



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

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From The Keyboard -

There's thunderstorms rumbling outside tonight, it's already wet and I worry if I can possibly run my Breeding Bird Surveys this weekend. Such is summer birding in Kansas!

A couple of pleas for help to begin with. If you live in the Wichita area, want to help with the fall meeting in early October, and haven't been contacted yet, please contact me so I can get the local committee in touch with you. We need a new Kid's Page editor/author. Mark Land has handled this admirably for the past several years, but has reluctantly had to let go of it. If you are interested, PLEASE contact me and we'll chat!

I have the great pleasure of representing KOS on the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council. This group meets periodically with the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and serves as an advisory board on all manner of nongame issues from mussels to birds to plants. At a recent meeting, we were discussing all the good events that are happening in Kansas that are bringing a lot of positive exposure to Kansas and its wealth of natural resources.

It made me stop and think about the wealth of resources that we have here in Kansas. We sometimes think that we are stuck in the middle of the country and would rather be birding anywhere but here. We take the valuable resources we have for granted. It isn't until you get yourself on the outside and look in, or listen to someone else rave on about all that "you folks in Kansas have" that you rediscover what we do have.

Our checklist is the envy of many states. We have Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira and the other National Wildlife Refuges.

We have the Red Hills, Cheyenne County, Morton County and the Missouri River bottomlands at Ft. Leavenworth. We have the largest remaining tract of tall grass prairie and enough Upland Sandpipers, Henslow's Sparrows, and yes Elmer, Dickcissels to be the envy of anyone!

We live in a great state and we get to bird here every day. That is if we don't start taking it for granted. Take a little time in the next couple of months to rediscover all the neat "things" that we have going for us. You'll be glad you did. Enjoy the summer and I'll see you somewhere, out birding!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2001

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

October 5 - 7, 2001

**Wichita
Great Plains Nature Center**

Look for registration information in the
September *Horned Lark*

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

The *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by William H. Busby and John L. Zimmerman, has been published and all I can say is wow! It can be obtained from University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. The book is \$35 plus postage and handling. You can call University Press at 785-864-4155 or visit their World Wide Web page at: <http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu> to place your order.

KOS Items Available

If you would like to purchase KOS T-shirts, sweatshirts, window stickers, etc. then you need to contact the KOS Business Manager, Dave Williams at 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

Upcoming Meeting Locations

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

Fall 2001 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - ??????????????????????

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Be On The Lookout for Upland Sandpipers with Colored Leg Bands

Brett Sandercock, Assistant Professor of Avian Biology at K-State, has been color banding Upland Sandpipers in Riley and Geary County. If you see any of these sandpipers, please note what color leg bands are in what order on which leg and send that information to Brett at:

Division of Biology
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4901
(785) 532-0120
bsanderc@ksu.edu

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How to Be the Perfect Birding Guide

by John Rakestraw

This was going to be great. I was going on a field trip to one of the largest and oldest cemeteries in the country. A forested oasis in the middle of a large urban area, the cemetery was well known for attracting migrants. The field trip was scheduled to start at 8:00 AM. This is a little later than I like to start, but it was an hour's drive to the site. I arrived at the cemetery along with the other birders and met the trip leader. Eight o'clock came and went. The leader wanted to wait for any late arrivals. Finally, the leader gathered everyone together and pulled out a checklist. He then proceeded to read the name of every bird that had been seen at this cemetery in past years. He then talked about the history of the site. This went on for half an hour. The birds that had been singing that morning were winding down as the sun got higher. At 8:45, we finally started birding. We worked our way back through the cemetery, driving to particular areas, then getting out and exploring on foot. By midday, we had arrived at the back part of the property. Here was undeveloped woods, by far the best bird habitat we had seen all day. But by this late hour, the bird activity had greatly subsided. Since that day, I have avoided birding trips led by that individual.

Guided birding trips, whether professional tours or friendly outings with a more experienced birder, are a great way to learn about birds and to hone your identification skills. Along with the fellowship of birding with others, you benefit from the leader's years of experience in the field. No matter what your level of expertise, you will probably find yourself guiding other birders at some point. This is a wonderful opportunity and a great responsibility. The way you guide your fledgling birders may inspire them or turn them off of birding forever. Follow the simple rules below and you can become the perfect birding guide.

RULE #1: No bird seen in the past, no matter how rare or how beautiful, is half as interesting as the birds in front of you right now. Birders like to share their experiences with others. We want to relive the excitement of a rare sighting. We also want to establish our birding credentials within the birding community (a symptom of "list envy"). But this constant reminiscing can be distracting. When you are in the field, concentrate on the present. Don't yammer on and on about birds you saw yesterday or last week or five years ago. Pay attention to the birds around you and save your tales of past glories for the car ride home.

RULE #2: Help your fledglings find the birds. Plan your birding trips to take advantage of the best habitats at the best times. Larger groups of birders require wider trails and more

open habitat if you want everyone in your group to be able to see the birds. When you find a bird, make sure your charges get a good look. Don't stand where you are and try to describe the bird's location as you continue to watch. Once you have made the ID, stand aside and help others find the bird. When you are in a leadership position, you may have to sacrifice some of your own birding. But helping other birders find a new bird has its own rewards.

RULE #3: Don't feel obligated to share everything you know. Different people enjoy birds on different levels. Some want to know every detail of a bird's behavior and genetic makeup. Others are content to simply enjoy a bird's outer beauty. The information available to birders is much more sophisticated than in years past. The topics of subspecies, minute details of plumage, and vocalizations are all worthy of study. But nobody likes a know-it-all. Answer questions if asked, but don't be afraid to watch birds in silence.

RULE #4: Model proper birding behavior for your group. As more and more people take up birding, proper ethics and behavior become increasingly important. As a trip leader, it is your responsibility to see that your group does not do anything to compromise the well being of the birds you are seeking. Keep conversation to a minimum and teach your group some stalking techniques. Boisterous behavior not only scares birds away, but it disturbs other birders as well. Don't repeatedly flush the same birds or get too close to nests. Your group will mimic your behavior.

RULE #5: Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." As a trip leader, you are considered to be the expert. But experts don't know everything. When asked a question you can't answer, be honest. It may inspire the questioners to research the answer on their own. If you give incorrect information, someone will inevitably catch your mistake and you will lose credibility. We all make incorrect identifications from time to time. Encourage members of your group to speak up when they have other opinions about a bird ID. They may be right. Even if they are not, this provides an opportunity to teach your group about specific field marks and ID tricks that you have learned.

Guiding other birders can be very rewarding. If you find yourself in this position, or are looking for someone to guide you, consider these rules. Your trip will be more enjoyable and you will probably see more birds, too.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

Bird Songs of Southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico by Geoffrey A. Keller, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

A Review by Chuck Otte

I'll be the first to admit that we probably aren't going to find an Elegant Trogon or a Rufous-backed Robin, in the near future, in Kansas. Nonetheless, this CD is worthy of your consideration, especially, if like many Kansas birders, you ever take a trip to Arizona.

Bird Songs of Southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico by Geoffrey A. Keller (2001, Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2 CDs - 202 species, \$24.95, ISBN 0-938027-58-1) is a great example of what can be done right with bird song recordings. There were many things that I liked about this CD set, and few things, if any, that I didn't like.

The CD is very well laid out. As the name indicates, it has birds that have been documented breeding in southeastern Arizona, as well as rare vagrants to the US and breeding species in Sonora, Mexico. All of the first disc and the first 44 species on the second disc are the southeast Arizona specialties. The remaining 51 species on the second disc are the Sonoran specialties.

All told there are 202 species on the two discs. For the most part, each species is on a separate track. On the eight tracks where species were doubled up, the real time position of the start of the second species is indicated in the narrative booklet. Disc one contains 99 tracks, 107 species and is 73:20 minutes in length. Disc two contains 95 tracks/species and is 74:08 minutes long.

By essentially having one species per track it makes finding a particular species quite easy. I'm sure many of you have struggled, as I have, to find locate a species out of the six or more per track on the Peterson audio guides. When the Peterson recordings were released they were on LPs or cassette tapes. CDs hadn't been invented yet. This Cornell guide follows the lead of other newer audio guides, such as the Stokes series, in keeping one species per CD track to speed up locating a desired species.

Many of the tracks are quite lengthy. This extra time allows for more of the variety and intricacy of each species calls and songs to be explored. Many of you have found, as I have, that even within a state, birds will develop regional dialects. The more time that can be allotted to each

species, the greater the number of these dialects that can be included. The quality of the recordings is overall superb. While the booklet does not indicate whether the original recording of each species was analog or digital, it is very obvious that only the highest quality original recordings were utilized. Within each of the two groups of birds, American Ornithological Union Seventh Edition nomenclature and order are followed.

An additional strength of this audio guide is the narrative booklet itself. The text goes above and beyond the expected listing of order of species, common name, scientific name and location where the call was recorded. It includes a very detailed description of the call. Where calls were recorded from different locations, the text indicates what part of each song was recorded in which area. The index, as in the Stokes's guides, gives an alphabetized list of all the species and then the disc and track number where it is located. This makes it very easy to see that the Steller's Jay is on disc one, track 73.

Are there any downsides to this audio guide? None of major consequence to this author. Of course audio guides are like field guides and music, everyone views them slightly differently. A few of the calls used are from recordings made well outside of Arizona and Sonora area. I'm going to assume that when used, the songs and calls are not significantly different from what one would expect in southeastern Arizona.

If you haven't purchased any audio guides yet, this CD set is not the place for a Kansas birder to start. It does not include many common Kansas species that you need to learn. However, if you are looking to expand your sound library, this audio guide could be a valuable addition. It will be of particular interest to anyone who birds southwestern Kansas on a regular basis. Nearly half of the Arizona species represented are also at least periodically seen in Kansas. Several future additions to the Kansas state checklist may well be found in these recordings as well!

The audio guide is available directly from Cornell Labs as well as American Birding Association sales. Samples can be heard at: http://birds.cornell.edu/labs_cd.html

KOS Spring Field Trip Results

Compiled by John Schukman

Twenty field observers found 155 species in Montgomery, Chautauqua, and Labette Counties the weekend of 4,5 and 6 May. With overcast skies and rain some of the time, and sun at others, good numbers of birds were found. But the general consensus was that there were low numbers of migrants. Twenty-four new county records need to be verified.

A Broad-winged Hawk was found in Chautauqua County crosstember forest by two separate parties (maybe the same bird?). After checking the safe dates, according to atlas standards, this would be a possible breeding record. After checking the new Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Book, and what a great book, this location would be a new area in the state for breeding. New wetlands created at the upper end of Elk City Lake produced 13 shorebirds (see below). Although not as many as wished, 10 species of flycatcher, 5 species of thrush including Veery, 6 species of vireo, and 17 species of warbler were found.

Species List: M = Montgomery, C = Chautauqua, and L = Labette, * = new county record.

Pied-billed Grebe- M; White Pelican- M;
Double-crested Cormorant- M*; Great Blue Heron- M;
Great Egret- M; Snowy Egret- M; Little Blue Heron - M;
Cattle Egret- M; Green Heron- M, C; Turkey Vulture- M, C; Canada Geese- M; Wood Duck- M;
Mallard- M; Blue-winged Teal - C; Northern Pintail- M;
Blue-winged Teal- M; Gadwall - M; Osprey- L;
Red-shouldered Hawk- M, C; Broad-winged Hawk- C*;
Swainson's Hawk- M; Red-tailed Hawk- M, C; Accipiter sp- M; American Kestrel- M, C; Peregrine Falcon- M*;
Wild Turkey- M, C; Northern Bobwhite- M, C; Sora- M;
American Coot - M; Black-bellied Plover- M*;
American Golden Plover- M*;
Semipalmated Plover- M*;
Killdeer- M, C; Greater Yellowlegs- M*;
Lesser Yellowlegs- M; Solitary Sandpiper- M; Spotted Sandpiper- M; Hudsonian Godwit- M*;
Semiplumbed Sandpiper- M*;
Least Sandpiper- M; White-rumped Sandpiper- M*;
Baird's Sandpiper- M; Pectoral Sandpiper- M; Long-billed Dowitcher- M; Common Snipe- M; Franklin's Gull - M; Wilson's Phalarope- M*;
Rock Dove- M, C; Mourning Dove- M, C; Black-billed Cuckoo- M; Yellow-billed Cuckoo- M, C; Great Horned Owl- M; Barred Owl- M, C; Common Nighthawk- M; Chuck-will's-widow- M; Whip-poor-will- M; Chimney Swift- M, C;

Ruby-throated Hummingbird- M, C; Belted Kingfisher- M, C; Red-headed Woodpecker- M; Red-bellied Woodpecker- M, C; Downy Woodpecker- M, C; Hairy Woodpecker- M; Northern Flicker- M, C; Pileated Woodpecker- M, C; Olive-sided Flycatcher- C*;
Eastern Wood Pewee- M, C; Acadian Flycatcher- M; Least Flycatcher- M*, C*; Traill's Flycatcher- M*;
Eastern Phoebe- M, C; Great Crested Flycatcher- M, C; Western Kingbird- M; Eastern Kingbird- M, C; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher- M, C; Horned Lark- M; Purple Martin- M, C; Tree Swallow- M; Northern Rough-winged Swallow- M, C; Cliff Swallow- M, C; Barn Swallow- M, C; Blue Jay- M, C; American Crow - M, C; Fish Crow - M*;
Carolina Chickadee - M, C; Tufted Titmouse - M, C; White-breasted Nuthatch - M, C; Carolina Wren - M; House Wren - M; Ruby-crowned Kinglet - M; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - M, C; Eastern Bluebird - M, C; Veery - M; Swainson's Thrush - M*, C*;
Wood Thrush - M; American Robin - M, C; Gray Catbird - M, C; Northern Mockingbird - M, C; Brown Thrasher - M, C; Cedar Waxwing - M; Loggerhead Shrike - C; White-eyed Vireo - M, C*;
Bell's Vireo - M; Blue-headed Vireo - M; Yellow-throated Vireo - M*, C; Warbling Vireo - M, C; Red-eyed Vireo - M, C; European Starling - M, C; Tennessee Warbler - M, C; Orange-crowned Warbler - M, C; Nashville Warbler - M, C; Northern Parula - M, C; Yellow Warbler - M, C; Magnolia Warbler - M*;
Yellow-rumped Warbler - M, C; Black-throated Green Warbler - M; Blackpoll Warbler - M, C; Black-and-white Warbler - M, C; American Redstart - M; Prothonotary Warbler- M, C; Ovenbird - M*;
Louisiana Waterthrush - M, C; Kentucky Warbler - M, C; Common Yellowthroat - M, C; Yellow-breasted Chat - M, C; Summer Tanager - M, C; Scarlet Tanager - M*;
Northern Cardinal - M, C; Rose-breasted Grosbeak - M*;
Blue Grosbeak - M, C; Indigo Bunting - M, C; Painted Bunting - M, C; Dickcissel - M, C; Eastern Towhee - M; Chipping Sparrow - M, C; Clay-colored Sparrow - M, C; Field Sparrow - M, C; Lark Sparrow - M, C; Savannah Sparrow - M; Grasshopper Sparrow - M, C; LeConte's Sparrow - M; Lincoln's Sparrow - M, C; White-throated Sparrow - M, C; White-crowned Sparrow - M; Harris's Sparrow - M; Red-winged Blackbird - M, C; Eastern Meadowlark - M, C; Yellow-headed Blackbird - M; Common Grackle - M, C; Brown-headed Cowbird - M, C; Orchard Oriole - M, C; Baltimore Oriole - M, C; House Finch - M; American Goldfinch - M, C; House Sparrow - M, C.

WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001

by Pete Janzen & Lloyd Moore

This was the longest, harshest winter in some years across Kansas. After a relatively balmy first two weeks of December, a very strong arctic front pushed across Kansas on December 15, bringing some of the lowest temperatures in several years. This had profound effects on many bird species. The usual list of lingering southern species that have become normal in Kansas during the winter in recent years was a bit thinner this year. Many of these records preceded the cold blast. However, some of these species seemed willing to try and stick it out, such as Black-crowned Night-heron, Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, Vesper Sparrow and others, all of which were recorded well into the "deep-freeze" weeks. The Harris's Hawk, which had first been found near Geuda Springs was not seen after Dec. 5, so far as I know.

Another event was a nice showing of Snow Buntings across the state, no doubt triggered by the really snowy and cold conditions in the northern states. Another northern winter straggler, Bohemian Waxwing made a rare appearance, as did a White-winged Crossbill.

The massive invasion of western montane species, which had begun early last fall, continued into the winter. Mountain Chickadees were recorded from a variety of locations. A Plain Titmouse was located by Jethro Runco in Morton County, about 7 miles upstream on the Cimarron River from the location of last fall's sighting. Western Scrub Jays and Pinyon Jays were reported from new locations as well. Wintering Mountain

Bluebirds are always expected in western Kansas and in the Red Hills, but as the end of the period neared, these birds pushed even farther east than usual, recorded east to at least Coffey and Elk Counties. Perhaps as they exhausted the berry crops in the Red Hills, they went further out in search of food. A similar movement was noted in Oklahoma at the same time.

Rare gulls appeared here and there, but not in the numbers of some recent years. One of the most astounding events for the author was the complete absence of gulls at the Wichita landfill for almost 6 weeks. After the big blast from the north, all Wichita-area gulls with good sense apparently headed for milder locations. The February thaw brought returning numbers close to normal. Say good bye to a lot of the rare gull records from Sedgwick County, as the landfill will close this coming October, with an expected drastic reduction in gull reports hereabouts. Elsewhere across the state, many other observers reported drastically reduced numbers of gulls, although many unusual gull records continued through the period at scattered locations. These included Great and Lesser Black-backed, Mew, a possible Western, and numerous Glaucous Gulls.

Winter often brings good waterfowl reports for Kansas's birders. The Barrow's Goldeneye disappeared while the tiny Wichita pond it had been on was frozen for several weeks, but was back as soon as the water opened again, where it remained for several more weeks. Long-tailed Ducks were fairly widely reported. Three American

Black Duck records are about as many as we can expect in Kansas in any winter, so I guess it was a good year for them here. Trumpeter and Tundra Swans both appear to be increasing throughout our state as wintering species.

All in all, it was a long, harsh winter, and as I write this on a rainy March afternoon, I'm dreaming of the balmy days of spring which hopefully aren't too far away now. This will be my final seasonal report for the Horned Lark. The new compiler will be Lloyd Moore. Lloyd has already been compiling Kansas records for North American Birds (in fact much of this report was drawn from his winter report to NAB), which all of you SHOULD be subscribing too, as it is a fascinating continent-wide compilation of reports like the one you are reading. As such, he was a natural choice for this job.

I hope you will all keep reporting ALL of your interesting bird sightings to KSBIRD-L, or directly to Lloyd, as you have been doing. Lloyd will be making some nice innovations, including regional comments from several people, to supplement his basic record compilation. I look forward to seeing how he does it!

See you all around, hopefully while we're checking out a really super bird!!

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*Lloyd Moore can be reached at:
ictinia@swbell.net*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	1 at Cedar Bluff Lake	Trego	12/19	SS
Western Grebe	1 Melvern Lake	Osage	12/02	DG, TAS
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1 at Cedar Bluff Lake	Trego	12/19	SS
Great Egret	1 at Arkansas City	Cowley	<u>12/05</u>	GY
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1 at Sedgwick Co. Zoo	Sedgwick	<u>01/01</u>	ES
Ross's Goose	7 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/03	CG, MG
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	2 at Perry Lake 3 at Clinton Lake 1 at Lake Shawnee (orange collar) 8 at Medicine Lodge <i>(6 were tagged and are from Iowa release program)</i>	Jefferson Douglas Douglas Barber	12/05 12/12 12/17 12/17	RR Gpa DG DA
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	2 at Quivira NWR 2 at Tuttle Creek Rsvr. 2 at Wilson Lake 1 at Cedar Bluff Lk. (CBC) 1 on Scott Lake CBC	Stafford Riley Russell Trego Scott	12/03 12/08 12/12-13 12/19 12/30	CG, MG TC MR SS T&SSh
American Black Duck	1 at Cheney Rsvr. 2 below Melvern Dam in pond 1 below dam at Tuttle Creek	Sedgwick Osage Riley	02/01 02/03 02/11	CG BF, GG TC
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Cedar Bluff Lk. (CBC) 1 at Wichita sandpit 1 at marina Clinton Lake 1 at Perry Lake 1 adult male at Wilson Lake	Trego Sedgwick Douglas Jefferson Russell	12/19 01/03 01/20 02/20 02/26-27	SS CG DG RR MS, MR
<u>Barrows Goldeneye</u>	1 adult male west Wichita pond Same bird returned after thaw 1 at NW Wichita sandpit-same bird?	Sedgwick Sedgwick Sedgwick	11/19-12/16 1/7-2/03 02/26	LMa, mob W&NB, mob PJ
Common Merganser	<u>18,000</u> Wilson Lake on CBC	Russell	12/17	MR
Bald Eagle	<u>98+</u> at Milford Lake 110+ at Marion Reservoir	Geary Marion	12/21 2/17	CO JN
Northern Goshawk	1 near Perry Lake Visitor center 1 on Old Hwy 40 1 imm near Valley Falls 1 in Elkhart	Jefferson Ellsworth Jefferson Morton	12/05 12/05 12/05 12/29	RR MR AS GF
<u>Harris's Hawk</u>	1 east Geuda Springs	Cowley	11/14-12/5	m.o.b
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 west of Clinton	Douglas	1/16	KM, MP

Ferruginous Hawk	1 Wichita area	<u>Sedgwick</u>	12/03	CG, MG
Golden Eagle	1 adult near Sylvan Grove	Lincoln	12/18	MR
	1 adult 3 mi S. of Osborne	Osborne	12/26	MR
	1 immature S. of Osborne	Osborne	01/27	HA
Merlin	1	Russell	12/02	MR
	1 Wichita area	Sedgwick	12/03	CG, MG
	1 NW of Larned	Pawnee	12/06	SS
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/09	MR
	1 at residence in Garden City	Finney	01/15	TS
	8 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	01/20	SS
	1 chasing RW Blackbirds	Pawnee	01/16	SS
	1 extremely pale individual	Pawnee	01/17	SS
	1	Pawnee	02/20	SS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	02/19	CG
	1 near Colwich	Sedgwick	02/25	PJ, WW
1 below Tuttle Creek dam	Riley	02/28	DR	
<u>Gyr Falcon</u>	1 gray phase at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/05	MR
Peregrine Falcon	1 on Meade CBC	Meade	12/29	TF
Prairie Falcon	3 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/16	GP
	1 on Bonner Springs CBC	Leavenworth	12/30	GP
<i>Note: Prairie Falcons were in very good numbers across much of the state this winter.</i>				
<u>Virginia Rail</u>	1 below Cedar Bluff dam	Trego	<u>12/19</u>	TS, CS
	2 in river channel below Milford dam	Geary	<u>12/26</u>	CO
	1 at Meade State Lake	Meade	<u>12/29</u>	TF
	5 in marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	01/06	PJ
Sandhill Crane	50,000 in Cheyenne Bottoms area	Barton	02/25	S&DS, DB
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 near Colwich	Sedgwick	<u>02/25</u>	PJ
Western Sandpiper	Several at end of Marion Lake dam	Marion	12/1-8	CG
	3 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/10	JB, CG, PJ
Least Sandpiper	1 on Baxter Springs CBC	Cherokee	<u>12/24</u>	JR
Common Snipe	1 at Lone Star Lk.	Douglas	<u>12/03</u>	PW
	1 below Milford dam	Geary	<u>12/26</u>	CO
	2 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	<u>12/30</u>	T&SSh
	4 at Milford Lake outlet channel	Geary	<u>01/01</u>	CO
	2 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	PJ
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/09	MR
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1 1 st winter at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	1/11	PJ, PM, m.ob.
California Gull	1 imm. at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/13	MR
	3 at Wilson Lake (CBC)	Russell	12/17	MR
	4 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/28	DV

Bonaparte's Gull	250-300 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/03	MR	
Thayer's Gull	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	12/10	PJ	
	1 1 st winter at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	02/03	BF, GG	
	1 1 st winter at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	02/11	PJ	
	2 1 st winter at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 pale 1 st winter at Cheney Res.	Sedgwick	02/17	CG	
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	01/10	B&NB	
	1 adult at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	02/11	PJ	
	1 adult at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 adult at El Dorado Lake	Butler	02/19	DW	
<u>Western Gull</u>	1 large 1 st winter likely this species	Riley	2/26	DB	
Glaucous Gull	1 imm. At Wilson Lake	Russell	12/13	MR	
	1 at Kansas Rvr. Dam in Lawrence	Douglas	12/16-18	GP	
	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/17	MR	
	1 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	12/28	DV	
	1 at Cheney Rsvr.	Sedgwick	01/06	BB	
	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	02/07	KM, MP	
	2 2 nd winter at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	02/11	GP, MM	
	1 at Cheney	Sedgwick/Reno	02/17	CG	
	1 1 st winter at Wichita	Sedgwick	02/19	PJ	
	1 at Burlington Sewage Lagoons	Coffey	02/27	AS	
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/17	MR	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8 at Pittsburg residence	Crawford	12/08	RM	
	20 at feeder in Girard	Crawford	12/01	MP	
	1 in a pear tree in Valley Center	Sedgwick	12/16	BM	
	1 at feeder in Wilson	Ellsworth	12/25	MR, ER	
	1 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh	
	1 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh	
	2 in Greensburg	Kiowa	02/03	GF, EF	
<u>Inca Dove</u>	7 at feeder in Meade	Meade	12/29-01/15		TF
	5 at Garden City CBC	Finney	01/06	T&SSh	
	1 at residence in Girard	<u>Crawford</u>	01/14	MP	
	1 at Ulysses	Grant	02/28	JR	
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	1 in Kingman	Kingman	12/1-?		
	1 at a Wichita lumberyard	Sedgwick	12/27-1/11	PJ, mob	
	1 in south Wichita	Sedgwick	2/6	LC	
	<i>Note: On Jan. 3, the Wichita Roadrunner was captured by an individual who planned to release it in Oklahoma. After being compelled to return it by KDWP staff, the bird lingered for a few days and then vanished. The 2/6 record may well represent the same individual, although it was about 10 miles south of the original sighting.</i>				
Long-eared Owl	3 at Wilson State Park	Russell	12/17	MR	
	15 in cedars at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	02/07	DG	

Short-eared Owl	3	Pawnee	12/03	SS
	2	Rush	12/03	SS
	8 S. of LaCygne Lake	Linn	12/23	MG
	13 in mined land S. of LaCygne Lk.	Linn	12/27	GP
	13 at McConnell AFB in Wichita	Sedgwick	01/24	PJ
	2	Butler	02/19	DW
	9 in northern Pawnee	Pawnee	02/23	S&DS
<u>N. Saw-whet Owl</u>	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	02/03	PJ
Pileated Woodpeckers	Pair at John Redmond Rsvr.	Coffey	12/02	DG, TAS
Eastern Phoebe	1 on Baxter Springs CBC	Cherokee	<u>12/24</u>	JR
Northern Shrike	1 N. of Cheney Rsvr.	Reno	12/03	CG, MG
	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/17	MR
	1 2 mi. NE Melvern Dam	Osage	02/03-11	BF, GG
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	02/17	TH
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	02/17	ML
<u>Western Scrub Jay</u>	1 in western Finney Co.	Finney	01/03	BC,TS
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	1 at feeder in Syracuse	Hamilton	12/31	CG,TH,MG
<u>Mountain Chickadee</u>	2 mist netted in Meade	Meade	12/14-26	TF
	2 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh
	1 Meade CBC	Meade	12/29	TF
	25 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/29	SP
	8 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh
	2 at Syracuse	Hamilton	12/31	CG,TH,MG
	2 at Garden City CBC	Finney	01/06	T&SSh
	1 at Pierceville	Finney	02/18	T&SSh
1 still in Ulysses	Grant	2/28	JR	
<u>Plain Titmouse</u>	1 at waterfowl ponds CNG	Morton	12/31	JR
Rock Wren	1 in rip rap Perry Lake Dam	<u>Jefferson</u>	12/07	RR
Sedge Wren	1 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	CG, m.ob
Marsh Wren	5 at marsh near Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>01/06</u>	PJ, m.ob.
	1 at Chisholm Cr. Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/1-14	BG, CG
Mountain Bluebirds	15 S. of Cheney Rsvr.	Kingman	12/03-2/24	CG, m.ob.
	20 near Lake Afton	Sedgwick	12/03-2/24	CG, m.ob.
	30 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott	12/30	T&SSh
	20 on Ulysses CBC	Grant	01/01	T&SSh
	50 around Cedar Bluff Rsvr.	Trego	01/06	SS, DB
	9 in Greensburg	Kiowa	02/03	GF, EF
	20-25 at Wilson Lake	Russell	02/05	MR
	15 at Cheney Rsvr.	Sedgwick	02/17	CG
	1 near Elk Falls	<u>Elk</u>	02/18	GJW
	15 Wilson Lake	Russell	02/26	MR
1 near New Strawn	<u>Coffey</u>	02/27	AS	

Hermit Thrush	2 on Junction City CBC 1 on Baxter Springs CBC 1 on Bonner Springs CBC 1 north of Towanda 1 at residence in Manhattan	Geary <u>12/26</u> Cherokee <u>12/24</u> Leavenworth <u>12/30</u> Butler <u>12/31</u> Riley <u>01/01</u>	CO JR GP PJ DR
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Wichita feeder	Sedgwick <u>12/14-16</u>	DV
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell all winter	MR
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 at Meade Fish Hatchery	<u>Meade</u> <u>12/29-01/15</u>	TF
<u>Brown Thrasher</u>	1 on Scott Lake CBC	Scott <u>12/30</u>	T&SSh
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford 12/25	GP
<u>Canyon Towhee</u>	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton 12/29	CG,TH,MG
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton 12/29	CG,TH,MG
Vesper Sparrow	1 at feeder in Pittsburg 2 on Blue Rapids CBC	Crawford <u>12/26</u> Marshall <u>12/30</u>	RM TP
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita	Sedgwick 12/14-16	BB, CG, PJ
Dark-eyed Junco	1 Gray-headed race at Wichita 1 White-winged netted near Viola	Sedgwick 12/11 Sedgwick 2/8	PJ CG
Lapland Longspur	<u>250,000</u> around Marion Lake <i>Note: In January, during one of the many huge snowstorms which pounded western Kansas this winter, hundreds and hundred of Lapland Longspurs were road-killed as they roosted along the roadsides.</i>	Marion 12/08	CG
Snow Bunting	1 west of Wichita 1 at Winfield City Lake 1 E of Wilson 1 on Scott Lake CBC 1 on dam at Perry Lake	Sedgwick1 2/21-22 Cowley 12/21 Ellsworth 12/29 Scott 12/30 Jefferson 02/16	CG, PJ MT MR DR P&LW
<u>Dickcissel</u>	1 near dam at Lone Star Lake	Douglas <u>12/10</u>	MG, DG
Great-tailed Grackle	<u>3000+</u> in Colwich for over a month <u>2500+</u> near Olathe	Sedgwick thru period Johnson 02/19	PJ MC
Red Crossbill	2 at feeder, Lake Perry 1 juv. at farmstead 15 at residence in Wilson	Jefferson 12/03 Pawnee 12/20 Ellsworth 01/06	RR SS ER, HR
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	1 at farmstead	Rush 12/04	SS
Common Redpoll	1 at St. Francis feeder	Cheyenne 2/24	R&BA
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	2 on Garden City CBC	Finney 01/06	T&SSh

Roundup Key

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate unusual species.

Underlined species in bold indicate exceptionally rare sightings..

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR)

Observers: Dennis Angle, Raymond, Bonnie, and Henry Armknecht, Bill & Nancy Beard, Bob Broyles, Dave Bryan, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Mark Corder, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Eric Friesen, Bob Gress, Greg Griffith, Chet Gresham, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Mark Land, Linda Mallonee (LMA), Robert Mangile, Beverly Maxey, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Tom Parker, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Martha Price, Mike Rader, Ellen Rader, Heather Rader, John Rakestraw, Dave Rintoul, Jim Rising, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, Scott Seltman, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Tom Shane, Tom & Sara Shane, Christopher Shane, Matt Smith, Eddie Stegall, Art Swalwell, Max Thompson, Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Don Vannoy, William Watson, Paul & Lil Willis, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Gloria Jones-Wolf, Gene Young,

Cyberbirding Update

I once was naive enough that I thought I could predict what directions technology was going to take and what to expect. That is no longer the case. I struggle just trying to keep up with the new developments. Ten years ago we wondered how much faster and bigger the computers would get. We went light years beyond those wildest dreams in a hurry.

Now days the speed and size of the home computers are almost an afterthought. It's the "gizmos" that we all seem to be watching. We were excited when small, battery powered, cassette tape players became good enough, and cheap enough, that we could take them into the field. Now we have CD players that allow us immediate access to any bird song. If that isn't small enough, tuck an MP3 player the size of a pack of cigarettes and small headphones into your shirt pocket and you barely know they're there.

Personal digital assistants, handheld computers, PDAs, Palm Pilots; call them what you want to. They've moved beyond expensive calendars and address books into the realm of field bird data recorders. Most of the well known bird record keeping software now has a PDA version allowing you to record your sightings on the go in the field. Once you return home, you slip the PDA into its cradle and synchronize it with your computer. Your records are added to your main database, life lists are updated and you're done! Be prepared for major techno-shock on these little devices. You can integrate wireless communications (Internet on the go), digital imaging (upload that rare bird you just saw onto your web site for everyone to see), and GPS technology (give the exact location so everyone can be on the way in 15 minutes or less). You'll be seeing birders in the field so equipped, sooner than you think!

If you are more inclined to stay at home and study up on the birds, here's a web site that may be helpful. The well known Birdzilla web site, <http://www.birdzilla.com> now has the entire Bent Life History series on line. You can find the link from the home page (look for a little box that says Wild Bird Omnibus). Or if you are brave enough to try to type in the entire URL to go right there, here you go:

Http://www.birdzilla.com/sub.asp?strType=omnibus_intro&strTitle=Birdzilla:+Wild+Bird+Omnibus

I'm scare to ask it, but, I wonder what's next?

Chuck Otte

Wings ‘n Wetlands Weekend

by Helen Hands

The first birding festival at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge was a resounding success. Eighty-six birders attended, primarily from within Kansas. However, individuals also came from Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Although children’s activities were offered, only adults attended the festival.

The weekend started with evening and early morning birding tours of Cheyenne Bottoms, both the state and The Nature Conservancy properties. The highlight for visitors was that the vans were permitted to view birds from the Pool 3A-3B dike, which normally is closed to vehicular traffic. Driving this dike allowed birders to see large numbers of a wide variety of shorebirds and other species. Approximately 100,000 shorebirds were using Pool 3A during the birding festival. After the morning birding tours, participants had the choice of an informational tour of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area or more birding.

Besides birding, festival attendees learned about shorebird and other waterbird identification, raptors, wildlife photography, medicinal plants, and enhancing backyard habitat for birds. These topics were covered in hour-long breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening, activities included more birding at Cheyenne Bottoms, exhibits, networking, and musical entertainment.

The birding festival wrapped up with morning birding at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Although there was no group compilation, birding festival attendees saw at least 126 species, including such rarities as Tri-colored Heron, Bald Eagle, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Common Moorhen, and Piping Plover.

The next Wings ‘n Wetlands weekend at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira will be held May 2 - 4, 2003.

In conjunction with the birding festival, the U.S. National Ramsar Committee held its annual meeting. Ramsar designates “Wetlands of International Importance” and is named for the city in Iran in which the group was organized. Cheyenne Bottoms was designated a Ramsar site in 1988. Twenty committee members from all over the U.S. attended the meeting, including one from Switzerland and one from Brazil. At the meeting, they heard reports from Ramsar sites. They also approved a resolution to become more of an advocacy group, rather than just designating sites. In their new advocacy role, they will provide more financial support to Ramsar sites, such as partially funding the Wings ‘n Wetlands weekend. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge has applied for Ramsar designation and hopefully the meeting in Great Bend will help their application.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
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Thank You!

There isn’t enough room in this newsletter to express the thanks from the KOS Board of Directors and the KOS members for what some of you have done in recent months, but we’ll give it a try!

Ed Miller - Ed was asked to tackle the task of hosting a spring meeting in Montgomery county and surrounding areas. He tackled the task and the result was a great meeting with many new species seen in a historically under birded area and an ecologically unique area of Kansas. Thank you Ed!

Wings ‘N Wetlands Committee - I don’t even know who all was on this committee, but many of us felt it was high time that Kansas had its own birding festival, and we had a good one to start the ball rolling! Thank you to everyone, KOS members and nonmembers alike who made this event happen!

Bill Busby, Ken Brunson, Kansas Biological Survey and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks - A lot of people and groups pulled together to not only make sure that the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas happened, but to find the funds so that all the volunteers who collected field data would receive a copy of the book. Its a marvelous book, and speaking for all the KBBAT volunteers, thank you!

Helpers at Birds' Nests: A Worldwide Survey of Cooperative Breeding and Related Behavior (an expanded edition)

by Alexander F. Skutch

*A Review by E. A. Young**

Helpers at Birds' Nests: A Worldwide Survey of Cooperative Breeding and Related Behavior (an expanded edition) by Alexander F. Skutch (1999, 328 pp, 62 drawings, \$24.95 paperback, ISBN 0-87745-67-7, University of Iowa Press) is a classic. This book is basically organized in taxonomic order with 50 chapters devoted to species ranging from oceanic birds to bee-eaters, to Old World Warblers, to Weavers and sparrows. The last three chapters are devoted to understanding interspecific helping, the characteristics of cooperative breeders and the evolutionary significance of cooperative breeding.

The overall text is enjoyable to read and the author provides a considerable bibliography of primary literature. The only downfall concerning the literature is that the citations are listed at the end of the chapter as references rather than in text. Presumably this has been done to make the book more reader friendly (and it works) but it can be frustrating and time consuming when one needs to look up specific references going from the end of a chapter and back to the bibliography. He does provide the full names of the researchers, which is a classy touch, within the text. The black and white illustrations by Dana Gardner add a nice touch to the book and though they can not be used as an identification aid (not the intent) they allow the reader to see how diverse some of these bird families are (for example pp 115 showing a Gray Jay, Yucatan Jay, Tufted Jay, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Scrub Jay, and Green Jay).

Most chapters start of with a brief description of the family (or families), which usually includes: the number of species represented; basic physical structure (plumage colors and patterns, relative sizes, length of tails, sexual dimorphism etc.); relatedness to other groups; their geographical distribution; general behavioral traits; and nesting behavioral characteristics. The accounts of behavior are specific and vivid. Specific reference to data are precise, to the

point, and do not clutter or impede the flow of reading, but help one understand the data as it relates to the biology of the organism.

In many instances Skutch provides geographic references, for example he mentions observations in Kansas and Colorado associated with interspecific interactions between House Sparrows and other species. This makes the book interesting and useful to local birding enthusiasts as well as the professional ornithologist. Detail of biogeographical representation helps the amateur understand the broad or limited distributions of family groups.

Some of the most interesting reading comes in the last three chapters (51-53) where possible explanations and further research questions are raised regarding interspecific relationships between biogeographical realms. For those interested in research, these chapters provide some interesting insight drawn from the literature, as well as Skutch's knowledge of birds in field, especially the tropics.

The overall aspect of natural history presented in this book make it an invaluable tool for both the amateur birding enthusiast and professional ornithologist alike.

**Natural Science Division, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS.*

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Reflections on a Big Year, Part II

by Chet Gresham

[Editor's Note: Over the past decade, or so, there have been several attempts made to grasp that illusive, and perhaps fictional, title of Kansas Big Year Record holder. The two most recent attempts, by Galen Pittman and Mike Rader, were chronicled in these pages, so it is only fitting that Chet's run at the record also be detailed. All three of these gentlemen have approached their attempt differently. They all had different goals and styles, and they all succeeded in eclipsing the previous reported record. And as Chet will detail, there were a lot of lessons learned along the way. Lessons about birds, lessons about themselves and lessons about humankind. This is the second installment. Enjoy! ceo]

Summer sets in --

As June rolled around the year birds were coming few and far between, but like a rider through the fog I saw a message on my e-mail that said there was an immature Wood Stork at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City and he was no resident. That evening I had promised to spend with my girlfriend Maggie so after getting directions from Tom Shane I called Maggie and asked her how she would feel about a road trip. She agreed and we struck out for Garden City (a four hour drive). When we arrived the small fish pond it had been seen in was storkless. We walked around for about half an hour and Maggie sat down on a bench while I searched some more and as I was walking away from her she yells, "what's that!" I look up to see the black and white underwing pattern of a Wood Stork! Later, after we ate at the official big year fast food joint McDonalds, we returned to the Zoo and the bird was at the pond feeding. I shot some video and watched it for a long time. A rarity for Kansas and a life bird for me. I was impressed. Plus it was June 19th and I had just seen my 300th bird of the year.

Morton Mania --

I was still severely doubting my chances of breaking the record as September rolled around. I made a list of birds I could possibly see and there weren't many and what was there seemed pretty difficult to find any year in Kansas let alone the number I needed to see. But it was fall and I had planned on going to Morton County as much as possible and I was excited! And I had reason to be. When I pulled into the campsite on the last day of August I found Brandon Percival of Colorado stalking

some birds. He had already seen a Townsend's Warbler, a bird I had hoped to see, but wasn't an easy bird to find by any means. That weekend we saw at least five. The list of rarities in September and October in Morton County would get long. Suffice it to say the birding was amazing. The highlight for me was a male Williamson's Sapsucker in the town of Elkhart. It was the second record for Kansas, a lifer for me, and a truly beautiful bird. I don't think I'll ever top this fall in Morton, but I'll love trying.

Ahhhhh Kansas! --

This was the year I got to know my home state. I went to many places I had never been and saw nesting species I had never seen and I learned that Kansas is all the things I had told out of staters it was. From eastern bottomland forest to the canyons of Morton County and every hill, thunderhead, and expanse in between it is a landscape of beauty and change and it will always be home. And now I feel that I have come closer to knowing this land we live on, not nearly close enough, but the journey is what counts and I'll let the birds be my touchstones.

The list --

On September 22nd I spotted a Western Scrub-Jay in a tamarisk along the Cimarron River in Morton County. That bird was number 340 and beat the previous record and I still had three months to go!. But as winter rolled around so did the extreme cold. The reservoirs I had relied on to turn up loons and scoters were completely frozen. After seeing a Long-tailed Duck on November 27th I only added one bird the rest of the year. But at that point I had resigned myself to my total which wasn't too bad. A McCown's Longspur in Steven's county on December 29th was my 358th bird of the year.

In retrospect --

Looking back on the year I don't have many regrets. Sometimes I was too obsessed, but I believe it's our obsessions that get us through each day. And I feel that I have become a more patient birder and person and I sincerely hope to keep adding to my knowledge

- - Continued next page

-- *Chet's Big Year*

of avifauna and hopefully help conserve what remains. I would recommend to anyone who is thinking of doing a big year to do it. It can only help a person learn more about their self and birds. The numbers don't mean much of anything. It is the journey and I hope to keep moving and birding.

I would like to thank so many people for helping me this year. Here are just a few: Pete Janzen, Tyler Hicks, Matt Gearheart, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Tom Flowers, Carolyn Schwab, Max Thompson, Ken Brunson, Lisa Edwards, Chris Hobbs, Scott Seltman, Mick McHugh, Dave Williams, Eric

Preston, Galen Pittman, and many subscribers to the Kansas listserv for providing information on where to look for birds. Thank you.

(Editor's Post Script - Don't expect to see Chet rushing around Kansas this summer trying to add to his list. He is spending several months in southeast Arizona - at the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains to be disgustingly accurate. I thank Chet for taking the time to write up his big year and share it with us! - ceo)

Share The Joy

(Sometimes, the greatest joys of birdwatching are not the birds that you see, but the birds that you help others see. The following was posted on the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBIRD-L) on the Internet. Dan graciously allowed us to reprint it here and share it with all of you.)

If you want to have a really gratifying birding experience, take an "older" birder birding. Bob Glazier, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease, called me last week to inquire about the Thursday afternoon warbler walk that was scheduled by Topeka Audubon. I told him he may get more enjoyment if I took him later that didn't involve a large group, and that I would take him out this week.

I picked him up at 7:30 from his apartment at Presbyterian Manor and headed to Lake Shawnee. Bob walks with a walker and I figured we would have better luck getting the birds to come to him. I stopped at a wooded ravine and got a lawn chair out of the trunk for Bob to sit on. I played a bird attractor tape for a few minutes while Bob sat back to enjoy the show. Soon Baltimore orioles, warbling vireos, white-breasted nuthatches, bluejays, cardinals, and eastern bluebirds were in the tree above the tape player. You could see Bob's eyes sparkle with delight as the birds moved curiously about overhead.

Later, at another location, we set up between two mulberry trees and watched as dozens of cedar waxwings, two catbirds, two brown thrashers, and many

robins foraged voraciously. While we were watching this spectacle, I asked Bob when was the last time he saw a painted bunting. He replied "15 years or more". With that bit of information, I got him back in the car and headed to Clinton Reservoir.

Waiting for us at the Clinton causeway, perched on the wire, was a male painted bunting. Unfortunately the light was bad; but we were patient . . . and eventually he moved to a different location that allowed a great look at all his miraculous colors. Bob also got to see indigo buntings and a blue grosbeak. When we got back to his apartment, he tried to give me some money for gas. I said no way. . . I had more fun than he did. His reply made my day: "Well, you must have really had a blast!"

Dan Gish Topeka

(If you have e-mail and would like to join the Kansas Bird Discussion List, send an e-mail message to otte@jc.net, include your full name and just say that you'd like to join KSBIRD-L.)

**KOS Fall Meeting
October 5, 6 & 7, 2001
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita, Kansas**

Start planning to attend now and start getting those papers and presentations ready to share!