

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,
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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

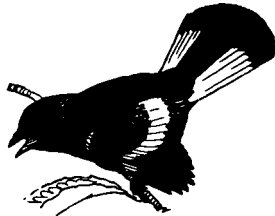
After several years of hanging around at K-State, the KOS Web site has finally migrated to its new home. For those of you who have bookmarked the old address you need to change that to: <http://ksbirds.org>

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 |
|---------------|------------|

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 |

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|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 | <u>300</u> 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 |

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

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|---------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 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.

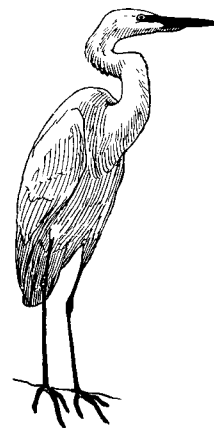
As soon as Pools 3A and 3B dry out, disking for cattail control will begin. All cattail stands outside the grazing study site will be disked. If conditions permit, a few 1-acre areas will be excavated to a depth of 8-12 inches with a scraper. These "scrapes" will be located in dense cattail stands in 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

**KOS Winter Board Meeting
February 26, 2000
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita, Kansas**

Attendance: Greg Farley Ed Miller
 James Barnes Chuck Otte
 Max Thompson Carolyn Schwab
 John Schukman

Guests: Gene Young Pete Janzen

Chairman, Greg Farley called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Greg informed the board that the corresponding secretary, Karen Ganoung, would not be able to be at the meeting and would like someone to fill in for her. Chuck Otte volunteered to serve as acting secretary.

Max indicated that the minutes from the Fall Annual Meeting should include the list of the officers and board members that were voted on and elected, and he would move to approve the minutes as so corrected. John seconded and the motion carried 6 - 0. The slate from the 1999 Annual meeting was: Greg Farley - Chairman, John Schukman - Vice-Chairman, Karen Ganoung - Corresponding Secretary, Susan Barnes - Membership Development Coordinator, Edwin Miller - Treasurer, James Barnes - Business Manager, Max Thompson - Bulletin Editor, Chuck Otte - Horned Lark Editor, Jan Boyd and David Rintoul - Board Members. Suzanne Fellows and Carolyn Schwab were currently on the board, in the middle of their two year terms.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed the 1999 finances and the current status of the accounts. The trust has been conservatively invested to protect the assets and is in good shape. Max asked if the book royalty check had been received from KU. Ed indicated that it had not.

Membership Secretary: No report.

Vice-president: John has been working on the hold harmless agreement for participants at KOS meetings. He has been receiving input from several legal sources and is still obtaining input. One suggested agreement was much more extensive than the example he has from another ornithological organization. John will check with David Seibel to see what may be required for the Fall 2000 meeting.

Business Manager: This will be James's last year as Business Manager. The membership mailing is going out soon. He encouraged KOS to consider sending out as many dues notices via e-mail in the future to reduce mailing costs. James asked if it would be possible to send out the first dues notice with the December mailing to reduce costs. Several board members indicated that December use to be when the first dues mailing was sent out and there was general consensus that we could return to this. Current sales inventory is good. We are running low on membership directories and the new one won't be printed for another year. It was decided to use up the supply of membership directories we have and then not do a reprinting.

James told the board that he thinks some of the Business Manager's responsibilities need to be separated into an additional position. He suggested splitting sales from the rest of the Business Manager's responsibilities. Sales inventory and getting sales items transported to the meetings is quite an undertaking.

It was moved by Chuck, seconded by Ed that a by-laws change be presented at the Annual Meeting that would create a Sales Manager position which would be appointed by the president to serve under the Business Manager to work with the sales items. The motion carried 6 - 0. Chuck will write the proposed change and publish it in the *Horned Lark*.

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.

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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