

KBBAT: Bill Busby reported on the progress of the KBBAT Kansas Breeding Birds Atlas project; it may need to be extended to a 6th year to complete the remaining 5% of the 750 blocks, especially in the SW region. The proposed publication date is 1999 by University Press in Lawrence. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Partners in Flight is planning its 3rd meeting; Regional Bird conservation plans are in progress, and one of these is the Flint Hills area.

Margaret Wedge remarked on the necessity to pursue any KOS applications found on the Bird Feeder Surveys; Elmer Finck will send them a brochure each.

Pete Janzen observed that the BRC needs a permanent archive, besides Max Thompson's at Southwestern College. Max offered to send a free list, on request, of birds seen in any county in Kansas.

Chuck Otte mentioned that recommendations and bills now in the state legislature concern endangered species, and seem conservative.

KOS Meetings: Greg Farley described some of the KOS plans for the Spring meeting in Manhattan, April, 17-21, the promotional sale items will include the revised checklists, membership brochures, pertinent books. T-shirts and sweat shirts are to be ordered and printed by the business manager. Field trips and transportation plans have been arranged. The KOS will meet May 1-3, 1998, in Barber County, and October 2-4, 1998, in Lawrence.

Christmas Bird Counts: Max Thompson expressed concern that of the 54 Christmas bird counts, totaling 165 species, that he has received, some are done by only one person. One person cannot really provide a good enough coverage for an accurate count.

Mike Rader moved the meeting adjourn: motion seconded and carried: meeting adjourned at 12:50.

After a lunch of sandwiches and soft drinks, provided by Roy Beckemeyer, the group enjoyed a tour of the facility in progress, led by Bob Gress, GPNC director.

*Respectfully submitted, Karen Ganoung, Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society*

Cyber-birding Update

For those of you not on the KSBIRD-L discussion list yet you need to drop me a note so we can get you added. This Kansas birding discussion group has recently grown in size and activity with recent discussions on what's a "countable" bird and who cares, top 10 list of birds you'd like to see in Kansas and recent sightings that make everyone wish spring was closer. If you are connected to the Internet but you're not on line with the Kansas Birds discussion group drop me a note at otte@jc.net to join the fun!

As I mentioned earlier several of us are working on a World Wide Web homepage. Some of it was based on some information Dave Rintoul already had on line for the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. So what can you find? Well how's this for a sampling: information on the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), what birds should be documented and a copy of the KBRC Report form in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, the KOS Checklist, a listing of regional rare bird alerts plus the transcript of the most recent update from each of those alerts and soon you'll also be finding copies of this newsletter as well as

the *Bulletin*. Short term plans are to have full KOS member and membership information at this site. Long term we'd like to create an electronic library with the back issues of the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark*. The only thing needed is time and money!

Here's where some of these interesting web sites are located. Some of the URL addresses are long and complicated so once you get there save these bookmarks in your Web Browser.

KOS Checklist and KRBC Report form:

http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos/kos_pubs.html

Rare Bird Alert transcripts:

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/falcon.html#rba>

Electronic Birding links:

http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos/kos_birdlink.html

FALL BIRDING ROUNDUP

August through November, 1996

by Chuck Otte

The fall period may best be described with just a few words and just let you read the table. Those few words would be: hummingbirds, loons, crossbills and grosbeaks. Unfortunately, I can't let it go that easily and must make further comment!

Once again the fall season brings in another set of major loon sightings that the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) will have to sort through. In the month of November Red-throated, Pacific, Common and Yellow-billed were all reported to the hotline and all from Cheney Reservoir. While the first three were reported from other areas Cheney recorded the Loon Grand Slam.

The range of Western Grebes and Clark's Grebes became even better defined with reports coming in on Western's from 11 locations. This doesn't include the ones I saw at Milford. Clark's Grebes were reported from 2 locations this fall.

While waterfowl numbers were up most rarities were apparently "ducking" observation. Noteworthy were Tundra and Trumpeter Swans from Quivira as well as Tundra's being heard overhead at night in the Wichita area. Both in the spring and fall of '96 I had the opportunity to hear large night time flights overhead. If you have never sat there in the darkness and listened to wings, squeaks, pips, chips and short calls overhead for several hours on end it is an experience that will stay with you the rest of your birding years. It will also humble you as you try to identify what is flying over and realize how little we really know.....

While Whooping Cranes are expected at The Bottoms and Quivira they are not expected in eastern Kansas at Clinton Lake. However that is where one juvenile showed up and was seen by a good number of birders and non-birders alike. This appearance was at the same time that a Whooping Crane was found in Springfield, Missouri also!

Shorebird rarities were somewhat unimpressive but there were good gulls being found, again, and this trend would carry on into the winter period. Sabine's Gulls were noted at Glen Elder and Quivira, Black-headed Gulls were found at Clinton and Melvern, a Little Gull at Glen Elder and a Parasitic Jaeger at El Dorado. A Black-legged Kittiwake showed up at the end of November at Tuttle Creek Reservoir (and would be later joined by one or two more which were all highly visible well into December.)

Hummingbirds, Garden City. What more do I need to say. Showing that we indeed have much to learn about the avian migrants through the western edge of our state one KOS Rare Bird Alert mentioned seven (yes 7) species of hummingbirds. On August 31st the Shane's had Rufous, Broad-tailed and Ruby-throats at their feeders. Six Calliope's apparently visited Garden City in the fall of 1996. This should be encouraging enough to anyone to start planting more hummingbird friendly flowers and vines, put out more feeders and buy sugar in 50 pound bags!

Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks also staged one of their better invasions in recent years. Crossbills showed up early and by early December were found in many locations in the eastern 3/4 of the state. Evening Grosbeaks also made a good showing getting as far east and north as Milford Lake (by late December).

Keep in mind that if you see a rarity we would all appreciate it if you would fill out the KBRC rare report form later on in this issue and submit your sighting. Any of the rarities listed in Galen's article (or in this report) are not officially recognized by the KOS until accepted by the KBRC.

With this installment of the Birding Roundup I hand off the reins. I took this over from Scott Seltman as a short term temporary assignment 4 years ago. It has been fun and a tremendous learning experience. But I can no longer do this AND get everything else done with the *Horned Lark* and our soon to be on-line World Wide Web site.

Chris Hobbs will be taking over the Birding Roundup authorship with the next issue. Chris is highly qualified to fill this role. He has recently been serving on the Kansas Bird Records Committee, he performs a similar function for our sister group in Missouri and helps Lloyd Moore edit state data for Audubon Field Notes. Having Chris take over will improve this article greatly!

Chris will be gleaning the information from several sources but would prefer to hear directly from you. Scott Seltman will still be maintaining the Rare Bird Alert so be sure to call those sightings in, but also submit them to Chris. His address is Chris Hobbs, 13121 Swartz Rd, Bonner Springs, KS 66012. He can be e-mailed at: chobbs@ix.netcom.com

Okay, Chris, it's all yours!

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / August 1996 through November 1996

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location and number</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Red-throated Loon	1 on w side of Cheney Res	PJ	11-16-96	Kingman?
		still present	11-29-96	Reno
Red-throated Loon	1 at Hillsdale Res	LM	11-18-96	Miami
Pacific Loon	1 at Wilson Res	MR	11-02-96	Russell
Pacific Loon	1 at sw corner of Cheney Res	DV	11-17-96	Kingman
Pacific Loon	1 at Melvern Res	LM	11-18-96	Osage
Common Loon	1 in basic plumage	MR	8-07-96	Russell
	this bird was present during most of July			
Common Loon	1 at Clinton L	MM,GP	11-02-96	Douglas
Common Loon	5 at Cheney Res	PJ,CG	11-02-96	Reno?
Common Loon	1 at Wilson Res	MR	11-02-96	Russell
Yellow-billed Loon	1 on w side of Cheney Res	PJ,CG	11-29-96	Kingman
Horned Grebe	20+ at Cheney Res	PJ,CG	11-02-96	Reno?
Horned Grebe	15 at Hillsdale Res	LM	11-18-96	Miami
Horned Grebe	35 at Melvern Res	LM	11-18-96	Osage
Red-necked Grebe	2 at Cheney Res	PJ	10-20-96	Reno?
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Clinton State Park marina	DKI	11-17-96	Douglas
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Wyandotte County State Lake	LM	11-17-96	Wyandotte
Red-necked Grebe	3 at Wilson Res	MR	11-23-96	Russell
Eared Grebe	5 at Cheney Res	PJ,CG	11-02-96	Reno?
Western Grebe	2 ad with chicks, Lake McKinney	SP,MM	9-12-96	Kearny
	a third adult was also present			
Western Grebe	4 at QNWR	HMF	9-27-96	Stafford
	3 still present		9-28-96	
Western Grebe	1 at Clinton Lake	LM	10-28-96	Douglas
Western Grebe	4 at QNWR	MR	11-02-96	Stafford
Western Grebe	1 at CB Pool #1B	CH,DB	11-03-96	Barton
Western Grebe	2 at Perry L	MM,GP	11-02-96	Jefferson
Western Grebe	2 at Clinton L	MM,GP	11-02-96	Douglas
Western Grebe	1 at Cheney R	PJ,CG	11-02-96	Reno
Western Grebe	12+ at Wilson Res	MR	11-03-96	Russell
Western Grebe	3 at Clinton Res	MM	11-10-96	Douglas
Western Grebe	2 at LaCygne Cooling Lake	MM,GP	11-09-96	Linn
Western Grebe	3 at Pomona Res	DKI,m.ob.	11-10-96	Osage
Western Grebe	7 at Cheney Res	DV	11-10-96	Reno??
Western Grebe	6 at Tuttle Creek Res	TC	11-17-96	Pott./Riley
Western Grebe	5 at Hillsdale Res	LM	11-18-96	Miami
Western Grebe	3 at Pomona Res	LM	11-18-96	Osage
Clark's Grebe	2 at Wilson Res	MR	11-03-96	Russell
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheney Res	PJ	11-16-96	Reno?
		still present	11-17-96	
Neo-tropic Cormorant	2 at QNWR	BB	8-11-96	Stafford
Neo-tropic Cormorant	1 at Glen Elder Res	MRO	9-10-96	Mitchell
Tri-colored Heron	3 adults, 2 possible juveniles, CB	SS	8-03-96	Stafford
Tri-colored Heron	2 at QNWR	MR?	8-10-96	Stafford
Tri-colored Heron	1 at QNWR	JO,CO	8-17-96	Stafford
Tri-colored Heron	1 at QNWR	LM	9-12-96	Stafford
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	1,000 at QNWR	BT	8-18-96	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	350 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	1 at QNWR's Big Salt Marsh	MRO,m.ob.	8-10-96	Stafford
Tundra Swan	several heard flying over at night	JN	10-27-96	Sedgwick

Tundra Swan	1 imm at QNWR	MR	11-02-96	
	still present		11-03-96	
Tundra Swan	4 at QNWR	SP,MR	11-23-96	Stafford
		still present	12-01-96	
Trumpeter Swan	2 at QNWR	SP,MR	11-23-96	Stafford
		still present	12-01-96	
Ross' Goose	5 at John Redmond Res	LM	11-18-96	Coffey
American Black Duck	1 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
Mottled Duck	1 at QNWR	BB	8-10-96	Stafford
Tufted Duck	1 m at Lake Afton	JN	10-27-96	Sedgwick
Oldsquaw	1 at Tuttle Creek Res	TC	11-17-96	Riley
	this bird was seen regularly clear into January			
Oldsquaw	1 at Wilson Res	MR	11-30-96	Russell
Black Scoter	1 at Perry L	MM	11-10-96	Jefferson
Black Scoter	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	ML	11-13-96	Johnson
Surf Scoter	3 at Cheney Res	PJ	11-16-96	Reno?
Surf Scoter	1 at Paola Sewer Ponds	AS	11-24-96	Miami
White-winged Scoter	1 male at Cheney Res	PJ,CG	11-02-96	Kingman
White-winged Scoter	1 at Lone Star Lake	PW	11-20-96	Douglas
		still present	11-23-96	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4 over I-435 & SMP	CH	9-27-96	Johnson
Cooper's Hawk	1 over I-435 & SMP	CH	9-27-96	Johnson
Northern Goshawk	1 over Chaplin Nature Center	JN	9-29-96	Cowley
	this is quite early for Kansas, especially this far south			
Northern Goshawk	1 e of Rock Springs Ranch	MR	10-20-96	Geary
Broad-winged Hawk	1	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Broad-winged Hawk	50 over I-435 & SMP	CH	9-27-96	Johnson
Merlin	1 at QNWR	GF	10-12-96	Stafford
Merlin	1 in Hugoton	MR	11-10-96	Stevens
Merlin	3	SS	11-22-96	Pawnee
Prairie Falcon	1 at QNWR	WAS	9-21-96	Stafford
Prairie Falcon	2 nw of Lawrence	MM	11-17-96	Douglas
Northern Bobwhite	adult with 8 fledglings	SS	10-16-96	Pawnee
Scaled Quail	4 n of Elkhart	MR	11-10-96	Morton
Sora	1 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	southbound near Larned	SS	10-10-96	Pawnee
Sandhill Crane	50,000 at QNWR	MR	11-02-96	Stafford
Whooping Crane	3 at Cheyenn Bottoms Pool #1	SC	10-19-96	Barton
Whooping Crane	10 at QNWR	Media reports	11-01-96	Stafford
Whooping Crane	4 at CB	Media reports	11-01-96	Barton
Whooping Crane	2 at CB	MR	11-02-96	Stafford
Whooping Crane	1 juv at Clinton Lake, upper end	DM	10-31-96	Douglas
	Apparently the eastern most confirmed sighting of Whooping Crane ever in Kansas			
Black-bellied Plover	3 at QNWR	JO,CO	8-17-96	Stafford
Black-bellied Plover	1 at CB	MR	11-02-96	Barton
Black-bellied Plover	3 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	MR	11-09-96	Seward
American Golden-Plover	70 following tractor n of Rozel	SS	10-20-96	Pawnee
American Avocet	1 late at Wilson Res	MR	11-03-96	Russell
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 late at QNWR	MR	11-02-96	Stafford
Marbled Godwit	several at QNWR	WAS	9-21-96	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at QNWR	MR	8-11-96	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	MR	8-11-96	Stafford
Sanderling	6 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
Sanderling	1 late at Clinton	LM	10-10-96	Douglas
Semipalmated Sandpiper	quite large numbers at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford

Western Sandpiper	1 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	MR	11-09-96	Seward
Least Sandpiper	44 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	MR	11-09-96	Seward
Baird's Sandpiper	1 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	MR	11-09-96	Seward
Pectoral Sandpiper	4 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	MR	11-09-96	Seward
Dunlin	1 at QNWR	MR	8-11-96	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	JO,CO	8-17-96	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at QNWR	LM	9-12-96	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at QNWR	MR	9-29-96	Stafford
Red Phalarope	1 at Melvern Res	BF	10-13-96	Osage
Red Phalarope	1 at Hillsdale Res	AS	10-20-96	Miami
Parasitic Jaeger	1 at El Dorado L	TH	11-17-96	Butler
Laughing Gull	1 at Glen Elder Res	MRo	9-10-96	Mitchell
Laughing Gull	1 1st winter, e side of Cheney	PJ,JN	11-10-96	Reno
Little Gull	1 ad at Glen Elder Res	MRo,m.ob.	9-09-96	Mitchell
Black-headed Gull	1 at Clinton Res	MM	10-06-96	Douglas
Black-headed Gull	1 ad at Melvern Res swimming beach	MM,GP	10-13-96	Osage
California Gull	1 3rd year bird at Lake McKinney	SP,MM	9-12-96	Kearny
Thayer's Gull	1 1st winter, west side of Tuttle	TC	10-18-96	Riley
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter at Perry L	MM	11-10-96	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	1 second winter at John Redmond Res	AS	11-08-96	Coffey
Thayer's Gull	1 ad at John Redmon Res	AS	11-15-96	Coffey
Sabine's Gull	1 ad at Glen Elder Res	MR,m.ob.	9-09-96	Mitchell
Sabine's Gull	1 at sw corner Wildlife Loop, QNWR	DV	9-21-96	Stafford
Sabine's Gull	2 imm at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	HMF	9-27-96	Stafford
	still present		9-29-96	
Sabine's Gull	1 at QNWR,	HMF	10-04-96	Stafford
	may have been one of those seen back in September			
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 imm at Tuttle Creek Res	LJ,m.ob.	11-29-96	Riley/Pott
	eventually 2 if not 3 Kittiwakes were found in the area			
	these birds were present well into December			
Caspian Tern	2 at QNWR	BT	8-18-96	Stafford
Common Tern	9 at Wilson Lake	MR	8-07-96	Russell
Least Tern	nesting in Wichita	??	8-03-96	Sedgwick
Inca Dove	1 in Garden City	??	11-09-96	Finney
Black-billed Cuckoo	5 in Wichita's Pawnee Prairie Park	PJ	8-31-96	Sedgwick
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 late at Clinton	LM	10-10-96	Douglas
Barred Owl	1 in Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita	PJ	9-22-96	Sedgwick
Long-eared Owl	1 at CNG Workstation	SS,MR	9-21-96	Morton
Short-eared Owl	20 in Pawnee/Rush Counties	DS	11-20-96	Pawnee/Rush
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 in Garden City	MO	8-20-96	Finney
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 in Garden City	SSh,TSh	8-27-96	Finney
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 possible f on nest with eggs, Elkhart	fide LRS	8-10-96	Morton
	this bird was on nest from July 12 - August 10			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 m at Rich's, Garden City	LBR	8-26-96	Finney
	seen again		8-27-96	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 possible at Shane's feeders	SSh,TSh	9-22-96	Finney
Anna's Hummingbird	1 imm m at Osterbuhr's feeder	MO	8-21-96	Finney
	seen again		8-24-96	
Calliope Hummingbird	1 imm male	TSh,SSh	8-16-96	Finney
Calliope Hummingbird	1 in Garden City	BC	8-08-96	Finney
		through	8-18-96	
Calliope Hummingbird	1 f at Shane's feeder, Garden City	SSh,TSh	8-27-96	Finney
	last seen		8-30-96	
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at Shane's feeders, Garden City	SSh,TSh	10-18-96	Finney

Broad-tailed Hummingbird	f at Shane's feeder, Garden City	TSh,SSh	8-10-96	Finney
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	several at Shane's Feeder	TSh,SSh	8-20-96	Finney
	The Shane's had 3 present on 8-18			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 imm m at Osterbuhr's feeder	MO	8-27-96	Finney
	High numbers of Broad-taileds were present in Garden City in August and were seen on an almost daily basis at numerous locations			
Rufous Hummingbird	1 briefly in Garden City	LBR	8-03-96	Finney
Rufous Hummingbird	m at Shane's feeder, Garden City	TSh,SSh	8-08-96	Finney
	present through		8-13-96	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at Rich's feeder, Garden City	LBR	8-20-96	Finney
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at Rich's, Garden City	LBR	8-25-96	Finney
Rufous Hummingbird	1 in Garden City	SSh,TSh	8-26-96	Finney
Allen's Hummingbird	1 <u>possible</u> in Garden City	MO	8-20-96	Finney
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 n of Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at MDC	MM	9-01-96	Linn
Western Wood-Pewee	1 in Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at MDC	MM	9-01-96	Linn
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 at Perry Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Jefferson
Hammond's Flycatcher	1	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Dusky Flycatcher	2	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 in Garden City	LBR	8-24-96	Finney
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 in Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 on w side of Elkhart	MR,SS	9-21-96	Morton
Clark's Nutcracker	1 at e side of Garden City	??	10-23-96	Finney
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 in Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Red-breasted Nuthatch	good numbers in Wichita	PJ	9-15-96	Sedgwick
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10 in Morton County	MR,SS	9-21-96	Morton
Brown Creeper	1 at Perry ?	LM	10-10-96	Jefferson
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 in Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Western Bluebird	3 f, 2 m in Garden City	SSh, TSh	11-05-96	Finney

There are several good sight records for Western Bluebird in southwest Kansas but this species has never been documented in the state before.

Mountain Bluebird	good numbers moving through	SS	10-13-96	Pawnee
Townsend's Solitaire	5	MR	11-10-96	Morton
Swainson's Thrush	1 late in Garden City	BC	10-29-96	Finney
Varied Thrush	1 ne of Lakin	MO,LBR	11-08-96	Kearny
Sprague's Pipit	2 nw of Larned	SS	9-29-96	Pawnee
Sprague's Pipit	Flock of 50 n of Rozel	SS	10-06-96	Pawnee
Sprague's Pipit	20 near Rozel	SS	10-20-96	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 just w of Rolla	MR	11-10-96	Morton
Northern Shrike	1 adult	SS	11-21-96	Pawnee
Cedar Waxwing	1 A with 4 juv at Boy Scout area	SS,MR	9-21-96	Morton
Cedar Waxwing	1 juvenile in Mulvane	TH	10-03-96	Sedgwick
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at QNWR	LM	9-12-96	Stafford
Northern Parula	1 n of Larned, late and well west	SS	10-10-96	Pawnee
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Clinton Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Douglas
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 m at Mill Creek Park	CH	9-13-96	Johnson
Magnolia Warbler	Clinton Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Douglas
American Redstart	Clinton Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Douglas
Wilson's Warbler	1 at MDC	MM	9-01-96	Linn
Wilson's Warbler	Clinton Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Douglas
Canada Warbler	1 at MDC	MM	9-01-96	Linn
Canada Warbler	Clinton Res ?	MM,GP	9-07-96	Douglas
Mourning Warbler	1 at Lake Afton	PJ	9-29-96	Sedgwick

MacGillivray's Warbler	1 at QNWR	LM	9-12-96	Stafford
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 at Middle Springs CNG	SS,MR	9-21-96	Morton
Scarlet Tanager	1 in Hutchinson, w of normal range	HG	9-15-96	Reno
Scarlet Tanager	1 in Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita	PJ	9-15-96	Sedgwick
Scarlet Tanager	1 late at Lake Afton	PJ	9-29-96	Sedgwick
Scarlet Tanager	1 f in Garden City	BC	11-10-96	Finney
Western Tanager	2 in Garden City	LBR	8-27-96	Finney
Western Tanager	2 n of Elkhart Cemetery	BP,m.ob.	9-01-96	Morton
Western Tanager	3	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Western Tanager	1 n of Elkhart Cemetery	SS,MR	9-21-96	Morton
Dickcissel	1 late at Milford Lake	CO	10-10-96	Geary
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Middle Springs, CNG	SS,MR	9-21-96	Morton
Spotted Towhee	1 in juv plumage, Scott Lake	SS	8-31-96	Scott
Brewer's Sparrow	1	SP,MM	9-13-96	Morton
Vesper Sparrow	1000+ during day	SS	10-16-96	Pawnee
Lark Bunting	1 out of place at Lake Afton	PJ,JN	10-13-96	Sedgwick
LeConte's Sparrow	several at Milford Lake	CO	10-09-96	Geary
Fox Sparrow	1 at Clinton Res?	LM	10-10-96	Douglas
Swamp Sparrow	<u>12</u> at Overflow Slab LSM, QNWR	MR	11-02-96	Stafford
White-crowned Sparrow	2 at Lake Afton	PJ	9-29-96	Sedgwick
Chestnut-collared Longspurs	10 in grasslands east of Lenora	SS	9-28-96	Norton
Chestnut-collared Longspurs	30 near Rozel	SS	10-20-96	Pawnee
Smith's Longspurs	18 at Harvey Count East L	BD	11-07-96	Harvey
Cassin's Finch	1 m at Shane's feeders, Garden City	TSh,SSh	11-10-96	Finney
Cassin's Finch	2 at Shane's feeders, Garden City	TSh,SSh	11-13-96	Finney
Red Crossbill	2 in Garden City	TSh,SSh	8-09-96	Finney
Red Crossbill	3 at Southwestern College	MT	10-21-96	Cowley
Red Crossbill	1 heard flying over n of Larned	SS	10-31-96	Pawnee
Red Crossbill	1 at Wilson St Park	MR	11-05-96	Russell
Red Crossbill	60 in Elkhart	MR	11-10-96	Morton
White-winged Crossbill	1 imm at Garden City feeder	BC	8-27-96	Finney
White-winged Crossbill	1 f at Shane's feeder, Garden City	SSh,TSh	11-10-96	Finney
Evening Grosbeak	5 coming to a feeder in Lakin	BC	10-28-96	Kearny
		through	10-30-96	
Evening Grosbeak	5 at Shane's feeders, Garden City	SSh,TSh	11-10-96	Finney
Evening Grosbeak	30 in w side of Elkhart	MR	11-10-96	Morton
Evening Grosbeak	30 at Forest Grove Apts, Wichita	JN	11-17-96	Sedgwick

Abbreviation Key

ad = adults

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands

e = east

f = female

imm = immature

LSM = Little Salt Marsh

m = male

m.ob. = multiple observers

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

n = north

QNWR = Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Ref

Res. = Reservoir

s = south

SMP = Shawnee Mission Parkway

w = west

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Doris Burnett (DB), Bill Busby (BB), Ted Cable (TC), Barbara Campbell (BC), Shari Chism (SC), Bob Dester (BD), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Harry Gregory (HG), Chet Gresham (CG), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chod Hedinger (Che), Tyler Hicks (TH), Chris Hobbs (CH), Dan Klusa (DKl), Mark Land (ML), Harold McFadden (HMF), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Brandon Percival (BP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), Leonard and Betty Rich (LBR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Lawrence & Ruth Smith (LRS), Art Swalwell (AS), Bill Trelec (BT), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Phil Wedge (PW), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS)

Kansas Bird Records Committee Review List

by Galen Pittman, KBRC Secretary

This review list is intended to be a guide for all potential contributors to the Kansas Bird Records Committee as to which species of birds are in need of documentation in Kansas. The last time this list was published was June 1992 in Vol 19(2) of The Horned Lark. This current updated list has considerable changes: including 13 new species (six still listed as "hypothetical"), four old species that have lost their "hypothetical" status, eight old species that now have greater than 10 records (lost the asterisk), and four old species that have gained an asterisk. The four categories listed below are in descending order of importance. It is essential that any species in the first three categories be documented whenever it is encountered. Documentation of species in the fourth category is highly desirable and is encouraged. Species are listed in taxonomic order within each category with the number of currently accepted records in ().

1.) Any species that is not currently on the KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas and is naturally occurring within the state should be documented with physical evidence (e.g., specimens, photos, videos, etc.), whenever it is sighted in the state.

2.) Hypothetical species: These species are already on the KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas but are designated as "hypothetical". The "hypothetical" designation means that although these species are on the list they lack acceptable documentation that is supported by physical evidence. Most of these species also have ten or less records, but not all. Species on this list should be documented whenever they are sighted in the state.

Yellow-billed Loon (1) - new record pending
Clark's Grebe (10) - new record pending
Eurasian wigeon (7)
Tufted Duck (1)
Wilson's Plover (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull (1) - new records pending
Great Black-backed Gull (4)
Arctic Tern (1)
Western Screech-Owl (2) - new record pending
Williamson's Sapsucker (1)
Black Phoebe (1)
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (1)
Fish Crow (5)
Western Bluebird (2)

3.) Species with 10 or less accepted records in Kansas. These species should be documented whenever they are sighted in the state.

Magnificent Frigatebird (4)
Glossy Ibis (6)
Roseate Spoonbill (4)
Wood Stork (6)
Greater Flamingo (2)
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (4)
Gargany (5)
Common Eider (1)
King Eider (1)
Barrow's Goldeneye (10) - new record pending
Swallow-tailed Kite - (>10 records, but not recently)
White-tailed Kite (2)
Harris' Hawk (6)
Gyr Falcon (4)
Spotted Redshank (1)
Eskimo Curlew - (>10 records, but not recently)
Curlew Sandpiper (5)
Ruff (5)
Pomarine Jaeger (5)
Long-tailed Jaeger (5)
Black-headed Gull (7)
Black Skimmer (3)
Band-tailed Pigeon (2)
White-winged Dove (6)
White-throated Swift (5)
Magnificent Hummingbird (1)
Black-chinned Hummingbird (5) - new record pending
Anna's Hummingbird (4)
Calliope Hummingbird (2)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (7)
Lewis' Woodpecker (8)
Red-naped Sapsucker (5)
Hammond's Flycatcher (6)
Gray Flycatcher (4)
Cordilleran Flycatcher (4)
Mexican Jay (1)
Common Raven - (>10 records(?), but not recently)
Black-capped Vireo - (>10 records(?), but not recently)
Hermit Warbler (1)
Swainson's Warbler (6) - new record pending
Connecticut Warbler (10)
Pyrrhuloxia (5)
Canyon Towhee (10)
Bachman's Sparrow (2)
Black-throated Sparrow (7)
Sage Sparrow (3)
Scott's Oriole (1)

KBRC Review List, continued

4.) Species with greater than 10 accepted records, but with uncertain or changing status in the state. These species (though well established as occurring in the state) are either found sufficiently infrequently and/or are difficult to identify in the field and therefore are in need of additional documentation to determine their current status within the state. These species should be documented whenever encountered or, if designated with a "+", whenever found "outside" the stated range, i.e., If a Black Rail is seen anywhere but in Stafford County please document it.

Red-throated Loon (15)
Pacific Loon
Red-necked Grebe (13)
Brown Pelican (11)
Anhinga
Tricolored Heron
White Ibis (11)
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Trumpeter Swan
Brant
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Vulture
Ruffed Grouse
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Yellow Rail
Black Rail + - Stafford county
Piping Plover
Snowy Plover + - Barton and Stafford counties
Mountain Plover + - extreme western Kansas
Red Knot + - Barton and Stafford counties
Red Phalarope
Parasitic Jaeger (13)
Little Gull (13)
Laughing Gull
California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Glaucous Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake (11) - new record pending
Sabine's gull
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Rufous Hummingbird
Groove-billed Ani
Ladder-backed Woodpecker + - southwest Kansas
Dusky Flycatcher
Vermillion Flycatcher
Cassin's Kingbird + - Morton county
Violet-green Swallow + - extreme western Kansas

Steller's Jay + - southwest Kansas
Scrub Jay + - southwest Kansas
Pinyon Jay + - southwest Kansas
Clark's Nutcracker
Chihuahuan Raven + - southwest Kansas
Mountain Chickadee + - southwest Kansas
Bushtit + - southwest Kansas
Pygmy Nuthatch
Varied Thrush
Sage Thrasher + - Morton county
Curve-billed Thrasher + - Morton county
Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Virginia's Warbler (11)
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler + - southwest Kansas
Townsend's Warbler + - southwest Kansas
Yellow-throated Warbler + - Linn, Cherokee, &
Leavenworth counties
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Cerulean Warbler + - Linn and Leavenworth counties
Worm-eating Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler + - southwest Kansas
Hooded Warbler
Green-tailed Towhee
Rufous-crowned Sparrow + - Morton county
Brewer's Sparrow + - southwest Kansas
Baird's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow (14)
Pine Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch + - southwest Kansas
White-winged Crossbill
Lesser Goldfinch (11)

editors addendum -

Lloyd Moore serves as the Kansas editor for Audubon Field Notes and forwards Kansas information to the regional editor. On agreement between the state and regional editor and the KBRC bird sightings falling in Category 1, 2 or 3 of the above list will not be submitted for publication in the seasonal reports without supporting documentation. Birders submitting written records and documentation are encouraged to include photos and video tape of their rare sightings with the KBRC report form. Information can be mailed to: Lloyd Moore, 1250 Scott Ave, Kansas City, KS 66105 or e-mail to Chris Hobbs : chobbs@ix.netcom.com. Reports need to be received two weeks prior to the end of each season. Seasons end at the end of February, May, July and November.

Kansas Bird Records Committee Official Report Form

Date of this report: _____ KBRC No. (committee use only) _____

1. Species: _____ / _____
(Common name) (Scientific name)

2. Sex/Age: _____ 3. Number observed: _____

4. Date(s) of sighting: _____ 5. Duration of sighting: _____

6. Location (including county): _____

7. Observer(s) (your name): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____

8. Other observers (not making this report): _____

9. Description of habitat/setting: _____

10. Distance from bird: _____ 11. Optical equip: _____

12. Time of day: _____ 13. Lighting conditions/sun angle: _____

14. Previous experience with this or similar species: _____

15. Reference material consulted and how this influenced your identification: _____

16. How long after the sighting did you first write this description? _____

17. Vocalization heard (if any): _____

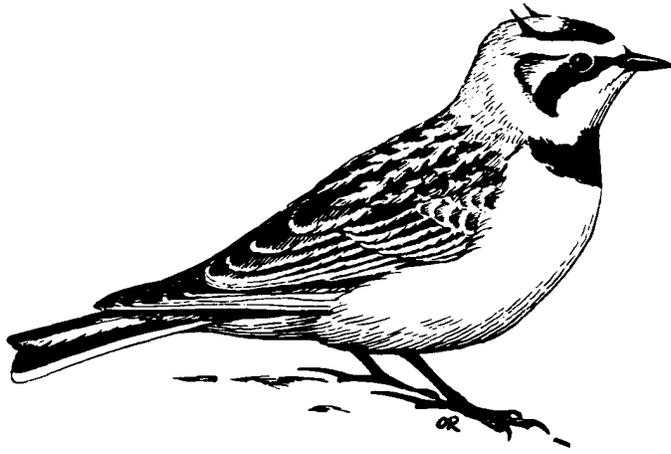
18. DESCRIPTION: (**Include only what was observed**). Describe, in detail, all relevant and diagnostic field marks and/or behaviors that would distinguish this species from similar ones. Please include any photographs, recordings, sketches, and copies of original field notes that were made at the time of the sighting that would aid in identification. USE OTHER SIDE.

Mail completed form to:

Kansas Bird Records Committee Secretary

Galen L. Pittman, 12042 258th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

phone: 913-842-7105 (home)/ 913-843-8573 (work); email: glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1996

Vol. 23, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

This newsletter is packed and I do mean packed! I was squeezing things in where ever I could find a column inch to work with. I'm still pushing to see how big of a newsletter we can put out each issue without running out of material. I could have easily gone another couple pages in this one! I guess those other articles will just wait until next issue.

With this issue we welcome a new columnist. Peter "Pete" Janzen steps in to fill the space that John Rakestraw vacated when he moved to Ohio. Pete's first article was so great I had to break it into 2 parts. "Birding in the Red Hills", Pete's inaugural entry is outstanding and I would have preferred to run it all in one issue but then there just wasn't space. Part I in this issue talks about birding the Comanche county portion of the Red Hills. In the March *Horned Lark* we will have Part II that takes us on into Barber County. If this article doesn't get you in the mood to head to southern Kansas and go birding, well then you just haven't had enough winter yet!! Welcome on board Pete and we all look forward to many more outstanding articles. And Pete - don't leave the state!

Of course what's the December *Horned Lark* without Christmas Bird Counts? My list is not complete. In 1995 we had 53 counts, so the 32 I have listed is probably about 60% of them. It's a good list with a real promise of some great birding as we head into December and early January. Let's all get out there and someone get me a 6 or 8 owl Christmas Count (don't laugh - it could be done!)

The first 2 issues of the *Horned Lark* in 1997 will wrap up my first 5 years as the Editor. When Dave Seibel asked me to take this on I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I'd like to think that both Dave and I got lucky! I told myself I'd try it for five years and then evaluate where I was with it. There's been some changes, actually there's been a lot of changes. Thanks to quite a few other people we're able to get more material into each issue. Each of my predecessors have done a

great job of creating more foundation and structure to build on which has made my job easier.

But I don't know that I'm done yet so you can relax Roy, I'm not bailing out on you. I'm still having fun (and I hope all of you are too) and I have quite a few more things I want to try out. Maybe each issue needs to have a little "under construction" sign in the masthead. The information technology revolution is just building up steam and I think we can springboard off of that and vault KOS and birdwatching in Kansas right into the 21st century. I'm excited about where this "ship" is headed! Anyone else want to come along on the adventure?

Happy Holidays everyone!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1997

President, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

Vice-president, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

Corresponding Secretary, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

Board Members:

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the KOS President.

Let me begin by saying thanks to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of KOS. These are exciting times! There seems to be renewed vigor in ornithology in biology departments across the state, and of course birding as a recreational activity is more popular than ever. Our organization is on its way to becoming financially sound and able to continue to provide our excellent newsletter and Bulletin and the state hot line to document ornithological news and events. The endowment fund drive we opened last year is off to a very successful start, and we expect to make our goal by the big event: KOS's 50th anniversary in 1998. Our spring meeting this year will be quite different and interesting, as it is a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society. It will bring professional and avocational ornithologists together, and allow us to show off some of the Kansas birding hot spots.

I am grateful to have had the chance to work with Mike Rader the past two years - he set a tough standard as President of KOS, and I will try hard to do as good a job. I am fortunate to have a great slate of officers and board members to work with for the next two years, and look forward to a time of fun and accomplishment. Let me or any other member of the board know your thoughts on how to make KOS better meet your needs.

Roy Beckemeyer

Memorial Contribution

The entire KOS family was saddened this past year by the untimely passing of past-President Jim Mayhew's wife Bobbie. Jim generously designated the KOS Endowment Fund for memorial contributions. This memorial generated \$1,711 for the endowment fund. The KOS Board of Directors would like to thank Jim for his generosity.

Welcome and Welcome Back !

Several new members have joined KOS since the last issue of the Horned Lark and a few others came back to the fold after a few years absence. Let's welcome the following members to (or back to) the Kansas Ornithological Society!

Gerald Reeck, Aaron Pearse, Manhattan; Carol Cumberland, Wichita; William E. Jensen, Jeff Witters, Emporia; Ken Brunson, Pratt; Jim Storer, Moundridge; Doug Storer, Burton; Todd Miller, Council Grove; Mike Taylor, Leon.

We are in the process of updating our membership brochures. If you would like some copies to hand out to friends, or if you know of a Nature Center or some place where some could be placed then let me (Chuck Otte) know and I will make sure that you get some. Our best membership drive is through our existing members so make sure you're doing your part!

HELP WANTED !!

Do you like birds and birding? Do you like to write? Have you ever read the *Horned Lark* and thought, "I could write something like that?!" Well, you're probably right! We are always looking for more material for the Horned Lark. If you have a one time article you'd like to write up or an idea for an ongoing series write it up, send it to the Horned Lark Editor, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 (otte@jc.net) and you may see your name in print very soon!

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Christmas Bird Count Time Again

1996 List of Christmas (Mid-winter) Bird Counts

If you have been on a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) before you know how much fun they can be! Up at dawn (or before) to meet some other birders and spend part or all of the day beating the bushes and tromping the back roads to see how many of each specie can be found. There has been some very memorable bird watching come from CBC's and many a Kansas birder has scored a life bird to make those early mornings and frozen toes all worth while! The past several years we have seen a wonderful increase in the number of Counts being conducted as well as the total participation. Don't worry if your birding skills edge towards the rookie end of the scale! There are plenty intermediate and advanced birders more than happy to "take you under their

wing" for a day. New skills and new friends are probably the highlight of the CBC season.

This year could be an exceptional year judging by the northern finches that have been turning up already around the state. Peruse the following list and find one near you or one that interests you, then attend! This is not an all inclusive list and others may be posted on the Kansas Rare Bird Alert (913-372-5499) or the Burroughs Audubon Rare Bird Alert in the Kansas City area (913-342-2473).

Please note that **some** of these counts are National Audubon Society Christmas counts as well and participants may be charged the \$5.00 NAS fee.

The following list gives the count name (see the March issue of *The Bulletin* for a complete list of those counts conducted last year), the compiler (person in charge), phone numbers where the compiler can be reached and any other information available at press time.

Saturday, December 14

Manhattan, John Zimmerman, (*days*) 913/532-6659, (*home*) 913/537-0238

Dodge City, Joleen Fromm, 316/227-6342, Meet at Pancake Inn for breakfast at 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Olsburg, Dave Rintoul, 913/537-0781, meet at the Randolph Cafe at 7:00 a.m.

Friday, December 20

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Call the Refuge Headquarters at 316/486-2393

Saturday, December 21

Wichita, Pete Janzen, 316/832-0182, Meet at Lawrence Dumont Stadium downtown at 7:30 a.m.

Hays, Greg Farley, 913/628-5965

Lakin, Leonard Rich, 316/275-5192

Lawrence, Galen Pittman, 913/842-7105

Salina, Meet at Lakewood Discover Center in Salina at 7:00 a.m. Alternate date is Saturday, January 4

Wilson Reservoir, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

Sunday, December 22

Baldwin, Roger Boyd, 913/594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, meet at 7:15 a.m. at Sante Fe Depot in Baldwin (west end next to grain elevator) **Old Garfield County**, Barbara Campbell, 316/275-5430

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake, Richard Rucker, (*days*) 913/597-5199, (*home*) 913/842-3845

Udall - Winfield, Max Thompson, 316/221-1856

Waconda Lake, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

Wakefield, Chuck Otte, (*days*) 913/238-4161, (*home*) 913/238-8800, otte@jc.net, meet at Lakeview Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

Monday, December 23

El Dorado, Bill Langley, 316/321-6931, Meet at McDonalds at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 26

Cedar Bluff, Scott Seltman, 913/372-5411 this may be on the 27th, call Scott to confirm

Slate Creek Wetlands/Oxford, Max Thompson, 316/221-1856

Friday, December 27

Linn County/ Marais des Cygnes, Roger Boyd, 913/594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, meet at Trading Post Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

Christmas Bird Count dates, continued

Saturday, December 28

Cimarron National Grassland, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

Arkansas City, Don Vannoy, 316/838-4062, meet at Newman Park, in Ark City, near bridge on US77, at 8 a.m.

Sunday, December 29

Black Mesa, OK, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

Junction City, Chuck Otte, (*days*) 913/238-4161, (*home*) 913/238-8800, otte@jc.net, meet at Shoney's Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

Monday, December 30

Liberal - Seward County, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

Camp Naish, Stan Roth, 913/843-4764

Wednesday, January 1

Scott Lake, Tom Shane, 316/275-4616

Friday, January 3

Webster Reservoir, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

Saturday, January 4

Garden City, Marie Osterbuhr, 316/276-8145

Kirwin Reservoir, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

Leavenworth/Atchison, John Schukman, 913/727-5141

Red Hills, Pete Janzen, 316/832-0182, meet in City Park on US 160 in Medicine Lodge at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 5

Black Wolf/NW Ellsworth County, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

Bonner Springs/Lansing, Galen Pittman, 913/842-7105

Saturday, January 11

Syracuse, Art Nonhof, 316/277-2087

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.

Checklist from the Fall KOS Meeting, October 6, 1996

The morning of October 6, 1996, was cloudy with some fog. The wind was southerly ranging from calm to 15 mph and the temperature was in the upper 50's and low 60's. Not the best of conditions for birding, in fact the light was terrible at times. But the courageous members of the KOS persevered and managed to scrounge up the following 94 species!

Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Redhead, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed

Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1996

*Kropf Center
Hesston College
Hesston, Kansas
October 5 - 6, 1996*

The forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 5-6, 1996 at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas.

Saturday, October 5, 1996, Morning Session

Lorna Habegger Harder, Local Arrangements Chair, opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. She introduced Dr. Paul Keim, Academic Dean of Hesston College, who welcomed KOS to Hesston College and talked about birds in the ancient history of the Near East.

Roy Beckemeyer, vice-President of KOS, made a few announcements and introduced the program. The papers were presented as listed on the program (see Attachment A).

The morning business meeting was called to order by Mike Rader, President of KOS, at 11:10 a.m.

MINUTES: Roy Beckemeyer moved to approve the minutes of the 1995 Annual Meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gregg Friesen gave an interim financial report. KOS has more than \$46,000 in all funds. The Annual Report will be made to the Winter Board Meeting.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that the September Bulletin had been mailed on October 1. Mike Rader thanked Galen for stepping in as Acting Business Manager.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Membership Secretary's report was read by Mike Rader for Margaret Wedge who could not attend the meeting (see Attachment B). The current membership in KOS is 384.

OFFICER'S REPORTS: A motion was made to accept the officers' reports. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES: Elmer Finck is vice-chairman of a task force to review the state endangered and threatened species program. It is a very diverse group with diverse interests. Some of the issues are: a) use of conservation incentives; b) inclusion of peripheral species; c) review processes; d) ecosystem management. Any ideas or comments from members of KOS should be given to him. He supports the endangered and threatened species program and incentives for their conservation. The task force is meeting at two-week intervals and is to have a draft report to the legislature by December 29.

RARE BIRD HOTLINE: Scott Seltman reported that the new machine works better. He is receiving 10-40 calls per day. The information is also being put on the Internet.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Roy Beckemeyer reported for the Nominations Committee. They presented the following slate of officers:

President - Roy J. Beckemeyer

Vice President - Greg Farley

Corresponding Secretary - Karen Ganoung

Treasurer - Edwin J. Miller

Business Manager - James L. Barnes

Membership Secretary - Margaret Wedge

Board Members - Peter D. Janzen, Richard F. Johnston

The terms of Board Members Bill Busby and John Schukman do not expire and they will continue on the Board.

A motion was made to accept this slate of nominees. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

BEST BIRDS OF' THE YEAR: It was announced that nominations for Best Bird of the Year should be placed in the box at the registration table.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the morning business meeting at 12:31 pm.

Saturday, October 5, 1996, Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session started with a tour of the Hesston College Bird Exhibit led by Richard H. Schmidt, who had prepared the exhibit. This was followed by the Birdwatcher's Hour chaired by Rose Fritz. Chuck Otte then did a demonstration of sites on the Internet. The program of papers started at 2:10 p.m. with a paper entitled: "Reutilization of old nests by Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*): a cost-benefit analysis" (There is an error in the title of the paper in the printed program). The remaining papers were presented as listed on the program (see Attachment A).

Mike Rader opened the afternoon business meeting at 4:18 pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: It was announced that the following should be added to the slate of officers presented by the Nominations Committee:

Bulletin Editor - Max C. Thompson

Newsletter Editor - Chuck Otte

A motion was made to accept the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominations Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

SPRING MEETING: John Zimmerman reported on plans for the Spring Meeting. KOS will be meeting in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society in Manhattan on April 17-20. There will be both field trips and papers.

FALL MEETING: The Fall Meeting in 1997 will be at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita on October 3-5.

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE: It was announced that legislation will be introduced in the Congress in March to provide for federal excise taxes on many outdoor products. The funds will be sent back to the states for nongame wildlife programs.

ENDOWMENT FUND: Max Thompson announced that we now have about \$6-7,000 of the goal of \$15,000 for the Endowment Fund. A memorial to Jim Mayhew's wife has brought in \$1,711. Interest from this fund has helped us balance the budget.

Mike Rader thanked the Local Arrangements Committee and those who presented papers.

The afternoon business session adjourned.

Saturday, October 5, 1996, Evening Banquet

The Annual Banquet was served at the Schultz Student Center at Bethel College in North Newton after a reception at Kauffman Museum. Chuck Otte opened the meeting after the meal and chaired the evening session.

Did you see a rare bird? Or even a not so rare bird but in an uncommon time of year or location in the state? Please, please, please take good notes, photos or video help, and then write the whole thing up and send it to the Kansas Bird Records Committee care of Galen Pittman, 12042, 258th St, Lawrence, KS 66044. Your information can add greatly to the growing wealth of knowledge we are collecting on the birds of Kansas!

SILENT AUCTION: Roy Beckemeyer announced that the Silent Auction had brought in a little more than \$400.

BIRD TRIVIA QUIZ: Answers to the questions on the Bird Trivia Quiz were announced and prizes were given to persons who had the most and fewest correct answers.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Four persons have completed life memberships and a pin was presented to the one in attendance:

1. Philip Wedge
2. Jack Conover
3. Diane Jones
4. Mike Rader

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: The top ten birds of the year were presented by Max Thompson:

1. Lesser Black-backed Gull (at both Winfield and Tuttle Creek)
2. Yellow-billed Loon (Wilson Reservoir)
3. Mew Gull (Tuttle Creek)
4. Gray Vireo (Morton County)
5. Piping Plover nest (Wabaunsee County)
6. Calliope Hummingbird (Garden City)
7. Garganey (Jefferson County)
8. Roseate Spoonbill (McPherson County)
9. White-winged Dove (Morton County)
10. Western Grebe nest

THANKS TO BOARD: Mike Rader thanked the Board for their service during the last year.

SERVICE AWARD: Mike Rader presented a duck carving to Dwight Platt for his years of service on the KOS Board.

Dwight Platt introduced Robert W. Regier, long-time KOS member and retired member of the Art Faculty at Bethel College. Bob Regier presented a very beautiful and inspirational two-projector slide program entitled: "More than Three: The Intimations of Pattern."

After the program, Dwight Platt recognized Richard Schmidt as the only charter member attending the meeting.

Chuck Otte read resolutions of thanks and appreciation which were adopted by acclamation.

Chuck Otte dismissed the meeting.

Sunday, October 6, 1996, Morning Field Trips

Field trips were held on Sunday morning to eastern and western Harvey County and to Marion Reservoir. Lunch and compilation of species were held at the Stutzman Retreat Center.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary,
Kansas Ornithological Society*

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1996

*October 5, 1996
Hesston College
Hesston, KS*

Members present: Galen Pittman, Chuck Otte, Roy Beckemeyer, Max Thompson, Gregg Friesen, Bob Gress, Dwight Platt, Bill Busby, Mike Rader. Non-voting: Mick McHugh, Edwin Miller.

Mike Rader opened the luncheon meeting at 12:10 p.m.

SPRING 1997 MEETING: Chuck Otte reported that the joint KOS/Wilson Ornithological Society meeting will be at Kansas State University April 17-20. The Sunday field trips are shaping up. He will be calling on other people to help with them.

POLITICAL ACTION: Mike Rader reported that Elmer Finck would like to know what the stance of KOS is with regard to political issues like endangered and threatened species. The KOS constitution says that one of the purposes of KOS is to support conservation. It was the consensus of the Board that we support Elmer to represent us on this issue.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: We have about 3,000 membership brochures left but there are a number of items of information that are now in error. However, it was pointed out that pressure sensitive labels could be printed on a laser printer to make these changes. Max Thompson volunteered to print the labels. Bob Gress volunteered to see that the labels were put on the brochures. Gregg Friesen moved to abandon the plan to print KOS new membership brochures as authorized at the Fall 1995 Board Meeting and, instead, to print labels to correct the old brochures that we have in stock. Max Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY' S REPORT: Mike Rader reported that Margaret Wedge is concerned that membership in KOS is declining. Forty-three old members did not renew this year. She wondered whether she should send a questionnaire to those who did not renew. The Board did not think a questionnaire would be worth the effort. We need new membership brochures to maintain membership.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS: The timing of the final mailing about the meeting this year was quite late. Our guidelines for meetings say that it should be sent out in August. Chuck Otte said that he will try to get it out earlier. Dwight Platt will send a copy of the Annual Meeting guidelines to Chuck Otte.

KOS LIBRARY: Mike Rader reported that our exchanges are going to two places in the Kansas University Libraries, the Science Library and the Bird Division at the Museum. It was suggested that we need to find out where each of these journals is going and publish it in the Newsletter so that they are more available to members.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND: A report from Tom Shane was read by Mike Rader (see Attachment A). The first research scholarship has been awarded to Laurie Wyland of Holcomb, Kansas.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Mick McHugh reported that the committee was working well. However, there are still some KOS members who are critical of the committee and do not send their records to the committee. It was suggested that Board members and officers should feel responsible to document their records.

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Chuck Otte reported that KNWAC had not met for awhile.

FUTURE MEETINGS: KOS meeting sites have been determined through Fall 1999 (see Minutes of Fall Board Meeting 1995). It was decided not to determine any further meeting sites at this time.

ENDOWMENT FUND: Max Thompson reported that about \$6,500 has been collected.

The Memorial Fund for Jim Mayhew's wife has amounted to \$1,711. Max Thompson will report on this at the afternoon business session. It was suggested that appreciation should be expressed to the Mayhews in the Newsletter. Gregg Friesen reported that interest from the Endowment Fund is bailing us out this year. Mike Rader expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee.

BULK MAILING: A question was raised about dropping the address corrections on our bulk mailings since they are expensive. But how can we keep from sending out materials and not knowing when they were not delivered?

Mike Rader thanked the Board for their service to KOS.

Chuck Otte moved that the Board Meeting be adjourned. Max Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society*

A WALK IN THE WOODS WITH ROGER TORY PETERSON

by Dan Gish

"Birds are sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of 'ecological litmus paper'... The observation of birds leads inevitably to environmental awareness."
Roger Tory Peterson

The morning was beautiful with clear skies, no wind, and a twinge of autumn in the air. It was a perfect day for a walk in the woods at Woodridge Park on the west side of Clinton Reservoir. I led our group of eleven birders slowly down the winding trail that led through a tall stand of oak, shagbark hickory, and hackberry. A twelfth birder was with us, but you couldn't see him.

Nevertheless, he pointed out the lower yellow mandible and large undertail spots on a slim brown-backed bird with a white breast to help identify it as a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Later he helped identify an all red robin-sized bird with a rounded crown (not a crest) as a Summer Tanager. He did this without saying a word. He did it with his artist's eye and his paint brush when he first published *A Field Guide to Birds* back in the mid-1930s, a book that has since gone through several editions. The twelfth birder was Roger Tory Peterson, the man who has done more to promote the pursuit of bird-watching than any person in this century. His field guides introduced new ideas to bird identification that made it easier for novices and experienced birders, alike, to pick out the field marks of different species that set them apart from near "look-alikes". Each of the paintings in his field guide have arrows pointing to distinguishing features such as the lower yellow mandible and large undertail spots on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo mentioned above. By combing through Peterson's field guide, studying the

paintings and accompanying remarks, you can take Roger with you each time you go to the field. And as you go, remember Roger. He died this past July at the age of 86 after suffering complications from a stroke. He had been working on his 5th edition to his *Field Guide to Eastern Birds* in another attempt to make bird-watching even more enjoyable. He will be missed; but not forgotten.

As we continued our walk down through the woods toward the lake, we came upon Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, a Carolina Wren, and a Northern Cardinal. The sweet song of the Carolina Wren on a still cool morning puts a spring in your step when you thought you had none. After reaching the lakeshore, we walked south for a short distance before moving away from the lake into an open meadow that was lined with trees on the west side. It was there where we, once again, were treated to the beauty of a pair of Summer Tanagers actively foraging in the treetops. Ever so briefly, a couple of Blackburnian Warblers in their less than spectacular fall plumage flitted about in the same vicinity as the tanagers. Eastern Wood-Pewees, Eastern Phoebe, and Eastern Bluebirds darted out from the trees snatching insects from the air. Speaking of insects, Monarch butterflies were everywhere, clustered in trees or flying lackadaisically in a generally southward flight plan that would lead them to southern Mexico and Central America to spend the winter. Our morning concluded with stops at Clinton Wildlife Area (a short distance south from Woodridge Park) and the Rock Creek boat launch area. Our species list was not large, thirty-five, but we had a wonderful walk in the woods with Roger.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE FALL KOS MEETING

UPDATE ON PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

*Author: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, 2041
Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS*

Partners in Flight is an international partnership of organizations, agencies and individuals that promote understanding about the status, limiting factors, and conservation needs of land birds. Within the U.S., Partners in Flight seeks to develop conservation plans at the state and regional level that contain four steps: 1) identify and prioritize species most in need of conservation; 2) set habitat and conservation objectives; 3) turn general objectives into concrete programs; and 4) implement bird conservation plans and monitor success, making use of partnerships, research, education and outreach, and policy. Progress is well underway on a conservation plan for the Southern Great Plains region. A Kansas Partners in Flight working group held its first meeting in May, 1996 and development of a bird conservation plan for the state has begun.

KBBAT: ARE WE THERE YET?

*Authors: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey,
Lawrence, KS and John Zimmerman, Div. of Biology,
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

Status of completion will be reviewed. Distribution patterns of selected species based on current data will be illustrated. Plans for publication of the Atlas will be discussed.

THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF PREDATION RISK AND FOOD SUPPLY ON THE NESTING SUCCESS OF BROWN THRASHERS (*Toxostoma rufum*)

*Authors: John F. Cavitt and John L. Zimmerman
Div. of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

The most important cause of nest failure for many birds is nest predation. A survey of nesting passerines found that 55% of all eggs and 66% of all nestlings are lost to predators. It has been suggested that an abundant and available food supply may act to reduce predation by allowing parents to spend more time engaged in antipredatory behaviors. We tested this hypothesis in a population of Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) nesting on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area by providing parents with food supplements. Parents receiving extra food had higher nesting success, spent significantly more time perched near their nest and

responded more quickly to a model predator relative to controls.

THE CACTUS WREN: A NON-SOCIAL SPECIES IN A SOCIAL GENUS

*Author: Greg Farley, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fort
Hays State University, Hays, KS*

Species in the wren genus *Campylorhynchus* exhibit several rare avian behaviors, including obligate nighttime roosting in enclosed nests and cooperative breeding. Individuals construct nests using plant material, maintain them year-round, and sleep inside them nightly with other members of their large social groups. These traits are regularly expressed despite wide variation in ecology and environment among the twelve species in this lineage, which are generally restricted to the Neotropics. The lone exception is the cactus wren, which has northern range boundaries in the southwestern U.S. In this species, adults live in pairs throughout the year, and they do not breed cooperatively. A comparison of the southernmost and northernmost cactus wren subspecies revealed these traits are consistently expressed within this species, despite environmental variation. These derived features may have allowed the historical northward range expansion of the cactus wren.

THE GROWTH OF WINTERING POPULATIONS OF CANADA GEESE IN WICHITA

*Author: Alan D. Maccarone, Dept. of Biology, Friends
University, Wichita, KS*

This paper presents the results to date of a continuing study of the overwintering population of Canada Geese in Wichita. Twelve years of January censuses show a significant and steady increase in the number of geese from virtually no birds to >12,000 in recent years. Possible causes for this increase will be discussed together with estimates for the maximum potential size of the Canada Goose population.

THE EFFECTS OF AN ANNULAR ECLIPSE ON WADING BIRD BEHAVIOR

*Author: Alan D. Maccarone, Dept. of Biology, Friends
University, Wichita, KS*

This presentation is an opportunistic and anecdotal report of the response of a breeding colony of wading birds in Wichita to an annular eclipse. Of two predictions made about the effects of this eclipse on foraging flight patterns at the colony, one was supported by the results and one was not.

REUTILIZATION OF OLD NESTS BY BROWN THRASHERS (*Toxostoma rufum*): A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Authors: Todd A. Miller, John F. Cavitt, and John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

In a three-year study of nesting success on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, it was determined that Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) reuse old nests from previous years. The frequency of nest reuse was found to be highly variable. During the 1996 breeding season, we initiated a preliminary study to examine the costs and benefits associated with nest reuse. Parents using old nests may experience savings in time and energy, but may pay a cost in higher parasite loads. Nests were collected after fledging and mites were collected to determine their effect on mean brood mass and the number of fledglings produced.

INVASION OF THE CALLIOPE

Authors :Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

Unlike the Rufous Hummingbird that has wandered to almost every state and province in North America, the Calliope Hummingbird is just the opposite. It has been observed in only four states east of the 92nd meridian, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. Since its original sighting in 1952 in Morton County, it has only been observed three additional times in Kansas prior to 1996: August 15-18, 1992 in Rush County; and July 20- 22, 1994 and August 9, 1995 in Finney County. The summer of 1996 produced eight additional sightings of the Calliope Hummingbird and is probably a glimpse of a fairly significant migration through western Kansas. In

1996, sightings have been made in Morton and Finney Counties between July 23 and August 30. During this same period, one bird each was observed in South Dakota, and Nebraska, along with twelve in the Texas panhandle. Sixty- nine percent of the Calliopes observed on the plains have been made since 1990. The peak period of movement has been the last ten days in July.

NEST SITE SELECTION IN BROWN THRASHERS: THE EFFECTS OF OLD NESTS

Authors: Aaron Pearse, John Cavitt, and Dr. J.L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

The presence of old nests from previous breeding seasons has been suggested to be an important cue used in nest site selection. We tested the hypothesis that Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) select nest sites based on the presence of old nests. Twenty study sites were selected at the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area before territories were established. Each site contained 1-2 old nests. The sites were randomly assigned to either have old nests removed or left in place. The presence of new nests was then monitored throughout the breeding season. Removal sites had fewer nests initiated, however the difference was not statistically significant.

INTRODUCTION OF OSPREY AT THE EL DORADO LAKE

Authors: Mike Taylor (c/o Bill Langley), Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS

The procedures used to introduce Osprey to the El Dorado Lake and the Wolf Creek Power Station's Nature Area will be described, together with the Ospreys' reactions and behavior upon introduction.

Where Can I Get.....

KOS members who attended the Fall Meeting had the opportunity to pick up a copy of the recent published, *Birds of Cimarron National Grassland* written by Ted Cable, Scott Seltman and Kevin Cook. This is a USDA Forest Service publication and is free of charge. If you would like a copy you can write to: Rocky Mountain Forest and Ranger Experiment Station, 240 W Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80526. Ask for a copy of *Birds of Cimarron National Grassland*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-281. It has a good write up of the grasslands as well as excellent species accounts and ornithological history of Cimarron National Grasslands.

If you need a copy of the Kansas Birds Record Committees Rare Bird Report Form see the March 1996 Horned Lark (page 17) OR drop me a note and I'll send it to you OR I can send you the computer file so you can fill it in on your computer, just tell me what word processor you use. If you need the latest KOS checklist in electronic format let me know. In fact I can probably find an electronic version of just about anything you'll need. Send me your wish list and give me some time. And if you are using your computer in new and different ways drop me a note and let me know about it - you may get featured in a future issue of *The Horned Lark!*

JOINT MEETING
of the Kansas Ornithological Society
and the Wilson Ornithological Society
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
April 17 - 20, 1997

The Wilson Ornithology Society was founded in 1888 and took the name of Alexander Wilson, pioneer American ornithologist and artist. Like the Kansas Ornithological Society, amateur (non-professional) ornithologists have always been involved in the activities of the Wilson Society. This mix has always made the meetings of the Wilson Society, like the meetings of the KOS, a most pleasant and congenial experience. Indeed, the Manhattan meeting will be highlighted by the inaugural presentation of the The Margaret Morse Nice Plenary Lecture, named after one of North America's most famous amateur ornithologists.

Scheduled activities will begin Thursday evening at 8 p.m. with a reception in the newly completed Beach Art Museum on the K-State campus. Papers sessions will be held all day on Friday and Saturday in the K-State Union and will tentatively include symposia on Great Plains Ornithology, New World Wrens, and the impact of the Crop Reserve Program on grassland birds. The Wilson Society has a very active Undergraduate Outreach Committee and will develop sessions on the teaching of ornithology that will interest many of you. Additionally, there will be ample opportunity for contributed papers and posters, and KOS members are

encouraged to submit abstracts for a position on the program, following directions that you will receive in early December in the meeting announcement brochure. On Friday evening there will be a bison barbeque on Konza Prairie, and the Friends of Konza Prairie will offer van rides into the bison area as well as opportunities for hiking on your own. The annual banquet will be Saturday in the K-State Union. There is no banquet speaker, but traditionally the president of the Wilson Society, currently Keith Bildstein, Director of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania, will make a few brief remarks.

The Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society will lead local birding trips on both Thursday and Friday mornings, and the Kansas Ornithological Society will be organizing trips on Sunday - an all-day trip to Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms and half-day trips to Milford Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area, and Konza Prairie.

So plan on attending, 17 to 20 April 1997. Plan on presenting. Plan on making folks from across the nation welcome in the Great American Desert.

Cyber-birding Update

I had the opportunity to present a short program at the Fall KOS Meeting about birding resources on the Internet. The talk generated quite a bit of interest so let me pass on some of my favorite birding World Wide Web links. There are hundreds out there (I saw a recent note on BIRDCHAT that quoted a figure of 900+ birding sites. The great thing is that once you get to a couple you can find almost anything.

Birds at Selected Parks= http://ice.ucdavis.edu/US_National_Park_Service/NPS_birds.html

Oregon Birders On Line = <http://oregon.uoregon.edu/~lbiggs/obol.html>

Optics for Birding Home Page = http://www.aib.com/~edm/opt_faq.html

Birdlinks = <http://www.phys.rug.nl/mk/people/wpv/birdlink.html>

Birding Links = <http://www.princeton.edu/~llarson/>

Birding = <http://www.birder.com/>

Birding = <http://www.zender.com/birder/>

For those of you not on the KSBIRD-L discussion list yet you need to drop me a note so we can get you added. This Kansas birding discussion group has recently grown in size and activity with recent discussions on what's moving through everyone's backyards, what to be looking for, the current influx of northern finches and county record databases. Drop me a note at otte@jc.net to join the fun!

Birding in the Red Hills

Part 1 - Commanche County

by Pete Janzen

The area known as the Red Hills lies mostly in Barber and Comanche Counties, on the southern border of Kansas, about 90 miles southwest of Wichita. This is an interesting area from an ornithological standpoint, as well as from a geological one. Many large buttes composed of highly erodible ferrous soils and gypsum deposits make the area quite picturesque and rugged in appearance. Cedars are the dominant tree in the upland areas, and combined with the hilly topography, make the area unique in comparison to other areas of the state.

I have had an opportunity to become familiar with this area as a result of work done for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas over the last five years, and I initiated a Christmas Bird Count here several years ago, due to my interest in the area. Many portions of the Red Hills are still unfamiliar to me, but I would like to share a few of my observations on the birds of the area, as well as a few places it might be worthwhile for the visiting birder to investigate. I have spent little time in this area during migration, so this article is biased towards summer and winter resident species.

The two primary watersheds in the Red hills are the Medicine River, which flows across northern and eastern Barber County, and the Salt Fork of the Arkansas, which flows through southern Comanche and southwestern Barber Counties. The riparian habitat along the Medicine is more eastern in flavor. Mature hardwoods give shade to thick underbrush, and bird species such as Barred Owl, Chuck-wills-widow, and Eastern Wood Peewee are present in the summer. The Salt Fork has a more "western" appearance, with much more open woodlands, and a lot of scrubby brush. The uplands in the Salt Fork watershed are often a sage dominated habitat, unlike the midgrass prairies of the Medicine watershed. Painted Buntings can be amazingly common along the Salt Fork, especially in brushy draws adjacent to the river. Bewick's Wren, Lark Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Mississippi Kite, among others, are present here in very high numbers during the breeding season as well.

There are two large public lakes in the area: Barber County State Fishing Lake, on the northwestern edge of Medicine Lodge, and Coldwater Lake, about a mile south of Coldwater, in Comanche County. These two lakes have almost all of the public land to be found in the Red Hills. Both attract waterfowl in season, and I once found a

Common Loon at Barber Co. Lake. Both lakes also have adjacent wooded areas that attract good numbers of birds at all seasons, including migrant passerines.

The hills are very popular with hunters, as the numbers of deer and Wild Turkey in particular, are very high. For this reason, you will see a plethora of No Trespassing signs, and must for the most part bird from the roads. I have had no difficulty obtaining permission to trespass from local ranchers, but it is highly recommended that you do so before crossing any fences in the area. Also, I can't emphasize enough the extreme caution that must be exercised when driving on dirt roads here, if rain has occurred in the prior 24 hours. The soils here are among the most treacherous in the state when saturated, and unless you have a four wheel drive vehicle, you are best advised to remain on paved roads at these times, although a few of the heavily used gravel roads are passable at all times.

A good bird tour, parts of which are described in Zimmerman and Patti's "Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri", begins at Hardtner, at the junction of KS highway 14 and US highway 281. Continuing west on a paved road from Hardtner, which eventually becomes a gravel road, you will pass into Oklahoma for a few miles, then re-emerge into Kansas in Comanche County. Look for Roadrunners, as I have seen them twice on this road, and local residents all mention seeing them infrequently, but regularly in this area. From where the road turns straight north at a 't' intersection in extreme south-east Comanche Co., go four more miles, then turn right onto a birdy sort of a road that zigzags it's way north and west for about 20 miles, eventually reaching KS Highway 1, about 7 miles south of Coldwater. The turn off for Coldwater Lake is just south of the city on Highway 1, on your left. A small fee is required at some seasons to enter the lake grounds. I was very surprised to hear Black Rails calling from the wetland area at the extreme north end of Coldwater Lake several years ago, and since then Black Rails have been heard in a small wetland in Barber Co. as well, located in an atlas block. Cormorants, terns, gulls and waterfowl can all be expected here in small numbers during migration. Below and west of the dam are some nice stands of trees and brush that offer the best passerine birding at the lake.

continued next page...

Red Hills, continued...

This southeastern quarter of Comanche County has the most interesting habitat, marked by very deep canyons south of the Salt Fork, especially Fancy and Schwartz Canyons. Anywhere you cross a deep draw with scrubby brush in this area, you are likely to hear a Painted Bunting. This is the specific area where Painted Buntings reach their highest densities. This is also where Black-capped Vireos were found nesting in the 19th century. Goss considered them common at that time, but there are no records in the 20th century for them here. However, as there is still a small surviving population of this species only 60 miles to the south in Oklahoma, it is not impossible that a wanderer from this population could eventually be found here, most likely as a spring overshoot. The habitat is still there. Cowbirds most likely were the primary cause of this species extirpation in Kansas. A note about Fancy and Schwartz canyons: These are wholly privately owned, and require driving on pasture roads for some distance, as well as a good deal of hiking through very tall, thick prairies. Information on whom to contact for permission to enter these areas is available from the author. The owners have been very accommodating to Kansas birders to date, only denying permission to enter during periods of extreme fire danger. Continued respect for the property rights of the owners must be a priority if birders are going to be continued to be allowed entry here.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow, another bird common not too far to the south, was heard singing in Schwartz Canyon this year by a knowledgeable observer, in addition to an old fall record from this area of Comanche County, so this is another species that die-hard rarity chasers can dream of here, although most likely in vain.

Least Terns have been seen along the Salt Fork in spring, but I do not think the size of the sandbars is large enough

for them to actually nest here, although this species is a common nester along the Salt Fork in Oklahoma, especially at the Great Salt Plains refuge, about 50 miles downstream.

Other nesting species of interest in this part of Comanche County are Poorwill, Barn Owl, Rock Wren, Cassin's Sparrow, and Lark Buntings. Barn Owls are actually almost common in the Red Hills. They are found in an amazingly high percentage of rural buildings in the area. Look for tell tale heaps of their large, shiny black pellets on the floor of abandoned buildings. Rock Wrens occur right up to the edge of the easternmost buttes, just west of US 281, nesting in cavities excavated from the soft red soil of the steepest cliffs. I have only observed Lark Bunting and Cassin's Sparrow in Comanche Co., but locals indicate that Lark Bunting is found in central Barber Co. during drought years, and Cassin's Sparrow has been seen as far east as the vicinity of Aetna, in western Barber Co..

One other good spot in Comanche Co. can be reached by going south from the town of Protection, which is in the western part of the county, for about 13 miles on a well maintained gravel road. This road curves and crosses Bluff Creek, then the Cimarron River, on two large bridges. Massive numbers of Cliff Swallows nest under these bridges. Don Vannoy had a very vocal King Rail scolding loudly, and in the open, from the Bluff Creek bridge in early June, on successive nights. In spring you might get lucky and see migrant Least Terns here, as they do nest upstream in Meade County. This drive is worth the view alone from the bridge over the Cimarron. I often linger here, just taking in the view from the bridge. This spot has a real "western" look to it. The Oklahoma line is two miles further south on this road.

next issue - Part 2 - Red Hills, Barber County

Dear KOS Members;

By way of introduction, I am a KOS and Audubon member from Pittsburg, Kansas, who is studying the migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. As a master hummingbird bander and rehabilitator, I band and mark birds in and around Crawford County. The mark is an easily recognizable spot of color on top of the bird's head.

I hope that you will help me identify birds that I have banded. If marked birds are observed at feeders or flowers, I would appreciate a telephone call with the location, date and color of the bird's mark. You may call me at 316/235-0996, or send a postcard to Jan Hall, 1514 Woodland Terrace, Pittsburgh, KS 66762.

Any help you can give me with this project will be greatly appreciated!

Very truly yours,

Jan Hall, Master Hummingbird Bander #22497

SPRING AND SUMMER ROUNDUP

April through July 1996 by Chuck Otte

Spring and summer 1996 birding was good if you were in the right place at the right time. Many of the more active birders were busy with year 5 of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project (KBBAT) valiantly trying to wrap the project up within its projected time frame. While these activities brought in many note worthy sightings it also kept many birders away from the more common spring and summer hot spots. Among the more notable sightings coming from KBBAT blocks were Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Mountain Plover, Least Flycatcher and Bullock's Oriole. With the recent Northern Oriole and Rufous-sided Towhee splits Kansas birders should take extra notes to help build up current databases on locations and time of season.

Ted Cable was in the right place at the right time and spent all day, April 24, watching a massive movement of Blue Jays moving north on the west side of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Cable reported groups of 50 to 100 Blue Jays moving north throughout the day. Even common birds can provide us with impressive shows.

The spring KOS field trip to Morton County was outstanding. Space does not allow mention of all the good sightings, however, several must be mentioned. The Gray Vireo, seen by many of the spring field trip participants and photographed by Cable is a potential new start record pending action by the Records Committee. Clark's Grebe and Western Grebe were both found for new Morton County records. The Given's had the enviable fortune to have Indigo, Lazuli and Painted Buntings at their feeders at the same time.

Speaking of Lazuli Buntings they were showing up with starting regularity this spring a little further west than normal with numerous records from Wichita north to Junction City in mid-May. While Lazuli Bunting sightings this far east are not that uncommon, the regularity that they were being reported in their eastern range was.

Another specie making the trek east this season was Cassin's Sparrow. Many reports were made to the KOS hotline that were 30 to 50 miles further east than normal. Whether it was cooler than normal summer temperatures, wetter than normal summer rains or "just because" we may not know, but it is occurrences like this that keep many of us returning to the field!

Equally open to speculation was the summer invasion of Red Crossbills into and through the state. Red Crossbills were reported from one end of the state to the other and

in adjoining states as well. Drought, fires and food shortages have all been mentioned as possible contributing factors, and all must be considered seriously. There was even a report from Iowa of one poor crossbill running into a K-Mart window. The bird recovered and was released after a well-meaning, but fortunately unsuccessful, attempt to straighten its bill with a pair of pliers!

July saw the start of a hummingbird parade in western Kansas that would continue into August. Before August was out Garden City would be host to 7 hummingbird species. Late July saw the start of the invasion with Calliope Hummingbirds in both Garden City and Elkhart. Excellent video of some of these visitors was shared with KOS members at the Fall Meeting. Of course more information on this hummer invasion will be in the Fall Birding Roundup in the March, 1997 issue! ***Make sure you send in your 1997 dues so you don't miss an issue***

I now digress for a few moments:

I am probably not in the minority when I say that I dislike paperwork and filling out forms. However, I find that certain paperwork tasks are necessary. This "birdwatching thing" we do we do for many different reasons not the least of which is to add to the scientific body of ornithological data on the birds of Kansas. While the sightings that we report to the hotline (and shortly thereafter go around the world on the Internet) and the selections from these reports that follows this narrative are very helpful to amateur birders and professional ornithologists alike, they are unofficial. The KOS has adopted a process whereby records of accidental, rare and uncommon birds can be reviewed. This process is very similar to the one used in many states and by the ABA (American Birding Association) and AOU (American Ornithological Union). It is not a perfect process but it depends on birders like you and me to fill out the forms and send them back along with any supporting evidence (pictures, video, specimens) for review. I've had records accepted and I was an observer on a record that was rejected. But even rejected records add to the body of knowledge that exists. But remember that it is a joint venture that only works if we all cooperate. Next time you see a rare bird (call me if you need a list of what to report) take the time to do the paperwork!

With that said please keep in mind that the following list (and 10 Best Birds reported in the Fall Meeting Minutes) are unofficial until records have been submitted and acted upon by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / April 1996 through July 1996

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location and number</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Red-throated Loon	1 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	GS,TC	4-04-96	Pottawatomie
		still present	4-05-96	
Red-throated Loon	1 in basic plumage Pott Co Lake #2	DR,GR	4-27-96	Pottawatomie
Common Loon	imm at Wyandotte Co Lake	LM	5-30-96	Wyandotte
Horned Grebe	53 at LaCygne Cooling Lake	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Western Grebe	2 at CB Pool #2	m.ob.	4-27-96	Barton
Western Grebe	1 dead along Elkhart Sewer Ponds	SS	5-05-96	Morton
Western Grebe	at QNWR	HMF	5-30-96	Stafford
Western Grebe	1 at CB	SA,EP	7-13-96	Barton
Clark's Grebe	1 on Elkhart Sewer Pond	TC	5-05-96	Morton
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Sewer Lake, Liberal	SP	5-02-96	Seward
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at CB	GP	6-08-96	Barton
Least Bittern	at QNWR	JSB	5-19-96	Stafford
Little Blue Heron	1 imm at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	CHe	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
Tri-colored Heron	2 at QNWR	PJ	5-18-96	Stafford
Tri-colored Herons have been reported by many from May on this summer.				
3 were reported on June 9th by Janzen and again on June 22nd by McHugh and Pittman.				
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1 at MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
dark ibis possibly Glossy Ibis	3 east of Big Salt Marsh QNWR	HMF	5-30-96	Stafford
Glossy Ibis	in breeding plumage at QNWR	GP	6-08-96	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	620 at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Roseate Spoonbill	extreme se McPherson County	BJR	5-27-96	McPherson
Trumpeter Swan	imm at W. Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-27-96	Jefferson
		through	6-04-96	
Ross' Goose	1 at MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
<u>Garganey</u>	1 male at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	4-07-96	Jefferson
Cinnamon Teal	in KBBAT block	PJ	6-07-96	Edwards
American Wigeon	in KBBAT block	PJ	6-07-96	Edwards
Canvasback	pair at QNWR	PJ,JNi	6-09-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	2 on Linn Co Park sewage ponds	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Greater Scaup	1 pair at QNWR	JR	4-13-96	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	DB,JM	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
		still present	4-13-96	
Red-breasted Merganser	25 at LaCygne Cooling Lake	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Red-breasted Merganser	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Cooper's Hawk	w of QNWR headquarters building	PJ	6-09-96	Stafford
Cooper's Hawk	nesting at Lone Star Lake	PW	7-20-96	Douglas
Broad-winged Hawk	1 dark phase in Oak Park	PJ	4-27-96	Sedgwick
	still present as were several others in Wichita in late April		4-30-96	
Swainson's Hawk	1 at Lenexa	CH	4-11-96	Johnson
Swainson's Hawk	20 following tractor	SS	4-12-96	Barton
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	HMF	4-18-96	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 at MDC	MM,BF, LM	4-20-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	JR	4-24-96	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 at MDC	LM	4-27-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Jamestown WMA	MRo,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Peregrine Falcon	2 at MDC	CH	5-05-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	1 s of Wakefield City Park	CO	5-11-96	Clay
Common Moorhen	1 early at CB	BT,et.al.	4-22-96	Barton
Whooping Crane	Pair north of Marsh Road, QNWR	GK	4-18-96	Stafford
American Golden-Plover	1 at MDC	LM	4-01-96	Linn
American Golden-Plover	10 at MDC	LM	4-13-96	Linn

Snowy Plover	3 at Waconda Lake	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Mitchell
Piping Plover	3 at Slate Creek Marsh	MT	4-24-96	Sumner
Piping Plover	2 at QNWR	m.ob.	4-27-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	4-28-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at QNWR	MR	5-02-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at Jamestown WMA	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Piping Plover	2 at Waconda Lake	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Mitchell
<u>Piping Plover</u>	confirmed nesting along Kansas River	BB	7-10-96	Wabaunsee

This nest was the first confirmed nesting of Piping Plover in Kansas. The adult was incubating 3 eggs. On July 17 this nest had 1 hatchling and 2 eggs. A second family group was found further upstream with a pair of adults and 2 fledglings by Rintoul, Mulhern and others.

Mountain Plover	several near K-51	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Mountain Plover	juv in KBBAT block	RB	7-06-96	Greeley
Black-necked Stilt	possible nesting pair at Liberal	SP,MR	6-06-96	Seward
Whimbrel	1 at Liberal	SP	5-02-96	Seward
Whimbrel	25 at Elkhart sewer ponds	m.ob.	5-04-96	Morton
Marbled Godwit	4 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	CHe	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
Marbled Godwit	2 at QNWR	MM,GP	6-22-96	Stafford
Red Knot	7 at QNWR	SS	5-11-96	Stafford
Red Knot	7 at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-12-96	Jefferson
Sanderling	<u>250</u> at QNWR	MR	5-19-96	Stafford
Least Sandpiper	2000 at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Baird's Sandpiper	4000 at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	40 - 50 s of Mt. Hope	DK	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Lassiter Marsh	LM	4-23-96	Jefferson
Long-billed Dowitcher	<u>1400</u> at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Red-necked Phalarope	female at Upper Ferguson Marsh	DLS	5-11-96	Jefferson
Red-necked Phalarope	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Red Phalarope	1 at SCM	??	4-??-96	Sumner
Herring Gull	1 late at QNWR	BT,et.al.	4-22-96	Stafford
Common Tern	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	5-16-96	Stafford
Common Tern	25 at La Cygne Lake	LM	5-21-96	Linn
Common Tern	2 at QNWR	JSB	5-27-96	Stafford
<u>Arctic Tern</u>	1 probable at Tuttle Creek Res	TC	4-13-96	Riley
<u>Least Tern</u>	nesting colony along Kansas River	DM,DR	7-17-96	Wabaunsee
	this colony contained 14 adults and 12 chicks			
Long-eared Owl	nest with 3 chicks, QNWR	JSB	5-27-96	Stafford
Short-eared Owl	1 at QNWR	JSB	5-19-96	Stafford
Calliope Hummingbird	at Gidden's feeder in Elkhart	TNG	7-23-96	Morton
Calliope Hummingbird	2 m at Shane's feeders	TSh,SSh	7-26-96	Finney
		1 still present	7-29-96	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	at a feeder in Elkhart	TNG	5-04-96	Morton
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	in St. John	JR	5-20-96	Stafford
Lewis' Woodpecker	in Elkhart Cemetery	DLB	5-03-96	Morton
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	pair near Point of Rocks, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Western Wood-Pewee	singing along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Eastern Wood-Pewee	singing along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	at Westin Bottoms	TC,MR	5-13-96	Leavenworth
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 at MDC	LM	5-21-96	Linn
Least Flycatcher	pair on territory KBBAT block	SP	6-04-96	Brown
Ash-throated Flycatcher	nesting along Cimarron River, CNG	MR	6-08-96	Morton
Cassin's Kingbird	single birds on successive days	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
			5-04-96	

Purple Martin	arrived at Southwest College	MT	4-01-96	Cowley
	this was 17 days later than their normal arrival date			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2 at Linn Co Park sewage ponds	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Blue Jay	massive movement dawn to dusk	TC	4-24-96	Riley
	west shore of Tuttle Creek Lake			
Brown Creeper	1 late at MDC	LM	4-13-96	Linn
Brown Creeper	1 record late in Salina	BT	5-12-96	Saline
Rock Wren	1 east of normal range at PCL #2	CMF	4-28-96	Pottawatomie
Winter Wren	1 singing at Walla Walla Road	CO,JO	4-07-96	Geary
Sedge Wren	10 at MDC	CH	5-05-96	Linn
Marsh Wren	1 singing along BBS route	SS	6-08-96	Gove
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	first of season at Pawnee Prairie Park	JN	4-01-96	Sedgwick
Mountain Bluebird	late female at Middle Springs	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
		still present	5-04-96	
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Wichita's Pawnee Prairie Park	JN,CG	4-12-96	Sedgwick
Gray Catbird	<u>115</u> at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
American Pipit	<u>150</u> in Unit A, MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
Sprague's Pipit	record late in Norton County	SS	5-18-96	Norton
<u>GRAY VIREO</u>	1 in shelterbelt n of Elkhart cemetery	SS,MR,TC	5-05-96	Morton
	This bird was found during the spring meeting of the KOS. It was observed for over 30 minutes by 13 observers. If accepted by the KBRC this will be the first record of this bird for Kansas.			
Solitary Vireo	all 3 races n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 at MDC	MM,BF,LM	4-20-96	Linn
Yellow-throated Vireo	n of Elkhart Cemetery	SP	5-04-96	Morton
Philadelphia Vireo	n of Elkhart Cemetery	GF,DLB	5-04-96	Morton
Virginia's Warbler	2 n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Virginia's Warbler	1 f in St. John	JR	5-10-96	Stafford
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	DV	5-06-96	Sedgwick
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Mill Creek	MM	5-09-96	Johnson
Golden-winged Warbler	3 at Girl Scout Camp	MT, et.al.	5-11-96	Cowley
Golden-winged Warbler	3 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS	5-15-96	Johnson
Yellow Warbler	<u>200</u> in one spot at Girl Scout Camp	MT, et.al.	5-11-96	Cowley
Cape May Warbler	at MDC	CH, MRo	5-09-96	Linn
Black-throated Gray Warbler	n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Townsend's Warbler	in Elkhart Cemetery	TSh	5-04-96	Morton
	still present		5-05-96	
Yellow-throated Warbler	10 at Westin Bottoms	JS	4-21-96	Leavenworth
Palm Warbler	1 at Oak Park	PJ,JN,PH	4-27-96	Sedgwick
Palm Warbler	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	JN	4-29-96	Sedgwick
		still present	5-01-96	
Prothonotary Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	ST	5-01-96	Sedgwick
Prothonotary Warbler	1 at Lakewood Park, Salina	BT	5-02-96	Saline
Worm-eating Warbler	at Oak and Pawnee Prairie Park	JN,CG	5-02-96	Sedgwick
Worm-eating Warbler	2 at Middle Springs	DS	5-04-96	Morton
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	MM	5-09-96	Johnson
Worm-eating Warbler	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
<u>Swainson's Warbler</u>	1 singing in Chisholm Creek Park	JN	5-07-96	Sedgwick
Mourning Warbler	m. at Oak Park, Wichita	PJ	5-21-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	at Oak Park	CG	5-02-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	at Boy Scout area	JH	5-04-96	Morton
Hooded Warbler	at Chisholm Creek Park	JN	5-06-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	f. at Oak Park, Wichita	JN,CG	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	singing m at Scott Lake	MC,EC	6-23-96	Scott

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	pair along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Black-headed Grosbeak	good numbers in both counties	SS	5-18-96	Norton/Sheridan
Lazuli Bunting	at a feeder in Arkansas City	GY	4-24-96	Cowley
Lazuli Bunting	at Oak Park, Wichita	JN,CG	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Milford Res and Walla Walla Rd	JO,CO	5-19-96	Geary
Lazuli/Indigo Bunting hybrid	seen where Lazuli m summered in 1995 at Camp Horizon Road	JN	6-15-96	Cowley
Painted Bunting	male at Elkhart feeder	TNG	5-04-96	Morton
Painted Bunting	s of Trousdale	GP	6-07-96	Edwards
Spotted Towhee	5 pair in KBBAT block	SP	6-10-96/ 6-11-96	Cheyenne/ Rawlins
Canyon Towhee	1 n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Cassin's Sparrow	several common in eastern Gove Co.	SS	6-08-96	Gove
Cassin's Sparrow	2 singing in eastern Hodgeman Co.	SS	6-09-96	Hodgeman
Cassin's Sparrow	southeast of Kinsley	JD	6-08-96	Edwards
Cassin's Sparrow	carrying food to nest nw of QNWR	MM,GP	6-10-96	Stafford
Cassin's Sparrow	several skylarking in pasture	MM,GP	6-10-96	Reno
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	at Point of Rocks	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 at Schwartz Canyon	SP,MR	6-07-96	Comanche
Black-throated Sparrow	2 on n side or River e of e of K-27	JH,EM	5-04-96	Morton
Baird's Sparrow	1 at Pawnee Prairie Park, Wichita	JN	4-02-96	Sedgwick
Baird's Sparrow	at Kirwin Res	MRo,NR	5-03-96	Phillips
Henslow's Sparrow	at RML	CH	5-05-96	Linn
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	4-28-96	Stafford
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 late at CNG Middle Springs	MR	6-08-96	Morton
Golden-crowned Sparrow	at feeder west of Lawrence	???	mid-May	Douglas
Harris' Sparrow	1 late bird	PJ	6-14-96	Butler
Bullock's Oriole	in KBBAT block	SP,MR	6-07-96	Edwards
Cassin's Finch	male s of Garden City	MO	mid-July	Finney
Red Crossbill	imm m s of Ark River near Gard City	TSh	7-04-96	Finney
Red Crossbill	3 in Frontier Park, Hays	TSh	7-12-96	Ellis
Red Crossbill	1 at feeder e of Douglas	fide MT	7-10-96	Butler
Red Crossbill	present through July 12			
Red Crossbill	2 at feeder in Norton	DF	7-13-96	Norton
Red Crossbill	as many as 9 present through July 24			
Red Crossbill	1 f at feeder near Wichita	DBo	7-16-96	Sedgwick
Red Crossbill	present through July 17			
Red Crossbill	at feeder near Emmet close to county line	BrM	7-28-96	Pottawatomie
Pine Siskin	early fall arrival?	SS	7-27-96	Rush
Exotics				
Mute Swan	unknown origin, Ottawa Co Lake	BT	4-21-96	Ottawa

Key to Abbreviations

BBS = Breeding Bird Survey

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

Co. = County

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands

e = east

f = female

imm = immature

KBBAT = Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project

L = Lake

m = male

m.ob. = many observers

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

PCL #2 = Pottawatomie County Lake #2

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res. = Reservoir

RML = Reclaimed Mine Land south of LaCygne Lake

s = south

SCM = Slate Creek Marsh

WMA = Waterfowl Management Area

w = west

Observer list for Spring/Summer Roundup on next page

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Steve Addinal (SA), James and Susan Barnes (JSB), Roger Boyd (RB), Donna Borg (DBo), Doris Burnett (DB), Bill Busby (BB), David & Linda Bryan (DLB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Elaine Corder (EC), Joyce Davis (JD), Clyde & Marilena Ferguson (CMF), Bob Fisher (BF), Dave Fischer (DF), Terrill & Nelda Giddens (TNG), Chet Gresham (CG), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chod Hedinger (CHe), Chris Hobbs (CH), Peggy Hockup (PH), Jerry Horak (JH), KOS Spring Meeting (KOS), Dan Kilby (DK), Glenn Koontz (GK), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Brandon Magett (BrM), Jim Mayhew (JM), Harold McFadden (HMF), Mick McHugh (MM), Ed Miller (EM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), James Nickel (JNi), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Eric Preston (EP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Gerald Reeck (GR), David Rintoul (DR), Nathan Rice (NR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Bob & Jean Rogers (BJR), John Schukman (JS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), David Seibel (DS), Guy Smith (GS), Sandra Tholen (ST), Bill Trelc (BT), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Phil Wedge (PW), Gene Young (GY)

KBBAT Blocks? Past Time to Turn Them In!!! If you have Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Block paperwork still in your hands from work done this year get them turned into your regional coordinator as soon as possible. Even if you haven't met your target number or even if you know there was stuff you missed, still turn it in. You can always go back next spring and do some more work and turn in an update. This way we can see how much, or how little, remains to be done. If you are holding paperwork for a block and haven't done anything on it, send that in also. If you think you can get to it next year fine, include a note saying so, but if Dr. Zimmerman hears nothing from you the block will probably be handed out to someone else anyway. Send that paperwork in now!

THANK YOU!

As we draw another issue of the Horned Lark to a close, and another year as well it is only fitting that we take a few moments to thank a few special people. This year's fall KOS meeting saw a big turnover on the KOS Board.

Mike Rader stepped down after 2 great years as president. This editor gave Mike more than his fair share of teasing and harassment, probably because Mike was so good natured and usually dished it right back. As we prepared to go on a field trip that Mike led at a fall meeting several years ago I jokingly told Mike it would only be a success if he found me a Barn Owl. He did and it was! Thank you Mike!

Gregg Friesen had done an outstanding job as treasurer. Greg was on the committee that developed the current plan to expand the Endowment Fund. We have seen in other organizations that one sure way to be sure that funds will be available to do the things that the Society wants to do is to have a well financed Endowment Fund. We are now on track to do that and Gregg can take some of the credit.

Shannon Rayl and Bob Gress brought wonderful insight and discussion as board members. They were always cheerful and Shannon helped present an excellent fall meeting in 1995, and we'll see what Bob gives us next fall! I don't think this is the last we'll see or hear from either of these outgoing board members.

Two special thank you's are in order however. Galen Pittman stepped in without hesitation as acting Business Manager for a year and we can't thank him enough. Galen had been the Business Manager for several years and had stepped down 2 years ago. Then when his replacement became ill, Galen picked right back up without missing a beat. For the *Horned Lark* and *The Bulletin* to be successful we have to have a good business manager to see that they get printed and mailed. Thank you Galen!

Dwight Platt decided that after 20 years on the board, 18 of that as Corresponding Secretary, that he deserved a break. Words can not begin to express the thanks we owe Dwight for all his years of service. He helped keep us headed in the right direction and often served as the beacon to bring us back on track. Often times Dwight remembered "Why?" something had been done a certain way and when this editor needed correction or an explanation it was done kindly and with sincere consideration. I appreciated that greatly and will miss Dwight's presence at our Board Meetings! We can all learn much from Dwight's style and manner.....

Thank you Dwight and all the retiring board members and officers!! You may all know return to your normal lives!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September 1996

Vol. 23, No. 3

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

As I start the process of putting together each and every issue of the Horned Lark it is sort of like breaking open a piñata, you never know what I'm going to wind up with until I really get inside of it. I have a file of letters, notes, e-mail messages, etc. that I clean out after every issue and accumulate material for the next issue. So I know, sort of, at least some of the material that is going to be in the issue when I start. The trick comes in trying to get some sort of a "flow" to the issue or making sure that the front of a page and the back of a page make sense or that facing pages don't "clash" or even figuring out do I squeeze an article down to 1 page or try to stretch it out over 1 1/2 pages and then find some good filler? Sometimes I fear I try to squeeze too much in to fill pages. Hopefully you find the Horned Lark to be like a piñata also and are always pleasantly pleased by what you find inside!

This issue brings a little sadness, it contains John Rakestraw's last *Winged Tip* column. There's a small note in the corner of page 3 describing where John has gone. John came to Kansas quite a few years ago from "back east" (meaning anywhere east of the Mississippi) and has added greatly to Kansas birding. I was envious of where John lived the past several years in St. John, sooooo close to Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. But a great opportunity came along and John couldn't pass it by. He was concerned about re-learning eastern bird songs, but I'm sure he will add greatly to the Ohio birding community as he did with us. I also suspect that we will be seeing more of his articles in other popular birding press, and you'll be able to say, "I first read his stuff in the Horned Lark!" I've been in communication (read that as subtle arm twisting) with a couple of folks and hopefully we'll have some new articles starting in the December issue to pick up where John left off.

As I've visited on the phone with several KOS folks and exchanged e-mail on the Kansas Birders discussion list the over-whelming question seems to be, "where's migration?"

We're all a little tired of summer and we'd all like to see those confusing fall warblers and winter sparrows. Although I know that my faithful friend's, the Harris' Sparrows, are still probably a month or so away I keep wondering how soon, and if, the Red-breasted Nuthatches will show up in the cemetery pines.

I hope many of you will hurry up and get those fall meeting registrations turned in. The Hutch/Newton folks have a fine event lined up and I keep wondering if this is the year that the board meeting will be over in time for me to get to sit in on the birders hour? Anyway, it is going to be a lot of fun so plan to head for Newton the first weekend in October and don't worry how those football games will end up!

See you there!
chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1996

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395 Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Business Manager, (acting) Galen Pittman, 12042 258th St.,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

FALL MEETING BENEFIT AUCTION !!

The local committee for the 1996 fall KOS meeting will conduct a benefit auction for the KOS endowment fund. Members and others are invited to donate items for sale. If you have items for this event, please notify Lorna Harder at 316-283-1612 or by mail at Lorna Harder, C/O Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, North Newton, KS 67117. You can E-mail Lorna at: BobH@Hesston.edu with the subject reading, "Attention Lorna H: KOS"

KBBAT SPECIAL BLOCKS AT CHEYENNE BOTTOMS

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project (KBBAT) has three special blocks covering portions of Cheyenne Bottoms and is soliciting your observations of breeding birds at the Bottoms (1992 - present). Ed Martinez (316-792-2062) is compiling two of these blocks. Please contact Ed about bird observations. For maps of the blocks and other information, please contact Bill Busby (913-864-7692; email w-busby@ukans.edu). If KBBAT needs another field season in 1997 to mop up standard blocks, we will continue observations in Cheyenne Bottoms blocks next year as well.

Bill Busby

Wetlands Publication Available

Several months ago I had the opportunity to pick up a book called, *The Impacts of Federal Programs on Wetlands, Volume II*. Volume I covered the lower Mississippi Alluvial Plain and the Prairie Pothole Region of the Upper Midwest, Volume II covers everything else (I'm still trying to get my hands on copies of Volume I). This two volume set was a report to congress by the Secretary of the Interior in March of 1994. There is a lot of information in this book. When I obtained my copy there was a catch.... I had to take a whole box of them which means that I still have around 20 copies that I would love to give away. Just give me a call, drop me a note, e-mail me a message and I'll send one your way and pick up the postage on it! And in the meantime if someone wants to find me a copy of Volume I I'd sure like to have one!

Chuck Otte

Please send Chuck your Christmas Bird Count dates and information as soon as possible!!!

Membership Directory Updates

A couple of corrections/additions to the directory sent out in the last issue. Tyler Hicks (a young second year birder) wrote to let us know that his phone number was not in the new directory and to advise us that his number is: 316-777-0404.

Phil Meninger wrote to let us know that Mr. Paul C Finninger passed away several years ago but KOS hadn't been notified. While not quite a charter member Mr. Finninger was a member from 1950 until his passing.

Several members wrote to advise us of new or recently changed e-mail addresses. Lisa Edwards new address is lisa@brightok.net. I had Bill Busby's address and merely forgot to include it. Bill's email address is: busby@falcon.cc.uknas.edu. If you have or in the future obtain an e-mail address and we don't have you listed in the directory please send me a message at otte@jc.net and then be sure to let me know if you want to be added to the Kansas bird discussion group or if you want to received the Kansas rare bird alert via e-mail.

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BIRDING EFFICIENCY: Making the Most Out of Short Birding Trips

John Rakestraw

Imagine that you have just one or two hours to bird a large area. There is no way you can search all the available habitat in the time allowed. How should you proceed? Should you take the shotgun approach, racing from spot to spot, and try to cover the whole area? Or should you pick one or two hot spots and search them thoroughly? Both methods have merit. The approach you choose should depend on the type of habitats available, the current status of migration, and your own preferred birding style.

The shotgun approach is standard practice for the successful birdathon participant. The idea is to cover as many different types of habitat as possible in order to find the greatest variety of bird species. This method is very effective if you have a lot of time. But during a short birding excursion, this approach may cause you to use too much of your birding time traveling between hot spots. In this case, it is often more effective to spend your time thoroughly searching one or two sites.

What is the advantage to staying in one spot? When birds are actively feeding, the avian population of any given location will be changing constantly. Some birds move out as others are arriving. Every birder has had the experience of "just missing" a bird that others had seen a few minutes before, or the equally frustrating experience of having a great bird show up right after you leave. You can never guarantee that you won't miss some birds. But if your time is limited, you can often find more species by picking one or two sites and going over them with a fine-toothed comb. By staying put, you do not lose any birding time to travel and you have a better chance of seeing birds that move into the area after you arrive.

Is it ever better to take the shotgun approach on a short birding trip? If you spend some time at one site and find that there just aren't any birds around, then it would definitely be to your advantage to check out another spot. During the nesting season, for example, birds tend to remain within territories. So if no birds are present when you arrive, it is not as likely that birds will move into the area any time soon. Even if birds are present at your first site, you may wish to visit several locations in order to check different habitats. Some birders prefer birding at a faster pace, covering as much ground as possible, and gleaning the obvious birds from each site.

In deciding whether to thoroughly search one area or run from spot to spot, your first step is to determine whether any

birds are present at your first site. In very open habitat, such as mud flats, it should be obvious whether birds are there or not. But in heavy cover, you should take your time in assessing the situation. Some birds may go into hiding when you arrive. Allow these shy birds time to relax and show themselves.

During the KOS spring field trip in Elkhart, at the infamous windbreak north of the cemetery, a Green-tailed Towhee had been seen in a large brush pile. Several birders walked right up to the brush pile and clapped their hands in an attempt to tease the bird into view. As you might expect, the bird remained hidden. Other birders kept a respectful distance from the cover, occasionally scanning the brush pile as they birded the rest of the windbreak. These birders were rewarded with very satisfying views of the towhee as it perched on top of the brush pile or fed on the ground. In this case, a quiet patient approach was much more effective than the pish-and-move-on approach.

Once you have determined that some birds are present, take the time needed to scan the entire flock. Mixed flocks are common in migration and during winter. If the habitat is attractive to some birds, then there is a good chance that others will be arriving shortly.

If you determine that there are few or no birds at your first site and decide to try another spot, pick a different type of habitat. If the warblers just aren't around that day, maybe the shorebirds will be. If you do decide to run from spot to spot, plan a route that connects the various sites as closely as possible. This will minimize your travel time and give you more birding time at each site. Try to squeeze in as much actual birding as possible into the time that you have available.

Good Luck John!

For a couple of years now John Rakestraw has been writing a regular feature for the Horned Lark. Unfortunately this will be John's last feature. John has moved to Lebanon, Ohio, where he has taken the position as naturalist for the Kern Outdoor Education Center, a large YMCA camp in southwestern Ohio. John wishes to express his thanks to all the KOS members who have helped him over the past several years. Good luck, John, and we'll miss your articles!

THE KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

The Kansas Ornithological Society's Student Research Fund has been separated into individual funds. These funds will be oriented around the state's universities and colleges as well as cities or regions as needed or requested by the members of KOS. This will facilitate the generation of money for the funding of the students of Kansas working on bird research. Hopefully KOS members will be more willing to contribute to a fund if it's going to a university or region of their liking. Many students pursuing avian research in Kansas today will continue to produce a diverse group of ornithologists that will be the leaders and active members of a strong ornithological society in the decades to come!

A Fund can be originated by any KOS member, or if you would like additional details about these funds please contact the Student Research Fund Committee chairman.

The New Student Research Funds are as follows:

Ted F. Andrews Fund for students at Emporia State University. Dr. Andrews was a charter member of KOS and president in 1952

Maurice F. Baker Fund for students at Southwestern College. Dr. Baker was the KOS vice president in 1950

Ivan L. Boyd Fund for students at Baker University. Dr. Boyd was a charter member of KOS and its first president in 1949.

Herschel T. Gier Fund for students at Kansas State University. Dr. Gier was a charter member of KOS and its second president in 1950.

E. Raymond Hall Fund students at Kansas University. Dr. Hall was a charter and lifelong member of KOS.

Harry W. Menke Fund for students at the Garden City Community College and the Finney County area. Menke was the pioneer ornithologist in Finney County during the late 19th century.

L. D. Wooster Fund for students at Fort Hays State University. Dr. Wooster was a charter member of KOS and president in 1953.

Please send a contribution to one or more of the funds so our Kansas students can pursue their ornithological research. KOS has the U.S. Treasury Department 501(c)(3) status making your contribution tax deductible. If your bank account is a little low, donate something to the KOS auction and mark the money generated for one of the student research funds.

Make checks payable to: Kansas Ornithological Society

Mark memo line with the Fund of your choice

Send donations to: Tom Shane, SRF Committee Chair
1706 Belmont
Garden City, KS 67846
316-275-4616

We regret that the photograph can not be included in this electronic version of the newsletter.

Laurie Ryland of Holcomb has received a \$250 research scholarship from the Harry W. Menke Fund for work on her Masters Degree at Ft. Hays State University. She is working on the summer birds of Lake McKinney and environs. The Harry W. Menke Fund is one of the separate funds within the KOS Student Research Fund for students from the Garden City area. *Photo by Tom Shane*

HELP WANTED !! BUSINESS MANAGER NEEDED!

Galen Pittman has graciously agreed to step back into his former role for a few months as Business Manager and we want to extend to him our **deepest** appreciation. But he specified that this was only temporary. We need a full time Business Manager to take over as soon as possible.

Business Manager is a rather diversified job. As the KOS Business Manager you would be responsible for getting the newsletter copied and mailed out after the editor sends it to you all completed as well as the mailing of *The Bulletin* (so some basic knowledge of bulk mailing may be helpful but not necessary). You would also keep all the inventories of

the Society's for sale items such as checklists, clothing, window decals, etc.

I'm sure that there is more that I am forgetting or just don't know about. If you are interested, or know someone that is interested, you need to contact Galen Pittman. Galen will be able to give you the complete job description and be able to answer your questions for you. Galen's phone number is (913) 842-7105. His address is on the front page of the newsletter.

Help the Society grow, get involved!

JOINT MEETING
of the KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
and the WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, MANHATTAN, KANSAS
April 17 - 20, 1997

The Wilson Ornithology Society was founded in 1888 and took the name of Alexander Wilson, pioneer American ornithologist and artist. Like the Kansas Ornithological Society, amateur (non-professional) ornithologists have always been involved in the activities of the Wilson Society. This mix has always made the meetings of the Wilson Society, like the meetings of the KOS, a most pleasant and congenial experience. Indeed, the Manhattan meeting will be highlighted by the inaugural presentation of the The Margaret Morse Nice Plenary Lecture, named after one of North America's most famous amateur ornithologists.

Scheduled activities will begin Thursday evening at 8 p.m. with a reception in the newly completed Beach Art Museum on the K-State campus. Papers sessions will be held all day on Friday and Saturday in the K-State Union and will tentatively include symposia on Great Plains Ornithology, New World Wrens, and the impact of the Crop Reserve Program on grassland birds. The Wilson Society has a very active Undergraduate Outreach Committee and will develop sessions on the teaching of ornithology that will interest many of you. Additionally there will be ample opportunity for contributed papers and posters, and KOS members are

encouraged to submit abstracts for a position on the program, following directions that you will receive in early December in the meeting announcement brochure. On Friday evening there will be a bison barbeque on Konza Prairie, and the Friends of Konza Prairie will offer van rides into the bison area as well as opportunities for hiking on your own. The annual banquet will be Saturday in the K-State Union. There is no banquet speaker, but traditionally the president of the Wilson Society, currently Keith Bildstein, Director of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania, will make a few brief remarks.

The Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society will lead local birding trips on both Thursday and Friday mornings, and the Kansas Ornithological Society will be organizing trips on Sunday - an all-day trip to Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms and half-day trips to Milford Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area, and Konza Prairie.

So plan on attending, 17 to 20 April 1997. Plan on presenting. Plan on making folks from across the nation welcome in the Great American Desert.

KBBAT Blocks?
Time to Turn Them In!!!

If you have Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Block paperwork still in your hands from work done this year get them turned into your regional coordinator as soon as possible. Even if you haven't met your target number or even if you know there was stuff you missed still turn it in. You can always go back next spring and do some more work and turn in an update. This way we can see how much, or how little, remains to be done. If you are holding paperwork for a block and haven't done anything on it send that in also. If you think you can get to it next year fine, include a note saying so, but if Dr. Zimmerman hears nothing from you the block will probably be handed out to someone else anyway. Send that paperwork in now!

HELP WANTED !!

Do you like birds and birding? Do you like to write? Have you ever read the *Horned Lark* and thought, "I could write something like that?!" Well, you're probably right! We are always looking for more material for the Horned Lark. If you have a one time article you'd like to write up or an idea for an ongoing series write it up, send it to the Horned Lark Editor, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 (otte@jc.net) and you may see your name in print very soon!

another view - -

Further comments on records committees: Why birders should contribute to and participate on a committee.

Pittman's (*Horned Lark* 23:9-11, 1996) recent article gave a good overview of the philosophy and mechanics of how a records committee functions. The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), particularly Chairperson Mick McHugh, is to be commended for using a real case example to illustrate the evaluation process. The fact that McHugh offered his unaccepted record as an example underscores the openness and accessibility of the KBRC.

Aside from some of the obvious benefits that a records committee furnishes, such as providing a more thorough and objective evaluation via multiple person review, and a permanent record of unusual sightings, it also offers a means of elevating one's birding skills! Through my tenure as a member of the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC), my identification and documentation skills have tremendously improved, and my knowledge of avian distribution patterns has been considerably augmented. I would be myopic if I didn't consider my stint as a committee member a privilege.

The conscientious evaluation of other observer's records invariably forces one to become more familiar with the identification and distributional literature. Furthermore, having additional people evaluate a record frequently elevates everyone's consciousness, ranging from the documentor to the birding community at large. A recent example from the MBRC demonstrates this process. For two consecutive years an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was reported on a small oxbow lake in northwest Missouri. The first year it was seen and a single photograph was secured by a couple of birders -- the record was unanimously accepted by the committee. The bird fortunately reappeared at the same location the following year and was seen and photographed by additional birders, including a MBRC member. The record was circulated with the new documentation and photo, and accepted on the first round. Nevertheless, one committee member noted the subtle, but clearly visible characters in the new photo, that indicated the bird was a hybrid between a Barrow's and Common Goldeneye. As a result of that member's comments, the committee then sent both photos to experts who confirmed that the bird was indeed a hybrid. If it were not for the one sharp-eyed member, this record would have appeared in the literature as a Barrow's Goldeneye. Disconcertingly, all written documentation from both years depicted a typical Barrow's Goldeneye!

This illustrates two important points: why it is imperative to have more than one person evaluate records, and why all observers should make detailed field notes. As a result of being involved in this evaluation process, I learned much from fellow committee members and outside experts about goldeneye identification. Moreover, because this information has been further disseminated to the birding community as a whole, future reports of extralimital Barrow's Goldeneyes will be more carefully scrutinized.

Serving on a records committee should be an enlightening experience and considered a privilege! I encourage birders to support records committees and serve if the opportunity arises.

As a footnote, birders should be aware of the resources available to them at KU's Division of Ornithology. We have a world class specimen collection and our division's library is first-class -- both are invaluable for complementing your field experience.

Mark Robbins
Division of Birds
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
phone: 913-864-3657
email: mrobbins@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

We regret that the photograph can not be included in this electronic version of the newsletter.

Birders from one of the field trips pause for a group photo at Point-of-Rocks during the Spring KOS meeting May 4, 1996 in Morton County. Left to right are: Tom Shane, Pat Freeman, Diane Cable, Ted Cable, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Stevie Seltman, Dave Bryan, Linda Bryan, Elizabeth Mulhern, Ben Mulhern and Dan Mulhern.
Photo by Tom Shane

Kansas Partners in Flight Update

Kansas Partners in Flight (PIF) will hold its second meeting in conjunction with the fall Kansas Ornithological Society meeting in North Newton.

The first meeting was held last May in Manhattan and was well-attended with 24 participants including David Pashley, PIF Supervisor, Jane Fitzgerald, Midwestern Regional Coordinator, and representatives from KOS, Regional and National Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Dept. Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Biological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

This fall's Partners in Flight meeting will be held Friday, October 4 from 2-6 p.m. in the Kauffman Museum at Bethel College in North Newton. We plan to spend much of the meeting working in subcommittees dealing with science/technical issues, management, and information/education.

For more information about the meeting or about Partners in Flight contact Bill Busby (Kansas PIF Working Group Chair), Kansas Biological Survey, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence 66047, phone 913-864-7692, e-mail w-busby@ukans.edu.

Many KOS members, even if they are not members of the American Birding Association (ABA) are at least familiar with the organization and have seen the ABA code of ethics before. A new, expanded code of ethics was just recently passed by the ABA Board of Directors. The ABA has done a fine job in developing this code and should be commended and we appreciate their generosity in letting us reproduce it here for the Honed Lark readership. Let's all read and follow this code!

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- 1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- 1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

- 1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- 1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

- 2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- 2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- 2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

- 3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
- 3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

- 3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

- 4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
- 4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

- 4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
- 4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.
- 4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.
- 4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).
- 4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE -- DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS.

ABA
PO Box 6599
Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599
(800)850-2473 or (719)578-1614
fax: (800) 247-3329 or (719) 578-1480
e-mail: member@aba.org

1996 FALL KOS ANNUAL MEETING

October 4, 5 and 6, 1996

North Newton & Hesston, Kansas

Registration forms, hotel information, call for papers are all at the back of this newsletter.
September 26th deadline! Don't let time slip away! Send in your registration today!

A Listening by Ruth Jameson Green

Have you ever attended a listening? If not I'll tell you about it. The time is set for just beginning to be nearly dark. Admission is free. The meeting place is a high hill ridge between two deep wooded ravines.

Come prepared with a thick blanket for sitting and to pull around you as the evening deepens and cools. A thermos of a hot drink might be pleasant. The occasion is for listening and becoming more aware of the Caprimulgidae, Nightjars, Goat Suckers or whatever your colloquialism calls for.

If you arrived a bit early you may have seen and heard the Nighthawk or Bullbats dive and boom after insects, but really you have come to hear the chorus of the Whip-poor-wills and the Chuck-will's-widows whose voices arise from the deep woody ravines. First from the east ravine you hear the Whip-poor-will calling his name, then in seconds the Chuck-will's-widows naming themselves. And their voices are tuned up for the night's performance. There are so many voices, they seem to drown each other out. Suddenly you feel ALIVE and it's going to be a great show.

If you are lucky, you may hear from nearby on the ridge, a Poor-will call. Flashing a brief light in his direction will reveal his red eye reflection. Then you begin to pick up the voices from the west where the dark had just arrived. As time passes the birds seem to be competing, and if there happens to be a storm cloud approaching from the west, a loud clap of thunder drives the bird chorus almost into a frenzy.

From all-night camp-outs, it is apparent there is somewhat of a lessening of the calls after midnight, and those still at it are making fewer repetitions without stopping.

When the dawning is possibly an hour away the bird chorus starts up again singing hurriedly and again very vociferously as if they must finish before the sun rises above the eastern horizon.

The birds rest during the day and I have seen several different birds sitting lengthwise of a rather large branch since their feet can not accommodate perching crosswise. I have run on to an occasional bird on the ground in the oak woods on my farm, and have also seen them fly off in a sort of zig-zag fashion through the trees. So we have come from the aerial insect feeder to a ridge bird, to the two valley singers all in this wonderful family of birds, the Caprimulgidae.

A friend who has attended Listeners, reports being in a tree where a Chuck-will's-widow perched nearly at her arms length from her and began to sing vigorously.

It makes a fine way to experience nature at night. A group of good friends can enjoy the companionship as well as Listening.

[editor's note - after one of those long nasty days in July I came home from work and found the above story and a short note from Ms. Green. It was one of those delightful notes and story that make the rest of the day just fade away. Ruth writes the following about her rural Olsburg home:

"We live on a prairie ridge between two deep ravines and thoroughly enjoy the bird noises around while sitting out waiting for planet Jupiter to put in an appearance around 9:00 p.m. It makes a perfect way to end the day and have sometimes stayed out long into the night or all night on fishing trips."

Ruth goes on to apologize that the typewritten copy isn't the best but the "typewriter is not my best tool since I never really learned to type." It was good enough for me as was her wonderful story! Ruth has been a KOS member since 1964 and I hope to hear from her again!

Do some of you have an interesting story of your own? Perhaps a favorite bird or favorite birding location? Maybe a birding trip in Kansas or a special life bird sighting? Write it up and send it on in. We'll take care of grammar and spelling, if necessary, and share it with the other Horned Lark readers!]

Teaming With Wildlife An Overview and Update

[Many of you who were at last fall's KOS Annual Meeting in Salina heard Ken Brunson talk about the Teaming With Wildlife coalition. It has been the KOS Board of Directors position not to promote or endorse candidates, positions, etc. The Board encourages KOS members to also be involved in other organizations which have those activities as primary goals. The *Horned Lark*, however, does attempt to keep you informed of items that may interest you.]

Teaming With Wildlife is a coalition of now over 1,000 businesses and organizations dedicated to passing the Wildlife Diversity Funding initiative (WDI). The WDI is an outdoor enthusiasts' dedicated user fee, in the form of modest surcharges on a spectrum of outdoor products. This user's fee would be used to fund wildlife diversity projects. It would aim to do for non-game wildlife funding what the Pittman/Robertson act and Dingell/Johnson act has done for game species.

The user fee would be up to a 5% surcharge on manufacturer's price of products. Items that are being

considered for a user fee that would be of interest to birders include: optics (binoculars & spotting scopes), photo equipment and film, bird seed, feeders, etc.

What would be some of the benefits for birders? Restore, acquire, manage and secure more bird habitat, help build a Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, conduct research on birds, assist private landowners, supply grants to bird clubs, conservation groups and state/federal agencies. provide services for birders, create birding trails, sponsor more birding field trips, meet the needs of teachers for songbird educational trunks, produce educational materials and nurture the next generation of birders.

The Teaming with Wildlife coalition is looking for more volunteers to contact businesses and legislators to encourage endorsement and passage. For those interested in helping with this initiative please contact Ken Brunson, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Ave, Pratt, KS 67124-8174, 316-672-5911 or e-mail at uskanztn@ibmmail.com.

No Birding Roundup this issue!

You will notice by its absence that there is no birding roundup this issue. The birding roundup is undergoing a couple of changes. Instead of covering quarterly periods we are converting over to cover the same periods as the Audubon *Field Notes* cover. The winter period (December to February) will be in the June issue, spring (March to May) in September, summer (June & July) in December and fall (August to November) in the March issue. This seems to be periods standardly used by many birders to designate the birding seasons PLUS it will give the two people responsible for the Roundup, Scott and Chuck, more time to get it written and proofed. The late spring roundup (April/May) as well as the summer roundup will both be in the December issue. Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Cyber-birding Update

I stumbled across a great World Wide Web sight the other day: www.petersononline.com. The sight had been worked on for months and just coincidentally came on line a few weeks after Mr. Peterson's passing. Grant yourself lot's of time to look around. There's lot's of information and good links to other birding sights.

For those of you not on KS_BIRDSL you need to drop me a note so we can get you added. This Kansas birding discussion group has recently grown in size and activity with recent discussions on what's moving through everyone's backyards, what to be looking for and county record databases. Drop me a note at otte@jc.net to join the fun!



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1996

Vol. 23, No. 2

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

If it wasn't for time on Breeding Bird Survey routes and KBBAT blocks I don't know if I'd be doing any birding this summer. Of course by the time I get through with Breeding Bird Survey Routes and KBBAT blocks I don't think I have time left for anything else like painting the house!

Seriously though we're on the last leg of this 5 year KBBAT journey. I've visited with several of you who, like myself, have been trying to squeeze in a couple more hours to finish up your blocks. I guess now we'll just have to wait and see if Dr. Zimmerman thinks we need a mop up year to pick up the loose ends. I know I have had a lot of fun and even picked up a life bird or two, the most recent of which was Henslow's Sparrow in a block in Dickinson County. I know I should have had them before, living in the Flint Hills like I do, but you know the old story, "just never in the right place at the right time!"

We have another big challenge ahead of us even before KBBAT is finished. The 1997 Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) is being held in Manhattan, Kansas in late April 1997. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the KOS Spring 1997 meeting. This will be a bit of a change because there will be a fair number of papers sessions in which KOS members will be welcome to participate. You'll be seeing more information on this meeting in the near future and probably hear quite a bit about it at the Fall Meeting in October.

In the meantime though, many of you may be getting calls from those of us on the local committee asking for help. I'll be needing some volunteers to help lead field trips in both the Manhattan / Junction City area as well as trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and/or Quivira. There will be WOS members from all over the country coming to this meeting and we have a great opportunity to really show off our bird watching opportunities. But this will require a little extra effort and assistance from a lot of KOS members. When asked to help please "get

involved" and even volunteer to help before you are asked! We know we have great birding here in Kansas, now we can show that to many others!

As I write this in the early summer "doldrums", visions of migrating shorebirds in July and August dance through my head. I keep hoping that the wet areas created by the early June rains stick around to attract some of those southbound migrants. I also know that October and the Fall Meeting are just around the corner and we'll be getting ready to do the 1996 Christmas Bird Counts before long!

Have a good summer everyone.....

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1996

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395 Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Business Manager, (acting) Galen Pittman, 12042 258th St.,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Have you renewed your KOS membership yet? If not, then this is the last *Horned Lark* and *Bulletin* that you will receive! In fact, you are getting an extra issue since the editor forgot to run this notice in the March issue. Pay up soon or you will not receive the September issues. Renewals can be sent to KOS Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, see front page for Gregg's address. Dues are \$15 for regular membership, \$20 for regular family, \$25 for sustaining member, \$30 for sustaining family and \$40 or more for contributing member. Student memberships \$5 per year and all foreign memberships are an extra \$5, US currency. Don't miss another exciting issue, renew today. Aren't sure if you have already "expired"? Fish the mailer out of the trash and check your name label, the expiration date should be there! As I was putting together the membership directory I noticed about 65 of you that still had 1995 expiration dates! Let's get this taken care of!!!!

Don't Miss.....

- * Early-bird (sorry!) Fall Meeting registration.
- * Preliminary Call for Papers for Fall Meeting.
- * Elmer needs your feedback!
- * The Birds Nest

Keep in Mind

- * The Spring KOS meeting will be in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society Annual Meeting in Manhattan, KS in April 1997. We will need many volunteers. Details in the September *Horned Lark* or contact John Zimmerman or Chuck Otte for information now!
- * Deadline for September *Horned Lark*

August 15th!

KOS Fall Meeting October 4, 5 & 6, 1996

KBBAT SPECIAL BLOCKS AT CHEYENNE BOTTOMS

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project (KBBAT) has three special blocks covering portions of Cheyenne Bottoms and is soliciting your observations of breeding birds at the Bottoms (1992 - present). Ed Martinez (316-792-2062) is compiling two of these blocks. Please contact Ed about bird observations. For maps of the blocks and other information, please contact Bill Busby (913-864-7692; email w-busby@ukans.edu). If KBBAT needs another field season in 1997 to mop up standard blocks, we will continue observations in Cheyenne Bottoms blocks next year as well.

Bill Busby

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have had several new members join our ranks since the last newsletter.

John Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Topeka: Deb Rumsey, Manhattan; Roger Applegate, Emporia; Terrell & Nelda Giddens and family, Elkhart; Doug & Mary Ellen Rudick, Salina; and Mandy Stone, Olathe. We would also like to welcome back Paul Watson of Prairie Village who was out for a year and missed KOS so much he had to come back! A big welcome to all these members and we hope we get to see you at the Fall Meeting!

NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY

The updated membership directory is out. Check your listing and if it isn't correct or incomplete (missing phone number, you didn't send us your e-mail address or whatever) let Chuck Otte know so that we can get it corrected in our records. Also, if you would like a big print version let me (Chuck) know and I will be happy to oblige.

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BIRDING AT NIGHT

John Rakestraw

Going birding after dark can be an intimidating endeavor. Can I actually see anything or do I just concentrate on bird sounds? Do I need a tape player? A flashlight? Should I drive or walk? And most importantly, why should I go birding at night in the first place? The answers to these questions depend on what type of night time birding experience you want to have.

The most obvious reason for going birding after dark is to find those birds that are most active at night. These include the owls, rails, and nightjars. If you bird long enough, you will eventually see all these species during the day. But even though you may not get as good a look at these birds at night, it is worth it to be able to experience them when they are active.

The simplest form of nocturnal birding is to simply stand in one place and listen. Drive to a "birdy looking" area, turn off the engine and just listen. Many nocturnal birds have very distinctive calls, making identification fairly easy. Diurnal species can also be heard at night. Migrating birds often call out to keep track of each other in the darkness. It is certainly easier to recognize the call of a Whip-poor-will than it is to recognize the little chips and chirps of a migrating songbird. But with practice, even chip notes can become recognizable.

Owls, nightjars, and rails will respond to recordings of their calls, but tapes should be used sparingly. While provoking a bird into calling once or twice should not cause any harm, repeated harassment can cause stress which may adversely affect the bird's feeding or nesting success.

Can you count a bird on your life list if you hear it but don't actually see it? That debate has been raging for years. Many birds that we see, most notably flycatchers, meadowlarks, and some sparrows, are actually identified by sound anyway. Some birders designate birds as "heard only" on their lists. In the end, how you list your birds is your own decision.

It is possible to actually see birds at night. Once your eyes adjust to the dark (this takes about 20 minutes for adult eyes) you may be surprised by how well you can see. You will find that colors are not discernible in very low light. You will also notice that if you look directly at an object, that object seems to disappear. This is because the cones (the cells that distinguish color) are concentrated in the center of the retina. The rods (the cells that detect low light levels) are more numerous around the edges. So if you look just off to the side of an object, that object will be more visible than if you stare directly at it.

A full moon provides plenty of light to see by, but this extra light sometimes keeps shy birds from coming out into the open.

Using a flashlight, or car headlights, will enable you to see whatever is in the light beam. But using a bright light will ruin your night vision, forcing your eyes to adjust to the darkness all over again once you turn out the light. Shining a light into the eyes of a bird can't do the bird's night vision any good, either. To maintain your night vision, don't turn on your flashlight unless it is an emergency. If you want to shine a little light on a bird, cover the light source with a red lens or red cellophane. Red light provides some illumination but doesn't affect your night vision.

Don't put your binoculars away when the sun goes down. Optical equipment concentrates available light and can be very useful for seeing birds in low light conditions.

If you plan to walk around after dark, it is important that you scout out the area during daylight. If you are familiar with them, hiking trails and dirt roads are easily walked at night. Wear stout shoes or boots to protect yourself from rocks, tree roots, or any slithery creatures that might be lying in your path. Long sleeves and long pants are required protection from mosquitoes and unseen branches.

Birding at night may seem a little intimidating at first. But a nocturnal outing provides opportunities to enjoy several species of birds that are very difficult to locate during the day. The ear training involved in night birding will benefit you during the day as well. You will also find many other wildlife species active at night. So let your eyes adjust, find a familiar trail, and see what's out there.

HELP WANTED !!

Do you like birds and birding? Do you like to write? Have you ever read the *Horned Lark* and thought, "I could write something like that?!" Well, you're probably right! We are always looking for more material for the *Horned Lark*. If you have a one time article you'd like to write up or an idea for an ongoing series write it up, send it to the *Horned Lark* Editor, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 (otte@jc.net) and you may see your name in print very soon!

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SPRING FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS - TRIP LIST

Approximately 35 people attended the Spring 1996 Kansas Ornithological Society Field Trip in Morton County, Kansas on May 4 & 5. The trip was a rousing success, with a whopping 175 species (176 taxa) recorded in Morton County, and an additional 8 species recorded by those who made a Saturday excursion into adjacent Baca County Colorado and Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Energies were focused on the shelter belt north of the cemetery and the sewage treatment ponds in Elkhart, and on Middle Springs and Point-of-Rocks in the Cimarron National Grasslands. A number of folks visited the Lesser Prairie Chicken leks to watch the booming activity. A number of unusual species were recorded, including one new to the state that will have to be documented for approval by the Kansas Bird Records Committee: Gray Vireo. Other species that should be written up by those who observed them included: Clark's Grebe, Snowy Plover, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Virginia's Warbler, and Black-throated Sparrow

An unusual specimen record for the county was discovered when the head of a Western Grebe was found on the edge of the sewage ponds (the remains of a Peregrine's lunch?). Because of all the migrant action, there was comparatively little attention focused on the riparian habitat along the Cimarron River, with the result that some resident species like the Ladder-backed Woodpecker, were not observed - thus the list, as large as it is, is certainly not as high as it might have been. Lots of indications of resident bird breeding activities, with displaying Cassin's Sparrows, mating Horned Larks, and a Ferruginous Hawk on her nest. Altogether, a great weekend for birders and birding. Here's the list:

Species from Morton County, Kansas:

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, American Coot, Lesser Golden Plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Mountain Plover, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Common Poor-will, Chimney Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Lewis' Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Chihuahuan Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Gray Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee, Canyon Towhee, Cassin's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tail Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Additional species from OK/CO: Golden Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Canyon Wren, Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco

Thanks to Tom Shane, John Rakestraw, and Lawrence & Ruth Smith for serving as leaders, and to Terrell and Nelda Giddins of Elkhart for their kindness.

Roy Beckemeyer

KANSAS NON-GAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY TASK FORCE

A Request for Information

The national and state endangered species acts have had numerous success stories during the years of their existence. The Bald Eagle, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon are 3 species that come to mind as having been brought back to a much stronger chance of survival thanks in part to the endangered species act.

Over the past several years at both the state and national level these endangered species acts have been under fire. In the 1996 Kansas Legislature there were substantial changes recommended for the Kansas Endangered Species Act (ESA). Many of us feel that these changes would have significantly limited the scope and protective nature of the Kansas ESA. Virtually at the last minute though a substitute bill was introduced and passed that established a task force for 1 year to evaluate the Kansas ESA.

The directive for this task force, as stated in the senate bill, is, "It shall be the duty of the task force to review the provisions of the nongame and endangered species conservation act, giving particular attention to the practices and procedures involved in determining whether any species of wildlife indigenous to the state is a threatened or endangered species in this state, the task force shall make recommendations emphasizing voluntary compliance with the nongame and endangered species conservation act and shall make a report and recommendations thereon to the chairperson, vice-chairperson and ranking minority member of the standing committees on energy and natural resources

of the senate and the house of representatives, on or before the first day of the 1997 regular session of the legislature."

The senate bill also specifies who and what groups will be represented on the 17 member task force. The Kansas Ornithological Society is to have a representative on this task force. KOS President, Mike Rader, has asked Elmer Finck to represent us and Elmer has agreed to do so. HOWEVER, Elmer wants your input and he needs it in a hurry!

Elmer has requested that members let him know their major concerns relative to the Kansas Endangered Species Act as it relates to birds. He needs your comments before **July 22nd**, so that he can get everything in order before the task force's first meeting on July 26th. You can write, telephone, fax or e-mail Elmer at the following:

Elmer Finck
Associate Professor, Division of Biology
Box 4050, Emporia State University
Emporia, Kansas, 66801-5623
phone (316) 341-5623
fax (316) 341-5997
finckelm@esumail.emporia.edu

This is an important issue so please let Elmer know your thoughts and concerns.

HELP WANTED !! BUSINESS MANAGER NEEDED!

Galen Pittman has graciously agreed to step back into his former role for a few months as Business Manager and we want to extend to him our **deepest** appreciation. But he specified that this was only temporary. We need a full time Business Manager to take over as soon as possible.

Business Manager is a rather diversified job. As the KOS Business Manager you would be responsible for getting the newsletter copied and mailed out after the editor sends it to you all completed as well as the mailing of *The Bulletin* (so some basic knowledge of bulk mailing may be helpful but not necessary). You would also keep all the inventories of

the Society's for sale items such as checklists, clothing, window decals, etc.

I'm sure that there is more that I am forgetting or just don't know about. If you are interested, or know someone that is interested, you need to contact Galen Pittman. Galen will be able to give you the complete job description and be able to answer your questions for you. Galen's phone number is (913) 842-7105. His address is on the front page of the newsletter.

Help the Society grow, get involved!

GET INVOLVED

by Chuck Otte, Editor, *The Horned Lark*

The following editorial is the opinion of the editor and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Kansas Ornithological Society Officers, Board of Directors or its members. The editor is solely responsible for the opinions expressed in this editorial.

[About once a year I decide I need to speak out about something and I invoke editor privilege and write a true editorial in addition to my chatty "from the keyboard" that I like to start each Horned Lark. Indulge me, read on and know that it'll be another year, or more, before I impose my opinion on you again.]

How many times have you heard the expression that if you want to get something done ask a busy person to do it because then you know it will get done? It is unfortunately true! Time and time again I see or am involved with a group where it seems like 10% of the membership is doing 90% of the work. If that 10% burns out and leaves, then the group can quickly degenerate in to a wallowing mass of un-led followers. At this point new leaders either step in or the group dissolves and ceases to be. This is not a lead in to get a bunch of you on committees or the board or anything like that, although I do tend to see a lot of the same faces and hear the same names over and over again. This is a comment about life in general.

There are many opportunities around each of us everyday regardless of our interests and abilities. We don't have to be editors or hotline compilers or board members of KOS. We can do simple little things like show up at a spring or fall meeting. Participate in a Christmas Bird Count or a North American Migration Count or help finish up a KBBAT block. Or maybe it's time to take another step and start getting involved in the community to help others learn a little bit more about your hobby.

Volunteer at a nursing home to help put up a bird feeder where the residents can watch it and then arrange for it to be filled on a regular basis. Take a school group for a nature walk. Never led a walk before? The best way to learn something is to teach it and even though you may think your bird/nature knowledge is limited I'll guarantee you've plenty of knowledge to share with that class. Take on a challenge and set up a nature walk/trip with a class or group of sight or hearing impaired students or adults. I'm still working to take a vision impaired group birding. You may learn as much about using some of your other senses from these groups as they learn about birds from you!

Environmental issues continue to be of vital interest not only to our feathered friends but to each of us in every day life. The birds as well as the wildlife and the ecosystems are the barometer or the early warning system to human health and quality of life. Try as many humans do we are part of

the ecosystem, and we can not separate ourselves from it. The miners of yore take the canary into the mine because they knew that if the canary wasn't doing well they needed to get out of the mine for their own safety! How many canaries have already died and we haven't even noticed? Get involved with environmental issues not only at the federal and state level but at the local level also. Attend meetings of your local planning commission and board of zoning appeals. Let them know that someone is out there watching out and speaking up for the environment and it isn't a batch of east or west coast activists it's their neighbors. I know that most of you have opinions about these issues, because many of you have shared them with me. Now share those opinions with decision makers from your county seat to Washington, D.C. And start by reading the notice from Elmer Finck and give Elmer a call and a piece of your mind!

My bottom line message is get involved. It becomes all too easy to take and take and take. The television, the newspapers, the magazines are all willing to give, give, give as long as you are willing to take it up. There comes a point, though, when you have to start giving back and giving back something with a lot more substance than what is usually coming off the television, the movie screen, and the other popular media. And that also usually involved a little sweat equity from you and maybe a little less time to do what YOU want to do. But you will probably find that the old adage "you get back more than what you put in" is quite true.

It's also okay to ask for help, to say no when you feel that it is somebody else's turn, or to even fail sometimes. If you fail it means that you are at least trying and that is more than the other 90% can say.

Think what a difference it would make if the 400+ members of the KOS all tackled one new project in 1996 for KOS or their community or church or school or whatever. 400+ projects that may not have gotten done without YOU. If we could each help 1 or 3 or 5 school students or law makers or neighbors understand the natural world around them (and us) a little better, think what a multiplier effect this could have and what a better world we could live in.

Think what a difference it would make. Just because you took a little bit of your time and energy to get involved!

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING

February 3, 1996

Room R-14

Salina Vocational-Technical School

Salina

Members present: Gregg Friesen, Max Thompson, Shannon Rayl, Mike Rader, Dwight Platt, Bob Gress, Roy Beckemeyer, Margaret Wedge.

President Mike Rader opened the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Fall Board Meeting were read by Dwight Platt. Mike Rader asked for corrections or additions. Max Thompson moved to approve the minutes. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gregg Friesen provided a 1995 Treasurer's Report (see attachment A). He pointed out that the accounts had not yet been audited. He reported that there had been an increase in total assets of approximately \$6000 during the year. Margaret Wedge made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Wedge reported a total of 411 members as of February 1 (see attachment B).

KOS LIBRARIAN: Mike Rader has been working to appoint a Librarian. Our records need to be collected and we need to try to set up our archives at the Museum of Natural History in Lawrence. The new Librarian should probably have a contact with the Museum.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Dawn Sharp has not sent a report. She has been ill and has not been able to get the KOS mailings done. Dawn has done a good job but we probably need to get a new Business Manager.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: The September and December Bulletins are completed and in the hands of the Business Manager. The March Bulletin is just about done. Max has the material for the June Bulletin.

COUNTY BIRD LISTS: The Meade County and Shawnee County bird lists are in process and being published by KOS. Pete Janzen wants to do a list and guide for Sedgwick county. KOS would be willing to consider publishing it.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: The December newsletter has been sent to the Business Manager. The March newsletter deadline will be March 1.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: Bob Gress made a motion to approve the officers' reports. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: The Kansas Bird Records committee has nominated Roger Boyd, Galen Pittman and Dave Rintoul for election to the committee. Gregg Friesen moved to approve the nominations of the Kansas Bird Records committee. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Max Thompson reported that the committee met at Lawrence last weekend. The Kansas bird list has been brought up to date and there are 432 species on the list. The committee decided to go ahead and publish a new edition of the Kansas list now and not wait for the AOU checklist.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: A workshop on warbler identification will be held at the University of Kansas on the first or second weekend of April to raise funds for the K.U. Student Research Fund.

STANDING COMMITTEES: Mike Rader has appointed the following chairs of standing committees:

Membership Committee: Joanne Brier

Conservation Committee: David Rintoul

Publicity Committee: Chris Hobbs

A chair has not been appointed yet for the Dingus Natural Area Committee.

AUDITING COMMITTEE: The audit has not occurred yet but will occur soon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The "Fit at Fifty" campaign is in progress. We need to raise \$5000 per year to reach the goal. We need to continue to publicize it in the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE: A new membership brochure is being published. It will have the dues structure but will have a space in which to stamp the address for the Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: We will wait to publish a new membership directory until the membership list has been purged of those who haven't paid this year's dues by March.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PINS: We need to purchase more life membership pins but no one knew the source for ordering them.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting 1996 will be in Morton county on May 4-6. Larry Smith will make arrangements.

The Fall Meeting 1996 will be in Hesston/North Newton on October 4-6. Dwight Platt will be local arrangements chair.

The Spring Meeting 1997 will be a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society at Kansas State University in Manhattan on April 24-27, KOS members will be asked to help lead field trips.

The Fall Meeting 1997 will be at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita on October 3-5.

It was suggested that we should encourage non-members to attend the meetings. The Publicity chair should be encouraged to put announcements of meetings in the newsletters of other organizations.

OSPREY INTRODUCTION: Bob Gress reported that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was attempting to introduce Ospreys in the El Dorado area this year. Since there are no historical records of Ospreys having nested in Kansas, he questioned the reason for doing it.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight R. Platt
Corresponding Secretary

1996 FALL KOS ANNUAL MEETING

October 4, 5 and 6, 1996

North Newton & Hesston, Kansas

Registration forms, hotel information, preliminary call for papers are all at the back of this newsletter. Don't let time slip away! Send in your registration today!

KOS SPRING BOARD MEETING

*May 4, 1996
Elkhart, Kansas*

Members present: Mike Rader, Gregg Friesen, Margaret Wedge, Roy Beckemeyer, Bill Busby, Galen Pittman.

President Mike Rader called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Mike Rader reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Dawn Sharp as KOS Business Manager. He appointed Galen Pittman to serve in her place until the next general election.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: A membership directory is due out soon.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE: A new membership brochure is also in the works.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mike Rader appointed Roy Beckemeyer as Nominating Committee Chair.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Rader presented the 1995 KOS Treasurer's Audit Report. Galen Pittman moved that the Board accept the report. Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Gregg Friesen reported on the Student Research Fund and suggested that endowment money in the fund needed to be replaced with money that is accessible. He moved that life membership money in the Student Research Fund be transferred to the Endowment Fund and remain restricted such that only the interest from it is spendable through the general fund and an equal amount of money from the Endowment Fund (which originated from Garden City Auction funds) be transferred to the Student Research Fund where it can be used for student research money. Bill Busby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT: Bill Busby reported on possible KOS involvement with Partners in Flight's Southern Great Plains regional committee. A Southern Great Plains group meeting is scheduled for May 7, 1996, in Manhattan. He encouraged KOS to participate.

NON-GAME WILDLIFE: Bill Busby also reported on a national effort that was currently underway to raise money for non-game wildlife with a tax on the sale of outdoor recreation equipment. Organizations and their members are encouraged to write businesses in support of the concept. It was decided that Bill Busby on behalf of KOS should send a letter to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in support of the concept and that an article appear in the KOS Newsletter.

REQUEST FOR KOS ADDRESS LIST:

Wilson Ornithological Society needs a set of labels of KOS members for the announcement of our joint meeting in Manhattan in Spring 1997. A set will be sent.

FALL MEETING: The Fall Meeting is in Hesston/North Newton.

ENDOWMENT FUND:

The Finance Committee will present recommendations for investment vehicles for the Endowment Fund at the Fall KOS Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Pittman
Acting Secretary

WINTER ROUNDUP / January - March, 1996 / by Chuck Otte

When reviewing the bird/birding activity for any time period it becomes fairly simple to determine how active the birding was or at least how many uncommon birds were being reported. The more days between Rare Bird Alert (RBA) updates the fewer the rarities being reported. January appeared to be slow and February slower. Many of the normal mid-late winter returning species were later than normal.

Killdeer arrivals noted on February 25 in both Wyandotte and Geary counties were later than recent years. Their arrival in Pawnee County on March 12 was 6 days later than any other spring arrival date for the last 20 years according to Seltman. Yet other species arrived on time or even early. Great Egrets and Greater Yellowlegs arrived in Sedgwick county on record or near record early dates.

Ross' Geese are being reported more often now days probably due in a great part to the increased diligence of Kansas birdwatchers. The mention of Ross' Geese on the RBA and the Roundup may become less frequent as has happened with both Common Loons and Osprey. It often becomes difficult to separate a real increase of bird populations in an area from increased birdwatching activity, i.e., is the bird becoming more common or are birdwatchers spending more time birding? Regardless, as we spend more time in the field and record and report what we see we will develop a much better understanding of bird populations and distribution in Kansas.

Of interest to me is how weather and natural "catastrophes" affect bird populations and /or location. In late February huge wildfires moved from Oklahoma into Kansas burning thousands of acres in Barber County. In recent years Barber County has been known for its good numbers of wintering Mountain Bluebirds. On February 22, a day or two after these fires, Seltman noted large numbers of Mountain Bluebirds in Pawnee and Rush County, possibly birds displaced by fires in Barber County and other southern Kansas locations.

Those who spent the time braving the Kansas winter were often treated to good gulls at the various reservoirs in the state. Also to be found this winter were both Northern Shrikes and Common Redpolls. The Northern Shrikes were again in "the usual places" in roughly the northwestern half of the state. Reviewing past roundups it looks like the last time there were numerous Common Redpoll reports was the winter of 91/92. Most of these reports were from the central part of the state with Geary County being the eastern most report. Good redpoll reports from mid-January to early March this year were all from the eastern 1/3 of the state with Geary County being the western most report.

Finally a few comments about the Birding Roundup and a request (plea?!) for your assistance. The following table probably takes more time to prepare than all the rest of this newsletter. Scott Seltman gathers all the reports off the RBA hotline and updates the tape as conditions warrant. I record these updates and attempt to transcribe them verbatim. These transcriptions then get posted on the Internet (where they are available to anyone with an Internet e-mail address - contact me on how to obtain them) and from those transcripts I prepare the rough draft of the highlights. Scott then proofs the draft catching all (or at least most) of my errors, fills in the gaps in names and dates, and adds reports that may have been noteworthy but didn't make the tape. Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated. Keep calling in your reports, please! If you are not a "regular" caller or have an uncommon name (like Otte) that can be easily misspelled, please spell your last name and give as many details as possible especially county location. It seems like some of the best birding hot spots are on county lines. Milford, Cheney and Wilson reservoirs all come immediately to mind as being on county lines and county locations are not always obvious to Scott and myself. (By the way, are the Reading Sewer Ponds in Osage or Lyon County?).

Please also keep in mind that while we (Scott and Chuck) strive to make this report as accurate as possible it **is not** an official report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). A report called in to the hotline or sent to me may well show up in the Birding Highlights but it will not be acted upon by the KBRC. There has been more than one record show up in the highlights that was not accepted by the KBRC. The Birding Highlights is meant to be simply a record of what has been reported to the Kansas RBA Hotline and to Scott and myself personally. The informal - a little bit for fun - record. For official action please obtain the KBRC report form (found in back issues - including January 1996 - of *The Horned Lark*, or from Galen Pittman or from myself - yes it is available in WordPerfect format) fill it out and mail it to Galen Pittman, 12042 258th St, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The official reports and action by the KBRC are published regularly in *The Bulletin*.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation and of course all your good sightings. None of the following sightings are "official" until acted upon by the KBRC. Thanks to Scott for taking time out of his busy work and family time to keep the hotline updated and for proofing the Highlights table!

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / January 1996 through March 1996

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
American White Pelican	2 at Wilson Lake	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Great Egret	record early arrival for Wichita area	JN	3-12-96	Sedgwick
Tundra Swan	1 imm at Hillsdale Lake	??	1-01-96	Miami
Tundra Swan	3 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
	apparently still present	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Trumpeter Swan	1 at pond near Executive Park Airport	??	1-12-96	Johnson
Trumpeter Swan	near Hillsdale Res, orange neck collar	DA	2-17-96	Miami
	This bird was seen sporadically at Hillsdale. The orange neck collar indicates that it was released in Minnesota			
Greater White-fronted Goose	20,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Snow Goose x White-fronted Goose	apparent hybrid at Winfield City L.	MT	1-06-96	Cowley
Ross' Goose	2 at LaCygne cooling lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
Ross' Goose	1 at Twin Lakes, Wichita	PJ	1-13-96	Sedgwick
Ross' Goose	2 below Milford Reservoir Dam	CO	2-10-96	Gearly
Ross' Goose	5 at Reading Sewer Ponds	LM,GP	2-18-96	Osage
Ross' Goose	35 at QNWR	MR	3-03-96	Stafford
Brant	1 light phase at Dillon Nature Center	BK	1-25-96	Reno
	seen again at Carey Park		2-04-96	
American Black Duck	2 at LaCygne cooling lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
American Black Duck	2 below Melvern Reservoir Dam	DG	2-17-96	Osage
	at Marsh of the Swans			
Northern Pintail	5,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	pair at QNWR	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	1 m in Ft. Riley Wetlands	JK	3-25-96	Riley
Greater Scaup	several at Harvey Co. East L.	RD,GF	2-10/11-96	Harvey
Greater Scaup	3 at QNWR	MR	3-03-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 w of Clay Center	DG	3-20-96	Clay
Oldsquaw	1 f. at Wichita sandpit	PJ,DV,ML	1-20-96	Sedgwick
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 f. at Wichita sandpit	PJ,JN,CG	1-21-96	Sedgwick
Common Merganser	6300 at Wilson Res.	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Common Merganser	10,000 at Melvern Reservoir	LM	2-18-96	Osage
Turkey Vulture	early arrival (in very cold weather)	DW	3-05-96	Douglas
Merlin	2 north of Wakefield	CO	2-24-96	Clay
Merlin	1 below Tuttle Creek Dam	DG	3-20-96	Pottawatomie
Gyr Falcon	1 brown phase over Tuttle Creek Res.	TC	3-31-96	Riley/Pott
Prairie Falcon	1 at RML	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
Sandhill Crane	20,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	very early arrival e. of Cheney Res.	PJ,JN,RD	2-18-96	Sedgwick
Bonaparte's Gull	several at LaCygne Lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
California Gull	1 ad at Lake Afton	PJ	1-14-96	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 at Wilson Res.	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Thayer's Gull	1 at Cheney Res	PJ,JN,RD	2-18-96	Reno
Thayer's Gull	2nd win bird near Melvern Dam	JEZ, BF	2-18-96	Osage
Thayer's Gull	1st win bird at Clinton Res.	LM,GP	2-18-96	Douglas
Thayer's Gull	1st win bird at Milford Res	JO,CO	3-10-96	Gearly
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 ad at Winfield City Lake	MT	2-08-96	Cowley
Glaucous Gull	1 at Winfield City Lake	MT	1-06-96	Cowley
Glaucous Gull	1 at Cessna L. Wichita	JN	1-14-96	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	2 at Wichita Sandpit	PJ,DV,ML	1-20-96	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	1 first win at Melvern Dam	JEZ,BF	2-18-96	Osage
Glaucous Gull	1 at Clinton Lake Marina	AP	2-17-96	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1 at W. Rolling Hills, Milford Res	JO,CO	2-25-96	Gearly
Great Black-backed Gull	1st winter at Cessna L. Wichita	JN	1-14-96	Sedgwick
	seen again		1-25-96	

Forster's Tern	5 early at MDC	AS		3-21-96	Linn
Inca Dove	at Garden City feeder	SSh, TSh		2-3&4-96	Finney
	another one or same one at the Shane's feeder			3-2&3-96	
Greater Roadrunner	1 at Sun City	LB		1-14-96	Barber
Snowy Owl	male near Shallow Water	m.ob.	last seen	1-01-96	Scott
Long-eared Owl	several at Milford Res	MS,CO		1-15-96	Geary
Long-eared Owl	south shore Lyon Co. State Lake	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Short-eared Owl	6 at RML	GP,MM		1-06-96	Linn
Short-eared Owl	south shore Lyon Co. State Lake	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Pileated Woodpecker	1 nw of normal range, Sante Fe Lake	BP		1-05-96	Butler
Pileated Woodpecker	1 far nw at Sandhill SP, Hutchinson	JR		3-13-96	Reno
Eastern Phoebe	early arrival (in very cold weather)	DW		3-05-96	Douglas
Tree Swallow	3 at Perry Lake's Kyle Marsh	DG		3-16-96	Jefferson
Mountain Chickadee	1 in Garden City	MO		3-04-96	Finney
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Wyandotte County Lake	MC		1-03-96	Wyandotte
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at Davis Farm	JD		2-18-96	Haskell
Northern Shrike	1 on w side of Tuttle Creek Res	TC		1-17-96	Riley
			seen through	1-28-96	
Northern Shrike	4 at Wilson Res	MR		1-17-96	Russell
Northern Shrike	1 ad nw of Larned	SS		3-11-96	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 ad at QNWR	AS		3-11-96	Stafford
Northern Shrike	at QNWR	MR		3-17-96	Stafford
Northern Shrike	10 miles se of Kinsley	PJ		3-25-96	Edwards
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	CH		1-04-96	Wyandotte
Vesper Sparrow	early arrival at QNWR	JN,CG		3-16-96	Stafford
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 ad. at Marais des Cygnes	MM		1-01-96	Linn
Smith's Longspur	200 in field south of Lyon Co State L	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Chestnut-collared Longspur	200 near Garfield	PJ		3-25-96	Pawnee
Rusty Blackbird	small flock at MDC	MM,GP		3-16-96	Linn
Common Redpoll	5 at W. Rolling Hills, Milford Lake	MS,CO		1-15-96	Geary
Common Redpoll	7 coming to rural Topeka feeder	KDB		early Feb.	Shawnee
			through	2-15-96	
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder near Elmont	BM		2-06-96	Pottawatomie
Common Redpoll	flock coming to feeder in Topeka	JoB		3-02-96	Shawnee

Key to abbreviations used in Birding Highlights

ad. = adult

Co. = County

e = east

f. = female

imm = immature

L = Lake

m. = male

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

nw = northwest

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res. = Reservoir

RML = Reclaimed Mine Lands of LaCygne Lake

SP = State Park

w = west

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Don Arney (DA), Joyce Baughmet (JoB), Leann Brunson (LB), David Bryan (DB), Ken & Diane Busey (KDB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Joyce Davis (JD), Robert Dester (RD), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Dan Gish (DG), Chet Gresham (CG), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chris Hobbs (CH), Jeff Keating (JK), Bent Konen (BK), Mike Lesan (ML), Brandon Magett (BM), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Galen Pittman (GP), Alexi Powell (AP), Mike Pulliam (MP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Scott Seltman (SS), Mike Stewart (MS), Art Swalwell (AS), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Mike Whited (MW), Dave Williams (DW), James & Ellen Zellmer (JEZ)

Cyber-Birding Update

by Chuck Otte

From time to time I like to bring you updates from the world of cyber-birding. For those of you without computers cyber-birding is birdwatching related activities that revolve around computers and the Internet.

Just about every week I receive an e-mail message from another KOS member that has just gotten their computer hooked up to the internet and received an electronic mail address. The just updated membership directory has a partial listing towards the back of e-mail addresses that we were aware of. As you come "on-line" please drop me a note at otte@jc.net and let me know your address so we can add you to the list.

I am actively involved with a project call the National Birding Hotline Cooperative (NBHC) or BirdChat. NBHC is a collection of computer discussion groups/lists that focus

on bird issues and Rare Bird Alerts. It is open to anyone with an e-mail address and I regularly see KOS members in the discussions. If you would like more information drop me an e-mail message and I'll tell you how to subscribe.

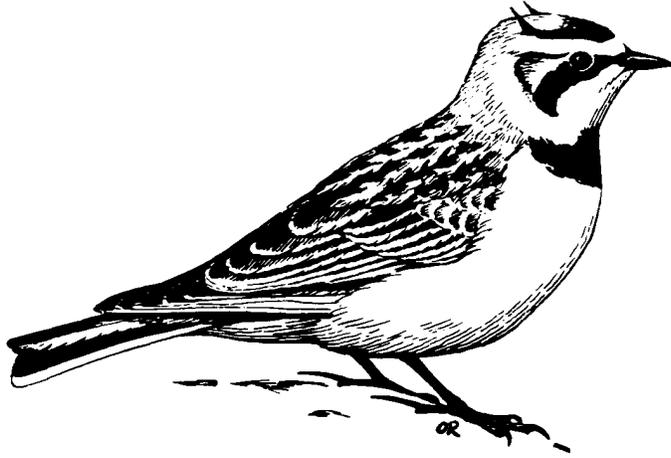
Here in Kansas a couple of us have also started the fledgling (sorry, I couldn't resist) discussion group called KS_BIRDS. Drop me a note and we'll get you added!

For those with World Wide Web (WWW) access here are a couple of "new" addresses you may want to check out:

Birding News and Classifieds <http://www.qedge.com/birds/>
Backyard Birdfeeder <http://www.sienna.com>
NBHC <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

We regret that the photograph is unavailable for the electronic version of this newsletter

The complete crew for the Syracuse Christmas Bird Count, January 13, 1996: (left to right) Barbara Campbell, Dan LaShelle, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Art Nonhoff (compiler) and Scott Seltman. *photo by Tom Shane*



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March 1996

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From The Keyboard -

Regardless of whether it's been one month or three it seems like I just barely get one Keyboard column written and here I am writing another one! In spite of old man winter refusing to go away quietly spring migration is quietly moving in upon us. Turkey Vultures and Eastern Phoebes are brave harbingers of the upcoming season.

The eternally ancient calls of the Sandhill Cranes are still echoing through my head from last weekends visit to the Platte River in Nebraska. This is one of the most spectacular sights, year end and year out that a birder can enjoy. We got out of Nebraska just ahead of a blizzard that killed many birds in Nebraska including several hundred Sandhill Cranes. My mother called the day after the severe blizzard to relate her gathering of over a dozen juncos, blackbirds and sparrows which were dead in her farmyard. Even the brave harbingers can get caught off guard. But spring is still assuredly inching its way north. If by no other proof, the days are getting longer.

There are several exciting items in this issue. The spring field trip information is contained within. Get your registrations sent in and more importantly get your reservations called in to Elkhart. For those who have birded Morton County before I'm sure you're itchy to get back. For those of you who have never birded Morton County before, let me offer you just one word of advice. GO! Pull out any past issue of the Horned Lark that contains the birding roundup for the month of May and check out the Morton County listings. If that doesn't get your birding blood simmering I don't know what will!

We are also offering a couple of excellent articles (and I didn't even write them!) Galen Pittman of the Bird

Records Committee shows us how the committee works and what happens on some documentations. Thanks to Galen for working this up and to Mick McHugh for his rejected (that's such a nasty word) record.

Lastly a great article from an Internet birder in Connecticut that discusses how do birds see color and motion and how can I use do a better job of birding. We spend hours reading and writing about optics and references, but how often do we think about what we wear and how we act while we are birding? I think you'll find this to be a fascinating article. Enjoy the whole issue, get your spring meeting reservations sent in and have a good birding spring!

- - chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1996

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395 Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KBBAT BLOCK BUSTER WEEKEND FOR NORTHWEST KANSAS

Sara Shane

We will work on a series of Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas (KBBAT) blocks in Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace Counties, Kansas July 5, 6 and 7, 1996. This effort should finish up the Northwest Kansas Region. The 4th of July can be used as a travel day for those living in eastern Kansas. We will meet in Goodland the night of the 4th, work the 5th, 6th and the morning of the 7th leaving the afternoon for people to drive home. There is always a chance for Mountain Plovers, Long-billed Curlews and Ferruginous Hawks. Stan Roth found breeding Violet-green Swallows a few years back in Wallace County. Sebastian Patti has already turned up a singing male MacGillivray's Warbler in one of the Cheyenne County blocks. Bill Busby informs me that the motel expense in Goodland will be covered. Please let me know if you plan to make the trip, so I can reserve the appropriate number of rooms. Thank you! Sara Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846. Phone # 316-275-4616.

Spring Meeting Information & Registration on page 12

Bird wild and wonderful Morton County, Cimarron Grasslands, Baca County Colorado or Black Mesa Oklahoma

May 4 & 5, 1996

***Make your reservations and send in
your registration today!***

The KOS will hold its Annual Fall Meeting October 4, 5, and 6, 1996 in Harvey County, Kansas on the campuses of Hesston and Bethel College. Mark these dates on your calendars and be sure to attend. Look for registration information in June and September Horned Larks.

AOU Checklist Changes

by Max Thompson

The July 1995 issue of the Auk was recently released and it did include these splits so they are now "official". All you serious listers (the editor included) can now update your lists! Some of the changes are as follows:

- American Swallow-tailed Kite becomes Swallow-tailed Kite
- Common Black-headed Gull becomes Black-headed Gull
- Gilded Flicker, *Colaptes chrysoides* is separated from Northern Flicker.
- Scrub Jay is split into three: Florida Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Island Scrub-Jay, *A. insularis*, and Western Scrub-Jay, *A. californica*.
- Gray-breasted Jay, becomes Mexican Jay
- Bicknell's Thrush, *Catharus bicknelli* is split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush, *C. minimus*.
- Rufous-sided Towhee is split into Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*, and Eastern Towhee, *P. erythrophthalmus*.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow is split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *A. nelsoni*.
- Northern Oriole becomes Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, Bullock's Oriole, *I. bullockii*, and Black-backed Oriole, *I. abeillei*.

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WHEN FAIR WEATHER TURNS FOWL

John Rakestraw

The old adage goes, "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it." While we can't change the weather, different weather conditions should change the way we approach our birding. The birds are always out there, but different weather conditions may alter their behavior and their choice of habitat.

RAIN

Birding in the rain may not be too pleasant, but a light rain can work to a birder's advantage. Songbirds will often forage closer to the ground in wet weather, taking advantage of cover. If the sun comes out after an extended period of rain, birds that have been inactive may go into a feeding frenzy. This makes the birds much more visible.

Light rain will usually not affect waterfowl and shorebirds, so look for them in their usual haunts.

WIND

Strong winds can create some very challenging conditions. Search areas that provide birds with shelter from the wind. In grassland habitats, seek out shelterbelts or brushy areas. In hilly terrain, songbirds will take cover on the leeward side of a hill, while raptors will take advantage of the updrafts on the upwind side.

Look for shorebirds on the upwind side of lakes and marshes. Strong winds will push the water back, creating mudflats.

Waterfowl will seek shelter in quiet coves or along the upwind shore.

Small fish will be concentrated on the downwind side of lakes, so search these areas for mergansers, gulls, and other fish eaters.

COLD & SNOW

Severe cold may convince you to stay inside, but it is not much of a problem for birds. Feathers provide excellent

insulation. A bird's main concern in cold weather is finding a consistent source of food. Look for fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, grain fields, and patches of sunflowers or other seed sources. If any of these food sources is next to cover, so much the better. Don't underestimate the productivity of the neighborhood bird feeders.

A fresh blanket of snow is very helpful if you are looking for larks, longspurs, or other ground-dwelling species. On bare ground, these birds are often invisible until they fly away. Snow cover makes it much easier for the birder to locate these birds from a distance.

MIGRATION AND WEATHER

Much has been written over the years about the weather's effect on bird migration. These studies make for some fascinating reading and birders can learn a lot from them. But remember: Birds do not go to graduate school and they do not watch The Weather Channel, so they may break the rules.

In general, birds will take advantage of weather systems that are moving in the same direction the birds want to go. In the spring, southerly winds and clear skies are great for migrating birds. But these conditions may cause the birds to fly right over Kansas, resulting in poor birding. If northbound birds encounter northerly winds, the birds are forced to slow their progress, giving birders a better chance at seeing the birds before they move on.

If migrating songbirds encounter rain or a strong cold front, large flocks may be forced to land wherever they may be. This is known as a 'fallout,' and can provide some of the most exciting birding of the season.

Fallouts are not always predictable. But if a cold front is expected to arrive in your area around dawn during spring migration, it may well be worth your while to be out in your favorite warbler woods that morning.

KBBAT BLOCKBUSTER WEEKEND - DICKINSON COUNTY

Chuck Otte

I've agreed to see to the completion of 4 KBBAT blocks in southern Dickinson County. I am planning to get these pretty well wrapped up, with your help, in late June. Anyone interested in helping the weekends of June 15 & 16 and/or June 22 & 23 please let me know! These should be 4 fun blocks and if we can get a total of 8 people together we should be able to get most of these 4 done in one weekend and may not even need the second. Contact me at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800 or e-mail at otte@jc.net. Additional work outside of these weekends by interested parties is of course acceptable. I run a Breeding Bird Survey route that goes through 2 of these blocks and there is some surprisingly good habitat here (it isn't all wheat fields!) Let me know if you are interested!

Letters to the Editor -

Do We Have a Useful KOS Checklist?

I have watched over thirty years the size of the KOS checklist get longer and larger, (in the earlier days we used the Baldwin Bird Club checklist.) It has not fit in a shirt pocket for ten years now. We have all had great fun looking for and adding new species to the list. There are many other field observations that need recording on our birding trips other than rare birds. The card has never been conducive to collecting much information about the day's sightings while in the field. The limited space for writing down numbers seen, locations, times, ages, and sexes is totally inadequate. I counted up the species presently on the checklist I have never used and came up with eighty.

I would propose that a list of 300 species with enough space to write in numbers observed along with other observations is all that is needed for collecting data on the birds of Kansas for the next and 21st century editions of *Birds in Kansas*. I can not see the use of publishing a list of 430 plus species compacted on a checklist card. That could be done on a sheet of 8.5 x 11 paper for a lot less money. A checklist or field card should be designed to collect information about our Kansas birds and not serve only to compete in the "who has the biggest state list" contest promoted by other bird organizations.

The list of birds I grew up with was Dr. Johnston's 1965, *A Directory to the Birds of Kansas*. If something is badly in need of updating, it is a list of birds of that size and of that content. The current *Birds in Kansas* by Thompson and Ely contains the information but is too big to take along with all the other birding gear of today. If all the latest information were condensed in an updated directory then a new birder would know what information is needed about a certain species. He would know if a species was rare in his part of the state and would be able to make more detailed observations and avoid having his birds repeatedly thrown out of the Christmas and other counts. He would know if the bird he was looking at had arrived two weeks early, or that the flock of 500 Brown Creepers was something worth taking careful notes about. I would ask the KOS Board to discuss the function of our checklist and maybe ask for additional input from other members before we spend a lot of money on a marginally functional checklist.

Respectfully,
Tom Shane

Response -

Tom brings up some excellent points that have been discussed all over the country by numerous state organizations, wildlife refuges, state and national parks,

virtually anyone who has a bird checklist. The ultimate questions comes down to what is the purpose of this checklist, how will people use it and how much information do we put in it?

The KOS checklist is a product of the Kansas Birds Record Committee (KBRC). I visited with their chair, Mick McHugh, about the checklist issue. There is in fact a brand new checklist about to come out! The KBRC feels that it is important to keep all the birds currently on the Kansas list (as accepted by the KBRC) on the KOS checklist. This is a problem confounded by splitting and lumping of species as has just happened with the recent changes to the American Ornithologist Union (AOU) checklist. The KBRC wants to keep moving forward with the times and feels that the best way to do this is by keeping the KOS checklist up to date and current with AOU names and recognized species and also by listing all accepted Kansas species. The new checklist will be a three fold style and based on what I've heard from other members of the KBRC should be a big improvement over the old list.

I empathize with Tom's concerns. To be right honest I seldom use the KOS checklist. I use a regional list but also create new lists of my own to use for Christmas counts, spring migration counts or whatever. Unfortunately many birders don't have the time and patience or resources to sit down at a typewriter or computer and generate new bird lists. For those who do have a computer (IBM compatible) I can provide the KOS list in many standard word processing formats. You can then do as I do and take this master list and construct the lists that you would like for your particular needs. We will never be able to create an "official" checklist to meet everyone's needs or that will even include all the species that some of us think should (or shouldn't) be there. But the KBRC and the KOS Board will keep listening and striving to meet as many of the needs of Kansas birders as possible. - Chuck Otte, Editor

Letters to the editor are always welcome and we look forward to your input on any and all KOS and Kansas bird matters.

New KOS Members -

We would like to welcome the following new KOS members who have joined our ranks since the last newsletter!

Patricia Mickler, Great Bend; Tyler Hicks, Mulvane; Lorna Harder, Hesston; Janice Conrad, Lawrence; Tish Shippey, Winfield; Hope Leighton, Boulder Colorado.

Once again welcome to these new members. We could always use new members because we all knew there are a lot of birdwatchers who are not KOS members. Visit with your regular birding buddies that are not KOS members and see if you can't get them to join or buy them a first year membership to get them started!

Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.
Statement of Assets at the Close of 1995

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	Beginning Balance		1,096.44	
	Receipts:			
	Contributions RBA	105.00		
	1995 carried forward	485.00		
	1995 Dues	3,605.00		
	Interest Earned	1,000.21		
	Meeting Overage			
	Spring	314.00		
	Fall	227.18		
	Sales: Checklists	29.70		
	Sales: Decals	4.00		
	Sales: Sweatshirts	84.00		
	Sales: T-shirts	43.00	5,897.09	
	Disbursements			
	Bank Charges	12.00		
	Corporation Fee	20.00		
	Expenses: Business Manager	248.96		
	Expenses: Kansas Bird Records Committee	170.71		
	Expenses: Membership Secretary	261.03		
	Expenses: President	76.53		
	Expenses: Rare Bird Alert	155.24		
	Bulletin Printing	1,691.69		
	Newsletter Printing	967.42	-3,603.58	
	Transfer			
	To: Business Manager Account	200.00	-200.00	
	Ending Balance			3,189.95
	Southwestern College Account Beginning Balance		18.57	
	No activity recorded during 1996			18.57
	Future Dues Beginning Balance		590.00	
	Receipts			
	1996 Dues	350.00		
	Disbursements			
	Transfer 1995 dues to General Fund	485.00	-485.00	
	Ending Balance			455.00
	KBBAT (Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project) Funds: Beginning Balance		333.00	
	Disbursements			
	KBBAT Expenses	120.61	-120.61	
	Ending Balance			212.39
	Business Manager Advance Beginning Balance		400.00	
	Transfer from General Fund	200.00	200.00	
	Disbursements:			
	Business Manager Expenses	206.59	-206.59	
	Ending Balance			393.41
	<u>Total Unrestricted Funds End of 1995</u>			<u>4,269.32</u>

KOS Statement of Assets, continued

Restricted Funds

Book Royalty Account Beginning Balance		7,513.01	
Receipts			
Interest Earned	180.80		
Royalty Payments	520.02	700.82	
Ending Balance			8,213.83
Dingus Natural Area Beginning Balance		7,320.21	
Receipts			
Interest Earned	382.37	382.37	
Disbursements			
Liability Insurance	183.00	-183.00	
Ending Balance			7,519.58
Endowment Beginning Balance		1,000.50	
Receipts			
Donations	1,345.00		
Silent Auction Proceeds	399.00	1,744.00	
Ending Balance			2,744.50
Life Membership Beginning Balance		15,972.00	
Receipts			
Dues Received	837.50	837.50	
Ending Balance			16,809.50
Student Research Fund Beginning Balance		1,466.88	
Receipts			
Interest Earned	35.60		
Auction Proceeds	175.00	210.60	
Ending Balance			1,677.48
<u>Total Restricted Funds End of 1995</u>			<u>36,964.89</u>
<u>Total Assets End of 1995</u>			<u>41,234.21</u>

1996 North American Migration Count

May 11, 1996

The next North American Migration Count (NAMC) is scheduled for May 11, 1996, semi-organized *everywhere* north of the Rio Grande. The purposes are to take a snapshot of migration and map the relative abundance/distribution of birds down to the field identifiable forms, i.e., Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler vs. Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler, etc.

This event has been gaining in popularity in Kansas over the past couple of years. Unlike Christmas Counts that are a circle surrounding a center point, the NAMC is county specific, which makes it much easier in many ways. Dave Rintoul is again organizing the Kansas counts. If you have conducted a count in past years you should be receiving information from Dave in the near future. If you are interested in starting a new count in a county or if you want to find out who is doing counts in your area give Dave a call: work, 913-532-6663 or home, 913-537-0781 or via e-mail, DRINTOUL@KSU.KSU.EDU. If you can get away the day before Mother's Day this is a fun, fun event which is starting to create some very good information. We've managed to have around 15 counts going in Kansas, but we would like to cover some more counties. Contact Dave for more information!

What Color Should I Wear While Birding?

by Byron K. Butler

The following article was a response by the author to a question asked on the Internet discussion group BIRDCHAT. The question was, "What is the best color clothing to wear while birdwatching". The author is a Ph. D. graduate student in ornithology and a regular contributor to BIRDCHAT. This article is adapted and edited from his response and he has graciously allowed it to be shared with the Horned Lark readers. Thank you Byron! - editor

What color should I wear while birding? This question has been considered before by birders and professional field ornithologists. This question has been speculated upon, but never answered satisfactorily. Some of the responses posted by others have been good. The reason there is no adequate answer to this question is because we (humans) do not understand the perceptual world of any non-human animal. In fact, we frequently have a tough time understanding the perceptual world of humans different from ourselves. For example, it is hard to imagine what being blind, or even color blind, is like if you have normal vision. It may even be harder to imagine how other sensory modalities can be enhanced over our normal experience. Blind humans "switch" to their sense of hearing and can perceive their surroundings better with their ears than can sighted people. Dogs place a lot of importance on their sense of smell and make olfactory maps as well as visual maps. It is exactly this line of thinking that lead me to work on sensory systems in birds to begin with. While studying avian ecology and behavior I realized that many of the questions I wished to answer concerning communication in birds could not be properly addressed until we understood the visual perceptual world of birds. We still do not have this understanding, but we are slowly getting there.

Birds see color, i.e., they have color vision. Their color vision is not only good, but it is actually better than our own. These two definitive statements describe what vision researchers are pretty sure is true - however, at the highest levels of scientific rigor they have *not* been firmly established. Up until the early 1970s it was widely thought that birds had trichromatic (3 photoreceptor) color vision comparable to that of humans, or perhaps a bit inferior to ours. Then, around 1972, it was discovered that birds can see light in the near-ultraviolet (uv) range and series of new studies began. Today it is widely accepted that the avian eye, not the human eye, is the quintessential color vision system. It is now believed that birds see more colors (hues) than we do and the colors also appear more saturated to birds than do ours to us. They are able to do this because they have four (or more!) cones and pigmented oil droplets in those photoreceptors. Whereas we have short, middle and long (also called blue, green, & red, respectively) cones, they not only have short, middle, and long cones, but also a uv cone.

When we talk about what colors we wear (or **should** wear) in the field, we assume these colors look the same to birds as they do to us. This assumption may not always be correct. Birds probably do see colors similar to the way we see them, but they are most likely never exactly the same, and may indeed be quite different. To clarify, a flower that is red to us is probably also red to most diurnal birds, but is probably seen by them as a different hue of red. If the flower (or other object) reflecting the red light is also reflecting uv light, the color (hue) seen by birds will almost certainly be different than anything we see. Those of you interested in studying this further can see my message on tetrachromacy posted to BirdChat several weeks ago (*contact the editor if you would like to see this reference*). Imagine you are standing in a forest or field looking at a bird that is, say, thirty yards away. What are you thinking? Most birders will be thinking about getting the correct ID, or may be trying to record a description (in memory or in writing) of an observed behavior. Either way, the birder is treating the bird as an object; i.e., you are over here looking at something over there. I call this the "aquarium syndrome" because the bird is viewed just like a goldfish in a bowl, something in another world to be looked **at**. That other world is not understood by the observer, who is not a part of it.

When I teach birdwatching I try to get students to think about how the world looks from the bird's point of view. That is, get into the aquarium with the fish and try to understand what it is like to be in the aquarium looking out into the room. With the bird that is thirty yards away try to get a piece of your mind transported into the bird's head then, through the bird's eyes, look from its perch back at yourself. From its vantage point what would be the view? This exercise isn't restricted to colors of birders' clothing but is something to develop into a general practice -- do this anytime you are in the field. Birds are living entities and possess highly developed brains. Like you, they experience life and have individual perceptions. It is fun to not only see birds, but to see the birds' world. You then feel a closer communion with them.

Ok, you ask, so what is that world like? Again, no human knows. My best guess is that birds see colors slightly differently than we do in most cases and significantly different in some cases. Further, I assume colors appear even more saturated to birds than they do to us. Following these assumptions, earth tones should appear more natural to birds than bright colors that are not part of their normal environment. Since most of my birding is well away from human activity, I wear subdued earth tones except for dark blue jeans. Bright colors not only make us more conspicuous, but they amplify all our movements. For example, if you are wearing a white shirt with long sleeves and you move your

What color should I wear... - continued

arms that movement will be magnified against a natural background. Any other color that stands out against the background will have the same effect. The effect will be greater yet if the white also reflects uv.

Having said that, I must recall some bird photographers I saw in Florida a couple of years ago who were wearing bright yellow parkas. [I forget their names, but I believe they are well known.] I overheard a woman ask these photographers why they were wearing such bright colors and they replied that the yellow was the best color they found to permit them close approach to the birds. This makes no sense based on what I know of bird color vision. What I think is happening is this: the photographers were at the water's edge photographing long-legged waders. Yellow permitted close approach because it contrasted highly with the background. The birds were able to clearly see all their movements and with minimal vigil could know when to move away from threatening actions. Camo clothing in such situations increase the degree of uncertainty of the intention of each movement visible to the birds.

While this might work at a beach that gets a high number of human visitors, I don't think it would work in the woods. Bright yellows, hunter orange vests, and other conspicuous objects are not normally part of such environments, and so are novel items to forest birds. Many birds are understandably neophobic (wary of anything new). A well-known exception is small patches of red. As has been pointed out, a red hat can actually attract hummingbirds if the wearer is sitting still. The key is to sit still, a skill rarely employed by most birders. An alternative for fidgety birders is to carry a hankerchief-sized piece of red cloth and to hang it on a limb when in hummer country. Just about any red object will work. In the Arizona desert I hang a red hummer feeder from my pick-up truck - I can stop just about anywhere in suitable habitat and attract hummers in a few minutes.

It was observed that aside from bird photographers few birders wear camo clothing. I hypothesize this is related to the fact that few birders ever sit still for any length of time. These are hunting techniques. Apart from the list-and-run activity which generally defines competitive birding, in which time for sitting is not allotted, birders today tend to regard hunters as their enemies. And no one wants to look and behave like their enemy. This is really unfortunate because hunting has much to teach birders about how to stalk their quarry. Many other hunting techniques can be employed as well that I never see birders use. You don't have to kill the animal in order to find these techniques valuable, as bird and nature photographers know. If a birder is to sit and/or move slowly, I think camo is very effective. The Florida photographers who were wearing yellow were constantly moving, an important point. Hawkwatchers who man a station all day long would benefit from wearing cryptic clothing and restricting their movements.

I also always wear a hat, a baseball cap, so I can hide my face and eyes from birds. If you are a nice morsel for a predator, as most birds are, you are in constant danger of predation. You know you are in trouble if a predator has focused his stare on you. Think about the last time you noticed someone staring at you in a single's bar (Fatal Attraction)! Or on a bus, or at any other public place. You feel more comfortable when you look around and there are no eyes looking at you. This is the case for birds also - they look to see who is looking back. They know to watch for peering eyes and the ones that are still alive are good at it. The bird on a branch looking back at you is looking at your eyes to see what you are up to. It is no coincidence that our eyes are our best birding tools, and we go to great lengths to enhance them with fancy optics. The bill of the baseball cap provides a shield (an ultra-mini blind) by which I can hide my eyes and break up the outline of my face. I frequently turn my head and body away, looking off to the side of the bird, and then peek out from under my cap in a Princes Di fashion to try to sneak a candid camera view - another hunting tip. The point of this is that no matter what color clothing you have, if your big ole round face is sticking out like a neon sign then you've failed to pay attention to the part of you most that has the most salience to birds.

So, to summarize my answers: Avoid anything that reflects in the UV. Avoid bright colors as a general rule. You may wish to experiment with your own success in wearing bright colors in situations similar to that of the Florida photographers. Avoid wearing white. Do wear camo and subdued colors that match natural surroundings, especially when you intend to sit still. Sitting still means not only that you are seated, but also that you make yourself appear as small as possible and your arms and head are also still. Restrict your body movements at all times. Keep this in mind when hawkwatching, too. When you do move, move slowly and smoothly. Avoid jerky and fast movements. Disrupt the outline of your face and eyes. Hide your eyes as much as possible. Use your peripheral vision to sneak peeks. Never stare at a bird unless it is some species that is known to accept stares, e.g., eagles. Look off to the side of the bird about 30 degrees and pan across to 30 degrees on the other side of it, stopping only long enough to capture a look. Then look away, and do it again. Learn "intention" movements and stop for a while if the bird is behaving as if it might fly. After it settles down, pan again. Too many birders see intention movements then think they have to get a good look before the bird is gone. They don't realize that in doing so they are actually pushing the bird to fly. Learn to be patient. We take up birding because we want to stop to smell the roses, then we get so caught up in list-and-run birding we still never take time to smell the roses. Birdwatching is the activity that encourages us to use our time to look closely at birds for more than their field marks.

*Byron K. Butler
Guilford, CT*

A Tufted Duck for Kansas?:

A case study of the pitfalls in documenting rare bird sightings for the KBRC

by Galen Pittman, KBRC Secretary

The KBRC, periodically, tries to promote the need for well documented sightings of rare birds that occur in Kansas. I think most experienced birders can understand that when evaluating sight records of rarely occurring species or especially first state records, that objective "proof positive" criteria are preferable to a method that might use a subjective "good ole boy" approach. After all, simply accepting an identification made by a field observer based on their "good intentions" could lead to some very unfortunate mistakes. It is not really a matter of doubting someone's word or trying to determine if they are being truthful or not. The KBRC goal is not to judge a birder's identification skills, but to attempt to judge if the documentation (the evidence provided) actually adequately supports the claim that is being made as to what species was observed! It is clearly harder to support a claim of a very difficult to identify species than one that is relatively easy. Just because the description of a bird allows for the possibility that the correct call was made, isn't enough. Usually there has to be some evidence that rules out similar species that are more common or likely. But, it may be necessary to rule out similar species that are actually less likely than the one that is being claimed. A birder with the most golden reputation and with the best track record imaginable should be held to the same burden of proof as anyone else. This criteria provides a much more unbiased and scholarly approach to evaluating bird records than to simply judge the correctness of the report based on who the observer was.

I believe that, on the whole, the KBRC tries very diligently to evaluate the documentations of bird sightings that it circulates for review. Of course there is sometimes a difference of opinion as to whether or not a record should be accepted or not, and that is precisely why there is more than just one or two voting members and why there are established rules for circulating and voting on records. When a documentation of a bird sighting is evaluated by the KBRC and accepted the appropriate evidence has to have been well presented in the write-up. On the other hand if a record is rejected, it usually fails because it doesn't make a convincing or unequivocal case for the correct identification. Several good field marks may have been mentioned, but if certain diagnostic marks are not mentioned or something is reported that is simply wrong for the species in question it will probably fail. By the way, don't think that it is impossible to get the KBRC to accept a record. Our overall acceptance rate (since 1990), for records that are circulated, is just over 81% (113/139), including 11 first state records and at least 25 additional 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th state records!

To further demonstrate my point I would like to present a case study of an actual potential first state record sighting that, even though it was fairly well documented, was unanimously rejected by the Committee. The person who documented this sighting was KBRC Chairperson, Mick McHugh! I want to give Mick a lot of credit for not only taking the time to write up his sighting and allowing us to use it for this example, but for his commitment to the KBRC and what it is trying to accomplish. Mick is a very experienced birder who feels secure about his field identification skills (of which I will personally attest are considerable) and therefore doesn't let the fear of a potentially bruised ego get in the way of trying to add to our body of bird distribution knowledge in Kansas.

A synopsis of his write-up (KBRC # 95-12) written on 20 January, 1995, including a copy of a drawing (page 11) done at the time are presented. Also included are excerpts from several of the voting members comments that will hopefully illustrate the manner in which the Committee handled this record. Finally, there are Mick's comments as to why this record was not accepted.

One female Tufted Duck of unknown age was sighted on 22 December, 1994, for 5 minutes at the Overbrook Sewage Ponds in Osage county. The bird was seen at a distance of 50 yards through 8x42 binoculars at 2 P.M. with the sun behind the observer.

(The following note was submitted with the write-up and was also dated 20 January, 1995.)

To the KBRC: The one month delay in the writing of this record of Tufted Duck came about because I didn't "come to" about what this "strange duck" was until two weeks after I made field notes. When I initially saw the bird, I thought it was probably a melanistic unknown and deposited the notes in a field guide, and promptly forgot them. They came to light about two weeks later, when I needed the field guide. My past curiosity finally revived, and upon checking the Audubon Master Guide, I saw on page 179 that I had made a foolish error in not following through sooner.

Description of the bird as per Question # 18 on the KBRC Official Report Form:

I noticed a very dark duck with a group of diving ducks including Greater Scaup, Ring-necks, and Lesser Scaup.

Tufted Duck.... continued -

Several Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal were also present. The dark bird stayed slightly separated and my attention was called to its completely different look. As shown on the enclosed notes, the head was rounded with no obvious light feathering at the bill base or around (or posterior to) the light eye. The bill was very dark gray and had a dark band at the end (not a nail). I distinctly remember looking for a light band inside the dark band. There was none. The head and neck color was dark brown and had no obvious marks. The flanks were dark, with reddish "highlights" in the sun. The rump and tail appeared dark. The wings appeared darker than the flanks and breast and on one side had a broad white display of speculum. The wing on the other side had no speculum showing. No crest was noted. The bird appeared healthy. Unfortunately, I didn't scope the bird for a possible crest as I gave no thought (at the time) of female Tufted Duck.

Exerts from several Committee member's votes on KBRC #95-12:

"Dealing with imm. female or Ad. winter female Aythya fuligula and A. maria shouldn't be so difficult, but it is! The fact is, this bird was not identified in the field. The observer did not suspect the potential rarity and consequently did not critically study the bird beyond using binoculars. A scope study at 50 yards would have been more useful."Chris Hobbs.

"The field notes were very helpful, but for such a rarity, I feel a more detailed description is needed rather than the somewhat causal comparisons notes in 5 minutes of observation. (for example, an attempt to discern whether the bird had a crest would have been at least reassuring.) "...as Mick himself pointed out, there was a lengthy gap between the observation and the recognition that the bird was worth analyzing more carefully."David Seibel.

"Such a dark duck with reddish sides and a wing stripe could have been a female Tufted Duck or an immature Greater Scaup! The dark tip of the bill, not just the nail, strongly points to Tufted Duck, yet the reported "round" head with no sign of a crest or tuft as a female should have is troubling. I think if the tuft on the back of the head had been observed I

might have accepted the record. As it stands with somewhat mixed field marks observed, I think this documentation does not convincingly eliminate immature scaup. This bird may very well have been a Tufted Duck, but just isn't unequivocal."Galen Pittman

"I could have taken a female Lesser Scaup and written the same description. When I compared them, they were very close. He probably couldn't have seen a crest as it is very short in the female. It is actually smaller than a Ring-necked female. It is too similar to a female Lesser Scaup to be sure."Max Thompson. (This comment was made after he related a description, from a specimen, of a female Tufted Duck in the first part of his comments.)

"This species is extremely difficult to separate from several similar species. There is also the problem, as the observer mentions, of melanism; as well as hybrids." ...Lloyd Moore.

Comments by Mick McHugh on why this record was rejected:

The Committee believes that there is much to be learned by discussing the write-up of this record, and the reasons for its rejection. There are several obvious problems with my write-up. 1.) I waited a month before I wrote it up (this was only made possible by field notes and a drawing that I did at the time of the sightingthe best thing that I did!). 2.) I didn't get all the necessary field marks. A bird that is not straight forward (e.g., male Painted Bunting) needs all its field marks recorded from bill to tail. 3.) I didn't go through the list of possible species that I should have considered. I simply wrote it off as a possible melanistic form....bad idea!

The members of the Committee obviously worked hard and fairly in refuting this write-up. The exerts provided show the value of a peer review of the report of any extremely unlikely or first state record occurrence in the state.

So... If you see a bird that you know to be extremely rare in Kansas or is listed with an asterisk (less than ten records) on the Kansas Checklist, get a report form and send it in. Its important! It means hard work for the KBRC, but the job of keeping the KOS Checklist as authoritative as possible is one that we take seriously.

Membership Directory Update Coming

We are starting to work on the KOS Membership Directory hoping to have it in your hands by late spring 1996. Take a look at your current listing in the 1994 edition (if you are in it). If you see errors or missing data please let myself (Chuck Otte) or preferably Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, know. If you would prefer not to have a phone number listed

or whatever other changes, you need to let us know. We are also trying to put together a listing of electronic mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address and would allow it to be included please just e-mail me at otte@jc.net. And of course anytime you have a change of address please notify Margaret or myself immediately so you don't miss any important mailings!

Drawing that accompanied Tufted Duck report
(We regret that the drawing can not be included in this version of the newsletter.)

RETURN TO ROY BECKEMEYER
957 PERRY ST
WICHITA, KS 67203-3141

SPRING 1996 KOS FIELD TRIP - MORTON COUNTY AND POINTS SOUTH AND WEST
May 4 & 5, 1996

Whether or not you follow the historic Santa Fe Trail to get there, you'll have a chance to see the remnants of that heavily traveled trade and military route between Old Franklin, MO, and Santa Fe, NM, if you attend this spring's KOS meeting in Morton County, KS. Birds, you say, well they are there as well. Pat and I saw our first McGillivray's Warbler in the brush below Point of Rocks a few years ago. Scaled Quail, Lesser Prairie Chickens, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, and who knows what other southwestern specialties might be seen. Sounds like something you can't afford to miss. Home to the Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County is the southwestern-most county in Kansas. It is an easy hop from there over to Baca County, CO, or to Black Mesa in Cimarron County, OK. Those new to Kansas birding should check out Zimmerman & Patti's "A Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri", pages 189-193 for a taste of the area. A map of the Cimarron Grasslands can be obtained from the District Ranger, Cimarron National Grassland, 242 Highway 56 East, Box J, Elkhart, KS 67950 [316-697-4621]. For the Commanche National Grasslands in adjacent Baca County, contact Forest Supervisor, Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Commanche and Cimarron National Grasslands, 1920 Valley Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008 [719-545-8737].

Headquarters for the event will be Elkhart, KS. Make your lodging reservations soon, as Elkhart is a small place. **MOTELS:** The Elkhart Motel is downtown across the street from the post office. It has the lowest rates, \$21 - \$40. It has a restaurant, open from 6:00 am to 9:00 p.m. Phone: 316-697-2168. The El Rancho Motel is on Highway 56. Rates are \$28-\$40. Their restaurant is also open 6:00 am to 9:00 pm, but Saturday and Sunday opening is at 7:00 am. Sunday closing time is 2:00 pm. Phone: 316-697-2117. There is also a bed and breakfast in Elkhart, but on the Oklahoma side of the state line. The Cimarron Bed and Breakfast is operated by Kyle and Linda Martin. Phone: 405-696-4672.

CAMPING: The City of Elkhart has an RV Park in town on Border Avenue near the baseball fields. It is \$6.00 per night with full hook-ups (no restrooms or other facilities), and is first-come, first served basis (no reservations). Pay at City Hall when you arrive. The Forest Service has a campground on the grasslands at the Cimarron River for \$7.00 per night, with water and restrooms only (no hookups). The campground is at the Cimarron Recreation Area, 7.5 miles north of Elkhart on Highway 27, then 5 miles or so east of the highway.

Departure site for birding trips will be the parking lot of the El Rancho Motel. **FOOD:** It is suggested that you make use of the motel restaurants for breakfast and dinner. Plan to bring coolers and picnic lunch for Saturday the 4th, as you will likely be on the road birding, and there are few fast food locations in the area. Lunch and final bird list count will be done Sunday the 5th at noon at the Pizza Hut in Elkhart on a pay your-own-way basis.

REGISTRATION: This is very much a make your own arrangements trip, but if you will send the registration form in after making your reservations, I'll use the \$1.00 to make copies and mail a more specific itinerary and trip options list a couple of weeks before the event.

----- CUT HERE -----

REGISTRATION FORM:

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 1996 FIELD TRIP TO MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS.

NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN MORTON COUNTY FOR A BIRDING TRIP & WHAT ARE YOU PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEING? _____

WHERE WILL YOU BE STAYING? _____

SEND \$1.00 REGISTRATION FEE TO: Roy J. Beckemeyer, 957 Perry St., Wichita, KS 67203-3141.

MY PHONE NUMBER IS: 316-264-0049

FALL ROUNDUP / October - December 1995 / by Chuck Otte

A lot of this fall could have been summed up by saying that for the most part a few rarities were found in the usual places. Dry mild weather, following a very active late summer tropical storm season produced a few surprises. Which is not to say that it was a boring fall at all. At least it wasn't boring to the airline pilots and FAA officials when migrating waterfowl apparently overloaded the KCI airport. The increased sensitivity of the newer Doppler and NEXRAD radar systems allow for wonderful weather coverage, but they can also allow for wonderful tracking of migrating birds. When you have that many waterfowl going through a Doppler radar path though it certainly indicates that there may still be a few bugs or birds in the system.

While Common Loons appear to becoming even more common in the area we had a first for the Kansas Rare Bird Alert. We had all 4 ABA loon species on the Kansas RBA Hotline at the same time. Hockey fans please excuse me while I refer to this as a "loon hat trick". The Yellow-billed Loon at Wilson Reservoir in December may well go down as the first sighting of this specie in Kansas (pending Bird Records Committee action on the write up). This loon was not un-expected having been seen in neighboring states in prior years.

Also not unexpected to be seen in Kansas was the Northern Wheatear in Ottawa County. It was unfortunate that this bird could not be re-found and birders need to continue to be diligent in the fall looking for this possibly overlooked species. Given the hurricane season that the Gulf of Mexico experienced we shouldn't be surprised by a frigatebird sighting either. Many states east of Kansas and as far north as Michigan also had frigatebird sightings this past year.

Western Grebes continue to be fall regulars at the large reservoirs, and as Kansas birders become more comfortable with this species more Clark's Grebes are also being identified. Kansas birders need to be paying close attention to those large reservoirs during November and December. Find a nice sunny spot out of the wind, set up the scope and spend some time checking out the middle of these large water bodies!

It also gave all the appearance of a major northern influx year with Northern Shrikes being found on a regular basis in the northwestern half of the state.

Morton County again became the place to be this fall with a well documented White-winged Dove leading the pack. Other good Morton county birds seen during the period were: Scrub Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Canyon Wren, Northern Shrike, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail and Evening Grosbeak. KOS members should be flocking to Morton County for the Spring Field trip! Inca Doves in Garden City and Wichita were also good finds.

Remember to call the hotline with your sightings (913-372-5499). Take good notes and fill out documentation on rarities (see form later in the Horned Lark) for the Kansas Bird Records Committee and remember that the rare bird sighting is not "official" until accepted by the KBRC. And our continuing thanks to Scott Seltman for keeping the hotline updated and for his many hours of proofing these reports and roundups!

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / October 1995 through December 1995

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Red-throated Loon	1 imm at Cedar Bluff Reservoir	SS	12-02-95	Trego
Pacific Loon	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Pacific Loon	2 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-12-95	Russell
Common Loon	11 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	10-31-95	Wyandotte
Yellow-billed Loon	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	12-10-95	Russell
		present through	12-15-95	

This is the first sighting of this species for Kansas. This bird was seen by several individuals and was near several Common Loons making for easy comparisons.

Horned Grebe	25 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Winfield City Lake	MT	11-11-95	Cowley
Western Grebe	1 at Clinton Reservoir	??	10-26-95	Douglas
Western Grebe	11 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-19-95	Russell
Western Grebe	2 at Perry Reservoir	RR	11-16-95	Jefferson
Western Grebe	3 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir	TC	11-18-95	Riley

Clark's Grebe	3 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Clark's Grebe	2 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-19-95	Russell
Clark's Grebe	1 at Clark County State Lake	SS	11-11-95	Clark
Magnificent Frigatebird	1 possible ad. m. over Manhattan	TC	10-12-95	Riley
Tundra Swan	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	11-04-95	Stafford
Trumpeter Swan	1 at Hillsdale Res with neck collar	JBe	12-12-95	Miami
American Black Duck	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	12-23-95	Wyandotte
Mottled Duck	a pair at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	SP, et. al.	10-29-95	Stafford
Northern Shoveler	1 full albino at Liberal	SS	11-18-95	Seward
Oldsquaw	1 at El Dorado Lake Dam	JN,PJ	11-25-95	Butler
Oldsquaw	1 m at Wilson Reservoir	MR	12-03-95	Russell
	still present or another one has arrived		12-14-95	
Black Scoter	9 at Wilson Reservoir	BMC	11-04-95	Russell
White-winged Scoter	1 at QNWR	TB	11-04-95	Stafford
White-winged Scoter	3 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir	TC	11-09-95	Riley
White-winged Scoter	1 at Perry Lake	DB	12-02-95	Jefferson
		seen again	12-03-95	
Hooded Merganser	<u>100</u> at Milford Reservoir	TC	11-18-95	Geary
Hooded Merganser	<u>125</u> at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-19-95	Russell
Red-breasted Merganser	4 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir	TC	11-09-95	Riley
Red-breasted Merganser	several at Milford Reservoir	TC, et. al	11-18-95	Geary
Turkey Vulture	1 late bird	JD	11-24-95	Gray
Bald Eagle	5 at QNWR	GF	11-12-95	Stafford
Northern Goshawk	nw of Harvey County East Lake	BD	12-18-95	Harvey
Golden Eagle	1 at QNWR	GF	11-12-95	Stafford
Merlin	2 or 3 near Lake Afton	PJ,JN	10-29-95	Sedgwick
Merlin	1 at Kanopolis Reservoir	BT	11-05-95	Ellsworth
Scaled Quail	1 mile n of Elkhart along K-27	SP,MR,MM,GP,BF	10-27-95	Morton
Common Moorhen	4 at Pool #4, CB	DK,BG	10-21-95	Barton
Sandhill Crane	75,000 at Quivira's Big Salt Marsh	MT, et. al.	11-09-95	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	<u>50 - 100,000</u> at Wildhorse Lake	SS	11-11-95	Meade
Whooping Crane	1 south of CB	EM	10-20-95	Barton
Whooping Crane	2 on Nat Cons land near CB	EM	10-21-95	Barton
These birds were actually seen by many people on a Nature Conservancy Fieldtrip but reported by Ed Martinez				
Whooping Crane	2 at QNWR, sw Wildlife Drive	SP, et. al.	10-29-95	Stafford
Black-bellied Plover	2 at Pool #4, CB	DK,BG	10-21-95	Barton
American Golden-Plover	1 north of Rozel	SS	10-11-95	Pawnee
American Golden-Plover	10 following tractor nw of Larned	SS	10-16-95	Pawnee
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 at QNWR	JR	12-01-95	Stafford
Dunlin	1 in basic plumage at Wyan Co Lake	SS,DB	11-24-95	Wyandotte
Dunlin	4 at QNWR	JR	12-01-95	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at Bloomington Beach, Clinton L	SA	10-01-95	Douglas
Long-billed Dowitcher	17 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	11-04-95	Stafford
Long-billed Dowitcher	3 at QNWR	JR	12-01-95	Stafford
Pomarine Jaeger	1 dark phase from Wilson SP	MR	10-31-95	Russell
Bonaparte's Gull	100+ at Lake Afton	JSB	11-24-95	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter bird at Perry Res.	LM	11-03-95	Jefferson
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 probable adult at Tuttle	TC	12-26-95	Pottawatomie
Glaucous Gull	1 first winter bird at Perry Res.	KUO	12-02-95	Jefferson
		still present	12-05-95	
Sabine's Gull	1 first year bird at Clinton L	SA	09-23-95	Douglas
	seen again	CG	09-30-95	
	still present	SA	10-01-95	
White-winged Dove	in Elkhart	ED	11-15-95	Morton
		last seen	12-02-95	

This bird was found by many birders. Although there have been about 10 sight records for this species, this bird, which was photographed and videotaped, may apparently be the first fully documented record for White-winged Dove in Kansas.

Inca Dove	in Garden City at feeders	TSh,SSh	12-01-95	Finney
Inca Dove	in residential Wichita at feeders	VH	12-08-95	Sedgwick
		still present	12-16-95	
Greater Roadrunner	sw of Hutchinson	JVM	mid-Nov	Reno
Snowy Owl	1 ad male se of Shallow Water	??	12-24-95	Scott
		still present	12-31-95	
Long-eared Owl	7 at W Rolling Hills, Milford Lake	CO	11-24-95	Gearly
White-throated Swift	1 flying over Olathe	MC	10-09-95	Johnson
Black-chinned Hummingbird	f. captured in Overland Park	JH	early Nov.	Johnson
Scrub Jay	4 at western Cimarron River crossing	SP,BF,MM,GP	10-27-95	Morton
Scrub Jay	2 at CNG campground	BP, VT	11-12-95	Morton
Carolina Chickadee	at Clark State Lake	SS	11-11-95	Clark
Carolina Chickadee	at Meade State Lake	SS	11-11-95	Meade
Mountain Chickadee	K-27 bridge & Boy Scout area	SP,MR,MM,GP,BF	10-27-95	Morton
Mountain Chickadee	in Elkhart	LRS	11-13-95	Morton
			to 11-18-95	
Canyon Wren	at Pt. of Rocks, CNG	DV,FV	11-25-95	Morton
	seen again	JR	12-27-95	
	This is only the third record for Canyon Wren in the state.			
Northern Wheatear	1 s and 5 w of Minneapolis	KC	11-07-95	Ottawa
	This is the first report of this species for Kansas, but unfortunately repeated visits to this location failed to find the bird again. Northern Wheatears were found quite regularly on both coasts this fall however, and Kansas birders need to be on the lookout for this specie more in the future.			
Mountain Bluebird	f. near Cheney Dam	PJ,JN	10-29-95	Sedgwick
Mountain Bluebird	20 at SW Milford Lake	CO	11-02-95	Gearly
Mountain Bluebird	<u>250</u> at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Kanopolis Reservoir	BT	11-05-95	Ellsworth
Sprague's Pipit	arriving in western Kansas	SS	10-03-95	Pawnee
Sprague's Pipit	arriving in western Kansas	SS	10-05-95	Rush
Sprague's Pipit	20 north of Rozel	SS	10-11-95	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 adult, State Line Rd, Elkhart	SP,MR,MM,GP,BF	10-27-95	Morton
Northern Shrike	1 juv nw of Larned	SS	10-29-95	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	2 at Wilson Reservoir	MR	11-05-95	Russell
Northern Shrike	1 at QNWR	TB	11-04-95	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1 at Wilson Reservoir	PJ,JN,CG	11-11-95	Russell
Northern Shrike	2 at QNWR	BP,VT	11-11-95	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1 at QNWR	GF	11-12-95	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1	SS	11-14-95	Rush
Northern Shrike	1 adult	SS	11-22-95	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 at Milford Reservoir	DLS	11-23-95	Gearly
Northern Shrike	1 at south end of QNWR	JR	12-01-95	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1 below dam at Tuttle Creek Res	LM,GP	12-27-95	Pottawatomie
Solitary Vireo	eastern race in Elkhart alleys	SP,MR,MM,GP,BF	10-27-95	Morton
Wilson's Warbler	a late at North Fork CNG	SP,MR,MM,GP	10-27-95	Morton
Canyon Towhee	shelterbelt n of Elkhart cemetery	SP,MR,MM,GP	10-27-95	Morton
Canyon Towhee	at shelterbelt (same one?)	SP	12-29-95	Morton
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	at Pt of Rocks, CNG	SP,MR,MM,GP	10-27-95	Morton
Le Conte's Sparrow	at Milford Lake, Curtis Creek	CO	10-11-95	Gearly
Le Conte's Sparrow	several south of K-96 bridge	CG,PJ	10-22-95	Sedgwick
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Baker University Wetlands	AP	10-07-95	Douglas
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 in shelterbelt at Kirwin NWR	RR	10-20-95	Phillips
Smith's Longspur	10 at Lyon County State Lake	BP, VT	11-11-95	Lyon
Chestnut-collared Longspur	10 north of Rozel	SS	10-11-95	Pawnee
Brewer's Blackbird	<u>70 - 100,000</u> between CB & QNWR	GP,GG,SA	11-05-95	Barton/Stafford
Evening Grosbeak	female in Elkhart alleys	SP,MR,MM,GP,BF	10-27-95	Morton
Evening Grosbeak	w side of Cheney Reservoir	PJ,JN	10-29-95	Kingman

Key to Abbreviations found in Birding Highlights

ad. = adult

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands

e = east

f. = female

imm = immature

juv = juvenile

L = Lake

m. = male

Nat Cons = Nature Conservancy

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

plum = plumage

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

RML = Reclaimed Mine Lands of LaCygne Lake

SP = State Park

w = west

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Steve Addinal (SA), Timothy Barksdale (TB), James & Susan Barnes (JSB), Jim Bell (JBe), William Brecheisen (WB), David Bryan (DB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Kathy Collmer (KC), Joyce Davis (JD), Bob Dester (BD), Elsa Durkee (ED), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Chet Gresham (CG), Bob Gress (BG), Greg Griffith (GG), Jan Hall (JH), Vern Heinsohn (VH), Pete Janzen (PJ), KU Ornithology (KUO), Dan Kilby (DK), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Brad McCord (BMC), Mick McHugh (MM), Ed Martinez (EM), Jay and Verna Miller (JVM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Brandon Percival (BP), Galen Pittman (GP), Alexi Powell (AP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Richard Rucker (RR), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Lawrence & Ruth Smith (LRS), Bill Trelc (BT), Van Truan (VT), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Fran Vannoy (FV)

Partners in Flight Organizational Meeting Scheduled

by Bill Busby

An organizational meeting for a Partners in Flight working group in Kansas will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 7 in Manhattan. The goal is to establish a Partners in Flight working group in the State and to develop a conservation plan for land birds for our area. In addition, the Partners in Flight Southern Great Plains Region will meet the day before (May 6) to discuss population and habitat objectives for the region.

Partners in Flight is a program that was organized to provide for avian conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. It relies on the interest and cooperation of people in state and federal agencies, academic institutions, private organizations, industry, and the public. A recently developed conservation strategy, designed for initial use in the United States, contains four steps:

- I. Identify and prioritize species most in need of conservation
- II. Set population and habitat conservation objectives
- III. Turn general objectives into concrete programs (land use prescriptions and practices, bird conservation areas, etc.)
- IV. Implement bird conservation plans and monitor success, making use of partnerships, funding, research, education and outreach, and policy.

Some of the most notable accomplishments of Partners in Flight so far have come from the efforts of people working at the state and regional levels. At present, 37 states have set up state working groups. If you are interested in attending either of the meetings or interested in more information, please contact Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047 w: 913-864-7692 e-mail w-busby@ukans.edu.

Kansas Bird Records Committee Official Report Form

Date of this report: _____ KBRC No. (committee use only) _____

1. Species: _____ / _____
(Common name) (Scientific name)

2. Sex/Age: _____ 3. Number observed: _____

4. Date(s) of sighting: _____ 5. Duration of sighting: _____

6. Location (including county): _____

7. Observer(s) (your name): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

8. Other observers (not making this report): _____

9. Description of habitat/setting: _____

10. Distance from bird: _____ 11. Optical equip: _____

12. Time of day: _____ 13. Lighting conditions/sun angle: _____

14. Previous experience with this or similar species: _____

15. Reference material consulted and how this influenced your identification: _____

16. How long after the sighting did you first write this description? _____

17. Vocalization heard (if any): _____

18. DESCRIPTION: (Include only what was observed). Describe, in detail, all relevant and diagnostic field marks and/or behaviors that would distinguish this species from similar ones. Please include any photographs, recordings, sketches, and copies of original field notes that were made at the time of the sighting that would aid in identification. USE OTHER SIDE.

Mail completed form to:

Kansas Bird Records Committee Secretary, Galen L. Pittman, 12042 258th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

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PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING, 1996

The KOS will meet October 5 and 6, 1996 at Newton, KS. The contributed papers will be presented on Saturday, October 5. The only requirement is that the papers deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. Interesting papers are also often given by people who consider themselves amateurs, but who nevertheless have considerable expertise to share. We encourage you to share your experiences with the members and guests who will be attending. Both long and short presentations are welcome.

We are again requesting that all contributors submit an abstract or short summary (approximately 150 words) of their presentation. A second and final call will be made in the summer issue of the newsletter.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:

Roy Beckemeyer
Vice President, KOS
957 Perry Street
Wichita, KS 67203-3141
Phone: (316) 264-0049
E-Mail: royb@southwind.net

Contributed Paper for KOS Annual Meeting, Oct. 5, 1996:

AUTHOR(S): _____

-

ADDRESS: _____

PAPER TITLE: _____

ABSTRACT: _____

Time for presentation and questions (circle one): 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-Visual equipment required: _____

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The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1995

Vol. 22, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

Well here we are into 1996 still trying to get the final newsletter for 1995 finished up! The best laid plans of mice and men (or in this case birds and birders)..... I want to apologize for this issue being so late and for the articles that had to be pulled because of that. The bottom line was that both the editor and the final layout wizard/ business manager both got sick about the time this newsletter should have been getting wrapped up. I was lucky in that I was back on my feet in a couple of weeks. Dawn has not been so lucky and has been quite sick. We hope she's got the worst of it behind her now but she still has a lot of catching up to do. In the meantime I'll be responsible for doing all the pre-printing work on the Horned Lark so if it doesn't look quite as "snazzy" you'll understand why. And our sincerest get well soon to Dawn!!!

We had a great Fall Meeting in Salina! The local committee is commended for the fine job they did and they should be proud of it. The paper's session was unfortunately shortened when the van from KU broke down. And I was so looking forward to the paper on bird kills at towers. Start making plans now for an exciting spring meeting in Morton County. You'd better get your reservations in at the El Rancho soon! If you aren't sure if you want to go all the way to Elkhart just pull out the last couple years worth of Horned Larks and check out the birding roundup for the Morton County birds the end of April and early May. You need to be there in 1996!

I certainly hope that you have been enjoying some of the featured writers that have been added to the Horned Lark in 1995. Amy Rose's debut Kids Page was a big hit. Even if you don't have any youngsters at home pull that page out and find a niece, nephew, grandchild or neighbor child to give it to. Who knows what might happen. John Rakestraw's articles have also been greatly appreciated. If you read much of the other popular "birding press" you have probably seen several of John's articles over the past year. We appreciate John sharing his

talents with the Horned Lark readers! And let's not forget Tom & Sara Shane's photographs. They have added a new dimension to this newsletter and we hope to be able to keep including them.

For all of you who have sent letters or small articles, etc. I really appreciate your contributions, suggestions and necessary nudges that help keep this editor on track! Keep the suggestions, contributions and occasional reprimands coming!

Please read all the newsletter carefully. There's some tight schedules coming up. Tom Shane has a great workshop opportunity coming up but you need to let him know ASAP if you can be involved. Sorry for the delay, enjoy the newsletter and remember, spring migration is just around the corner!!!

-- chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1996

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395 Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646

Editor, The Bulletin, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, The Horned Lark, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

NOTICE

Kansas Ornithological Society Workshop

Dr. Richard F. Johnston will be conducting a workshop at the Bird Range, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, tentatively on the first or second Saturday of April, 1996. There will be a requested donation of \$20 for the two hour session on warbler identification with the use of study skins. Those interested please contact Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846 for a reservation. Please let Tom know the Saturday that would work best for you, and any other bird of groups of which you would like to see the study skins. All money donated through this workshop is tax deductible and will go into the Student Research Fund to be awarded to a student at the University of Kansas. Let Tom know as soon as possible to facilitate the scheduling.

Check it out further on in!

AOU Checklist Changes Coming

Which Gull Was that???

What papers were given at the fall meeting?

KBBAT Update

Then and Now

Taking Notes

Partners in Flight

Fifty by Fifty

Meet Your Treasurer

Morton County in May!

Start making plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting on May 3, 4 and 5, 1996 in Morton County. Year in and year out Morton County brings us great bird sightings. Of course there's the Cimarron Grasslands with Point of Rocks, the boy Scout area, the river crossings and the work station. There's the Elkhart Cemetery, the shelterbelt across the road north of the cemetery, the sewer ponds and let's not forget those infamous Elkhart alleys! If you've never been birding in Morton County start making plans now!

Welcome New Members

We take this opportunity to welcome the following new members since our last newsletter: Sister Susan Chase, Leavenworth; Douglas Robinson, Jr., Emporia; Gene & Shelby Bean, Mary Rau, Lawrence; Greg Farley, Hays; Dawn Gardner, Jan Boyd, Baldwin City; Laurie Ryland, Holcomb; Barbara Millar, Wichita; and Tate Gooden, Manhattan.

Also a reminder to everyone that it is time to renew your membership for 1996. Every time you remember to send in your next year's dues before you receive a notice in the mail you save the society just that much more money. A KOS membership also makes a dandy birthday or anniversary present for those hard to shop for birders or birder "wanna be's" on your shopping list!

Membership Directory Update Coming

We are starting to work on the KOS Membership Directory hoping to have it in your hands by late spring 1996. Take a look at your current listing in the 1994 edition (if you are in it). If you see errors or missing data please let myself (Chuck Otte) or preferably Membership Secretary Margaret Wedge know. If you would prefer not to have a phone number listed

or whatever other changes you need to let us know. We are also trying to put together a listing of electronic mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address and would allow it to be included please just e-mail me at OTTE@JC.NET. And of course anytime you have a change of address please notify Margaret or myself immediately so you don't miss any important mailings!

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PARTNERS IN FLIGHT COMING TO KANSAS

by Bill Busby

Migrant Birds

In recent years, biologists have noted alarming declines in populations of many migratory birds. Examples of species of concern in the Midwest are grassland birds such as the Bobolink, Dickcissel, and Grasshopper Sparrow; bottomland forest-dwellers such as Cerulean, Swainson's and Prothonotary Warblers; upland forest inhabitants such as Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Kirtland's Warbler; and early successional species such as Bell's Vireo and Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Threats to Migrants

Neotropical migrants face many challenges during their annual journey between tropical wintering areas and temperate breeding grounds. Ultimately, most of the problems they experience can be linked to ever-increasing human populations and the strain people put on the Earth's ecosystems. Pesticides, weather, feral cats, competition with non-native birds like House Sparrows and Starlings, and collisions with windows and towers all take a toll on songbirds. However, the chief problems for these species are habitat loss and degradation. As more forests, grasslands, and wetlands are destroyed or altered, important habitats are lost on breeding and wintering grounds, as well as at migration stopover sites.

Partners in Flight

To reverse the population declines of migrant birds, governmental agencies, private conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other interested individuals have joined forces to establish a program known as Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americas. Through cooperative efforts that integrate population monitoring, research, habitat management, and education, Partners in Flight promotes understanding about the status, limiting factors, and conservation needs of migrant birds.

Partners in Flight has developed an action plan that follows basic principles:

- conservation when it should be done--before species become endangered.
- enhanced conservation of both natural and managed habitats.
- simultaneous conservation on the breeding, migration, and nonbreeding areas.
- an informed, proactive constituency of birdwatchers.
- groundbreaking partnerships with which federal and private agencies, private conservation groups, industry, and citizens can work together for bird and habitat conservation.

This international program has a regional component known as the Midwest Working Group. Within the Midwest, several State Working Groups have formed and efforts are underway to get working groups established in the remaining states. Here in Kansas, we plan to establish a working group within the next year.

The Partners in Flight newsletter is the best way to stay informed about migrant bird conservation activities. For a free subscription, contact:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

For state/regional information about Partners in Flight you may contact me:

Bill Busby
Kansas Biological Survey
2041 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047
913-864-7692
e-mail w-busby@ukans.edu

Upcoming Trip (*Out of State - Way out of state*)

I have received notice of the following upcoming bird trip. The Kansas Ornithological Society is not involved in this trip and we present this information merely as a service to our members that would be interested in participating.

Birding in Southern Arizona

John Zimmerman will again (and possibly for the last time! - ed.) lead a birding trip to southern Arizona, departing Manhattan on May 19 and returning June 1, 1996.

Transportation will be by university van, accommodations will be by camping - sometimes primitive, and participants will share in the cooking. Itinerary includes Cave Creek Canyon, Rustler Park and Rucker Canyon in the Chiricahuas, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Sawmill Canyon in the Huachuclas, Sonoita Creek, Sycamore Canyon, Sonoran Desert at Tucson, and Baldy Peak Train in the White Mountains. Space limited, contact John Zimmerman, Div. Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Thank You!

Roy Beckemeyer and the rest of the KOS Board want to extend a hearty thank you to the Salina Local Committee for all their hard work on the fall meeting. It was outstanding in every fashion!!

LOCAL COMMITTEE: Clara Bruhn, Harriet Landon, Ivy Marsh, Charlie Marsh, Shannon Rayl - Meeting Coordinator, Sister Monica Schneider, Barbara Shannon, Marge Streckfus, Bill Trelc and Judy Zanardi

Facilities courtesy of Kansas Wesleyan University and Professor Art Neuburger.

Friday Reception sponsor: Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sunday Field Trip Leaders: Steve Burr and Jay Bailey
Banquet Speaker: Maure Weigel

Door Prizes: Joy Reuter
Map: Harold Lear

A special thanks to Leonard Rich and Ron & Marie Osterbuhr for their advice and assistance.

Special Thank yous also go out to EVERYONE that donated items to a very successful silent auction. (I want to add my personal thanks to Eugene Lewis of Silver City New Mexico for his generous donation of a copy of Goss's Birds of Kansas to the silent auction with the proceeds going to the Student Research Fund. I was fortunate enough to have been the high bidder and now have that fine volume resting proudly on my bookshelf - Editor.) We'll probably have another Silent Auction next year so start planning now on what you might be able to donate!

Checklist from the Fall Meeting, October 8, 1995, Salina, Kansas

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy

Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow and Red Shafted races), Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped

Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

KBBAT Update

Those of you who have been involved in the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project know that we are coming up on what should be the last year (hint, hint). Unfortunately only 64% of the 757 blocks have been completed AND turned in.

If you have completed blocks but have not turned them in to your regional coordinator NOW. If you have a partially finished block that you feel you want be able to finish or you haven't even started and know you probably won't (come on, be honest now!) please return them to John Zimmerman ASAP (that's as soon as possible) so that they can be re-assigned and completed. Believe it or not 98% of the blocks have been assigned and their are volunteers willing to do more so if you doubt you're going to get around to it, especially if you've already held the block for 4 years now,

give someone else a chance. The option is that the project will stand the expense of duplicating everything you have and re-assign it to someone else anyway!

There are several opportunities coming up for some friendly block busting. Pete Janzen in the south-central region is lining up at least 1 blockbuster weekend. Contact him at 3137 N. Mascot, Wichita KS 67204. Chuck Otte has 4 blocks in southern Dickinson County he want's to "bust out" in June, contact him at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 if you want in on that. And Sara Shane is planning a "buster weekend" in the northwest where average block completion time is a mere 8 hours. Contact Sara at 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS, 67846. Let's get this KBBAT project completed on time!

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

Gregg Friesen - KOS Treasurer

In the mid 60's I recall joining my peers from our church boys' club in the back of my dad's Rambler Classic for a Saturday trip to Cheyenne Bottoms. Little, apart from the Rambler ride, stands out about that trip other than the prize sighting, a group of American Avocets. Their color and movement captured me to the point that I recall that trip most every time I see the bird. I suppose that trip was also point one in my appreciation of birds. Being the treasurer of the KOS may be one of the later stages in this interest but certainly won't be the last.

By profession, I am a nurse. I work out of a psychiatric partial (day) hospital in Newton, KS in a varied job that includes everything from home health to utilization review work and school nursing. It is not the kind of work that affords many views of American Avocets but it provides much contact with people and many chances to share my interest in birds. This results in a mix of interactions with folks. I think my favorite birding/work story involves the time someone pried a dead bird off the grill of their car after

arriving at work and sent it to me through the interoffice mail for identification (female Common Yellowthroat). The mundane stuff involves calls from the break room for such things as a three letter work for a razorbill (Auk) or a request from the maintenance crew for a way to keep a Northern Cardinal from incessantly attacking a window in a clinician's room (Black silhouettes of American Kestrels did the job).

I took the treasurer's job with the KOS two years ago. I've learned quite a bit on the job and certainly owe much to my predecessor, Rose Fritz, as well as others for guiding me through some of this. I am a rather strong fiscal conservative in that I am very cautious about spending money committed to future use or that is not yet in our hands. When I leave this position in a few years I hope to see, with the help of the finance committee, an organization on solid financial ground with funding available to continue a tradition of serving some of the diverse wants and needs of varied birding communities in the state.

FIFTY BY FIFTY CAMPAIGN

by Max Thompson

You should have by now, received a letter from the Finance Committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society. This committee was appointed by President Mike Rader to raise funds to alleviate the money problems that KOS has run into in recent years. We are asking you as members of KOS, to give so that the KOS can be solvent and able to carry out the mandate of the society as stated in our by-laws. Giving can be done in many ways. Since this is a three year campaign, you might choose to make a contribution to the campaign but spread it out over a three year period. Thus, if you chose to donate \$900 to the campaign over a 3 year period, that would be \$300 per year. You could remit that anytime during the fiscal year, January through December.

Some people might opt to leave us money or property in their estate. That would count in the campaign but would be payable only after the death of the donor. We have had some people in the society that have chosen to make an immediate smaller gift and also write the society in their will for a larger donation upon their death.

Why is it necessary for the Kansas Ornithological Society to build an endowment? Like all businesses or societies, we are hit by inflation and low interest rates. While KOS may

have an endowment, it is too small for us to sustain the aims of the society. Life memberships no longer pay for themselves at the present interest rates. Several years back they drew enough interest to help pay for our low dues. Now it has been reversed and the society members are bearing the brunt of the cost of running the society. If we are maintain a stable society with stable dues, we need to increase the endowment to a point where the interest off of our endowment will give us that stability.

I would like to remind you that the Kansas Ornithological Society is an Internal Revenue 501(c3) organization. The donations you make to us are fully tax deductible as a charitable organization.

Please help the Kansas Ornithological Society endowment grow with your gift so that when we celebrate our 50th anniversary in Lawrence, Kansas, the town that gave birth to our society, we can announce a successful funding raising drive. We want to bring the endowment to \$50,000 by our 50th anniversary. Thank you for your consideration.

Max C. Thompson, Chairman,
Finance Committee.

KANSAS GULLS

John Rakestraw

The gulls are considered by some to be the most challenging group of birds to identify in the field. Depending on the species, gulls take from two to four years to reach maturity. (Thus, gull species are often referred to as two year, three year, and four year gulls.) Young birds appear different each season until they reach adulthood, and adults change from winter plumage to breeding plumage each year.

The temptation might be for the beginning birder to merely concentrate on breeding adults. These birds may be the easiest to identify, but gulls in breeding plumage are not that common in Kansas. Any vagrant gull in the Sunflower State is almost certain to be in immature or winter plumage.

Luckily for us gull neophytes, Kansas has three fairly common gulls that serve as excellent points of reference. These three are Franklin's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls. Study these birds at every opportunity and become familiar with their different plumages. When you get to the point where you can identify these three at a glance, you will be far more likely to recognize the less common species.

Franklin's Gull is a small two year gull that migrates through Kansas in great numbers in the spring and fall. In breeding plumage, it has a black hood, a broken white eye ring, and a pinkish cast to the white underparts. Familiarity with this species will make it much easier to recognize the occasional Laughing Gull.

Other small gulls in Kansas include Bonaparte's, Common Black-headed, Little, Sabine's, and the Black-legged Kittiwake. All of these have distinctive patterns on the wings and tail.

The Ring-billed Gull, a three year gull, is the most common large gull in Kansas. In breeding plumage, the Ring-billed Gull displays a white head and underparts, gray mantle, and a black band around the bill. Since it is so common, birders should carefully study this bird to become familiar with the various plumages.

Any gull noticeably larger than a Ring-billed Gull is likely to be a Herring Gull. A four year gull, the adult Herring Gull shows a white head and underparts, gray mantle, and a red spot on the lower mandible. While not nearly as common as the other two "reference species," the Herring Gull is important to know because it is extremely similar to several other species. Thayer's and California Gulls are rare visitors to Kansas, and can be very difficult to distinguish from the Herring Gull. Glaucous Gull is slightly larger and is usually much lighter in color than the Herring Gull. The Greater Black-backed Gull is considerably larger.

Early winter is the best time to study the gulls, as most are in fresh plumage. Learn as much as you can about the three most common species, giving them a good look whenever they are encountered. Don't assume that it is just another flock of Ring-bills.

Study the immature plumages for each species. The popular field guides show most of the variations. For a more detailed reference, many birders recommend "Seabirds: An Identification Guide," by Peter Harrison. Pay special attention to birds in flight, as wing and tail patterns are very important for making identifications.

If you do find a bird you don't recognize write down or sketch as many details as you can - THEN consult your field guide. Notice not only details of plumage, but also eye color, the size, shape, and color of the bill, the color of the feet and legs, and any distinctive flight style and habits.

Gulls can be a great challenge to the beginning (or advanced) birder. But the careful study needed to identify the gulls will help to build your birding skills and is well worth the effort.

AOU Checklist Changes

by Max Thompson

The American Ornithologists' Union checklist committee has voted some changes in the AOU checklist that affect us in Kansas. Some of the changes are as follows:

- American Swallow-tailed Kite becomes Swallow-tailed Kite
- Common Black-headed Gull becomes Black-headed Gull
- Gilded Flicker, *Colaptes chrysoides* is separated from Northern Flicker.
- Scrub Jay is split into three: Florida Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Island Scrub-Jay, *A. insularis*, and Western Scrub-Jay, *A. californica*.
- Gray-breasted Jay, becomes Mexican Jay
- Bicknell's Thrush, *Catharus bicknelli* is split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush, *C. minimus*.
- Rufous-sided Towhee is split into Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*, and Eastern Towhee, *P. erythrophthalmus*.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow is split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *A. nelsoni*.
- Northern Oriole becomes Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, Bullock's Oriole, *I. bullockii*, and Black-backed Oriole, *I. abeillei*.

Just remember though that these changes aren't "official" until they are published by the AOU!

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Following are the abstracts of the papers presented at the Annual Meeting in Salina October 7, 1995. There were a total of 11 papers presented. We deeply regret that the group coming from The University of Kansas were unable to make the meeting due to vehicle breakdown. Their four papers were sorely missed and we hope that we will see them in 1996! If you find an abstract that interests you I encourage you to get in touch with the author(s). Usually the first author mentioned (if more than one) was the presenter of the paper. If you have problems contacting an author let me know and I will assist you.

ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL EFFORT IN THE BROWN THRASHER: EFFECTS OF PREDATION RISK AND FOOD AVAILABILITY

*Authors: John F. Cavitt & John L. Zimmerman
Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

Many studies suggest that the two most important factors limiting the reproductive success of birds are nest predation and food supply. It has recently been suggested that these factors may interact to limit nesting success through a conflict between time parents allocate to foraging for nestlings and time needed to guard the nest from predators. We are testing this hypothesis in a population of Brown Thrashers by simultaneously increasing food supply and reducing predator numbers in a 2x2 factorial treatment structure. Parents receiving food supplements had a higher probability of success than controls. This may result from a reduction in foraging trips to the nest and increased time spent guarding the nest when food supply is increased.

NESTLING PEREGRINE FALCONS IN TOPEKA, KANSAS

*Author: Jerry Horak
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Emporia, KS*

A pair of marked Peregrine Falcons that were released in Des Moines, Iowa and Kansas City met in Topeka, Kansas in 1993. In 1994 the female laid 3 eggs on a window ledge of a 14 story abandoned bank building in downtown Topeka. The eggs rolled off the ledge and were destroyed. In 1994 a nest box was placed on the window ledge. The pair hatched 3 young with 1 surviving. In 1995 the nest was relocated to the KPL building two blocks away with an already established nest structure. The pair hatched 4 young and 3 fledged.

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN KANSAS

*Author: Max Thompson
Southwestern College, Winfield, KS*

The Anna's Hummingbird has been recorded in Kansas five times in the last five years. Three of these records are from

Cowley County in the fall of 1994 and the winter of 1995. The recent invasion of this species in the central United States is looked at.

PERCHING BEHAVIOR OF RED-TAILED HAWKS AND AMERICAN KESTRELS ALONG A HIGHWAY: SEASONAL CHANGES

*Author: Bill Langley
Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS*

Two frequently observed raptors along highways are Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The purpose of this study was to determine the cause for the increased number of these hawks observed in winter and describe the perching behavior of these two species. A 32.3 km stretch of two lane highway was observed for two years. The location, time, and perch characteristics, habitat, direction faced and weather were recorded for each bird. Active nests in the area were surveyed to estimate the population size of resident birds. Observations were made on 522 trips totaling 17,017 km and the behavior of 1711 Red-tails and 494 Kestrels were recorded. A change in perching behavior emerges as the major cause for the increased number of birds seen along the highway in winter. Each species differed in kind of habitat or perch it preferred and the extent to which the proximity of a nest or house and the weather affected its perching behavior. These differences presumably reduced potential competition for prey.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WINTERING SWAMP SPARROWS IN NORTHEASTERN KANSAS

*Authors: Dawn Gardner & Calvin L. Cink
Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS.*

We captured, banded, and measured 6 body variables on 250 Swamp Sparrows over 2 winters (1993-1994 and 1994-1995) in a shrubby habitat in the Baker Wetlands near Lawrence, KS. About 72% of the early winter samples were young of the year. Most sparrows showed a 24% decrease in body weight from October to December and a smaller 10% decrease from January to May. There is a similar pattern seen in body fat scores for early winter but not late winter. Temperature variation, snow cover, available seed crop and molt may all have a role in determining body condition of these wintering sparrows.

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER IN KANSAS

*Author: Gene Young
Museum of Natural History, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS*

Eleven specimens of the Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) were examined to determine subspecific identification. Specimens came from Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County (6), Slate Creek Wetlands, Sumner County (4), and Douglas County (1). Specimen dates range from 13 May - 31 May and 24 July - 9 October, while

site records exist from 21 April - 10 October throughout the state. Plumage characteristics (amount of spotting, ventral color, and amount of white on ventral surface) and morphological characteristics (tarsal length, wing length, bill length) were measured and compared with the literature and specimens from Alaska and the northeastern United States. Most specimens appear to be the inland race *L. griseus hendersoni* and at least one specimen most closely resembles the western race *L. griseus caurinus*.

JOHN W. VAN VLIET, MANHATTAN, KANSAS. FIELD NOTES ON OOLOGY FOR THE YEAR 1917

*Author: Tom Shane
1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS*

John W. Van Vliet attended school in and was a resident of Manhattan, Kansas. He also attended Kansas State College (now Kansas State University), where he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1922. John is known to have collected bird eggs from 1915 through 1917. His 1917 notes are still intact, and interesting portions, such as finding a fish in a Barred Owl nest, are extracted. John usually did his field work west of Manhattan with Wild Cat Creek being mentioned most often. Twenty-seven nests of 14 species (with one species being unidentified) were located between February 25 and May 5, 1917. I would hypothesize that the egg collectors of yesterday were the forerunners of the listers of today.

AVIAN USE OF DIFFERENT-AGED STANDS OF RESTORED RIPARIAN WOODLANDS

*Author: Greg Farley
Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS*

Salt cedar, or tamarisk, is a non-native tree which has become established in riparian areas of the western U. S., including Kansas, following human modification of the landscape. Of particular importance to ornithologists is the observation that avian communities in single species tracts of salt cedar are usually less diverse than those observed in nearby woodlands composed of mixed, native vegetation. In an effort to counteract the continued expansion of this plant in the Rio Grande basin of New Mexico, several federal agencies initiated a small scale restoration project. To assess the effectiveness of this program I censused avian communities in restored stands of different age, and compared the results to data collected simultaneously in a mature stand of native trees. The census data suggest that the restoration efforts are successful in reproducing habitat appropriate for a variety of bird species. As the restored habitat matures, avian species composition more closely resembles the assemblage observed in the existing native habitat.

CHANGES IN BREEDING BIRD POPULATION DENSITIES WITH REHYDRATION OF A WETLAND TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

*Author: Calvin L. Cink
Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS*

Breeding birds were censused from 1991 - 1995 on a 49 hectare (ha) floodplain tallgrass prairie in the Baker Wetlands in Douglas County, KS. Elevated roads and water control structures were added to the area following the 1991 season to retain water longer after annual spring flooding and snow melt. As water was retained for longer periods, several species of birds including Dickcissel, Sedge Wren, and Red-winged Blackbird showed significant population declines. Total territories for all species decreased from 236 per 49 ha to 97 per 49 ha. Unfavorable conditions for ground nesters and vegetation changes for several other species may be the main causes of these declines.

ELECTRONIC BIRDING RESOURCES

*Author: Chuck Otte
Geary County Extension Office, PO Box 28 Junction City, KS 66441*

Rapid increases in the availability of computers and access to the Internet have made interesting new resources accessible to birders. Examples include transcriptions of Bird Hot Lines, Discussion Groups, and access to Birding Checklists.

FOUR DOWN AND ONE? TO GO: THE KANSAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Authors: John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, & Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS.

With about two-thirds of the 756 KBBAT blocks completed, it is time to consider 1) breeding distribution maps of representative species, 2) what must be done to satisfactorily conclude this effort, and 3) how the data will be published.

KBBAT BLOCK BUSTER WEEKEND!

July 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1996

*To cover blocks in Wallace, Sherman and
Cheyenne counties.*

*For more information contact Sara or Tom Shane
at 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846*

Historically Speaking.....

I receive correspondence from KOS members from time to time on a variety of subjects. One of the things that I enjoy (and one of the reasons I enjoy some of the books that I do) is the historical perspective of birds and birding. The following comments come to us from Harriet Wilson of Lawrence.

THEN AND NOW

by Harriet Wilson

As a non-scientist, but an enthusiastic reader of works by and about naturalists in nineteenth century North America, I have often been disagreeably affected by what I perceived as their "shoot at everything that moves" philosophy. I do realize though that they had to eat and as scientists were interested in exact measurements, stomach contents and other data.

However, this is not meant to be a criticism of their methods, merely reactions to what I have read. Apparently ornithologists and sportsmen of those times saw such an abundance of wildlife that they never conceived of its ever becoming endangered or extinct.

In this connection Robert Elman, in America's Pioneering Naturalists (Tulsa, 1982), tells of a camping trip in the Adirondacks in which Louis Agassiz was accompanied by Emerson, Lowell, Holmes and other scholars. "Agassiz was one of the very few naturalists who did not become hunters in order to gather their own specimens, and it is possible that he did not even carry a gun on this expedition."

Of course not all nature writers were eager to bring down every bird they saw. Ernest E. Thompson, better known as Ernest Thompson Seton, relates the following incident in The Birds of Manitoba (Washington, 1891); "On June 6, 1883, while crossing the prairie.... I flushed a Quail (Bartramia longicauda)* from her nest almost under my feet; she fluttered a few yards forward and lay flat on the prairie, beating her wings on the ground and uttering such heart broken cries that I could not but leave her in peace. The nest contained three eggs."

*Robert Elman says that the Upland Plover (Sandpiper) was named by Alexander Wilson for his friend, William Bartram. Upland Sandpipers are common summer residents of the Flint Hills and eastern Kansas.

Dr. John Zimmerman shocked all the ardent listers and won both listing contests held at the KOS banquet October 7, 1995. John has observed 49 of 58 warblers and 45 of 57 sparrows in North America north of Mexico. He won two bird carvings presented by KOS President Mike Rader. *(Photo by Sara Shane) (We regret that the photo is not available in the electronic version of this newsletter.)*

SUMMER ROUNDUP /July 1995 - September 1995/ by Chuck Otte

While we all complain about the doldrums of summer birding, there were (and usually are) good birds to be seen for those who go out and fight the heat, mosquitoes and Kansas wind during the late summer.

Tri-colored Herons were seen at both Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira by several birders (including the editor and his wife). Glossy Ibis' appeared at both Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira to the delight of numerous birders. And once again Mottled Ducks were seen irregularly at Quivira.

Raptors that were once thought to be quite uncommon Kansas summer residents again appeared more regularly than anticipated as birders worked hard on KBBAT blocks. Cooper's Hawks were found in apparent breeding season in Norton and Chautauqua counties. Other raptors made their fall appearances sooner than usual with a Northern Goshawk in Russell County, a Rough-legged Hawk in Dickinson County and Prairie Falcons in Stafford and Barton Counties.

Sandhill Cranes were reported from a couple of locations in what we would expect to be out of season periods with one apparently spending the summer in Pratt County and another seen in mid-August in Saline County. Red Knots were seen, or rather a Red Knot was seen by several observers at Quivira during August and early September.

Always a good find in Kansas, a Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted at Quivira in early September and a Sabine's Gull was spending some quality time at Clinton Reservoir in late

September. The uncommon Common Tern showed up at several large reservoirs in September including Perry, Clinton and Kanopolis. A calling Whip-poor-will was totally unexpected in early September in Pawnee County.

Hummingbirds continued to be charted in new areas with Broad-taileds and Rufous hummers showing up in several locations around the state. A possible Black-chinned female was reported from Stafford County and a possible Calliope female was phoned in from Finney County.

Several September reports have indicated that it could be an interesting winter. Violet-green Swallows from Stafford and Barton counties. A nice flock of Pinyon Jays was appreciated in flight by several birders at Morton County's Point of Rocks and a Curve-billed Thrasher and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were also good Morton County finds. Red-breasted Nuthatches exploded across Kansas in early September as well as most of the central and eastern US reaching the Texas Gulf coast by month's end. A new again species for Kansas, Bullock's Oriole - soon to be split out from the Northern Oriole complex - was sighted at Quivira also in early September.

So if you brave the Kansas weather you may be very well rewarded! Get out there and enjoy your Christmas Counts. Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And of course all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / July 1995 through September 1995

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Least Bittern	5 at QNWR including 1 juv	PJ,JN	8-05-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	2 at CB east of headquarters	SP,CH,SA	8-05-95	Barton
Tricolored Heron	1 s of CB inlet canal	JO,CO	9-03-95	Barton
Tricolored Heron	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DK, m. ob.	8-04-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	2 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Stafford
	1 still present	SP,AS,JOB	9-03-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	1 imm Lake McKinney	SP,CH,SA	9-16-95	Kearny
Glossy Ibis	1 at QNWR	CH	8-06-95	Stafford
Glossy Ibis	2 nw of CB	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Barton

This pair of Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage were reported from the Hoisington Gun Club area nw of Cheyenne Bottoms. They were among a large group of White-faced Ibis. If this record is accepted by the Birds Record Committee it would only be the second (or third?) record for Kansas.

Glossy Ibis	1 on w side CB Pool #4	JR	9-13-95	Barton
Mottled Duck	pair at QNWR	MR	9-08-95	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	2 pair at QNWR	JR	7-01-95	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	QNWR	BT	7-04-95	Stafford
Hooded Merganser	22 imm at MDC	MM	7-01-95	Linn
Osprey	8 at Clark State Lake	PJ, et. al.	9-14-95	Clark
Cooper's Hawk	female on nest e of Lenora	SS	7-01-95	Norton
Cooper's Hawk	in KBBAT block	LM	early July	Chautauqua

Northern Goshawk	1 early at Wilson Lake	MR	9-15-95	Russell
Broad-winged Hawk	1 in Logan County	SS	9-25-95	Logan
Ferruginous Hawk	1 at QNWR	SP	9-02-95	Stafford
Rough-legged Hawk	early migrant near Milford L	CO	9-16-95	Dickinson
Golden Eagle	2 in western Clark County	PJ,BD,BG	9-14-95	Clark
Merlin	2 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	DV,WA	9-15-95	Morton
Merlin	1 in Logan County	SS	9-23-95	Logan
Peregrine Falcon	1 imm	SS,TC	8-01-95	Morton
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Prairie Falcon	1 early at QNWR	JN	8-19-95	Stafford
Prairie Falcon	1 early nw of Great Bend	SS	9-03-95	Barton
King Rail	2 at QNWR	JR	7-18-95	Stafford
Common Moorhen	adult with young, QNWR	JR	8-16-95	Stafford
Common Moorhen	16 at QNWR	JN	9-17-95	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	1 "out of season"?	BT	8-13-95	Saline
Sandhill Crane	1 at Texas Lake near Cullison	DD	all summer	Pratt

Don Dick reported this bird (Brunson - per. comm.) as being present all summer. He doesn't think the bird is injured as he saw it flying. This may be the third year this bird or a Sandhill Crane has been present through the summer.

Snowy Plover	300+ at QNWR	MR	8-14-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at MDC Unit A	MM	7-15-95	Linn
Piping Plover	1 at Otoe Park, Wilson Res	MR	8-16-95	Russell
Piping Plover	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	JR	8-07-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	MR	8-14-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	JR	9-01-95	Stafford
Western Sandpiper	18 at QNWR	JR	7-18-95	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	5 in nw Reno County	DK	8-04-95	Reno
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2 in MDC Unit A	BF	7-30-95	Linn
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MR	8-19-95	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3 at QNWR	JR	9-01-95	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at MDC	MM,GP,SA	7-16-95	Linn
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	15 at QNWR	SP,AS,JOB	9-03-95	Stafford
Laughing Gull	1, w side of Tuttle Creek	TC	7-09-95	Riley
Laughing Gull	1 at Perry Lake	LM,MM	9-08-95	Jefferson
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 at QNWR	JBa	9-04-95	Stafford
Sabine's Gull	1 imm at Clinton Reservoir	LM,MM,SP,SA	9-23-95	Douglas
	still present		10-01-95	
Common Tern	1 at Lassiter Marsh	LM	9-03-95	Jefferson
Common Tern	1 at Perry Lake	LM	9-20-95	Jefferson
Common Tern	1 at Clinton Res	LM,MM,SP,SA	9-23-95	Douglas
Common Tern	2 at Kanopolis	SS	9-30-95	Ellsworth
Whip-poor-will	1 calling nw of Larned	DR, AR	9-03-95	Pawnee
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 probable female, St. John	JR	9-24-95	Stafford
Calliope Hummingbird	1 female at feeder (possible)	Ssh,TSh	8-10-95	Finney
	This small female with wings longer than its tail was seen just briefly by the Shanes at their feeder in Garden City.			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at Garden City feeder	Ssh,TSh	8-09-95	Finney
	present the 10th and 12th as well			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at Burdett feeder	JM	8-21-95	Pawnee
	present through		8-31-95	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at n Wichita feeder	NKC	8-29-95	Sedgwick
	still present		9-01-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at feeder, good pictures	CS	8-12-95	Harvey
	present through		8-17-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at feeder in St. John	JR	8-22-95	Stafford
	through		8-30-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at Haysville feeder	PJ	8-23-95	Sedgwick

Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at Middle Springs another seen at Wilburton Crossing	PJ,RD,BG	9-15-95 9-17-95	Morton Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Wichita's Oak Park	PJ	9-01-95	Sedgwick
Violet-green Swallow	2 at QNWR, Wildlife Drive	SP	9-02-95	Stafford
Violet-green Swallow	1 imm at CB	JN, m.ob.	9-03-95	Barton
Barn Swallow	1 pure albino nw of Larned present to	SS	8-18-95 8-27-95	Pawnee
Pinyon Jay	35 flying w past Pt of Rocks	SP,CH,SA,BP	9-16-95	Morton
Fish Crow	1 at Schermerhorn Park	PJ	7-02-95	Cherokee
Chihuahuan Raven	7 just w of Hugoton	PJ	9-15-95	Stevens
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 near Perry Lake	LM,MM	9-03-95	Jefferson
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4 at Wichita's MGC	PJ	9-09-95	Sedgwick
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 nw of Junction City	CO	9-09-95	Geary
Carolina Wren	family group (?) of 5 in Burdett present to	JM	8-24-95 8-26-95	Pawnee
Winter Wren	1 at Highland Cemetery	CO	9-21-95	Geary
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 on n edge of Elkhart	WA	9-17-95	Morton
Cedar Waxwing	<u>1 fledgling</u> in Leoti	SS	9-23-95	Wichita
Loggerhead Shrike	melanistic juv with normal adult	SS	7-24-95	Pawnee
Nashville Warbler	1 early migrant at Scott Lake	GF	8-20-95	Scott
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Wichita's MGC	CG	9-12-95	Sedgwick
Townsend's Warbler	1 female at Wichita's MGC	PJ	9-13-95	Sedgwick
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	LM,MM	9-01-95	Wyandotte
Pine Warbler	1 at MDC	LM,MM,GP,SA	9-09-95	Linn
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Bonner Springs	CH	9-02-95	Wyandotte
Canada Warbler	1 nw of Junction City	CO	9-02-95	Geary
Canada Warbler	at MDC wa	MM	9-03-95	Linn
Connecticut Warbler	1 at Wichita's CCP	JN	9-15-95	Sedgwick
Western Tanager	1 female at Work Station	SP,PW,GP	9-04-95	Morton
Western Tanager	w part of Elkhart	WA	9-15-95	Morton
Western Tanager	in Lakin	SP,CH,SA	9-16-95	Kearny
Black-throated Sparrow	near Hanston	SS,SSh,TSh	7-22-95	Hodgeman
Henslow's Sparrow	singing at RML	MM,GP,SA	7-16-95	Linn
Bullock's Oriole	1 male at QNWR	JN	9-03-95	Stafford

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CCP = Chisholm Creek Park

e = east

imm = immature

juv = juvenile

KBBAT = Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

L = Lake

m. ob.

MGC = Maple Grove Cemetery

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

RML = Reclaimed Mine Land s of LaCygne Lake

w = west

wa = Wildlife Area

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Steve Addinal (SA), James Barnes (Jba), Ted Cable (TC), Nick & Kathy Claussen (NKC), Robert Dester (RD), Don Dick (DD), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Chet Gresham (CG), Bob Gress (BG), Chris Hobbs (CH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Mick McHugh (MM), Johnnie Millington (JM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), John O'Brien (JOB), Sebastian Patti (SP), Brandon Percival (BP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Mark Robbins (MRo), David Rose (DR), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Andy Sigler (AS), Bill Trelc (BT), Phil Wedge (PW), Wichita Audubon (WA)

KOS member and *Horned Lark* columnist John Rakestraw recently had an excellent article published in *Birding* magazine. The Kansas Bird Records Committee felt that it was so well done that it needed to be repeated for all KOS members. Following is that article reprinted with permission of the American Birding Association, the author and *Birding* magazine from Volume XXVIII: Number 1, February 1996.

KEEPING FIELD NOTES

JOHN RAKESTRAW

Every birder knows the frustration of observing a rare bird or an unusual behavior while birding alone. A phone call to report the finding might sound something like this:

"I've found a White-tailed Kite at Cheyenne Bottoms!"
"Did you get a picture of it?"
"No."
"OK, thanks." (click)

Rare birds often seem to be attracted to novice birders or to those who bird alone. Whether you want to document rarities or merely record your birding experiences, the most practical method for most birders is to take field notes and photographs.

Notes and sketches made in the field greatly increase the chances of identifying an unknown species by forcing the observer to study the bird carefully instead of wasting precious time flipping through a field guide. If you thoroughly record your observations, you can then compare your notes to field guides and other references.

The concept of keeping field notes is certainly not new. Early naturalists, before the day's of telephoto lenses and video cameras, relied exclusively on their field notes (and collected specimens) to record their findings. Some of these journals are works of art in themselves, containing detailed drawings and paintings along with poetic narratives. Although most birders will feel that this level of artistry is beyond them, a great deal of information can be recorded with a few short sentences and a crude line drawing.

Many people can enjoy watching a bird for an extended period of time but then have difficulty describing the bird to others. The first step to taking good field notes is deciding what information to record. The level of detail in your notes will vary, depending on your purposes. If you are merely recording a sighting of a familiar species for your own journal, you will not go into as much detail as you would if you were recording an unknown species or documenting a rarity. Listed below are several things to look for when making field notes. Many of these suggestions are covered in greater detail in "How to Document Rare Birds" by Donna Dittmann and Greg Lasley in the June 1992 *Birding*.

Start with your first impression of the bird. Terms such as "chunky" or "slender" can help to quickly narrow down the list of possible species.

A bird's size can be a very important key to making an identification, but do not try to estimate a bird's length. Most estimates are amazingly inaccurate and are therefore of little value. Instead, compare the size of the bird to something nearby such as another bird or an object that can later be measured. Describing a bird as "the same size as nearby goldfinches" or "notably larger than adjacent Killdeer" provides a concrete size reference.

Make note of the bird's proportions. Does the head appear large or small? Is the tail half the total length of the bird or is it short? How far back do the wing tips extend? Note any prominent feathers such as crests, tail streamers, or ornamental breeding plumage.

After you have described the size and shape of a bird, you are ready to concentrate on colors and markings. Start with the head and move on to the back, wings, rump, and tail. Then return to the front of the bird, describing the chin, throat, breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts, and the underside of the tail. By adopting this routine, you will be less likely to omit important field marks. Look for wing-bars, eye-ring or eye-line, stripes, spots, barring, or any other distinguishing marks.

Some birds can be identified by their bills alone. If you can get a close view of the bird, notice the colors of the bill, as well as its general shape and depth. Careful observation of the bill is important when studying shorebirds. Is the bill straight, decurved, upturned, or straight with a droop at the tip? Is the length of the bill more or less than half the total length of the head?

The color of the legs and feet can vary considerably among individual birds. But combined with other field marks, however, leg color can be a valuable aid to the identification of some species.

Briefly describe what the bird is doing. Does it glean insects from foliage or does it catch its prey from the air? Does it have an unusual flight style or any "quirks," like teetering, tail wagging, or wing flicking?

Document any vocalizations that you hear. Describe these sounds in your own words, not in the words of your field guide.

Lastly, what type of habitat is the bird using? Although many migrants and vagrants will utilize whatever is available, a bird's choice of habitat can provide clues to its identity.

- - *Keeping Field Notes, continued*

Unless you can get very close to a very cooperative bird, you will probably not be able to see all the details noted above. But this list will give you an idea of what to look for and what type of information to record. How you record this information will depend on your personal preferences and artistic ability.

If you are more comfortable using words instead of pictures, you may choose to describe your observations with a straight narrative. A written account can provide a wealth of detail but sometimes takes a considerable amount of time to prepare. The best way to make detailed notes in the field is to carry a small tape recorder. A micro-cassette recorder in your shirt pocket can record your observations while you are actually looking at the bird. Your notes can then be transcribed and edited at home.

A simple sketch can quickly record a lot of detail. Proportion, prominent field marks, and bill shape can all be accurately portrayed with a primitive drawing. If you find the idea of drawing a bird to be intimidating, practice sketching the birds at your feeders or in your neighborhood. Don't try for perfection and don't take time to erase. Just jot down the important concepts. Make short notes around your drawing to clarify

details and to mention any interesting behavior. A small sketchbook, about the size of a field guide, can easily be carried with you in the field.

With a little practice, you may find your sketches becoming more and more life-like. As your artistic skills improve, you may want to keep a birding journal complete with colored illustrations. Colored pencils and watercolors are easy to work with and make very pleasing renditions. Colored pencils and watercolor pencils can be taken into the field, but you may find yourself spending more time drawing than you spend birding. It is usually more practical to take notes and make simple sketches in the field, then use these to create more formal journal entries at home.

Getting into the habit of taking field notes can benefit a birder in several ways. Unless you are carrying a camera, field notes and sketches are the best way to document rare birds. The accumulated notes of casual birders provide scientists with valuable information on bird distribution, populations, and behavior. And finally, keeping notes or a journal is an excellent way to relive your own birding experiences. Reviewing your notes from a warbler-filled morning in May is a great way to liven up a dreary February afternoon.

KOS Banquet speaker Maure Weigel, October 7, 1995 Salina, Kansas. *Photo by Tom Shane*
(We regret that the photo can not be reproduced in this electronic version of this newsletter issue.)

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1995

*Peters Science Hall
Kansas Wesleyan University
Salina, Kansas
October 7-8, 1995*

The forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 7-8, 1995 at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas. Shannon Rayl was chair of the local arrangements committee.

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Morning Session

Roy Beckemeyer, Vice-President of KOS, opened the meeting at 8:55 am and welcomed all those in attendance. He thanked Kansas Wesleyan University for hosting the meeting. He announced that the van from Kansas University had broken down and the group from KU would not be able to attend nor present their papers. He made additional announcements about local arrangements. Roy chaired the morning paper session. The papers were presented as listed on the program (see attachment A) except that papers #2 and #7 were canceled and papers #8 and #9 were postponed to the afternoon session.

The morning business meeting was called to order by Mike Rader at 10:50 am.

MINUTES: Max Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting as printed in the Newsletter. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE KOS BYLAWS: The following amendments to the KOS Bylaws, which will make the Editors elective officers and members of the Board of Directors, were proposed by the Board:

1. Article IV, Section 1A. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of elected officers.
2. Article V, section 1A. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers.
3. Article V, Section 2C. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the 'Newsletter'" to the list of officers who may succeed themselves as elected.
4. Article V, Section 3A. Delete "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" from the list of appointed positions.
5. Article, Section 3B. Delete reference to the "two editors" and amend to read:
"The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board for a one year term which shall begin with the annual spring field trip. The Librarian may be reappointed at the discretion of the president and the Board."
6. Article VI, Section 2E. Delete reference to the Editors and amend to read:
"Appoint the Librarian subject to approval by the Board."
7. Article VI, Section 8. Add part D to read:
"D. Be members of the Board of Directors."

A motion was made to approve these amendments. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gregg Friesen reported that KOS had total assets of approximately \$37,000 with about \$34,000 of this amount in restricted funds. We will have sufficient income to cover our expenses this year.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Wedge reported that there were 404 members of KOS for 1995 (see attachment B). This is a decline in membership from 430 members at this time in 1994. Six libraries and 38 members failed to renew this year.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte asked that scheduled dates of Christmas Bird Counts be reported to him by November 10 for printing in the Newsletter.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Dawn Sharp reported some difficulties with the present printer of the Newsletter so she may be changing printers. Postage rates have made a slight increase, with more substantial increases in international rates.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson asked members to submit manuscripts for the Bulletin and reported that he had none for the December Bulletin. He reported that the price for printing had remained rather stable. He is changing the paper used in the Bulletin because the paper we had been using is no longer being made.

Max said that questions had been raised about including the Christmas Bird Counts in the Newsletter rather than the Bulletin. However he noted that of the 47 Kansas counts printed in the Bulletin only 23 were printed in the National Audubon Society Field Notes. Since the KOS Newsletter is not usually kept and bound by libraries, data from the other 24 counts would be unavailable for future reference if they were not printed in the Bulletin.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICERS' REPORTS: Chuck Otte moved to accept the Officers' Reports. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Bill Busby, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the following slate of nominations for KOS officers:

President: Mike Rader
Vice-President: Roy Beckemeyer
Corresponding Secretary: Dwight Platt
Membership Secretary: Margaret Wedge
Treasurer: Gregg Friesen
Business Manager: Dawn Sharp
Bulletin Editor: Max Thompson
Newsletter Editor: Chuck Otte
Board Members: John Schukman, Bill Busby

The terms of Board Members Shannon Rayl and Bob Gress do not expire.

After announcements about local arrangements, a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Afternoon Session.

Roy Beckemeyer opened the afternoon session at 1:35 p.m.. He announced that students presenting papers at the meeting will receive a free membership in KOS. He chaired the afternoon paper session. The first two papers were those by Gene Young and Tom Shane which had been postponed from the morning session, The rest of the papers were presented as listed in the program (see attachment A) except that the papers by Lisa G. Ball and by Richard O. Prum were canceled.

Mike Rader opened the afternoon business meeting at 4:20 p.m.,

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Mike Rader opened the meeting to nominations from the floor for officers and Board members. A motion was made to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT: Bill Busby reported that Partners in Flight is a loose association of people, agencies and organizations interested in protection of Neotropical migrants and land birds in general. They want state groups to set conservation priorities and a Kansas group will be organized for this purpose. Bill will keep KOS posted on developments.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUNDING INITIATIVE: Ken Brunson reported that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is organizing a campaign to get a fund for wildlife diversity conservation. They are proposing a tax of up to 5% at the wholesale level on certain equipment and supplies used in nongame wildlife recreation. He encouraged KOS members to support this initiative and to write to certain companies to encourage their support.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting and Field Trip will be in Morton County on the weekend of May 3-5. The Annual Fall Meeting in 1996 will be in Newton.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Mike Rader reported that the Board had approved plans by Tom Shane to activate this program, Tom will be putting it into motion.

KOS "FINANCIALLY-FIT AT FIFTY" CAMPAIGN: Max Thompson reported that the Board had approved this campaign by the Finance Committee to increase the KOS Endowment Fund. The goal of the campaign will be to increase the endowment fund by \$5,000 per year for the next three years so that the endowment fund would be \$15,000 larger by 1998. The Finance Committee determined that this amount should cover our forecasted cost increases on a sustaining basis. Members will be contacted for their donations,

Mike Rader thanked the local group for its excellent arrangements and thanked all those who presented papers at the meeting. A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m..

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Evening Banquet.

The Annual Banquet was served at the Salina Country Club with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. and the meal at 7 p.m.. After a delicious meal, Tom Shane, master of ceremonies, opened the meeting at 8 p.m.. Tom supervised the drawings for door prizes which were enjoyed by all. He thanked the people at Salina for hosting the meeting and introduced the KOS officers.

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: The top 10 birds of the year were presented:

1. Great Kiskadee (state record)
2. Tie Arctic Tern (state record)
Wilson's Plover (state record)
3. Anna's Hummingbird (second state record)
4. Glossy Ibis (second state record)
5. Pyrrhuloxia
6. Black-headed Gull
7. White-winged Dove
8. Harris Hawk
9. Black-throated Sparrow
10. Eurasian Wigeon

SILENT AUCTION RESULTS: Tom Shane announced that the proceeds from the Silent Auction amounted to \$604 (\$175 for the student Research Fund),

RESOLUTIONS: Resolutions were read expressing thanks to the speakers at the meeting, determination to complete the KBBAT blocks in 1996, thanks to retiring Board Members and gratitude to the local committee. The resolutions were accepted by acclamation.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Six persons have completed life memberships and pins were presented to those in attendance:

1. Bill Busby
2. Ted Cable
3. Barbara Campbell
4. Effie Edwards
5. John McBride Jr.
6. C. J. Ochs

Mike Rader expressed his thanks to KOS for the honor of being able to serve as president and his thanks to Shannon Rayl and the local committee for their excellent planning and preparations. He introduced Maure Weigel, founder of the Prairie Raptor Project, who gave a very interesting address illustrated with slides.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 1995, Morning Field Trips.

Field Trips were held on Sunday morning in the vicinity of Salina.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

- Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

The KOS will hold it's annual fall meeting October 4, 5, and 6, 1996 in Harvey County, Kansas on the campuses of Hesston and Bethel College. Mark these dates on your calendars and be sure to attend. Look for registration information in June and September Horned Larks. .

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1995

October 7, 1995

Kansas Wesleyan University

Salina, Kansas

Members present: Shannon Rayl, Sara Shane, Gene Young, Roy Beckemeyer, Mike Rader, Gregg Friesen, Bob Gress, Margaret Wedge, Dwight Platt. non-voting: Chuck Otte, Max Thompson, John Zimmerman.

Mike Rader opened the luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors. The agenda for the meeting had been distributed (see attachment A).

ENDOWMENT FUND: Max Thompson reported for the Finance Committee on the "Financially-Fit at Fifty" Campaign (see attachment B). The Finance Committee is proposing a campaign for gifts to increase the Endowment Fund by \$5,000 per year for the next three years. We are now able to cover our expenses with our income but the income from this increased endowment will be sufficient to offset cost increases, Gene Young moved to authorize the Finance Committee to proceed with the "Financially-Fit at Fifty" Campaign. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

KOS BUDGET FOR 1996: Gregg Friesen presented a proposed budget for 1996 (see attachment C). Total budgeted expenses are \$4,865. projected income is approximately \$5,000. It was decided to use this budget as a guideline. It may be adjusted at the Winter Board Meeting.

SPRING 1997 MEETING: John Zimmerman thanked the Board for being willing to help host the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting at Kansas State University April 17-20, 1997. Typically 150 people attend these meetings. KOS members should be encouraged to participate in the paper sessions. The president of KOS will be involved in the opening exercises and volunteers from KOS will be asked to help lead field trips. The Board asked John to reserve some space for a KOS Spring Meeting during this time.

FUTURE MEETING SITES: The following future meeting sites were agreed to:

May 3-5, 1996 - Morton County

Fall 1996 (probably October 4-6) - Newton

April 17-20, 1997 - Manhattan

October 3-5, 1997 - Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

Spring 1998 - Barber County

October 2-4, 1998 - Lawrence (50th anniversary)

Spring 1999 - Winfield

Fall 1999 - Hays

NEW STATE CHECKLISTS: We are down to the last 350 checklists. Max reported that he had obtained a list of the changes that will be in the new AOU Checklist so we can go ahead and print a new Kansas checklist. There was discussion of trying to obtain some outside funding for it.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: It is time to publish a new membership directory. Margaret Wedge can send the computer file to Chuck Otte. It will cost \$80 -90 to get it published. Chuck will request e-mail addresses and permission to publish telephone numbers in the next Newsletter.

ABA REQUEST FOR KOS MEMBERSHIP LIST: Mike Rader reported that the American Birding Association had requested to use the KOS membership list. There was a discussion of policy in supplying our membership list to other organizations. Max Thompson moved that we supply the KOS membership list to the ABA for a one-time use for a charge of \$100. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: We still have two or three thousand membership brochures left but there are errors in the address and in the membership dues. Stickers to correct those errors would be expensive. Mike Rader will contact David Seibel to explore the possibility of a revised printing. Chuck Otte moved that we authorize the printing of an updated membership brochure with a print run of 500. Gregg Friesen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Mike Rader reported that Tom Shane has prepared a proposal to activate the Student Research Fund (see attachment D). It would allow for the generation of a number of memorial funds to be used by students at particular schools or from particular areas. The KOS Fund might be used for students in school that do not have a fund. Roy Beckemeyer

moved that we approve Tom Shane's plan for the Student Research Fund but reserve the KOS Student Research Fund for designation by the Student Research Fund Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

STUDENT AWARDS: There was discussion about giving awards to the best student papers at the Fall Meeting. This practice had been stopped a few years ago. It was suggested that we might give student memberships to all students who present papers. Bob Gress moved that we award student memberships in KOS to students making presentations of papers at the Annual Meeting. Margaret Wedge seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Treasurer will work out a certificate to accompany the award.

AMENDMENTS TO KOS BYLAWS: Dwight Platt summarized some problems in the current Bylaws that may necessitate revisions (see attachment E for memo of May 29, 1995 summarizing these problems). It was decided to take up Bylaws amendments at the Winter Board Meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: Dwight Platt announced that Officers' reports that should be included in the society's records need to be handed to him in written form. These will be included as attachments to the minutes.

MONEY FROM THE SALE OF GENE LEWIS' BOOKS: Gene Lewis has donated some old ornithology books for the Silent Auction and asked that the proceeds from their sale go into the student Research Fund. Gregg Friesen moved that the proceeds from the sale of Gene Lewis' books be put in the student Research Fund. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ABSTRACTS: Chuck Otte questioned whether the abstracts of papers presented at the Annual Meeting should be published in the Bulletin rather than the Newsletter. It was decided that the abstracts should be published in the Newsletter since they are not subject to review.

KNWAC: Chuck Otte reported on the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council. It has not been very active recently. However the new secretary of the Department seems to be moving in the right direction in asking for input and taking steps to minimize conflicts.

The Board Meeting adjourned.

- - *Respectfully submitted., Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary*

KOS Spring Meeting!!!!

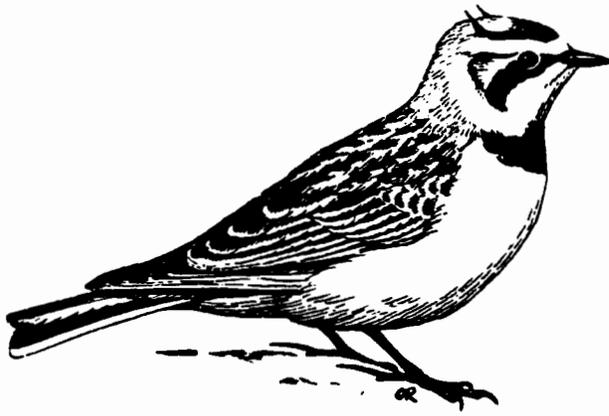
May 3, 4 & 5, 1996

Morton County

Mark your calendar today

and look for details in the *March Horned Lark*

(Coming soon..... really!)



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September 1995

Vol. 22, No. 3

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper



From the Keyboard -



I can't remember a year when I have been looking forward to fall as much as I am this year. A wet May, lots of heat, humidity and wind. Our house got hailed on in May (the new roof will be on later this fall), and then in early August while I was trying to get this issue wrapped up, we had thunderstorms roll through on consecutive days. The first day I had one tree ripped up with high winds. On the second day lightning hit another tree in my yard and scattered extra volts all around the house to the chagrin of some of my electronic equipment. Oh well, at least the computer is still working!!

I want to call your attention to another new addition to the *Horned Lark*--The KOS Kids Page from Amy Rose. Amy never had a chance! If anyone was genetically predisposed to be a birdwatcher it was Amy. She's the daughter of KOS members Dave and Linda Bryan and the niece of Diane and Scott Seltman...she never had a chance. Amy tells me that her first recollection of birdwatching was as a youngster being with her parents at Point Pelee. She kept wondering why they were spending so much time looking at those little bitty birds at the tops of those trees. Well, now she's doing it too. If you see her in Salina, ask her about her birding trip this summer to New Mexico. We welcome Amy as another regular contributor and thank her for addressing an all too often forgotten segment of the birding family. After all, how many of us are birders today because somebody took time when we were youngsters to help us look at those little bitty birds in the tops of those trees. Thank you, Amy!

I'm sitting at my keyboard trying to wrap up this issue and my mind keeps wandering to the Fall Meeting at Salina, and Christmas counts and the Spring Meeting in Morton County (with personal trips to Minnesota and Las Vegas sprinkled in between). My mind keeps assembling possible bird lists from each of these excursions and I start to salivate like Pavlov's dog. Back to reality, Chuck, you've got a newsletter to finish!

But now I focus on the Fall Meeting in Salina. Birding friends I haven't seen since spring or maybe not for a year or two. Birding stories to share and a chance to meet some new birders...maybe some who live close enough to those 4 KBBAT blocks I still have to do in southern Dickinson county that they will want to help! KOS meetings are a lot like the County Fair. A chance to see what's new, what's good, and how everyone is doing it. A time to reminisce a little and to brag a little. A chance to contemplate what exciting times we live in and how lucky we are to be part of it.

Plan to come to Salina and look for opportunities to volunteer and become involved in the KOS. It's going to be a great time - see you in Salina!

--chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1995

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Sara Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

Gene Young, Southwestern - Biology Dept, 100 College St,
Winfield, KS 67156

Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441

ONE MORE TIME!!!

BY-LAWS CHANGES PROPOSED

(These changes will be voted on at the Fall Meeting in Salina!!!)

After discussion at the winter and spring board meetings, the Board of Directors has voted to forward the following by-laws changes to the membership—to be voted on at the Fall Meeting in Salina. These changes would remove the Bulletin and Newsletter Editor from being appointed positions, make them elected positions and make them voting members of the Board of Directors.

- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of elected officers in Article IV, Section 1A so that it reads: "Elected Officers: President (Chairman of the Board), Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary (Secretary of the Board), Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, four (4) Directors at large, Editor of the Bulletin and Editor of the Newsletter."
- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers in Article V, Section 1A so that it reads: "Officers: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Editor of the *Bulletin* and Editor of the Newsletter."
- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers that can succeed themselves as elected in Article V, Section 2C so that it reads: "The Corresponding Secretary, the Membership Secretary, the Treasurer, the Business Manager, the Editor of the Bulletin

and the Editor of the Newsletter may succeed themselves as elected."

- Delete "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" from the list of appointed positions in Article V, Section 3A so that it reads "Appointed positions are: Librarian and the Chairman of each of the standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity and Kansas Bird Records."
- Article V, Section 3B will read: "The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board for a one year term which shall begin with the annual spring field trip. The Librarian may be reappointed at the discretion of the President and the Board." (The two editor positions are removed from this section.)
- Article VI, Section 2E would be amended to read: "Appoint the Librarian, subject to approval by the Board." (The two editor positions are removed from this section.)
- Add Section 8D to Article VI to read: "Be members of the Board of Directors." (This adds another responsibility to the duties list of the two editors.)

If you have any questions on these by-laws changes, feel free to contact any of the Board of Directors.

Christmas Count Check-In Time Is Here!



As in past years I would like to have all those who will be organizing or compiling a Christmas Bird Count to please let me know at least the date, time and gathering point for your counts by early November so I can get them published in the December *Horned Lark*.

Send a short note to Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 or call me at 913-238-8800 (if I'm not home just leave the information on my machine), FAX me the information at 913-238-7166, email me at COTTE@OZNET.KSU.EDU or just tell me at the fall meeting in Salina!

Got some bright  ideas???

Be sure to answer the
CALL FOR PAPERS
near the back of this issue!

For more information, call Roy Beckemeyer
(316) 264-0049

In this issue...

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<i>Danger Zone</i>	3	13	<i>KOS Kid's Page</i>
<i>A Recollection, by Tom Shane</i>	4	15	<i>Fall Meeting Information</i>
<i>Winged Tips</i>	5	on back	<i>Fall Meeting Registration Materials</i>

—*The Danger Zone*

PEREGRINE FALCONS - off the threatened and endangered list???

by Jerry Horak

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the status of the American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), currently classified as endangered in both State and Federal endangered species acts.

This falcon occurs throughout much of North America. The central parts of both Canada and United States, which includes Kansas, have historically contained relatively few nesting Peregrine Falcons. In essence, the plains area of the continent separates the historically dense nesting areas of east and west North America.

Peregrine Falcon populations declined sharply following World War II. Research indicated that the use of organochlorine pesticides (DDT) in the United States and Canada caused this downward trend. The use of this pesticide probably affected the Peregrine Falcon either by causing direct mortality or adversely affecting reproduction through egg shell thinning. Due to the sharp decline in the number of American Peregrine Falcons, the species was listed as endangered in 1970.

The most significant event in the recovery of the Peregrine Falcon was the placement of restrictions on the use of organochlorine pesticides. Use was curtailed in Canada in 1970 and the United States followed in 1974. Since implementation of these restrictions, residues of the

pesticides have decreased. Consequently, reproductive rates in most surviving populations improved and Peregrine Falcon numbers have increased to the point where the species is a viable part of the ecosystem in some Western regions.

In the eastern United States, where Peregrines were extirpated, the re-establishment of the population was from a captive-rearing and release program. Kansas was a recipient of this program. A young female released in Des Moines, Iowa in 1991 and a young male released from Kansas City in 1992 met in downtown Topeka in 1993. They had successful nests in 1994 and 1995 and so far have fledged a total of four young.

Kansas is included in the Rocky Mountain/Southwest Peregrine Falcon recovery region. The recovery plan for this region called for 183 breeding pairs, mostly in the mountain states. As of 1994, surveys showed there were 559 breeding pairs, which exceeds the recovery plan by 376 pairs. Most regions show similar population trends and with the continued restrictions on certain pesticides, populations should continue to improve even if they are taken off of the Federal threatened and endangered list. The Peregrine Falcon will still be protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR STUDENT RESEARCH FUND



As an addition to the Silent Auction, there will be a special item being auctioned with proceeds going to the Student Research Fund. Long time KOS member Eugene Lewis (now of Silver City, New Mexico) is donating his 1891 copy of *History of Birds in Kansas* by Goss. Eugene notes that this copy is in excellent shape with just a little wear on the edges of the spine. Additionally, he will include another lesser known Goss volume called "A Revised Catalogue of Birds of Kansas," dated 1886. This is a small volume which Eugene describes as being in fair condition.

Here are the ground rules for this special item. The two books will be auctioned as one unit. Minimum bid is \$100 and all proceeds will go to the Student Research Fund.

Due to the special nature of these items, we will allow mail bids ahead of time as well as bids at the Fall Meeting. If you won't be present at the Fall Meeting and want to get your bid in, send it to Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita KS 67023. In case of two identical high bids arriving by mail, the one with the earliest postmark will be the successful bidder. If you've ever wanted a copy of Goss' book, here's your opportunity to get one and contribute to a good cause at the same time! *And a SPECIAL thank you to Eugene for donating these fine items!*

Going. . . . Going. . . .

Birding a Western Kansas Stretch of the Arkansas River by Canoe

by Thomas G. Shane

My son, Christopher and I had what will probably be a once in a lifetime chance to canoe the Arkansas River in Finney County, Kansas. The heavy snow melt in the Colorado Rockies has produced an exceptionally high spring and summer runoff beyond the capacity of all Colorado reservoirs to hold the water.

We put in at the Holcomb bridge about 6:10 p.m. CDT and canoed the 7 miles downstream to the Garden City bridge on Tuesday, August 1, 1995. It took us one hour and fifty minutes. It was a cool and mostly overcast evening, with the birds being fairly active. I mentally kept a list of those birds I saw and heard. I report this list because observing birds like this is impossible most of the time, and the late season activity of certain species was interesting.

The banks of the river were covered with tamarisk about two-thirds of the way, and a few stands of cottonwood were also present. The river at one point was about a quarter mile wide with four channels. Testing the depth with the paddle, I found it was over five feet deep in numerous places.

I have known for many years that Dickcissels keep singing until the 15th of August, however, I was surprised to find six Field Sparrows singing in August. The Blue Grosbeak,

the second most numerous bird, was not only singing, but I also observed several chases. The following list of species is followed by the method of locating.

- 8 Great Blue Heron (observed)
- 3 Black-billed Magpie (call)
- 4 Black-crowned Night-Heron (observed)
- 1 Bewick's Wren (call notes)
- 3 Mallard (observed)
- 1 Northern Mockingbird (observed)
- 3 Mississippi Kite (observed)
- 1 Common Yellowthroat (singing)
- 1 Killdeer (call)
- 20 Blue Grosbeak (singing & observed)
- 4 Spotted Sandpiper (call & observed)
- 4 Dickcissel (singing)
- 4 Mourning Dove (observed)
- 6 Field Sparrow (singing)
- 1 Northern Flicker (call)
- 1 Lark Sparrow (singing)
- 5 Western Kingbird (observed)
- 1 Red-winged Blackbird (singing)
- 1 Eastern Kingbird (observed)
- 100 Common Grackle (flock)
- 2 Barn Swallow (observed)
- 1 Bullock's Oriole (observed)



Don't miss the FALL MEETING



October 6-8, 1995



Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, KS

Some of the best birding of the year will happen during the fall meeting weekend!!!
Don't be left out...fill out your registration form on the back of this newsletter. If
you didn't get one, call 913/525-5296!



Registration forms are due by September 22,
or call by September 29.



BIRDING GRASSLAND HABITATS

John Rakestraw

I began birding in the woodlots and riparian corridors near my home in northern Indiana. Warblers and other songbirds were found by walking along trails, country roads, and railroad tracks that cut through these wooded areas. When I spotted movement, I could pish and the cooperative little songsters would often come in closer so we could observe each other.

When I moved to Kansas, birding soon replaced fishing as my greatest passion ("Where's the water?") and I first experienced prairie birding. Grassland habitats provide several challenges. Without trees and shrubs to hide in, prairie birds are often not as accommodating as woodland species.

Grassland species usually practice one of two defenses. The first, utilized by prairie chickens, is to fly to the next county at the first sign of danger. The second, practiced by many sparrows, is to fly for a few yards to get your attention, and then dive into the grass, never to be seen again.

With a little practice and a lot of patience, you can get good views of most prairie species. The most important key to success is seeing the birds before they see you.

The first step in adapting from woodland to grassland birding is learning to actively search for birds, rather than waiting for the birds' movements to attract your attention. Scan the distance with binoculars or a scope to locate birds perched on grass stems or shrubs. When a bird is sighted, carefully plan your approach. Use whatever cover is available and try to keep the sun at your back whenever possible.

Even if you are not familiar with many bird sounds, use your ears to help locate your quarry. Some grassland species engage in skylarking, an elaborate flight display accompanied by song. This display attracts birders as well as mates.

When looking for longspurs and pipits in areas with very little cover, like the mowed hayfields near Lyon County State Lake, stop every few steps and scan the ground in front of you for birds. If the birds do flush, stand perfectly still and watch the flock. These birds will often fly in a big circle and return to the same spot. Once you have gotten a good look at the birds, retrace your steps so as not to disturb the flock any more than necessary.

Mixed grass prairie, like that found at Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area, does not provide enough cover to hide a birder but provides plenty of cover for the birds. When

searching for the Lesser Prairie-chickens that make this site famous, make use of the rolling hills to hide your approach. As you are about to crest a hill, stop and scan the next hill top. With most of your body hidden behind the hill, the birds on the next hill top will usually go about their business undisturbed.

The tall grass habitats of eastern Kansas may appear a bit intimidating, but birders who stay at the edge of such habitats will miss a lot of birds. Don't be afraid to immerse yourself in the "sea of grass" that greeted the settlers as they made their way westward. Wade in and take advantage of the tall cover. Once you are part of the prairie, birds will come in fairly close.

While I almost always prefer to bird on foot, a car can serve as an effective blind to closely approach grassland species. When you find birds working a crop field or pasture, drive as close as the birds will allow, turn off the engine, and wait. Feeding flocks of larks and longspurs will sometimes work their way right past a parked car, giving you close looks at these shy birds.

You will find that the number of bird species in most grassland habitats is pretty meager compared to that of woodland and marsh. But the birds you do find are good ones and offer quite a challenge. Grasslands yield other treasures as well. Your bird list may be short at the end of the day, but you will find plenty of herbs, wildflowers, and butterflies to take up the slack.

New Members -

Margaret Wedge, Membership Secretary, passes on these new members since the last newsletter: Barbara Shannon, Lindsborg; Lee Morris, Benedict, NE; Tracy Wahl, Richard Martin, Topeka; Fern Piersol, Green Valley, AZ; Kendra Pittman, Winfield; Rod, Lynn, Evan and Erika Just, Marion; and Evelyn Davis, Wakarusa. We extend a warm welcome to these new members.

Just a reminder that as we approach the end of the year it's time to think about 1996 dues. We encourage you to pay at the Annual Meeting in Salina or go ahead and send them in before we send you a notice. Remember that the new dues are now in effect; Regular members \$15, regular family \$20, sustaining member \$25, sustaining family \$30, contributing members \$40 or more and student members \$5.00. If you have a foreign address please add \$5.00 to your rate.

The Gauntlet Has Been Thrown

Bulletin Editor Max Thompson passed on the following message from Erwin E. Klaas, Unit Leader Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 11 Science II, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011.

"I just received the latest KOS Bulletin with the Winter Bird Count for 1994. Nice to see all of the increased interest that has occurred in Kansas. One item caught my eye: only 34 Ross' Geese were reported for the entire state. Linn County reported 23 Ross' and 100,000 Snows. This is only 0.02% Ross'.

"Is it possible that counters are overlooking a lot of Ross' Geese. Ross' Goose populations have been increasing in recent years along with the Snow Goose population. There is also evidence that Ross' Geese have been expanding their range in the Queen Maud Gulf area of the Canadian central arctic, eastward to the west Hudson Bay region. There was a report at the recent Arctic Goose Conference in Albuquerque last January that an estimated 15,000 Ross' Geese were observed breeding in the McConnell River area near Eskimo Point in 1994. Most of the white geese that nest along the west coast of Hudson Bay migrate through the central flyway. Steve Dinsmore and I have been reading neckbands on geese in central Nebraska and western Iowa.

"In March 1995, we did some careful ratio counts of Ross'/Snow flocks and we found that flocks feeding in stubble fields averaged 8% Ross' in Nebraska and 4% in Iowa. In Nebraska, we estimated 500,000 total white geese in a 4-county area. Thus, if our ratio counts were on target, there were 40,000 Ross' Geese in that area. I suggest that you alert your counters next year to make some ratio counts with a spotting scope.

"The technique is to scan a flock in a zigzag fashion looking carefully at each individual bird as you progress through a flock and identify them as either Ross' or Snow. Samples of 100-500 birds should be counted in each flock of white geese to get an overall estimate. Ross' Geese sometimes congregate along the edges of snow goose flocks especially if they're feeding on wheat or alfalfa. So, care must be taken not to bias the count by just counting the edge of a flock."

So it looks to me like a challenge. Get the spotting scope out, brush up on field marks that separate Snow from Ross' and let's see if we really are undercounting those Ross' Geese.

A COMPARISON OF ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUPS IN SEVEN PLAINS STATES,

PART I. by Thomas G. Shane

The following statistics were compiled to make an initial determination of the status and mix of the membership of the state ornithological society in my home state of Kansas. These numbers in no way were compiled to determine any first or last places. However, the results may help the various membership secretaries or committees in the given states take new or slightly different approaches to recruiting new members. If enough interest is generated from Part I, I will continue with additional comparisons in the coming months.

I. The number of ornithologists belonging to one or more national ornithological organizations per 100,000 persons from the following states.

Colorado	4.61
New Mexico	4.29
South Dakota	2.44
Kansas	1.93
Nebraska	1.58
Oklahoma	1.36
Texas	1.08

II. The percent of national ornithological organization members that also belong to their state organization.

South Dakota	12/17	71%
Nebraska	16/25	64%
Oklahoma	25/43	58%
Kansas	24/48	50%
New Mexico	23/65	35%
Texas	56/185	30%
Colorado	23/152	15%

III. State ornithological organization membership per 100,000 population for the following states.

South Dakota	37.9
Kansas	16.6
Nebraska	15.0
New Mexico	12.3
Oklahoma	12.0
Colorado	8.7
Texas	3.0

IV. The percent of state ornithological organization members belonging to a national organization.

New Mexico	23/187	12.3%
Texas	56/508	11.0%
Colorado	23/286	8.0%
Nebraska	16/237	6.8%
Oklahoma	25/378	6.6%
Kansas	24/409	5.9%
South Dakota	12/264	4.5%



(A Comparison, cont'd from p. 6)

The following membership lists were utilized : FLOCK (includes the AOU, COS, WOS, & AFO), 1995; CFO, July 1993; KOS, Jan. 1994; NMOS, 1995; NOU, 1995; OOS, Aug. 1993; SDOU, March 1995; TOS, 1993.

- All institutions and libraries were deleted from a membership count.
- Family memberships were used as one member in all lists.
- The 1990 United States, Bureau of the Census figures were used for state populations.



SPRING-SUMMER ROUNDUP



/February 1995 - June 1995/ by Chuck Otte

The February to June period was a classic boom or bust cycle for birding. Certain predictable sightings were called in to the hotline; good numbers of Long-eared Owls and Smith's Longspurs were at Lyon County State Lake. Winter raptors were sighted here and there, and the mild winter weather allowed numerous species like the Winfield Anna's Hummingbird to stick around much later than would normally be prudent.

By late February some species were starting to move north already, but we would find out later in the season that migration would seem to be late coming with first appearance of many species being as late as many can remember in recent years. April birding picked up some, although migrants did seem reluctant to come north. The month of May did redeem the entire spring, with excellent birding for all before the month was out, including a possible new species for Kansas! But all good things have to come to an end, and the birding became classic summer doldrums in June.

Warbler activity, once it arrived in May, was quite good. Good species were showing up in good numbers in both eastern Kansas and the Wichita area, which once again gives credence to my philosophy that the more eyes you have in the field, the more birds and the more potential rarities you'll find. Although the reporting of as many Connecticut Warblers as were reported this spring does cause a few of us to wonder about the leisure time activities of birders (or perhaps more properly reflects the jealousy of those of us who didn't get to see one this year!)

Several very good birds did show up during the period. Pyrrhuloxia's showed up in Wichita and at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. Good photographs of the Wichita bird, a male, were taken--apparently he came to a feeder for some time. The Marais des Cygnes bird, a female, was seen on two different occasions by several birders. These two records are obviously much further east in the state than our other documented records and will continue to raise speculation about the range of the species.

A Eurasian Widgeon was seen briefly in March in Elkhart. There have been a handful of sightings of this species

primarily in the eastern half of the state and field identification of this rascal is always a challenge. This species may be more common than reported, but like the Snow Goose/Ross's Goose situation we may still be a little reluctant to try to separate them from the much more common American Widgeon.

A Breeding Bird Survey route in Cloud county turned up a White-winged Dove in late June, adding to the growing list of records for this species in Kansas. Birders need to spend a little more time with those doves anymore before just assuming that they are all Mourning Doves. Both Breeding Bird Survey routes and KBBAT atlasing are turning up information that will be invaluable for future birders and bird researchers (see 2nd paragraph down).

Far and away the birding highlight of the period was Morton County's Great Kiskadee. This chunky southern flycatcher was observed by many birders and probably has as much documentation, photographs and video tape of it as any possible first record for the state. While the Bird Records Committee will yet have to act on it the doubters should keep in mind that there are 3 or 4 fairly recent documented and accepted records in Oklahoma.

What this sighting does point out is how very critical it is to report unusual birds to the hotline and then obtain as much written documentation and supporting evidence as possible. It sometimes becomes entirely too easy to identify a rarity or near rarity and then, self satisfied that we found out, not bother to follow up with a little more time to properly document the record. These records prove invaluable when it comes time for research, preparing range maps and occurrences. Please be of help to everyone and take the time to give back to the birding community as much as you get out of it! Thank you....

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And of course all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / February 1995 through April 1995

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Common Loon	3 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Western Grebe	QNWR Big Salt Marsh	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Western Grebe	2 at CB Pool #1 in display	JR	5-19-95	Barton
Trumpeter Swan	2 on farm ponds of Lebo	BF	2-05-95	Coffey
	still present		2-19-95	Coffey
These swans were released in Minnesota in 1992 and had not been seen again until this sighting.				
Least Bittern	1 at QNWR	BVD	4-23-95	Stafford
Least Bittern	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	LM,GP	5-21-95	Stafford
Least Bittern	2 at Lassiter Marsh	LM	5-29-95	Jefferson
Least Bittern	1 singing at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	6-03-95	Leavenworth
Tri-colored Heron	3 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	KB,JH	6-13-95	Stafford
Ross's Goose	several at LaCygne lake	LM	2-01-95	Linn
Ross's Goose	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	LRS	2-20-95	Morton
	seen through 3-21-95			
Green-winged Teal	adult with young, Slate Creek Marsh	GY	5-24-95	Sumner
This species normally breeds well north of Kansas making this possibly a record southerly breeding record.				
Black Duck	3 at Lawrence Sandpit	SR	3-11-95	Douglas
Cinnamon Teal	3 at MDC Pool F	SR	3-04-95	Linn
Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal	2 m in Wichita	PJ	4-02-95	Sedgwick
Cinnamon Teal	m albino at Plainville City Lake	SS	4-29-95	Rooks
EURASIAN WIDGEON	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	LRS	3-10-95	Morton
Greater Scaup	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	LRS	2-20-95	Morton
	seen through 3-08-95			
Greater Scaup	1 at QNWR	JR	2-25-95	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 at QNWR	JN	4-16-95	Stafford
Oldsquaw	2 at Clinton SP sewage lagoons	??	3-29-95	Douglas
Surf Scoter	1 f at Slate Creek Marsh	MT	5-02-95	Sumner
Surf Scoter	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	SC,CE	5-06-95	Morton
Red-breasted Merganser	1 at Melvern Res	BF	2-05-95	Osage
Red-breasted Merganser	5 at QNWR	BVD	4-23-95	Stafford
Red-breasted Merganser	1 f at Wilson Res	MR	5-23-95	Russell
Turkey Vulture	1 at MDC	LM	2-01-95	Linn
Mississippi Kite	1 imm at Lassiter Marsh	LM	5-28-95	Jefferson
Cooper's Hawk	pair building nest	SS	4-06-95	Norton
	female on nest	SS	7-01-95	
Cooper's Hawk	possibly nesting ne of Medicine Lodge	BB	6-11-95	Barber
Northern Goshawk	1 in southern Olathe	MC	2-19-95	Johnson
Northern Goshawk	1 in Overland Park	CH	3-10-95	Johnson
Northern Goshawk	1 imm at QNWR	JHe	4-02-95	Stafford
Merlin	1 at QNWR	S&B	3-25-95	Stafford
Red-shouldered Hawk	6 at MDC	LM	4-08-95	Linn
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	DW	6-24-95	Leavenworth
Broad-winged Hawk	2 at Pawnee Prairie Park, Wichita	CG	4-22-95	Sedgwick
Broad-winged Hawk	pair nest building, State Lake	LM	4-28-95	Wyandotte
Broad-winged Hawk	nesting in Dornwood Park, Topeka	??	5-29-95	Shawnee
Broad-winged Hawk	1 late migrant (or just lost?)	SS	6-10-95	Trego
Swainson's Hawk	early arrivals at Garden City	TSh,SSh	3-30-95	Finney
Swainson's Hawk	"hundreds" in western Kansas	SS	4-14-95	
Ferruginous Hawk	1 out of range near LaCygne Lake	CH,SA,SR	3-19-95	Linn

Peregrine Falcon	2 at SCM	MT,GY	3-23-95	Sumner
Peregrine Falcon	1 at MDC Unit A	MM	4-21-95	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	NE of Udall	PJ,JN,CG	4-30-95	Cowley
Peregrine Falcon	3 m w of Junction City	CO	4-30-95	Geary
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	SS	5-13-95	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	Nest with 4 eggs in Topeka	JB	5-29-95	Shawnee
Prairie Falcon	1 at 37th & Hoover in Wichita	PJ	2-19-95	Sedgwick
Prairie Falcon	1 out of range near LaCygne Lake	CH,SA,SR	3-19-95	Linn
Chukar	1 known escape	BL	4-26-95	Butler
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	On leks at Pratt Sandhills Ref uge	PJ	3-20-95	Pratt
Yellow Rail	1 watched at length, CB	HDB	5-12-95	Barton
Black Rail	1 calling, QNWR Bobolink Field	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Black Rail	2 at QNWR	KB,JH	6-13-95	Stafford
King Rail	numerous at QNWR	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Virginia Rail	8 at QNWR	BD,JN	6-25-95	Stafford
Common Moorhen	QNWR Big Salt Marsh	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	about 40 w of QNWR	SS,DB	2-04-95	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	late flock of 30	JR	5-08-95	Barton
Black-bellied Plover	82 at QNWR	SS,MR	5-13-95	Stafford
American Golden-Plover	pair, early arrivals, QNWR	S&B	3-25-95	Stafford
Snowy Plover	12 early arrivals, QNWR	S&B	3-25-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at QNWR	JR	4-20-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	6 at QNWR	S&B,BVD	4-22-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	2 at K-96/Ark River	PJ	4-23-95	Sedgwick
Piping Plover	11 at QNWR	JR	4-27-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at Milford State Park	CO	4-28-95	Geary
Piping Plover	1 e of Hutchinson on US 50	BE	5-14-95	Reno
Piping Plover	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	LRS	5-04-95	Morton
Mountain Plover	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	LRS	5-13-95	Morton
Mountain Plover	1 at Mount Hope Marsh	PJ	5-22-95	Sedgwick
Lesser Yellowlegs	early arrivals at SCM	MT	late Feb	Sumner
Hudsonian Godwit	28 at K-96/Ark River Bridge	CG,JN	4-15-95	Sedgwick
Marbled Godwit	11 at Lake Afton	PJ	4-10-95	Sedgwick
Marbled Godwit	30 at K-96/Ark River Bridge	CG,JN	4-15-95	Sedgwick
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at QNWR	PJ	5-21-95	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	20 near Mount Hope Marsh	PJ	5-20-95	Sedgwick
Red Knot	1 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	LM,GP	5-21-95	Stafford
Sanderling	70 at QNWR	SS,MR	5-13-95	
Baird's Sandpiper	early arrivals at SCM	MT	late Feb	Sumner
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2 near Mount Hope Marsh	PJ	5-20-95	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	KOS	5-06-95	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	SS	5-13-95	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	JN,BD	6-25-95	Stafford
American Woodcock	1 female with 5 chicks at Perry	RR	4-14-95	Jefferson
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	LRS	5-18-95	Morton
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	LM,GP	5-20-95	Morton
Laughing Gull	1 adult at MDC Unit G	PW,RB	5-07-95	Linn
Laughing Gull	1 at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-29-95	Jefferson
Franklin's Gull	1 at John Redmond Res	BF	2-05-95	Coffey
Little Gull	1, Tuttle Cove, Tuttle Creek Res	TC	4-12-95	Riley
Thayer's Gull	Clinton Lake	MM,GP	2-12-95	Douglas
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter at Hillsdale Lake	LM	3-09-95	Miami
Glaucous Gull	1 first winter at Milford Lake	CO	3-12-95	Geary
Common Tern	1 at QNWR	PJ	5-21-95	Stafford
Forster's Tern	1 early arrival at CB	MR	4-06-95	Barton
Least Tern	15 nesting pair, QNWR	KB,JH	6-13-95	Stafford

10 (Birding Highlights, contd)

Ringed Turtle-dove	8 "on the loose" in Ulysses	LH	2-07-95	Grant
WHITE-WINGED DOVE	on Breeding Bird Survey route	BB	6-20-95	Cloud
Greater Roadrunner	1 heard	JHe	4-02-95	Morton
Long-eared Owl	20 in Cedars at Lyon County Lake	BF,m.ob.	2-25-95	Lyon
Long-eared Owl	5 fledglings at Wilson SP	MR	5-28-95	Russell
Short-eared Owl	nesting in KBBAT block	MT,SP	6-03-95	Stevens
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Injured bird found in Olathe	AP	3-18-95	Johnson
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 at Garden City	LBR	4-22-95	Finney
	present through 5-13-95			Finney
Anna's Hummingbird	Still present in Winfield		2-05-95	Cowley
	left after morning feeding		2-19-95	Cowley
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	m at feeder near Scott Lake	TSH,SSh	5-14-95	Scott
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at Middle Springs, CG	LM,GP	5-20-95	Morton
Pileated Woodpecker	pair at nest, MDC	LM	4-08-95	Linn
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2 at Point of Rocks	GF	6-03-95	Morton
Western Wood-Pewee	3 at Middle Springs, CG	MR	5-21-95	Morton
Acadian Flycatcher	1 singing at Oak Park, Wichita	PJ	5-25-95	Sedgwick
Eastern Phoebe	early arrival at Cedar Bluffs Res	SS	3-18-95	Trego
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 adult, nest, 4 eggs	MR	5-21-95	Morton
GREAT KISKADEE	1 at Middle Springs	HMF	5-18-95	Morton

This bird was apparently present through May 31 and was seen by many birders as well as being photographed and videotaped. Great Kiskadees are normally found in extreme south Texas, with casual vagrants in southeastern Arizona and up the Gulf Coast to Louisiana. It is a species that is fairly sedentary. Northern records are virtually non-existent and this sighting will present quite a challenge to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. If accepted by the KBRC, this would be the a first record for Kansas. Interestingly, KOS member Ken Brunson was at the Grand Canyon in June and has a very well-detailed sighting of a Kiskadee there that is of great interest in Arizona birding circles.

Purple Martin	first arrivals near LaCygne Lake	HAR	3-19-95	Linn
Purple Martin	in Winfield, latest date in 20 yrs	MT	3-26-95	Cowley
Tree Swallow	early arrival at Clinton Lake	PW	3-11-95	Douglas
Violet-green Swallow	along K-18 w of Zurich	JS,MS	5-05-95	Rooks
Fish Crow	15 e of Baxter Springs	SP,MM,m.ob.	5-07-95	Cherokee
Chihuahuan Ravens	nesting in KBBAT block	MT,SP	6-03-95	Stevens
Carolina Wren	very far w near Jetmore	SS	6-09-95	Hodgeman
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6 early arrivals	RLS	3-21-95	Morton
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 at Point of Rocks, CG	MR	5-21-95	Morton
Hermit Thrush	10 at Westin Bottoms	CH	4-13-95	Leavenworth
Sage Thrasher	3 at CG	JHe	4-01-95	Morton
American Pipit	1 very late, Elkhart sewer ponds	MR	5-21-95	Morton
Sprague's Pipit	3 at Lyon County State Lake	MM,GG,BF	4-08-95	Lyon
Northern Shrike	2 at QNWR	SS,DB	2-04-95	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1 at Sedgwick County Park	PJ	2-19-95	Sedgwick
Loggerhead Shrike	eating sunflower seeds at feeder	JS	3-07-95	Leavenworth
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 nw of Junction City	CO	5-18-95	Geary
Blue-winged Warbler	1, Mill Creek Park	GP	4-26-95	Johnson
Blue-winged Warbler	1 in Salina	BT	5-10-95	Saline
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Woodland Park	??	5-14-95	Sedgwick
Golden-winged Warbler	6 at Westin Bottoms	JS,MM,GP,JBa	5-13-95	Leavenworth
Virginia's Warbler	1 m at Middle Springs, CG	JT	5-25-95	Morton
Virginia's Warbler	1	LRS	5-12-95	Morton
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2 m in Bertram Park	GP,RR	5-11-95	Douglas
Yellow-throated Warbler	3 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	4-08-95	Leavenworth
Yellow-throated Warbler	4 at Westin Bottoms	CH	4-13-95	Leavenworth
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 in Wichita	JN	5-02-95	Sedgwick

Prairie Warbler	1 in Wichita	JN	5-05-95	Sedgwick
Prairie Warbler	1 singing at Wilson SP seen through 6-04-95	MR	6-02-95	Russell
Bay-breasted Warbler	1, Overland Park Arboretum	CH	4-27-95	Johnson
Black-and-white Warbler	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	BB	6-22-95	Leavenworth
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	JN,CG	4-29-95	Sedgwick
Worm-eating Warbler	1 in sw Rush County	SS	5-08-95	Rush
Worm-eating Warbler	1 mist netted, Ft. Leavenworth	DW,DO	6-12-95	Leavenworth
Connecticut Warbler	1 in Lawrence, Bertram Park singing	??	5-12-95	Douglas
Connecticut Warbler	1 at MDC	LM	5-15-95	Linn
Connecticut Warbler	1 at MDC Unit G	DS	5-26-95	Linn
Connecticut Warbler	1 in Bonner Springs	LM	5-29-95	Wyandotte
Mourning Warbler	1 m well seen	LRS	5-12-95	Morton
Hooded Warbler	1 m in Lawrence	GP	4-23-95	Douglas
Hooded Warbler	1 m in Oak Park, Wichita	PH	4-20-95	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	1 in Olathe	JW	5-04-95	Johnson
Hooded Warbler	1 f	LRS	5-11-95	Morton
Hooded Warbler	1 at Oak Park	??	5-18-95	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	1 f netted at Ft. Leavenworth	DW,DO	6-10-95	Leavenworth
Western Tanager	1 m	RLS	5-10-95	Morton
Western Tanager	1 m	JD,JY	5-13-95	Ford
Western Tanager	1 visiting feeder near Oxford	GoF	5-25-95	Sumner
PYRRHULOXIA	1 m at Wichita feeder, excellent photos	??	2-05-95	Sedgwick
PYRRHULOXIA	1 female at MDC WMA seen again	MM,GG,RP LM	4-01-95 4-22-95	Linn Linn
Lazuli Bunting	1 singing near Camp Horizon	JN	6-27-95	Cowley
Painted Bunting	1 m in sw Rush County	SS	5-08-95	Rush
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Dry Lake	TSh,SSh	5-13-95	Scott
Canyon Towhee	1 at Pt. of Rocks	LRS	5-13-95	Morton
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 very late bird	SS	6-10-95	Trego
Brewer's Sparrow	1	LRS	5-04-95	Morton
Brewer's Sparrow	1 at CG	LM,GP	5-20-95	Morton
Henslow's Sparrow	1 singing near Mushroom	SP,BB	5-29-95	Ellsworth
Henslow's Sparrows	2 singing	BB	6-20-95	Cloud
Le Conte's Sparrow	6 at Lyon County State Lake	MM,GG,BF	4-08-95	Lyon
Le Conte's Sparrow	2 at Lassiter Marsh	MM,m.ob.	4-15-95	Jefferson
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	5 at MDC Unit D	MC,AH	4-22-95	Linn
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-20-95	Jefferson
Smith's Longspur	200 - 500 at Lyon County State Lake	PJ	2-25-95	Lyon
Smith's Longspur	40 at Nelson Area Office	GP	3-06-95	Douglas
Smith's Longspur	6 late at Lyon Co St Lake	MM,BF,GG	4-08-95	Lyon
Chestnut-collared Longspur	100+ in breeding plumage nw of Larned	SS	3-01-95	Pawnee
Chestnut-collared Longspurs	in breeding plumage near Larned	SS	3-27-95	Pawnee
McCown's Longspurs	in breeding plumage near Larned	SS	3-27-95	Pawnee
Brewer's Blackbird	400 at Flint Hills NWR	LM	4-14-95	Coffey
Red Crossbill	2 at Wichita feeder still present	JBr	late April 5-13-95	Sedgwick Sedgwick
Lesser Goldfinch		LRS	5-12-95	Morton
Additions to Previous Roundup				
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Melvern Lake/Sundance Area	JB	1-03-95	Osage
American White Pelican	2 at Perry Res	JB	1-14-95	Jefferson
American Black Duck	2 at Melvern	JB	1-27-95	Osage
Oldsquaw	1 at Lake Sherwood, Topeka	JB	1-17-95	Shawnee

12 (Birding Highlights, contd)

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms
CG = Cimarron National Grasslands
MDC = Marais des Cygnes
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
Res = Reservoir
SCM = Slate Creek Marsh
SP = State Park
WA = Wildlife Area

n = north
s = south
e = east
w = west
f = female
m = male
m.ob. = many observers
imm = immature

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Steve Addinal (SA), Judy Bailey (JB), Richard Bean (RB), Joseph Brewer (JBr), Joanne Brier (JB), Ken Brunson (KB), Dave Bryan (DB), Bill Busby (BB), Harlow & David Butcher (HDB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Steve Crawford (SC), Joyce Davis (JD), Bob Dester (BD), Cliff Erickson (CE), Bob Evans (BE), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Chet Gresham (CG), Greg Griffith (GG), The Goyer Farm (GoF) Angus Hawg (AH), Jim Hengeveld (JHe), Leroy Hitchcock (LH), Chris Hobbs (CH), Peggy Hockett (PH), Jerry Horak (JH), Pete Janzen (PJ), KOS Spring Meeting (KOS), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Bill Langley (BL), Harold McFadden (HMF), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Danielle O'Grady (DO), Chuck Otte (CO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Richard Parker (RP), Allison Pierce (AP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Leonard & Betty Rich (LBR), Steve Rhoades (SR), Richard Rucker (RR), John Schukman (JS), David Seibel (DS), Scott Seltman (SS) The Scott Seltmans & Dave Bryans (S&B), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Ruth and Lawrence Smith (LRS), Mike Stewart (MS), Janeal Thompson (JT), Max Thompson (MT), Bill Treloc (BT), Beverly Van Dyke (BVD), Phil Wedge (PW), Jeff Witters (JW), Doug Wood (DW), Gene Young (GY), Judy Young (JY).



K.O.S KID'S PAGE



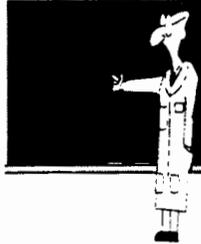
Number 1

by Amy Rose

Hi! You are reading the new section of The Horned Lark which is designed for kids and kids at heart. Every edition will have neat facts, fun projects, quizzes to challenge your mind, book and game suggestions, and, of course, a featured bird. I hope you have fun learning all about birds.

Fun Feathered Facts

- ◊ A hummingbird beats its wings 80 times in only one second - probably 20 times in the time it takes to blink your eye!
- ◊ Hummingbirds can hover, fly backwards and forwards, and can even do somersaults in air... but they can't walk.
- ◊ Hummers can fly 30-47 miles per hour - that is as fast as your parents drive on city streets.



Focus On: Hummingbirds

It is almost Autumn. This is the time of year that many birds, including hummingbirds are getting ready for their long trip south for the winter. To get ready, a hummingbird must get a lot of energy by eating a lot of food. If you have a feeder (see Avian Activities) you can watch the hummers prepare for their journey.

These smallest of all birds use up a lot of energy to fly so they must eat about 2 times their body weight everyday. How much food would you have to eat to match that feat?? Their beak and tongue are specially shaped for getting nectar from deep inside flowers (or feeders). Besides nectar (syrup) hummingbirds also eat tiny insects or spiders to help themselves get enough protein.



On their trip south, hummingbirds fly across the Gulf of Mexico — a long trip of hundreds of miles. These little birds must be very tired and hungry when they reach their winter home in Central or South America.

If you live in Kansas, you will probably see a Ruby-throated hummingbird at your feeder this fall. You should also keep a lookout for Rufous hummingbirds or other species of hummers ... if you are really lucky. Ask to borrow your parents' field guide and learn how to identify different species of hummingbirds. Remember, males and females look different. After some practice, you will know which hummers are visiting your house. Keep your eyes open! You may be the first to spot a different and rare hummingbird!



Avian Activities

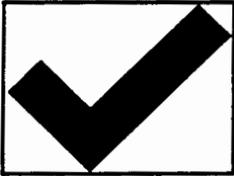
Invite a hummingbird to your house: Hummers like to sip syrupy nectar from deep within flowers or from a feeder. Feeders are not too expensive and you can buy them almost anywhere. You can make your own sugar syrup to attract hummers to your house this fall.



Hummingbird Food
Mix 1/2 cup white sugar with 2 cups water. (Get your parents' help for this next part). Boil the mixture for 1-2 minutes. Cool. Pour in feeder. Make it your responsibility to keep the feeder full. Also, you should clean your feeder every 2-3 days, before you add more food, so your hummingbirds don't get sick.

CHECK IT OUT!

For more information on hummingbirds read,



1. Hummingbirds, Jewels in the Sky, by Esther Quesada Tyrell, Crown Publishers, Inc., 1992.

or

2. Dancers in the Garden, by Joanne Ryder, Sierra Club Books, 1992.

For good books on birds and birdwatching for kids read,

1. Birdwatching, by Rob Hume, Random House, 1992.

or

2. Everything You Never Learned About Birds, by Rebecca Rupp, Storey Publishing, 1995.

For information on feeding hummers, read

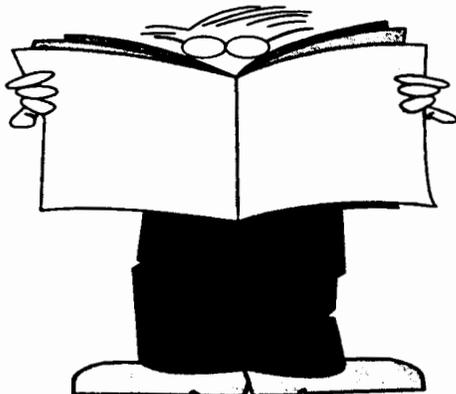
1. Invite a Bird to Dinner; Simple Feeders You Can Make, by Beverly Courtney Crook, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1978.

or

2. Birdfeeders, Shelters, and Baths, by Edward Baldwin, Storey Publishing, 1990.

For a fun game to learn more about hummers, play

1. "The Hummingbird Game," Ampersand Press, 691 26th St., Oakland, CA 94612; (800) 624-4263.



BIRD BRAIN BOGGLERS

1. The smallest bird in the world weighs only 1/15 oz. and lives in Cuba. What is its name?



2. What is the normal lifespan for a hummingbird?

3. What is the smallest hummingbird that lives in the continental USA? Has this hummingbird ever been seen in Kansas?

4. What is the scientific name of the Ruby-throated hummingbird?

*Answers in the next edition.

Name Our Page!

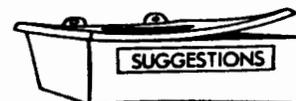
The KOS Kids' Page needs a name! Can you think of a neat, creative title that would describe a bird newsletter just for kids?

Send your suggestions to:

Amy Rose
2240 W. 138 Terr #245
Leawood, KS 66224-4265
or e-mail arose@olympia.com

I hope to announce the new name of our page at the annual fall KOS meeting

Hey, Kids!



ANNUAL KOS FALL MEETING SALINA, KANSAS OCTOBER 6-8, 1995

The 1995 KOS fall meeting will be at Kansas Wesleyan University in Peter's Science Hall. See map 'N.' The Kansas Wesleyan Biology Department is sponsoring our use of the facilities. See below for a brief description of the weekends' activities. **Please return the pre-registration form by September 22 or call 913/525-5296 by September 29.** We're looking forward to seeing you.

Friday, October 6

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Informal Reception at Lakewood Discovery Center, 250 Lakewood Dr., sponsored by Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

Catch up with old friends and make new ones at a free buffet provided by Salina's Chamber of Commerce. The buffet will include relishes, cheese and crackers, fruit, rolls and a meat platter. Tour Salina's new nature discovery center and walk some of the trails in this 99-acre park. See map "P9."

Saturday, October 7

--Peter's Science Hall, 100 E. Claflin, Kansas Wesleyan campus.

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration. Coffee, hot tea, orange juice and rolls.

A.M. Morning paper session, coffee break, business meeting and announcements.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch Buffet, KWU Dining Hall. Buffet closes at 12:30 p.m. Full salad bar, eggs, potatoes, pancakes, bacon, dessert and drink. Board members may go through buffet, then take food to Stewart Dining Room for a noon board meeting.

P.M. Birdwatcher's Hour. Bring your slides and home videos (birds only) to share. Afternoon paper session,

coffee break, tour of KWU Professor Art Neuberger's American Kestrel breeding area, business meeting and announcements.

6 - 7 p.m. Social hour with cash bar, Salina Country Club, Marymount and East Country Club Roads.

7 p.m. Banquet - Salina Country Club. Our sit-down meal will include a chicken entree, salad, starch, vegetable, hard rolls, sweet rolls and coffee or tea. A vegetarian plate is also available. The childrens' meal includes chicken fingers, beverage, french fries or fruit.

Guest speaker will be naturalist educator and raptor expert **Maure Weigel**. Maure founded the Prairie Raptor Project, a raptor research reintroduction and rehabilitation facility in 1979. He has presented environmental programs to well over 100,000 people, directed the Kansas Golden Eagle Reintroduction program and the Active Eagle Nest Monitoring Project for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and received the Kansas Wildlife Federation's "Conservationist of the Year" Award.



Sunday, October 8 - On your own for breakfast

6:30 - 9 a.m. Field trips from KWU parking lot (Claflin St.).

Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch Buffet - Camp Webster Conference Center, 2601 N. Ohio St. Be sure to allow time to bird Camp Webster's nature trails. Lunch will include a pita sandwich, relish tray and fresh fruit.

12:45 p.m. Compilation of bird list.

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Mail to: Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

SPECIES _____

OBERVER(S) _____

LOCATION _____

Please enter details on reverse side of this form.

Note: You may duplicate this form if you have more than one bird to report.

SALINA LODGING

All area codes are 913. Numbers refer to Salina Today! map. Prices are subject to change and do not include tax.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>#2. Best Western
 Heart of America Inn
 632 Westport Blvd
 827-9315 or 800-528-1234
 Single \$40.00
 Double \$48.00
 2 beds \$52.00</p> | <p>#11. Motel 6
 635 W. Diamond Dr.
 827-8397
 Single \$31.99
 Double \$37.99
 \$3 per additional adult</p> | <p>#20. Salina KOA Campgrounds
 1109 W. Diamond Dr.
 827-3182</p> |
| <p>#3. Best Western
 Mid-America Inn
 1846 N. 9th
 827-0356 or 800-528-1234
 Single \$40.00
 Double \$48.00
 2 beds \$52.00</p> | <p>*13. Ramada Inn
 I-70 & North 9th
 825-8211
 Single \$50.00
 Double \$58.00</p> | <p>#21. Sundowner West
 Campgrounds
 2745 N. Hedville Rd.
 823-8335</p> |
| <p>*7. Holiday Inn/Holidome
 1616 W. Crawford Ave.
 823-1739
 Single \$61.00
 Double \$64.00 (King)
 2 beds \$61.00 (double)</p> | <p>#14. Red Coach Inn
 2110 W. Crawford
 825-2111
 Single \$39.00 - \$45.00
 Double \$47.00 - \$53.00
 2 beds \$48.00 - \$54.00</p> | <p>#22. Comfort Inn
 1820 W. Crawford
 826-1711
 Single \$49.99
 Double \$58.99</p> |
| <p>#8. Howard Johnson Motel
 2403 S. 9th
 827-5511
 Single \$31.00
 Double \$38.00
 2 beds \$41.00 (4 people)</p> | <p>#15. Salina Inn
 222 E. Diamond Dr.
 827-0292
 Single \$42.19
 Double \$44.88</p> | <p>#23. Days Inn
 I-70 & 9th Sts.
 823-9791
 Double \$58.95
 Advance rate of \$39.00 by
 calling 800-DAYS INN</p> |
| | <p>#17. Super 8
 1640 W. Crawford St.
 823-9215
 Single \$42.88
 Double \$47.88
 3 people \$57.88</p> | <p>#24. Fairfield Inn
 1740 W. Crawford
 823-6900
 Single \$52.99
 Double \$59.99</p> |

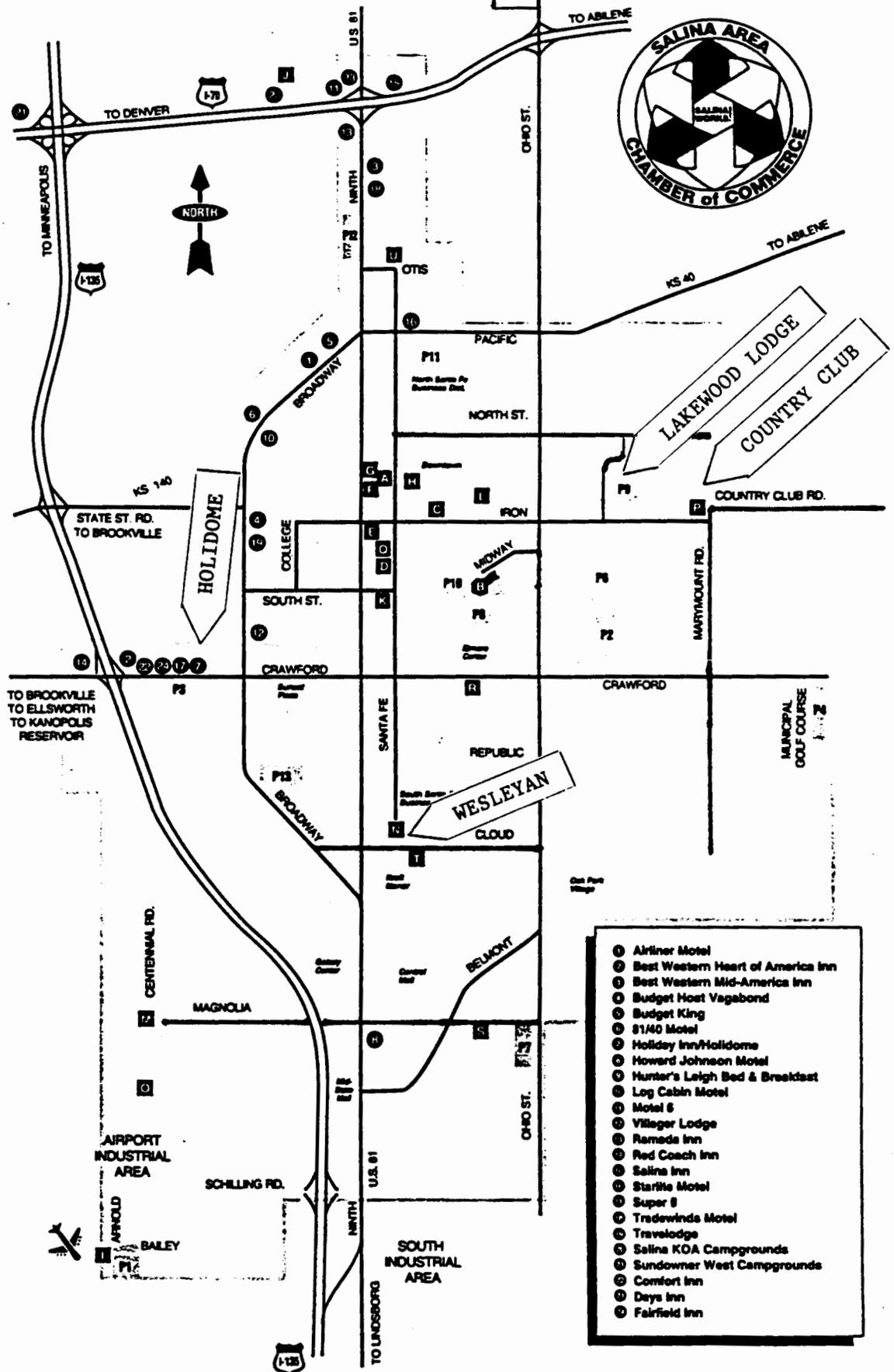
Salina Today!

CITY OF SALINA

- 1 Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
120 W. Ash
- 2 Salina Bicentennial Center
Kenwood Park
- 3 Salina Community Theater
303 W. Iron
- 4 Salina Art Center
242 S. Santa Fe
- 5 Smoky Hill Museum
211 W. Iron
- 6 City/County Government Complex
300 W. Ash
- 7 Salina Public Library
301 W. Elm
- 8 U.S. Post Office
211 E. Ash
- 9 Salina Municipal Airport
Airport Industrial Area
- 10 Central Kansas Flywheels Museum
1100 W. Diamond Drive
- 11 Asbury-Salina Regional Medical Center
400 S. Santa Fe
- 12 St. Johns Regional Health Center
139 N. Penn
- 13 Kansas State University-Salina
2409 Scarian Avenue
- 14 Kansas Wesleyan University
100 E. Calvin
- 15 Salina Area Vocational Tech School
2562 Scarian
- 16 Benedictine College-Salina
E. Iron & Marymount Road
- 17 Brown Mackie College
126 S. Santa Fe
- 18 Salina Central High School
Front & Crawford
- 19 Salina South High School
730 Magnolia Rd.
- 20 Sacred Heart High School
230 E. Cloud
- 21 St. John's Military School
N. Santa Fe

CITY PARKS

- 1 Airport Park
- 2 Bill Burke Park
- 3 Centennial Park
- 4 East Crawford Recreation Area/
Dean Evans Stadium
- 5 Felton Park
- 6 Indian Rock Park
- 7 Jerry Ivey Park
- 8 Kenwood Park
- 9 Lakewood Park
- 10 Oakdale Park
- 11 Parker Park
- 12 Thomas Park
- 13 Sunset Park



- 1 Airliner Motel
- 2 Best Western Heart of America Inn
- 3 Best Western Mid-America Inn
- 4 Budget Host Vagabond
- 5 Budget King
- 6 \$140 Motel
- 7 Holiday Inn/Holidome
- 8 Howard Johnson Motel
- 9 Hunter's Leigh Bed & Breakfast
- 10 Log Cabin Motel
- 11 Motel 6
- 12 Village Lodge
- 13 Ramada Inn
- 14 Red Coach Inn
- 15 Salina Inn
- 16 Starlite Motel
- 17 Super 8
- 18 Tradewinds Motel
- 19 Travelodge
- 20 Salina KOA Campgrounds
- 21 Sundowner West Campgrounds
- 22 Comfort Inn
- 23 Days Inn
- 24 Fairfield Inn

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM --- FALL KOS MEETING

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Registration Fee \$ 5.00 x _____ = _____

Student Fee \$ 3.00 x _____ = _____

Saturday Meals

Lunch \$ 4.00 x _____ = _____

Dinner

Adult Banquet \$13.00 x _____ = _____

Vegetarian Banquet \$13.00 x _____ = _____

Child (10 & under) \$ 5.75 x _____ = _____

Sunday Meals

Adult Lunch \$ 4.00 x _____ = _____

Child (8 & under) \$ 2.00 x _____ = _____

TOTAL = _____

NOTES OR COMMENTS:

Please make check payable to KOS.

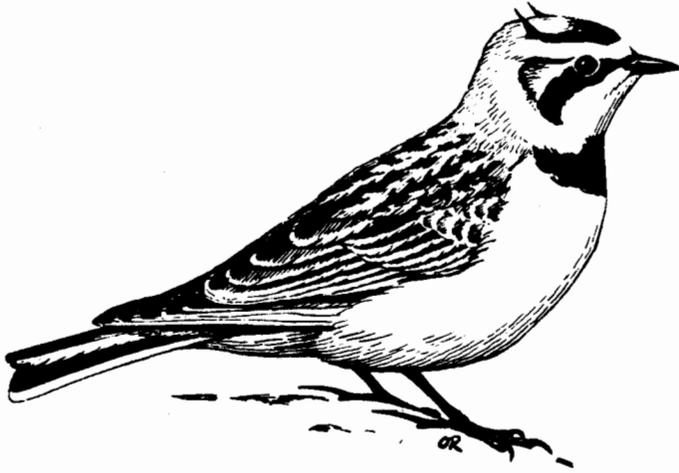
_____ I would like information on childrens' activities in Salina

_____ I (We) plan to attend the FREE reception Friday evening. No. _____
Reservations are not required, but will be helpful for our planning.

Mail registrations and checks to:

**Shannon Rayl
1013 Marymount
Salina, KS 67401**

**REMEMBER, registrations must be received by September 22,
or call 913/525-5296 by September 29!**



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1995

Vol. 22, No. 2

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From the Keyboard -

Somebody could have made a lot of money off of me this spring! If anyone would have come up to me and said "I'll bet you that we have 3 times the normal May rainfall this year," I would have been willing to bet a substantial sum that at least here in Geary County it wouldn't have happened! Especially this soon after the major flooding of 1993. But then Mother Nature does what she wants to, and here we are once again with crazy weather and birds not showing up when and where they should be, but showing up when and where they shouldn't be! That's what makes this bird thing so much fun!

In the couple of years that I have been editor there have been times when I've asked myself why I volunteered to be newsletter editor. You're coming up on deadline, you can't get anything together, the weather is crazy and you'd rather be birding to find out that nothing is back yet, etc., etc. But then a few things fall together and you remember why you actually enjoy doing this. John Rakestraw responded to my offer of someone to write a birding tips column and the first of his articles appears in this issue. Then someone else volunteers with an idea I hadn't even thought of. I'm not going to give away any surprises (or apply any pressure), but the first installment of that new feature should be in the September issue. Add to that a couple of letters from readers that perk you up at just the right time and it helps get the batteries charged for another issue. To everyone who helped supply the power, thank you for all you've done and all you're going to do!

Several members have written in, and while supporting the decision to keep this newsletter (and organization) focused on birds as I indicated in this space last issue, wished that I would pass along conservation concerns, as I do receive quite a bit of information regarding these concerns. So I'll try to walk the middle of the road and make most everyone happy.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was initiated a few years back to help protect species of plants and animals, and their habitat, that were in serious threat of becoming extinct. All of us as birdwatchers know that it all starts with habitat; after all-

no habitat, no existence. And while I'll be the first to admit that there have been a few (and I underline few) cases of ESA law abuses by zealots, for the most part the ESA has helped protect many habitats from abuse by those not understanding the importance of habitat, conservation and preservation. The ESA has undergone major attack in the US House of Representatives this spring and many of us fear that its only hope of survival in any form is for the Senate to blunt the attacks and moderate the damage done to this legislation. I strongly encourage you to write to Senators Dole and Kassebaum and in a short one page letter explain that you feel that it is important to keep and protect Endangered Species Legislation and encourage them to do likewise.

And now back to your summer birding, KBBAT blocks and Breeding Bird Survey routes!

--chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1995

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490
Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203
Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114
Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044
Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114
Board Members:
Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401
Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204
Sara Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846
Gene Young, Southwestem - Biology Dept, 100 College St,
Winfield, KS 67156
Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646
Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St,
Winfield, KS 67156
Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Ouz, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441

SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

As an addition to the Silent Auction, there will be a special item being auctioned with proceeds going to the Student Research Fund. Long time KOS member Eugene Lewis (now of Silver City, New Mexico) is donating his 1891 copy of History of Birds in Kansas by Goss. Eugene notes that this copy is in excellent shape with just a little wear on the edges of the spine. Additionally, he will include another lesser known Goss volume called "A Revised Catalogue of Birds of Kansas," dated 1886. This is a small volume which Eugene describes as being in fair condition.

Here are the ground rules for this special item. The two books will be auctioned as one unit. Minimum bid is \$100 and all proceeds will go to the Student Research Fund.

Due to the special nature of these items, we will allow mail bids ahead of time as well as bids at the Fall Meeting. If you won't be present at the Fall Meeting and want to get your bid in, send it to Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita KS 67023. In case of two identical high bids arriving by mail, the one with the earliest postmark will be the successful bidder. If you've ever wanted a copy of Goss' book, here's your opportunity to get one and contribute to a good cause at the same time! *And a SPECIAL thank you to Eugene for donating these fine items!*

Did You Find a Banded Bird?

I'm sure a lot of us have seen birds that were marked with leg bands or neck collars or wing dyes or wing markers and have wondered to whom or how to report this information. The Bird Banding Laboratory naturally handles all the information regarding actual bird banding and can also serve as sort of a clearinghouse for other marked birds.

The information you need to report is your name and home address, date and exact location of recovery/sighting, species, and band number or color markings. The Bird Banding Laboratory can be contacted almost any way imaginable...take your pick:

National Biological Survey
Bird Banding Laboratory
12100 Beech Forest Road
Laurel MD 20708-4037
301-497-5790
FAX 301-497-5784
BBL@mail.fws.gov

YOUR HOBBY IS BIG BUSINESS!

Very few of us probably think about the impact that our bird watching/bird feeding hobby has on the economy of Kansas or the United States. But a recent release from the US Fish and Wildlife Service examines that very issue.

In a study released by "The Economic Contribution of Bird and Waterfowl Recreation in the United States During 1991 Service" indicates that of the estimated \$18.1 billion Americans spend annually to watch wildlife, \$5.2 billion is spent on birdwatching, using the most conservative economic assumptions. This figure could run as high as \$9 billion according to the reports author, Rob Southwick of Southwick Associates. Using conservative assumptions, the number of jobs supported by birdwatching is 200,000.

How does that \$5.2 billion compare to other activities? In the same year as the study (1991) Americans spent \$5.8 billion on movie tickets and \$5.9 billion on tickets to sporting events such as football, basketball and baseball (a figure that was probably much lower last year and this year for those that used to follow baseball well know!)

Total retail sales figures from this study showed that sales generated from bird watching and bird feeding in Kansas were \$24 million with an economic impact of \$57 million and supported 810 jobs.

A separate study released by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation showed that birdwatchers visiting Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge pumped \$14.4 million into the economy of Hidalgo County, Texas. At nearby Laguna Atascosa NWR in Texas the local impact is estimated at \$3.98 - 5.63 million, Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico - \$3.3 million and at our own Quivira NWR \$636,000 dollars.

Unfortunately the down side to all of this, as noted by the report, is that loss of habitat threatens many of these species and subsequently could impact this rapidly growing "industry." Action by all of us in the upcoming years is critical to protect the habitats that these species need! (See "From the Keyboard," page 1!)

In this issue...

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FALL MEETING NEWS...

FALL MEETING NEWS...

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF KOS
Salina, Kansas
October 6, 7 & 8, 1995**

Salina area birders are counting the days until October when all of our KOS members will (we hope) be migrating to Salina for a weekend of birding fun. Numerous members of the Smoky Hills Audubon Society are working with area KOS members to put together a weekend with something for everyone.

The weekend will begin with a Friday evening reception at Salina's new Lakewood Discovery Center in Lakewood Park. The Discovery Center is surrounded by a park with walking trails and a small lake. It's a great place for birding. Children will love the Discovery Center, so bring them along.

The annual meeting will be Saturday, October 7 at Kansas Wesleyan University and is being sponsored by the college's biology department.

The guest speaker for Saturday evening's dinner will be naturalist and raptor expert Maure Weigel. Many of you are familiar with Maure's work as director of the Prairie Raptor Project, which he founded in 1979. He has presented environmental/educational programs to well over 100,000 people and currently directs the Kansas Golden Eagle Reintroduction Program and the Active Eagle Nest Monitoring Project, both in Kansas. The dinner will be at the Salina Country Club.

Sunday's field trips will include your choice of visits to the Smoky Hills Audubon Society pond, area lakes, parks, mature forested areas and the farm of KOS member Steve Burr, where we'll look for fall warblers and a resident Barred Owl along the banks of Mulberry Creek.

Shannon Rayl, Local Committee Chair

PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS FOR FALL MEETING

Just a reminder that the next issue will contain the formal call for papers for presentation at the fall meeting. Now's the time to get to work on those papers and presentations so that we can have another outstanding round of papers at our Fall Meeting!

SILENT AUCTION

.....shshshshshshshshshshsh

Please donate ahead of time or bring with you to the October meeting items for the fund-raising silent auction. This event was a great success at Garden City last year, and we would like to repeat it! Contact Roy Beckemeyer, or Shannon Rayl for more details.

PLAN TO ATTEND!!

KOS SPRING BOARD MEETING 1995

Camp Aldrich, near Cheyenne Bottoms

May 6, 1995

Members present: Mike Rader, Roy Beckemeyer, Dwight Platt, Gregg Friesen, Shannon Rayl, Sara Shane
Non-voting: Chuck Otte

President Mike Rader opened the meeting.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Rader reported that Lloyd Moore, Pete Janzen and Max Thompson had been re-elected to the Kansas Bird Records Committee and this election needed the approval of the board. Roy Beckemeyer moved that the Board approve the election of Lloyd Moore, Pete Janzen and Max Thompson to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. The motion was seconded by Gregg Friesen. The motion passed.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT ON BOARD COMPOSITION: Mike Rader recommended that the Bylaws be amended to make the two Editor positions elective positions and then make the Editors voting members of the Board. Roy Beckemeyer moved that the Editor of the Bulletin and the Editor of the Newsletter be elected positions and that the two Editors be voting members of the Board and that the board recommend amendments to the Bylaws to provide for these changes. Sara Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FOREIGN MEMBERSHIPS: Gregg Friesen reported that payments for foreign memberships did not include the \$5 extra this year. The Board suggested that he let it slide this year but that the dues cards with the extra \$5 listed be sent out earlier this fall.

FALL MEETING: Announcement of the Fall Meeting will be in the June Newsletter. The details will be in the September Newsletter and the final details have to be submitted to the Newsletter Editor by August 10. Shannon Rayl reported on planning for the meeting and field trips.

STUDENT RESEARCH: Mike Rader announced that Tom Shane has agreed to chair the Student Research Fund Committee.

The Board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

ATTENDEES AT SPRING '95 KOS MEETING

Karen & Ray Ganoung, Harold & Wilma Larson, Lorna Harder, Paul McNab, Marion Kuehn, Roger Boyd, Joanne Brier, Dave & Linda Bryan, Pat & Roy Beckemeyer, Cal Cink, Joyce Davis, Gregg Friesen, Allen Jahn, Dan Mulhern, Chuck Otte, Jim & Jean Piland, Dwight Platt, Mike Rader, Judy Zanardi, John Rakestraw, Bob Regier, Walker Butin, David & Amy Rose, Paul Schowalter, John Schuckman, David Seibel, Scott & Diane Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Mike Stewart, Ray & Marge Streckfus, Margaret & George Wedge, C. Pamela Wilson, and John Radke.

SPECIAL THANKS

Karen Ganoung did a lot of great work in preparing for the meeting and providing warm greetings and directions on Friday night. John Radke not only showed us around the Nature Conservancy's property, but was indefatigable in the face of rain, rain, and more rain. Thanks, too, to Roger Boyd and Cal Cink for their willingness to work while the rest of us played (Cal even had to rescue his mist nets in the midst of a lightning storm!) We were also pleased to have a number of guests from the Smoky Hills Audubon Society join us.

BIRD LIST FROM THE SPRING MEETING

The 43 attendees at the Spring Meeting at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira NWR endured almost any weather imaginable! If you've never set out a severe thunderstorm warning at Cheyenne Bottoms, believe me it is quite an experience as several of us can attest! In spite of that, Saturday was a GREAT day for those of us at Quivira (I finally got my Black Rail!). We also hooked up with Loren

Padelford and a group of Omaha, Nebraska Audubon members on Saturday and had a lot of fun. The list totaled up to be 174 (give or take one or two, I could never get the same number twice when counting!) and even though warblers were tardy and noncooperative, there were still some wonderful highlights such as Western Grebe, Common Loon, Palm Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, White-faced Ibis, Canada Goose, Wood duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Black Rail, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least

Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted races), Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown

Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle Warbler Race), Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

What's your favorite, private little birding spot?

Do you have some knowledge about an Endangered Species?

How about a favorite species? What about a favorite birding story?

Contact Chuck Otte at the address on the front page of this newsletter and become a contributor.

See your name in print!

(If you're worried about your writing skills, relax. We're here to help you with that, too.)

--Winged Tips

This issue of the Horned Lark brings us another new contributor, John Rakestraw, and what will become a regular feature on birding tips. John and his family live in St. John Kansas. John enjoys birding and writing. If you read Bird Watcher's Digest you will have seen an article by John in the March/April 1995 issue. We welcome John to the Horned Lark and look forward to many more of his well written articles!

Learning Shorebirds

by John Rakestraw

While providing some of the most exciting and challenging birding in Kansas, the vast numbers of shorebirds that pass through our state can be very frustrating to the beginning birder. But it is possible to become comfortable with these birds if you take a little time to study them.

The first step to learning the shorebirds is to adjust your attitude. If you go into the field expecting to identify every bird you see from the start, it will be a very unpleasant birding experience. What makes shorebirds so challenging is not necessarily identifying them, but just seeing them well. Many of the diagnostic field marks on shorebirds can only be seen at close range. Study the birds that are close. Don't waste the entire morning trying to identify the birds that are half a mile away. You might be thinking, "There may be a Temminck's Stint among those Least Sandpipers." Maybe. But even if you do find something different, at a great distance your identification is going to be tentative at best. Your time will be much better spent studying the birds at the edge of the road. Studying the common birds up close is the way to learn the shorebirds. As your skill grows, you will be able to make identifications at greater distances.

Once you have convinced yourself to concentrate on the nearby birds that you can see well, the next step is to make side-by-side comparisons of different species. Note the differences in shape and behavior. The quickest way to learn a new species is to compare it to a familiar one.

The hardest aspect of identifying shorebirds is dealing with the different plumages. Each species has from three to five distinct plumages and is usually in the process of molting from one to another. Most field guides simply do not have the room to show all these variations. So you may have better luck focusing on the shape of the bird rather than on its coloring. What is the bird's overall shape? Is it short and plump or tall and lanky? The size and shape of the bill is probably the most important field mark to look for. Is the bill about the same length as the head or is it longer? Is the bill straight, curved, upturned, or is it straight with a little droop at the tip?

It is impossible for most people to accurately estimate the

size of a bird in the field. Instead of guessing that your mystery sandpiper is about ten inches long, compare the bird to something else. If you notice that your bird is slightly smaller than a nearby Killdeer, you can look up the length of the Killdeer and have a good estimate of the size of your bird.

I strongly recommend two books for those interested in learning the shorebirds. "The Complete Birder," by Jack Connor has an excellent chapter on shorebirds. Connor separates each species into different categories based on shape and choice of habitat. This helps you learn what to look for when trying to identify a new shorebird.

"Shorebirds," by Hayman, Marchant, and Prater describes every species of shorebird in the world. The strength of this book lies in the detailed text and the illustrations which show all of the different plumages. This book won't fit in your pocket, but it should definitely be in your car or backpack.

Listed below are a few hints that will help you to separate similar species.

GREATER/LESSER YELLOWLEGS: When you see these two birds side by side, you will wonder how you ever confused the two. The Greater Yellowlegs appears huge compared to the Lesser, and its large upturned bill reminds one of a godwit. When seen individually, however, the birds can appear nearly identical. The one thing to look for is the bill. If the bill is about the same length as the head, the bird is a Lesser. If the bill is obviously longer than the length of the head, the bird is a Greater.

LONG-BILLED/SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS: It's a Long-billed. If you get a close enough view, look for the subtle differences in plumage (see "Shorebirds," mentioned above, or "Advanced Birding" by Kenn Kaufman). Your best bet at identifying the few Short-billed Dowitchers that pass through Kansas is to listen to the alarm calls as the birds take off. The Short-bills give a "tu-tu-tu," similar to a Lesser Yellowlegs. The Long-bills give a high pitched "keek."

(Learning Shorebirds, contd)

PEEPS: Peeps is a generic term for any of six different small sandpipers--Sanderling, Baird's SP, White-rumped SP, Western SP, Semipalmated SP, and Least SP. The Sanderling is uncommon in Kansas and noticeably larger than the other peeps. The other five can be quite confusing. There is a lot of variation among individuals of the same species. However, these birds usually keep to themselves. Even in a large mixed flock, the Least will usually form little clumps with other Least and so on. By carefully scanning these little homogeneous flocks, you will eventually find one bird that "looks just like the one in the field guide."

Baird's Sandpiper: The wing tips extend beyond the tail, giving the bird a long lean look, for a peep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: The wing tips extend beyond the tail, but this bird is a little plumper than the Baird's. The White-rump has fine streaks along its sides. The bird's white rump is only visible in flight.

Western Sandpiper: Be careful with this one. Look for a slightly longer bill with a drooping tip and rusty plumage on the back.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: This bird is small and plump with wing tips level with the tail. The bill is short and the legs are black. The plumage is usually a rather dull grayish brown with little marking on the breast.

Least Sandpiper: The smallest of the peeps, the Least Sandpiper has a tiny bill and yellowish legs. In breeding plumage, the Least is a warm rusty brown with strong breast markings.

These are just a few tips that have helped me. As you study the shorebirds, you will find your own tricks of the trade. Take your time, make side-by-side comparisons whenever possible, and don't be too proud to let some birds go unidentified. Remember, this is supposed to be fun.

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Wedge, Membership Secretary, does a wonderful job of keeping the editor posted of new KOS members. Unfortunately I occasionally misplace her letters so some of the following new members were new several months ago. The editor apologizes for the delay in the recognition of those new members and for any other oversights he causes. A KOS welcome to the following new members: Marsha Ebaugh, Kathy Speer, Wichita; Mark Stafford & Kay Brown, Arma; Chris Hase, Emporia; David Haight, Abilene; Jan Hall, Lawrence; Mike Stewart, Leavenworth; Debra Nusz, Garden City; Terrence & Mary Jo Kearns, Valley Falls; Mark Janos, Pueblo CO; and Joe Himmel, Greeley CO.

BY-LAWS CHANGES PROPOSED

After discussion at the winter and spring board meetings the Board of Directors has voted to forward the following by-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Fall Meeting in Salina. These changes would remove the Bulletin and Newsletter Editor from being appointed positions, make them elected positions and make them voting members of the Board of Directors.

- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of elected officers in Article IV, Section 1A so that it reads: "Elected Officers: President (Chairman of the Board), Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary (Secretary of the Board), Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, four (4) Directors at large, Editor of the Bulletin and Editor of the Newsletter."
- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers in Article V, Section 1A so that it reads: "Officers: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Editor of the *Bulletin* and Editor of the Newsletter."
- Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers that can succeed themselves as elected in Article V, Section 2C so that it reads: "The Corresponding Secretary, the Membership Secretary, the Treasurer, the Business Manager, the Editor of the Bulletin and the Editor of the Newsletter may succeed themselves as elected."
- Delete "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" from the list of appointed positions in Article V, Section 3A so that it reads "Appointed positions are: Librarian and the Chairman of each of the standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity and Kansas Bird Records."
- Article V, Section 3B will read: "The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board for a one year term which shall begin with the annual spring field trip. The Librarian may be reappointed at the discretion of the President and the Board." (The two editor positions are removed from this section.)
- Article VI, Section 2E would be amended to read: "Appoint the Librarian, subject to approval by the Board." (The two editor positions are removed from this section.)
- Add Section 8D to Article VI to read: "Be members of the Board of Directors." (This adds another responsibility to the duties list of the two editors.)

If you have any questions on these by-laws changes feel free to contact any of the Board of Directors.

Is Your Landscape "For the Birds?"
Part VI - Surviving Adverse Weather
(Part VI of an ongoing series)
by Chuck Otte

Every once in a while the best laid landscaping and garden plans go down the drain...quite literally. Such was the case this spring for much of Kansas when it turned cold and wet, and *stayed* wet for quite some time (and it didn't warm up very early either!). These challenges create numerous problems for the home gardener.

Cold and wet soils create many problems. How fast perennial plants break dormancy and grow in the spring is dependent more on the soil temperature than on the air temperature. To warm the soil up in the spring requires lots of sunshine. We didn't have much sunshine in April and May and the ground stayed cold. Plants were, therefore, slow to leaf out and bloom.

Cold soil temperatures also affect how fast seeds germinate, as well as how fast transplanted flowers, garden plants, etc. take off and grow. When plants are transplanted into soils colder than they prefer, they often show very little growth (they just sit there). When this condition is coupled with wet soils they not only just sit there, they often start to turn yellow or even purplish or bluish. These are classic symptoms of slow nutrient uptake due to stunted root development, root development problems from low oxygen levels in the soil (it's all been replaced with water) or just plain cold weather shock. These symptoms usually soon disappear with warm weather and sunshine..

Wet soils create many other problems when we start planting into them. When wet soil is worked it tends to lose its structure. Soil structure is physical property that describes how it's three dimensional structure (or how it looks). Soils under native grass frequently have a granular structure. Deeper down in that same soil where the clay starts to accumulate, blocky or sub-angular blocky structure may appear. This structure has a major impact on how water infiltrates the soil, how much water the soil can hold and how easily roots can penetrate the soil.

When the soil starts to lose its structure, it tends to get compacted. When it dries out it forms large, very hard clods. Compacted soil takes up water much more slowly than non-compacted soil and roots have a great deal of difficulty penetrating it. When we plant into the wet soils that many of us had this spring, we can create compaction along any of the surfaces of that planting hole.

Over time the wetting and drying, the freezing and thawing and even the action of roots will break down this compacted soil. But what it means in the interim is that

those plants that were planted in this soil will probably be much slower in developing a good root system. Therefore they will dry out more quickly since the root soil mass is limited. These plants will have to be watched very closely for moisture stress when drier and hotter weather arrives.

Another problem that excessively wet weather creates is disease. Fortunately, many of the diseases we see on the leaves of our garden and landscape plants look much worse than they really are. A little dry weather and sunshine will help replace most of the leaves that are lost from diseases. As we move into warmer and drier times your watering management can also make a difference. The drier you can keep the leaves the fewer problems you'll have. Avoid excessive use of sprinklers and try to keep the water on the soil at the base of the plants. If you have to use a sprinkler use it early in the morning so the plants can dry off quickly. Removing leaves that have fallen off from disease problems from around the plants can help reduce the amount of reinfection of newer leaves. And sometimes you may just have to use a fungicide to stop the disease cycle. When possible you can use "natural" products like Bordeaux, sulfur or lime and sulfur combined to minimize risk to birds and beneficial insects. Occasionally severe cases necessitate that you go to some of the newer products. Read and follow all label directions with any fungicide.

Remember also that before we know it we'll probably be fighting hot dry weather and then we'll have a whole different set of problems to deal with!

Do You Have an E-mail Address?

It seems that the information super-highway just keeps reaching out further and further. I transcribe the Kansas Rare Bird Alert on a regular basis (which means just as regularly as it gets updated) and place it on the Internet through Birdchat so people all over the world can access it. Many people don't want to wade through all those messages, BUT, they might still like to get the Kansas RBA. If you have an internet accessible e-mail address and would like to receive the transcription of the RBA (usually within a day or two of when Scott updates it), drop me a message at COTTE@OZNET.KSU.EDU, give me your address and tell me that you want to receive the RBA. I'm already sending it to a half dozen KOS members and there's no reason why you can't be one of them!

--Meet your officers--

A Tale of Friendship, Dogs and Birds...a KOS-related autobiography of Business Manager, Dawn Sharp

(The following story is true, albeit a bit long-winded. Names have not been changed because no one is innocent. I've long felt I should go public with this, but I was afraid while alerting some to danger, I'd be giving others of you ideas! Beware, you might be getting involved!)

All I wanted was a dog. So a friend introduced me to Ruth Fauhl and her Weimaraners. Ruth is my best friend. I have come to realize from the events of the past fifteen years, though, that she is a bit dangerous. I mean, look at me...through her unassuming manner and her clever manipulations (oh heck, subtle arm-twisting might be just as direct) I'm the Business Manager of the KOS. I've finally made room in my little house and schedule for my duties. I've got a little catching up to do, but I now know where everything is and am ready to forge ahead. But back to my tale.

Through Ruth, not only did I end up with a dog...I ended up with *three* at home for now, but with many others having passed through my house under the auspices of National Weimaraner Rescue. My Weims and I live in a small house near the eastern edge of Lawrence. I showed my show dog to his championship myself and I put Ruth's dog on the National Weim Obedience Top Ten while achieving his first obedience title. I work as a secretary in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Kansas and have some open plans that include teaching Geography sometime in the distant future. I do my best to get out to see some birds every so often, too. I especially enjoy taking children out birding. Some of my most memorable trips have been with my youngest (4-12 year old) friends. But that's another story.

I was still almost normal (I only owned one Weim) when Ruth asked me to travel along for just half a day on a CBC. What good could a person be when they could identify Cardinals, Blue Jays, Starlings and Sparrows (what did I know about sparrows?!)? Oh, so I only have to write down what everybody else sees...okay, okay, I can do that for half a day. The next year it was a whole day. I became the chief bird "spotter" and I'd added Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and HOUSE Sparrow to my repertoire (I could still only identify about half a dozen species). I missed a couple of years because of finals, but in 1988 when I bought my first brand new car, I drove straight to Ruth's house (in April) and announced that I would be DRIVING that year's CBC.

To be completely honest, Ruth didn't get me here alone... she had help. One cold, damp, dank, dim November afternoon, Ruth and I were getting ready for a rousing game of Trivial Pursuit when the phone rang. All I heard was "Do you have room in your car for one more?" and "We'll be ready in fifteen minutes." I was swept up in the moment. We were going to join David Seibel, then president of the KOS, in an attempt to see the Brown Pelican that had been spotted at Perry Lake. (I've long

been anxious to let the membership in on this story...I'm afraid, though, that while alerting some of you to danger, I might be giving others of you ideas!)

There was a light rain as we headed north out of Lawrence. Just as we passed the city limits, Dave's windshield wipers stopped working. It didn't really matter at the time, but by the time we got to the bait shop in Perry, it was starting to RAIN. When Dave couldn't locate the problem, I figured we'd do the sane thing and turn around and head for home while there was still some light, but no. We were headed for the dam. I had joked that I had enough dog leads in my bag that we could pull the wipers up and down manually. As we pulled out toward the dam, I reiterated the comment...probably with panic in my voice. Dave bought a ball of twine and he and Ruth kept the windshield fairly clear by pulling the wipers up and down. I was in shock. But I still didn't see the real trouble up ahead.

We didn't see the pelican, but I did get a new gull and a tern despite the fact that the rain was blowing horizontally from the north into the car as we looked out over the reservoir. We stopped for gas on the way home (by this time Dave had tied the strings together and could control the wipers by himself) and I offered Dave some gas money. He refused. When he came back from paying, though, he said he would take me up on that offer...but I was to use the money toward my new KOS membership.

Eventually Ruth spread the news that I had a degree in journalism, that I had worked for a mailing firm, that I worked on computers and could type. (She really is dangerous, you know.) I began typing the *Horned Lark* for editor Don Vannoy when we handled everything over the phone and by mail. Then Chuck Otte became the editor and now we handle everything over the Internet and by fax. I had pitched in with mailing duties while Galen Pittman was Business Manager during which time he slowly worked to convince me to run for Business Manager. Most of that cajoling took place in Ruth's living room. And the rest is history.

Looking back on the events that led to my membership in KOS, I realize that you really do have to be careful of people like Ruth...she is the cause of both of my serious vices--Dogs and Birds. I'm always on my guard now. When Ruth and Mary Allen get together in my car for a count, I have to threaten them with walking home if they keep talking about wildflowers (it's a threat that usually works...they both qualify for senior citizen discounts). I just don't have time for another vice!!!

SPRING ROUNDUP 1995

The Spring Roundup obviously didn't make it for this issue. There are reports about the report, though. The high water in Junction City earlier this year washed the report downstream. It seemed logical to think that it would eventually arrive in Lawrence, very near to Dawn's house, actually, but there was a hitch. There was an anonymous report by a birdwatcher along the Kaw that the report got hung up in some river debris and only washed

loose after some bird (sorry...it was there and gone too fast to get a good ID. All we know for sure is that it had wings) took some nesting material away to repair its nest and dislodged it. We're now on alert that it is again floating toward Lawrence, but at a very slow pace. Dawn is on watch and will grab it, hopefully before it goes over the Bowersock dam. Our current plan is to have it dried out in time for the fall issue! Thank you for your patience.

Some of the Western Kansas KOS members held a farewell dinner for Dr. Ely on December 4, 1994. Left to right: Scott Selman, Diane Selman, Charles Ely, Ellen Rader, Mike Rader, Sara Shane and Tom Shane. (Photo by Andrea Shane.)





The Horned Lark

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From the Keyboard -

It's a rainy Saturday afternoon and I'm struggling to get this issue wrapped and sent down the line to be proofed and laid out. It's been a struggle to get this issue out. I can only attribute that struggle to the fact that birding has been so slow since Christmas. I've noticed that the better the birding is the easier the issue of the *Horned Lark* flows. It probably has something to do with wanting to get back outside to see what else I can find!

Anyway, a slow birding winter is surely going to give way to a fantastic spring, so be sure to get your reservations in today for the Spring Meeting at Great Bend. Cheyenne Bottoms/Quivira NWR are a couple of the few true birding Meccas in Kansas. If you haven't ever been to either of these locales in early May, grab this chance. Even slow birding at The Bottoms or Quivira is pretty darn good, and May is bound to be hopping. (I personally am still hoping for a Black Rail..... Mike promised!!!!!!) I hope to see a lot of you there!

I'm sure a lot of you have noticed how some of the national magazines that now or in the past have attracted bird watchers have taken on a very strong environmental protection theme, sometimes at the expense of birds and birding information. Several of you have requested that we keep the focus of the *Horned Lark* on birds and we will do that. But I do encourage all of you to really keep an eye on some of those critical environmental/wildlife issues in the state and national legislatures. Some legislative activities are taking place that are rather unsettling and you need to write or call your legislators and let them know how you feel!

It's time to wrap this up so it can get put in the mail. Spring is here and the birding is starting to pick up (finally!), so let's have a good spring, get those spring meeting registrations mailed in and get to work on those KBBAT blocks. See you in Great Bend!!

--chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1995

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490
Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203
Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114
Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044
Treasurer, Greg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114
Board Members:
Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401
Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204
Sara Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846
Gene Young, Southwestern - Biology Dept, 100 College St,
Winfield, KS 67156
Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646
Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St,
Winfield, KS 67156
Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441

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*--The Danger Zone--***Whooping Crane***by Jerry Horak*

The Whooping Crane was probably always an uncommon bird with an estimated population of only 1400 in the mid-1800's. At that time they nested in marshland areas of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. During the same time, they wintered along the mid-Atlantic Coast, Mexico and the Texas Coast. There was also a non-migratory population along coastal Louisiana. By the late 1930's, though, only two small breeding populations remained. The non-migratory Louisiana flock was down to 13 and was reduced to 6 after a 1940 hurricane. The last Whooper in Louisiana was taken into captivity in 1950. The migratory flock called the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population, which wintered on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in coastal Texas (their nesting location was unknown in the late 30's) was down to 16 Whooping Cranes.

The process of saving the Whooping Crane was started in the 1940's by designating Aransas National Refuge and Wood Buffalo Park in Canada as critical habitat. It was a long time coming, but the Whooping Crane was listed as threatened in 1967 and endangered in 1970.

The recovery of this population has been slow in that the birds live more than 20 years and they don't reach sexual maturity until 4-5 years old. The average clutch size is just two eggs, but only one typically survives to flight age. Their life is full of hazards, but two-thirds of mortality is along the

2500 mile migration route between Wood Buffalo Park and Aransas National Refuge.

Despite the slow population growth, the number of Whooping Cranes has grown to 290 as of July 1994. Just over half exist in the wild, while the remaining are in captivity in zoos and research facilities.

Approximately 133 Whooping Cranes are expected to travel through Kansas in April of 1995. They stop for only a short period, if at all. The best chance to see them would be at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Quivira and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuges. During fall migration, the Whoopers generally stop over and stay a little longer, but generally less than a week. As many of you bird watchers are aware, in fall 1994 Cheyenne Bottoms hosted at least two Whoopers for 48 days from October 13 to November 29. On the morning of November 1, 18 Whoopers were spotted, the highest number ever reported at the Bottoms. The lengthy stay was attributed to the mild weather and favorable water levels.

The management plan for the Whooping Crane calls for the maintenance of the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population at more than 40 nesting pair with a flock size of 1,000 individuals by 2020.

New Members

New KOS members since the last newsletter include: Suzi and Myron Plooster, Boulder, CO; Steve Rhoades, Overland Park, KS; Karl Swartzendruber, Emporia, KS.
Welcome to KOS!

Membership Reminder

Margaret Wedge - Membership Secretary

Please be sure to pay your KOS membership dues for 1995 RIGHT AWAY if you have not already done so. The March newsletter will be the last one received by unpaid members. Also, special thanks to members who have alerted us to changes of address as that both saves KOS money and insures that you receive your newsletters in a timely fashion. To notify us of your change of address, please contact Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana Street, Lawrence, KS 66044, (913-842-0382) or Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave, Lawrence, KS 66044, (913-842-8692).

*** New Potential Birder ***

We are always looking for opportunities to recruit new KOS members and increase our membership. Well, active and well-known KOS members Scott and Diane Seltman are certainly doing their part! Steven David Seltman arrived January 6, 1995 in good shape at 20 inches in length and 7 pounds 1/4 ounce. Diane reports that Steven is doing well, gaining plenty of weight and already has his first pair of binoculars. Scott is our RBA compiler and Diane just stepped down after several years as Membership Secretary. Congratulations Scott and Diane!

SPRING MEETING--MAY 5-7
Barton County Community College
REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 20
Look to the last pages for Registration
Information and Forms

North American Migration Count

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) continues to gather momentum in Kansas. In 1993, the first year of the NAMC in Kansas, sixty birders in 14 Kansas counties counted 53,785 individuals of 244 species. That year the highest species count was in Stafford County with 163 species tallied. In 1994, 24 counties participated, and 263 species (87,329 individuals) were found statewide. In 1994 Stafford County again had the highest species count (175 species; 13,173 individuals). This year we would like to have even more counters and more counties participate, and maybe even beat one of those Stafford County numbers.

The NAMC is, as always, the second Saturday in May, which this year happens to be May 13. The rules are simple: spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area and keep track of hours and miles on foot, car, boat and feeder watching. The North American Migration Count is like a Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The Area for any one count is not a 15-mile diameter circle, but an entire county (parish in Louisiana). The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done on just a single day.

The choice of the second Saturday in May has been to try to find the peaks of movement of neotropical species while they are still where most of the birders are. It will not be peak everywhere; northern states will be getting the first glimmer of spring and the Deep South will be in early breeding season, but the overall goal is of importance to everyone. The goals of the North American Migration Count are:

- to obtain a "snapshot" of the progress of spring migration
- to obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species
- to initiate more participation among birders within a state and between states
- to create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information
- to aid in organization and centralization of data
- to have fun
- to establish the second Saturday in May as "National Birding Day"

Last year's compilers will automatically receive an updated packet (and the list will include Belted Kingfisher this year!) sometime in April. If you want to participate and need to know the name of your local compiler, or if you want to take another county which was not covered last year, please contact Dave Rintoul at:

Biology Division - Ackert Hall
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan KS 66506-4901
 (913)-532-6663 (work)
 (913)-537-0781 (home)
 drintoul@ksu.ksu.edu (e-mail)

Take a day in May to contribute to our limited knowledge of migratory patterns, and have fun!

Changes are Coming!

All I've been able to get are teasers from several different sources, but apparently the "lumpers" and "splitters" are at it again, and this time the splitters may be winning. Evidently the July 1995 issue of the Auk will have the latest low down from the AOU about what are species and what are not. I've already seen in one major news magazine that Northern Oriole will be split back out into Baltimore and Bullock's. Gee, I've just been sitting here at the computer and gained another life bird! Just as soon as the news becomes official, we'll try to get it in the *Horned Lark*, then an updated KOS checklist can be sent to the printer and finally, we can all expect a whole round of updates in field guides!

PARTICIPATE...

***Sign up for a KBBAT Block--
and finish it this year!***

Attend the Spring Meeting (Barton County...just think...field trips to Quivira NWR, Cheyenne Bottoms...)

There's always the North American Migration Count (what an excuse to spend the day out birdwatching!)

Sign up to lead a field trip to your favorite spot! Write an article for the Horned Lark about your favorite spot or about your favorite experience...

PARTICIPATE!

--Meet your officers--

Your V.P.

*(Vermivora peregrina? No, Vice President!)**

by Roy Beckemeyer

Thanks for electing me V.P. of the KOS! I am looking forward to doing whatever I can to help this organization continue to grow. First, though, a few words about me.

I currently live and work in Wichita. My wife, Pat, and I have lived in Kansas for 27 years. As Kansans are wont to put it, we are from "back east," namely Illinois (which, until we moved here, we considered the midwest). We raised our two children, who have both flown the nest, in Kansas, and they consider themselves natives. Our daughter, Lori, lives here in Wichita, and our son, Mark, in Missouri. I am an aeronautical engineer by trade, work at Boeing, and love all things that fly, including birds and insects.

Pat and I are relative newcomers to birding (she's the real birding expert of the family), having begun in 1992, although we have always been interested in natural history in general. We used to go backpacking every year when the kids were small, and took a small library of field guides along, usually including birds, wildflowers, animal tracks, etc. And, while not listers at the time, when we visited Australia and New Zealand in 1987, we purchased bird books and took note of what we saw just because the birds were so unique and colorful.

We have birded extensively in Kansas, Texas, Arizona, and took a dream trip to Alaska last year. We like all kinds of birds, but have a soft spot for warblers and waterfowl. We have been doing a few KBBAT blocks the past two years, and are thoroughly enjoying this new and different aspect of the birding experience. (We'll try to get all those blocks up to date this year, John!)

I support Mike Rader in his established aims (see the last issue of *The Horned Lark*) and hope to be able to use some of my business and management background to help to put KOS on a sound footing for future growth. I am also interested in helping to develop any ideas to further the benefit of KOS to beginning birders and youthful birders, as they are our link to the future.

Thanks again for the trust, and please feel free to let me or any other officer or board member know if you have any input; this is your organization.

(*P.S., that's the Tennessee Warbler)

Kauffman Museum Event Highlights International Migratory Bird Day

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) will be celebrated on Saturday, May 13, 1995 at the Kauffman Museum, North Newton with a "Bird and Brunch." Scheduled activities include morning bird walks, guided tours of the Museum's North American bird collection, a bird banding demonstration and brunch. Local birding experts, including members of the Kansas Ornithological Society, will be on hand to lead bird walks and to offer hints on bird identification. Adults and children, birders and non-birders, all are cordially invited to participate. Participants should meet at the Kauffman Museum at 6:00 a.m. Cost for the "Bird and Brunch" is \$3.50 per person. Reservations are requested by Monday, May 8, 1995.

IMBD occurs annually on the second Saturday of May to celebrate the spring arrival of thousands of migratory birds including Bell's Vireos and Scissortail Flycatchers from Central America, Purple Martins from Colombia, South America and Pectoral Sandpipers passing through on their 7,000 mile journey to Arctic nesting grounds.

Migratory birds deserve our admiration. Some species weigh less than an ounce, and yet, flying by night under the cover of darkness, they travel thousands of miles to their breeding grounds in North America. While migratory birds are cause for wonder, some are also cause for concern. Many birdwatchers and scientists worry that the numbers of grassland species, such as the Dickcissel, the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Loggerhead Shrike are decreasing. The causes for the declines are many, but the primary one seems to be shrinking habitat as many of the places birds need to feed, rest, and rear their young are changed by human activities. IMBD was established to call attention to the needs of migratory birds and help all of us learn what we can do to keep our meadows, woods, fields, and backyards vibrant with the sound of bird song.

IMBD is coordinated nationally by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. It is funded by Phillips Petroleum Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. IMBD is a project of Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americas, a coalition of government and non-government organizations and private industry, all working together to prevent further declines of migratory birds.

For additional information and for reservations, contact Lorna Habegger Harder at the Kauffman Museum, 316/283-1612.

Is Your Landscape "For the Birds?"

Part V - Spring Planting Time

(Part V of an ongoing series)

by Chuck Otte

In the September issue of the *Horned Lark* I talked about plant material that homeowners may want to use to attract birds to their yards. I wanted to follow up in this spring season with some additional plant species to consider, as well as a few other thoughts.

Many birds are attracted to landscape and garden plants. Just as a bird feeder or a bird bath in and of itself is not a guarantee of attracting birds, appropriate plants are not guaranteed to always attract birds. BUT, if you *combine* feeders, water, habitat, structures and plants, you will eventually have success. Be aware, though, that what attracts birds will also attract other forms of wildlife, so be prepared! Be very careful in landscapes where you are attracting wildlife of pesticide use. Use only as a last resort, and then use the safest material available. Consider using things like insecticidal soap, BT, etc. Remember that birds are often predators of insect pests and if you are patient they MAY take care of the problem without too much loss of plant material.

Following are some groups of plants and species I would consider planting for wildlife in Kansas.

Annuals - Amaranthus, Bachelor Button, Calendula, California Poppy, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Gloriosa Daisy, Annual Ornamental Grasses (Quaking Grass, etc.), Marigold, Pinks, Portulaca, Sunflower, Zinnia.

Perennials - Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Globe Thistle (*Echinacea* spp.

including purple coneflower), Grasses (include the natives i.e. the blustems, switchgrass and indiagrass), Dianthus, Scabiosa, sedums (especially the Stonecrops), Statice, Sunflower.

Woody Species - Shrubs - Aromatic Sumac, Boxwood and Holly (in protected locations), Dogwoods, Elderberry, Euonymous (Wintercreeper and Winged Euonymous, a.k.a. Burning Bush), Honeysuckle, Juniper, Mugo Pine, Privet, Pyracnatha, Rose, Sumac spp., Viburnum, Witchhazel, Yew.

Small Trees - Japanese Maple, Crab Apple, Apple, Hawthorn, Amur Maple, Cherry and Plum (edible and ornamental, all prunus spp. are good. This includes such things as wild plum and choke cherry), Mountain Ash.

Medium/Tall Trees - Maple spp., Pine, Hackberry, Elm, Mulberry, Oak

Vines - Bittersweet, English Ivy, Grape, Honeysuckle, Trumpet Vine, Virginia Creeper.

Plants that attract Hummingbirds (also orioles) - Trumpet Vine, Catalpa, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coralberry, Weigela, Nicotiana, Petunia, Salvia, Hollyhock, Columbine, Delphinium, Foxglove, Gentian, Gladiolus, Daylily, Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon), Liatris, Tiger Lily, Penstemon, Phlox, Sweet William, Snap Dragon, Larkspur.

1995 Spring Meeting

Barton County Community College, Camp Aldrich

May 5, 6, 7

Field Trips Include: Quivira NWR, Cheyenne Bottoms, newly acquired Nature Conservancy property near CB--and even Camp Aldrich! (What a line-up!!)

REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 20...

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! Don't miss this trip!

(Registration information and forms on back of this newsletter...for more information, call Roy Beckemeyer, (316) 526-4225 (work) or (316) 264-0049 (home)).

Summary of Rare Bird Records for Kansas: Compilation of recent actions by the KBRC

As you may recall in the last issue of the *Horned Lark* (December 1994), there was an article about additions to the new Checklist and minutes from several recent KBRC meetings. In those minutes you might have noticed that the KBRC has been busy reviewing old records of some of the rarer bird species that occur in Kansas. To make the new edition of the KOS Checklist as authoritative as possible, a list of "accepted" records for the rarer species needed to be compiled. This was a daunting task, not only in compiling the numerous old records and sightings, but in trying to evaluate those old sightings. Generally to be acceptable, records had to have some form of documentation or at least some way to verify their accuracy. The KBRC took an

essentially conservative approach, especially with difficult to identify species.

Now that the list has been compiled, any new bird record that could affect or change that species' status on the official KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas will need to have written documentation submitted to and accepted by the KBRC before it would be included!

The following is an annotated list of 67 species that have been reviewed by the KBRC. Included on this list is the current number of "validated" records for each species. Those species with three or fewer records also have the date and location of the sightings indicated.

Species without physical evidence documentation ("hypothetical") and less than 10 records

CLARK'S GREBE (9): 9 sight records
EURASIAN WIGEON (6): 6 sight records

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (3) - 3 sight records:
13 April 1973 and 13 April 1974, both at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Barton County.
10 February 1992, Lake Afton, Sedgwick County. (KBRC 92-15)

ARCTIC TERN (1) - 1 sight record:

3 September 1994, Perry Lake, Jefferson County, (KBRC 94-20).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (4): 4 sight records

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (2) - 2 sight records:
11 May 1985 and 20 September 1987, both on the Cimarron River, Morton County.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER (1) - 1 sight record:
4 April 1935, Concordia, Cloud County.

BLACK PHOEBE (1) - 1 sight record:
16 March 1976, Middle Springs, Morton County.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (1) - 1 sight record:
13 May 1979, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Barton COUNTY.

FISH CROW (4): 4 sight records
WESTERN BLUEBIRD (2) - 2 sight records:
16 December 1989, near Newton, Harvey County.
10 April 1990, Morton County.

Species with less than 10 records

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (3) - 1 specimen, 2 sight records:

16 August 1880, Osborne County. (specimen)
16-17 June 1982, Meade State Park, Meade County.
8 October 1988, near Hill City, Graham County.

GLOSSY IBIS (1) - 1 sight record (photo):
3-4 May 1992, Perry Lake, Jefferson County, (KBRC 92-32).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (4): 1 specimen, 3 sight records

WOOD STORK (6): 2 specimens, 4 sight records

GREATER FLAMINGO (2) - 1 specimen, 1 sight record (photo):

"Fall" 1928, Quivira NWR, Stafford County. (specimen)
11 November 1972, Waconda Lake, Mitchell County.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (3) - 3 sight records (photo):
20 September 1956, Marias des Cygnes Wildlife Area Linn Co.
6 July 1980, Quivira NWR, Stafford County.
21 May 1982, Butler County.

GARGANEY (4): 4 sight records (2 photos)

COMMON EIDER (1) - 1 specimen:

3 November 1891, Lecompton, Douglas County.

KING EIDER (1) - 1 specimen:
27 November 1947, Lawrence, Douglas County.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (9): 9 sight records (photo)

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (2) - 2 sight records (photo):
22 July 1989, Mound City, Linn County.

August-Sept 1989, (nesting), near Olsburg, Pottawatomie Co.

HARRIS' HAWK (6): 2 specimens, 4 sight records

GYRFALCON (4): 1 specimen, 3 sight records

Species with less than 10 records (continued)

- SPOTTED REDSHANK (1) - 1 sight record (photo):
1-7 May 1988, Perry Lake, Jefferson County.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER (5): 1 specimen, 4 sight records
- RUFF (5): 1 specimen, 4 sight records
- POMARINE JAEGER (5): 1 specimen, 4 sight records
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER (5): 1 specimen, 4 sight records
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (5): 5 sight records (photos)
- BLACK SKIMMER (3) - 1 specimen, 2 sight records (photo):
24 May 1968, Kaw Valley Fish Farm, Douglas Co. (specimen)
28 June-13 July 1977, Wilson Lake, Russell County.
27 July-2 Aug 1977, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Barton Co.
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON (2) - 1 specimen, 1 sight record:
9 October 1969, Meade, Meade county, (specimen)
19 July 1963, near Kingsdown, Clark Co.
- WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (5): 5 sight records (photo)
- MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (1) - 1 sight record (photo):
18 April-10 June 1977, Boicourt, Linn County.
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (4): 4 sight records (photos)
- ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (3) - 3 sight records (photos):
21 Sept-23 Nov 1990, Oxford, Sumner County, (KBRC 91-24).
- 21-23 November 1994, Winfield, Cowley County, (KBRC 94-32).
24 November 1994, Winfield, Cowley County, (KBRC 94-33).
- COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (2) - 1 specimen, 1 sight record (photos):
"Summer" 1990, Wallace County. (specimen, KBRC 93-22).
5 November 1993, Lawrence, Douglas County, (KBRC 94-01).
- CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (1) - 1 specimen:
3 September 1952, Cimarron River, Morton County.
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (6): 1 specimen, 5 sight records (photo)
- ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (1) - 1 specimen (photos):
25-28 August 1992, Bonner Springs, Wyandotte Co. (KBRC 92-56)
- LEWIS' WOODPECKER (8): 8 sight records (photo)
- RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (5): 2 specimens, 3 sight records
- HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (6): 5 specimens, 1 sight record
- GRAY FLYCATCHER (4): 1 specimen, 3 sight records
- CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER (4): 3 specimens, 1 sight record
- GRAY-BREASTED JAY (1) - 1 specimen:
March 1906, near Mt. Jesus, Clark County.
- CANYON WREN (2) - 2 sight records (photos):
6 September 1992, Cimarron River, Morton County.
30 December 1993, near Scott State Lake, Scott County.
- PHAINOPEPLA (3) - 3 sight records (photos):
8-9 September 1993, Garden City, Finney County. (KBRC 93-25).
3-4 Sept 1994, Middle Springs, Morton County. (KBRC 94-17).
25-30 Sept 1994, Garden City, Finney County. (KBRC 94-25).
- HERMIT WARBLER (1) - 1 specimen:
7 May 1964, near Holcomb, Finney County.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER (6): 2 specimens, 4 sight records (photo)
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER (8): 2 specimens, 5 sight records
- PYRRHULOXIA (4): 1 specimen, 3 sight records (photos)
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW (2) - 1 specimen, 1 sight record:
24 April 1949, Lake Quivira, Wyandotte County, (specimen).
26 April 1948, Johnson County.
- Black-throated Sparrow (6): 1 specimen, 5 sight records (photo)
- SAGE SPARROW (3) - 3 specimens:
1 November 1956, Morton County, (2 specimens).
11 January 1957, Seward County.
- SCOTT'S ORIOLE (1) - 1 specimen:
16 April 1977, Cimarron River, Morton County.

Species with 10 or greater records

- RED-THROATED LOON (16): 1 specimen, 15 sight records
- RED-NECKED GREBE (13): 1 specimen, 12 sight records
- BROWN PELICAN (11): 1 specimen, 10 sight records
- WHITE IBIS (11): 11 sight records (several photos)
- PARASITIC JAEGER (12): 1 specimen, 11 sight records (photos)
- LITTLE GULL (12): 12 sight record (photos)
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (11): 1 specimen, 10 sight records
- VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (11): 3 specimens, 8 sight records
- CANYON TOWHEE (10): 10 sight records (photo)
- GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (12): 1 specimen, 11 sight records (photo)
- LESSER GOLDFINCH (10): 10 sight records (photo)

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING

Salina Vocational-Technical School

Salina, KS

February 11, 1995

Members present: Mike Radar, Roy Beckemeyer, Dwight Platt, Dawn Sharp, Shannon Rayl, Gene Young, Jim Mayhew

Non-voting: Max Thompson, Chuck Otte

President Mike Rader opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL FORMAT FOR 1995: Mike Rader distributed an Organizational Format for 1995 with Board Members and others assigned to specific areas of responsibility. Mark Robbins, KU Museum of Natural History, will be Chair of the 50th Anniversary Meeting arrangements, replacing Marion Jenkins who died during the past year.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Fall Board Meeting have been published in the Newsletter, Mike Rader asked for corrections or additions. None were made and a motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gregg Friesen was not able to attend the meeting. Mike Rader distributed a written Treasurer's report for the 1994 fiscal year which showed a balance of \$2,438.01 in the unrestricted funds account and total assets of \$35,710.61 at the close of the fiscal year [a statement of accounts follows these minutes]. Gregg will be proposing a budget for the 1995 fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Wedge was not able to attend the meeting so Mike Rader read her report. As of December 31, 1994, KOS had 438 members, including 25 exchanges, 123 fully paid life members and 13 partly paid life members. Margaret asked what membership date should be recorded in membership records for members whose membership had lapsed for a few years. The Board thought that the original date of joining KOS should be kept in the records.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Dawn Sharp reported that the mailings have been going out and that she has found a printer for mailing supplies that is cheaper than the one previously used. She asked that members be reminded in the Newsletter to update their addresses because returned mailings are costing us money. She suggested that we needed to print membership brochures, as much of the membership data is outdated and printing labels to cover the outdated information would be very expensive. It was suggested that if we print new brochures we leave off the dues structures and addresses which periodically change. It was also suggested that we might want to have a permanent address at the KU Natural History Museum.

SALES: Max Thompson suggested that we might want to consider splitting up the Business Manager's job and giving the responsibility for sales to a new officer since the position of Business Manager is such a large responsibility. We have a large inventory, but sell very little except at meetings. We cannot advertise the sale of items in the Newsletter because it is sent by non-profit bulk mail. We might consider sending out a listing of items for sale at the higher postage rates.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson reported that the Christmas Count issue should be printed by March 1. There were 50 counts this year. The tables still have to be typeset but the rest was submitted on computer disk, so it should be cheaper this year.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte reported that the next Newsletter will come out at the end of March and he can take items for this issue until the middle of March. He will be trying some photographs in the next issue. He is still looking for two more people to write columns -- one on what to look for in the coming months and one on tips for beginners.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Roy Beckemeyer reported that he was still sending out questionnaires to new members to learn about their interests.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT: There was no official report from the committee. Max Thompson said that they were working on the new checklist but were waiting on the AOU to publish new nomenclatural changes. The format of the new checklist may be changed somewhat to indicate what part of the state a species is found in.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND COMMITTEE REPORT: There was no report. The Finance Committee has suggested putting the small amount of money in this fund into the Endowment Account since it does not appear that the fund will ever be large enough to make awards.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: No Membership Committee has been appointed yet.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT: John Schuckman has agreed to continue as Chair of the Conservation Committee. There was no report.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA REPORT: Jim Mayhew is in charge of the Dingus Natural Area Committee. He said the signs still need replacing and he asked for money to cover those costs and for his travel to the area. These expenses could be charged to the Dingus Natural Area account which has a balance of approximately \$7,500. The original plan called for periodic burns of the grassy area, but it has not been burned recently. Max Thompson raised a question as to whether this was originally prairie and suggested that maybe we should allow ecological succession to return it to woodland. It was suggested that a team of ecologists might develop a new management plan. Maybe Roger Boyd and Cal Cink would be willing to do this.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Mike Rader read the report from John Torline that stated that the books were in good order. He recommended that it would be helpful if KOS had an annual budget. Jim Mayhew moved to accept the Auditor's report. The motion was seconded by Gene Young. The motion passed.

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Chuck Otte, alternate representative from KOS, reported that the council had met three times. Ted Cable is the KOS representative.

KBBAT: Mike Rader read from a written report by John Zimmerman on the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project. We are slightly behind where we should be after three seasons of work, but we should come fairly close to completing the project on schedule. There are three regions with the lowest completion rates: SE, SW and NW. Mike Rader reported that there is money in the budget to pay volunteers to travel to areas where a number of blocks are not covered and complete these blocks.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT: Max Thompson suggested that Partners in Flight needed to receive more information from KOS since some of the information they were reporting about the status of birds in this area is incorrect.

PRESENTATION: Jim Mayhew, Past President, presented carved wood KOS hangings to members of the Board.

SPRING 1995 MEETING: The Spring Field Trip will be in Barton County on May 5-7. Reservations have been made at Camp Aldrich. A Local Committee is working on arrangements. Roger Boyd will lead a Least Tern nesting trip. Cal Cink (or Max Thompson and Gene Young) will put up a bird banding station. The staff at Quivira will be available to give guided access through Quivira.

FALL 1995 MEETING: The Fall 1995 Meeting will be October 6 - 8 in Salina. Shannon Rayl is Local Arrangements Chair and the meeting will be sponsored by the Biology Department at Kansas Wesleyan University. The Friday evening reception will be at Lakewood Nature Center. The Fall Meeting is a good time to recruit new members and Shannon was encouraged to invite local Audubon members to the meeting. Roy Beckemeyer will work on an auction. Items for the auction will be solicited in the Newsletter.

ICBP: KOS will not renew membership for 1995.

1996 MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting will be May 3-6 in Morton County. The Fall Meeting will be in Newton.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Max Thompson reported that the Finance Committee had met and were proposing a "Fifty at Fifty" Endowment Campaign. This would be a campaign to raise \$50,000 for the Endowment Fund in the next three years (so that the Endowment Fund would have \$50,000 by 1998). Gene Young made a motion to authorize the Finance Committee to initiate the "Fifty at Fifty" Endowment Campaign and to send out solicitations. Jim Mayhew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Mike Rader announced that he will work to fill committee vacancies. He asked for suggestions for the Membership Committee.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT ON BOARD COMPOSITION: According to the present Bylaws, the Editors are nonvoting members of the Board. Jim Mayhew moved that the Board recommend that the Bylaws be amended to include the Editor of the Bulletin and the Editor of the Newsletter as voting members of the Board. The motion was seconded by Gene Young. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

Kansas Ornithological Society
Statement of Assets at the Close of the 1994 books

<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			
General Fund	Beginning Balance	1,120.09	
	Receipts		
	Contributions Unspecified	225.84	
	Contributions RBA	20.00	
	Dues Deleted 1993	-10.00	
	Dues 1994	3,387.50	
	Transfer from FD (2,112.50)		
	Paid in 1994 (1,275.00)		
	Dues 1994 trans to LMP pmt	-15.00	
	Interest earned	970.69	
	Meeting Overage		
	Fall 93	17.25	
	Spring 94	0.00	
	Fall 94	142.45	
	Spring 95	-300.00	
	Sales - Bulletins	165.00	
	Sales - Checklists	143.75	
	Sales - Decals	10.00	
	Sales - Sweatshirts	373.00	
	Sales - T-Shirts	272.00	5,402.48
	Transfer from LMP		500.00
	Disbursements		
	Annual Corporation Fee	20.00	
	Bank Charges	10.82	
	Education	190.00	
	Exp KBBAT	13.43	
	Exp Memb Sec	68.13	
	Exp KBRC	186.94	
	Exp RBA	270.27	
	Exp Treasurer	53.91	
	Exp Vice Pres	65.60	
	Inventory Costs - Checklist	180.03	
	Printing-Bulletin	1906.20	
	Printing-Memb Directory	123.90	
	Printing Newsletter	1916.27	
	Safety Deposit Box	12.00	
	Sales Tax Payment	62.49	
	Young Naturalist Award Exp	35.84	-5,115.83
	Transfer to Business Mgr Account		-810.30
	Ending Balance		1,096.44

Southwestern College	Beginning Balance		34.63
Receipts			
Checklist Sales		42.75	42.75
Disbursements			
Postage 45.31			
Printing Exp		13.50	-58.81
Ending Balance			18.57
Future Dues	Beginning Balance		2,260.00
Receipts			
1995 Dues		455.00	455.00
Disbursements			
Return of Prepaid Dues		12.50	-12.50
Transfer '94 dues to Gen Fund			-2,112.50
Ending Balance			590.00
KBBAT Funds	Beginning Balance		0.00
Contributions		333.00	333.00
Ending Balance			333.00
Business Manager Advance	Beginning Balance		0.00
Transfer from General Fund			810.30
Disbursements			
Bus Mgr Exp		141.42	
Exp KBRC		68.88	
Bulk Mail Payment		200.00	-410.30
Ending Balance			400.00
Total Unrestricted Funds End of 1994 Year			2,438.01
Restricted Funds			
Book Royalty Account	Beginning Balance		6,042.77
Interest Earned		158.58	
Royalty Payments		1,311.66	1,470.24
Ending Balance			7,513.01
Dingus Natural Area	Beginning Balance		7,230.60
Receipts			
Interest Earned		246.61	246.61
Disbursements			
Liability Insurance		157.00	-157.00
Ending Balance			7,320.21
Endowment	Beginning Balance		0.00
Transferred from Life Membership			450.00
Fall Mtg Silent Auction Funds		550.50	550.50
Ending Balance			1,000.50
Life Membership	Beginning Balance		15,672.00
Life Membership Dues Received		1,250.00	1,250.00
Transfer to Endowment			-450.00
Transfer to General Fund			-500.00
Ending Balance			15,972.00
Student Research Fund	Beginning Balance		1,331.80
Interest Earned		35.08	
Contributions		100.00	135.08
Ending Balance			1,466.88
Total Restricted Funds End of 1994 Year			33,272.60
Total Assets End of 1994 Year			35,710.61

WINTER ROUNDUP/ November 1994 - January 1995/ by Chuck Otte

This was a strange period! There were a few bright spots and a lot of slow birding. November and December were pretty good, especially if you could spend any time at all around one of the larger reservoirs in Kansas. If I would have had my choice, I think I would have camped out for about 2 weeks at Cheney during mid-November, and I'm not so sure that a few birders didn't! Which brings us to another one of those famous "Birding Laws" - *Rare birds attract other rare birds*. Actually, they just attract lots of birders, and the more birders present at any location the greater the odds of not overlooking a rare bird.

All those good gulls at Cheney in November couldn't be without a few problems. Although somewhat technical in nature (and critical only to those of us trying to keep county records straight), it did bring these comments from Pete Janzen... "I believe that the Little Gulls were seen in Sedgwick, Reno and Kingman counties.... The Blackheaded was primarily in Reno but was also seen across the Sedgwick line; no record from Kingman. The Laughing Gull was only in Kingman...." Then there is something with a slight negative tone about the Corps of Engineers for building a dam across three county lines. Living near a three county C of E reservoir myself, I second that comment. It is very important (or at least would be very appreciated) if when birding these record keeper's nightmares, you try to keep track and report the proper "county air space" in which flying birds (or swimming or perched birds for that matter) are seen.

The Whooping Crane migration through Kansas was spectacular this fall and a good opportunity for many birders to add this bird to their lists. Of course, the same mild fall and subsequent open water that helped keep the Whoopers around was also excellent for keeping many other species present until well late into the season. (A hummingbird in January?????) It was this very mild weather keeping birds around that prevented January (and February and early March) from being a total birding bust!!

We seemed to have good numbers of Prairie Falcons in northeast Kansas and Merlins in northwest Kansas in the fall. Loons and Grebes were also everywhere! In fact Common Loons and Western Grebes are becoming so common at the large reservoirs that we will probably stop reporting them except for "out of date or range" records. If you spend any time at a large Kansas reservoir in the fall with a spotting scope you should have no problem finding either of these species. However Clark's and Red-necked Grebes as well as Redthroated and Pacific Loons will still make the list with no problem!

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / November 1994 through January 1995

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Red-throated Loon	1 adult at Perry Lake	BF	10-30-94 thru 11-04-94	Jefferson
	<i>This bird first was in mostly alternate plumage.</i>			
Red-throated Loon	1 at Clinton Res	MM	11-11-94	Douglas
Red-throated Loon	1 at Cheney Res	DV	11-21-94	Reno
Pacific Loon	1 at Cheney Res	SP,MT	11-16-94	Reno
	still present	DV	11-21-94	Reno
Pacific Loon	1 on Wilson Lake	MR	11-14-94	Russell
Common Loon	22 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	11-05-94	Wyandotte
Common Loon	13 at Clinton Res	GP	11-05-94	Douglas
Common Loon	15 at Hillsdale Lake	LM	11-06-94	Miami
Common Loon	7 at Perry Lake	LM	11-06-94	Jefferson
Common Loon	3 at Milford Lake	DLS	11-27-94	Geary
Common Loon	1 at Hillsdale Lake	MM	01-07-95	Miami
Red-necked Grebe	mostly alt plumage on Perry Lake	??	11-04-94	Jefferson
	still present	MP	11-06-94	Jefferson
Western Grebe	1 at Perry Lake	LM	11-06-94	Jefferson
Western Grebe	3 at Hillsdale Lake	LM	11-06-94	Miami
Western Grebe	2 at Pottawatomie County Lake #2	GS	11-22-94	Pottawatomie

Western Grebe

by late November Western Grebes were being reported from the following lakes/reservoirs:

	Hillsdale			Miami
	Pomona			Osage
	Perry			Jefferson
	Pottawatomie County Lake #2			Pottawatomie
	Tuttle Creek			Riley
	Milford			Geary
	Wilson			Russell
Clark's Grebe	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	11-25-94	Russell
American White Pelican	1 at Cheney Res	PJ	01-22-95	Reno
Brown Pelican	1 at Cheney Res	CG	11-13-94	Reno
	still present, seen also in Sedgwick County		11-23-94	Sedgwick
Tundra Swan	in flight over I-70 at Russell	JW	11-08-94	Russell
Tundra Swan	3 at Liberal's Seward Lake	BF	11-26-94	Seward
Tundra Swan	1 at QNWR Little Salt Marsh	BF	11-24-94	Stafford
Trumpeter Swan	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh		12-20-94	Stafford
	still present		12-31-94	
Trumpeter Swan	1 imm at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	01-08-95	Wyandotte
Ross's Goose	1 at Cheney Lake	PJ,CG	11-18-94	Reno
Brant	1 at Sandpit nw of Junction City	DLS	12-03-94	Geary
			Also seen on 12-04-94	
American Black Duck	1 at Hillsdale Lake	LM	11-18-94	Miami
American Black Duck	2 at MDC WA	MM	01-07-95	Linn
Greater Scaup	1 at Lone Star Lake	PW,MW	11-06-94	Douglas
Greater Scaup	5 at John Redmond Sewer Ponds	LM,MM	12-03-94	Coffey
Greater Scaup	1 at Cheney Res	CG	01-24-95	Reno
Oldsquaw	1 at John Redmond Sewer Ponds	LM,MM	12-03-94	Coffey
Oldsquaw	2 at Perry Lake	LM,et al.	12-10-94	Jefferson
Surf Scoter	1 at Clinton Res	DW	11-04-94	Douglas
Surf Scoter	1 at John Redmond Sewer Ponds	MM	11-26-94	Coffey
Surf Scoter	imm male at Perry Lake	LM	12-29-94	Jefferson
White-winged Scoter	1 at Cheney Res	DV	11-22-94	Reno
White-winged Scoter	1 imm male at Harvey County E Lake	GF	12-13-94	Harvey
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at Wilson Lake	MR	11-26-94	Russell
Red-breasted Merganser	6 at Winfield City Lake	MT	12-07-94	Cowley
Red-breasted Merganser	male on Clark State Lake	SS	12-10-94	Clark
Bald Eagle	adult feeding on roadkill for hour on median island at intersection of 59 & 169 hiways	BBr	11-12-94	Anderson
Bald Eagle	26 imm, 1 adult QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	11-19-94	Stafford
Northern Goshawk	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	11-25-94	Russell
Red-shouldered Hawk	2 at MDC WA	MM	01-07-95	Linn
Harris's Hawk	1 adult se of Lawrence Possible escaped bird	BB	10-31-94 to 11-11-94	Douglas
Golden Eagle	1st year at Cheney Res	SS	11-17-94	Reno
Gyrfalcon	1 dark bird south of I-70 on 177	DM,VT	12-21-94	Geary
Sandhill Crane	QNWR count between 65,000 - 70,000		11-19-94	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	3,000 at QNWR	JSB	12-26-94	Stafford
Whooping Crane	9 adults in QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JR	11-02-94	Stafford
Whooping Crane	7 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	??	11-03-94	Stafford
Whooping Crane	5 adults in Pool #2 CB	??	11-04-94	Barton
Whooping Crane	5 adults in Pool #2 CB	MR	11-06-94	Barton
Whooping Crane	4 at QNWR	MR	11-06-94	Stafford
Whooping Crane	8 birds in Pool #2 CB	JO,CO	11-11-94	Barton
Whooping Crane	2 birds in Pool #2 CB	MR	11-11-94	Barton
Whooping Crane	3? at Texas Lake Wildlife Area	KDWP	11-04-94	Pratt

14 (Birding Highlights, Contd)

Greater Yellowlegs	2 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JR	12-20-94	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	3 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JSB	12-26-94	Stafford
Dunlin	7 in QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	11-03-94	Stafford
Dunlin	14 at QNWR	MR	11-19-94	Stafford
Dunlin	8 still present	JR	12-09-94	Stafford
Laughing Gull	2nd winter adults w side of Cheney still present	DK,DV	11-17-94 11-23-94	Kingman
Franklin's Gull	1 early adult in breeding plumage	PJ,BG	01-12-95	Sedgwick
Little Gull	1st winter at Cheney Res	PJ	11-12-94	Reno
	2nd bird found, a winter plumage adult	DK	11-13-94	Reno
	1st winter bird still present		11-18-94	Reno
<i>At least one of these birds also seen in Sedgwick County.</i>				
Little Gull	adult at w side of Cheney		11-17-94	Kingman
	last report of both Cheney Little Gulls		11-18-94	
Little Gull	1 adult near dam, Perry Lake	LM	11-22-94	Jefferson
Little Gull	1 adult at dam face, John Redmond	LM,MM	12-03-94	Coffey
Common Black-headed Gull	winter adult at Cheney Res	PJ	11-12-94	Reno
last reported 11-19-94				
California Gull	1 adult at Pomona Res	MM	11-26-94	Osage
California Gull	1st winter bird at Lake Afton	PJ	11-23-94	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter at Perry Lake	LM	11-01-94	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	1st winter, Wyandotte County Lake	LM	11-19-94	Wyandotte
Thayer's Gull	2 at Brooks Landfill, Wichita	PJ,CG	12-11-94	Sedgwick
Iceland Gull	1 possible at Brooks Landfill	PJ,CG	12-11-94	Sedgwick
<i>This record may become somewhat incidental as Iceland and Thayer's may well be lumped in the near future.</i>				
Glaucous Gull	1 adult at Hillsdale Lake	MM	01-07-95	Miami
Glaucous Gull	2nd winter bird, Hillsdale Res	LM,CH,BF	01-08-95	Miami
Black-legged Kittiwake	adult at John Redmond outlet	LM,MM	12-03-94	Coffey
Inca Dove	1 at feeder in Wichita		12-20-94	Sedgwick
<i>This bird had been coming to a feeder for about 3 weeks before being reported.</i>				
Snowy Owl	1 imm n side of Kirwin Res	RR	12-24-94	Phillips
Barred Owl	1 at McPherson County Lake	AJ	01-08-95	McPherson
Short-eared Owl	7 at west end of Hillsdale Dam	ML	12-07-94	Miami
Short-eared Owl	2 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JR	12-20-94	Stafford
Anna's Hummingbird	1 in Garden City last seen	TSh,SSh	11-01-94	Finney
Anna's Hummingbird	1 in Winfield left next day	JS	11-21-94	Cowley
Anna's Hummingbird	1 adult male in Winfield	JS	11-24-94	Cowley
<i>This male in near breeding plumage was a regular at the feeder of the Joe Steiner's through February 19, 1995.</i>				
Rufous Hummingbird	1 still at feeder in Garden City	LBR	11-07-94	Finney
Tree Swallow	1 late bird at Milford Lake	CO	11-20-94	Geary
Barn Swallow	1 late bird at Milford Lake	DLS	11-27-94	Geary
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 late bird at Milford Lake	CO	11-08-94	Geary
Tufted Titmouse	3 at Elm Mills	SS	01-14-95	Barber
Winter Wren	1 in Cheney State Park	SS	11-23-94	Kingman
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 at Clark State Lake	SS	12-10-94	Clark
Mountain Bluebird	8 on Otter Creek Road s of Jct City	DLS	12-11-94	Geary
Mountain Bluebird	3 along Arkansas River	SS	11-16-94	Kearny
American Pipit	6 at Cheney Res	PJ	01-22-95	Reno
Northern Shrike	1 along N Fork Soloman River	SS	12-03-94	Sheridan
Northern Shrike	1 along N Fork Soloman River	SS	12-03-94	Decatur
Northern Shrike	1 at QNWR	JSB	12-26-94	Stafford
Northern Shrike	1	SS	01-19-95	Pawnee
Northern Shrike		SS	01-21-95	Osborne
Northern Shrike		SS	01-21-95	Jewell
Northern Shrike		SS	01-21-95	Cloud
Northern Shrike		SS	01-21-95	Lincoln

Solitary Vireo	1 at Milford Lake	CO	11-11-94	Geary
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 coming to feeder	MW	01-21-95	Douglas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1 Audubon's Race at WY County Lake	LM	01-08-95	Wyandotte
Pine Warbler	1 at Milford Lake	DLS	12-10-94	Geary
	still present		01-29-95	
Sage Sparrow	2 10 miles n of Liberal	DLS	01-02-95	Seward
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 at Clinton Res	MM	11-12-94	Douglas
Dark-eyed Junco	2 Gray-headed form in Ulysses	MMC	01-04-95	Grant
Dark-eyed Junco	1 White-winged form, Clark St Lake	SS	12-03-94	Clark
Common Redpoll	2 at feeder in Ulysses	MMC	01-07-95	Grant

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck	feral pair at Garnett City Lake	BBr	11-14-94	Anderson
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alt = alternate
 CB = Cheyenne Bottoms
 imm = immature
 MDC = Marais des Cygnes

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
 Res = Reservoir
 WA = Wildlife Area
 win = winter

LIST OF OBSERVERS: James & Susan Barnes (JSB), Bill Brecheisen (BBr), Bill Busby (BB), Bob Fisher (BF), Greg Friesen (GF), Chet Gresham (CG), Bob Gress (BG), Alan Jahn (AJ), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chris Hobbs (CH), Dan Kilby (DK), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks employees (KDWP), Mark Land (ML), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Marion McClure (MMC), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO) Sebastian Patti (SP), Mark Pheasant (MP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Leonard and Betty Rich (LBR), Richard Rucker (RR), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Guy Smith (GS), Joe Steiner (JS), Vernon Tabor (VT), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Jim Ware (JW), Margaret Wedge (MW), Phil Wedge (PW), Dan Williams (DW).

The Cedar Bluffs CBC afternoon crew on December 26, 1994. Left to right are Tom Shane, Sara Shane, Mike Rader, Scott Seltman and John Schukman. (Photo by Christopher Shane.)



KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1995 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The KOS spring meeting for this year will be held in Barton County, and will be headquartered at the Barton County Community College's Camp Aldrich, north of Ellinwood, KS, on May 5, 6, and 7.

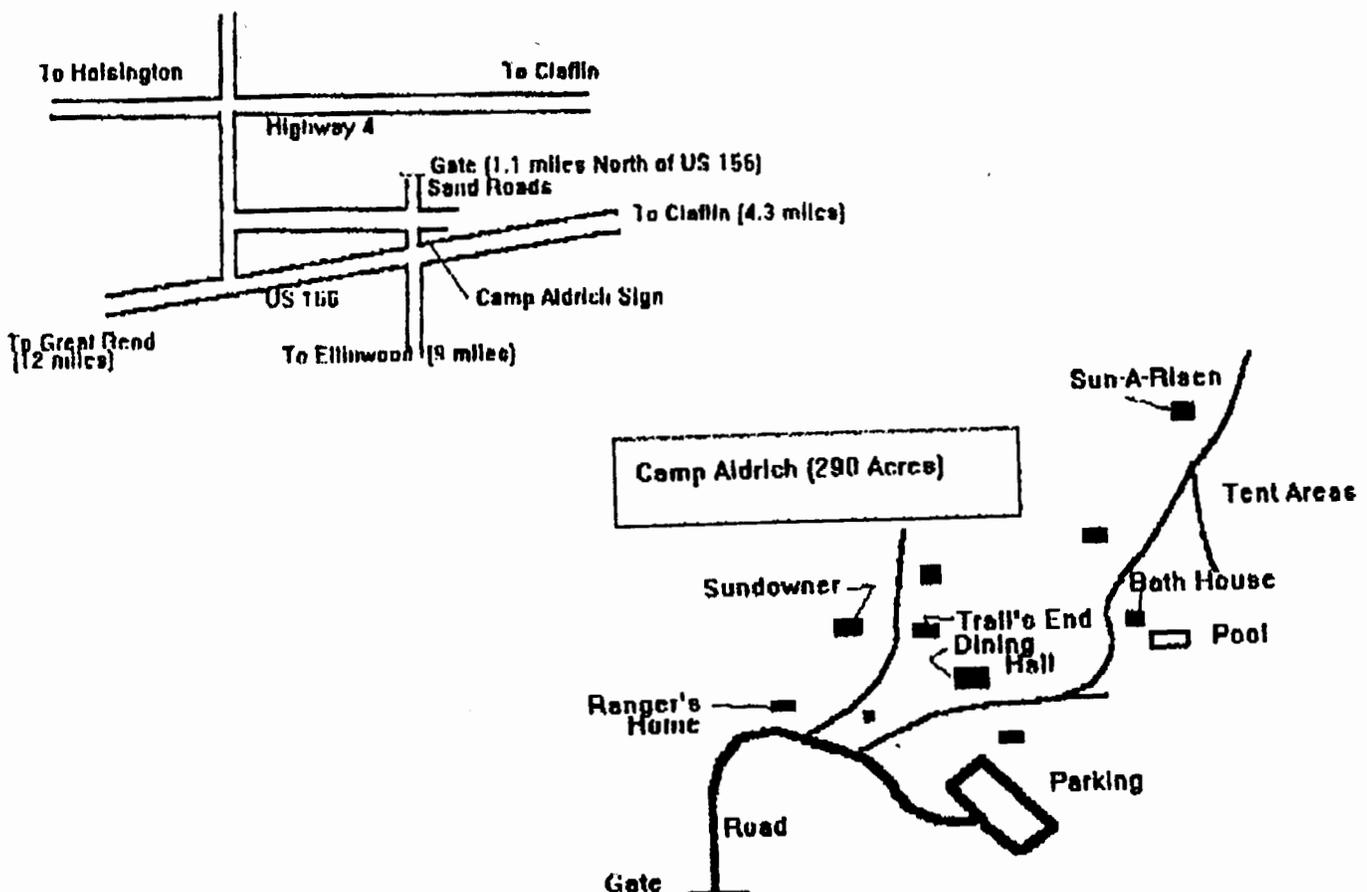
Camp Aldrich is located east of Great Bend (12 miles on US 156), west of Claflin (4.3 miles west on US 156), and north of Ellinwood (9 miles). Turn north off 156 at the Camp sign (sand road), and go 1.1 miles to the Camp Aldrich gate. The camp is 290 acres of rolling sand hills and includes 40 acres of heavily wooded wilderness.

Accommodations include two dormitory-style cabins, Trail's End and Sundowner, both of which contain bunks (you will have to provide sheets, blankets or sleeping bags, and pillows), as well as a "wilderness" cabin, the Sun-A-Risen, for which you will have to provide your own cot or air mattress as well as bedding. The wilderness area can also be used to set up your own tent. There is a bath house facility, with men's and women's showers and toilets, which is close to the dormitory cabins, and a bit further walk from the wilderness area. Please bring your own towels and soap. We will also have reserved use of the dining hall, and will offer catered meals, although you can make your own arrangements if you so desire.

Field trips are still being arranged, but will include Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Cheyenne Bottoms (depending on the state of construction work), and the newly acquired Nature Conservancy property near Cheyenne Bottoms, as well as Camp Aldrich itself. Special activities will include an opportunity to have a guided educational tour to learn about Least Tern nesting from Roger Boyd, and possibly a chance to observe bird banding activity at Camp Aldrich, courtesy of Cal Cink.

Advanced registration and payment is required. We need to let the Camp know at least two weeks ahead of time about meals and preparations. Please have your form and payment in to us by April 20. Meal prices for children under 12 are \$1.00 less than for adults. Sign-in will begin (dining hall) at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 5th, with dinner served at 6:30 pm.

For additional information, call Roy Beckemeyer at work (316) 526-4225, or home (316) 264-0049.





The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1994

Vol. 21, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From the Keyboard -

This has been a wonderful issue to prepare. I actually had material I had to push back to the next issue! That's what I like to see, and that's what I want to try to maintain. Of course it will be easier to do if I keep getting material submitted from you, the members. One thing that has shown up in several of the oft mentioned surveys is the desire to see more material from the membership. I agree!

We've started to see material come in, and I really hope that it will pick up. Some of it I've been out soliciting so that we can have numerous regular features. But a lot of you have good things to share. Some of it belongs in the Bulletin, some of it would fit very well in the Horned Lark. But we can't get it published until you submit it. Enough said!

We're rapidly coming up on the holiday season. Have you got one of those family members or friends that are really hard to get a present for? If they have the slightest interest in birds and they aren't a KOS member, get them a membership... it's how I get my brother to be a member! And then maybe get them a new bird book also... Brother, if you have my name I'd like that new North American Warblers book that's out!

Of course this is our Christmas Count awareness issue. As of press time we had nearly 30 counts accounted for. Pick one or two or more and spend some quality birding time with old and new birding friends alike!

I promised myself that I would keep this portion short this time due to all the other material we have. We do have a new legislative year coming up real soon after the Christmas counts get wrapped up. There's a lot of "new" in both Topeka and Washington, D.C. Be sure to follow those important issues and let your elected officials know how you feel through letters, phone calls and faxes.

Have a good holiday season, good Christmas counts, and I hope your 1995 bird list gets off to a good start!

Merry Christmas everyone!

-Chuck

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Who's Who in KOS - 1995

President, Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490

Vice-president, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,
Wichita, KS 67203

Corresponding Secretary, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,
Newton, KS 67114

Membership Secretary, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,
Lawrence, KS 66044

Treasurer, Greg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

Board Members:

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Sara Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

Gene Young, Southwestern - Biology Dept, 100 College St,
Winfield, KS 67156

Business Manager, Dawn Sharp, 1324 Prairie Ave,
Lawrence, KS 66044-3646

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St,
Winfield, KS 67156

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Ote, 613 Tamerisk,
Junction City, KS 66441

*--The Danger Zone--***BALD EAGLE RECOMMENDED FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED STATUS***by Jerry Horak*

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as endangered by the Federal Endangered Species Act in most of the lower 48 states and by the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. In July, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to down-list the bald eagle to the status of threatened in parts of the lower 48 states including Kansas. By law this action would not alter those conservation measures already in force to protect the bald eagle and its habitats.

This species has had a long history of population declines starting back in the mid 1800's when it coincided with depleting numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds and other prey species. This coupled with nesting habitat loss reduced the bald eagle numbers until the 1940's. In 1940, the Bald Eagle Protection Act was passed. This Act, still in effect, increased public awareness of the plight of the bald eagle and resulted in a partial recovery, or at least a slowing down of the decline.

After World War II another threat to the survival of the bald eagle came in the form of an insecticide—DDT. This compound accumulates in the fatty tissues of the adult females and impairs calcium release for egg shell formation, thus inducing thin shells and reproductive failure. In 1973, DDT was banned from use in the United States. In the same year the Endangered Species Act was passed and in 1975 the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act was enacted.

After the banning of DDT and the passage of these Acts that emphasized recovery management, the bald eagle breeding populations have increased each year. In the mid-1970's, when the Acts passed, there were approximately 790 pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states and in 1993 there were estimates of over 4000 pairs. In Kansas a pair of bald eagles nested at Clinton Reservoir in 1989, producing two eaglets. This was Kansas' first recorded nest during this century—nesting populations have increased since that time. In 1994 there were 5 nests producing 12 eaglets in Kansas.

"Leftovers" from the Fall Meeting

This may be a first for the *Horned Lark*...or at least since I've been reading it! I received a note from Betty Rich after the Fall Meeting in Garden City requesting that I include the following recipe that she had prepared for the

picnic. Those that were there understand! She also asked that I let everyone know that the Smoke-house Bar-B-Que was from Dillons. Once again, those of you that were there will understand.

Pat's Prize Hors D'Oeuvre

- 1 pkg (8 oz.) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 pkg (4 oz.) refrigerated crescent rolls 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder or garlic salt 1 teaspoon dill weed
- 3 raw carrots, grated or diced
- 1/4 head raw cauliflower, diced
- 3 spears fresh broccoli, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1/2 green pepper, diced
- 6 red radishes or 1/2 red sweet pepper diced or 1 jar (4 oz) diced pimento, well drained

Unroll refrigerated crescent rolls and spread flat in ungreased 10½ x 15½ inch jelly roll pan. Bake in 350 degree oven 5 to 10 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool completely but do not remove from pan. Blend

cream cheese, mayonnaise, onion powder, garlic and dill weed. Spread on cooled crust. Vegetable pieces should be no larger than pea-size; combine carrot, cauliflower, broccoli, celery, pepper and radishes, red sweet pepper or pimento. Drain thoroughly. Scatter over cheese mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and press vegetables gently into cheese. Refrigerate overnight to 3 or 4 days. Cut into squares to serve. Makes about 70 1½ inch squares.

THANK YOU!!!

A special thank you goes out to the local committee who worked so hard to make the Garden City meeting special (even if the Phainopepla didn't stick around!): Barbara Campbell, Debra Nusz, Betty Rich, Sara Shane, Art Nonhoff, Marie Osterbuhr, Leonard Rich, Tom Shane. Our sincerest thanks!!

From the President's Couch (I don't have a desk!)

by Mike Rader

I would like to take this opportunity to let all the members of The Kansas Ornithological Society know a little more about the person they elected president. I live in Wilson, Kansas with my wife Ellen and three daughters—Jennifer, Heather and Andrea. I work for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks as a Conservation Worker at Wilson State Park. Wilson is in the center of the state, about 50 miles west of Salina, 50 miles east of Hays, and about 40 miles north of Great Bend. (For birding purposes, I live 30 minutes north of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area and 45 minutes north of the Big Salt Marsh of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.) I am from north central Kansas originally—the town of Kensington in Smith County. (Growing up 9 miles from Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, I have probably seen more Canada geese than most people in Kansas!)

I have been birdwatching for about as long as I can remember, but have been really "active" for a dozen or so years. I have been a member of K.O.S. since 1987 and have maintained a pretty high degree of activity in the organization. My college degree is from KSU in Park Resources Management. I started in wildlife biology, then switched to parks after a couple of years. The influences of my birding "career" have been many, probably too many to mention. I do believe that I owe a debt of gratitude to my major tutors/mentors: Scott Seltman, Ted Cable, Richard (Mobe) Rucker, Sebastian Patti, Max Thompson, Chuck Ely, and John Zimmerman (with a bunch like that, it's no wonder I act the way I do!). Seriously though, I am extremely grateful for their time, knowledge, and patience with a "green" birder like myself. I have learned a great deal from all the people I have been fortunate enough to bird with. I have made many life-long friends and hope to gain even more. Birding is a terrific hobby!!

I enjoy birding in all parts of Kansas, including Morton County, Cheyenne Bottoms, Cherokee County, and most of the major reservoirs. My favorite place to go, though, is Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Its diversity of habitat, sheer high numbers of birds, and the potential for rare species makes it the ultimate Kansas birding destination for me. (My vehicles could probably drive themselves there, by now!)

My goals for the Kansas Ornithological Society, both for myself as president and for the organization are many. They include:

- continue to increase our membership and opportunity for member participation in K.O.S. activities;
- continue to provide high quality publications, information, and experiences to members;
- increase educational efforts and opportunities to members and non-members;
- increase the availability of birdwatching opportunities for both members and non-members alike;
- strive to create and maintain a stable and suitable financial situation to operate the organization;
- strive to make K.O.S. an organization that welcomes everyone that has an interest in birds and bird conservation with open arms;
- continue volunteer efforts towards completing KBBAT on schedule.

I will have an open door, open phone, and open mail box policy as your president. I want to hear your ideas, concerns, praises, and complaints. Membership response is a vital part of making a better organization. I believe that I have an excellent group of people to work with on the Board of Directors. We will continue to make K.O.S. something we're proud to be a part of.

KOS SPRING 1995 MEETING PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS, MAY 5-7, 1995

Roy Beckemeyer

Mark your calendar now for our exciting Spring Meeting, to be headquartered at the Barton County Community College's Camp Aldritch, a 290 acre site in the sand hills nine miles north of Ellinwood and 12 miles east of Groat Bend. Camp Aldritch itself has 40 acres of woods to roam through, and we will have opportunities to bird two of the gems of Kansas wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

For anyone who is unfamiliar with these birding

hotspots, I can highly recommend our own John Zimmerman's book, "Cheyenne Bottoms: Wetland in Jeopardy," University Press of Kansas, 1990, and a recent article in the Wilson Bulletin, "Migrating shorebirds and habitat dynamics at a prairie wetland complex," Vol. 106, No. 1, pp. 91-105, (1994), by Susan Skagen and Fritz Knopf, which relates to research conducted at Quivira. Either or both should whet your appetite for spring migration in Barton County. Watch for details and application forms in the next issue. See you there!

Is Your Landscape "For The Birds?"

Part IV - Get it Planted, Keep it Alive

(Part IV of an ongoing series)

by Chuck Otte

I half jokingly, half seriously, tell people that getting a landscape plan together is about 10% of the work and 90% of the thinking. Getting the material planted isn't that rough either. There is usually enough excitement and enthusiasm to carry you through. The two toughest parts of any landscape are to spend a little bit of time before hand getting the planting site ready, and then following up two, three and five years later.

We are blessed in Kansas with some really good agricultural land. Unfortunately most of our homes aren't built there, or in many cases good agricultural land isn't really good for landscape plants. It seems that a lot of housing developments wind up on shallow soils (you know the locations, every place you stick a shovel you hit a rock!), sandy soils or soils with lots of clay. A real challenge to the home horticulturalist.

The one soil amendment that I encourage people to use is organic matter. Prior to planting dig a hole 2 to 3 times larger and 1½ to 2 times deeper than the root ball (pot). Then work lots of peat moss, or compost or rotten silage (if you have access to a farm with a silo) or well composted manure or whatever you can find for organic matter, into the soil at the bottom of the hole. Also replace 1/3 to 1/2 of the soil you dug out with this organic matter. Mix it all together, then use it at planting time. You can use grass clippings IF they have been dried down and at least partially composted.

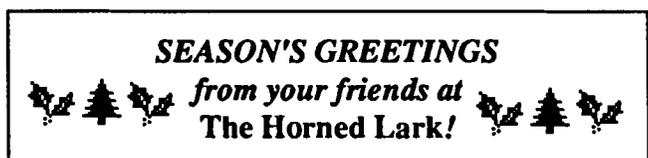
This organic matter will help improve the water that the soil can hold and have available to plants. It allows water to move into the soil more readily and normally provides a better medium for the roots to grow into. (I've seen a lot of plants get stuck in the ground and 4 years later (or longer) the roots haven't really been able to develop into the soil outside the original hole.) Then as the organic matter decomposes it slowly releases nutrients into the root zone.

If it has been dry prior to planting (like this fall in much of Kansas) you may want to fill the hole with water a few days before planting to soak the ground. Now it's time to plant your shrub, tree or whatever perennial you have decided to use. I always like to take a look at the roots during the planting. In particular, I want to make sure that there aren't roots starting to grow around in circles. These are called encircling roots or if they are allowed to develop they are called girdling roots. If these are allowed to develop they can choke a tree to death 5, 10 or even 20 years down the road. Straighten these roots out, cutting them off were they start to curve in severe cases.

You will want to make this examination fairly quickly so that the roots don't have a chance to become too dehydrated. Get the plant down into the hole with the roots spread out and the plant fairly straight up and down. Then start to fill the hole back up. Ideally you want this soil to be fairly fine and granular, not big clods. Tamp the soil lightly so that you eliminate any air pockets, but don't pack it so that it's roadbed hard! The plant needs to be planted at the same depth as it was in the pot or, if it's balled and burlapped, so that all the burlap is underground. But this needs to be done so that there is a saucer like depression around the plant to help hold water. At it's deepest spot this saucer should be 3 to 4 inches lower than the surrounding soil surface.

Next slowly fill this saucer area (the entire area of the fill or planting hole) with water and allow it to soak in. This may need to be repeated 2 to 4 times to thoroughly soak the soil. *Do not add fertilizer at planting time.* A root stimulator or low analysis water soluble starter fertilizer can be added at the initial watering time IF you are planting in the spring or summer. Serious fertilization will come in years 2 and later. If you are planting in the dormant season—fall or early winter—this may be all the water you need to add. If it is at the start of the growing season or during the growing season you will probably have to water weekly or more often during extremely warm/windy weather. You need to learn to water by feel though, not by the calendar. When the soil starts to dry out (or if you notice leaves wilting) then you need to water. As many plants are killed from overwatering as from underwatering.

One last thing to do before you are through planting is to fill the saucer area with a multi-textured organic mulch. My personal favorite is shredded cypress bark, but you can use rotten silage, compost, pine needles, etc. as long as it is organic (I'm sorry, rocks are not organic!). Make this mulch layer 2 to 4 inches deep. The idea here is to cool the soil (or protect from the cold in winter), reduce water evaporation and protect the young plant from lawn mowers. I like to see this mulch zone to be 3 to 4 feet in diameter. This keeps not only the lawnmower away but weed eaters as well, which we'll discuss in the next installment - *Protecting Tender Young Plants.*



KBBAT PASSES MIDPOINT IN 5-YEAR PROGRAM

Although not all the blocks completed by KBBAT cooperators this year have been turned in, I am pleased by the continually improving effort to finish this endeavor on time. To be on schedule after the end of the third field season we should have satisfactorily completed 60 percent of the 753 blocks. Both the Northeast region under Richard Rucker (at 60%) and the East Central region guided by Mick McHugh (at 65%) have reached that goal, but our average across the whole state is only at 44% complete. Yet I am optimistic. I heard at the recent Kansas Ornithological Society meeting in Garden City that some of you have completed your blocks, but have not sent them in to your regional coordinator. Please do so very soon in order to beat the holiday season rush! Remember if you are holding a block that is essentially finished, but you are hoping to add a couple of species that you know you could put in the confirmed category, you can always use a KBBAT Block Update form at any time.

In an attempt to finish blocks in out of the way places, a number of blockbusting weekends are being organized for next year. Mick McHugh is going to clean up Dickinson County. Pete Janzen had a very successful blockbusting weekend last year, and is going back into the Red Hills to finish up that interesting area during the period of 16 to 18 June. Contact Pete if you'd like to help. The Southeastern region is going after parts of Allen, Neosho, and Crawford counties, either 9 to 11 June or 30 June to 2 July. Let John Zimmerman know if you'd like to help. KBBAT has sufficient funds to cover at least your motel and meal costs during these efforts.

I will be writing all of you from whom we have heard nothing since you agreed to do KBBAT blocks. I will

ask you to send in what you've done if you cannot complete the work or to return your materials if you have not begun. I recognize that there are unexpected factors in your life that have prevented you from completing what you had hoped that you could. That's OK, but it will facilitate our effort if those blocks can be reassigned to someone else for completion. Hopefully my letter will prompt others who have really completed their blocks to send them in to their regional coordinator. During these upcoming two years, not only do we need to work on new blocks but we need to reassign uncompleted blocks. Of the total blocks in the state, 746 have been randomly assigned regardless of the quality of the habitat. And some of you have ended up with barren stretches of Kansas, at least barren from an ornithological standpoint but probably not to the wheat farmers who are earning a living out there. On the other hand, some of you have discovered delightful areas tucked away in the most surprising locations. But the importance of random choice (as well as only recording those birds within that 25km² block) is to come back to that same block without any bias 25 years from now to note changes in the avifauna.

But if you have an area that you would like to do as a special block that is also possible. It must be the same size as the random blocks (and not overlap any random block) and be covered in the same way. At the present time special blocks have been completed for Konza Prairie, Baker Wetlands, Quivira NWR, and Schermerhorn Park. Special blocks for Weston Bend (Ft. Leavenworth), Cheyenne Bottoms, and Slate Creek Marsh are currently being completed.

--John L. Zimmerman, KBBAT

KOS WELCOMES THE THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED FROM 3/1/94 TO 9/30/94:

Maureen Cox, Prairie Village; Sylvia Flott, Emporia; Chet Gresham, Maize; Gary & Cindy Jeffrey, Olsburg; Robert Jennings, Tulsa, OK; Terrence & Mary Jo Kearns, Valley Falls; Boots Leiter, Eugene & Kathryn Smith, Shawnee Mission; Louise Lovin, Hoxie; Jim & Patty Marlett, James Ryan, Bill Trelec, Jr., Wichita; John McBride, Baton Rouge, LA; Johnnie Sue Milington, Burdett; Mike & Dee Nance, Garden City; Emlin North, Roger and Sally Brazier, Topeka; Ruby Parker, Howard; Zachary Poland, Isabel; Harris & Shannon Rayl, Salina; Mark Robbins, Lawrence; John Row, Guy Smith, Manhattan; Jodi Smith, Olathe; Dr. R.E. Strack, Medicine Lodge; Travis Taggart, Hays; Paul Watson, Prairie Village; Dorene Regier, Newton; Sharon Gard, El Dorado.

FALL MEETING GROUP PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE

*Kansas Ornithological Society Group Photo
Garden City, Kansas, October 1, 1994*

5 x 7 at \$6.50
8 x 10 at \$11.00
11 x 14 at \$24.00

Send check to:

Tom Shane
1706 Belmont
Garden City, KS 67846

*...Birding Hotspot***Interstate Rest Areas***by Chuck Otte*

One of my favorite hotspots is not "a" spot, but rather a series of spots. Namely the rest areas along interstate highways. It seems that whenever I take a little extra time at these rest areas I can always find some good birding.

One of my favorite in Kansas is the east bound rest area on I-70 just west of Colby. A couple of years ago, birding spouse Jaye and I stopped there in March and found a Red-naped Sapsucker in the shelterbelt along the south side of the rest area. An extended stop there at the end of September this year yielded numerous "winter" sparrows and juncos obviously just moving into the region, as well as several warbler species.

South of Oklahoma City a ways, southbound on I-35, there is another wonderful rest area with good bushy scrub behind the restrooms. A little further south of that, just as you get into the Arbuckle Mountains, is another good rest stop. Jaye and I chased a first spring male Painted Bunting around juniper trees for 20 minutes before we finally figured him out!

Birders who have spent much time in the southwest are familiar with the Patagonia Lake area and the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary and a situation known as the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect. It seems that if you go to the Patagonia area, find a quiet picnic table and be patient, a really good bird is bound to show up before long. Well, it isn't just at Patagonia that this can happen. The trick is patience!

So, next time you're flying from here to there at about Warp 3 to find that elusive Phainopepla or Varied

Thrush, take some time to explore more of that rest area than the sidewalk between your car and the restroom!

Best Bird of the Year*by Tom Shane*

October 1, 1993 thru October 1, 1994
(Read at KOS Banquet, October 1, 1994)

1. Swainson's Warbler, May 9 - 10, 1994, Rush County, Scott Seltman
2. Phainopepla, Labor Day Weekend, 1994, Morton County, John Rakestraw
Phainopepla, September 25 - 30, 1994, Finney County, Leonard Rich
3. Pyrrhuloxia, January 9 - 16, 1994, Hamilton County, Art Nonhoff
4. Canyon Wren, December 30, 1993, Scott County, Tom and Sara Shane
5. Little Gull, October 14, 1993, Hillsdale Reservoir, Lloyd Moore
6. Black-legged Kittiwake, January 8, 1994 Hillsdale Reservoir, Christmas Count
7. Black-chinned Hummingbird - male, July & August, 1994, Finney County, Leonard & Betty Rich, Marie Osterbuhr
8. Broad-tailed Hummingbird, August 16, 1994, Pawnee County, Jonni Millington
9. California Gull, December 30, 1993, John Redmond Reservoir, Lloyd Moore
10. Brant, March 6, 1994, McPherson County, Alan Jahn

Survey Says.....

Due to the volume of material we need to get into this issue of the *Horned Lark* survey results will have to wait until the next issue. I want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey's and return them. If you haven't sent in your survey, you still have time to dig out one of the last 2 issues and complete it—we would still appreciate the response.

To the wonderful respondent who was concerned that I was doing most of the writing myself—thank you for your concern! I really enjoy doing this, however I *am* looking for some regular contributors. You will notice the first of a new regular article on threatened and endangered species by Jerry Horak. Our new fearless leader (President Rader, a.k.a. "Little Gull Mike") has expressed an interest in some regular writing as well.

I am, however, looking for a couple more contributors. One to write a regular feature on birding tips (aimed at the more novice birder, but which will probably be used just as much by intermediate and experienced birders!) and a seasonal outlook feature (here's what to be looking for in the upcoming couple months). Interested? Give the editor a call or drop him a column!

KOS Fall Meeting Checklist

Following is the checklist from the fall meeting. The count period was from noon on Friday, September 30 to noon Sunday, October 2. Counties covered included Finney, Kearny and Scott. There were 127 species seen plus a couple of sub-species as noted.

Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-heron, White-faced Ibis, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl,

Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted), Cordilleran Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Phainopepla, Eastern Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Sprague's Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed

Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle and Audubon's), Townsend's Warbler, American Redstart, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored and Oregon), Chestnut-collared Longspur, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Gackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Have You Seen????

From time to time announcements show up in my electronic mail regarding birds that have been tagged by researchers. As I come across those that may show up in Kansas, I will pass that information along. If you ever notice any tagged/marked bird I encourage you to record as many details as possible, including any numbering or lettering that can be seen. Let me know what you've found and I'll try to find out who wants the information. Here are a couple from the past couple of months.

Sandhill Crane Ringing in NE Siberia

Since 1991 Sandhill Cranes have been ringed in the Avtakool River - Anadyr River Lowlands, Chukotka, NE Siberia. Green neck bands and conventional foot metal bands have been used. Any information on sightings of cranes marked with green neck bands should be sent to: Andrey Sokolov, Institute of Biological Problems of the North, K.Marx pr. 24, Magadan 685000, Russia. FAX: (413)-22-53082, email: IBPN@IBPN.Magadan.su

Color Marked Franklin's Gulls

Joanna Burger of Rutgers University was wing tagging Franklin's Gulls this summer at Agassiz NWR in northwestern Minnesota to track their dispersal and

migration. Bright orange wing tags were put on adults and bright green tags on juveniles (just prior to fledging).

Joanna can be reached at 1-800-39BIRDS to report sightings or Email: gochfeld@zodiac.rutgers.edu. Joanna would like to know: Date, location (state, nearest city, county, etc.), color of tag, number of tag (if readable, but don't worry if you can't read it) and what the gulls were doing (feeding behind a plow, feeding on scraps, loafing, etc.)

(Your editor managed to spy one of the orange tagged adults at Milford Lake in early October. Joanna was very appreciative of the information. This was the first report from Kansas to come in. Anyone else seen any of these tagged Franklin's?)

Historical Review -

(While we do not normally print book reviews in The Horned Lark, I decided to include this review by Greg Friesen. Greg's review is not of a new book, but of one published in 1945, which I also have on my bookshelf. Greg's review is more of a historical perspective. Enjoy!)

"Birds in Kansas" by Arthur Goodrich

A review by Greg Friesen

On our annual trip to my in-law's home in Missouri I have often noted the presence of my mother-in-law's well-worn copy of Arthur L. Goodrich's book entitled, "Birds In Kansas," the 1945 book published by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. The work also came to mind when I noted it offered in the KOS Fall Meeting silent auction at Garden City. This book, not to be confused with Thompson and Ely's books of the same name, offers to readers a wealth of information about birds in Kansas in the 1940's, spiced with the author's values and colorful comments. (Of note is the fact that the book was written before a number of Kansas species were recognized as present in the state.) Goodrich introduces the readers to Kansas birds while on occasion judging the actions of birds as good or bad and adding an occasional slant of anthropomorphic commentary in doing so. While questioning some of his statements from the accepted standards of today's science, one cannot help but admire his prose as he adds color and movement to what otherwise could be a bland but descriptive review of Kansas bird facts.

An example of Goodrich's colorful comments is found in his treatment of the Indigo Bunting. He notes, "The male commonly chants a pleasing medley of notes from some exposed perch until family duties become arduous, whereupon he joins his mate in foraging for the clamoring youngsters until they become able to fend for themselves." While noting the fact that one man's pleasing medley may be a bird's territorial or mating call, these comments have considerably more life than many descriptions of the bird we know as a colorful and lively flash of blue.

Not all of the interesting features of the book lie in Goodrich's writing style. I found myself surprised to note that in 1945 a number of birds I enjoy seeing were defined by Goodrich as pests. These included such species as the Great Horned Owl, Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Blue Jay. Later in the book Goodrich lists the Cooper's Hawk as one of the more common hawks of the state, a hawk which in the 1940's could be seen in Kansas at any season of the year. He "behooves anyone who has the slightest interest in our wildlife resources to master adequately the identification marks of these small, unobtrusive thieves, so that no beneficial form need suffer through the careless destruction of 'just another hawk.'" One

consolation for the Cooper's Hawk is noted in comparing the Cooper's to the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Goodrich notes, "the Cooper's Hawk, unlike the Sharp-shinned Hawk, kills only for food." The Sharp-shinned Hawk, Goodrich writes, kills "apparently both for pleasure and for food."

Another example of Goodrich's comments concerns the Screech Owl. The author notes that "Screech Owls are known to include numerous birds in their diet. For this reason, they are considered by some to nullify if not exceed the good they do through the destruction of mice, insects, and certain other harmful species." Perhaps if the Screech Owls chose to live on a diet of Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks their carnivorous habits would not have ignited the ire of their 1940's detractors.

Other features of the book include a list of common colloquial bird names (Where else can a younger birdwatcher readily find the identity of a Bog Bull, Tip-up, Chewink, or Bog Trottor) and a Finding List; a list of Kansas birds tabulated by habitat, time of year, and major colors. For those of us used to the "Gestalt" system of bird identification, the finding list initially appears to be a challenge. It hints of a plant key adapted to avian traits. In any event, the book is a resource for numerous facts gleaned by Goodrich both from experience and a variety of sources.

After encountering the book on a number of occasions, I set out to find a copy. Following a search of used bookstores, Goodrich finally joined my bookshelf. He sits beside Thompson and Ely's books; books usually consulted first on questions of bird location, arrival, diet, etc. However, when I need some inspirational or intriguing reading on a winter evening I shall gladly revert to the 1940's and the earlier Birds of Kansas. (Note: Bog Bull: American Bittern; Tip-up: Spotted Sandpiper; Chewink: Rufous-sided Towhee; Bog Trottor: Northern Harrier.)

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD BIRDING
TO ALL IN THE COMING SEASON!**

Christmas (Mid-winter) Bird Counts - 1994

It's time once again for those fun, and somewhat challenging Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Or if you prefer, Mid-winter Bird Counts, which I was told was more politically correct since not everyone celebrates Christmas.... Anyway, we had some excellent counts last year and some real good participation. The list that follows is not all inclusive. I never hear from everyone, some are very much last minute get togethers and I rather imagine some folks like to keep their counts a small quiet affair.

In any case, I encourage everyone to get involved in at

least 1 count. I cannot remember a count that has not had a memorable experience and many a life bird has been "twitched" on a CBC. Not only is the birding great, you invariably get to meet some new birding friends. If you are not a regular at one of the Counts then call the compiler for additional information about when to meet where, etc. (In most cases the person listed is the compiler, in other cases they just happen to be the last contact person that I had for that count!) Take time from your holiday celebrations to get involved, and call the Kansas Rare Bird Alert (913-372-5499) for last minute additions and changes!

Wednesday, December 14

Olsburg, Dave Rintoul, compiler - (days) 913/532-6663, evenings 913/537-0781

Saturday, December 17

Dodge City, have traditionally met at Pancake Inn (1610 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd) around 7 a.m. for breakfast, Joleen Fromm, compiler - 316/227-6342

Halstead/Harvey County, meet in the basement of Bethel College's Science Hall at 6:45 a.m., Dwight Platt, compiler - 316/283-6708

Lakin - Leonard Rich, compiler - 316/275-5192

Lawrence, Galen Pitman, compiler - 913/842-7105

Manhattan, John Zimmerman, compiler - (days) 913/532-6659, (home) 913/537-0238

Salina - Harold Lear has compiled this count in the past, 913/823-2366

Topeka, Joanne Brier, compiler - 913/232-4317

Waconda Lake, Mike Rader, compiler - 913/658-2595

Wichita, Meet at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium at 7:30 a.m., Wallace Champeny, compiler - 316/455-3543

Sunday, December 18

Baldwin, Roger Boyd, compiler - 913/594-3172

Old Garfield County, Barbara Campbell, compiler - 316/275-5430

Udall-Winfield, Max Thompson, compiler - 316/221-1856

Wakefield, meet at Lakeview Restaurant, west side of town on K-82 Hiway at 7:30 a.m., Chuck Otte, compiler - (work) 913/238-4161, (home) 913/238-8800

Wilson Reservoir, Mike Rader, compiler - 913/658-2595

Monday, December 19

Quivira NWR, Breidi Zinn, compiler, call Quivira Headquarters 316/486-2393 for more information. In the past they have met at the headquarters building around 7 a.m.

Tuesday, December 20

El Dorado, Meet at McDonalds in El Dorado at 7:30 a.m., Bill Langley, compiler - 316/321-6931

Kirwin Reservoir, Mike Rader, compiler - 913/658-2595

Wednesday, December 21

Webster Reservoir, Mike Rader, compiler - 913/658-2595

Monday, December 26

Arkansas City, Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77 just north of the Arkansas River at 8:00 a.m., Don Vannoy, compiler - 316/838-4062

Cedar Bluff, Scott Seltman, compiler - 913/327-5411

Junction City, meet at Shoney's Restaurant, I-70 Exit 298 (new meeting place this year) at 7:30 a.m., Chuck Otte, compiler - (work) 913/238-4161, (home) 913/238-8800

Linn County, Roger Boyd, compiler - 913/594-3172

Thursday, December 29

Scott Lake, Tom Shane, compiler - 316/275-4616

Friday, December 30

Morton County, Sebastian Patti, compiler - 312/886-6840(work), 312/248-0570(home)

Saturday, December 31

Black Mesa, OK, Sebastian Patti, compiler - 312/886-6840(work), 312/248-0570(home)

Leavenworth, John Schukman, compiler - 913/727-5141

Sunday, January 1

Barber County, Meet at city park on Hwy 160 in Medicine Lodge at 8:00 a.m., Pete Janzen - 316/832-0182

Liberal, Sebastian Patti, compiler - 312/886-6840(work), 312/248-0570(home)

Saturday, January 7

Garden City, Marie Osterbuhr, compiler - 316/276-8145

Sunday, January 8

Syracuse, Art Nonhof, compiler - 316/277-2087

Saturday, January 14

Ulysses, Sara Shane, compiler - 316/275-4616



ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Following are the abstracts of the papers presented at the Annual Meeting in Garden City, October 1, 1994. There were a total of 10 papers presented and they were all quite interesting. If you find an abstract that interests you I encourage you to contact the author(s) directly for more information. If you have any problems getting in contact with an author get in touch with the *Horned Lark* editor and he will assist you in your search. The papers are listed in the order that they were presented and the first author (if more than one) was usually the presenter.

INFLUENCE OF TRAFFIC ON BIRD ACTIVITY

Author: Roger L. Boyd

Biology Dept., Baker Univ., Baldwin City, KS 66006

The proposed South Lawrence Trafficway threatens to impact wetlands along the southern edge of Lawrence. This past summer bird censuses were conducted to determine the impact traffic has on bird activity along heavily used roads vs. areas away from traffic. Censuses were one quarter mile in length and were conducted at various times of the day and several periods through the summer. Bird activity was recorded as within 100 ft., beyond 100 ft. or flying over the roadway.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON BIRD MORTALITY AT SEVERAL TRANSMITTING TOWERS IN SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

Authors: Eugene A. Young, Brandon M. O'Brien* and Shana Martin***

** Biology Dept., Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156; **225 N. Roosevelt, Wichita, KS 67208*

Four transmitting towers in south-central Kansas have been studied during various periods from September 1993 - present. Dead birds were collected every 2-5 days and all dead birds and portions of birds are removed with each visit. The location of the bird under the tower, sex (if possible), age (if possible) and weight (if possible) are recorded, for each specimen. Bias estimates are determined for predator and scavenger removal rates, the amount of habitat that could be searched, and individual searching abilities. The total number of observed kills combined with bias estimates determines the Estimated Total Collisions (ETC) at each tower. ETC's averaged 32-106 birds per month or 800-2000 birds per year. The height of the tower, and the color of lights appeared to have little impact on the number of birds found. Most birds appear to strike the guy wires. Behavioral observations during daylight hours indicate that most resident and migratory birds show no reaction to the tower during flight. Most birds collected appear to be transients. Between sites, species composition is highly variable. No massive kills were observed, although the largest kills were associated with frontal movement

during both spring and fall. Greater mortality occurs in the fall.

SLATE CREEK WETLANDS: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

*Authors: Max C. Thompson and Eugene A. Young
Biology Dept., Southwestern College Winfield, KS 67156*

The State of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has recently purchased land adjacent to their present property. The Department has initiated an environmental assessment study for the future development of the state owned land. Private land in the wetlands is also being developed for the use of wildlife by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperative agreements with the land owners.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF LEAST TERNS IN KANSAS AND NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA

Author: Roger L. Boyd

Biology Dept., Baker Univ., Baldwin City, KS 66006

In the first year of this study (1982) there were 14 colonies located along the Cimarron River west of Freedom, OK. It was estimated that there were 100 nesting pairs in these colonies. Since that time three more colonies were found. The most recent survey this summer located only four active colonies. There were, however, 163 pairs in these colonies. Concentrations into these colonies is not believed to be beneficial. The colony at Quivira NWR has gone from 25 pairs in 1982 to a high of 34 pairs in 1990 and 1992 and to 23 pairs this past summer.

MEADE COUNTY PLAYA LAKES: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Author: Thomas L. Flowers

PO Box 87, Meade, KS 67864

Playa lakes in Meade County have come into the limelight over the past ten years. They have a rich and varied history dating back to the collections of Nathaniel Goss in the 1860's, Richard and Jean Graber in 1950, Larry Mosby and William Lynn in 1955 and J.R. Zuvanich and Merrill G. McHenry in 1963. The 1954 USF&WS inventory of wetlands shows 13,219 acres of wetlands in Meade County. Only 1,803 acres of wetlands are identified under SCS Swampbuster inventories. Many playa lakes have been destroyed due to land leveling and drainage. 102 species of birds have been associated with playas in Meade county. Additional species are expected to be identified within this rich ecosystem.

BIRDS OF BARPALI IN WESTERN ORISSA, INDIA: A 40-YEAR COMPARISON

Author: Dwight R. Platt

Dept. of Biology, Bethel College, N. Newton, KS 67117

The village of Barpali is in an intensively cultivated area of rural India. The population of Barpali has more than tripled between 1951 and 1991. Observations were made on the birds around Barpali from 1954 to 1957 and again in July 1993 and from March to August 1994. A total of 136 species were observed. Sixty-two species were observed in both the 1950's and 1990's. Most species seen in only one of the periods were only rarely seen. Eight species observed rather commonly in the summer and monsoon seasons of 1954-57 were not observed in the 1990's and ten species appear to have declined in those 40 years. Four species that were seen commonly in the 1990's had not been recorded in the 1950's and two species appear to have increased between the 1950's and 1990's. An additional 47 species were observed in forested areas of Sambalpur District but were not found in Barpali.

TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THREE CANOPY-DWELLING WARBLERS IN NORTHEAST KANSAS

Author: John M. Schukman

14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

A strip-map method was used to determine the timing of arrival, abundance and territories of Yellow-throated (YTWA), Northern Parula (NOPW), and Cerulean (CRWA) Warblers in a mature bottomland hardwood forest adjacent to the Weston Bend of the Missouri River at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The YTWA, NOPW and CRWA arrived on 11 April, 17 April and 20 May, respectively. The average number of singing males detected per census was 6.07 ± 2.71 for the YTWA, 5.69 ± 2.84 for the NOPW and $1.38 \pm .99$ for the CRWA. On an extended census the highest number of individuals observed was 14 YTWA, 12 NOPW, and 5 CRWAs. The YTWA was observed primarily in sycamores (90%) whereas the CRWA preferred pecans (70%); the NOPW exhibited no obvious preference for a specific tree. All three warblers were found at two locations but no interaction was observed.

BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS OF THREE HABITATS IN THE BAKER WETLANDS

Authors: Chris Cink & Cal Cink

Biology Dept., Baker Univ., Baldwin City, KS 66006

We censused birds in three floodplain habitats; native tallgrass prairie, disturbed tallgrass prairie succession, and shrubby marsh during the summer of 1994. Most abundant in native prairie were (number per 40 hectares in parenthesis): Red-winged Blackbird (35.6), Dickcissel (31.7), and Common Yellowthroat (27.7). Most

abundant in disturbed prairie were C. Yellowthroat (20), Red-winged Blackbird (13.5), and Eastern Meadowlark (6). Most abundant in shrubby marsh were Red-winged Blackbird (92), C. Yellowthroat (36), Bell's Vireo (26.5) and Sedge Wren (26.5). Density differences between habitats seem to be related to the amount of vegetative cover, intolerance of standing water by ground nesters and preference for shrub nesting cover by some species.

RESTORATION OF MCPHERSON VALLEY WETLANDS: ANALYSIS OF SHOREBIRD USAGE

Authors: Kristen J. Mitchell and Dwight W. Moore

Division of Biological Sciences, Emporia-State University, Emporia, KS 66801

Shorebirds were censused during the Spring and Fall migration of 1993 and 1994 at McPherson Valley Wetlands. The objectives of the study were to examine the use of the marsh by shorebirds and to determine the effectiveness of the restoration effort in providing habitat for migrating shorebirds. To date 20 species totaling 934 birds were seen. Most birds were seen in the Big Basin area. Water levels and percent bare ground were higher in 1993, which may have attributed to the greater number of birds seen that year. As several species of shorebirds were seen at the marsh, McPherson Valley Wetlands will be a suitable stop-over site for migrating shorebirds if the water level can be maintained at an appropriate level.

KBBAT SPECIES RICHNESS PATTERNS

Authors: John L. Zimmerman and William Busby

Div. of Biology, KSU, Manhattan, KS and Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence KS

Based on about 300 completed blocks from the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project, species richness patterns are described for the state. Even though the species lists for atlas blocks provide only a "snapshot" of the avian community, these data illustrate differences in diversity within and between the physiographic regions of the state.

--Drive safely on all of your winter bird counts and also to and from all of your parties... we've still got KBBAT Blocks that require your assistance in the coming year!

--May the New Year bring you many good things...but mostly more lifers!!!

News from the Kansas Bird Records Committee

by Galen Pittman

At the winter meeting of the KOS Board of Directors on 26 February 1994, proposed changes to the Procedural Rules of the KBRC were approved by the Board. See the June 1994 (21:2) issue of *The Horned Lark* for more details and a copy of the amended Rules. In this issue of the newsletter you will find minutes of four recent KBRC meetings held in April 1993, October 1993, February 1994, and July 1994. See the June 1992 (19:2) issue of the newsletter for previously published minutes, as well as several articles about the KBRC.

The KBRC is actively working on a new edition of the KOS checklist of the birds of Kansas, which will hopefully be published sometime in 1995! The 7th edition was published five years ago in November of 1989 and there have been a lot of changes to the list since. (By the way, all of the changes I am going to report to you in this article are preliminary and are subject to a final review by the KBRC.)

There are some 25 species currently on the list which will be affected by changes, as well as an additional nine new ones. Two new checklist related rules and/or policy changes have precipitated many changes on the checklist. The "hypothetical" category, which previously was not used, will affect ten species on the list. As you might recall, "hypothetical" will now be used to designate those species that have been **documented** in the state; but their *occurrence* has not yet been substantiated by physical evidence such as a specimen or photograph. The rarest species on the list

will be designated with an "*" (or some other appropriate symbol) which will indicate that there are less than ten substantiated records for the state. Previous checklists used an "*" for the same purpose but the threshold number of records was set at five. Six species will get both designations, half are new and half are old. Clark's Grebe, Eurasian Wigeon, and Williamson's Sapsucker are the old ones and Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Fish Crow, and Western Bluebird are the new ones. Four additional species will be designated as "hypothetical"—Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, Western Screech-Owl, and Black Phoebe.

Fifteen other species, six of which are new to the list, will have the "*" added. Examples of previously listed species that will get the "*" designation are Harris' Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Sage Sparrow. The six other new species which will be added to the list with an "*" and have been documented with physical evidence are as follows: Glossy Ibis, Anna's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird (yes, there are now an amazing nine hummers on the Kansas list!), Canyon Wren, and Phainopepla.

Finally, there will be several name changes, such as Green-backed Heron which becomes Green Heron, Lesser Golden Plover which becomes American Golden Plover, Olivaceous Cormorant which becomes Neotropic Cormorant, and Black-shouldered Kite which becomes White-tailed Kite. Maybe this is what they mean by *deja vu*!

Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the Kansas Biological Survey in Lawrence, Kansas on 10 April 1993.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Acting Chairperson Galen Pittman, minutes were also recorded by Pittman.

Members present were Marvin Schwilling (MDS), Galen Pittman (GLP), Mick McHugh (ESM), David Seibel (DES), and Lloyd Moore (LDM).

GLP distributed a list of all previously submitted records with an account of the disposition of those records, including all votes.

GLP provided background for considering proposed changes in the KBRC Procedural Rules, specifically addressing the matter in which members to the Committee are selected. The results of an informal survey of about a dozen state record committees, both regional and national, was presented to the Committee.

The survey was designed to find out what sort of operational rules are being employed by other bird records committees. The results were quite varied. The various options for changes were discussed, as well as, the more general topic of how well the Committee has functioned since the adoption of the new procedural rules in 1990.

DES moved and ESM seconded a motion that the KBRC Procedural Rules be amended to read as follows. Section III.C.1: The general membership of the KOS shall nominate and the Kansas Bird Records Committee shall elect, subject to approval by the KOS Board of Directors, the seven members and two alternates to terms of three years each. Also this section will be changed to read: New members take office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS. In addition, the term appointed will be replaced by the word elected where appropriate.

Section III.D.1: The Chairperson shall be elected...at the annual winter meeting of the KBRC. Also, this section will be changed to read: The Chairperson takes office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS.

Section III.G: If the Committee loses a voting member.....the Chairperson of the Committee shall immediately appoint a replacement.

Section IV.A: An annual meeting of the Committee shall be held after the winter KOS Board meeting and before the annual spring field trip of the KOS.

The motion passed.

There was a discussion of the need to compile an official annotated list of asterisk species from the KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas that contains minimal information for all of the accepted occurrence records for each species that has been recorded ten or less times in the state. Once this official list has been established the status of these species can be officially tracked by the KBRC. There was general agreement that this list is needed, but that the task of compiling it would be great. GLP agreed to continue to work on developing such a list.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the KOS fall meeting in Hays, Kansas on 2 October 1993.

The meeting was called to order during the mid morning break at the fall KOS meeting by Chairperson Max Thompson.

Members present were Max Thompson, Marvin Schwilling, Galen Pittman, Mick McHugh, Scott Seltman, and Roger Boyd.

Max Thompson announced that he would be resigning as Chairperson of the KBRC, but would continue as a regular member. Max further announced that Mick McHugh had agreed to be nominated for the position. McHugh was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson of the KBRC by all member present. This change will be effective as of the close of the fall KOS meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of the KBRC winter meeting at the Kansas Biological Survey in Lawrence, Kansas on 5 February 1994.

Minutes were recorded by Galen Pittman. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chairperson Mick McHugh.

Members present were Max Thompson (MCT), Galen Pittman (GLP), Mick McHugh (ESM), David Seibel (DES), Pete Janzen (PDJ), Chris Hobbs (CDH), and Lloyd Moore (LDM). An invited guest, Mark

Robbins of the KU Museum of Natural History (KUMNH) was also present for part of the meeting.

A slide of a Canyon Towhee photographed by Mick McHugh on 8 January 1975 in Morton county Kansas was viewed and evaluated by the Committee. This slide was assigned the KBRC # 94-06 and was unanimously approved by all the members present. The acceptance of this physical photographic evidence removes the "hypothetical" status of this species for the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas.

There was a discussion that it would be desirable for the KBRC to receive rare bird write-ups that have been submitted to the Bulletin editor as documentation with the winter bird count results. Max Thompson (current KOS Bulletin editor) agreed to pass on those documentations to the KBRC.

There was a discussion of possible methods of preserving photos submitted to the Committee, such as storing them in mylar sleeves or having photographs reprinted on cybachrome. There was also a discussion of the need to obtain official permission from the appropriate staff at the KUMNH for permanently storing the records of the KBRC. GLP agreed to look into photograph preservation techniques and to secure the needed permission from the KUMNH to act as a depository for KBRC records.

A video tape of a White-winged Dove (KBRC # 93-20) was viewed and evaluated by the Committee. Mark Robbins brought specimens from the KUMNH bird collection to aid in the determination. Mark also brought the specimen of the Costa's Hummingbird, that was reported in the September 1993 issue (44:3, page 29) of the KOS Bulletin, for the committee's review. An official vote on the White-winged Dove record was deferred until more information on juvenile plumages could be researched and circulated among the Committee.

There was a discussion of possibly changing the current KBRC policy that requires record submissions to be circulated anonymously for the first round of voting. MCT moved and LDM seconded a motion that the current KBRC policy of circulating bird record submissions with the names of all the observers obliterated be reversed. The motion passed.

GLP reported to the Committee that the amendments to the KBRC Procedural Rules that were voted on by the Committee on 10 April 1993 and presented to the KOS Board of Directors were, first, tabled at the 1 May 1993 meeting of the Board and then failed to be approved at the 2 October 1993 meeting of the Board. A discussion of how to proceed followed. The consensus was that the Committee should amend the Rules again, but modify the changes to make them more acceptable to the KOS Board, and then present them to the Board again. MCT moved and DES seconded a motion that the KBRC Procedural Rules be amended such that section III.C.1 would read: "The Kansas Bird Records Committee shall elect, subject to approval by the KOS Board of Directors,

the seven members and two alternates to terms of three years each". The motion passed. DES moved and LDM seconded another motion that the Rules further be amended such that section IV.A would read: "An annual meeting of the Committee shall be held before the winter KOS Board meeting of the KOS". The motion also specified that the other changes, that were made and accepted previously on 10 April 1993, would also be retained in this version. The motion passed.

There was a discussion of the need for a new edition (8th) of the KOS bird checklist. The current supply is just about gone, and there have been many changes and additions to the bird list since the checklist was last published in November 1989. The AOU is apparently just about ready to publish a new edition of the checklist of North American birds, which would have a major impact on the Kansas checklist, since they are the accepted authority in North America for bird taxonomy and nomenclature. GLP moved and PDJ seconded a motion that a second printing of 3000 copies of the current edition (7th) of the KOS checklist be produced, as is, to supply the needs of the KOS until a new edition can be produced. The motion passed.

To produce a new edition of the KOS checklist, especially in light of the many recent changes in the procedures followed by the KBRC, there is a need for the Committee to establish a benchmark in regard to the number of currently accepted records for many of the rarer species that have been recorded in the state. It is necessary to determine the status of these species to make the new checklist as authoritative and accurate as possible. A list of Kansas bird records for the 66 rarest species known to have occurred in Kansas was compiled by GLP and LDM and was presented to the Committee members for consideration. The list was reviewed by the Committee and records for 41 species were discussed and their "current checklist status" was determined. The records of the remaining 25 species will be reviewed at the next meeting of the KBRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the Kansas Biological Survey in Lawrence, Kansas on 30 July 1994.

Minutes were recorded by Galen Pittman. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Chairperson Mick McHugh.

Members present were Max Thompson (MCT), Galen Pittman (GLP), Mick McHugh (ESM), David Seibel (DES), Chris Hobbs (CDH), Lloyd Moore (LDM) and David Rintoul (DAR).

GLP reported on a letter he sent to Dr. Richard Prum of the KU Museum of Natural History requesting permission to store KBRC records in the bird range at the Museum. Galen reported that he received a prompt and affirmative reply, and that Dr. Prum had extended an

invitation to the KBRC to hold future meetings in the Museum.

A list of bird records of 25 species that was deferred from the last KBRC meeting on 5 February 1994 was distributed amongst the Committee members. This list was reviewed in the same fashion as before to aid in determining the "current checklist status" of these remaining species. The decisions that were made in process of reviewing these rare bird records will be incorporated into the new edition of the KOS checklist.

A previously voted on and rejected bird record submission (KBRC # 92-45) of Fish Crow from Cherokee county was reopened and discussed by the Committee. This record was accepted by the KBRC by a vote of 6-1.

The checklist subcommittee (consisting of GLP, LDM, and DES), that was appointed by the Chairperson Mick McHugh in the interim since the last KBRC meeting, presented a report on the progress of work on the new checklist. A preliminary draft of the new list was distributed and discussed by the Committee.

An updated mock-up of the new list and its format will be presented and discussed at the next annual (winter) meeting of the KBRC.

There was discussion of the feasibility and format of a possible "distributional and abundance" checklist for the state of Kansas published by the KBRC under the auspice of the KOS. Such a checklist would have information on the seasonal abundance of the birds of Kansas compiled for each of the major geographic regions of the state. It was agreed that the concept was good and could service as a valuable reference to KOS members, but that it would take a considerable amount of work to compile the necessary data. GLP agreed to work on further development of the concept and give a progress report to the Committee in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Seminar Announcement

**Tricks and Techniques
of Nature and Wildlife Photography**

February 11, 1995

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Chaplin Nature Center
near Arkansas City*

Cost \$50.00

Bob Gress and Gerald Wiens, nationally recognized photographers will be presenting this intensive one day seminar. For a copy of the brochure or more information, contact Chuck Otte, Bob Gress or the Chaplin Nature Center (316) 442-4133.

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1994

*Garden City Community College
Garden City, Kansas
October 1, 1994*

Members present: Gregg Friesen, Sara Shane, Mike Rader, Joanne Brier, Galen Pittman, Roy Beckemeyer, Diane Seltman, Dwight Platt. Non-voting: John Schukman, Max Thompson, John Zimmerman.

Vice President Mike Rader chaired the meeting in the absence of president Jim Mayhew. He opened the meeting at 12:55 p.m. and called for old business.

MAIL: Galen Pittman cautioned that envelopes with the bulk permit stamp should not be used for other than bulk mailings unless the bulk permit stamp is covered over.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: Diane Seltman opened a discussion on the membership brochures. We still have quite a few left but there are now many errors on them. It may be cheaper to reprint the brochure than to get stickers to correct all of the errors. It was suggested that we might look into the possibility of using The Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas as our permanent address so that we do not need to make changes when officers change.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA: There was no word from Jim Mayhew as to whether he has found someone to oversee the Dingus Natural Area.

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING: The Wilson Ornithological Society will meet at Kansas State University in Manhattan on April 24-27, 1997. We have had an inquiry as to whether KOS would be willing to co-host the meeting and provide help with leadership on field trips. It would entail no financial responsibility. The KOS Spring Meeting is scheduled for May 2-4, 1997 in Riley County. Gregg Friesen moved that KOS offer to cooperate in co-hosting the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting and providing leadership for field trips and that we move the KOS Spring Meeting in 1997 to the last weekend in April to coincide with the WOS Meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Beckemeyer. The motion passed.

EDUCATIONAL EFFORT ON "TAKINGS" LEGISLATION: Mike Rader reported that Roger Boyd had inquired whether KOS would be willing to help support an educational effort on the "Takings" legislation which would be very detrimental to environmental protection efforts but which will probably come up again in the next Legislature. Bill Craven will be traveling around the state for the Kansas Natural Resources Council and the Conservation Forum in this educational effort. Roger talked in terms of a donation from KOS of \$200 and he offered to match whatever KOS would give. Board members were supportive of this educational effort but did not feel that we should take money from the KOS treasury for this at this time. Roy Beckemeyer moved that we ask Roger Boyd to make a case for donations to this educational effort at the afternoon business meeting and that we ask members for donations to a special KOS fund to be given in support of this project. Galen Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SALES TAX: Gregg Friesen reported that we had applied for a sales tax number.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that there was a new postage rule that prohibited organizations using a non-profit bulk mail permit from advertising things for sale in the materials that were mailed.

Galen reported that we have approximately 4000 membership brochures but they are out-dated. He will work with the new Business Manager to find a solution to this problem. We will also need to print new envelopes and new checklists.

MONEY PROBLEMS AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND: Max Thompson stated that KOS should be actively seeking donations to supplement our other sources of income. He also said that we should not be taking money out of the life membership fund when life members die. This money should remain as an endowment fund to help support the organization. Dwight Platt reported that the disposition of these funds can be determined by the Board. The Bylaws state that the expenditure of those funds after life members die may be done by a majority vote of the Board. Galen Pittman moved that upon the death of life members, their life membership principal be maintained in a restricted endowment fund, interest from which will be used for general fund purposes. Diane Seltman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Fall Board Meeting adjourned.

--Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1994
Science Lecture Hall
Warren L. Fouse Science & Mathematics Building
Garden City Community College
Garden City, Kansas
October 1 - 2, 1994

The forty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society met October 1-2, 1994 at Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas. Vice President Mike Rader chaired the meetings in the absence of President Jim Mayhew. Leonard Rich was chair of the local arrangements committee.

Saturday, October 1. Morning Session.

Art Nonhof from Garden City Community College opened the meeting and welcomed KOS to Garden City. Vice President Mike Rader thanked the local committee for their effort on behalf of KOS. He turned the meeting back to Art Nonhof who chaired the morning paper session. The papers were presented as listed on the program.

The morning business meeting was called to order by Mike Rader.

MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 1993 Annual Meeting as printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gregg Friesen reported that KOS has total assets of \$33,456.37. The unrestricted general fund stands at \$2,466.24. This includes some money that has already been appropriated for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. He stated that our income is insufficient for our expenses and that there would be a deficit this year. It costs about \$12 to service a membership. Our regular membership dues are only \$10 and the income from the Life Membership Fund is only about \$7 per life member.

AMENDMENTS TO KOS BYLAWS: Mike Rader read the amendments being proposed by the KOS Board which will raise membership dues and the life membership payment. These will be voted on in the afternoon. A question was raised as to whether KOS should have life memberships. Mike said that the board had considered that question but were recommending continuing life memberships with the increased payment.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that membership last year at this time was 441 and membership this year is 430.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that he had a few complete sets of the *Bulletin* for sale.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson reported that he had manuscripts for the December *Bulletin* and the March issue will be devoted to the Christmas Bird Counts. He needs manuscripts for the June issue.

Max reported that two annotated county lists, for Meade County and Shawnee County, will be published from special funds.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: There was no report as Chuck Otte was in Wyoming.

APPROVAL OF OFFICERS' REPORTS: A motion was made to approve the officers' reports. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken Brunson, Chair, reported for the Nominating Committee. Nominations were:

President	Mike Rader
Vice President	Roy Beckemeyer
Corresponding Secretary	Dwight Platt
Membership Secretary	Margaret Wedge
Treasurer	Gregg Friesen
Business Manager	Dawn Sharp
Board Members	Shannon Rayl
	Bob Gress

The terms of Board Members Sara Shane and Roy Beckemeyer do not expire. Mike Rader reported that he will appoint Gene Young to fill Roy Beckemeyer's unexpired Board term if Roy is elected vice president. The meeting was opened to additional nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made. The meeting was adjourned until afternoon. Since it was time for lunch the group photograph was postponed until afternoon.

Saturday October 1. Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session followed the schedule on the program (see attached program) and the group photograph was taken during the afternoon break.

Mike Rader chaired the afternoon business meeting which was opened at 4:25 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tom Shane made announcements about the Banquet and Sunday Field Trips.

MEETINGS: Mike Rader announced that the Spring 1995 Meeting would be on May 5-7 in Barton County. The 1995 Fall Meeting will be October 6-8 in Salina.

AMENDMENTS TO THE KOS BYLAWS: Roger Boyd made a motion to amend Article II, Section 3 of the KOS Bylaws to read:

- "A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.
- B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year.
- D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year.
- E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year.
- F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year.
- G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full-time undergraduate or graduate students).
- H. Any foreign category of subscription add \$5.00 per year."

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Gregg Friesen made a motion to amend Article II, Section 3C to read:

- "C. life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years."

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

EDUCATION ON "TAKINGS" LEGISLATION: Roger Boyd discussed the "Takings" legislation that will probably be introduced again in the next Legislature. If passed it would make regulations in the public interest for environmental protection very expensive. Bill Craven of the Kansas Natural Resources Council is proposing to travel around the state to newspapers and radio stations in an educational effort. Roger suggested that KOS might want to help support effort. Mike Rader asked Dwight Platt to report from the Board minutes on Board action with regard to this suggestion. The Board met at noon and was supportive of this effort. However in light of the state of KOS finances they voted to ask Roger Boyd to discuss this issue at the afternoon business meeting and then to ask for donations for a special KOS fund to support this educational effort. Mike Rader announced that there would be an opportunity to donate to this fund at the Banquet.

A suggestion was made that KOS might want to pass a resolution on this issue. A question was raised asking whether KOS should be an activist organization and engage in political activity. Mike pointed out that this was not a lobbying effort and it was not a substantial part of our activity.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 1. Evening Banquet.

A reception was held at 6 p.m. and the Banquet at 7 p.m. at Wheatlands Convention Center in Garden City. After the meal Mike Rader opened the meeting at 8:20 p.m. He thanked the local committee for the excellent arrangements for a successful meeting. He recognized Chuck Ely who will be moving to Texas. He encouraged donations for the educational effort on the "Takings" legislation.

John Zimmerman read resolutions thanking all those who had a part in making this meeting a success. The resolutions were adopted by acclamation.

Tom Shane introduced those members present who had been members for 40 years or more. He also recognized all past presidents of KOS. He introduced people who had come from other states.

Tom chaired the drawing for door prizes. He read the suggestions that were contributed to the "Name the Seltman Baby" project. He also presented a gift from KOS to Diane Seltman.

He announced that the silent auction had raised \$626 for KOS.

Tom announced the ten best birds of the year. They were:

10. Brandt
9. California Gull
8. Broad-tailed Hummingbird
7. Black-chinned Hummingbird
6. Black-legged Kittiwake
5. Little Gull
4. Canyon Wren
3. Pyrrhuloxia
2. Phainopepla
1. Swainson's Warbler

Mike Rader introduced Bob Jennings from the nature center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who gave a very enjoyable presentation on "Birding from One End of the Continent to the Other."

The meeting adjourned.

Sunday, October 2. Morning Field Trips.

The field trips took place on a cool cloudy and sometimes foggy morning. The groups gathered at camp Cristy near Scott City for lunch and the compilation. At the compilation 127 species were reported.

The Forty-seventh Annual Meeting adjourned.

--Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

AVES AFRICAN ALLITERATION

Beeeaters bulbuls babblers barbets bateleurs bristlebills
and blackcaps. Grasshopper, lizard, and honey
buzzards. Bold bustards bursting through the brush

Finch-larks fruit-pidgeons cuckoo-falcons finfoots
firefinches and flamingos Paradise, forest, and fairy
flycatchers. Frantic francolins fleeing from underfoot

Hobbys hoopoes boneyguides hammerkops hylas
hadadas and helmet-shrikes. Goliath, squacco and
purple herons, Heavy hornbills hardly staying aloft.

Pittas petronias pyillias pratincoles prinias puffbacks
and pennant-wings violet, blue, and gray plantain-
eaters. Pugnacious parrots in the palms.

Seedeaters seedcrackers stonechats and storks shikras
shags and brubru shrikes.

Blue-eared copper-tailed, and purple-headed starlings.
Sparkling sunbirds sipping sweet sap.

Whydahs waxbills wheatears widowbirds
wooddoves whinchats and wattleeyes. village, vitelline
and
Veiellot's weavers. Winsome wagtails beating time on
the turf.

Scintillating songs and shrill screams the audio of
ancient
scenes.

Strange species with strange sounding names
animated ornaments on the African plains.

--Ted Cable

Why the Birding Roundup is Important

by Chuck Otte

The previous author of this section, Scott Seltman, and I both feel that this periodic report is of great relevance. Naturally there is always a certain amount of pride at finding an uncommon bird, or a bird outside its normal range or outside its expected time frame or simply in finding unexpectedly large numbers of a particular species. These are the basic guidelines we try to follow in preparing this report. Just as everyone in a small community subscribe to the local newspaper to see if their name is in it or what their neighbors have been doing, we probably all scour the birding roundup to see who has seen what.

But more importantly than the social fun and good-natured competition, this report is a chronicle, an archive if you will, of bird populations in the state. It is not nearly as scientific as a Breeding Bird Survey route or a KBBAT block but it does give us a series of snapshots of what was where. Osprey are nearly common spring and fall occurrences around any significant body of water and as such are seldom even mentioned except for early or late sightings.

On the other side of the scale there are numerous species that are probably much more common than we realize. But since we do not have a good handle on numbers and distribution, we report their sightings on a regular basis and will continue to do so until we develop a good enough picture to know that a particular species is common enough not to warrant further normal reports. That means that we need your help in reporting sightings. As optics and field guides improve we learn to separate out that Pacific Loon from the Common Loons or that immature Thayer's Gull from all those other swirling gulls. And we

develop a good state-wide net of birders hitting locations throughout the state of Kansas.

But then we all often think that what we have seen may not be that noteworthy and are too embarrassed to call the Hotline thinking that we will be laughed at. If nothing else you can always jot down periodic sightings that you feel are interesting and mail them to me. But please don't hesitate to call the RBA with your good sightings. At one point this fall when really good sightings were coming in hot and heavy from Garden City, several of the birds made the Colorado RBA along with the caveat, "Just think what we might be able to find in southwest Colorado if it would just be birded on a regular basis!" My hat goes off to the Kansas birders that produce the kind of sightings that bring those sort of responses.

As I said at the start, many of us consider this an important section of the *Horned Lark*. Scott spends countless hours tracking the incoming calls, keeping a record of just about every one and then updating the hotline (no wonder he's looking for a replacement so he can "retire"). I transcribe each one of his updates and then keep a listing from that. This list is sent back to Scott who proofs it and adds missing pieces of information that may not have made it to the hotline, but still deserve mention. Then our poor layout wizard/business manager Dawn Sharp gets the unenviable task of getting it ready for printing. This one section of the newsletter by far takes more time than any other. But we all feel that it is worth every second of time for the better picture that it brings us all of the birds of Kansas. Thank you to each of you who spends time in the field to find those good birds, and a special thank you to Scott and Dawn for all their hours in proofing and getting it ready. Keep up the good work!

FALL ROUNDUP/ August 1994 - October 1994/ by Chuck Otte

As I was reviewing this issue's birding highlights it occurred to me that birdwatchers tend to hang out in really weird places. Alleys, cemeteries, smelly marshes, people's backyards...and we wonder why people think us to be such a strange lot!

But if you look again at the some of the birds seen during this period, it's no wonder we hang around in these locations. Five species of hummingbirds on the list (1 of which will be the 2nd ever sighting if accepted by the KBRC). Five "uncommon" gull species plus the regular expected species of gull (if you want to call a half million Franklin's Gulls expected!).

Loons and Western Grebes were making fine showings. Especially notable was the apparent nesting record of Western Grebe at Cheyenne Bottoms. Speaking of the Bottoms it looks like this was the Whooping Crane fall with their continued presence continuing well into mid-November!

No doubt the relatively mild late summer/autumn had a lot to do with sightings that were seen. Many species were showing up uncommonly late (Upland Sandpiper at Quivira, Great Egret at Milford, Eastern Wood-Pewee at Perry) and at the same time many winter species were arriving ahead of schedule (Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Sprague's Pipits in western Kansas).

Good birding by numerous individuals and groups turned up some excellent warbler sightings in western Kansas. More than likely such sightings will become more commonplace as we improve our visits to and reporting from western Kansas locations. And while good warbler reports were coming in, sparrow reports were almost non-existent. Many birders reported good sparrow numbers and good species diversity, but few rarities.

A Harris' Hawk from southeast of Lawrence is bound to create some lively debate among Kansas birders for some time. While Harris' Hawks have been documented in Kansas, the origin of this bird may take a while to unravel. Harris' Hawks are considered to be winter stragglers, so the timing is certainly right. And to add fuel to the fire for a countable bird are the reports of Harris' Hawks also coming in from Iowa and Oklahoma. I'll leave this one up to the KBRC to decide!

Good gulls, I mean REALLY good gulls started showing up in late August, carrying right on into November. Laughing gulls are an annual occurrence any more in Kansas, but are still worth noting. Are we seeing more Laughing Gulls, or are Kansas birders simply able to identify them with more confidence? Little gulls certainly cause a stir and Mike Rader's late October Little Gull brought me a short note from him extolling the wonders of October birding! A Sabine's Gull from Perry was another good sighting. Thayer's Gull's are another nearly annual occurrence, probably in the same category as Laughing Gull—they've been here all along, we're all just more comfortable calling them now! And finally, the Common Black-headed Gull. Excellent sightings at Perry in early October followed up with sightings at Clinton in mid-October could possibly be the same bird. Good photographs of this bird were obtained adding credibility

to its being on the Kansas list. (Additional gull sightings in early November were equally exciting!).

Ahhhh, hummingbirds! Probably few birds other than bluebirds evoke such emotion and amazement from people. We had some good ones in Kansas this fall. A Broad-tailed traveled well east and a Rubythroat was found far west. But the numerous Rufous sightings from Harvey, Seward and Finney counties were outstanding, the Black-chinned from Garden City was tremendous, and I have run out of superlatives for the Anna's that spent nearly a month in Garden City. If you are a birdwatcher in western Kansas and you do not have a hummingbird feeder, put it on your Christmas "Wish List" immediately! We may have just touched the tip of the iceberg for Kansas hummingbird sightings and more information is definitely needed!!

Let us wrap this narrative up with Phainopeplas. A bird that 4 years ago I couldn't even pronounce, and now I can even spell it without looking it up on a checklist! Three sets of Phainopepla sightings, 2 apparently well documented, add more information to this recent entry on the Kansas checklist. Once again we are in a quandry as to whether this bird is expanding its range, or is just now being found. Discussions with New Mexico birders over the past 12 months indicate that, in fact, this bird may be expanding its range. In any case, if you are in western Kansas in the autumn don't assume that all black birds are blackbirds or grackles!

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And, of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / August 1994 through October 1994

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Red-throated Loon	1 at Perry Lake present to 11-04-94	BF	10-30-94	Jefferson
Common Loon	1 at Clinton Res	LM	10-16-94	Douglas
Common Loon	3 at Milford Lake	MM,GP	10-29-94	Geary
Common Loon	3 at Perry Lake	BF	10-30-94	Jefferson
Western Grebe	11 adults at CB with several young	HH	08-02-94	Barton
These grebes were seen sporadically through late summer and early fall. At least 5 chicks were seen indicating nesting had occurred at Cheyenne Bottoms. One pair seen with 4 chicks. Patti and Hobbs saw the immatures as well as 15 adults in Pool 1A on September 18.				
Western Grebe	4 at Wilson Res	SS,MR	10-23-94	Russell
Western Grebe	1 at Milford Lake	MM,GP	10-29-94	Geary
American White Pelican	6500 at QNWR	MR	09-19-94	Stafford
Great Egret	1 late at Milford Lake	MM,GP	10-29-94	Geary
Mottled Duck	6 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JR	08-25-94	Stafford
Osprey	1 at Harvey County East Lake	BD	08-25-94	Harvey
Northern Harrier	1 carrying and eating BW Teal	HG	09-03-94	Stafford
Northern Goshawk	1 imm at Perry Res	LM,MM	10-02-94	Jefferson

Harris' Hawk	se of Lawrence, possible escapee present to 11-11-94	BB	10-31-94	Douglas
Peregrine Falcon	2 imm at QNWR Wildlife Loop	JR	08-15-94	Stafford
A Peregrine Falcon(s) was a fairly common sight at Quivira during the late summer and early fall				
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Junction City Courthouse	CO	08-16-94	Geary
Peregrine Falcon	1 at CB Pool #2	JR	08-28-94	Barton
A Peregrine Falcon was a fairly common sight at Cheyenne Bottoms during the late summer and early fall				
Yellow Rail	1 along Tomahawk Creek in Leawood	RS	10-08-94	Johnson
King Rail	7 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	JR	08-15-94	Stafford
Common Moorhen	3 at CB inlet canal	JO,CO	08-28-94	Barton
Whooping Crane	2 in CB Pool #2	MH	10-13-94	Barton
	10 cranes in Pool #2 reported to KB		10-25-94	Barton
	7 cranes still present, Pool #2	GF	10-29-94	Barton
American Golden-Plover	2 at QNWR	GS	08-08-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at QNWR	GS	08-08-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	MR	09-19-94	Stafford
Upland Sandpiper	1 late bird at QNWR	HG,SG	09-24-94	Stafford
Dunlin	15 at John Redmond Res	MM,BF	10-16-94	Coffey
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1, n end of Tuttle Creek Res	GS	08-04-94	Riley
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3 at Ellsworth Golf Course	MR	08-18-94	Ellsworth
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	34 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JA	08-26-94	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	a few at CB Pool #2	SS,PL,SF	08-31-94	Barton
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2 at QNWR	PJ	09-04-94	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 with broken leg, QNWR	MM,SP,CH	09-18-94	Stafford
American Woodcock	2 in N. Hutchinson present to 9-23-94	SPu	09-17-94	Reno
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at CB Pool #2	LM,GP	09-06-94	Barton
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at Liberal's Sewer Lake	PMHP	09-15-94	Seward
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at QNWR	MR	09-19-94	Stafford
Red Phalarope	1 basic plumage, Clinton Lake	LM	10-26-94	Douglas
Franklin's Gull	500,000+ at John Redmond Res	MM,BF	10-16-94	Coffey
Little Gull	1 in transition plumage, Wilson Res	MR	10-23-94	Russell
Laughing Gull	2 imm at CB Pool 2	JO,CO	08-28-94	Barton
	both still present	MM,SP,CH	09-18-94	
Common Black-headed Gull	n of Dam w side of Perry Res	LB,DB,MW	10-08-94	Jefferson
Common Black-headed Gull	Clinton State Park	LM	10-16-94	Douglas
	still present		10-19-94	
This bird was seen by others later in the day and could possibly be the same bird that was at Perry Reservoir				
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter, Clinton Lake	LM	10-26-94	Douglas
Sabine's Gull	1, Paradise Point, Perry Res	LM,MM	10-02-94	Jefferson
Common Tern	4 at Clinton Res	LM	10-16-94	Douglas
Inca Dove	5 in Garden City	LR	10-07-94	Finney
These birds had apparently been present for about 2 weeks before Leonard Rich was notified.				
Barn Owl	nesting in Round Barn s of Mullinville	GF,EF	08-06-94	Kiowa
Short-eared Owl	1 at QNWR	GS	08-08-94	Stafford
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	imm male at Elkhart feeder	PMHP	09-15-94	Morton
Black-chinned Hummingbird	at 2 Garden City feeders	MO,LBR	08-05-94	Finney
Anna's Hummingbird	imm male in Garden City	TSh,SSh	10-06-94	Finney
This bird was seen through November 1 at both the Shane's and the Rich's in Garden City. This bird was in similar plumage to the Oxford bird of 1990. If accepted by the KBRC it would be only the second record for this hummingbird.				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	female or imm in Manhattan	PF	09-10-94	Riley

Rufous Hummingbird	1 male s of Harvey County East Lake	DDB	08-25-94	Harvey
Rufous Hummingbird	1 probable in Liberal alleys	PMHP	09-15-94	Seward
Rufous Hummingbird	at Leonard & Betty Rich's home	KOS	10-02-94	Finney
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 female, Cimarron north fork	PMHP	09-16-94	Morton
Red-naped Sapsucker	2 or 3 in Garden City Cemetery	KOS	10-01-94	Finney
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 at Middle Springs, CNG	SP,GP	10-02-94	Morton
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 late bird at Perry Res	LM,MM	10-02-94	Jefferson
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	08-29-94	Wyandotte
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 in Reno County part of QNWR	SS	09-03-94	Reno
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 at QNWR	HG,SG	09-24-94	Stafford
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 well seen, Middle Springs CNG	SS,MR	09-10-94	Morton
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 at Garden City Cemetery	SS,TC	10-02-94	Finney
Cassin's Kingbird	3 at Boy Scout Area CNG	PMHP	09-15-94	Morton
	1 still present		09-30-94	
Bushtit	1, Boy Scout Area, CNG	SS	10-08-94	Morton
Carolina Wren	1 imm in Hugoton	SS,MR	09-10-94	Stevens
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1 early arrival	LM,MM	10-02-94	Jefferson
Wood Thrush	1 at Scott Lake State Park	DB,et.al.	10-02-94	Scott
Sage Thrasher	2 at Point of Rocks ponds	KVCL	09-16-94	Morton
Curve-billed Thrasher	2 juveniles at work station, CNG	PJ	08-07-94	Morton
Sprague's Pipit	early arrival	SS	09-14-94	Pawnee
These pipits arrived early and in large numbers. In one field Seltman was finding as many as 50 on a regular basis in late September				
Sprague's Pipit	6 at Lyon County State Lake	MM,BF,JS	10-15-94	Lyon
Phainopepla	1 female at Middle Springs, CNG	JR	09-03-94	Morton
This bird was seen by Rakestraw on the 3rd and by at least 6 other observers the morning of the 4th. This will be only the second confirmed record of this species if accepted by the KBRC.				
Phainopepla	1 male in Garden City	LR	09-25-94	Finney
	still present		09-30-94	
Phainopepla	2 at a farmstead	KT	10-03-94	Haskell
These birds had been present for sometime before Garden City birders were contacted. No birds could be found to follow up this report.				
Northern Shrike	juvenile	SS	10-27-94	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 brownish imm	SS	10-28-94	Rush
Solitary Vireo, plumbeus race	Boy Scout area, CNG	LM,GP	09-04-94	Morton
Solitary Vireo, plumbeus race	in Elkhart	SS,MR	09-10-94	Morton
Philadelphia Vireo	1, Cimarron River north fork	PMHP	09-16-94	Morton
Blue-winged Warbler	1 adult at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	08-29-94	Wyandotte
Virginia's Warbler	Bear Creek nw of Manter	PMHP	09-16-94	Stanton
Magnolia Warbler	Bear Creek nw of Manter	PMHP	09-16-94	Stanton
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Boy Scout Area CNG	MM	09-17-94	Morton
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Meade State Lake	TF	09-17-94	Meade
Townsend's Warbler	Bear Creek nw of Manter	PMHP	09-16-94	Stanton
Townsend's Warbler	several at Garden City Cemetery	KOS	10-01-94	Finney
Townsend's Warbler	at Middle Springs, CNG	SP,GP	10-02-94	Morton
Townsend's Warbler	1 male in Elkhart Alley's	SP,GP	10-02-94	Morton
Pine Warbler	1 at Greenwood Cemetery, Newton	GF	10-14-94	Harvey
Black-and-White Warbler	1 at QNWR	HG	09-03-94	Stafford
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Wichita's Oak Park	??	09-02-94	Sedgwick
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 at Boy Scout Area, CNG	GP	09-04-94	Morton
Mourning Warbler	several at Wichita's Oak Park	??	09-01-94	Sedgwick
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 in Elkhart alleys	PMHP	09-15-94	Morton
MacGillivray's Warbler	at Leonard & Betty Rich's home	KOS	10-02-94	Finney
Hooded Warbler	1 male at Garden City Cemetery	KOS	10-01-94	Finney
Summer Tanager	1 late	LM,MM	10-02-94	Jefferson
Western Tanager	2, Cimarron River north fork	PMHP	09-16-94	Morton

Indigo Bunting	several late birds	LM	10-16-94	Douglas
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at Boy Scout Area, CNG	SP	09-30-94	Morton
Vesper Sparrow	early arrivals at Lake Wilson	MR	08-01-94	Russell
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Wilson Res	MR	10-21-94	Russell
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1 record early female e of Lenora	SS	09-0594	Norton
Chestnut-collared Longspur	20+ early arriving birds	SS	09-21-94	Pawnee
Pine Siskin	flock of 20	SS	09-16-94	Pawnee

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands

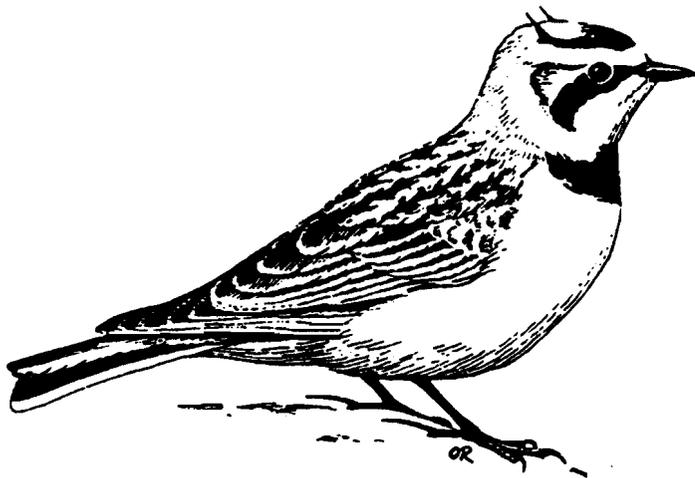
imm = immature

KBRC = Kansas Bird Records Committee

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res = Reservoir

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Jim Arterburn (JA), Dave & Donna Balzer (DDB), Ken Brunson (KB), Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), Bill Busby (BB), Bob Dester (BD), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), Bob Fisher (BF), Tom Flowers (TF), Eric Friesen (EF), Pat Freeman (PF), Greg Friesen (GF), Harry Gregory (HG), Sharon Gregory (SG), Helen Hand (HH), Mike Heaney (MH), Chris Hobbs (CH), Ron Huber (RH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Pam Lehman (PL), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Sandra Pugh (SPu), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Leonard Rich (LR), Leonard & Betty Rich (LBR), John Schukman (JS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSH), Tom Shane (TSh), Guy Smith (GS), Max Thompson (MT), Kevin Tunis (KT), Mike Whited (MW). **GROUPS:** Kansas Ornithological Society Fall Meeting (KOS), Dan Kilby-Don Vannoy-Wally Champeny-Michael Lesan (KVCL), Sebastian Patti-Mick McHugh-Chris Hobbs-Brandon Percival (PMHP).



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

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September 1994

Vol. 21, No. 3

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From the Keyboard -

What a summer! I had to keep calling Scott just to make sure that, in fact, birding was *really* that slow all over Kansas and that the Rare Bird Alert machine was not on the blink. Fortunately, even as I write this, fall migration is showing some good signs. Reports from the fall meeting site, Garden City, are coming in at a good pace. Make sure you read all about the Fall Meetings. The local committee has an excellent program lined up. If you've ever wanted to bird extreme western Kansas, this will be your chance!

I made a big push during June to get my atlas block nearly wrapped up after last year's washout! I've given myself 2 more weeks to find that Sedge Wren, though, and then everything is in the mail to my Regional Coordinator. Mike R. has already sent me a block to do in Republic County next year!

Unfortunately after getting most of my KBBAT work done, the birding was so slow that I haven't gotten out much since. On top of slow birding, I've been helping paint my in-laws' house, a project my wife and I truly are enjoying! Being on top of a 16-foot scaffolding while bluebirds, chimney swifts and barn swallows go zipping by (plus a few wasps!) makes

for some of the more interesting birding this summer. And of course, there was the inimitable county fair--an annual event for any county extension agent and I'm no different.

But the fair is behind me, and while there is still painting to do, I can paint and bird at the same time. And now fall migration is starting! Getting an issue of the *Horned Lark* together is always a busy couple of days and it always gets me in the mood to do some serious birding. I'm getting anxious for fall. I know those silly Red-breasted Nuthatches are going to be back in cemetery any day now, and the pines at the lake have a great cone crop so maybe we'll get the crossbills back this year, and with all the juniper berries one would think that the Mountain Bluebirds should be abundant this winter to be sure...and maybe even a Townsend's Solitaire for the Christmas Bird Count.... But until that time I'm still looking for that late summer Laughing Gull that always seems to show up around Milford Lake. Now don't you forget to finish up that KBBAT block and get your Fall Meeting registration in the mail within the week!

-chuck

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Meeting Registration, Call for Papers and Best Bird Nomination Forms are all at the back of this issue.
Return yours TODAY!

**ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF KOS
GARDEN CITY KANSAS
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1994**

The Fall Meeting of the KOS will be held on the Garden City Community College (GCCC) Campus on the east side of Garden City. Arriving from the east on Business Highway 50, turn north at the first stop light on Campus Drive and go about 5 blocks north to the GCCC. Arriving from the northeast on Highway 156, turn south at the first stoplight after passing a shopping center onto Campus Drive and go south about 4 blocks. Please return the pre-registration form by September 23 or call 316-275-5192 by September 29. (Letters refer to locations on map.)

Friday, September 30 - Osterbuhr Residence--
7:00 - 12:00 p.m. - Informal reception at the home of Ron & Marie Osterbuhr, 1103 Gillespie Place. From the east on Business Highway 50, go 3 blocks past the second stoplight, turn north on Center Street and go about 6 blocks north, then turn west onto Gillespie. From the northeast on Highway 156 turn left at the third stoplight and go south on Center Street, then go about 4 blocks south to Gillespie. See map "A".

Saturday, October 1 - Warren Fouse Math-Science Building, GCCC Campus Science Lecture Hall "B".

8:00 - 9:00 Registration. Orange juice, rolls & coffee

9:00 - 11:30 Paper Session
11:30 - 12:00 Business Meeting
12:00 - 1:15 Lunch on your own. (Dozens of restaurants 4 blocks north on Kansas Ave. Location of noon board meeting will be announced).
1:15 - 2:00 Birdwatchers Hour. Bring your slides to share. Also bring your home videos (birds only!), we will try to get a TV-VCR set up.
2:00 - 4:00 Paper Session
4:00 - 5:00 Business Meeting
5:00 - 6:30 Free Time
6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour (Cash Bar) at Wheatlands Convention Center, 1408 East Fulton, about 5 blocks south and 7 blocks west of GCCC Campus on south side of Fulton St. "C". Parking in rear of building where the convention center is located.
7:00 - Banquet - Wheatlands Convention Center. Guest Speaker: Bob Jennings, "*Birding from one End of the Continent to the Other.*"

Sunday, October 2 - On your own for breakfast

6:30 - 9:00 Field Trips from GCCC Campus parking lot
1:00 Lunch - location to be announced

Garden City Lodging. All area codes 316. Numbers refer to locator map. Prices do not include appropriate taxes.

1. Red Baron Motor Inn	Single	\$38.00	5. Winchester Inn	Single	\$32.00
Highway 50 East	Double	\$44.00	1818 Commanche	Double	\$38.00
275-4164	1-800-333-4164		275-5095	1-800-336-0063	
1. Budget Host Village Inn	Single	\$36.00	6. Super 8 Motel	Single	\$35.88
123 Honeybee Court	Double	\$38.00	2308 Taylor Ave (US 83)	Double	\$41.88
275-0677	1-800-333-4164			2 beds	\$43.88
2. Wheatlands Motor Inn	Single	\$37.00	275-9625	1-800-800-8000	
1311 East Fulton	Double	\$51.00 - \$53.00	7. Flamingo Motel	Single	\$29.00
276-2387	1-800-333-2387		1612 Jones Ave	Double	\$34.00
3. National 9	Single	\$33.00	276-7601		
1502 East Fulton	Double	\$38.00	8. Continental Inn	Single	\$31.00
	2 beds	\$40.00	1408 Jones Ave	Double	\$39.00
276-2394	1-800-333-2387		276-7691	1-800-621-0318	
4. Garden City Plaza Inn	Single	\$48.00	9. Garden Motel	Single	\$25.00
1911 East Kansas	Double	\$58.00	1202 West Kansas	Double	\$28.00
	Main floor	\$ 2.00 add'l		2 beds	\$32.00
275-7471	1-800-875-5201		276-2394		
			10. K O A Kampground		
			East Highway 50		
			276-8741		

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the winter board meeting on February 26, 1994 the KOS Board of Directors voted to forward the following two By-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Garden City in October.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.
- B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year
- D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year
- E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year
- F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year
- G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students).
- H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years.

These proposed changes would take affect January 1, 1995. Members who are currently paying on life memberships would be allowed to finish their payments. Sections A, B, D, and E are all \$5.00 increases. Section F was changed by adding the words "or more". Section C is currently a lump sum payment of \$150 or 4 consecutive annual payments of \$37.50. Section G, student memberships, was left unchanged. Section H is a new section, added to help defray the expense of foreign mailings.

If you have any questions about these proposals, feel free to contact any one of the Board members or the *Horned Lark* editor.

WELCOME BACK!

Ted Cable, a.k.a. the luckiest rare bird finder in northeast Kansas, has recently returned from a year's sabbatical in Africa. Those of us in northeast Kansas have missed his enthusiasm and birding reports and are glad to have him and his family back to liven up this doldrum birding summer. We also look forward (with humorous reluctance) to being regaled with tales of African birding. Welcome back Ted!

HELP WANTED!

Many of you have seen this editor refer to the National Birding Hotline Cooperative (NBHC) "BirdChat" on the Internet before. One of the pieces that makes up the NBHC is the transcription area for the Rare Bird Alerts across the country. For over a year now I have been recording and transcribing the Kansas Rare Bird Alert (RBA) and posting it on "BirdCenter". I enjoy doing this and intend to keep on doing this.

However there are now a total of 3 rare bird alerts operating in the state of Kansas. KOS' RBA which Scott Seltman has done so well with these past 5 years or so is familiar to most all of us. But we also have the *Burrugui's Audubon Kansas City area alert* (913-342-2473) and now an alert for the *Wichita area* as well (316-681-2266). I would like to find a volunteer(s) in the Kansas City and Wichita areas who have access to the Internet either directly through an institution or through an on-line service like America-On-Line, Compuserve, etc. who would be willing to transcribe these 2 alerts and post them to BirdCenter. It takes me about 20 to 30 minutes for every update. During peak birding times I may spend 1 1/2 hours a week. Lately, though, it's been more like half an hour every other week.

If you are interested, contact me via phone, mail or, preferably, send me an e-mail message at cotte@oznet.ksu.edu. I will give you the information on how to subscribe to BirdCenter and how to post your RBA. If you don't want to subscribe to BirdCenter but can e-mail me the information, I'd be happy to turn around and post it for you. It is a very rewarding experience!

**Don't forget to register RIGHT AWAY for the Fall KOS Meeting
Garden City, Kansas, September 30 - October 2, 1994
(see registration form at back of newsletter)**

***BE WATCHING at the Fall KOS Meeting for the--shhh--
SILENT AUCTION of "Bird Stuff"!
Check the registration table in Garden City for details.***

WRAP UP THOSE KBBAT BLOCKS!

Summer is waning all too rapidly, which means that we all should be wrapping up those KBBAT blocks and getting them in to our regional coordinators. Dr. Zimmerman is getting nervous about getting this done in 5 years, so let's show him how much we've gotten done this summer--and the *only* way to show him is to turn in your completed blocks to your regional coordinator. Get it wrapped up and in the mail this week. If you don't have another block assigned to you yet, include a note to your regional coordinator and ask for another one or two! Remember--we only have 2 more summers to go, so let's get busy.

WHAT ARE THOSE SURVEYS SAYING??

We're still getting surveys in and there is still time to grab a back issue of the *Horned Lark*, fill out your survey and send it in. We've had respondents from age 10 who were first year members to some who have been members for over 40 years. One even indicated that they missed being a charter member by one year. One of the more consistent remarks on the surveys so far has been the request to keep both the *Horned Lark* and *KOS Bulletin* focused on birds, not environmental issues. Although it can sometimes be difficult to separate the two, we will continue to strive do just that. There have been many suggestions about wanting the issues larger, maybe combining the two publications, etc. These are good ideas and are being investigated. One of the limiting factors is often the cost. So we are investigating many possibilities. It looks like we have some people lined up to write some regular features (other than me) which we hope to get started by issue 4 this year or the first issue of next year. But like I said we are still evaluating comments and ideas and we could use more food for thought. Fill those surveys out and send them in!

CALL FOR PAPERS KOS ANNUAL MEETING, 1994

*Abstracts/Summaries (approx 150 words) due
by*

September 17, 1994

to: Mike Rader
Box 395

Wilson, KS 67490
(913) 658-2595

See Form later in this newsletter!

WHY I BIRD

Several months ago there was an interesting conversation occurring on BirdChat--that big birders gab session existing in the virtual reality known as the Internet. It concerned birders who were avid listers (to the point of obsession) and whether they bird for the pleasure of birding or merely to get one more species on their life list, etc., etc. As happens with these ongoing conversations, they sometimes go on for entirely too long and such was the case with this one. Everything that needed to be said had probably been said 4 or 5 times. After about a week it came to an end when fellow birder and Birdchatter Carol Schumacher from Winona, Minnesota (southeast Minnesota on the Mississippi River) posted the following eloquent bit of verse. Carol graciously granted permission for it to be reproduced here.

Why I Bird

by Carol Schumacher

reprinted with permission of the author

I don't bird to list but I list
I don't bird to submit Seasonal Reports and
Nest Records but I do
I don't bird to chase but I do enjoy seeing birds I've never
seen before and those I've never seen before
I bird to challenge my eyes, ears, spirit and perspective
I bird to add my observations to the big picture
I bird for the exercise....I much prefer walking
I bird for the rhythm of the seasons that I've come to tune
to, and that represent seasons of my spirit too
I bird for the spiritual sense that requires me to slow down,
be quiet with to enjoy
I bird to be in the stunning river bluffs that are
the cradle of Winona
I bird for peak experiences...I never know what this day
will bring...but I'll never forget the first nest I
documented and the awe of watching the female
Broadwing blend with her nest
I bird for the connections and dear friends I've made
I bird for the sheer excitement that the first record Curlew
Sandpiper allowed me to express (first in MN)
I bird for the joy of standing in poison ivy watching a
stunning male Prothonotary feed three virtually
hidden gray young and alternately sing
I bird to see all the parts of Minnesota and the
diversity of this state
I bird to see the world...what an excuse to see Costa Rica,
Manzanillo, all the places I've never been
I bird...an uncommon love I share with all I can,
helping them connect with a world of knowledge
unknown to them

WHEN WAS THAT?

A big thank you to Roger Boyd, Amelia Betts and Katherine Kelley. No sooner did the last issue of the *Horned Lark* hit the mailboxes, than I received letters from Katherine and Roger indicating that the first meeting of the KOS was in 1949, meaning that the 1998 meeting should, in fact, be the 50th anniversary. Katherine indicates that Amelia has a wonderful collection of group pictures (how long has it been since we've done that at a spring or fall meeting?!) from some of those early meetings. Likewise Roger has been accumulating material from his parents archives on KOS history as well. He sent me some copies of a couple of letters that are quite fascinating! Thank you and full speed ahead to the 50th (with detours along the way for the 46th, 47th, 48th and 49th. For dates and locations of said detours, see the June issue of the *Horned Lark*!).

CHRISTMAS COUNT PLANNING TIME

Nobody wants to think about it, but Thanksgiving isn't that far away. And then before we can even think about Christmas, we have to make plans for Christmas bird counts. The December issue of the *Horned Lark* will be going to press before Thanksgiving (hopefully) so I need the information on your count by early November. Don't tell me you have no idea when you're going to do your count, because I know that you are already thinking about it and probably have a pretty good idea of when.

Send a short note to me: Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS, 66441 so we can get the information in. I will be sending notices out soon to all the compilers from 1993 asking for information. Save me the postage! Send me the information first!

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

Most of us have probably seen some of the announcements regarding the recent mammoth undertaking by the American Ornithologists Union and the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia, to produce "The Birds of North America." Most of us have probably already determined that the price of this wonderful resource is out of our reach. Fear not! Bill Busby of the Kansas Biological Survey recently wrote me with the following wonderful news.

Bill writes, "I would like to announce in the newsletter that the Kansas Natural Heritage Program is receiving The Birds of North America.... This publication will consist of profiles (biographies) for each of the roughly 700 breeding species in the United States and Canada. Profiles for each species are published as they are completed; I have received about 100 profiles so far and they estimate all will be finished over the next 10 years...."

The biographies were donated to all State Natural Heritage Programs to be used in conservation planning. They will also be available to KOS members. Anyone interested should contact: Bill Busby, *Kansas Biological Survey, The University of Kansas, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence, Kansas, 66047-2906, telephone (913) 864-7692.*"

I have had occasion to see one of the species accounts. It was well written and with more detail than I could have imagined! Thank you Bill for that good news!

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

by Gregg Friesen

For the entire membership--A quick look at the financial situation of the KOS as of mid summer shows restricted funds of \$30,908.59 and unrestricted funds of \$3,533.65. Recall that only the unrestricted funds are available for the day-to-day operation of the organization, including newsletter and *Bulletin* publication and mailing. Of the unrestricted funds, approximately \$300 is already spent but not yet logged on the ledger. Another \$333 is committed to the KBBAT project leaving about \$2,900 available through the end of the year. Currently, accounts payable totals about \$250 and remaining printing and mailing costs for the year should come to a little over \$1,800. This leaves approximately \$850 to cover other expenses including officer expenses based on past years records. If you are in a position to charge expenses to the organization please do so with the above in mind. I will present a full balance sheet at the fall meeting.

Account List	Balance
Unrestricted Funds	
Business Manager Account	432.42
General Fund	3,066.61
Southwest College Fund	34.63
	3,533.65
Restricted Funds	
Dingus Natural Area	7,169.85
Future Dues	147.50
Book Royalty Account	6,120.35
Life Membership	16,022.00
Student Research Fund	1,448.89
	30,908.59
Total Assets	34,442.25

For officers, Business Manager, etc.--Beginning in 1995 we are going to attempt to track inventory held by the KOS. This includes, for the most part, items held for sale including T-shirts, sweatshirts, decals and checklists. I will follow up with specifics on this at the Fall Meeting. Please note any KOS-owned items you may have in the above categories at the end of the year (1994) and send me a total. Thanks!

IS YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR THE BIRDS?

Part III - Finalizing the Plan - Selecting Plant Material

(This is the third of a four-part series)

by Chuck Otte

I have intentionally left plant selection until the latter portions of this series. All too often I run into homeowners who landscape in reverse. They purchase their plants first and then worry about where they'll fit them into the landscape, if they even will. If you get a good basic plan down first it is much easier to select your plants. If you want a large deciduous shade tree with rounded form for the front yard, you can immediately narrow your selection down to 5 or 6 species.

Of course, finding information about plant materials is always a challenge. Catalogs can be (but not always) nothing more than a walk down fantasy lane. Those fancy books on landscaping you see in the bookstores are usually written by people east of the Mississippi River who have no idea of what Kansas weather is like. Half the plants they would recommend for a hot, sunny location would wither and cook in a Kansas landscape!

Of course, I tend to be just a little prejudiced, but I feel that some of the best information is going to come from the Extension Service and the Land Grant College in the state that you live in. In Kansas the Extension Service has many good, free(!) bulletins on plants for your landscape. These bulletins detail form, size, color, adaptation and potential problems for many of the more common (and quite a few uncommon) plant materials available. One that I would strongly recommend for those wanting to attract birds to their property is a bulletin titled "Trees and Shrubs That Attract Songbirds and Wildlife," KSU Extension Bulletin L-845. Make sure you read all the information about any species you are thinking about planting.

I like to see a variety of plants in a landscape. A good mix of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs provides the shelter, food and perching locations that birds need. If there was one thing that I would change in my landscape, it would be to include more evergreens. Keep that in mind!

What are some of the trees and shrubs that I strongly encourage people to use? Cedars (with the exception of Wichita Blue - just use the good old Kansas pasture cedar, and try to get female trees so you get good berry crops for

the robins!). Hawthorns, nut trees of any kind including the walnuts, hickory and oaks (use the Pin Oak with care, it is only adapted to the more acid soils of eastern Kansas). The more, the better of wild fruit trees like mulberry, black cherry, flowering crabapple (make sure you get one that retains the fruit), osage orange russian olive (this one is short lived, plant it anyway and plan to replace them every 10 to 15 years), and persimmon. Pine trees are okay, but be aware that Kansas is the only state without a native pine tree--there's a reason for that and more. Any pine tree species may have problems, but plant them anyway!

For shrubs go for some of the more uncommon ones. You may have to work a little harder to find the material in nurseries, but it is available. Highbush blackberry, buckthorn, choke cherry, coralberry, golden currant, and dewberry. Gray, redosier, rough-leaved and swamp dogwood are all much preferable to that over-rated eastern variety that simply bears those big showy flowers! Elderberry is seldom used, but over 100 species of birds utilize its fruit. Wild gooseberry, american or sandhill plum and black raspberry are also good food sources.

To attract hummingbirds, go with plants that have large trumpet shaped flowers. Trumpetvine is a good perennial, although somewhat aggressive in habit. Use annual flowers as accents and additional attractants for hummers. Petunia, nicotiana, salvia and snapdragons will all help get the hummers into the yard first, then they'll find your feeders! Incorporate a bird bath into your landscape as well--the birds will love it.

Take some time to go to parks, gardens and arboretums to look at real live growing plants under real conditions. Take a notepad with you and write down the names of plants that you like, then do your research to see whether you've got a chance with those plants. Then give yourself 15 to 20% of your landscape budget to experiment and play. You will find some uncommon successes and some failures, but you will have fun trying some of those catalog fantasies.

Next issue: *Getting it in the ground and keeping it alive!*

KBBAT REPORTS ARE DUE!!

Have you completed your paperwork yet???

Be sure and send your completed paperwork to your regional coordinator ASAP.

AND DON'T FORGET TO ASK FOR NEXT YEAR'S BLOCK...

(First come, first served...you don't want to miss out on a favorite area by speaking up too late, do you?)

SUMMER ROUNDUP/ May 1994 - July 1994/ by Chuck Otte

Spring migration during May was intense, but brief. The first several weeks of May could bring reports of 20, 21, 22 or more warbler species. There were good numbers of migrants throughout the state with extraordinary distribution and many new county records. But as is always the problem of birding in the Great Plains, the weather changed around the 15th of May and strong southerly winds for days on end apparently blew all the migrants on out of the state, but not before Scott Seltman found a Swainson's Warbler at his home for probably only the fourth state record if accepted by the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC).

Reports from Ft. Riley indicated Henslow's Sparrows were quite common in unburned prairie areas, almost too numerous to get an accurate count in some locales.

After an unsuccessful attempt in 1993, the Topeka Peregrines were successful in 1994. I was lucky enough to be in Topeka at the end of June and got good looks at the young male. As of press time there was no update from Jerry Horak regarding the young female that had been in the care of a rehabilitator for several days. Hopefully Jerry will bring us an update of that in the near future. With this first successful nesting of the Peregrine in Kansas this century (coupled with the increasing number of Bald Eagle nests) it brings a certain hint of optimism for other species!

1994 was also a banner year for Bald Eagle nests. Six nests were started and after the Stafford County nest was abandoned it left 5 nests that fledged 12 young. Two nests each fledged 3 young and 3 nests each fledged 2 young. And still I wait for some activity at Milford Reservoir!

A year ago I commented on the apparent increase of Painted Buntings around the state. Whether it was a

"real" increase or merely an improvement in detection may never be decided. The two established Geary county locations again showed nesting activity. Additionally, KBBAT activity in Comanche and Barber counties turned up surprising numbers of Painted Buntings, and Joanne Brier found a good location in Osage county. The buntings may have been there for years, but until a project like the KBBAT comes along to evenly distribute our eyes and ears across the state, they go undetected. Just another good reason to be involved with the KBBAT project! When it's all said and done it would be interesting to know how many new county records resulted from the KBBAT!

And speaking of distribution, any birder in western Kansas should be distributing goodly numbers of hummingbird feeders around their yard! With late July sightings of Black-chinned, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds in Garden City, it just reinforces what Thompson and Ely said in *"Birds in Kansas, Vol. 1"* that ". . .if additional feeders were available in the western part of the state, more individual sightings might be recorded."

As July waned into August, hope for another good migration came in on the wings of a good early fall migration. As summer winds down and school gets started again we sometimes lack the enthusiasm to get out and go birding. But we should remember that migrations get started when the birds are ready, not the birders. If you wait for better weather in the Great Plains, you might as well sell your binoculars and field guides!

Remember to call the Hotline, (913) 372-5499, with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / May 1994 through July 1994

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Common Loon	1 in basic plumage, Harvey Co East Lake	BD	5-01-94	Harvey
Common Loon	1 at QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Common Loon	1 at Pratt Fish Hatchery	KB	5-15-94	Pratt
Brown Pelican	1 adult at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR,JN	6-01-94	Stafford
Double-crested Cormorant	33 nests with 17 young, QNWR		7-15-94	Stafford
Neo-tropic Cormorant	1 imm at Lawrence Sandpit still present	m.ob.	7-18-94 7-30-94	Douglas
Ring-necked Duck	1 male at QNWR	HG	5-30-94	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	1 male at QNWR	HG	5-30-94	Stafford
Mississippi Kite	1 out of range	MC,LM	5-14-94	Linn

Bald Eagle	6 Kansas nests in 1994 fledged 12 young			
	Stafford County nest abandoned, successful nesting at Wolf Creek (Coffey County), Perry Res, Clinton Res, Hillsdale Res, and in Hodgeman County.			
Bald Eagle	1 imm, n end of Tuttle Creek Res	GS	7-31-94	Riley
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 out of season, Buttermilk KBBAT	??	6-11-94	Comanche
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 in Lenora	SS	6-17-94	Norton
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 territorial bird s of Augusta	PJ	7-10-94	Butler
Cooper's Hawk	2 young in nest at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	7-01-94	Leavenworth
Cooper's Hawk	1 territorial bird s of Augusta	PJ	7-10-94	Butler
Cooper's Hawk	sitting on nest, QNWR	MR	7-19-94	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 in downtown Garden City	MO	4-30-94	Finney
	still present		5-10-94	
Peregrine Falcon	1 on migration count	KCMC	5-14-94	Kearny
Peregrine Falcon	1 along Arkansas River	PJ	5-14-94	Sedgwick
Peregrine Falcon	nesting in downtown Topeka	as of	7-01-94	Shawnee
	3 eggs hatched, 1 chick fell from nest and died in June, 1 male successfully fledged, the remaining chick, a female, had a rough first flight, but survived, was rescued from the sidewalk and was cared for by a rehabilitator for a couple of days and then was to be returned to the nest. This is the first successful Peregrine Falcon nest in Kansas this century!			
Gambel's Quail	1 singing male	TSh,SSh	7-09-94	Logan
	This bird was in an area of Logan County that regularly gets shipments of exotic gamebirds. May be the same area that a Ruffed Grouse was seen in in 1993.			
Black Rail	2 heard, 1 seen, Bobolink Field QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Black Rail	several singing	RB,PB	5-22-94	Stafford
Black Rail	3 at nw side of Coldwater Lake	PJ	5-28-94	Comanche
King Rail	s of Protection on Cimarron River	DV	6-11-94	Comanche
King Rail	2 adults with 3 downy young at Peace Creek ne of Stafford	JR	6-28-94	Stafford
Virginia Rail	1 adult with 4 downy chicks	LBR	5-10-94	Finney
	These rails were seen along Pawnee Creek in eastern Finney county for one of only a few confirmed nestings for this bird in the state of Kansas.			
Common Moorhen	4 at QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at n end of Tuttle Creek Res	GS,DK		
Mountain Plover	1 at QNWR	RB,PB	5-22-94	Stafford
Whimbrel	28 at QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Hudsonian Godwit	35 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms	LM,GP	5-11-94	Douglas
Hudsonian Godwit	2 late birds at QNWR	MR	6-01-94	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3 on Ark River s of K-96	PJ,DV	5-24-94	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	25 at QNWR	PJ	5-06-94	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	40 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms	LM,GP	5-11-94	Douglas
Laughing Gull	1 adult, Tuttle Res Outlet tubes	DH	5-03-94	Riley
Caspian Tern	flock of 18 at MDC refuge	KOS	5-08-94	Linn
Common Tern	1 at Harvey County East Lake	PJ	5-06-94	Harvey
Least Tern	1 at Kaw Valley Fish Farms	LM,GP	5-11-94	Douglas
Least Tern	Probably courtship/nesting behavior	JH	7-10-94	Pottawatomie
Greater Roadrunner	1 in downtown Elkhart	AS	6-19-94	Morton
Short-eared Owl	1 at QNWR	SK	5-29-94	Stafford
Pileated Woodpecker	1 at El Dorado Lake	PJ	5-06-94	Butler
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 male in Garden City	LBR	7-11-94	Finney
Calliope Hummingbird	1 adult female (probably)	TSh,SSh	7-20-94	Finney
	This hummingbird was coming to the Shane's feeder quite regularly through the 22nd. If accepted by the KRBC it would be the third report of this species for Kansas.			

Rufous Hummingbird	1 adult female in Garden City	TSh,SSh	7-20-94	Finney
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 west of State Line Road	MM	5-17-94	Wyandotte
Ash-throated Flycatcher	CNG, at nestbox with 5 eggs	JH,DM,BB	5-24-94	Morton
Vermillion Flycatcher	1 reported in Dornwood Park in southeast Topeka.	BT	5-04-94	Shawnee

This fairly convincing report was received on the Kansas City Rare Bird Alert.

This bird was not found by other birders and it's acceptance is subject to review of any records submitted to the KBRC.

Chihuahuan Raven	CNG, nest with 3 eggs	JH,DM,BB	5-23-94	Morton
Carolina Wren	1 out of range still present	SS	5-21-94	Hodgeman
Winter Wren	1 record late at OPA	MM,BF	5-07-94	Johnson
Sprague's Pipit	2 near Harvey Co East Lake	BD	5-01-94	Harvey
Curve-billed Thasher	Northeast of Boy Scout area	JH,DM,BB	5-24-94	Morton
Red-eyed Vireo	100 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	5-15-94	Wyandotte
Blue-winged Warbler	1 in Garden City	MO	5-07-94	Finney
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Wichita's Oak Park	RB	5-03-94	Sedgwick
Golden-winged Warbler	at OPA	MM,BF,GP	5-07-94	Johnson
Golden-winged Warbler	1 in JS's backyard	JS	5-08-94	Leavenworth
Tennessee Warbler	1 on migration count	HCMC	5-14-94	Hamilton
Tennessee Warbler	60 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	5-15-94	Wyandotte
Cape May Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboreteum	MC	5-04-94	Johnson
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2 during Migration Count	MC,LM	5-14-94	Linn
Yellow-throated Warbler	KBBAT block	BB	6-08-94	Wilson
Yellow-throated Warbler	KBBAT block	BB	6-23-94	Labette
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 s of Paola on MDC River	JS	7-03-94	Miami
Yellow-throated Warbler	14 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	7-09-94	Leavenworth
Palm Warbler	2 at Wichita's Oak Park	PJ	5-02-94	Sedgwick
Palm Warbler	at OPA	MM,BF,GP	5-07-94	Johnson
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 on migration count	HCMC	5-14-94	Hamilton
Blackpoll Warbler	1 on migration count	HCMC	5-14-94	Hamilton
Cerulean Warbler	5 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	6-27-94	Leavenworth
American Redstart	25 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	5-15-94	Wyandotte
Prothonotary Warbler	1 slightly out of range, Ft. Riley	SH	6-15-94	Geary
Worm-eating Warbler	1 in Garden City	MO	5-07-94	Finney
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at MDC	LM	7-09-94	Linn
Swainson's Warbler	1 at SS home sw Rush County	SS	5-09-94	Rush

This bird was seen from May 9 through May 10. It was videotaped and photographed by Seltman and Shane. If accepted by KBRC it will be only the 4th documented sighting of Swainson's Warbler and several hundred miles further west than the other 3 records which come from Cherokee, Johnson and Montgomery counties.

MacGillivray's Warbler	1 singing, St. Francis WA			
Summer Tanager	1 in Garden City	MO	5-07-94	Finney
Scarlet Tanager	1 in Garden City	FCMC	5-14-94	Finney
Western Tanager	1 male 3 miles w of Elmdale	MM	6-24-94	Chase
Lazuli Bunting	1 at QNWR	SCMC	5-14-94	Stafford
Painted Bunting	s of Pomona Res	JB	6-04-94	Osage
Painted Bunting	numerous Comanche KBBAT blocks		6-11-94	Comanche
Painted Bunting	high numbers sw of Medicine Lodge	PJ,JR	6-13-94	Barber
Henslow's Sparrow	Rather common on Ft. Riley	JK,BB	6-15-94	Riley
White-crowned Sparrow	1 out of season, Lake Wilson	SH	7-18-94	Russell

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands
 KBRC = Kansas Bird Records Committee
 MDC = Marais des Cygnes
 m.ob. = many observers
 OPA = Overland Park Arboretum
 QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
 Res = Reservoir
 WA = Wildlife Area

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Pat Beckemeyer (PB), Roy Beckemeyer (RB), Joanne Brier (JB), Bill Busby (BB), Ken Brunson (KB), Mark Corder (MC), Bob Dester (BD), Finney County Migration Count (FCMC), Bob Fisher (BF), Harry Gregory (HG), Don Haley (DH), Scott Haywood (SH), Hamilton County Migration Count (HCMC), Jerry Horak (JH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting (KOS), Kearny County Migration County (KCMC), Jeff Keating (JK), Duane Kerr (DK), Steve Kingswood (SK), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Galen Pittman (GP), John Rakestraw (JR), Mike Rader (MR), Leonard & Betty Rich (LBR), Andy Sigler (AS), John Schukman (JS), Sara Shane (SSH), Tom Shane (TSh), Guy Smith (GS), Stafford County Migration Count (SCMC), Bill Trylk (sp?) (BT), Don Vannoy (DV).

CLASSIFIED ADS

<p>Position Still Available! Bluebird Trails Committee Chair <i>and</i> Members are needed. If interested, contact Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p>Now Available...Position for a Committee Person for the Dingus Natural Area Committee and also, Marais des Cygnes Project Coordinator. Don't miss out on <i>these</i> opportunities of a lifetime!</p>
<p>Still Wanted: KOS Officer Positions - Membership Secretary Diane Seltman and Business Manager Galen Pittman have both indicated that by this time next year they would both like to be spending more time birding and less time Board of Directoring. If you are interested PLEASE contact these individuals and talk with them. They both cover several areas and can be tough, time consuming positions. Dedication has to come first on your resume! After you have visited with either of them and you still want to pursue the position contact Ken Brunson, 40050 NE 10th St, Pratt, KS, 67124, (316) 672-7289 or Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS, 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p>Still Wanted: Hotline Operator - Scott Seltman has been running the Kansas Rare Bird Alert Hotline for 4 years and he has told us that 5 years should be long enough before a new person takes it over. This is a very demanding job requiring good knowledge of birds, Kansas and answering machines (#@!%\$^&*). If you are interested, start talking to Scott now, (913) 372-5411.</p> <p>ALWAYS Wanted: VOLUNTEERS - Roy Beckemeyer can still use volunteers in various and sundry activities. If you didn't fill out your volunteer survey a couple of issues back, dig it out and send it in. The placement rate for volunteers has been VERY high!</p>

apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now!

Be an ACTIVE Participant in KOS!
This is a great time of year for FIELD TRIPS!
And there's not a better time to volunteer to RUN FOR OFFICE!
SIGN-UP NOW!

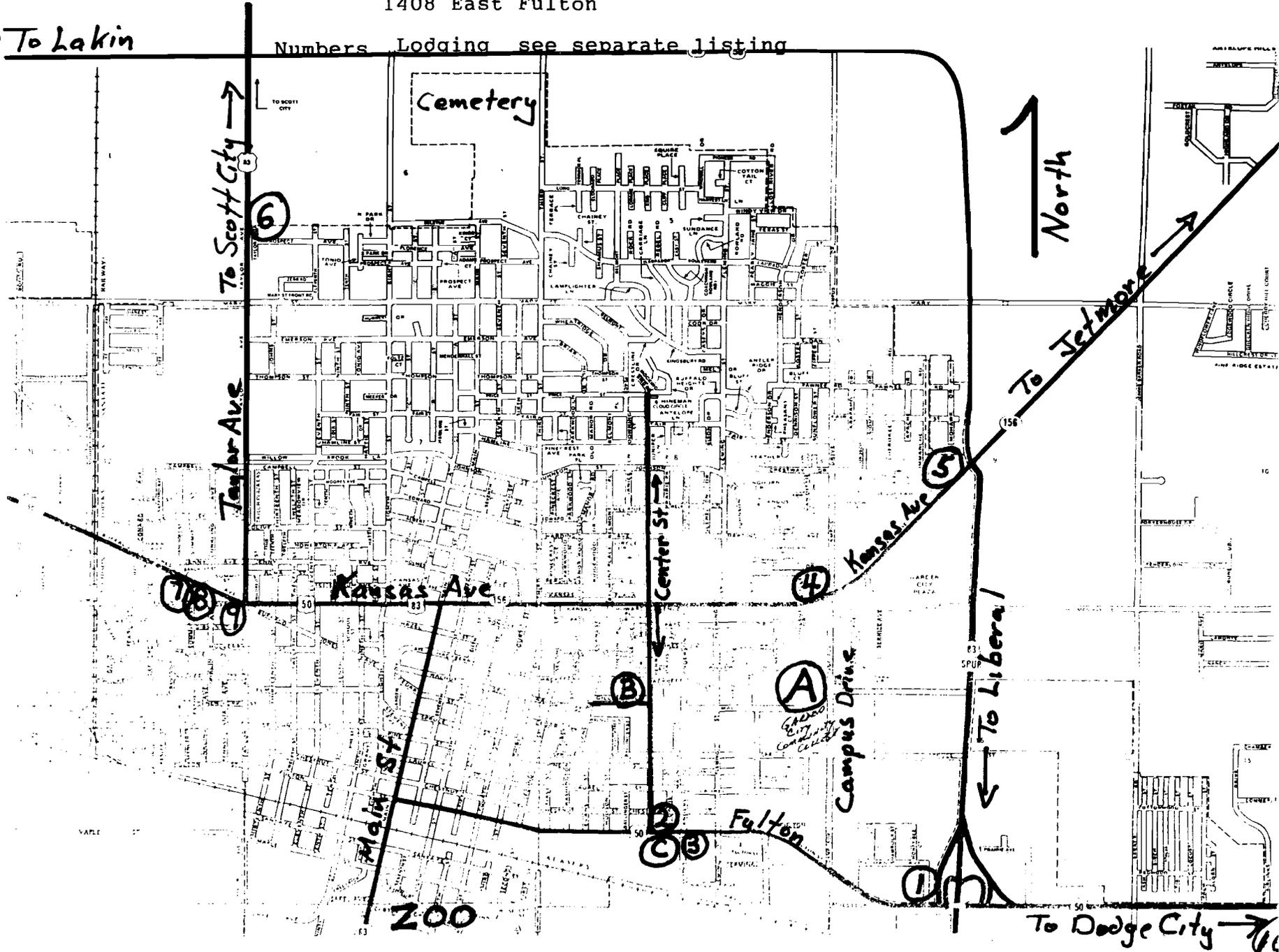
A Warren Fouse Math- (Science Building--Lecture Hall 112

B Ron and Marie Osterbuhr 1103 Gillespie

C Wheatland Restaurant and Convention Center
1408 East Fulton

← To Lakin

Numbers Lodging see separate listing



To Scott City →

Taylor Ave

Cemetery

Kansas Ave

Center St

Main St

Campus Drive

Fulton

To Liberal

North

To Jetmore

To Dodge City →

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PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

.....
REGISTRATION FEES:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular - \$7.00	_____	_____
Student - 3.00	_____	_____
Saturday Lunch - On your own	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet - 11.50	_____	_____
Sunday Box Lunch - 3.50	_____	_____
Amount Enclosed -	_____	_____

Make Checks Payable to: KOS Local Committee

Send Completed Forms to: Leonard Rich
1107 E. Johnson
Garden City, KS 67846
(316) 275-5192

PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 23!

-----cut here-----

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Mail to: Tom Shane
1706 Belmont
Garden City, KS 67846

SPECIES _____

OBERVER(S) _____

LOCATION _____

DETAILS:

Note: You may duplicate this form if you have more than one bird to report.

Call for Papers

K.O.S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1994

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet October 1 and 2, 1994 at Garden City. The contributed paper sessions will be on Saturday, October 1. The only requirement is that the papers deal with birds in some way. We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. The most interesting papers are often by people who consider themselves amateurs, but nevertheless have considerable expertise. We encourage you to share your experiences with the group. Both long and short presentations are welcome.

We are again requesting that all contributors submit an abstract or short summary (approximately 150 words) of their presentations.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 17, 1994 TO:

Mike Rader
Box 395
Wilson, KS 67490
Telephone: (913) 658-2595

Contributed Papers Session, October 1, 1994

AUTHOR(S): _____

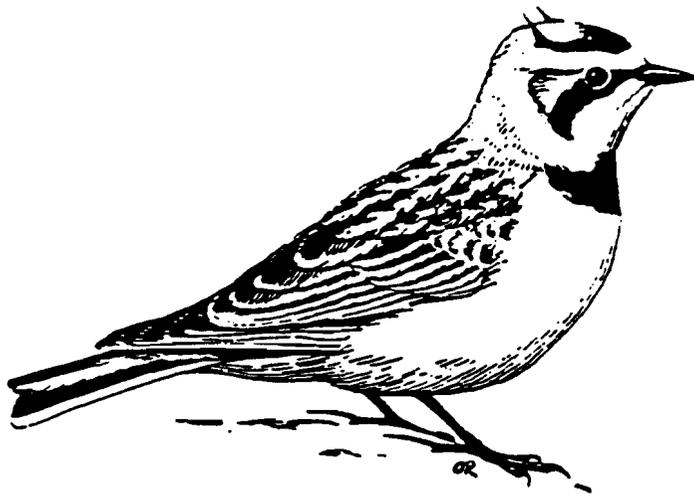
ADDRESS: _____

TITLE OF PAPER: _____

ABSTRACT: _____

Time for presentation and questions (circle one): 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-Visual equipment needed: _____



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1994

Vol. 21, No. 2

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From the Keyboard -

Well, it looks like the vast majority of the 1994 spring migration has passed on through at this writing. I had some good birding days (never as many as I would like, though!), participated in the North American Migration Count and even helped out the Northern Flint Hills Audubon in their annual birdathon on the last day of April (which was a cold day and started with snow!).

Unfortunately, I missed the spring meeting and what a spring meeting it was! 170 species tallied (although I noticed they missed House Sparrow!) and a great attendance roster. Numerous KOS members who were in attendance dropped me a note or called to let me know what a great time they had and what good birds I missed. As one KOS Board Member said, "It was a great meeting and good to see so many old friends!" That's what these spring and fall meetings are all about! A great time birding with old and new friends alike. I cringe every time I miss one and look forward to the next one. Please note in this issue a preliminary announcement of the fall meeting in Garden City, as well as the list of upcoming spring and fall meetings through 1998!

The survey responses have been very interesting and supportive, with some excellent constructive comments, many of which we are working on right now, while others may take a little bit longer. We've had a range of respondents so far from a 10 year old first year member up through someone who missed being a charter member by 1 year! We still need your surveys, though. If you've got an idea - send it in. If you've got a gripe - send it in. If you've got a compliment - send it in. Your responses will remain

anonymous. We just want to know how you feel about KOS!

After last year's deluge across much of Kansas, many of us are looking forward to some normal summer weather so we can run our Breeding Bird Survey routes without a pontoon boat and get caught up on our KBBAT blocks. If you are currently an atlaser, get out there and let's get caught up. If you aren't an atlaser you can easily become one. Contact myself or John Zimmerman and we'll get you in touch with a regional coordinator. We're a little behind schedule, (it's the middle of the 5th and we're down 3 runs for you baseball fans) but we're not completely out of the picture. A good summer and we can catch back up and get ahead. It's a little bit of work, but it's a lot of fun. Become part of this record making event. You never know what you'll find out there in your block!

Be sure not to miss the next installment of "Is Your Landscape for the Birds?" I'm having a lot of fun with this series and may wind up making it an irregular visitor to the *Horned Lark* after the first four installments. One thing that Jaye and I have noticed is the increase in bird activity as our landscape has started to get some size and maturity to it. We try to work in the back yard anymore and we just get scolded from all sides by birds who feel that *we* are in *their* space. I'm still waiting for that spring when I get a passerine fall out in my trees.... maybe next year.

Have a good summer, get those Atlas blocks done and we'll see you in Garden City!

--chuck

In this issue...

Proposed by-laws changes p2
KBRC News p4
Fall Board Meeting Report p8

For the Birds p7
Birding Roundup & Highlights p11
Field Trips, Fall Meeting '94, etc. p6

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the winter board meeting on February 26, 1994, the KOS Board of Directors voted to forward the following two By-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Garden City in October. (Please note that there were a couple of minor errors in the proposed change that was published in the March newsletter. The lettering sequence was not correct and I omitted one category. The correct version follows.)

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.
- B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year
- D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year
- E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year
- F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year
- G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students.)
- H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following part of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years.

These proposed changes would take affect January 1, 1995. Members who are currently paying on life memberships would be allowed to finish their payments. Sections A, B, D, and E are all \$5.00 increases. Section F was changed by adding the words "or more". Section C is currently a lump sum payment of \$150 or 4 consecutive annual payments of \$37.50. Section G, student memberships was left unchanged. Section H is a new section, added to help defray the expense of foreign mailings.

The Board of Directors felt that they had 2 choices. Raise dues or cut services. The Board doesn't want to reduce what the members get from KOS, in fact they want to provide more. We all hope that you will attend the Fall Meeting in Garden City (see related article in this issue) and support this by-laws change. If you have any questions about this change feel free to contact any one of the Board Members or the *Horned Lark* editor.

When WAS That?

A special KOS committee is already starting work on a special annual meeting on our 50th Anniversary. The only problem is that there appears to be some confusion as to when the first annual meeting occurred and when the 50th anniversary will happen! If you can shed some light on this mystery, or are interested in helping plan this special celebration, please drop a note to KOS President **Jim Mayhew** (1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502) or the newsletter editor **Chuck Otte** (613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441).

NEW MEMBERS????

It's no secret that the only way any organization can survive is to have an active and growing membership. More than likely we all have birdwatching friends who aren't (gasp) KOS members. Maybe you've never told them about KOS, maybe you've never had a membership brochure to give them, or maybe you're just too shy to bring it up. For whatever reason, *there are options!* Send me the name and address of potential members and I'll send them a membership brochure. Or get in touch with myself or one of the officers and get a supply of membership brochures. Or even do like I did with my brother. I paid for the first year membership and after that he was on his own. It worked though, he's still a member! Ohh.... don't forget to mention the benefits such as the wonderful Newsletter and *Bulletin* they get 4 times a year!!!!

DIRECTORY DIGRESSIONS

Now that you've had a couple months to check out the new membership directory, I'll give you one more chance to request a large print edition. If you would like a large print version of the membership directory, *please don't hesitate* to request one. We recognize that we all have different sight capabilities. My father, at age 77, can drive down the road just fine without his glasses..... just don't ask him to read the speedometer! If you need a large print version, drop me a note and I'll get one in the mail.

Check out the
CLASSIFIEDS

on page 5...

There's *something* for everyone!

SPRING MEETING A SUCCESS!

by Greg Friesen

The Kansas Ornithological Society met May 5 - 7, 1994, at the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center in southern Miami County (south of Louisburg) for the annual Spring meeting. Forty-two members met for a weekend of field trips with access to the La Cygne Power Plant, Marais des Cygnes WMA, the newly established Marais des Cygnes NWR, the Dingus Natural Area and the grounds of the center hosting the event. Members planning the event obtained special permission from the WMA staff as well as the NWR staff to access both Unit B of the WMA and the entire NWR during the weekend. Both are currently closed to public use. One area of note was the grounds of the Wildwood Center which presented a plethora of warblers including Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. KOS extends a note of thanks to Mike Rader and Jerry Horak for organizing the event and to KDWP and the USFW Service for access to some excellent wooded as well as prairie and wetland habitat. Weekend participants noted a total of 170 species of birds in a weekend marked by initial cloudy and cool

weather and habitat recovering from some rather heavy flooding in the days just prior to the meeting.

Members and guests involved included: Bill Busby (Baldwin City), Joyce Davis (Dodge City), Marvin Schwilling, Jay Jeffrey, Jerry Horak (Emporia), Tom Cannon (Iola), Jacquie Singer (Kansas City, MO), Paul Schowalter (Larned), Richard Rucker, Effie Edwards, Galen Pittman (Lawrence), John Schukman (Leavenworth), Brett Adams (Lenexa), John Zimmerman, Jim Mayhew, Dan Mulhern (Manhattan), Allen Jahn (McPherson), Gregg Friesen, Rose Fritz (Newton), Cindy Jeffrey, Gary Jeffrey (Olsburg), Dave Bryan, Linda Bryan (Overland Park), Jared Turner, Lisa Bowlen, Matt Hurd (Shawnee), Boots Leiter, Catie Jensen (Shawnee Mission), John Rakestraw (St. John), C. Pamela Wilson, Debra Brown (Stanley), Joanne Brier, Glen Koontz, Lil Willis, Paul Willis (Topeka), Nada Voth (Walton), Don Vannoy, Fran Vannoy, Pat Beckemeyer, Roy Beckemeyer, Sandra Tholen (Wichita), and Mike Rader (Wilson).

SPRING MEETING CHECKLIST --compiled by Mike Rader

Those lucky participants in the 1994 KOS Spring Meeting had a great weekend of birding compiling a list of 170 species. Following is the compiled list of the field trips: **Pied-billed Grebe**, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, **Turkey Vulture**, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Turkey, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl,

Common Nighthawk, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, **Horned Lark**, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, **Eastern Bluebird**, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, **Golden-**

winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, **Bobolink**, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, **Rufous-sided Towhee**, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, American Goldfinch.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

As reflected in the minutes from the KOS Winter Board Meeting, the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) has adopted some new rules which have been subsequently approved by the KOS Board. Most of these were fairly minor changes that affect how members are selected to the board, when the terms of office start, etc. Following are the complete rules as recently amended. If you would like to see a copy of the previous rules, refer to your March 1991 *Horned Lark* or drop me a note and I'll get a copy sent off to you.

Procedural Rules of the Kansas Ornithological Society's KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

I. Name and Affiliation

- A. Name. The official name of this committee shall be the "Kansas Bird Records Committee" and is hereafter referred to as the "Committee".
- B. Affiliation. This is a committee of the society known as the "Kansas Ornithological Society." The Committee is established under the auspices of the Kansas Ornithological Society (hereafter, "KOS"), as approved by their Board of Directors.

II. Purposes

- A. Evaluate reports of rare or unusual bird sightings from the state of Kansas.
- B. Maintain those original bird records and all Committee votes and comments for the use of any future bird students or enthusiasts.
- C. Publish at least minimal data on all records receiving a decision.
- D. Incorporate all records of the Committee and revise and publish, as appropriate, the official KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas.
- E. Provide a means by which sight records can gain acceptance as valuable scientific data.
- F. Establish standards of observation and reporting for improving the quality and quantity of our knowledge of Kansas birds.

III. Membership

- A. Number and Definitions. The Committee shall consist of seven regular voting members (one of whom is the "Chairperson" and another the "Secretary") and two alternate members. The alternate members shall vote in place of regular members on records submitted by those members, and in place of any absent members who have not expressed their votes in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

- B. Qualifications. Committee members should possess expertise in identification of Kansas birds, knowledge of Kansas bird distribution, and familiarity with birders and localities in Kansas. Committee members shall be members of KOS.

C. Members.

1. Election and Term of Office. The Kansas Bird Records Committee shall elect, subject to approval by the KOS Board of Directors, the seven members and two alternates to terms of three years each. Members and alternates will be elected to designated slots on the committee, i.e. position #1, position #2, alternate #1, etc. Elections shall be staggered, three annually, in order to maintain continuity. The stagger is as follows: 1, 2, 3 / 4, 5, alt. 1 / 6, 7, alt. 2. Members and alternates of the Committee will be allowed to serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years total). After a one-year or longer absence from the Committee each member shall become eligible to serve again, with the same two-term restriction. Alternates, however, can be elected to serve as a member for a maximum of two consecutive terms directly after having served as an alternate for one or two terms. There shall be no limit on the number of separate six-year periods that any one person may serve on the Committee. New members take office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS.

2. Duties. Vote on bird records and in all elections.

D. Chairperson

1. Election and Term of Office. The Chairperson must be a regular voting member of the Committee. The Chairperson shall be elected for a term of three years by a vote of the members of the Committee, at the annual winter meeting of the KBRC. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; a tie shall be decided by an additional ballot listing only those persons tied. The Chairperson takes office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS. The position has the same restrictions on terms served as does that of a regular member.

2. Duties

- a. Call and preside at Committee meetings.
- b. Vote on bird records and in all elections.
- c. Appoint subcommittees as needed.
- d. Assure that the current Rules and procedures are properly applied.
- e. Should the Secretary be unable to serve, the Chairperson shall act as Secretary in all respects.

E. Secretary

1. Election and Term of Office. Same criteria and provisions as for the Chairperson.
2. Duties
 - a. Receive, circulate, recirculate, file, and maintain all bird records and supporting data submitted to the Committee. Deposit a duplicate set of records for permanent storage at the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
 - b. Vote on bird records and in all elections.
 - c. Tabulate results of all votes of the Committee, including votes on bird records, but excepting the election of the Secretary.
 - d. Keep or cause to keep minutes of Committee meetings.
 - e. Furnish to anyone, upon request, any accepted or rejected bird record with all evidence, including Committee comments.
 - f. Produce an Annual Report of the Committee's decisions and submit it for publication to the editor of *The KOS Bulletin*.

F. Removals. The Committee may remove, for cause, any member who is delinquent in his/her duties. Such action requires a super-majority vote of all other voting members, i.e., 5-1 or 6-0 for removal. A removal must be accomplished by written ballot

either by mail or at a meeting of the Committee. An absent member may vote by supplying a written ballot to the Committee.

G. Vacancies and Special Elections. If the Committee loses a voting member or alternate during mid-term (through death, resignation, removal, etc.) the Chairperson of the Committee shall immediately appoint a replacement, who will finish out the vacated member's term. If the Chairperson or Secretary position becomes vacant in mid-term the Secretary (or acting Secretary) shall immediately conduct an election, termed a special election, for the purpose of filling the vacancy. A special election may be conducted at a meeting or by individual contact (mail, etc.), whichever is most expedient in the opinion of the Secretary.

IV. Meetings

A. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the Committee shall be held before the winter KOS Board meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to conduct any elections and such other business as may be brought before the Committee. The Secretary must give prior notice of the annual meeting to all members.

CLASSIFIED ADS

<p>New Position Available! Bluebird Trails Committee Chair <i>and</i> Members are needed. If interested, contact Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p>Now Available...Position for a Committee Person for the Dingus Natural Area Committee and also, Marais des Cygnes Project Coordinator. Don't miss out on <i>these</i> opportunities of a lifetime!</p>
<p>Still Wanted: KOS Officer Positions - Membership Secretary Diane Seltman and Business Manager Galen Pittman have both indicated that by this time next year they would both like to be spending more time birding and less time Board of Directing. If you are interested PLEASE contact these individuals and talk with them. They both cover several areas and can be tough, time consuming positions. Dedication has to come first on your resume! After you have visited with either of them and you still want to pursue the position contact Ken Brunson, 40050 NE 10th St, Pratt, KS, 67124, (316) 672-7289 or Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS, 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p>Still Wanted: Hotline Operator - Scott Seltman has been running the Kansas Rare Bird Alert Hotline for 4 years and he has told us that 5 years should be long enough before a new person takes it over. This is a very demanding job requiring good knowledge of birds, Kansas and answering machines (#@!%\$^&*). If you are interested, start talking to Scott now, (913) 372-5411.</p> <p>ALWAYS Wanted: VOLUNTEERS - Roy Beckemeyer can still use volunteers in various and sundry activities. If you didn't fill out your volunteer survey a couple of issues back, dig it out and send it in. The placement rate for volunteers has been VERY high!</p>

apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now!

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF KOS

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS
SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH OCTOBER 2, 1994

October will be your chance to find those rare and unusual birds in Garden City. 1993 was a very exciting year-- a Phainopepla, Varied Thrush, Inca Dove, Green-tailed Towhee, Canyon Wren, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Mute Swan and Trumpeter Swan were all observed in Garden City or nearby.

The Kansas Ornithological Society annual meeting will be held in Garden City, Kansas, Saturday, October 1 at the Garden City Community College. The Friday night informal reception will be held at the beautiful and historic home of Ron and Marie Osterbuhr. We will plan field trips to look for Scaled Quail, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Mountain Plover and other specialties of southwest Kansas. Mark your calendar now and start making plans to attend the annual meeting!

--Leonard Rich, Local Committee Chairman

AND THE SURVEY SAYS.....!

You'll notice that we have a copy of the survey that first appeared in the March *Horned Lark* in this issue also. We received numerous responses, but we'd like quite a few more. We've already gotten several good ideas that we are working on that, hopefully, you'll start to see in the September *Horned Lark*. So, if you haven't taken the time to send in your already filled out survey, just drop it in the mail. And if you've misplaced your March *Horned Lark*, just turn to the survey form in this issue, fill it out and drop it in the mail or FAX it to me. I'll have a synopsis of the replies in the next issue of the *Horned Lark*.

WE STILL NEED.....

KOS President Jim Mayhew informs me that we are still looking for qualified KOS members (don't underrate yourself - you are probably more qualified than you think!) to take on the following positions:

**Membership Secretary Business Manager
Hotline Supervisor**

New positions that have opened up since the last newsletter:

**Bluebird Trails Committee Person and Members
Dingus Natural Area Committee Person
Marais des Cygnes Project Coordinator**

And Jim suggests that as a possible alternative to delay the pain of a dues increase:

A \$3,000 donation for expenses

FALL FIELD TRIPS

We are looking for individuals to lead field trips in the October, November, December time frame. I know that many of you don't feel that you are qualified to lead a field trip, but on the contrary, leading a field trip can be as much a learning experience as a teaching experience. All you are doing is volunteering your time to show other people bird watching areas in your part of Kansas. You have those favorite spots around your home that you will visit time and time again. Why not take a few KOS friends (or potential KOS members) on a half day or day long field trip?

All you have to do is set a day, a time and a meeting location and decide if it is going to be a half day or full day trip. Once you've decided that just give Mike Rader a call and let him know, then he can get in touch with me and we will get it printed up in the September *Horned Lark*. If you are already doing a local field trip or bird walk, why not get it listed in the *Horned Lark* on a one time or regular basis. Drop me a note, let me know the details and maybe we can get you a few more members on your local trips.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Okay, so maybe it is a little early to be getting out your 1996 or 1997 or 1998 calendars out and marked, but the KOS Board has set tentative Spring Field Trip and Fall Meeting dates through 1998. We'll try to keep putting these in on a regular basis to help you plan your May and October calendars for the next several years.

If you see your location listed why not take the initiative to start getting a local committee together and making some plans. Go to other meetings in the mean time, take notes, and get ideas for when KOS gets together in your locale. The list that follows is pretty darn good. and I'm excited about these upcoming meetings!

May 5, 6 & 7, 1995	Barton County
Oct 6, 7 & 8, 1995	Salina
May 3, 4 & 5, 1996	Morton County
Oct 4, 5 & 6, 1996	Newton
May 2, 3 & 4, 1997	Riley County
Oct 3, 4 & 5, 1997	Wichita
May 1, 2 & 3, 1998	Gypsum Hills (Barber County)
Oct 2, 3 & 4, 1998	Lawrence --

(or whenever the 50th Anniversary is!)

GEAR UP FOR KBBAT 1994!

Is Your Landscape "For The Birds?"

Part II - Basics of Form and Shape

(This is the second of a four-part series)

by Chuck Otte

Landscaping is all too often thought of as something "too difficult for me to do, I mean with all those rules and everything. . . ." To which I reply, "Nonsense!" There are far fewer "rules" than anyone thinks, and the bottom line is that if you like it and it does what you want it to do, who cares if a few landscape architects are spinning in their graves!

There are a few basic things that you need to keep in mind though that might help you be happier with the end result 10 years from now. Let's start with 2 basic concepts, mass and void. Mass is trees, shrubs, gardens (flower, vegetable or both), decks, etc. Void is grass. A house with no trees or shrubs, only grass, is a house on a golf course. Now some people think that golf courses are great and that's what they want around their homes. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of birds that are going to utilize a golf course fairway. On the other hand, a house built in the middle of timber with absolutely no turf area is all mass and no void. While this may be great for quite a few birds, most people need a little grass space or at least space around their home. When you merge mass and void you create areas around your home or "outdoor rooms."

Patterns or design or shape are controlled in the landscape by lines. Lines can be obvious lines like sidewalks or fences or they can become less obvious by carrying the lines from walks to fences or bed borders or hedges. Lines should be pleasing, natural flowing lines, large, sweeping, uninterrupted curves. If you look at nature you will find very few straight lines and right angles. Lines can also control movement, to help get "traffic from point A to point B." If you have nothing but grass in your front yard you might as well have a straight sidewalk going directly from the curb to the house to get people there as quickly as possible. Curves and line intersections create opportunities to stop at possible points of interest. Have a broad sweeping arc of a sidewalk with flower beds or shrub groupings along the way and you will slow down traffic and make them want to stop and enjoy the landscape.

Form takes line or shape and adds three dimensionality to it. The trunk, branches and leaves of a tree create the form of that tree. Generally we speak of upright or vertical form or, if it is low and spreading, of horizontal form. Within those groups, then, we can have some individual plants that are round, vase, weeping, pyramidal, columnar, oval and irregular. If you stop and think you can probably come up with plants that fit all of those categories. In the western 3/4 of Kansas the natural landscape tends to be dominated by horizontal forms due to the classic windswept conditions. As we

move into the eastern 1/4 of the state we start to forsake the Great Plains look for the Midwest or Eastern Deciduous forest look which tends to become much more vertical. Within your yard you can create a mix of both horizontal and vertical. I have one property line that has a wooden fence and layered plantings in front of it--a very horizontal look. On the south side of my house I have a much more vertical look, with larger trees providing shade and windbreak. As I work along my back property line the topography "climbs" up out of a low spot. I keep the low spot relatively low then take the height up as I go to the edge. This accentuates the low area and makes it look "deeper" than it really is.

We also use form to help blend the house into the landscape. Have you ever seen a house that just looked totally out of place? This is frequently the result of improper landscaping. Plants around the house should help balance and enframe the house and soften corners and edges. A corner is a very "harsh" view. There are very strong horizontal and vertical straight lines coming together. These can be softened with corner plantings of shrubs and small trees that hide or defuse the harsh straight lines. But make sure that the plants you ultimately choose will stay at or below the roof line or you will have made a bad problem worse. Make sure these corner plantings avoid plant forms that have straight lines, i.e. pyramidal (no Blue Spruce). Rounded forms are better. Plant larger shade trees around the sides and back of the house and to the sides of the front yard when possible. From the front view larger trees should frame the house, not cut it in two.

Grab a chair and walk around the house sitting down at numerous locations to look at your house and away from your house. Take a look and decide what you enjoy looking at and what you would just as soon not look at if you could help it. Then use form and shape to screen certain views or to call attention to certain other views. Create a layered look through the use of different textures, colors, slightly different heights or forms. Layering also tends to create more density which provides more cover and shelter for wildlife. Remember, in making this evaluation we aren't worried about which plant we are going to use yet. We just want to think what *form* or *shape* we want. And most importantly, start writing down what you want to add, remove or change. Remember that a landscape is not static, it is dynamic and ever changing which means that at certain times plants, even large trees, will need to be removed and replaced.

Next issue: *Selecting Plant Material and Finalizing the Plan*

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING 1994

February 26, 1994

*Kansas State University - Salina
Salina, KS*

President Jim Mayhew call the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

Those present: Jim Mayhew, Mike Rader, Diane Seltman, Greg Friesen, Joanne Brier, Sara Shane, Roy Beckemeyer, Galen Pittman, John Schuckman, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane and Chuck Otte. In the absence of Corresponding Secretary Dwight Platt, Jim Mayhew asked Chuck Otte if he would keep the minutes.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Jim Mayhew presented and discussed the Organizational Format for 1994. The format is broken into 4 areas: Organizational, Membership, Finance and Events. Each area has board members assigned for specific responsibilities and support. Jim has appointed the following committee chairs: 50th Anniversary - Marion Jenkins; Audit Committee - John Tourline; Student Research Fund - Mark Corder, Conservation Committee - John Schuckman.

MINUTES: The board members reviewed the minutes of the Fall Meeting. Jim Mayhew asked for corrections by the end of the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT: Greg Friesen presented the treasurers report for the 1993 fiscal year. The end of year financial statements will be published in the March 1994 newsletter. During the year, with the change of treasurer, the accounting method has been changed to a double entry accounting system. Greg expressed his concern over the financial situation. The current per member cost is \$12.50. With individual dues starting at \$10 this has resulted in declining balances in the KOS financial situation. It was suggested that it may help if the dues paid by life members be transferred into the general fund upon notification of their death, to help with general operation costs. The board concurred that this should be done. Mike Rader moved that the treasurers report and financial statement be accepted, and that the treasurer transfer the life payment funds of the 2 deceased life members from 1993 into the general fund. It was seconded and passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that there are currently 462 members. In the past she would wait for several months before pulling past due members from the mailing lists. Past due members will now have their names pulled after the first *Bulletin* and *Horned Lark* issues of the new year to help reduce printing and mailing costs.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that he and Greg are attempting to develop a procedure that will do a better job of inventory accounting. Galen intends to try to keep the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark* in the same mailing, when practical, to reduce mailing costs.

BULLETIN EDITORS REPORT: Max Thompson had visited with Jim Mayhew over the phone and indicated that there were lot's of articles coming in.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte reported that the March issue was being wrapped up. He is receiving a fair amount of submitted material for the newsletter from the members, but could always use more. He has been working with Diane Seltman on publishing a new membership directory and handed around a rough draft for the board to review. It was the general consensus of the board that a membership directory should be printed every 2 years and that it remain in the "half-page" format. Chuck indicated that a larger print version would be made available for those members requesting one.

KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Galen Pittman reported for the committee. They have been quite active and recently voted to accept 9 submissions and reject 2. The KOS Checklist is out of print and needs to be revised. However, the committee would like to wait until the AOU update is received so that name changes are consistent. This will postpone the revision until sometime in 1995. The committee suggests doing a limited run of the current checklist to get us through until the revisions can be made. The committee is considering work on an annotated checklist. The idea was warmly received by those in attendance.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Jim Mayhew reported for Mark Corder. Mark is working on plans to raise funds and work on investment of those funds.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Roy Beckemeyer reported that they are working on getting volunteers to help with projects. The Young Naturalist Award has been well received and 5 youth have been presented with this award. Members are encouraged to nominate deserving youth to receive this award.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: John Schuckman reported that Jodi Smith has been contacted and is working with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) on Bluebirds and Bluebird Trail information.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA: Jim Mayhew reported that Dingus survived the 1993 weather in good shape. There is a need to find a KOS member in the area who would be willing to help oversee the Dingus Natural Area.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Jim Mayhew and Greg Friesen presented the auditor's written report. The report indicated that a good job has been done and offered a few minor improvements.

KANSAS NON-GAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Chuck Otte has been filling in for Ted Cable while Ted has been gone. Chuck attended the December meeting and is planning on attending the next meeting on March 11. Chuck indicated that the meetings are interesting and cover a lot of important issues. He felt it was very critical that KOS maintain active attendance on the council to ensure that they have a membership position.

HOTLINE REPORT: Scott Seltman indicated that it was going well, but that he felt that it was time to find someone else to keep the hotline in the near future.

Mike Rader moved that all officer and committee reports be accepted. It was seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS: The Kansas Bird Records Committee had voted to amend their Procedural Rules at their February 5, 1994, meeting. Most of the changes had to do with how members are appointed and when terms of office begin. Roy Beckemeyer moved to accept the amended Procedural Rules of the KOS Kansas Bird Records Committee. It was seconded and passed. The amended version will be published in the *Horned Lark*.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY: The annual Bird Feeder Survey performed by KDWP has been completed. We have received the mailing list from KDWP of those surveyors who indicated that they desired more information on KOS. They will be sent membership brochures.

Greg Friesen moved that Article II, Section 3 of the by-laws be amended to read:

"A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year. B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year. D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year. E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year. F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year. G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full-time undergraduate or graduate students). H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year."

It was seconded and passed, 7 - 0.

Roy Beckemeyer moved that Article II, Section 3C of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

"C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years."

It was seconded and passed, 7 - 0. Both of these proposed changes will be published in the *Horned Lark* and voted on by the general membership at the Fall Meeting in Garden City.

FIELD TRIPS: No report.

BUDGET REQUESTS: Jim Mayhew encouraged any board members who needed help to contact Chuck Otte to get a notice in the newsletter. The following requests for funds had been received and were dealt with by the board case by case.

John Zimmerman - \$300 to help with non-administrative costs for the KBBAT area managers. Mike Rader moved that this request be granted. It was seconded and passed.

Ken Brunson - \$100 to add to the reward money for arrest and conviction of person(s) involved in the shooting of Trumpeter Swans at Webster Reservoir in early 1993. There was no motion presented.

Roger Boyd - \$25 for Annual Association payment to the Conservation Forum. Galen Pittman moved that we pay this expense. It died for lack of a second.

International Council on Bird Preservation - \$100 annual membership. Sara Shane moved that we cease payment on this membership. It was seconded and passed.

Roy Beckemeyer moved that funds be made available to print 3,000 copies of the current KOS Checklist. It was seconded and passed.

SPRING MEETING 1994: It is ready to go.

FALL MEETING 1994: September 30, October 1 & 2 in Garden City. Leonard Rich is in charge of the local committee. Ten best bird nominations will go to Tom Shane. Ken Brunson has agreed to chair the nominating committee for the Annual Meeting. The terms of Joanne Brier and Lloyd Moore will be expiring.

Joanne Brier moved that the minutes be approved. It was seconded and passed. The minutes will be published in the March 1994 newsletter.

Mike Rader moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded and passed. Jim Mayhew adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

--respectfully submitted, Chuck Otte, acting corresponding secretary

LATE FALL/EARLY WINTER ROUNDUP/February 1994 - April 1994/by Chuck Otte

January's slow birding carried right on into February. And had it not been for McPherson's Varied Thrush, the RBA machine would have felt as lonely as the Maytag Repairman during February. The Varied Thrush was a good sighting and many Kansas birders availed themselves of the opportunity (although I spent 2 hours looking for it and it arrived 20 minutes after I left. . . . how many times has that happened to all of us?!)

March and April had some very erratic weather. First warm temperatures and good south winds would move in good numbers of birds, then they would get stalled out by colder temperatures and north winds. Many birders commented that waterfowl moved in and through the state very early, and then other migrants seemed late in arriving. Of course after a slow winter I think we were all anxious for migration to get going. Late April started to finally bring in some good spring migrants that got everyone hoping for a great May.

Speaking of erratic weather I had the opportunity to spend the last day of April with Dave Rintoul and other members of Northern Flint Hills Audubon in their annual Birdathon. When I met Dave at 6:30 in the morning it was snowing! In spite of the cold, wet weather we had a good day with over 100 species being sighted. If you ever want to have some fun, get together with some friends and do a FULL day of birding.

Western Kansas seemed to have the market on longspurs this spring. Large numbers (flocks of 100+) of McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported by birders from western Kansas. These flocks seemed to grow in size as more birds joined in waiting for the weather to break in late March and early April.

As spring migrants moved into the state in April, it wasn't uncommon to see large numbers appear overnight. The old theory of when it rains it pours seemed to fit. But other species seemed light in comparison. Purple Martin numbers in north-central Kansas still seem light making one wonder if the martin die-off during the cold snap several years ago is still hurting the population.

And then Garden City always seems to come up with *unusual*, if not *great* birds (making me anxious for the Fall Meeting - see announcement elsewhere). Early orioles and night-herons in residential yards? Tanagers and crossbills the same week?! What a birding mecca!

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And, of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

GET INVOLVED IN KOS. . .

Run for Office Serve on a Standing Committee Lead a Field Trip
Attend the Fall Meeting Help Plan a Future Meeting Bust a Block

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / February 1994 through April 1994

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Western Grebe	1 at Harvey County East Lake was seen through May 1st	BD	04-27-94	Harvey
American White Pelican	3 at Melvern Res	MM,GG	02-06-94	Osage
American White Pelican	475 at Wilson Res	MR	03-27-94	Russell
Double-crested Cormorant	At Pomona Res	BF,GG	03-06-94	Osage
Great Egret	1 in Wichita	JN	03-19-94	Sedgwick
Great Egret	1 at Wilson Res	MR	03-27-94	Russell
Black-crowned Night Heron	5 wintered at Wichita Zoo	ES	02-20-94	Sedgwick
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1 in Marie Osterbuh's yard	BR	04-23-94	Finney
White-faced Ibis	28 record early at CB	MR	04-03-94	Barton
Tundra Swan	seen by staff at QNWR		03-09-94	Stafford
Greater White-fronted Goose	67 at MDC Unit F1	CH	04-17-94	Linn
Greater White-fronted Goose	1 at Slate Creek Marsh	wa	04-23-94	Sumner
Ross's Goose	2 at Wilson Lake	MR	02-15-94	Russell
Ross's Goose	4 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	03-03-94	Stafford
Ross's Goose	2 at McPherson Valley Wetland	AJ	03-06-94	McPherson
Ross's Goose	1 at Mount Hope Marsh	PJ	03-07-94	Sedgwick
Brant	1 at McPherson Valley Wetland	AJ	03-06-94	McPherson
American Black Duck	2 in sandpits n of Lawrence	MM,GP	03-05-94	Douglas
Northern Pintail	Thousands at Patterson Marsh	PJ,RB	02-28-94	Harvey
Greater Scaup	4 at sand pits along Bus 77	DLS,CO	02-27-94	Geary
Greater Scaup	1 at Glen Elder Res	MR	03-02-94	Mitchell
Greater Scaup	2 at QNWR	PB,RB	03-26-94	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at MDC Unit G	LM	03-31-94	Linn
Turkey Vulture	early arrival, McDowell Creek	DR	02-13-94	Riley
Osprey	numerous in Kansas City Area	LM	04-08-94	Wyandotte
Bald Eagle	136 at Clinton Lake	LM	02-10-94	Douglas
Bald Eagle	pair on eggs at Clinton Lake	LM	02-10-94	Douglas
	at least 1 young	MM,BF	04-16-94	Douglas
Bald Eagle	nest building at Hillsdale Lake		early March	Miami
Bald Eagle	nest building at Tuttle Creek later found to be abandoned		early March	Riley
Northern Goshawk	1 s of Grinnell	SS	03-19-94	Gove
Red-shouldered Hawk	Pair at MDC Wildlife Area	GG	03-12-94	Linn
Red-tailed Hawk	several pair at nest sites	SS	02-05-94	w KS
Peregrine Falcon	pair nesting in Topeka	JB	03-23-94	Shawnee
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	MR	04-26-94	Stafford
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 leks at Pratt Sandhills Refuge	JR	04-14-94	Pratt
Sandhill Crane	heard overhead at CBR	SS	02-19-94	Trego
Sandhill Crane	1 wintered at Wichita Zoo	ES	02-20-94	Sedgwick
Whooping Crane	2 seen near Pratt	??	03-07-94	Pratt
Whooping Crane	7 in flight	DS	04-08-94	Rush
King Rail	3 rather early, QNWR	RB,PB	03-05-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at QNWR	MR	04-26-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	2 at QNWR, Little Salt Marsh	DZ	04-26-94	Stafford
Mountain Plover	1 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	JN,CG	03-23-93	Stafford
American Woodcock	nw side of El Dorado Lake	BL	04-14-94	Butler
Parasitic Jaeger	(probable) 1 at Wilson Res	MR	03-25-94	Russell
California Gull	2nd winter at swimming beach	LM	03-03-94	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter at Clinton Lake	MM,GP	03-05-94	Douglas

12 (Birding Highlights, contd)

Glaucous Gull	1 first winter at Melvern Res still present	MM,GG LM	02-06-94 02-18-94	Osage
Glaucous Gull	2 first winter at Milford Res	DLS	02-21-94	Geary
4 first winter birds were subsequently found in the Curtis Creek area of Milford Lake by LaShelle and Otte on February 27.				
Glaucous Gull	1 at Glen Elder Res	MR	03-02-94	Mitchell
Forster's Tern	4 early at QNWR	SS,DS,DB,LB	04-02-94	Stafford
Long-eared Owl	20+ s shore of Lyon State Lake	DG,m.ob.	02-12-94	Lyon
Long-eared Owl	30+ at shelterbelt, CBR	SS	02-19-94	Trego
Long-eared Owl	Wilson State Park Office area	MR	02-20-94	Russell
Whip-poor-will	1 at Lone Star	PW	04-15-94	Douglas
Eastern Phoebe	1 at Neosho Wildlife Area	DM	03-08-94	Neosho
Say's Phoebe	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	??	03-18-94	Johnson
Purple Martin	first of season in Winfield	MT	03-15-94	Cowley
Tree Swallow	at Wolf Creek Power Plant	BF,GG	03-06-94	Coffey
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 in Highland Cemetery, Jct City	CO	04-19-94	Geary
Rock Wren	1 s of Scott Lake State Park	TSh	02-13-94	Scott
either an early migrant or a wintering bird				
Canyon Wren	1 s of Scott Lake State Park	TSh	02-13-94	Scott
This was the bird first seen December 30, 1993 and subsequently seen by many observers. If accepted by the KBRC it will be the second record for Kansas.				
Mountain Bluebird	7 at Cheney State Park	PJ	02-20-94	Sedgwick or Kingman
Hermit Thrush	1 wintered at Oxford	??	02-11-94	Sumner
Varied Thrush	1 at city park in McPherson	AJ	02-26-94	McPherson
This bird was found by local residents on the 25th and reported by Alan Jahn on the 26th. Many birders saw this bird as it was fairly reliable for several weeks. It was last seen on March 16.				
Curve-billed Thrasher	still coming to feeder	LQ	03-01-94	Pratt
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 wintered at Oxford	??	02-11-94	Sumner
Yellow-throated Warbler	3 at Ft. Leavenworth Westin Bend	JS	04-09-94	Leavenworth
Palm Warbler	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	04-24-94	Wyandotte
Black and White Warbler	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Scott Lake	AN	04-17-94	Scott
Worm-eating Warbler	1 along east edge of QNWR	MR	04-18-94	Reno
Hooded Warbler	female at Harvey County East Lake	BD	04-27-94	Harvey
Scarlet Tanager	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney
Lazuli Bunting	1 at feeder	JO,CO	04-29-94	Geary
bird was very regular for about 5 days				
Baird's Sparrow	1 at Thompson Pasture	wa	04-23-94	Cowley
McCown's Longspur	100 nw of Larned	SS	03-29-94	Pawnee
Smith's Longspur	150 at Lyon County State Lake	MM,GG	02-06-94	Lyon
still present but in smaller numbers				
Chestnut-collared Longspur	300 s of Nekoma	SS	03-29-94	Rush
flock of 300 still in area				
Chestnut-collared Longspur	small flock	TSh,SSh	03-27-94	Logan
Northern (Bullock's) Oriole	1 in Garden City	LBR	03-20-94	Finney
Red Crossbill	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney

CORRECTIONS

Harris Hawk	1 unconfirmed adult w of Great Bend	SS	11-06-93	Rush
This bird was listed originally in Barton County but was actually reported from just a mile into Rush County.				

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms
CBR = Cedar Bluff Reservoir
MDC = Marais des Cygnes
m.ob. = many observers
QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge
Res = Reservoir

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Wichita Audubon (wa), Pat Beckemeyer (PB), Roy Beckemeyer (RB), Joanne Brier (JB), Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), Bob Dester (BD), Bob Fisher (BF), Dan Gish (DG), Chuck Greshen (CG), Greg Griffith (GG), Chris Hobbs (CH), Alan Jahn (AJ), Pete Janzen (PJ), Bill Langley (BL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), Art Nonhoff (AN), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Galen Pittman (GP), Lee Queal (LQ), John Rakestraw (JR), Mike Rader (MR), Leonard and Betty Rich (LBR, BR), Dave Rintoul (DR), John Schukman (JS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Eddie Stegall (ES), Max Thompson (MT), Phil Wedge (PW), Dennis Zehr (DZ).

WHY DO YOU BELONG TO KOS

Please take a few minutes to think about the following questions, fill in your answers and return the survey to me. Your responses will be compiled and taken to the KOS Board of Directors, as well as help shape what shows up in the Newsletter as well as what other activities KOS becomes involved in. Thank you for your time and effort!

1. How long have you belonged to KOS? _____

2. Why do you belong to the KOS?

Spring Field Trip	_____
Fall Meeting	_____
KOS led Field Trips	_____
The Horned Lark Newsletter	_____
The Bulletin	_____
KOS Rare Bird Alert	_____
Other (specify)	_____

3. What do you like most about the *Horned Lark*? _____

What would you like to see more of? _____

What would you like to see less of? _____

What else would you like to change? _____

4. What do you like most about the *Bulletin*? _____

What would you like to see more of? _____

What would you like to see less of? _____

What else would you like to change? _____

5. Do you call the KOS Rare Bird Alert? _____

How often (daily, weekly, twice a week, etc)? _____

6. What could KOS do to attract more members? _____

What projects do you think KOS should become involved in? _____

Would you be willing to help with those projects? _____

7. What else would you like to say to the KOS Board of Directors, *The Bulletin* editor or *The Horned Lark* editor?

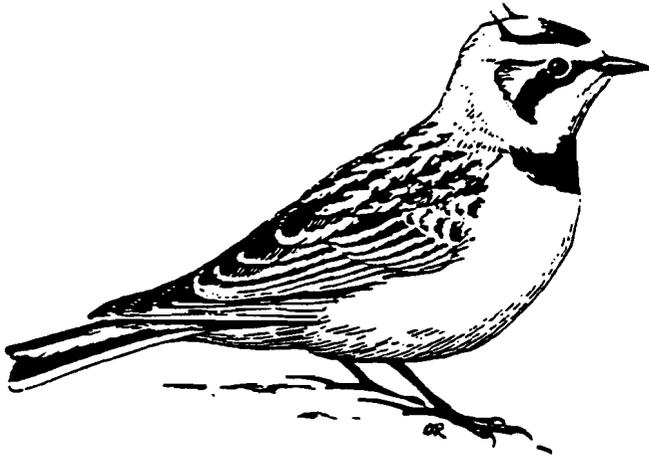
8. Name (optional) _____

Please complete and return to:

Chuck Otte, Editor
The Horned Lark
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or if you prefer to FAX it:

913-238-7166



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March 1994

Vol. 21, No. 1

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From the Keyboard -

Boy, what an issue. This issue is usually nip and tuck to get the information from the Spring Field Trip local committee and then get it out with more than a week to go before that field trip. But Jerry Horak and the local committee are well organized and had their information to me by early February! So I thought I was in good shape and had things pretty well lined out . . . that was until the Winter KOS Board meeting at the end of February. Then all of a sudden I had a whole lot more to get into the *Horned Lark*. I had originally intended for "Is Your Landscape For the Birds" to be one large article, but I was afraid that with everything else that had to go in this issue we would wind up with a mailing that would cost extra. So we'll just spread that article over the next year's worth of issues!

There are lots of activities coming up as you can tell from the articles. It's been a blah winter so let's hope that spring rewards us with some great birding! You've got lots of advance notice so plan to attend the Spring Field Trip (that is unless you are a florist or married to one, in which case you'll be busy with Mother's Day!), as this could be a good place to pick up a few of those warblers you've missed the past several years. And please, take some time to answer our little *survey* . . . your input is DESIRED and NEEDED!

The 1994 Legislature is still in session which means anything can happen! Keep an eye on your local newspaper so when something comes up that you strongly support OR that really concerns you, call or write your local senator/representative and let them know how you feel. Many questionable pieces of legislation get passed every year because "those folks in Topeka" here nothing from "the folks back home" and feel that no news must be good news. As Woody Allen said, "The world is run by those who show up!" If you can't "show up" at least make sure that a letter or phone call shows up!

As always my thanks to Dawn for taking these ramblings and making them look good, thanks to Dawn and Galen for getting this all together and mailed, to Diane for helping get the new Directory together, to Scott for helping proofread the Birding Roundup and finally to all of you who contribute so much to each issue. Keep those cards and letters coming - it's how we'll continue to improve each issue of the *Horned Lark*!

Have a good spring and good birding!

--chuck

This is the last regular mailing you will receive if you have not paid your 1994 dues.

If you don't remember when you last paid or at which level, check you address label. So in order not to miss out on the next exciting issues of the *The Horned Lark* and *The KOS Bulletin*, send your check as soon as possible to the KOS Treasurer.

Just another reminder that Gregg Friesen is now our KOS Treasurer. Please make sure you are using his proper address when sending dues or donations.

Gregg Friesen
KOS Treasurer
515 E. 4th

Newton, KS 67114-3531

Gregg and the Postal Service appreciate it!

Thank you for your continued support of K.O.S.

--Diane Seltman, Membership Secretary

The North American Migration Count - May 14, 1994

by Dave Rintoul

Purpose: (paraphrased from Chandler S. Robbins) To give each and every birdwatcher the opportunity to enjoy a day's birding during Spring Migration with the knowledge that the result of their findings, together with the birds counted by others, would fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and reveal the status of bird migration on a specified date.

Have you ever wondered what is the shape of migration? It all depends upon your viewpoint. Waterfowlers have benefited from the extensive studies of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in their role of managing the Nation's game species. Hawk watchers may think of it as "Rivers" and space themselves on ridges and prominent peninsulas like the Marin Highlands, Whitefish Point, the Blue Ridge Mountains and Cape May to count the flow. Shorebirders look at it as "Island Hopping" and go to the islands of Bodega Bay, Mono Lake, Bear River, Galveston, Cheyenne Bottoms, Higbee's Beach and Pea Island. All of these have led to efforts to preserve and protect critical habitat for migration; we now have the National Wildlife Refuge System, Hawk Mountain and the Delaware Bay beaches. But what of songbirds?

By what paths do neotropical migrants move from Central and South America to their breeding grounds. Do American Redstarts line up in military style and move north in a solid front, leaving occupying forces along the way? Perhaps Wood Thrushes are like blood flowing through capillaries before anastomosing into arteries. Think of Kingbirds lining up like runners in the New York Marathon and visualize the spread after the starter's pistol. Maybe Purple Martins move like ducks, geese and swans, with colonies making a series of short hops along a predictable route. It may seem wild, but do Bobolinks move like shorebirds, with a series of widely spaced discrete essential stops?

Most of you have participated on the Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The rules are simple: spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area and keep track of hours and miles on foot, car, boat, feeder watching. The North American Migration Count is like a Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The Area for any one count is not a 15 mile diameter circle, but an entire county (parish in Louisiana). The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done on just a single day. That day is the second Saturday in May, which falls on May 14 in 1994.

The choice of the second Saturday in May has been to try to find the peaks of movement of neotropical species while they are still where most of the birders are. It will not be peak everywhere; the northern states will be getting the first glimmer of spring and the Deep South will be in early

breeding season, but the overall goal is of importance to everyone. The goals of the North American Migration Count are:

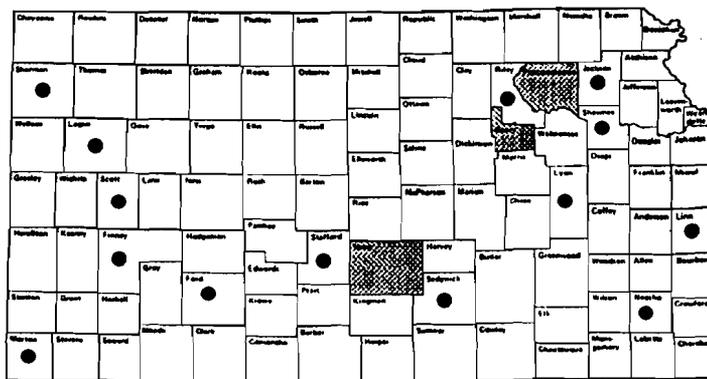
- to obtain a "snapshot" of the progress of spring migration
- to obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species
- to initiate more participation among birders within and between states
- to create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information
- to aid in organization and centralization of data
- to have fun
- to establish the second Saturday in May as "National Birding Day"

Last year 5,807 birders in 43 states and 3 Canadian provinces counted 2,237,309 individual birds of 554 species. Sixty birders in 14 Kansas counties counted 53,785 individuals of 244 species; the high species count was in Stafford County with 163 species tallied. This year we hope to double the number of counties covered. You are being asked to help.

Listed below are the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the count coordinators from 1993. If you live in a county that was covered in 1993, and would like to participate, please contact those individuals. Some counties are conspicuous by their absence; maybe we can get some results from Douglas, Cowley, Butler, Johnson and Wyandotte counties this year! In addition, the national coordinator (Jim Stasz of Maryland) sent NAMC newsletters to all the Kansas Christmas Count coordinators, hoping to convince them to coordinate a migration count as well. Call your local CBC compiler and ask him or her to coordinate a count. Or, better yet, call me (Dave Rintoul) and volunteer to coordinate a count yourself. I will send you a copy of the 1994 NAMC newsletter with detailed instructions, as well as a report form and checklist. I would certainly send you a DOS diskette with these forms on it if you would like to send me your data in computer readable format! Be the first in your county to participate; maybe Kansas can be the next state (following Maryland and Illinois) to include the entire state in the North American Migration Count. There are no fees (and never will be) for this activity; it is a volunteer effort on behalf of North American songbirds and a great opportunity to pay back Mother Nature for all those beautiful birds that she has

placed in front of your binoculars throughout the years. Call, write, or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Dave Rintoul, NAMC Coordinator for Kansas
 Biology Division - Ackert Hall
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan KS 66506-4901
 (913)532-6663 (days); (913)537-0781 (eves)
 drintoul@ksu.ksu.edu (Internet); 71634,32
 (CompuServe)



1993 and 1994 NAMC County Coordinators

Shawnee County - Joanne Brier
 1822 Westwood Drive
 Topeka KS 66604
 (913)232-4317

Ford County - Joleen Fromm
 2402 5th Avenue
 Dodge City KS 67801
 (316)227-6342

Neosho County - Paul L. Milks
 2624 Gabriel
 Parsons KS 67357
 (316)421-3427

Linn County - Lloyd D. Moore
 1250 Scott Avenue
 Kansas City KS 66105
 (913)371-6475

Sedgwick County - John Northrup
 634 N. Shefford
 Wichita KS 67218
 (316)722-0018

Sherman County - J. Palmquist
 1521 Clark
 Goodland KS 67735
 (913)899-5187

Finney County - Leonard F. Rich
 1107 E. Johnson
 Garden City KS 67846
 (316)275-4616

Jefferson County - Richard C. Rucker
 121 East 17th Street
 Lawrence KS 66044
 (913)842-3845

Stafford County - Scott Seltman
 RR 1, Box 36
 Nekoma KS 67559
 (913)372-5411

Reno County - James M. Smith
 (not covered in 1993, but will be
 covered in 1994)
 3002 E. 30th
 Hutchinson KS 67502
 (316)665-8172

Logan County - Betsy Johnson
 HCR 1, Box 18
 Oakley KS 67748
 (913)672-3046

Morton County - Ruth/Lawrence Smith
 Box 841
 Elkhart KS 67950
 (316)697-4573

Lyon County - Marvin Schwilling
 1407 College Drive
 Emporia KS 66801
 (316)342-1985

Riley County - David A. Rintoul
 Biology Division - Ackert Hall
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan KS 66506-4901
 (913)537-0781

Scott County - Tom Shane
 1706 Belmont
 Garden City KS 67846
 (316)275-4616

Pottawatomie County - Duane Kerr
 (new for 1994)
 15110 6th St. Rd.
 Wamego KS 66547
 (913)456-2771

Geary County - Chuck Otte
 (new for 1994)
 613 Tamerisk
 Junction City KS 66441
 (913)238-4161 (work)
 (913)238-8800 (home)

**JOIN THE NORTH AMERICAN
 MIGRATION COUNT
 MAY 14, 1994!**

KBBAT Update

Year 2 of the Kansas Breeding-Bird Atlas Project wasn't a total washout, but it certainly submerged below expectations, i.e. the weather didn't help at all. Many of you (like this editor) did not get the block finished that you started pre-deluge back in April. Let's all get out there this spring and get those blocks finished up and move on to that next block. Or if you did get your block finished last year and you haven't gotten your sheets turned in to your regional coordinator, take the time to get your sheets together, finished up, proofed and sent off in the mail! Remember, we've got three years to go and more than 60% yet to finish so let's go!

Stafford County Spring Migration Count

On the 1993 count just four observers found 163 species at Quivira NWR and surrounding Stafford County. In 1994 we plan to be in the field about 20 hours and hope to find an even wider variety of birds. Each party will be given a portion of Quivira refuge, a large portion of rural Stafford County and at least one of the nine communities in the county. Call or write Scott Seltman well in advance of the count to receive your assignments and maps at RR1, Box 36, Nekoma, KS 67559, phone (913) 372-5411.

(Editors note- While Scott was the only person who submitted a help wanted add for "his" Migration Count you can see by the accompanying story in this issue that there are a lot of other counts. Since there aren't any field trip announcements in this issue, plan to take that second Saturday in May and get involved in one of the numerous counts across the state. Any of the count coordinators would love to hear from you and have your involvement!)

Wichita Area Block Busters?

Pat and I have been really enjoying the new challenge of Breeding Bird Atlas Survey birding. It is a great chance to really get to know the Kansas avifauna. As you know, John Zimmerman is the coordinator for the project, and he is concerned that things are going a bit slower than hoped. You can make a real contribution to the understanding of the status of birds in the Kansas ecosystem by helping to complete the survey per schedule. Pete Janzen is the South-Central Kansas coordinator, and he would really be happy to hear from you, either as a volunteer to do a block or as a candidate for a "block-busting" raid. That's where a large group of KOS birders converge on a three-mile square plot of Kansas landscape and find all the breeding birds hiding there. If you are interested in participating in such an adventure, call Pat or me at (316) 264-0049 or Pete at (316) 832-0182 and let us know.

-- Roy Beckemeyer

Morton County Records

Ted Cable and Scott Seltman will soon be conducting one last update of the Morton County bird records. Any birders who visited the Cimarron Grasslands in 1992 or may have previous records that have not yet been submitted are invited to send checklists and field notes to Scott Seltman, RR1, Nekoma, KS 67559. Dates and numbers for the more common species are especially needed.

WE NEED YOUR QUIVIRA CHECKLISTS!

Mike Rader has been asked to help update the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Checklist. The problem is that he's under a tight deadline, but he wants to make the update as accurate as possible. If you could make copies of any checklists you have from your visits to Quivira over the past 5 years and get them to Mike by May 1st, he would be very appreciative, and we all will benefit from a new, updated checklist! Send those copies (not the originals) to: Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490.

Donations?

As you have read (will read) in a related article the KOS is operating under very tight finances at the present time. Many of our activities, current and future, suffer from inadequate funding or (as in the case of the Hotline) operate solely on the donations of those who use it. We encourage you to contribute to the special project of your choice. Two that could always use some more assistance are the Rare Bird Alert Hotline and the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project (KBBAT). While a lot of the hard funds for running KBBAT are coming from several sources, there are some costs (primarily from the poor beleaguered regional coordinators) that aren't picked up anywhere. If you feel that either of these projects (or other special projects that KOS is involved in) are worthy please send a contribution to the KOS Treasurer, Gregg Friesen. Simply indicate on your donation which special project you would like it applied to.

CELEBRATE SPRING:
Attend the Spring KOS Meeting
Marais des Cygnes
May 6-8, 1994
(signup deadline, April 20)

KOS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE 11-1-93:

James L. Barnes, Wichita; Danion Doman, Lawrence; Lisa Edwards, Liberal; K.M. Highfill, Lawrence; Lawrence & Gail Kliewer, Newton; John & Diane Torline, Newton; Donald Wolfe - Sutton Avian Research Center, Bartlesville, OK; Christopher Farney, Wilson; Michael Heaney, Wichita; Harold McFadden, Wichita; Sally McGee, Lawrence; Phil Osborne, Hesston; Wesley Pauls, North Newton; Karen Barker, Oklahoma City, OK; Raymond & Janet Franz, Newton; Walter Ross, Lenexa.

Welcome!

What Do You Mean You Can't Read Your Membership Directory?!

When the last membership directory was published a couple of years ago we received a few complaints about the small type and difficulty in reading it. Well, the new directory is the same format, but hopefully it will be a little easier to read.

However, if you really are having trouble reading that lovely 8 point print (and not because you enjoy harassing the editor and membership secretary) drop me a note or give me a call and I will make arrangements to provide you with a large print version.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted: KOS Officer Positions - Membership Secretary Diane Seltman and Business Manager Galen Pittman have both indicated that by this time next year they would both like to be spending more time birding and less time Board of Directing. If you are interested PLEASE contact these individuals and talk with them. They both cover several areas and can be tough, time consuming positions. Dedication has to come first on your resume! After you have visited with either of them and you still want to pursue the position contact Ken Brunson, 40050 NE 10th St, Pratt, KS, 67124, (316) 672-7289 or Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS, 66502, (913) 776-5121.

Help Wanted: KOS Board of Directors Members - there will probably also be a (some) board position(s) coming open in the upcoming year. If you are interested in helping with the decision making process of your organization contact Ken Brunson or Jim Mayhew at the numbers listed in the notice above to find out more about the responsibilities involved.

Help Wanted: Hotline Operator - Scott Seltman has been running the Kansas Rare Bird Alert Hotline for 4 years and he has told us that 5 years should be long enough before a new person takes it over. This is a very demanding job requiring good knowledge of birds, Kansas and answering good machines (#@!%\$^&*). If you are interested, start talking to Scott now, (913) 372-5411.

Wanted: VOLUNTEERS - Roy Beckemeyer can still use volunteers in various and sundry activities. If you didn't fill out your volunteer survey a couple of issues back, dig it out and send it in. The placement rate for volunteers has been VERY high!

Wanted: Survey Completers - Elsewhere in this issue you will find a survey about KOS, why are you in it, what do you like about the organization, the Newsletter and the Bulletin, and what you would like to add or change. PLEASE take the time to fill it out and return it to me before you get busy with KBBAT blocks and Migration Counts later this spring!

CELEBRATE SPRING . . . CELEBRATE YOUTH

KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS, p. 7

Is Your Landscape "For the Birds?"

(This is the first of a four-part series)

by Chuck Otte

When I'm not editing this newsletter or birdwatching, I'm probably at my "real" job as a county extension agent for the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service. One of the fun things I get to do in that capacity is to help people landscape around their homes. This becomes a real challenge since most people aren't sure what they want, but they want it to look nice and cost little! I have the most fun when people want to create a backyard wildlife habitat. What a nice change from the "golf course" landscaping so many people want (all grass with a few trees at the edge).

I could spend 4 pages talking about that, but the Business manager would probably have a fit when he saw the mailing cost since this issue already has so much in it, so I'll break it up over the next several issues and discuss some of the basics that will help you create a backyard landscape that really is "for the birds!"

The first step is to recognize the basic needs of not only birds, but of all wildlife. . . food, water and shelter. Most birdwatchers do a pretty good job with food and water, but why not take those a step farther. In addition to a bird bath put in a small pond. These can be as small as half a whiskey barrel with a liner on the back patio, or take the liner out of the barrel and bury it in the ground. Add a couple of water plants like water lilies and pickrel rush, then throw in a couple of fish and you're in business. Many nurseries now have pond kits complete with in ground liners and recirculating pumps. Moving water is very attractive to wildlife, and it tends to have a soothing affect on humans after a long hard day as well. There are also dripper and mister attachments that you can add to your birdbath if you don't want to go to the work of installing a pond. My wife and I installed a barrel liner in the ground 3

years ago and have so enjoyed it my wife now wants me to build a mountain stream in our backyard!!

Food for the birds doesn't just have to come from a bird seed bag and feeder. Many landscape plants can provide food as well. But don't just limit yourself to thoughts of flowering crabapples, cotoneasters and honeysuckle. Think of hackberry, cedars and hawthornes. Too often we plan our landscapes and think only of perennials. Think of annuals also. Plant some sunflowers, safflower, millet and ornamental grasses. Not only do they provide nice color, form and shape but most of them come with built in bird feeders as well! Plant lots of flowers to attract hummingbirds as well as butterflies. Remember that hummers are going to be more attracted to colors in the red end of the color spectrum, so make your selections accordingly. If you have lots of room plant a trumpet vine plant as well. But make sure that you do have lots of room!

Be sure to provide diverse cover. Mix up evergreen and deciduous plantings. Some birds like high cover, some like low cover. Some want something they can completely disappear into, like junipers, while others prefer more open cover like spirea, forsythia or lilac. Remember to provide different layers in your landscape.

(If you can't wait until the next issue for more information on landscaping stop by your local County Extension Office and pick up their brochures on trees and shrubs for Kansas and other brochures on landscaping. Look in your phone book usually under County Government, or Extension Service or Cooperative Extension Service listings.) Next issue: *Basics of Form and Shape*.

Wichita Area KOS Beginning Birdwatchers Sessions

Pat and Roy Beckemeyer and Bert McClard, Wichita KOS members, are willing to work with new KOS members to help them sharpen their birding skills between now and the coming spring migrations. They plan to start in late March/early April, and tentatively plan for sessions to begin at the Wild Bird Center, 8414 W. 13th in Wichita at 8:30 or 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings, with half an hour to 45 minutes of instructions and questions and answers, followed by a couple of hours of birding in Wichita area hot spots. Area KOS experts will be asked to provide occassional assistance in order to keep the ratio of beginners to veterans at 3 or 4 to 1. If you are interested, either as a beginner or a volunteer leader, contact Roy or Pat at (316) 264-0049 or Bert at the Wild Bird Center (316) 729-8110. See you in the field!

Passings.....

We regret to inform KOS members of the recent passing of Mrs. Ivan Boyd of Baldwin City. Mrs. Boyd was a KOS Charter Member and a well respected friend to many KOS members. We extend our deepest condolences to Roger Boyd and the entire Boyd family over their recent loss. Mrs. Boyd's obituary will be in an upcoming issue of The Bulletin.

KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS

by Roy J. Beckemeyer

The following young people have all made significant contributions to the preservation of the environment of Kansas and to the welfare of the avian fauna of the state. They are the first recipients of the KOS Young Naturalist Award; we hope they are the first of many.

Amy Rintoul is an active participant in bird censusing studies. She has participated in Christmas bird counts and has helped with three Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. In addition to her contributions to the documentation of the statistics of the avian population of Kansas, Amy also helps others to appreciate the beauties of our natural world by providing sketches which appear regularly in the "Prairie Falcon," the newsletter of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. Amy is 11 years old, resides in Manhattan, and attends Marlett Elementary School. She is the first recipient of the KOS Young Naturalist Award.

Jonathan Boyd has accomplished many significant improvements at the Baker University Wetlands. He played a key role in the installation of 850 feet of boardwalk and 24 wood duck and 10 Canada goose nesting structures. He planted native grass seed and 100 oak seedlings, and rip-rapped dikes and culverts. He was also involved in building a quarter-mile nature trail at Ivan Boyd Woods. He has assisted his father in conducting Least Tern research, and has helped with 4 KBBAT blocks. Jonathan is also an Eagle Scout who has earned most of the merit badges related to natural history and the environment. He is 16 and attends Baldwin High School.

Marie and Aaron Weigel have been working with the Prairie Raptor Project since they were toddlers. They participate in record-keeping, cage cleaning and repair, and medical treatment of injured birds--in other words, with the day-to-day operations of the project. (I'm sure they are now the envy of most KOS members, young and old!) But they also take part in the educational side of the project, including leading tours and telling the public about raptors and the part they play in the natural world. Marie is 15 and she attends Saline High School. Aaron is 12 and is a student at Brookville Grade School.

Aliah Seay was a 12 year old 7th grader at Manhattan Middle School when she initiated a petition drive last year to halt drag boat races that might have endangered a heron rookery in River Pond. She took the petitions to the race's sponsors in Manhattan, and mailed copies to other race sponsors. Her fortitude and commitment to environmental activism is certainly a model for us all, young or old! It should be mentioned that Aliah's actions served as the inspiration for the initiation of the KOS Young Naturalist Award as a way to say thanks to young people who are working to preserve the environment.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating these young people for their important contributions to the betterment of Kansas ornithology.

(Editors Note - The KOS Young Naturalist Award is a new program that was discussed in the last issue of the Horned Lark. With the YNA we have an opportunity to recognize and encourage those youth who are making a positive environmental impact in the world around them. Refer to the December, 1993 issue of the Horned Lark for more information and an application form, or call Roy Beckemeyer at (316) 264-0049.)

Spring Soothsaying

Anticipation of a poke-sprout spring lured me out before the source of Kansas' wind had gone on south for yet another year. North-places lingering on the wind (Great Slave Lake, the Yukon River) soon had me snuffling like an old bird dog, hoping to find scents from afar mingled with those more familiar (snowshoe hare with cottontail, caribou with white-tailed deer).

Along with elusive Alaskan odors (melting arctic snow, swelling spruce buds), a choir of chanting geese were in the air. Above the river's meandering indecision they banked and wheeled, in loose formation, into the north-wind's waning breath: a hundred prescient geese reading sign on the wind of a coming, a gray-green, a sprouting arctic spring.

--Roy Beckemeyer (Along the Arkansas River)

QUIVIRA ON FOOT*by John Rakestraw*

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is well known for its user-friendliness. One can drive through many parts of the refuge and experience some fine birding. But those who limit themselves to the Wildlife Drive and the main roads are missing out on a lot of birds and other aspects of this wild area. That is why I prefer to explore Quivira on foot.

Much has been written on birding from the car. The two main advantages are being able to cover large areas in a short time and sometimes being able to use the car as a blind to closely approach wildlife. The disadvantages, however, are many. A curved windshield, tinted glass, and a roof greatly reduce your ability to see. Birds flying overhead can go completely unnoticed. Another disadvantage is speed. When driving 15 - 30 MPH, not only are you more likely to miss some birds, but you are also less likely to go to the trouble of stopping to really look at all the birds you do see. It is much easier to assume all those birds by the road are Tree Sparrows.

Footwear becomes an important consideration when you decide to get out of the car. I wear knee boots for most of my birding. They allow me to cross through mud or water up to a foot deep and provide protection from burrs, ticks, chiggers, and the occasional rattlesnake. Red Ball knee boots are available at any farm supply store for \$15.00. If you are more fashion conscious, you can get a pair of Wellingtons, the choice of British birders, for about \$30.00.

When birding any wild area, you should be aware of your impact on the habitat. At Quivira, you can cover a lot of territory by walking on the service roads. Birders should never walk out into the nesting areas of plovers or terns, and should always keep an eye open for other ground nesters. The grasslands are less fragile, and birders can really immerse themselves in Quivira's large tracts of prairie. Be careful to keep your bearings when walking the prairie. On more than one occasion I have walked a large loop through a section of grassland and, upon returning to my starting point, discovered that my car had moved several hundred yards.

Listed below are several areas that have been productive for me. The section numbers correspond to those on the refuge map. An "N" before the number indicates that the section is north of County Road 484. An "S" indicates that the section is south of the road.

- The Wildlife Drive - Get out of the car from time to time and explore the little peninsulas that extend into the marsh.
- Halfway through the Wildlife Drive is a service road. You can walk this road clear around the east and south sides of the Big Salt Marsh.
- There is also a service road that runs along the west side of the Big Salt Marsh (section N29).
- Many birders ignore the east edge of the refuge. Park at the second parking area north of County Road 484 on the refuge's eastern boundary. A service road will take you along a large stand of hardwoods and ends up at a grove of cedars. This section (N36) has several large wooded areas and windbreaks interspersed with grassland.
- Park at the display on the border of sections S36 and S1. Walking east takes you into woods, while walking west will take you into the Little Salt Marsh.
- Walk to the photo blind on the south end of the Little Salt Marsh. This area is good for sparrows as well as waterfowl.
- There is a gate on the refuge boundary west of the Little Salt Marsh (south end of section S35). On this service road you can reach grasslands southwest of the marsh and walk into the Little Salt Marsh from the west.

These are just a few possibilities. Do some exploring on your own. You will be delighted with the variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that you can find by leaving the car and exploring Quivira on foot.

Missouri Audubon Society Spring Meeting

We have been invited to attend the spring meeting of the Missouri Audubon Society. The dates of their spring meeting are April 29, 30 and May 1st. The location is down in the "boot heel" of Missouri at Mingo NWR and Big Oak Tree State Park.

Probably the best location to find a motel will be at Sikeston (be sure to go to Lamberts Cafe - Home of Throed Rolls!) Registration fee is \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children up to age 11. Registrations can be sent to Bill Reeves, 98 Hawthorne #35, Farmington, MO 63640 by April 15. Last minute reservations can be made by calling Bill at home, 314-756-6446 or at work 756-4160. If you've got that weekend open plan to attend. That is a beautiful part of the state, and some good birding!

SWAN SONG?

It seems that over the past several years anytime swans have shown up in Kansas at least 1 gets shot. William Brecheisen observed what appeared to be 2 Trumpeter Swans in Anderson County late last November. The following day William and Eva went to a small farm pond to take some pictures of the swans and found one of them dead on the ice. They contacted a local Wildlife and Parks Conservation Officer who returned to the location with them. After working through the Wildlife and Parks and US Fish and Wildlife Service channels, William obtained permission to salvage the bird and take it to KU for their museum collections. Unfortunately thawing ice made things a little tricky, but they eventually were able to get a boat into the water and out to the dead swan. After the swan was retrieved it was discovered to have been shot, which required a whole new set of phone calls and investigation. The bird was finally turned over to the KU Museum (and was subsequently identified as a Tundra Swan).

Why is it that when swans show up in Kansas someone has to declare open season? Most of the Trumpeter Swans that show up seem to be from the Minnesota re-establishment flock and are usually very well marked with tags. The logic of these actions escapes me. As birders we have ethical expectations to protect the natural world around us. If you locate swans in Kansas be sure to report them to the Rare Bird Alert (913-372-5499). If they are wearing tags indicating that they are from the Minnesota flock be sure to notify Wildlife and Parks officials so these birds can be monitored and protected. Let's all help protect these majestic waterfowl!

**Hey, wasn't that Superman?
Or was it just a low flying airplane?**

It was a...no, It couldn't have been...

WAIT A MINUTE!!!

**IT IS! I heard about it on the
KOS RARE BIRD ALERT!
and it's still here!**

**Reports and Donations Always
Accepted**

(913) 372-5499

Be Sure to Check Out the

"CLASSIFIEDS"

(Page 5)

**You Might be Just the
Officer Candidate
We're Looking For!**

**Help KOS continue to
provide opportunities for
the birdwatchers of Kansas!**

TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT!

When It's Sweltering in the Midwest Next July You Could be in the Cloudforest with all the Songbirds!

Just when Kansas is headed for a heat wave in July, you could be in Costa Rica enjoying 70 degrees and sunshine with a dozen new friends. July 12 - 24, 1994, you can join a 12 day natural history tour of Costa Rica's spectacular scenery.

A sample of the trip itinerary includes:

- Selva Verde, a large private tract of virgin tropical rainforest
- Arenal Volcano, with its impressive fireworks at night
- Tamrindo Beach on the Pacific in Guancaste Province, where many Americans retire
- Villas Blanca, a high cloud forest where the naturalist shows you an amazing variety of flowers, butterflies, monkeys and much more wildlife

The full itinerary to this trip needs to be seen to be believed (I wish I wasn't getting ready for a County Fair then!). The potential bird list is incredible - parrots, jacamars, hummingbirds, motmots. . .well, you get the picture. Eloise tells me they'll have an outstanding native birder along as well!

Trip cost is approximately \$2500 and includes just about everything. The trip is personally escorted from Kansas City by Eloise Hart. Call (816)361-6991 for more information!

Why Do You Want to Raise Dues?

Following this article are official notices regarding an upcoming vote at the Annual Meeting in October to amend the by-laws to increase dues. Some of you are probably wondering what on earth the Board is wasting your dues money on so that we have to raise dues.

Well, believe me, the Board has wrestled with this dilemma for some time, and the truth of the matter is that it is simply costing more to run the organization than it has in the past. Over half of our expenses in any given year (see the 1993 Financial Statement in this issue) are in the *Bulletin* and Newsletter. The cost of mailing these publications has roughly doubled in the past 5 years. As KOS Treasurer Gregg Friesen was wrapping up the 1993 books, he took the time to calculate our regressing financial position and cost per member. The cost of all that KOS does on a per member basis in 1993 figured out to be roughly \$12.50. And when most of the memberships are a single individual at \$10.00 per year it is easy to understand why we basically lost \$1,700 in 1993.

The KOS Board wants to do more for the membership. I want to keep making the Newsletter bigger and better. . . that costs money. Checklists need to be updated and reprinted. There is a plan to create a more in-depth annotated checklist. These efforts and projects cost money. At the winter board meeting steps were taken to reduce expenditures for 1994, but these are simply stop gap measures.

The biggest change would be in the life membership category. Several years when interest rates were 10% or more, the life membership generated more than enough interest to cover the associated costs. Unfortunately, with interest rates running half that or less, the current life membership structure has become a liability, not an asset. Sure it's a good investment for someone who has it, but not if it breaks the organization.

We want you to take a look at the proposed dues structure. For most categories it is a \$5.00 increase. Regular membership would change from \$10 to \$15 per year. When one long time KOS "elder statesman" member was quizzed about the possibility of increasing the dues the response was, "Geez, you can't join anything for under \$15 anymore." The proposed by-laws change will be published in 2 more issues of the newsletter before the October meeting in Garden City (you are making plans to attend aren't you!). Look at them, think about them, and if you have any questions ask one of the KOS officers or Board Members or myself and we'll be happy to visit with you about them.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the Winter Board meeting on February 26, 1994 the KOS Board of Directors voted to forward the following two By-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Garden City in October.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 be amended to read:

- A: Regular members: \$15.00 per year
- B: Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year
- D: Family regular members: \$20.00
- E: Family sustaining members: \$30.00
- F: Contributing members: \$40.00 or more
- G: Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00.

It was moved, seconded and passed that Article II, Section 3C be amended to read:

- C: Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in 2 consecutive years.

These proposed changes would take affect January 1, 1995. Members who are currently paying on life memberships would be allowed to finish their payments. Sections 3A, 3B, 3D and 3E are all currently \$5.00 less than the proposal. Section 3F was changed by adding the words "or more". Section 3C currently reads \$150 in a lump sum or \$37.50 in each of four consecutive years." 3G is new, and is intended to help cover the additional cost of mailings to foreign countries.

The Student membership category was not changed. Institutions can purchase an annual subscription (this is not a membership category) and this fee was not changed either, other than the proposed increase for foreign mailings.

If you have any questions on this proposal, please contact one of the members of the KOS Board of Directors (see front cover of the membership directory for that list).

SO.

Where's YOUR KBBAT Block
THIS Year?

(Get on the stick! There's lots to be done!
Besides...it's an excuse to go watch birds!)

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1993

October 2, 1993

Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

The noon Board Meeting was chaired by President Jim Mayhew.

FALL MEETING REGISTRATION: Mike Rader reported that 85 persons were registered for the Fall Meeting.

FALL MEETING 1994: David Seibel moved that KOS meet on October 7, 8 and 9, 1994 in Garden City. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING: The fiftieth annual meetings of KOS will be held in four years. The first meeting was held at the University of Kansas. Max Thompson agreed to contact Marion Jenkins to see if she would head a committee to plan a 50 year anniversary meeting to be held at KU in Lawrence.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte encouraged more participation by members in writing for the Newsletter. He said that he had gotten positive feedback on the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: Roy Beckemeyer reported that he had received responses from 28 members with regard to the membership interest survey.

RESEARCH FUND: Mark Corder will be asked to Chair the Research Fund Committee. The committee needs to develop a long term plan and long range financial planning.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION: There was discussion regarding the encouragement of younger persons, 1st through 10th grade. It was suggested that a certificate be given to recognize any achievement in improving the environment. KOS members could nominate persons as candidates for the award.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT: John Schukman reported that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has agreed to be the umbrella organization to gather data on bluebird trails in Kansas. Several KOS members have indicated a willingness to work on this. The Boy Scout Jamboree at Melvern is looking to KOS to provide some resource people.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that she had sent 70 second reminders for membership renewal. She reported the death of Shirley Weaver, a life member. She asked how she should handle partially paid life memberships when the required annual payments are not continued. The consensus of the Board was that the money should be put into the general fund and their names should be dropped from the life members roster.

HOTLINE REPORT: Scott Seltman reported that July and August were the worst ever. There were 10 days without any messages.

CEDAR BLUFF CHANNELIZATION PROJECT: Scott Seltman reported that there was opposition to the Cedar Bluff Channelization Project on the Smoky Hill River.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson reported that the December issue was about ready. He also reported that the publisher is going to a new printing process which will first be used on the March issue.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that he had received a complaint from a life member who had not received mailings. Back issues will be sent.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Max Thompson moved to take from the table the motion approving the revisions in the Procedural Rules for the Kansas Bird Records Committee (see Board Meeting minutes of May 1, 1993). David Seibel seconded the motion. There was discussion on the rule changes. The motion to approve the changes in Procedural Rules failed to pass.

WINTER BOARD MEETING: Jim Mayhew announced that the Winter Board meeting will be held on Saturday, February 26 at 10 a.m. at the Salina VoTech School.

SPRING MEETING: The Spring Meeting will be held the first weekend in May in Mound City with field trips to the Marais des Cygne Wildlife Refuge and the Dingus Natural Area.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Seibel. The motion was seconded and was passed.

Respectfully submitted, *Dwight R. Platt*, Corresponding Secretary (written from notes taken by Rose Fritz)

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1993

October 2 - 3, 1993

Fort Hays State University

Hays, Kansas

The forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society met on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas on October 2-3, 1993.

Saturday, October 2, Morning Session.

The papers presented in the morning session were as listed on the program (see attached program).

The morning business meeting was called to order by President Jim Mayhew.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Fritz reported that the balance in the general fund as of September 30 was \$2,435.84. The total in restricted funds was \$28,850.64. She announced receipt of more than \$1200 in royalty payments from the Thompson/Ely books which goes into a restricted fund account.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that KOS has a total of 449 members .

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Galen Pittman reported that he was still making an effort to combine mailings of the Bulletin and Newsletter.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson reported that the Bulletins are being published on schedule. He requested manuscripts for the June Bulletin.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte requested more articles from members. He also asked compilers to give him dates for Christmas Bird Counts.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Rose Fritz read the report for the Nominating Committee: **President:** Jim Mayhew; **Vice-President:** Mike Rader; **Recording Secretary:** Dwight Platt; **Membership Secretary:** Diane Seltman; **Treasurer:** Gregg Friesen; **Business Manager:** Galen Pittman; **Board Members:** Sara Shane, Roy Beckemeyer. The terms of Board Members Joanne Brier and Lloyd Moore do not expire. Max Thompson moved to accept the Nominating Committee's report. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

The morning business meeting was adjourned.

Saturday, October 2, Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session followed the program (see attached program).

President Jim Mayhew chaired the afternoon business meeting.

SPRING MEETING: Tom Shane recommended that a spring meeting be held in June to do Atlas work.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Chuck Otte moved to accept the slate of officers and board members proposed by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

AMENDMENT OF KOS BYLAWS: Jim Mayhew presented the following amendment to the KOS Bylaws which had been approved by the Board: Moved that Article II. Sec. 3C of the KOS bylaws be amended to read: C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 (\$150 until January 1, 1995).The amendment failed to pass.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary (written from notes taken by Rose Fritz)

Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.
Statement of Accounts
As of the Close of the 1993 Books

Assets

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

Beginning Balance 1/1/93 \$2761.14

Receipts

Contributions - BWD	54.93
Contributions - RBA	90.00
Contributions - Other	13.40
Dues 1992	15.00
Dues 1993	2,994.75
Interest Earned	1,008.88
Fall Mtg Overage	34.65
Spring Mtg Overage	357.44
Sales - Bulletin	125.00
Sales - Checklists	89.60
Sales - Decals	12.00
Sales - Hats	3.00
Sales - Sweatshirts	15.00
Sales - T-Shirts	173.00

4,986.65

Transfer From Southwestern College Acct

100.00

Disbursements

Annual Corporation Fee	5.00
Bank Charges	26.67
Bulk Mail Costs	400.00
Expense Business Manager	489.35
Expense KRBC	63.87
Expense Membership Secretary	54.23
Expense RBA Hotline	217.49
Exp Stud Research Fund Comm	13.40
Expense Treasurer	45.63
Expense Vice-President	34.69
ICBP Annual Fee	100.00

Inventory Costs

Sweatshirts	623.50
T-Shirts	309.00
Print Bulletin	2,528.89
Print Envelopes	280.00
Print Membership Cards	89.47
Print Newsletter	1,421.51

Safety Deposit Box

25.00

6,727.70

Ending Balance

1,120.09

Southwestern College (Checklist Mailing)

Beginning Balance 1/1/93 141.31

Receipts

Checklist Sales	7.50
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Disbursements

Postage & Copying Expense	14.18
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Transfer of Funds to General Fund 100.00

Ending Balance

34.63

14 (Statement of Accounts, contd)

Future Dues (Post 1993)

Beginning Balance 1/1/93			
1994 Dues	17.50		
1995+ Dues	27.50	45.00	
Dues 1994 Income		2,095.00	
Dues 1995 and later		120.00	
Ending Balance			2,260.00

Total Unrestricted Funds End of 1993 Year 3,414.72

Restricted Funds

Life Membership Fund			
Beginning Balance 1/1/1993		14,347.00	
Life Membership Dues		1,325.00	
Ending Balance 1993 Year			15,672.00

KOS Student Research Fund			
Beginning Balance 1/1/1993		1,294.74	
Interest Income		37.06	
Ending Balance 1993 Year			1,331.80

Dingus Natural Area Account			
Beginning Balance 1/1 1993		7,218.10	
Dividend Income		169.50	
Liability Insurance Expense		-157.00	
Ending Balance			7,230.60

Book Royalty Account			
Beginning Balance 1/1/1993		3,377.68	
Interest Income		120.72	
Royalties Received		2,544.37	
Ending Balance 1993 Year			6,042.77

Total Restricted Funds End of 1993 Year 30,277.17

Total Assets End of 1993 Year 33,691.89

LATE FALL/EARLY WINTER ROUNDUP/November 1993 - January 1994/by Chuck Otte

What started out as a busy fall carried right on through Christmas. . .and then died! November and December held some good birding, but shortly after the first of the year the birding really slowed down, and the birding doldrums carried right on into February with just occasional glimmers of hope.

While certain desired winter species showed up in good numbers, hopes of such good birds as redpolls, grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings were left virtually unfulfilled through late November.

November started off interestingly with a fairly convincing report of a Harris's Hawk being left on the hotline. Scott Seltman pursued this bird west of Great Bend but neither he nor anyone else was able to find the hawk and it will have to remain as a single, unconfirmed sighting. Most of the scattered reports of Harris's Hawks in Kansas have occurred during the winter months so this report should not be summarily dismissed and birders in southwest Kansas should continue to be vigilant for this straggler.

Many wading species lingered well past their normal departure dates at Quivira. Sandhill Cranes lingered well into December with over 6,000 still present on the 17th. And some of the cranes apparently decided to spend the winter in Kansas with 1,000 being sighted by Seltman in western Stafford County in late January. Quivira wasn't the only location to have wading water birds past normal departure dates. The Webster Christmas Bird Count tabulated a Greater Yellowlegs, an unprecedented winter record for this species in northwestern Kansas.

A couple of species that have just recently made their first appearances in the state came up with repeat performances for some lucky Christmas Bird Count Compilers. The second state

record Canyon Wren showed up for the Scott Lake Count and stuck around long enough for several birders to tally this species and photograph it. And to the southwest of that record, the third state record Pyrrhuloxia showed up in Kearny County for the Lakin Count. While many compilers lamented low numbers on their counts, these 2 sightings along with other rarities like the Say's Phoebe and Curve-billed Thrasher on the Cedar Bluff Count kept the late December birding interesting.

Snowy Owls made numerous appearances around the state. No part of the state could really claim a monopoly on the Snowy Owl sightings with reports coming in from Dodge City, Quivira, Osborne County and clear on to Brown County. In virtually all cases, though, the owls would only be seen for one or two days. Whether these birds kept moving on south, or succumbed to the hunger that drove so many of them out of the north lands is hard to say at this point in time.

Mountain Bluebirds were one of the other few bright spots in the winter birding. In many parts of the state Mountain Bluebirds have been an almost daily sighting for birders in appropriate habitat, with numbers in some areas reaching into the hundreds!

And finally, Swans, both Trumpeter and Tundra, made numerous good showings this fall, and trouble all to often seems to follow them. Read some of the accounts in a related article elsewhere in the *Horned Lark* if you have not already done so!

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And, of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / November 1993 through January 1994

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Common Loon	1 at Wilson Res	MR	11-07-93	Russell
Western Grebe	1 at Scott Lake	LBR	11-06-93	Scott
Western Grebe	1 at Perry Res	MM,BF,GP	11-07-93	Jefferson
	still present		11-20-93	
	1 still present		11-28-93	
Western Grebe	2 at La Cygne power lake	LM,CH	11-27-93	Linn
Clark's Grebe	1 at Perry Res	MM,GP	11-20-93	Jefferson
Eared Grebe	1 at CB	SS,LB,DB	11-26-93	Barton
American White Pelican	1 lingering at Milford Res	CO	01-09-94	Geary

This bird was present throughout the fall and early winter and was seen on the Lake itself as well as the ponds in the outlet area. By late January all bodies of water had frozen over and the pelican could not be re-located, it's fate unknown.

16 (Birding Highlights, contd)

Tundra Swan	2 at QNWR	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
Tundra Swan	2 (1 adult, 1 imm) near Colony	WB	11-26-93	Anderson
These birds were originally identified as Trumpeter Swans. Unfortunately one of the birds was shot and was taken to KU where it turned out to be a Tundra Swan.				
Tundra Swan	1 at QNWR (same bird as 11/16?)	JR	12-06-93	Stafford
Tundra Swan	1 imm at Seven Springs Marsh	DR	12-05-93	Geary
	still present	CO	12-11-93	
Trumpeter Swan	1 at Harvey Co East Lake	BD	11-20-93	Harvey
Trumpeter Swan	2, 1 with orange wing markers	Davis	01-26-94	Kingman
American Bittern	2 lingering at QNWR	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
	1 still present		11-26-93	
Great Egret	1 at QNWR (record late?)	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
Cattle Egret	20 at QNWR	SS	11-13-93	Stafford
Snowy Egret	1 at Wilson Res (record late?)	MR	11-07-93	Russell
Black-crowned Night-heron	15 at QNWR	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1 at QNWR (record late?)	SS	11-13-93	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	1 record late state record, QNWR	SS	11-13-93	Stafford
White-fronted Goose	500 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	SS	01-29-94	Stafford
Snow Goose	200 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	SS	01-29-94	Stafford
Ross's Goose	3 at QNWR	SS	12-04-93	Stafford
	2 still present at QNWR		12-17-93	
Ross's Goose	10 present with other geese	SS	01-29-94	Stafford
Ross's Goose	1 on Lakin CBC		01-08-94	Kearny
Canada Goose	30,000 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	SS	01-29-94	Stafford
Blue-winged Teal	2 late birds at LeCompton Bridge	MM,GP	11-20-93	Douglas?
American Black Duck	2 at Perry Res	LM	11-21-93	Jefferson
American Black Duck	1 at Melvern	LM	12-30-93	Osage
Greater Scaup	2 at CB	SS,LB,DB	11-26-93	Barton
Oldsquaw	1 male at Wilson Res	MR	11-07-93	Russell
Oldsquaw	1 at Perry Res	MM,BF,GP	11-07-93	Jefferson
Oldsquaw	1 female at Pott Co Lake #2	DR	11-30-93	
	Pottawatomie			
Hooded Merganser	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	01-19-94	Russell
	17 were present		01-22-94	
Common Merganser	9,600 at Wilson Lake	MR	01-19-94	Russell
Black Scoter	1 female, Paola Sewer Ponds	LM	12-09-93	Miami
Bald Eagle	8 imm at QNWR	WH	1-20-93	Stafford
Bald Eagle	pair building nest at Tuttle Creek		01-10-94	Riley
Northern Goshawk	near Melvern Dam Headquarters	CH	01-05-94	Osage
Northern Goshawk	1 imm sw of Andale	PJ	01-06-94	Sedgwick
Golden Eagle	1 at QNWR	SS,DB,LB	11-26-93	Stafford
Golden Eagle	1 at Perry Lake	bua	12-11-93	Jefferson
Merlin	1 at Wilson Res	MR	11-07-93	Russell
Merlin	1 at Perry Res	MM,GP	11-20-93	Jefferson
Harris's Hawk	1 unconfirmed adult west of Great Bend		11-06-93	Barton
Seltman searched for this bird on the 7th without success				
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	JBa	12-11-93	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 on KSU Campus, Manhattan	DR	01-10-94	Riley
Sandhill Crane	50,000 - 70,000 at QNWR	SS	11-06-93	Stafford
	6,500 still present		12-17-93	
Sandhill Crane	1,000 s of Radium	SS	01-29-94	Stafford
Black-bellied Plover	16 at QNWR	SS	11-06-93	Stafford
American Golden-Plover	1 at QNWR	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
Western Sandpiper	10 at QNWR	SS	11-06-93	Stafford
Pectoral Sandpiper	10 at QNWR	SS	11-06-93	Stafford
Franklin's Gull	1 alt. plumage at John Redmond ??		01-31-94	Coffey

California Gull	1 adult at Clinton Lake	LM	12-02-93	Douglas
California Gull	1 sub-adult at John Redmond	LM	12-30-93	Coffey
Thayer's Gull	1 fw at Perry Res	MM,GP	11-20-93	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	1 fw at Hillsdale Res	LM,CH	11-26-93	Miami
Thayer's Gull	1 fw at Paola Sewer ponds	LM,CH	11-26-93	Miami
Thayer's Gull	3 fw, Ark Riv. Wichita	PJ,DK,DV	12-08-93	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 fw at Clinton Lake	LM	12-18-93	Douglas
Thayer's Gull	2 fw at Brooks Landfill		12-18-93	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gulls	still present at Brooks Landfill		01-06-94	
Thayer's Gull	1 fw at John Redmond	LM	12-30-93	Coffey
Glaucous Gull	1 fw at Waconda Lake	MR	12-19-93	Mitchell
Great-horned Owl	adult on nest with eggs	CO	01-29-94	Geary
Snowy Owl	1 adult at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	JR	11-04-93	Stafford
This owl was seen by many observers from the 5th through the 7th				
Snowy Owl	1 unconfirmed sw of Junction City		11-15-93	Dickinson
Snowy Owl	1 at Perry Lake Marina	JEZ	11-27-93	Jefferson
Snowy Owl	1 at Tuttle Creek, McIntire Pt	m.ob.	12-04-93	Pottawatomie
Snowy Owl	1 at Tuttle Creek Res	DR,JZ	12-11-93	Pottawatomie
Snowy Owl	1 sw of Dodge City	Dodge City CBC	12-18-93	Ford
Snowy Owl	1 nw of Horton	DLN	12-22-93	Brown
Snowy Owl	1 at a farm n of Waldo	DE	01-10-94	Osborne
Snowy Owl	1 unconfirmed from e Geary Co.		01-20-94	Geary
Long-eared Owl	11 n of Wilson State Park HQ	MR	01-22-94	Russell
Selasphorus spp Hummingbird	1 imm male at Wichita feeder	HM	12-01-93	Sedgwick
This bird unfortunately starved to death when a feeder was not refilled. The specimen was transferred to Southwestern College and identified as a Rufous Hummingbird.				
Canyon Wren	1 s of Scott Lake State Park	TSh	12-30-93	Scott
Only the second record for Kansas, this bird was seen by numerous observers and was photographed.				
Still present				
Sedge Wren	10 at QNWR, Little Salt Marsh	SS	02-13-94	
	at least 1 still present	SS	11-16-93	Stafford
			12-04-93	
Mountain Bluebird	65 at Wilson Res	MR	11-07-93	Russell
Mountain Bluebird	7 at Kirwin	DB,MR,SS	11-27-93	Phillips
Mountain Bluebird	3, Tuttle Creek, Stockdale area	CHe	12-08-93	Riley
Mountain Bluebird	180 around Wilson Lake	MR	01-19-94	Russell
Townsend's Solitaire	2 in Union Park Cemetery, Winfield	MT	11-28-93	Cowley
Hermit Thrush	1 at Harvey Co West Lake	GF	01-03-94	Harvey
Brown Thrasher	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	JN	01-21-94	Sedgwick
Brown Thrasher	1 at Quivira NWR	JR	01-24-94	Stafford
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 coming to a feeder in Pratt	LJQ	12-28-93	Pratt
	still present		02-01-94	
Northern Shrike	1 at Webster Res	DB,MR,SS	11-27-93	Rooks
Northern Shrike	1	SS	11-29-93	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 at Melvern Dam	BF,GG	01-08-94	Osage
Northern Shrike	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	01-19-94	Russell
Northern Shrike	1 at Milford State Park	DLS	01-29-94	Geary
Pyrrhuloxia	West of Syracuse River Bridge	AN	01-09-94	Hamilton
The 3rd record for this species in Kansas				
	Still present		01-16-94	
Common Yellowthroat	1 male at Quivira NWR	JR	01-12-94	Stafford
Chipping Sparrow	1 at Perry Res	MM,GP	11-20-93	Jefferson
Savannah Sparrow	1 at Quivira NWR	JR	01-12-94	Stafford
Henslow's Sparrow	1 very late and out of range	SS	11-01-93	Barton
western most Kansas record?				

18 (Birding Highlights, contd)

Le Conte's Sparrow	7 at QNWR	PJ,JN	11-08-93	Stafford
	1 still at Little Salt Marsh	JR	12-06-93	Stafford
Fox Sparrow	2 at Chisholm Creek Park	JN	01-21-94	Sedgwick
Swamp Sparrow	1 at Quivira NWR	JR	01-12-94	Stafford
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 adult at Camp Christy	RR	12-30-93	Scott
Smith's Longspur	several at Lyon Co State Lake	NW	11-12-93	Lyon
	up to 30 still present	SS,m.ob.	12-04-93	
Snow Bunting	1 west of Hunter	MR	12-19-93	Mitchell
Snow Bunting	2 at Melvern Dam	DG	12-27-93	Osage
	at least one of these birds was present up through the end of January			
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 at Quivira NWR	JR	01-24-94	Stafford
Rusty Blackbird	30 on Turnpike at El Dorado	PJ,DV	01-18-94	Butler
Pine Grosbeak	6 s of Wakefield	WH	01-23-94	Clay
Red Crossbill	1 in Union Park Cemetery, Winfield	MT	11-28-93	Cowley
Red Crossbill	2 at Curtis Creek, Milford Lake	DLS	01-29-94	Geary
Purple Finch	at feeder s of Welda	WB	11-26-93	Anderson

EXOTICS

Ruddy Shelduck	3 at Pratt Co State Lake		01-30-94	Pratt
	First identified as Fulvous Whistling Ducks these birds appeared to be wild and unrestrained, but all North American records must be considered escapes.			
Ringed Turtle-Dove	1 coming to feeder in Russell	JH	01-17-94	Russell

ADDENDUM/CORRECTIONS TO FALL ROUNDUP

Sabine's Gull	1 imm, Elkhart Sewer Ponds	MR	09-18-93	Morton
	Mike Rader found this bird on the 18th, Wichita Audubon saw the bird on the 19th.			

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

fw = first winter

imm = immature

m.ob. = many observers

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res = Reservoir

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Burrough's Audubon (bua), Wichita Audubon (wa), James Barnes (JBa), Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), William Brecheisen (WB), Bob Dester (BD), Dean Elliot (DE), Bob Fisher (BF), Greg Friesen (GF), Dan Gish (DG), Greg Griffith (GG), Chod Hedinger (Che), Chris Hobbs (CH), Jane Holland (JH), Wayne Hochstetler (WH), Dan Kilby (DK), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Hugh Magness (HM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Mick McHugh (MM), Art Nonhoff (AN), Don and Loreta Neff (DLN), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Lee & Jean Queal (LJQ), John Rakestraw (JR), Mike Rader (MR), Leonard & Betty Rich (LBR), David Rintoul (DR), Richard Rucker (RR), Scott Seltman (SS), Tom Shane (TSh), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Noel Wamer (NW), Jim and Ellen Zellmer (sp?) (JEZ), John Zimmerman (JZ)

Spring Meeting Signup Form on Back of this Newsletter!

Read it, Complete it and MAIL IT!
(to arrive at Jerry Horak's by April 20, of course)

WHY DO YOU BELONG TO KOS

Please take a few minutes to think about the following questions, fill in your answers and return the survey to me. Your responses will be compiled and taken to the KOS Board of Directors, as well as help shape what shows up in the Newsletter as well as what other activities KOS becomes involved in. Thank you for your time and effort!

1. How long have you belonged to KOS? _____

2. Why do you belong to the KOS?
 Spring Field Trip _____
 Fall Meeting _____
 KOS led Field Trips _____
 The Horned Lark Newsletter _____
 The Bulletin _____
 KOS Rare Bird Alert _____
 Other (specify) _____

3. What do you like most about the *Horned Lark*? _____
 What would you like to see more of? _____
 What would you like to see less of? _____
 What else would you like to change? _____

4. What do you like most about the *Bulletin*? _____
 What would you like to see more of? _____
 What would you like to see less of? _____
 What else would you like to change? _____

5. Do you call the KOS Rare Bird Alert? _____
 How often (daily, weekly, twice a week, etc)? _____

6. What could KOS do to attract more members? _____
 What projects do you think KOS should become involved in? _____
 Would you be willing to help with those projects? _____

7. What else would you like to say to the KOS Board of Directors, *The Bulletin* editor or *The Horned Lark* editor?

8. Name (optional) _____

Please complete and return to:

Chuck Otte, Editor
The Horned Lark
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or if you prefer to FAX it:

913-238-7166

~~~~~ KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1994 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING ~~~~~

The KOS will hold its annual spring meeting at the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center, near the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Areas in Linn County on May 6th, 7th and 8th.

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center is located at the north end of the La Cygne Power Lake, one mile east of Highway U.S. 69 near the Linn/Miami County line. From U.S. 69 turn east on 399th St. (gravel road), just south of the telephone relay tower, continue east for one mile to "Wildwood" sign at the top of the hill.

Wildwood overlooks the upper end of the lake. Habitats in and around the camp are varied and should be an excellent birding area. Accommodations are dormitory style with some limited family units available. **A twin bed is provided, but you should bring your own sheets, blankets and pillows as well as soap and towels.** The staff cooks the meals and all of us will eat in the dining hall unless you have other arrangements. Camping space is available at the Linn County Park just south of Wildwood along the west side of the lake. For more information about camping call 913-757-6633.

Field trips will include the entire Marais des Cygnes Wildlife management area including the refuge, plus a permit will be obtained to bird in the new Fish and Wildlife Service's Marais des Cygnes unit east of U.S. Highway 69. The Dingus area, owned by K.O.S., is near Mound City. All these areas have many species of warblers. If conditions are right there will also be a birding canoe float trip down the Marais des Cygnes River. You need to bring your own canoe. Final field trip itineraries will be available at Wildwood upon arrival. Friday evening is open for social activities.

Advanced payment and registration is required. The center needs to know how many persons are going to attend the meeting so they can prepare for us. We ask that you have your registration and payment in by April 20. You must pay a \$15.00 registration fee which includes complete use of the Wildwood facilities such as, boating, fishing, hiking, birding, tennis courts, meeting areas, etc. and then may select any combination of meals and lodging. We ask your cooperation in promptly sending us your payment. Sign-in will begin at 5:00 p.m. on the 6th, dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

For more information call Jerry Horak at work (316/342-0658) or at home (316/343-6080).

~~~~~Registration~~~~~

| | No. | Amount | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Registration fee - \$15.00 | _____ | _____ | Name: _____ |
| Meals: | | | Address: _____ |
| Dinner Friday (\$5.00) | _____ | _____ (6pm) | _____ |
| Breakfast Saturday (\$4.00) | _____ | _____ (8am) | _____ |
| Lunch Saturday (\$4.00) | _____ | _____ (noon) | _____ |
| Dinner Saturday (\$5.00) | _____ | _____ (6pm) | MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: |
| Breakfast Sunday (\$4.00) | _____ | _____ (8am) | Kansas Ornithological Society |
| Lunch Sunday (\$4.00) | _____ | _____ (noon) | |
| Lodging: | | | Send completed applications to: |
| Friday night (\$12.00) | _____ | _____ | Jerry Horak |
| Saturday night (\$12.00) | _____ | _____ | KDWP |
| TOTAL | _____ | _____ | P.O. Box 1525 |
| | | | Emporia, KS 66801 |

Would you be interested in participating in a canoe trip? Yes ___ No ___

~~~~~Registration Deadline April 20~~~~~