

The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

# The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 1999

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## 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

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**Vice-president**, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

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**Treasurer**, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS 67301

#### **Board Members:**

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**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 friend, 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 \*.

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<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 <sup>st</sup> 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>
Black-bellied Plover	11/14	2 near John Redmond Reservoir	CH, BAS	<u>Coffey</u>
	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
Snowy Plover	<u>11/25</u>	3 at Quivira	GP	Stafford
	<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 <sup>st</sup> winter on Ark. R., K-96 bridge	BG, PJ	Sedgwick
	11/1	1 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> winter at Clinton	MM, GP	Douglas
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	11/22	1 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

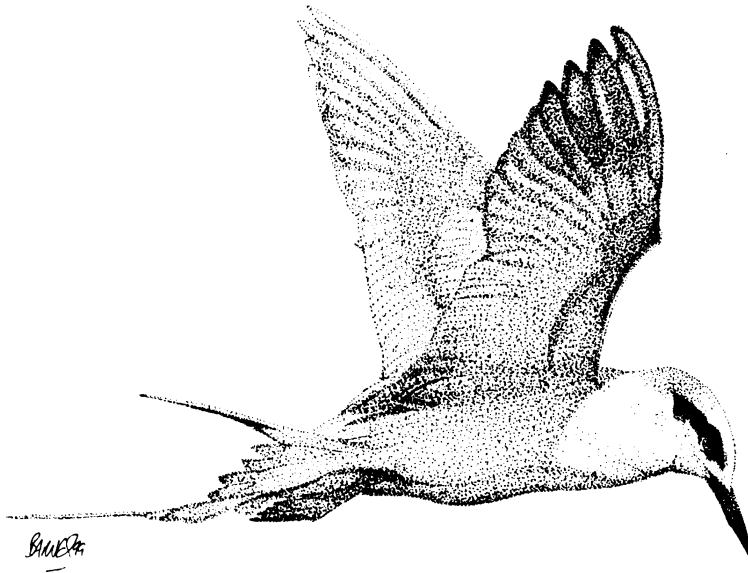
Friday night, 30 April, there will be a shorebird workshop at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield. The workshop will start at 8:00 p.m. and will consist of identification hints for Kansas's shorebirds, with additional clues to help ID some of the other more exotic North American 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:maxt@jinx.sckans.edu), or Gene Young at 316-221-8380, [youngg@jinx.sckans.edu](mailto: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](mailto:maxt@jinx.sckans.edu)**

Phone inquiries made be made by calling Max at 316-221-8304 or Gene at 316-221-8380.