

The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

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Box 36, Nekoma, Kansas 67559

March 1989

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

No, you haven't opened your neighbor's mail by mistake. The KOS Newsletter has a new name: The Horned Lark. It was decided at the Winter Board Meeting that our newsletter might be more appealing if it had a better title and since the Horned Lark is already our club's official emblem it was voted that the change be made immediately. The new heading was designed by David Seibel and incorporates the familiar drawing of a Horned Lark which was donated to KOS by the late Orville Rice a few years back.

Horned Larks were named after their least conspicuous fieldmark, a long standing tradition among ornithologists. The 'horns' are visible on certain individuals but certainly not under the circumstances that most Horned Larks are viewed by Kansas birders . . . from the front seat of a car at 60 MPH. Like many of our most abundant birds they are largely taken for granted despite the fact that they are hardy and interesting little creatures. Many times I have been feeding cattle in a blizzard thinking all living things were doomed only to hear a flock of larks giving their tinkling call notes overhead. It's as if they are saying: "Hey, isn't this weather great! Twenty below tonight? No problem!" My opinion of them rose dramatically one spring day when I found adults feeding young birds about two weeks after a heavy March snowfall. Can you imagine what it would be like to be incubating eggs under a blanket of snow for a few days? So while they are often an object of scorn from birders searching for longspurs on a Christmas Count and are given casual disregard by virtually everyone the rest of the year, Horned Larks deserve better and will henceforth receive it in these pages.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear K.O.S. members,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me already, and to explain some of my ideas and goals as the new president of our society. I received my Ph.D. in ornithology last May from the University of Kansas and am now working for Allen Press, a printer of scientific journals, in Lawrence. My doctoral research focused on the systematic relationships of cuckoos ( about 129 species worldwide), based on analyses of skeletal characters, but my greatest interest is and always has been studying

living birds in the wild--that is, birdwatching. To me, there's something incredibly restorative about seeing wild birds surviving by their own devices in an often harsh, sometimes breathtakingly beautiful, always fascinating world. The countless mysteries of why birds do what they do, of the details of their lives and ways, of the subtleties of their plumages and calls, together with their beauty and the constant potential for surprises and discoveries, keep birdwatching downright exciting for me, and I suspect for the membership of K.O.S. in general. My goal as president is to make our society a vehicle for sharing this excitement with as many people as possible--much to our mutual benefit.

I have written in the past (K.O.S. Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, Sept. 1987) about my ideas for increasing the publicity and activity of K.O.S. At a stimulating and productive board meeting last January we began to activate some of those ideas and others which will, I believe, improve the society in several ways. I encourage you all to read the board meeting minutes elsewhere in this issue for a review of some of these new (or revived) plans. As always, the success of each will depend on the availability of enthusiastic volunteers. This presents the potentially cyclic dilemma that we need more activity and publicity to generate more members (the source of more volunteers), but we first need the increased membership to support the new activities. I'm afraid K.O.S. has been doing what most organizations do to postpone the effects of this problem: rather than increase the pool of volunteers, we simply call on the same good people over and over and over again. This works for a while but can eventually exhaust (in more than one sense) our most valuable resource--the enthusiasm of our most active members.

So how do we break the cycle and get more volunteers and more activity at the same time? For a long time I tried to think of incentives we could offer to entice new members, something we could afford on our limited budget but which would make joining us really worthwhile. I've finally realized that we, the members, are the best benefit we could ever offer to someone interested in learning more about birds. Already among us are experts in all sorts of things ornithological, such as field identification by sight and sound, trapping and banding techniques, advanced systematic and ecological research, conservation, management, education at all levels, photography, even wildlife art--and this barely scratches the surface. Our members have literally traversed the globe in pursuit of birds (some have even discovered new species!), and our collective knowledge--freely available in interesting, personable exchanges between members--is staggering. (And by "experts" I don't just mean professionals; every member of the society knows more about something than someone else does.) All we have to do is to let people know these tremendous resources (we) exist, that we are friendly, accessible, and affordable, that we want them to join us, and I believe our membership could easily double or triple within a single year. (That's just one or two new members invited by each current member. Simply consider the popularity of Peterson's and other field guides to recognize the potential.)

Now for some specific suggestions: (1) Tell friends and relatives who watch or feed birds (or would like to) about K.O.S. and that it's a great way to meet other birders and see more birds. Be sure to explain that it's not just for professionals or advanced birders, but for anyone interested in birds (our future meetings and field trips will be increasingly "novice-friendly"). (2) Once our new membership brochure is printed, get several and hand them out accompanied by a personal verbal invitation to join at other nature-oriented club meetings--Audubon, Sierra Club, etc.--which you attend. In the meantime, simply use the new rate cards available from Joyce Wolf in Lawrence. (3) If you lead bird-related programs or field trips, invite the participants to join K.O.S. Let yourself and your program be examples of the society's benefits. (If you'd like to formally associate your activities with K.O.S., I strongly encourage it; we might even be able to provide some resources--slides, printed matter, reference material, etc.--to help you. Let me know if you're interested.) (4) Give gift memberships to friends or relatives (especially

children) living in Kansas, perhaps in conjunction with a field guide, bird feeder, or even binoculars. (5) Recommend and use the K.O.S. as a resource for educational and research materials, guest speakers, field trip leaders, general advice and expertise (at least about birds), and birding tips, including the rare bird hotline. (6) Finally, contact me or other board members if you have ideas or suggestions for improving our society, or if you're interested in starting or helping with a special project or committee. We can always use new ideas, enthusiasm, and talent.

David E. Seibel, President  
2907 W. 6th, #108  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
(913) 843-6611

#### KOS RARE-BIRD-ALERT HOTLINE

Can't decide where to bird next weekend? Call the KOS RBA for information about rarities and miscellaneous birding reports. Phone (316) 343-7061.

#### KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING January 28, 1989 Jane Hershberger home, Newton

Members present: David Seibel, Mick McHugh, Pete Jantzen, Rose Fritz, Mike Rader, Jane Hershberger, Dwight Platt.

Non-voting: John Zimmerman, Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman.

A delicious lunch was served by Jane Hershberger at her home overlooking Harvey Co. East Lake, after which David Seibel called the board meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Fall 1988 Board Meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Fritz reported that from September 30 to date KOS had receipts of \$1,888.73 and disbursements of \$1,372.97. Current balance in all accounts is \$21,142.39. Dwight Platt moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Mike Rader seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jane Hershberger reported that very few membership renewals had come in. The dues notices only were sent out in the last few weeks and some Board members had not yet received one. Some dues payments have been coming in at \$6. It was decided to accept \$6 renewals for the time being rather than ask for the remaining \$4.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: David Seibel reported that Joyce Wolf could not attend. She said she had received complaints from some new members who had joined KOS in the Fall but had not received anything from the club. She had been under the impression that she should hold those memberships until January. The Bylaws state that a person joining in the last four months of the year received membership for those months and the succeeding year. John Zimmerman reported that he receives requests for missing issues and inquiries about new subscriptions and he forwards these to the business manager. David Seibel will clarify the division of responsibilities between the librarian and business manager in these matters.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the March issue was about ready with reports of a record high number of 36 Christmas Bird Counts. He has no manuscripts in hand for succeeding issues. John also reported that he will probably be resigning sometime in the next five years and the board should be thinking of a replacement.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Scott Seltman reported that there would be a March Newsletter which would have updates on county records. He was looking into the possibility of printing state maps with county records for a few species in each Newsletter.

SPRING 1989 MEETING: Diane Seltman reported that we could reserve Camp Aldrich near Cheyenne Bottoms for the Spring meeting. However renting the dining hall with prepared meals would be quite expensive so the board agreed that the following arrangements be made: reserve the two sleeping lodges at the camp; bring in materials for a continental breakfast both mornings; let everyone handle Saturday lunch on their own; arrange a dinner at a restaurant in Great Bend for Saturday evening; and have box lunches brought in for Sunday lunch and compilation at the camp. Diane will make the necessary arrangements.

SPRING 1990 MEETING: After some discussion of the location for the Spring 1990 meeting, Pete Janzen moved that it be held in Morton County. Mick McHugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FALL 1989 MEETING: The Fall 1989 meeting will be at Baker University in Baldwin. Mick McHugh reported that Roger Boyd has made preliminary plans for the meeting. Roger has considering Steve Hilty for banquet speaker but would like suggestions from the board. The board suggested Stan Senner as first choice, with Steve Hilty or Tom Cade as alternative choices.

FALL 1990 MEETING: Dwight Platt invited KOS to Newton for the Fall 1990 meeting. Mick McHugh made a motion to accept the invitation and Rose Fritz seconded the motion. The motion passed. A local chairman will be appointed at the next board meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing has been done since the last meeting. David Seibel suggested that there are lots of educational materials around the state available from various organizations like Kansas Wildlife and Parks. KOS might serve as a clearinghouse where people inquiring about materials on birds could find out what is available.

KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH: David Seibel reported that the theme this year is Urban Wildlife. Wildlife Appreciation Day will be March 22 in the State Capitol. Mick McHugh moved that KOS allot up to \$15 for a display. Mike Rader seconded the motion. The motion passed. David Seibel will see what arrangements could be made, possibly in connection with Kansas Wildlife and Parks.

RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Marvin Schwilling could not attend the meeting but reported that the committee was processing some 150 new records received since last September. Lloyd Moore is a new member of the committee, filling the place of Mel Cooksey who moved to Texas.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEYS: David Seibel reported that the forms were sent out late but they were received before the dates of the survey, and as of Jan. 24, 120 had already been returned. This was ahead of last year at this time. Names and addresses of persons interested in KOS will be sent to Jane Hershberger.

TRUST FUND FOR STUDENT RESEARCH: David Seibel reported that the committee to manage this fund was in the process of being appointed.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE: David Seibel reported that he would be sending copy for the new brochure to each board member within the next month and would like suggestions. A graphic designer in Wichita has volunteered her services. He hoped to have it printed by the end of April. David pointed out that the purposes of KOS as stated in the KOS Constitution include the encouragement of the conservation and appreciation of birds. He hoped KOS could put more emphasis on those objectives and suggested that there might be concurrent instructional and scientific sections at the Fall meeting. He said the text for the new brochure would emphasize those purposes.

PUBLICITY AND MEMBERSHIP: David Seibel reported that he would soon appoint a Publicity Committee which would make use of many avenues including newspaper notices of our meetings. If we can get a bigger membership we can get more active members. The new membership

brochure, when printed, would encourage members to contact others. Until then, Jane Hershberger agreed to draft a membership invitation letter with current dues rates to be sent to prospective members.

FIELD TRIPS: It was suggested that more field trips might bring in more members. This has been attempted before and was not very successful due to distance and time factors. But it was agreed that a field trip program be tried again. John Zimmerman suggested KOS be involved in his two-week trip around the state proposed for May 1990. A concern was raised that we are not friendly enough with visitors and new members at field trips and meetings so it was suggested that these events be more organized. Perhaps these could be more instructional for novices.

STUDENT PAPER AWARDS: David Seibel reported that we will use a modification of the form that Elmer Finck had distributed at the last meeting to judge student papers at the Fall meeting.

BIRDS OF KANSAS: David Seibel reported that he had been asked as President of KOS to review and plug the book Birds of Kansas when it comes out.

AFFILIATION WITH ICBP: KOS has been invited to become an associate member of the International Council on Bird Preservation U.S. Section by chairman Stan Senner. ICBP is asking for more support from bird organizations throughout the country in order to have an office in Washington D.C., to monitor bird conservation issues. Mick McHugh moved that the issue of affiliation with ICBP be brought to the membership at the Fall meeting and that a synopsis of information on ICBP be supplied to members in the Newsletter prior to the meeting. Pete Janzen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

LIBRARY EXCHANGES: David Seibel reported that Ruth Fauhl questions whether it is useful to continue library exchanges. She will bring information to a later meeting.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Dwight Platt provided board members with copies of the KOS Constitution and revised Bylaws. He pointed out that procedures were not being followed in the appointment of editors, librarians and committee chairmen. It was decided that these procedures were reasonable and should be followed. David Seibel will be appointing chairs for the standing committees very soon. Mike Rader moved that the current editors of the Bulletin and Newsletter as well as Librarian be reappointed for one year terms following the Spring meeting. Rose Fritz seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dwight Platt pointed out that the board had never adopted lists of duties for the standing committees as required in the bylaws. David Seibel will write a draft for consideration at the next board meeting. Rose Fritz expressed concern about the bylaws requirement that checks be signed by two persons since neither the bank nor the auditors are checking the second signature. Rose was asked to bring a draft of procedures that would help the auditing committee do a better job to the next board meeting. For the present she will continue to have two signatures on each check.

T-SHIRTS: Rose Fritz said she had custody of the KOS T-shirts but would like someone else to be in charge of them. Pete Janzen volunteered to get them printed and sell them.

NAME OF THE NEWSLETTER: After some discussion, Rose Fritz moved that the KOS Newsletter be renamed The Horned Lark. Mick McHugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

GUIDELINES FOR MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS: Dwight Platt said that the old KOS guidelines for organizers of meetings and field trips needed updating. He will bring updated drafts to the Spring meeting for consideration.

CHEYENNE BOTTOMS: Mick McHugh asked if KOS should contribute to the Cheyenne Bottoms development. A suggestion was made that we have a birdathon at the Spring meeting to raise money for Cheyenne Bottoms. Pete Janzen said he could probably get donations of lumber for the nature trail construction. This will be discussed further later.

AMELIA BETTS FUND: It was suggested that we should discuss at a future meeting how this fund should be used.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwight R. Platt,  
Corresponding Secretary, KOS

#### REQUEST FOR MANUSCRIPTS

John Zimmerman, Editor of the KOS Bulletin, needs material for publication in the September and December issues. Articles from both professional and amateur ornithologists are welcome. Send them to John at Ackert Hall, Div. Biology, KSU, Manhattan, KS, 66506.

#### BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

Two survey routes in Kansas are currently open and need volunteers to run them this June. One is in Norton County and the other is in Sherman County. If interested contact John Zimmerman as soon as possible at the above address.

#### BANDED SHOREBIRDS

Kansas birders are urged to keep their eyes open for banded shorebirds in the Central Flyway. 700 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 500 Stilt Sandpipers and 100 Hudsonian Godwits were banded at Little Quill Lake, Saskatchewan in the fall of 1988. These birds were marked with white flags and red bands. Report sightings of these birds to: H. Loney Dickson, Wildlife Biologist, CWS, 2nd Floor, 4999 98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2X3. 43 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 8 Dunlin were banded on Alaska's North Slope in a study of habitat destruction by oil exploration. Look for either yellow or red bands on the upper right leg as well as green flags on the Dunlin. Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

#### COLORADO ELDERHOSTEL

This summer Phillips University will offer its second consecutive birding ELDERHOSTEL at its Field Campus in southern Colorado. ELDERHOSTEL programs are available to persons over 60 and are designed to expose participants to new learning opportunities.

The Phillips program is designed for accomplished birders who will devote an intensive week to attempting to verify the breeding status of as many species as possible. In 1988 ten participants identified a total of 107 species during their week in residence. The official title of this program is "Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Survey" and will run from May 28 to June 3, 1989. Max Thompson will be the principle instructor. For more information on this program or one of the other ELDERHOSTEL courses, (Rocky Mountain Mushrooms, Natural History of the Rockies/Outdoor Photography), contact Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart, Dept. of Biology, Phillips University, Enid, OK, 73702. Phone (405) 237-4433.

#### LOST AND FOUND

A new member named Bob Polson has paid his dues but failed to include his address. If you know Bob's whereabouts contact Jane Hershberger, RR3 Box 31AD, Newton, KS, 67114.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES CHANGE

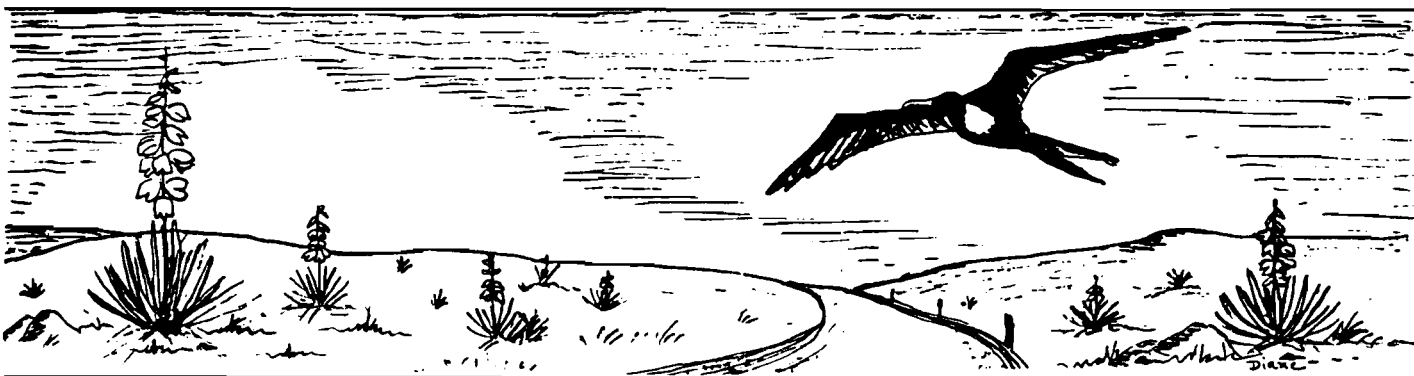
As of January 1 the dues categories are as follows:

Regular member	\$10.00	Student	\$ 5.00
Sustaining member	\$20.00		(Elementary through graduate level)
Regular family	\$15.00	Life member	\$150.00
Sustaining family	\$25.00		(Payable in lump sum or 4 yearly
Contributing member	\$40.00		installments of \$37.50 each)

If you have not paid your 1989 dues this will be the last publication you will receive.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 7-8, 1989 KOS Fall Meeting, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS.  
 May 5-6, 1990 KOS Spring Meeting, Cimarron Grasslands, Elkhart, KS.  
 Sept. , 1990 KOS Fall Meeting, Newton, KS.



## SUMMER AND FALL ROUNDUP / June through November 1988 / by Scott Seltman

It was a strange summer and fall in Kansas to say the least. The Drought of 1988 had a profound effect on Kansas birds with many species being scarce or absent. Birding was generally poor and running up a decent day-list was very difficult all across the state throughout the period. But an interesting pattern developed early in the fall migration in which the dullest of days often ended with the discovery of a bird of remarkable rarity.

The weather was brutally dry across much of Kansas and very few localities received anything approaching their normal rainfall. Many older people insist that 1988 bore little resemblance to the so-called Dirty Thirties but, in fact, rainfall totals were quite similar. In absolute terms it was driest in the western half of the state with few places receiving more than 15 inches of rain and with some receiving about half that. (Here in Rush County some farmers near Otis and Bison claim to have received only 8 inches in 1988!) In relative terms the drought was equally severe in eastern Kansas where many spots had less than a third of their normal rainfall in 1988. Improved farming and ranching practices are perhaps the only reason why more ecological damage has not yet occurred.

The only wet weather during the entire six month period came during July when most areas of Kansas had significant rains. Fortunately the summer months were not particularly hot. The only severe heat came in mid-June when temperatures soared above 100°F for several days, but after that the century mark was broken on only a few occasions. In the fall the weather was generally cool and clear but still very dry.

Despite the drought most observers felt that the breeding season proceeded normally with

with many of the common birds taking the weather in stride. Nesting birds certainly had few hail or wind storms with which to contend. The only group of breeding birds that suffered greatly were those depending on water as many of the state's wetlands and lakes experienced incredible drops in water levels. It is hard to believe that in June of 1987 water was being released from Cheyenne Bottoms because of an overabundance. By June of 1988 the refuge was nearly dry with only a foot or so of water in the center pool and mere puddles in two others. Quivira NWR was in similar condition at summer's end as its primary source of water, Rattlesnake Creek, disappeared into the sand. This creek, which is said to have been "two feet deep and clear as glass" right through the 1930's, has now gone dry several times in the 1980's. Center-pivot irrigation systems upstream are certainly playing a role.

The fall migration period was essentially six months long. By June 26 many adult yellowlegs had already returned to Cheyenne Bottoms, presumably after already fledging their young in the Arctic. From then until December birds continued to filter southward with some waterfowl coming south very late. Except for a few notable waves of passerines in late August and early September the daily arrival and departure of birds was almost imperceptible. The only major weather event of the fall was created by Hurricane Gilbert, the strongest hurricane of the century in the Western Hemisphere. After it swept across Jamaica and the Yucatan in mid-September Gilbert slammed into the Mexican coast and disintegrated in the Big Bend area. Had Gilbert pushed Mexican and Caribbean birds all the way to Kansas, late September and early October might have been the most exciting period in our birding history! (Bananaquits in the Elkhart Cemetery?) But instead we just had strong southerly winds for several days and big banks of rainless clouds. In fact Hurricane Gilbert may have had a very negative effect on our fall migration for in late September the birding was simply horrible in much of the state. On September 24, a date when one can normally expect large numbers of birds in southwest Kansas, your editor walked over a mile along Bear Creek in Stanton County and saw exactly two.

The only good bird that was directly attributable to Hurricane Gilbert was seen by the Seltmans south of Hill City on October 9. As we were driving north in heavy fog a large dark bird appeared from the mist about a mile ahead of us. A few seconds and a few skid marks later we were positioned with binoculars and spotting scope in hand as a Magnificent Frigatebird flapped slowly by at a distance of about 100 yards. It was an adult female with a dark chin and throat but with a white patch on its breast. Twice it circled sharply and spread its huge swallow-tail. This sighting was not a complete surprise as many frigatebirds had been reported from the eastern half of the U.S. during the previous two weeks. In fact, on September 28 several KOS members had seen another bird at Longview Lake southeast of the Kansas City metropolitan area in Missouri. An interesting aspect of the Graham County sighting is that judging from the speed and direction of the bird's flight it had almost certainly flown out of Nebraska just an hour or so earlier; Nebraska has no accepted record for this species. When last seen the frigatebird was heading straight for Cedar Bluff Reservoir but a mad dash by Chuck Ely from Hays to the lake in hopes of intercepting the bird was unsuccessful. Whether this bird was the most unusual of the season is debatable, but it certainly deserves the "Out-of-Habitat Award" as the mid-grass prairie of northwest Kansas shares virtually nothing with the mangrove-lined salt water lagoons in the Caribbean that Magnificent Frigatebirds normally inhabit.

Several other great birds stand out in this seasonal summary. Considering that Wood Storks are increasingly scarce anywhere in the U.S. outside of Florida, the discovery of a juvenile bird at Scott State Lake on August 21 by Tom Shane and Sara Norman was especially exciting. This bird was seen by three more observers early the next morning but was never seen again. Of course Wood Storks are notorious wanderers with records from all but a few of the Lower 48 states, but many of these records are quite old. Those who doubt the validity of the Scott County record are welcome to analyze the 300 or so photographs taken of the bird.



It was a good year for Little Gull sightings in the central U.S. One was reported in Kansas from Perry Reservoir by Dan LaShelle on October 8. Seen briefly as it associated with thousands of other gulls, this bird could not be found again. Colorado had about five sightings of Little Gull this fall and another bird was seen by Dave Bryan at Smithville Reservoir in Missouri. This species is obviously increasing rapidly in North America. A male Garganey was found in Miami County on October 23 by Lloyd Moore. This bird was found among its teal cousins during the peak of migration and was apparently wild, but when dealing with exotic waterfowl there is always that element of doubt. (The Egyptian Goose that was seen throughout the year in Jefferson and Shawnee Counties is a good example of a feral bird doing quite well in the wild.) The First Annual Hummingbird Search of Southwest Kansas led by Sebastian Patti turned up a female *Selasphorus* at a feeder in Satanta which was determined by a panel of experts to be a Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Even if you doubt our identification you've got to admire our persistence as this bird was watched by ten observers for over two hours and was even perused with a Questar at about ten paces.

Kansas had several "Brushes With Greatness" during the summer and fall as several birds skirted our borders. Besides the Missouri frigatebird mentioned earlier, a Great Black-Backed Gull was seen at Nee So Pah Reservoir south of Eads, Colorado on September 3rd. Appearing on a day with strong northeasterly winds, this bird had almost certainly crossed Kansas airspace earlier in the day. There is still no record of this unmistakable gull in Kansas despite the fact that some neighboring states have numerous records. A Black Phoebe was found along the Republican River just west of the Colorado line in an area known as The Hale Ponds on June 12. Seen by Peter Gent, accomplished birder and President of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, this bird was only about one-half mile away from the Kansas line. (How difficult would it be to herd a phoebe a half mile?) Kansas has a couple of sight records for this species including one from the waterfowl ponds in Morton County but it remains on the state's hypothetical list. During the last decade Black Phoebes have been rare but consistent summer residents of eastern Colorado, especially in the Pueblo area. Another interesting discovery in eastern Colorado was nesting California Gulls near Las Animas by KOS member Mark Janos. How is it possible that a species so common just west of our borders can be so incredibly rare here in Kansas?

As always, the following sightings of Kansas birds are preliminary reports from the field and are all subject to review by the KOS Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS/ JUNE 1 TO NOV. 30, 1988.

SPECIES	NOTES	OBSERVERS	DATE	COUNTY
Common Loon	max. of 24 at Perry	RR	11-01-88	Jefferson
Double-cr. Cormorant	25 nests with one juv. being fed by parents at	LM	07-23-88	Coffey
Olivaceous Cormorant	adult and imm. Perry	DLS	06-11-88 to 09-17-88	Jefferson
<u>Magnificent Frigatebird</u>	1 adult female along U.S. 283 6 mi. s. Hill City.	DS,SS	10-08-88	Graham
Little Blue Heron	nesting with Great Blues	RR	1988	Jefferson
Tricolored Heron	1 adult at Q	SS	07-23-88	Stafford
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	10 adults, 20 juv.	SS,DS	07-02-88	Stafford
White Ibis	1 imm.at Perry WMA	DLS, m.ob.	07-09-88 to 07-31-88	Jefferson
White-faced Ibis	8 birds s. of Ogden	BLS,DLS,JLS	08-18-88	Riley
<u>Wood Stork</u>	1 imm. at Scott Lake last seen	SN,TS MR,DS,SS,TS	08-21-88 08-22-88	Scott
Mottled Duck	1 at CB	LM	06-26-88	Barton

<u>Garganey</u>	1 male	LM	10-23-88	Miami
<u>Oldsquaw</u>	1 at Clinton Res.	MM	11-24-88	Douglas
<u>Black Scoter</u>	1 female well studied	DS,SS	10-24-88	Barton
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>	5 swimming full-sized imm. at Perry WMA	DLS	06-11-88	Jefferson
<u>Mississippi Kite</u>	1 at Perry WMA	DLS	08-24-88	Jefferson
<u>Osprey</u>	max. of 11 at Perry	RR	09-28-88	Jefferson
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	1 early imm. at Perry	DLS	09-17-88	Jefferson
<u>Cooper's Hawk</u>	adult eating meadowlark near excellent breeding habitat.	SS	06-04-88	Trego
<u>Swainson's Hawk</u>	100+ near Coolidge	MJ	09-24-88	Hamilton
<u>American Kestrel</u>	1 melanistic bird near Pawnee Rock. All black except for rufous tail.	SS	09-29-88	Barton
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	1 s. of Junction City	BLS,DLS	11-25-88	Geary
<u>Black Rail</u>	3+ heard	LM,DS,SS	07-02-88	Stafford
<u>Lesser Golden Plover</u>	1 very late lingerer	DLS	<u>11-13-88</u>	Jefferson
<u>Killdeer</u>	1 albino on Gove BBS	SS	06-04-88	Gove
<u>Piping Plover</u>	1 at Perry WMA	DLS	07-09-88	Jefferson
<u>Piping Plover</u>	1 at Q	MM,SP	08-18-88	Stafford
<u>Black-necked Stilt</u>	10 juveniles at Q	SS,DS	07-02-88	Stafford
<u>Black-necked Stilt</u>	50+ adults at Q	MR,DS,SS	08-13-88	Stafford
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u>	1 at Milford Lake	DLS	<u>10-22-88</u>	Geary
<u>Red Knot</u>	1 in basic plumage	DLS	10-15-88	Jefferson
<u>Western Sandpiper</u>	1 at CB	SS	11-12-88	Barton
<u>Buff-breasted Sand.</u>	5 at Perry WMA	DLS	08-28-88	Jefferson
<u>Buff-breasted Sand.</u>	1 at CB	E&IH,DS,SS,CW	09-15-88	Barton
<u>Ruff</u>	2 at CB	DV,FV	10-22-88	Barton
(Details of this sighting are unknown.)				
<u>Red-necked Phalarope</u>	3 at Q	E&IH,DS,SS,CW	09-15-88	Stafford
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	1 at Clinton Res.	GP,BH	11-13-88	Douglas
<u>Little Gull</u>	2nd winter bird	DLS	10-08-88	Jefferson
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	1 at CB	LM,MM,SP	10-14-88	Barton
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u>	1 at Cedar Bluff	DB,DS,SS	11-12-88	Trego
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1 at Pomona Res.	BF,LM,MM	10-02-88	Osage
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1 at CB	MS	10-05-88	Barton
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1 at CB	SN	10-09-88	Barton
<u>Least Tern</u>	1 imm. at Milford WMA	BLS,DLS	08-17-88	Clay
<u>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</u>	1 near Rexford. Now recorded in every Kansas county.	SS	06-04-88	Thomas
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	1 reported from Flint Hills to Ted Cable. Unprecedented in that locality.		07-10-88	<u>Geary</u>
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	1 at Point of Rocks	SS, m.ob.	08-19-88	Morton
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	2 at Point of Rocks	MM,SP	10-15-88	Morton
<u>Long-eared Owl</u>	1 along Bear Creek	SS	08-19-88	Stanton
<u>Long-eared Owl</u>	3 along Cimarron	LM,MM,SP,SS	10-15-88	Morton
<u>Common Poorwill</u>	1 in Jetmore Cemetery	LM,SS	10-15-88	Hodgeman
<u>Broad-tailed Humm.</u>	1 female at Satanta	MR, m.ob.	08-20-88	Haskell
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1 in Lakin Cemetery	TC,LM,MM	08-19-88	Kearny
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1 male photographed	MR	08-28-88	Haskell
<u>Dusky Flycatcher</u>	1 in Lakin Cemetery	SP, m.ob.	08-19-88	Kearny
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	1 very washed-out adult	MR,DS,SS	09-17-88	Morton
(This bird was watched at length. Plumage grayish-white throughout with no olive or yellowish tones. Base of lower mandible orange. White outer tail feathers. Downward tail wag repeated often as it moved to at least 10 different perches. Silent.)				
<u>Western Flycatcher</u>	1 in Lakin	m.ob.	08-19-88	Kearny
<u>Western Flycatcher</u>	1 in Garden City Cem.	SN,TS	09-03-88	Finney
<u>Cassin's Kingbird</u>	2 along Bear Creek	SP,SS	08-19-88	Stanton

Tree Swallow	5 fledglings being fed by adults at Perry WMA	DLS	06-18-88	Jefferson
			and 06-19-88	
Violet-green Swallow	1 imm. at Perry	DLS	10-15-88	Jefferson
Barn Swallow	2 at CB	DB, LB, DS, SS	11-12-88	Barton
Pygmy Nuthatch	1 at Ranger Station	WC, DK, JN, m.ob	09-17-88	Morton
Carolina Wren	1 bird singing in G.C.	SN, TS	07-10-88	Finney
Mountain Bluebird	50+	LM, MM, SP, SS	10-15-88	Morton
Mountain Bluebird	50 in two flocks	BLS, DLS, JLS	11-24-88	Wabaunsee
Mountain Bluebird	100+	SS	11-26-88	Trego
Varied Thrush	1 in Hugoton backyard	BN, RW	10-18-88	Stevens
Varied Thrush	1 in Lawrence	RR	11-07-88	Douglas

(Once thought to be extremely rare in Kansas, we are now receiving several of Varied Thrush each year.)

Sprague's Pipit	1 in wheat stubble	SS	09-29-88	Pawnee
Sprague's Pipit	10 in grasslands	MJ, JM, DS, SS, VZ	10-08-88	Norton
Sprague's Pipit	2	SS	10-12-88	Rush
Sprague's Pipit	2	SS	10-17-88	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	imm. at Point of Rocks	LM, SS	10-15-88	Morton
Northern Shrike	1 adult at Cedar Bluff	DB, DS, SS	11-12-88	Trego
Northern Shrike	imm. ne. of Liberal	SN, TS	11-20-88	Seward
Northern Shrike	1 adult	SS	11-21-88	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 adult	SS	11-23-88	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 adult	SS	11-29-88	Pawnee
Bell's Vireo	Nest containing eggs found on soybean plant!!	RR	1988	Jefferson

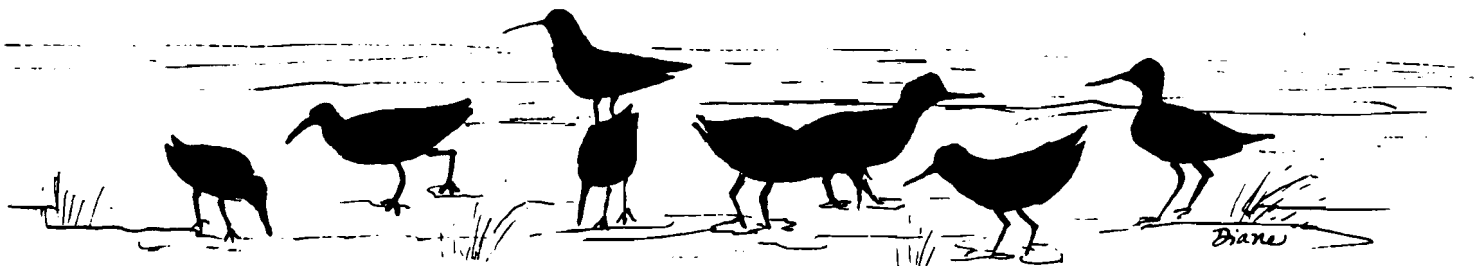
Black-th. Gray Warbler	1 in Garden City Cem.	SN, TS	09-03-88	Finney
Townsend's Warbler	1 in Garden City Cem.	SN, TS	09-03-88	Finney
Townsend's Warbler	1 at Ranger St.	WC, DK, JN, m.ob.	09-17-88	Morton
Prairie Warbler	male at Point of Rocks	LM	07-02-88	Morton

(This bird, first reported on May 14, was still singing 9 weeks later. No mate was ever seen, which isn't too surprising when one considers that this bird was about four hundred miles out of its normal range.)

Louisiana Waterthrush	nesting near Lake Perry	RR	1988	Jefferson
Summer Tanager	1 at Scott Lake	DS, SS	09-02-88	Scott
Scarlet Tanager	2 at Scott Lake	DS, SS	09-02-88	Scott
Painted Bunting	1 singing 1st year male	DLS	07-13-88	Jefferson
			to 07-31-88	

Chipping Sparrow	20 early migrants	m.ob.	08-27-88	Scott
Clay-colored Sparrow	several early migrants	m.ob.	08-27-88	Scott
Baird's Sparrow	one-eyed adult	DS, SS	10-27-88	Rush

(This very tame bird was watched at close range for half an hour. One eye was missing. Observed eating unknown food in pasture draw.)



Song Sparrow	singing birds at Perry LM, m.ob.	Mid-July Jefferson
House Finch	adults feeding fledglings E&EL	Mid-June Shawnee
House Finch	adults coming to feeders LM but no nesting confirmed.	Summer88 Wyandotte and Johnson

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), Ted Cable (TC), Wally Champeny (WC), Bob Fisher (BF), Evan and Ives Hannay (E&IH), Bill Hayes (BH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Bob LaShelle (BLS), Dan LaShelle (DLS), John LaShelle (JLS), Eugene and Eulalia Lewis (E&EL), Mick McHugh (MM), Jack Merchant (JM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Jay Newton (JN), Barbara Nordling (BN), Sara Norman (SN), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), Richard Rucker (RR), Marvin Schwilling (MS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Tom Shane (TS), Retha Wagner (RW), Claudia Wilds (CW), Vic Zerbi (VZ), multiple observers (m.ob.).

Correction to Seasonal Summary in Vol.15, No. 1:

Oldsquaw 1	Ted Cable 11-18-87	Riley	should be changed to
Oldsquaw 1	Ted Cable 11-18-87	Pottawatomie	

Bird observations for the Winter Summary (December 88 through February 89) should be sent to the editor no later than May 15.

#### KOS SPRING MEETING 1989

The Spring Meeting and field trip will be held May 6 & 7, 1989 at Camp Aldrich in Barton Co. From U.S. 156 turn north at the camp sign 4.0 miles NE of the rest area at south edge of Cheyenne Bottoms or 4.3 miles SW of Claflin turnoff. Camp is 1.1 miles north on a sand road. Lodging is dormitory-style in Martin and Trail's End Lodges, which are both equipped with bath and kitchen facilities and capacity for 40 in each. Those wishing to bring tents may camp nearby for the same fees and have use of the lodge facilities. Please bring your own bedding and towels and any food items you wish, but a continental breakfast (coffee, rolls, etc.) will be included in your registration fees for both mornings. Check-in time Friday evening is 5 PM; no meal will be provided Friday night but snacks will be available. Lunch Saturday is on your own. Saturday supper will be at the Black Angus Restaurant, 2920 10th St., Great Bend, an all-you-can-eat buffet in a private room. Meet at 8 PM to discuss the day's observations and Sunday's trips. Saturday and Sunday field trips will leave the Camp Aldrich parking lot no later than 8:00 AM. Sunday compilation and lunch will be at the Camp at 1 PM. For more information call Scott Seltman (913)-329-4411.

-----Clip and Mail-----

	AMOUNT	NUMBER	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
REGISTRATION FEES	\$5.00/person	_____	\$_____	
LODGING FRIDAY NIGHT	\$4.00/person	_____	\$_____	
LODGING SATURDAY NIGHT	\$4.00/person	_____	\$_____	
SATURDAY SUPPER	\$7.00/person	_____	\$_____	
SUNDAY BOX LUNCH	\$3.50/person	_____	\$_____	\$_____

Make checks payable to "KOS" and mail to Scott Seltman, RR Box 36, Nekoma, KS, 67559, by May 1, 1989.