



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

2458 Coolidge, Wichita KS. 67204

December 1990

Vol. 17, No. 6

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Diane Seltman, Membership Secretary

Thanks in part to the efforts of enthusiastic KOS members and also the attractive new KOS membership brochures, the following persons have joined KOS since May, 1990.

Nadine Abrahams, Newton; Tim Barksdale, Columbia, MO; Mary Butterbrodt, Lawrence; Mark Corder, Olathe; Jack & Norma Dennett, Oxford; Robert Dester, Newton; Jean Doerr, Lansing; Francis Durbian III, Emporia; Ann Durham, Fredonia; Ann Ericson, Lawrence; Bill Evans & Annette Finney, Ithaca, NY; Bob Fisher, Independence, MO; Jonathan Jaffin, Leavenworth; Kenn Kaufman, Tuscon, AZ; Dale Kennedy & Doug White, Manhattan; Steve & Mariilyn Koshland, Prairie Village; Michael Laird, Kansas City; Sr. Jean Wm. Lockett, Leavenworth; Jim Locklear, Hesston; Alan Maccarone, Wichita; Lorna Manley, Topeka; Linda Mowbray, Topeka; Dan & Terry Mulhern, Manhattan; John D. Northrup, Wichita; Brian Obermeyer, Eureka; C.J. Ochs, Hays; Dena Podrebarac, Emporia; Ruth Rahmlow, Liberal; Teresa Rasmussen, Lawrence; Michael Rhodes, Alta Vista; Carolyn Schwab, Sedgwick; Gary Simonson, Minneapolis, MN; Dr. Walther Thiede, Koln, West Germany; Vi Thorne, Chanute, KS; Charles Wittenberg, Emporia.

All members are encouraged to distribute these new brochures to interested persons! The brochures can be obtained, free of charge, from Galen Pittman, R.R.4 Box 260, Lawrence, KS, 66044 or Diane Seltman, R.R. Box 36, Nekoma, KS, 67559.

Also, just a reminder to send in your 1991 dues to Rose Fritz. Renewal cards were mailed in November and dues are already rolling in. Thank you for supporting KOS!

KANSAS WINTER BIRDFEEDER SURVEY

The fourth annual Birdfeeder Survey sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and KOS will be conducted January 10 through January 13, 1991. All KOS members are urged to participate. Participants from last year will be mailed forms. The forms are also available at regional offices of Kansas Wildlife and Parks.

1310 George Court, Apt. 1
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
December 11, 1990

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

I am excited about the possibilities that this, my second (nonconsecutive) term as President, holds. Before getting into my thoughts about this, however, I want to thank some very important people and comment briefly on the wonderful meeting we had this fall in Newton.

First, let me extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mick McHugh for the terrific job he did last year as President, and for his accepting the position when I needed the year off. In addition, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the other outgoing officers, as well as to the new and continuing officers (listed elsewhere), and all the other people who have given so much of themselves--committee members, spouses, and "unofficial" helpers alike--to promote the interests of the Society in various ways.

In no way lessening my gratitude to others not mentioned, I want to take this opportunity to thank four past officers, each still active in the society, whose immense contributions of time and talent have greatly enriched KOS for many years: Marvin Schwilling, for years the head of the bird records committee, constant friend of the Society during his career with what is now the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and continually in service in many other capacities as well; Max Thompson, who has served as President, Business Manager, and Newsletter Editor, among other offices, and who for years ably updated, produced, and distributed the KOS Checklist; Gene Lewis, for untold years the proficient treasurer of KOS; and Jane Hershberger, who served not only as Membership Secretary for as long as I can remember, but was so good at it that the Membership Committee established in the By-Laws (to assist the Secretary) never formally materialized! The Society (and indeed, the world) is enriched by people such as these.

And now a few words about this year's meeting in Newton: I think it was one of the very best I've ever attended. Attendance was excellent, not only in numbers but in enthusiasm and participation. Vice President Dave Bryan and the local committee of Nadine Abrahams, Bud Akin, Gregg Friesen, Lorna Harder, Jane Hershberger, Pete Janzen, Dwight Platt, Bob Regier, Nada and Wilma Voth, and Chairperson Rose Fritz put together a full agenda of enjoyable and enlightening presentations, quizzes, displays (including paintings by member Dan Kilby of Wichita), a book sale, and field trips (including one to Oxford, where the first Anna's Hummingbird ever to appear in Kansas--and its hostess, new KOS member Norma Dennett--were most accommodating). The staff at Bethel College were both cordial and professional. Kenn Kaufman, Wichita native and renowned bird expert, author, and tour leader, gave two exciting and memorable presentations, including the banquet address. We welcome him as our newest honorary life member. My thanks to them all!

This brings me to my final points for now: Two years ago, when I began to conceptualize our new membership brochure, I had a hard time, at first, thinking of exciting things to say about KOS, or compelling reasons that peo-

ple should join. The truth is, we don't give away fancy gizmos as membership incentives; our publications are not colorful or "high tech"; we don't offer trips to exotic places, or for that matter, anywhere, very often; and so what exactly is there to be excited about?

The answer, simply, is the members themselves! We've got a great bunch of people in this club, and among them, an immense amount of knowledge about birds, connections that circle the globe, innumerable talents and skills, and boundless enthusiasm, not to mention friendliness and a willingness to share what we know that is hard to match. So there it is: Even if we did nothing but get together twice a year, our very composition is exciting.

Of course, we do a good deal more than that, and I hope to lead us toward doing even more (and more widely noticeable) good things. Many are already underway or in the works: We have a new, thoroughly modern and functional Kansas Bird Records Committee as of the fall meeting (thanks in particular to Galen Pittman, for his continuing work on this); we have a Rare Bird Hotline that is easily among the best I've heard anywhere in the country (my special thanks to Scott Seltman for his tireless efforts, also ongoing); we are making strong headway toward establishing a Breeding Bird Atlas project in Kansas, under the continuing leadership of Mick McHugh; we have committed the entire Amelia Betts Fund to purchasing educational, hands-on bird displays that will be used widely around the state (thanks especially to Pete Janzen and Bob Gress); we have committees and funds available to finance student research and the publication of amateurs' research (the latter funded entirely by royalties donated by Max Thompson and Charles Ely); our new membership directory, to be adorned with illustrations by Dan Kilby, is nearing completion (special thanks also to Diane Seltman); and the list continues well beyond the space I should take here, for the moment. I and others will address more of our activities elsewhere in this and future issues.

Elsewhere in this issue, also, I have included a request for assistance on the several committees through which KOS continues these functions, and (space permitting) descriptions of the responsibilities of each. If you possibly can, please contact me or the chair of any committee that interests you, and volunteer your assistance. We need your help!

Finally, I ask one simple bit of help from every member, but one that can vastly increase the size and vitality of the Society: Please, please recruit at least one new member this year! It's so easy to do; just hand a birding friend our new brochure (copy enclosed) and tell them what a great club it is, or give a new membership as a gift (this makes a thrilling surprise for a youngster interested in birds--at least, it did for me, about 22 years ago!), or simply distribute brochures in places frequented by bird lovers, such as Audubon or Sierra Club meetings, Christmas Bird Count compilations, libraries, nature centers, even veterinarians' offices. Be creative!

Good Birding,

David E. Seibel

David E. Seibel
President

KOS COMMITTEES

Following is a list of the standing committees of the KOS and their functions. Along with the name of each committee I have listed the chairperson and how you may contact him or her, if you wish to volunteer your assistance on committee projects. Please browse through the duties listed below and consider helping with those that match your skills or interests; with few exceptions, the committees continually need and would immediately welcome additional help.

A. Standing Committees (Named in By-Laws)

1. Conservation - Chair: Pete Janzen 316-832-0182
3137 North Mascot
Wichita, KS 67204

Duties:

- Initiate, evaluate, or contribute supporting research to projects within the state which promote the preservation of avian species.
- Evaluate and recommend ways in which KOS can contribute to worthy conservation efforts for birds elsewhere.
- Draft society position papers and responses to requests for opinions or assistance regarding bird conservation issues.
- Coordinate KOS participation with other groups in conservation activities, subject to board and general society approval.

2. Membership - Chair: Jan Boyd 913-594-3172
520 3rd Street
Baldwin City, KS 66006

Duties:

- Promote increase in KOS membership by organizing membership drives, producing promotional materials (e.g., membership brochure), and assisting membership secretary in responding to inquiries from interested parties, distributing information to target groups, etc.
- Investigate most effective ways of increasing and maintaining KOS membership, e.g., by surveying members about perceived strengths and weaknesses of society, services and activities desired (both existing and possible), and ways of improving society.
- Coordinate membership services such as book and T-shirt sales.
- Man booth at annual meetings for disseminating membership information and receiving dues from new and renewing members.
- Coordinate promotion of various activities with Publicity Committee.

3. Publicity - Chair: Chris Hobbs 913-441-2473
13121 Swartz Road
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

Duties:

- Write, and distribute through appropriate media, announcements of upcoming KOS events.
- Write and distribute press releases highlighting KOS activities, to increase public awareness throughout the state about the society and about birds.
- Arrange and participate in interviews with various news media about KOS activities, ornithological events, bird conservation needs and opportunities, etc.

- Notify other nature-oriented organizations (e.g., Audubon and Sierra Club chapters, ornithological societies in neighboring states) of upcoming KOS events.
- Provide publicity for special events in cooperation with various other KOS committees.

4. Kansas Bird Records - Co-chair: Dr. Charles Ely 913-628-8444
 Department of Biology
 Ft. Hays State University
 Hays, KS 67601

Duties:

- Maintain and regularly update official list of Kansas birds, with distributional information, status of records and documentation on marginal species, etc.
- Solicit, review, and screen reports of rare or marginal species in the state and publish decisions periodically in The Horned Lark.
- Update and revise KOS Check-list of Kansas Birds on regular basis.
- Maintain and operate KOS Birding Hotline.
- Prepare and present "Ten Best Birds" list at annual meeting.

B. Standing Committees (Newly Formed)

1. Education - Chair: John Schukman 913-727-5141
 R.R. 2, Box 111-37
 Leavenworth, KS 66048

Duties:

- Prepare and disseminate list of audio/visual and other educational resource materials available for loan, rent, or purchase to KOS members and other Kansas users, emphasizing but not limited to Kansas birds.
- Coordinate educational events and publications presented or sponsored by KOS.
- Investigate and organize effective new educational activities for groups of various age and expertise (including workshops at annual meetings and field trips) and solicit participation and instruction by KOS members.
- Coordinate promotion of various activities with Publicity Committee.

2. Student Research Fund - Chair: Dr. Elmer Finck 316-342-4781
 Div. of Biological Science
 Emporia State University
 Emporia, KS 66801

Duties:

- Establish guidelines for solicitation and distribution of funds for student research, as provided for during Fall meeting, 1988.
- Oversee preparation of legal documents and take other steps necessary to establish and administer fund.
- Solicit and screen applications for student research funding, making recommendations to board annually or semi-annually as to which proposals to accept.

3. Birds of Kansas Publications Fund - Chair: Rose Fritz 316-283-6685
 1816 Cypress Lane
 Newton, KS 67114

Duties:

- Solicit and review applications for funding of publication of research results by Kansas ornithologists, especially amateurs.
- Administer fund established by donation of royalties from the sale of Birds of Kansas by Max C. Thompson and Charles A. Ely.
- Award publication and/or research grants as deemed appropriate, and report all activities to the Board of Directors.

4. Dingus Natural Area - Chair: (Pending)
 Contact: David Seibel 913-841-7932
 1310 George Court, Apt. 1
 Lawrence, KS 66044

Duties:

- Administer care and maintenance of Dingus Natural Area (DNA), including upkeep of signs and fences.
- Monitor DNA bird life and report to membership on significant changes or trends.
- Facilitate use of DNA by KOS members and other birding or research groups.
- Determine policies for use of DNA, for approval by the Board of Directors.

- David Seibel

SUMMARY OF 1990 ANNUAL MEETING

The forty-third annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 5, 6 and 7 on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, Kansas. Seventy-five persons including eight students registered for the weekend event which began with an informal gathering at the Kauffman Museum on Friday evening.

Paper sessions, business meetings and the always popular birdwatcher's hour filled the day on Saturday. Members and friends gathered in the evening at the student center for the annual banquet at which time Mick McHugh passed the gavel to David Seibel, who then presided over the events of the evening. Resolutions were read by John Zimmerman. New life members were recognized by Diane Seltman with those present receiving pins. Marvin Schwilling announced the best bird of the year, the Anna's Hummingbird, seen for several weeks at Oxford. This was a first Kansas sighting of this bird.

Guest speaker of the evening was Kenn Kaufman from Tucson, Arizona, noted birder and author of the newly published Field Guide to Advanced Birding. Kenn gave a delightful presentation during which the speaker wore various hats representing stages in birding and highlighted his points with various slides.

Kenn participated in all our week-end events, even autographing books for us. He was presented an honorary life membership in our organization during the evening.

Despite the chilling, blustery weather, field trips departed early Sunday a.m. for Harvey County West Park, Marion Lake, areas around eastern Harvey County and Oxford (for those wanting to see the still present Anna's). Lunch and compilation followed. A total of 108 species was seen by the group during the week-end.

Rose Fritz

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES

The Manitoba Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suspects that the wintering grounds of Canadian Loggerhead Shrikes includes Kansas. Despite intensive banding and color marking of shrikes across the Canadian prairies, DNR has not had a recent recovery or observation in Manitoba. Since it is critical to understand where Canadian shrikes are overwintering, DNR urges us to be on the lookout for these banded and color-marked shrikes. Please take an extra good look at any shrikes you encounter. The shrikes have been marked with (a) FWS aluminum bands during all years; (b) red plastic bands on the opposite leg in 1988; (c) red/white plastic band on the opposite leg in 1989 and 1990; and (d) larger juveniles were marked with fluorescent orange on the tail and/or primaries in 1989 and 1990. Any sightings of these birds should be reported to Ken De Smet, Department of Natural Resources, Box 14, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0W9 or telephone collect at 204-945-6301.

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1990
Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas
October 5-7, 1990

The forty-third Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society met in Krehbiel Auditorium of the Fine Arts Center on the campus of Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. Rose Fritz was chair of the local committee hosting the meeting.

Friday, October 5.

An evening reception was held at Kauffman Museum on the Bethel College campus.

Saturday, October 6, Morning Session.

Dwight Platt opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Brian Schrag, Academic Dean at Bethel College, who welcomed KOS to the Bethel campus. Mick McHugh, President of KOS, thanked Bethel College for hosting the meeting and welcomed the members in attendance.

Dave Bryan chaired the morning paper sessions which followed the printed schedule (see copy attached) except that the paper by Pamela C. Rasmussen was moved to the afternoon session because of a lack of time in the morning session.

The morning business meeting was called to order by President Mick McHugh at 11:45 a.m.

MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting as they had been printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Spring Meeting as they had been printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Fritz gave an interim report. The total assets of KOS amount to \$25,947.81. Operating fund balance is approximately \$4000. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that we have 372 members paid up for 1990. Last year at the October meeting we had 383 members.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Galen Pittman announced that members should contact him if they are not getting KOS mailings.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the Bulletins came out this past year in the months stated. He requested more manuscripts.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Don Vannoy reported that he had gotten out one Newsletter since he took office. He requested material for the next issue.

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: The Council revised its Bylaws this last year. They added new organizations to the Council - Kansas Herpetological Society, Kansas Park Association and Kansas Fisheries Society. The Kansas Biological Survey was made an ex-officio member since it is a state agency. The Council is trying to operate in an advisory capacity before decisions are made by the department.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Eulalia Lewis reported for the Nominations Committee (composed of Gene Lewis, Jean Schulenberg and herself) and proposed the following nominations:

President: David Seibel
Vice-president: Dave Bryan

Corr. Secretary: Dwight Platt
Memb. Secretary: Diane Seltman
Treasurer: Rose Fritz
Business Mgr.: Galen Pitman
Director: Joanne Brier
Director: Jim Mayhew

The terms of Directors Tom Shane and John Schukman do not expire.

The meeting adjourned until afternoon.

Saturday, October 6, Afternoon Session.

A Bird Watcher's Hour was held at 1:15 p.m. The afternoon paper session chaired by Dave Bryan followed the listing in the program, with the addition of the paper by Pamela C. Rasmussen which had been scheduled for morning (see attached program).

An afternoon business session was called to order by President Mick McHugh at 4:45 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting next year will be to the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge and the Dingus Natural Area. The Fall Meeting will possibly be at Hays.

ROYALTY FUND: Chuck Ely reported that the committee had not made a decision yet on the use of the fund accumulating from the royalties from the book, Birds in Kansas. They have discussed the use of these funds for publications, including the publication of local bird lists. The committee will have a proposal for the Board at its Winter Meeting.

RECORDS COMMITTEE: Chuck Ely reported that the committee is working on revised procedures. The committee will be meeting today and will have a proposal for the Winter Board Meeting. New bird records should be sent to Chuck Ely.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Elmer Finck reported that the committee will be establishing research awards for both high school and college students. They will be reporting a proposal to the Winter Board Meeting.

AMELIA BETTS FUND: Pete Janzen reported that the Board had decided to use the Amelia Betts Fund to finance the construction of four Discovery Boxes on birds for use on loan by teachers. The boxes will be constructed by the Wichita Wild Program and one will be given to Wichita Wild for use by teachers in the Wichita area. The other three will be distributed to other parts of the state for use by teachers. The disposition of the other three boxes will be determined at the Winter Board Meeting.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: Bill Busby reported that to implement a Breeding Bird Atlas project, they will need a network of volunteers, a coordinator and sufficient funding. The project will probably take 5-8 years. The Department of Wildlife and Parks has been approached for funding and they are considering it.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: David Seibel reported that a new membership brochure had been printed and members were urged to take a bundle and distribute them.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Diane Seltman reported that the new Membership Directory will be out by the end of the year.

RARE BIRD ALERT HOTLINE: Scott Seltman thanked those who have donated for the expenses of the hotline. He suggested that users should continue to donate money for operation of the hotline.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA: Mick McHugh announced that sign repair was needed at the Dingus Natural Area.

NEW BUSINESS: John Zimmerman announced that concerns for the Resolutions Committee should be given to him. He also announced that he needed volunteers to do Breeding Bird Surveys.

Ken Brunson reported that the State Endangered and Threatened Species Law mandates the protection of critical habitats. There may be challenges to the law because of conflicts in southeastern Kansas between habitat protection and development.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS: A motion was made for the unanimous election of the slate of directors and officers proposed by the Nominations Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

The afternoon business session adjourned.

Saturday, October 6, Evening Session.

A **social hour** was held from 6-7 p.m. in the Mantz Library Lounge.

The banquet was served in the Dining Hall of the Student Activities Center on the Bethel College campus.

Mick McHugh opened the meeting after the banquet and introduced the new President, David Seibel.

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: John Zimmerman read resolutions thanking Bethel College and the local committee for their efforts in hosting the meetings, thanking those who presented papers, thanking the officers who provided leadership during the past year and commending the Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife for its efforts to conserve wetlands (see attachment).

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: Marvin Schwilling gave the report on the ten best birds of the year (see attached report). The top ten were: 1. Anna's Hummingbird; 2. Pyrrhuloxia; 3. Black-chinned Hummingbird; 4. Gyrfalcon; 5. Fish Crow; 6. Western Bluebird; 7. Ruff/Reeves; 8. Golden-crowned Sparrow; 9. Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher; 10. Steller's Jay.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Diane Seltman presented life memberships to those members who had earned them during the past year.

David Seibel introduced Kenn Kaufman, the banquet speaker. He called on Diane Seltman who presented Kenn Kaufman with an honorary life membership in the Kansas Ornithological Society. Kenn Kaufman presented an informative and entertaining lecture entitled "Learning Our Birds."

Sunday, October 7.

Four field trip groups were looking for birds on Sunday morning. They met in Athletic Park in Newton for lunch and compilation of the bird list.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Dwight R. Platt, Corr. Sec.

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1990
 October 6, 1990
 Bethel College
 Student Activities Center
 North Newton, Kansas

Members present: David Seibel, Dave Bryan, Mick McHugh, Diane Seltman, Rose Fritz, Dwight Platt, Pete Janzen, Galen Pitman, Tom Shane, Mike Rader, John Schukman.
 Non-voting: John Zimmerman

Mick McHugh called the meeting to order after lunch.

MINUTES: David Seibel moved that the minutes of the Winter Board Meeting be approved. Dave Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SPRING MEETING 1991: It was suggested that we arrange for Camp Wildwood for Spring 1991 meeting and that the field trips be to the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge and to the Dingus Natural Area.

FALL MEETING 1991: It was suggested that we check on the possibility of meeting at Hays.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: Mick McHugh reported that he and Bill Busby had met with the Department of Parks and Wildlife about the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Parks and Wildlife was favorable to the project and will take it to the budget process. We will know this Fall whether they will be able to provide any funds.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Diane Seltman is working on the membership directory. Dan Kilby will do some art work for it and David Seibel will help with the design. Diane has had trouble getting telephone numbers. She was authorized to call directory assistance for phone numbers.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: David Seibel showed the new membership brochure. He has printed 10,000 brochures and they will be made available to the membership for recruiting new members.

ROYALTY FUND: Rose Fritz will speak about the status of this fund at the afternoon business meeting.

AMELIA BETTS FUND: Pete Janzen reported that Bob Gress makes Discovery Boxes for Wichita Wild to make available for use by teachers in Wichita but they have none on birds. The boxes cost \$302 apiece. Pete proposed that we use the Amelia Betts Fund to build Discovery Boxes on birds, one to remain in Wichita and the others to be made available to teachers in other parts of the state. There was discussion of the materials already available from the K. U. Museum and the Department of Wildlife and Parks. Pete moved that the Board approve spending the Amelia Betts Fund for the construction of four Discovery Boxes on birds by the Wichita Wild Program and that the Board approve giving one of the boxes to the Wichita Wild Program and decide on the distribution of the other three boxes at the Winter Board Meeting. Dave Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BOARD BUDGET: Mick McHugh asked Board members to bring estimates of their expenses during the coming year to the Winter Board Meeting so that the Board can approve a budget for these expenses.

BIRD SURVEYS AT STATE PARKS: The Department of Wildlife and Parks wrote to John Zimmerman asking for help from KOS members in doing surveys of the birds at some of the state parks. The Board was favorable to this and it will be brought up at the afternoon business meeting. Jim Mayhew might be able to organize it.

KCS Fall Board Meeting 1990 (2)

PRICING OF BACK ISSUES OF THE BULLETIN: Galen reported that a person from Germany has requested the purchase of a set of KOS Bulletins. He asked what the price should be. It was the consensus of the Board that Galen should ask \$125 for the complete set of back issues.

Galen also reported that he has had requests for replacements of issues by members and has supplied them free. It was suggested that he should ask for payment if the request is for replacement of an issue more than two years old.

BULLETIN EDITOR: John Zimmerman announced that he would like to be replaced as Editor of the Bulletin effective with the March issue 1992.

RECORDS COMMITTEE: The Records Committee has felt that they needed Bylaws and Galen has drafted a proposed set of Bylaws after researching the rules and procedures that other such committees use. These Bylaws will be discussed and adopted by the committee and then will come to the KOS Board for approval. Mick McHugh thanked Galen for his efforts and said he thought this was a very important move.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA SIGNS: Mick McHugh reported that one of the signs at the Dingus Natural Area is in need of repair. It was suggested that Scouts might take this on as a project.

The Board Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight R. Platt
Corr. Secretary

Second Board Meeting
October 6, 1990

David Seibel called a brief Board Meeting following the Annual KOS Banquet.

BYLAWS FOR THE RECORDS COMMITTEE: David Seibel reported that the Records Committee had unanimously adopted the Bylaws that had been drafted by Galen. If the Board will now approve them, the committee can begin to work with these procedures. Some members of the Board had carefully read the proposed Bylaws but others had not seen them. Mick McHugh moved that the Bylaws adopted by the Records Committee be accepted as the rules of procedure for the committee. Dave Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Dwight R. Platt
Corr. Secretary

Ten Best Birds of the Year
October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990
Official Records Committee

Information used in choosing the "top ten" included sightings reported on the Kansas Rare Bird Alert, Christmas Counts, best bird report forms, correspondence and phone call reports.

As in the past, consideration was given to previous state records or specimens; geographic location in the state, season of sighting, nesting, etc. and committee judgments.

We considered 53 candidates:

TOP TEN

1. ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - Sumner County (Oxford). Jack and Norma Dennett, and Wally Champeny. September 15-28. First Kansas record.
2. PYRRHULOXIA - Morton County. Sebastian Patti and Max Thompson, October 28. Remained into December. Feather remains found by Sebastian on Christmas count December 30.
3. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Liberal, Seward County. One bird observed by eight birders. September 2. (Photographed by Ruth Rahmlow)
4. GYRFALCON - Pawnee County. Scott Seltman, February 4.

Barton County. Marvin Schwilling and Jerry Horak, March 9 and 12. About 60 birders from at least six states saw this second bird.
5. FISH CROW - Cherokee County. Two birds reported by Sebastian Patti, Mick McHugh and Lloyd Moore. Additional sightings include several birds by Galen Pittman, May 1; 20 birds by Patti, McHugh, Moore and Pittman, July 28; two birds by Scott Seltman, August 5 and 15 birds by Mark Corder, August 8. There are no Kansas specimens.
6. WESTERN BLUEBIRD - Morton County. One bird reported by Marvin Schwilling, April 10.
7. RUFF/REEVES - Barton County. One Ruff reported by Bev and Ruth Hodges at Cheyenne Bottoms, April 23. Probably the same bird reported April 28 by Dave Hedges and Hugh Jeffries. One Reeves (female Ruff) reported by Lloyd Moore, Mike Rader and Scott Seltman May 19 at Cheyenne Bottoms. Two Reeves were reported by Larry Werner and Chris Hobbs September 5 at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Stafford County, Quivira NWR, . Ruff was reported by Galen Pittman and Phil Wedge September 24. At least five individuals reported.

8. **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW - Russell County.** One bird reported by Tom Cannon at Wilson Reservoir December 26. A second bird was reported the next day on Wilson CBC Census by Jim and Jean Piland from Lucas Park at Wilson Reservoir several miles from the first sighting.
9. **CORDILLERAN (WESTERN) FLYCATCHER - Morton County.** Four birds September 2, several birders.
10. **STELLER'S JAY - Morton County.** Five birds reported by Scott and Diane Seltman, Lloyd Moore and Greg Griffiths on October 21. First observation of more than a single in Kansas. Many birders reported one bird at Elkhart cemetery on October 29.

Haskell County, Satanta. On October 29 Norma Conover and Ellen Rader observed one bird in Satanta, Haskell County. One bird wintered in Satanta at Jack and Norma Conover feeder and stayed until at least April 17.

Stevens County, Hugoton. November 4, Lloyd Moore, Scott and Diane Seltman found one On November 9, Mick McHugh, Galen Pittman and Sebastian Patti observed four birds in the Hugoton City Park.

Morton County. Six birds were seen by many birders on November 11.

Stanton County. One bird was still in Stanton County for the spring KOS field trip on May 5 and two remained in Morton County on May 5.

HONORABLE MENTION

1. SCRUB JAY - Morton County. Twenty-five plus birds reported by Mark Corder, Scott and Diane Seltman on September 16.

Seward County. On October 4, 24 birds were reported at Jack Conovers feedyard.

Haskell County, Satanta. Norma Conover reported one bird on October 4. Three or four birds fed regularly at Jack and Norma Conovers feeder in Satanta, Haskell County, from March 24 through April 21.

Morton County. Fourteen birds were seen on October 21 by Greg Griffiths, Lloyd Moore, Scott and Diane Seltman. Six birds were seen in Morton County on November 4 by Lloyd Moore, Scott and Diane Seltman. Six were seen by many birders in Morton County on November 11. Three birds were seen in Morton County by Mike Rader and Scott Seltman on December 9. Fifteen were seen in Morton County on May 5 by many birders (KOS field trip).

Stevens County, Moscow. Three birds were reported by Mick McHugh, Galen Pittman and Sebastian Patti. Four birds were seen in Hugoton, Stevens County, on December 9 by Mike Rader and Scott Seltman. Scott Seltman reported four birds in Hugoton on February 10.

Kearny County, Lakin. One was reported in Lakin on March 30 by Jane Holland.

2. THAYERS GULL - Coffey County. One adult bird at John Redmond Reservoir, January 21. Reported by Bob Fisher, Lloyd Moore and Mick McHugh.

Pottawatomie County, Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Ted Cable reported one adult below Tuttle Creek Reservoir on February 25.

Douglas County. David Seibel reported one bird on March 14.

3. OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT - Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County. One bird on April 29 by Scott and Diane Seltman. Other sightings at Cheyenne Bottoms include one bird on May 4 by Don Haley. One bird on May 29 (observer not recorded). One bird on June 16 by Scott and Diane Seltman. Several birds on June 23 by many birders. Two birds on July 21 and 28 by Scott and Diane Seltman and five birds on August 26 by Scott and Diane Seltman.

Stafford County, Quivira NWR. One bird June 16 by Scott and Diane Seltman. One bird July 1 by Mike Rader and eight birds July 28 by Scott Seltman.

Russell County. One bird April 30 by Mike Rader.

Linn County. One bird in May 13 by Scott and Diane Seltman, Dave Bryan, Mick McHugh and Galen Pittman.

4. ANHINGA - Sumner County. Ralph and Mary Wiley, September 16, 1989.
- Cherokee County. By Sebastian Patti, Mick McHugh and Lloyd Moore, April 28.
- Bourbon County. July 18 by Mark Corder.
5. COMMON REDPOLL - Finney County, Garden City. Tom and Sara Shane, one or two birds came to feeder December 9 through February 27 and Garden City, March 10-11, Leonard and Betty Rich.
- Cowley County, Chaplin Nature Center. One bird February 16, Gerald Wiens.
6. TRICOLORED HERON - Stafford County, Quivira NWR . One bird June 16 by Scott and Diane Seltman.
7. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Morton County, Elkhart. August 25, Galen Pittman and Phil Wedge.
- Chase County. August 30, Marvin Schwilling.
8. DUSKY FLYCATCHER - Morton County. August 25, Galen Pittman and Phil Wedge.
9. MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE - Morton County. Sightings include one bird October 21 by Scott and Diane Seltman, Lloyd Moore and Greg Griffiths. One bird November 4 by Lloyd Moore, Scott and Diane Seltman. Five birds November 11 by many birders. Three birds December 9 by Mike Rader and Scott Seltman. One bird December 10 by Scott Seltman. Thirteen birds were recorded on Christmas count December 30.
- Stevens County sightings. One bird in Hugoton November 9 by Mick McHugh, Galen Pittman and Sebastian Patti. Two birds in Hugoton December 9 by Mike Rader and Scott Seltman.
- Seward County. One bird at Conover feedlot October 21 by Mike Rader and one bird along Cimarron River north of Liberal November 11.
- Kearny County. One bird in Lakin November 12 by Scott and Diane Seltman.
- Stanton County. One bird May 5 on KOS field trip.
10. LESSER GOLDFINCH - Morton County. Sightings include 20+ birds on September 16 by Mark Corder, Scott and Diane Seltman. Several on September 23 by Scott and Diane Seltman. One bird October 15 at Elkhart cemetery by Sebastian Patti.
- Sufficient information was not available to consider (1) Black-chinned Sparrow, Morton County and (2) Gray Hawk, Geary County.

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CHECK LIST BIRDS OF KANSAS

Date OCTOBER 6, 7, 1990 Time _____
Locality KOS FALL MEETING
Sky _____ Wind _____ Temp. _____ Ground _____
Observers _____
Total Species 108 Total Individuals _____

* Less than live records

No.	No.	No.
LOONS, GREBES	SWAN	Corn Merganser
Red-throat Loon	Tundra	Red-br. Merganser
Pacific Loon	Trumpeter	Ruddy
Common Loon	QUEESE	VULTURES
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Wh-front	Black
Horned Grebe	Blue	Turkey
Red-neck Grebe	Ross	KITES
Eared Grebe	Bran	Am. Swallow-tailed
Western Grebe	Black	Blk-shouldered
Clark's Grebe	Canada	Messiaen
PELICAN, White	DUCKS	HAWKS, EAGLES
Brown	Wood	Osprey
CORMORANTS, ANHINGA	Green-wing Teal	Bald Eagle
Double-crested	American Black	Northern Harrier
Olivaceous	Mottled	Sharp-shinned
Anhinga	Mallard	Cooper's
FRIGATEBIRD	Northern Pintail	Northern Goshawk
Magnificent	Garganey	Harris
HERONS	Blue-winged Teal	Red-shouldered
American Bittern	Cinnamon Teal	Broad-winged
Least Bittern	Northern Shoveler	Swainson's
Great Blue	Gadwall	Red-tailed
Great Egret	Eurasian Widgeon	Ferruginous
Snowy Egret	American Widgeon	Rough-legged
Little Blue	Canvasback	Golden Eagle
Tufted	Redhead	FALCONS
Carle's Egret	Ring-necked	American Kestrel
Green-backed	Greater Scaup	Martin
Black-cmd. Night	Lesser Scaup	Peregrine
Yellow-cmd. Night	Common Eider	Cyrtalcon
IBIS	King Eider	Pheasant
White	Oldsquaw	Black Scoter
White-faced	Surf Scoter	PRAIRIE CHICKENS,
Roseate Spoonbill	White-wg. Scoter	GROUSE
Wood Stork	Com. Goldeneye	Ruffed Grouse
FLAMINGO	Barrow's Gidneys	Greater
Greater	Hooded Merganser	Lesser
WHISTLING-DUCKS		Sharp-tail. Grouse
Fulvous		
Black-bellied		

No.	No.	No.
TURKEY	Bull-breasted	Great Horned
Wild	Ruff	Snowy
QUAIL	Short-billed	Burrowing
Northern Bobwhite	Downy	Barred
Scaled	Long-billed	Long-eared
RAILS	Downy	Short-eared
Yellow	Common Snipe	Northern Saw-whet
Black	Amer. Woodcock	GOATSUCKERS
King	PHALAROPES	Com. Nighthawk
Virginia	Wilson's	Common Poor-will
Sora	Red-necked	Chuck-will's-widow
GALLINULES	Red	Whoop-will
Purple	JAEGERS	SWIFTS
Common Moorhen	Pomarine	Chimney
American Coot	Parasitic	White-throated
CRANES	Long-tailed	HUMMINGBIRDS
Sandhill	GULLS	Magnificent
Whooping	Laughing	Ruby-throated
PLOVERS	Franklin's	Black-chinned
Black-bellied	Little	Golden-crowned
Lesser Golden	Com. Blk-head	Broad-tailed
Snowy	Bonaparte's	Rufous
Semipalmated	Ring-billed	KINGFISHER
Piping	California	Belted
Kildeer	Herring	WOODPECKERS
Mountain	Thayer's	Lewis
STILT	Glaucous	Red-headed
Black-necked	Gr. Blk-backed	Red-bellied
AVOCEET	Bl-leg Kittiwake	Yel-bellied
American	Sabine's	Sapsucker
SANDPIPERS	TERNS	Red-naped
Greater Yellowlegs	Caspian	Sapsucker
Lesser Yellowlegs	Common	Williamson's
Spot Redstart	Forster's	Sapsucker
Solitary	Least	Ladder-backed
Willet	Black	Downy
Spotted	SKIMMER	Hairy
Upland	Black	Northern Flicker
Esquimo Curlew	PIGEONS	Yellow-shafted
Whimbrel	Rock Dove	Red-shafted
Long-billed Curlew	Band-tailed	Pileated
Hudsonian Godwit	DOVES	FLYCATCHERS
Marbled Godwit	White-winged	Olive-sided
Ruddy Turnstone	Mourning	W. Wood-Pewee
Red Knot	Inca	E. Wood-Pewee
Sanderling	Common Ground	Yellow-bellied
Semipalmated	CUCKOOS	Acadian
Western	Black-billed	Alder
Least	Yellow-billed	Willow
White-rumped	Gr Roadrunner	Least
Baird's	Groove-billed Ani	Hammond's
Pectoral	OWLS	Dusky
Dunlin	Barn	Gray
Curlew	Eastern Screech	Cordilleran
Stilt	Western Screech	Black Phoebe

No.	No.	No.
Eastern Phoebe	THRUSHES	Hermat
Say's Phoebe	Eastern Bluebird	Black-throated
Vermillion	Mountain Bluebird	Green
Ash-throated	Townsend's Solitaire	Blackburnian
Great-Crested	Veery	Yellow-throated
Cassin's Kingbird	Gray-cheeked	Pine
Western Kingbird	Swainson's	Prairie
Eastern Kingbird	Hermat	Palm
Scissor-tailed	Wood	Bay-breasted
LARKS	American Robin	Blackpoll
Horned	Vaned	Cerulean
SWALLOWS	THRASHERS	Black-and-White
Purple Martin	Gray Catbird	American Redstart
Tree	Northern	Prothonotary
Violet-green	Mockingbird	Worm-eating
N. Rough-winged	Sage	Swainson's
Bank	Brown	Ovenbird
Chif	Curve-billed	Northern
Barn	PIPTS	Waterthrush
JAY, MAGPIE, CROW	American	Louisiana
Steller's Jay	Sparrow's	Waterthrush
Blue Jay	WAXWINGS	Kentucky
Scrub Jay	Bonhemian	Connecticut
Gray-breast. Jay	Cedar	Mourning
Pilon Jay	SHRIKES	MacGillivray's
Clark's Nutcracker	Northern	Common
Black-billed Magpie	Loggerhead	Yellowthroat
American Crow	STARLING, European	Hooded
Chihuahuan Raven	VIREOS	Wilson's
Common Raven	White-eyed	Canada
CHICKADEES, TITMOUSE	Belt's	Yellow-breasted
Black-capped	Black-capped	Chal
Caroline	Solitary	TANAGERS
Mountain	Yellow-throated	Summer
Tufted Titmouse	Philadelphia	Scarlet
BUSHY	Red-eyed	Western
NUTHATCHES	WARBLERS	GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS
Red-breasted	Blue-winged	Northern Cardinal
White-breasted	Golden-winged	Pyrrhuloxia
Pygmy	Tennessee	Rose-breasted
CREEPER, Brown	Orange-crowned	Grosbeak
WRENS	Nashville	Black-headed
Rock	Virginia's	Grosbeak
Caroline	Northern Parula	Blue Grosbeak
Bewick's	Yellow	Lazuli Bunting
House	Chestnut-sided	Indigo Bunting
Winter	Magnolia	Painted Bunting
Sedge	Cape May	Dickcissel
Marsh	Black-throated Blue	SPARROWS
KINGLETS	Yellow-rumped	Green-tail. Towhee
Golden-crowned	Myrtle	Rufous-sided
Ruby-crowned	Audubon's	Towhee
GNATCATCHER	Black-throat. Gray	Canyon Towhee
Blue-gray	Townsend's	Bachman's
		Cassin's

No.	No.	No.
Rufous-crowned	White-crowned	Brown-headed
American Tree	Harris	Cowbird
Chipping	Dark-eyed Junco	Orchard Oriole
Clay-colored	White-winged	Northern Oriole
Brewer's	State-colored	Baltimore
Field	Oregon	Bullock's
Vesper	Gray-headed	Scott's Oriole
Lark	McCown's Longspur	FINCHES
Black-throated	Lapland Longspur	Pine Grosbeak
Sage	Smith's Longspur	Purple
Lark Bunting	Chestnut-collared	Cassin's
Savannah	House	House
Baird's	Snow Bunting	Red Crossbill
Greenhopper	BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES	White-winged
Henslow's	Bobolink	Crossbill
La Conie's	Red-winged	Common Redpoll
Sharp-tailed	E. Meadowlark	Pine Siskin
Fox	W. Meadowlark	Lesser Goldfinch
Song	Yellow-headed	Am. Goldfinch
Lincoln's	Rusty	Evening Grosbeak
Swamp	Brewer's	WEAVER FINCH
White-throated	Great-tail Grackle	House Sparrow
Golden-crowned	Common Grackle	

SPRING AND SUMMER ROUNDUP/ March through July 1990/ by Scott Seltman

From border to border and from start to finish the spring migration of 1990 was universally praised by Kansas birders. This brought to an end a string of dismal spring seasons that began back in 1986. For four years we endured some very strange spring weather, (even by Kansas' standards), characterized by incredible swings in the mercury and bizarre precipitation patterns. Several times very cold weather suppressed migration for weeks on end only to be followed by heat waves and southerly winds that sent birds zipping across our state, scarcely casting a downward glance. But last spring things were much better with winter giving way to summer in a more orderly fashion. Enough rain and snow fell across Kansas that the "D" word that had dominated our conversations since the autumn of 1987 had more or less disappeared; although some scattered areas of dryness persisted the Drought of 1988-1989 was over.

March was quite mild across Kansas and several species challenged early arrival records with phoebes and swallows in particular pushing their luck. Western Kansas had snow several days during the first half of April with about 8 inches falling here at Nekoma on the 5th and several more on the 11th, but these storms were so innocuous that only birds depending exclusively on insects were in any peril. Cool and rainy weather during the last half of April encouraged many wintering birds to linger but still allowed others to arrive at the normal times creating a wonderful mixture of northern birds and neotropical migrants. Never was this more apparent than on April 28, a day on which Kansas birders recorded upwards of 250 species. Almost 200 were seen in Barton and Stafford counties alone as about 50 birders scoured the countryside in and around Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira. When the Seltmans and Mike Rader stopped for lunch in Ellinwood after a three hour cruise through The Bottoms (NOT aboard the S.S. Minnow) we knew we were on a roll when we tallied up 141 species. Other groups from Manhattan, Emporia, Lawrence and Kansas City were doing just as well. While most birders seem to associate good spring birding with the warbler waves of early May it is obviously possible to run up big totals in April provided that waterfowl, shorebird, raptor and sparrow numbers are high.

Although the KOS Spring Meeting was summarized in the last issue of The Horned Lark I have included some of the more noteworthy sightings here as well. The good warblers seen at Elkhart in early May proved to be just a small preview of the excellent flight of warblers that would be seen across Kansas during the first half of May. Most of the good birds were as usual seen close to the Missouri border but the Wichita area had a number of warblers that were definitely away from their normal flight paths and here in the west there were a few brushes with greatness as well. Birding remained productive across the state well into June, but about June 20 a record-breaking heat wave seemed to sweep the slate clean and through the month of July only a few birds of interest were seen. Well, enough about the weather. Let's get on to the good stuff.

The brief February 4 sighting of a Gyrfalcon in Pawnee County mentioned in the previous newsletter left a lot of depressed birders in its wake. The notion of having to wait five or ten or twenty years for another big gray falcon to wander below the Nebraska line was enough to cause grown men to cry (and I have reason to believe that some did.) But life is not always cruel and oftentimes we get a second chance. That second chance came in the form of a second Gyrfalcon seen at Cheyenne Bottoms on March 9 by Marvin Schwilling and Gerald Horak. Within hours of its discovery birders from all over our state and a few from points more distant all converged on The Bottoms to see the bird of their dreams. In the fourteen years that I have been birding I have never seen another single bird generate so much interest or excitement here in Kansas, with this bird even eclipsing Lake Perry's Spotted Redshank on the adrenalin scale. While most rarities that we chase are often very common just a few hundred miles outside our borders, there is nothing ordinary about a Gyrfalcon anywhere at anytime. Space does not allow to describe in this column all the human drama that unfolded as novices and experts alike struggled to add this bird to their life lists. But two people in particular stick in my memory eight months later and deserve some commemoration here.

The Most-Determined Award belongs to a fellow from Fort Worth who happened to be grazing through the Rare-Bird-Alerts of the central U.S. on Saturday afternoon, March 10 when he came upon the news on our hotline. After hanging up the phone he reportedly gathered up his things, climbed in his car and drove all night to be at Cheyenne Bottoms by sunrise. He got the Gyrfalcon on early Sunday morning and then drove 10 hours back home to Ft. Worth. This behavior may seem perfectly mad to most people but if you live in Texas and want to see a Gyrfalcon it is probably going to involve some travel and this was an almost sure thing. It would be interesting to know what relative velocities were maintained on the trip up and the trip back to Fort Worth. My favorite anecdote involves a certain KOS President who had proclaimed for years to anyone that would listen that Gyrfalcon was his "Number One Bird". When the Gyrfalcon was finally refound on Saturday morning the 10th by the Patti party, Sebastian let his passengers out and returned to fetch the rest of us. Upon our arrival at the outlet canal where the bird had been discovered we found the two scientists, Pam Rasmussen and David Seibel, clinically analyzing the falcon's fieldmarks. But Mick McHugh, who was more than a little excited, was about a half mile away, running west down U.S. 156 clad in jeans, a red Mickey Mouse sweatshirt and cap, without a car or any other people in sight. His wild gesticulations and leaps into the air displayed a level of exuberance that is rare in people of any age let alone grandfathers. It took Mick at least an hour to become coherent and it was supertime when he was reportedly speaking in sentences again. At the Spring KOS Meeting he had a serious relapse when a "Long-billed Falcon" was seen flying above a wheat field but since then the recovery has been going well.

While I am making a little fun here at Mick's expense I should point out that he was certainly not the only person a little overwhelmed by the Gyrfalcon. In fact, several people that I would have thought were thoroughly hardened by decades of birding were just as excited as the novices. Of the 50-60 observers that managed to see the falcon before its disappearance on Monday, the Gyrfalcon was a life bird for almost all of them, even those who had visited the Arctic. And I was surprised at the interest shown by birders outside of Kansas; several weeks later I was still getting many phone calls about the bird and my \$100 phone bill for outgoing calls in March is small compared to the many toll calls made to the RBA and our home phone during the same period. Virtually everyone that traveled to see the Gyrfalcon had success except those waiting until Tuesday to look for it. One intriguing question about the twin sightings concerns the origin of these birds. Both were almost certainly blown south by the incredibly cold weather of December 1989, but where were they in January? Were they in Texas, a state that has no accepted record for this species? And if two Gyrfalcons were seen in the lightly populated and lightly birded western half of Kansas, how many others must have passed through?

Other raptors made news across Kansas as well. The Bald Eagle nest at Clinton Reservoir was active again and this year produced three fledglings. Time will tell if these offspring will return to Clinton or other northeastern lakes to breed. A second Bald Eagle nest was reported in western Kansas in 1990. This pair constructed their nest in 1988 and fledged one bird in 1989 meaning that they should at least share honors with the Clinton pair for raising the first young of the century in our state. In 1990 the western pair produced one bird again, feeding it a steady diet of prairie dogs! Although Kansas certainly has its problems with water misuse, toxic waste and so forth, isn't it great to live in a state where the environment is still basically healthy and where long extirpated species at least have a shot at returning?

Occasionally a bird comes along that is so strange that it is difficult to even evaluate. A good example is the GRAY HAWK reported by Dan LaShelle from Milford Reservoir on April 15. The Gray Hawk was seen by several observers on several occasions and descriptions of the bird were quite convincing. Unfortunately, no photographs were taken of the bird resigning it to hypothetical status at best on the Kansas Checklist. Questions about the bird's origin have already created lively debate among ornithologists with most theories involving some sort of human transport. Skeptics point to the fact that Gray Hawk is sedentary over much of its range and the

migratory portion of the population has never been recorded far from the Mexican border in Arizona, New Mexico or Texas, the only three states that include Gray Hawk on their checklists. But advocates can point to the fact that the Milford sighting occurred at the same time that several unusual vagrants from central Mexico were seen in south Texas, a Red-faced Warbler made it all the way to Louisiana and Coloradans found two Dusky-capped Flycatchers and a Bronzed Cowbird. While birding at Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo on May 11 Tom and Sara Shane saw a Gray Hawk of their own, perhaps giving credence to the possibility that a few Gray Hawks did develop wanderlust in April. Unfortunately, this is the type of bird record that can probably can never be explained satisfactorily.

House Finches continued to fill in the map during the spring months, finally setting up permanent residence in Manhattan. Why House Finches were so slow to colonize that particular city is a bit of a mystery. Personally, I think they avoided Manhattan because they heard it was crawling with Wildcats. House Finches nested for the first time in Junction City in 1990. Bob LaShelle saw four young birds and two adults at a birdbath and observed the young begging for food. The Cannons had a pair nest in a blue spruce in their backyard in Iola, the first conclusive nesting record from southeastern Kansas. House Finches were also seen regularly in Kansas City but no nest has been reported as yet. The origin of all these birds is certainly a source of controversy. The fact that House Finches arrived in Emporia before Topeka and in Topeka before Kansas City points toward the western origin theory, but it also seems that the rapid westward expansion of House Finches across Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri could be affecting northeast Kansas as well. At any rate, this species will probably inhabit all 105 counties in our state by the end of this decade if not sooner.

Most of the following records were taken from the Kansas Rare-Bird-Alert transcripts. Written bird reports are far superior in accuracy to reports received over the phone, but few observers apparently appreciate that fact. All of the following records are subject to review by the Records Committee. Reports for the fall season, August through November 1990, should be sent to me at R.R. Box 36, Nekoma, KS 67559 as soon as possible.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS/ March through July 1990

Common Loon	<u>31</u> at Lake Perry	RR	4-19-90	Jefferson
Common Loon	1 calling during storm at Perry	RR	<u>6-14-90</u>	Jefferson
Eared Grebe	2 very early arrivals at Q	SS	<u>3-31-90</u>	Stafford
Western Grebe	1 at Big Salt Marsh	BVD	<u>4-28-90</u>	Stafford
Western Grebe	1 at Perry Lake	DLS	5-19-90	Jefferson
Western Grebe	1 at Big Salt Marsh	m.ob.	6-23-90	Stafford
Double-cr. Cormorant	6+ nests on this date at CB	SS	4-29-90	Barton
Double-cr. Cormorant	20+ nests on this date	SS,DS	6-16-90	Barton
Double-cr. Cormorant	20 nests at Wolf Creek Cooling Lake	LM	7-12-90	Coffey
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at CB	SS,DS	4-29-90	Barton
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at Wilson Wildlife Area	MR	4-30-90	Russell
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at CB	DHa	5-04-90	Barton
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at MDC	SS,m.ob.	5-12-90	Linn
Olivaceous Cormorant	3 at CB	SS	5-29-90	Barton
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at Big Salt Marsh	SS,DS	6-16-90	Stafford
Olivaceous Cormorant	4 at CB	m.ob.	6-23-90	Barton
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at MDC	GP,PW	6-30-90	Linn
Olivaceous Cormorant	1 at CB	SS	7-28-90	Barton
Olivaceous Cormorant	<u>8</u> at Big Salt Marsh	SS	7-28-90	Stafford
Anhinga	1 ne. of Riverton	SP,LM,MM	4-28-90	Cherokee
Anhinga	1 U.S. 69 2 mi. s. Linn Co.	MC	7-19-90	Bourbon
Least Bittern	1 calling at Perry WMA	DLS	7-01-90	Jefferson
Tricolored Heron	1 adult at Big Salt Marsh	SS,DS	6-16-90	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	<u>48</u> at MDC, Unit F-2	DB	4-21-90	<u>Linn</u>
White-faced Ibis	1 adult at Perry WMA	DLS	4-22-90	<u>Jefferson</u>

Tundra Swan	2 along I-70 at Gorham sink	MR,ER	3-17-90	Russell
Snow Goose	2 still at MDC	GP,PW	6-30-90	Linn
Ross' Goose	4 at Q	MR,SS	3-03-90	Stafford
Ross' Goose	3 at Lake McKinney	T&SSh	4-22-90	Kearny
Ross' Goose	1 still present at CB	DV,FV	5-16-90	Barton
Ross' Goose	1 at Liberal <u>through summer</u>	SS	5-26-90	Seward
Cinnamon Teal	20+ males many with mates at CB	SS	3-31-90	Barton
Greater Scaup	3 males on Smith Lake at Q	MR,SS	3-03-90	Stafford
Greater Scaup	2 on Elkhart sewer ponds	MR,SS	4-14-90	Morton
Greater Scaup	3 at MDC, Unit A	PW,GP	4-21-90	Linn
Oldsquaw	3 at Clinton St. Park sewer ponds	DvS	3-14-90	Douglas
	2 still present	GP	4-14-90	Douglas
Black Scoter	1 male at Shawnee Fishing Lake	BL	4-04-90	Shawnee
Red-breasted Merganser	3 on Lone Star Lake	PW,MW	3-31-90	Douglas
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at Lake Wabaunsee	DLS	3-17-90	Wabaunsee
Mississippi Kite	2 soaring over Overland Park	DB	6-29-90	<u>Johnson</u>
Mississippi Kite	1 imm. sw. of Junction City	DLS	7-04-90	<u>Geary</u>
Osprey	6 at Wilson Lake	MR	4-30-90	Russell
Osprey	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	6-25-90	Russell
Osprey	2 at Perry Lake	RR	<u>7-13-90</u>	Jefferson
Osprey	1 at Perry WMA	DLS	<u>7-14-90</u>	Jefferson
Bald Eagle	pair produced 3 young at Clinton	m.ob.		Douglas
Bald Eagle	pair produced 1 young	m.ob.		Hodgeman
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 well seen 15 miles sw. Gove	SS	6-09-90	Gove
Cooper's Hawk	1 at state park headquarters	MR	<u>7-02-90</u>	Russell
Red-shouldered Hawk	probable nesting in Unit B at MDC	LM,m.ob.	April 90	Linn
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 at Camp Horizon	PJ,JN	5-10-90	Cowley
Broad-winged Hawk	5 over Garden City	T&SSh	4-30-90	Finney
Swainson's Hawk	very early arrival	DS	<u>3-15-90</u>	Pawnee
Ferruginous Hawk	pair produced two young	SS		Hodgeman
Rough-legged Hawk	1 very late bird 8 mi. n. Hill City	SS	<u>5-17-90</u>	Graham
Golden Eagle	pair produced two young	m.ob.		Hodgeman
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Park City sewage lagoons	PJ	3-03-90	Sedgwick
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult at Perry WMA	DLS	3-18-90	Jefferson
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Big Salt Marsh	m.ob.	4-28-90	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	2 at CB	m.ob.	4-28-90	Barton
Peregrine Falcon	3 at Q	LM,m.ob.	5-06-90	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Wilson Lake	MR	5-13-90	Russell
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Big Salt Marsh	DV,FV	5-16-90	Stafford
<u>Gyr Falcon</u>	gray-phase imm. seen by about	MS,GH	3-09-90	Barton
	60 observers		to 3-12-90	
Prairie Falcon	1 along I-35 near Lebo	BB	3-15-90	Coffey
Black Rail	5 heard at 11AM	BVD	4-28-90	Stafford
Black Rail	3 at Q with one in plain sight	DH,LH	5-06-90	Stafford
Black Rail	1 heard at Q	LM,MR,SS	5-19-90	Stafford
Black Rail	5 heard at 9AM	SP,LM,MM,GP	6-24-90	Stafford
Yellow Rail	1 flushed twice at East Lassiter	RR	4-28-90	Jefferson
	Marsh w. of Valley Falls.			
Whooping Crane	3 at Quivira left at sunrise and	Staff	4-09-90	Stafford
	were seen in South Dakota in afternoon!			
Snowy Plover	1 early arrival at CB	DL,JM	<u>3-13-90</u>	Barton
Semipalmated Plover	500 at Big Salt Marsh	DB,LB	<u>5-07-90</u>	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at Kaw Valley Fish Farm	RR	4-13-90	Douglas
Piping Plover	3 at n. end of Big Salt Marsh	DM	4-23-90	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at Gun Club	MS	4-28-90	Barton
Piping Plover	2 at Wilson Wildlife Area	MR	4-30-90	Russell
Piping Plover	1 at Big Salt Marsh	GP	5-08-90	Stafford
Piping Plover		MM	5-12-90	Linn
Mountain Plover	4 seen at KOS Spring Meeting	m.ob.	5-05-90	Morton
American Avocet	1 record (?) early arrival at CB	SS	3-07-90	Barton

Whimbrel	2 at Big Salt Marsh	GP	5-08-90	Stafford
Whimbrel	unknown number	MM	5-12-90	Linn
Whimbrel	5 at Big Salt Marsh	DR,m.ob.	5-19-90	Stafford
Hudsonian Godwit	350 at CB	SS,DS	4-21-90	Barton
Hudsonian Godwit	3000-5000 in Pool 2 at CB	SS,DS,MR	4-28-90	Barton
Marbled Godwit	16 at Kaw Valley Fish Farm	GP	4-12-90	Douglas
Marbled Godwit	30 at CB	MR	4-15-90	Barton
Marbled Godwit	42 at Wilson Wildlife Area	MR	4-30-90	Russell
Marbled Godwit	flock of 100 along Redwing Dike	DHa	5-04-90	Barton
Red Knot	flock of 83, many in alternate plumage. Absent the next day.	LM,MR,SS	5-19-90	Stafford
White-rumped Sandpiper	4 at CB	MR	4-15-90	Barton
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 very early at CB	SS	3-11-90	Barton
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at Big Salt Marsh	JZ,m.ob.	4-28-90	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 following tractor	SS	7-29-90	Pawnee
Ruff	male with short bicolored bill, large eye ring, white on face, dark flecking on breast.	B&RH	4-23-90	Barton
Ruff	same bird still present	DH,HJ,m.ob.	4-28-90	Barton
Ruff	female at Big Salt Marsh	LM,MR,SS	5-19-90	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at CB	MR	4-21-90	Barton
Short-billed Dowitcher	20 at CB	SS,MR	4-28-90	Barton
Short-billed Dowitcher	2 at Wilson Wildlife Area	MR	4-30-90	Russell
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 along Redwing Dike	DV,FV	5-16-90	Barton
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Q	LM,MR,SS	5-19-90	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at MDC	LM	7-15-90	Linn
Red-necked Phalarope	3 at Big Salt Marsh	DV,FV	5-16-90	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	4 at Big Salt Marsh	LM,MR,SS	5-19-90	Stafford
Laughing Gull	1 seen with Franklin's	SP	6-03-90	Seward
Laughing Gull	1 in 2nd summer plumage	MI,BE	7-06-90	Stafford
Thayer's Gull	1st winter imm. eating bread	DvS	3-14-90	Douglas
Caspian Tern	1 at Melvern	LM	7-12-90	Osage
Caspian Tern	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	LM	7-13-90	Wyandotte
Common Tern	1 adult at Perry WMA	DLS	6-17-90	Jefferson
Common Tern	2 at Q	m.ob.	6-23-90	Stafford
Common Tern	1 at Q	MR	7-01-90	Stafford
Common Tern	2 at Q	MI,BE	7-06-90	Stafford
Greater Roadrunner	1 in Wichita backyard	fide DK	7-10-90	Sedgwick
Long-eared Owl	1 at Wilson Wildlife Area	MR	5-13-90	Russell
Short-eared Owl	1 seen repeatedly s. Nekoma	SS,DS	June 90	Rush
Short-eared Owl	nesting confirmed 4 n., 1 w. Rozel	SS	7-01-90	Pawnee

(After being dive bombed by an adult along an abandoned road, I walked out into an ungrazed pasture still being harassed by the parent. Begging calls of young birds were heard as the adult passed but it was getting dark and I did not want to disturb the nest. A juvenile was seen near the nest site on 7-28-90.)

Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at Boy Scout area	MR,SS	4-14-90	Morton
Western Wood-Pewee	1 at Bear Creek	SP	6-01-90	Stanton
Western Wood-Pewee	3 singing birds at N. Fork	SP	6-02-90	Morton
Eastern Phoebe	1 near Lenora very early for nw.	SS	3-22-90	Norton
Purple Martin	1 over Winfield (several inches of snow on the ground)	MT	3-02-90	Cowley
Cliff Swallow	30 early arrivals Hell Creek Bridge	MR	4-03-90	Russell
Steller's Jay	1 in Satanta through April	J&NC	Spring 90	Haskell
Steller's Jay	1	MS	4-10-90	Morton
Steller's Jay	1 along Bear Creek by KOS	SP,SS	5-05-90	Stanton
Steller's Jay	1 at river bridge by KOS	m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Steller's Jay	1 still in Satanta	J&NC	5-06-90	Haskell
Scrub Jay	1 in Lakin reportedly wintered	JH	3-30-90	Kearny
Scrub Jay	about 10 seen at KOS Spring Meeting	m.ob.	5-05-90	Morton
Scrub Jay	3 along Bear Creek by KOS	m.ob.	5-05-90	Stanton

Scrub Jay	2 still in Satanta	J&NC	5-06-90	Stanton
FISH CROW	1 along Spring River n. Galena	SP,LM,MM	4-28-90	Cherokee
FISH CROW	20 along Spring River	SP,LM,MM,GP	7-28-90	Cherokee
Black-capped Chickadee	1 at N. Fork by KOS	m.ob.	5-05-90	Morton
Mountain Chickadee	1 along Bear Creek by KOS	m.ob.	5-05-90	Stanton
Sedge Wren	20+ w. edge of Big Salt Marsh	SS,DS	4-21-90	Stafford
WESTERN BLUEBIRD	1 male seen near Boy Scout area	MS	4-11-90	Morton
Mountain Bluebird	100+ at Cedar Bluff	SS	3-17-90	Trego
Townsend's Solitaire	1 late bird near Camp Aldrich	??	4-28-90	Barton
Townsend's Solitaire	1 late bird at Q	GP,PW,DvS,PR	4-29-90	Stafford
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2 n. Elkhart Cem. by KOS	m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Sprague's Pipit	1 at Perry WMA	DLS	4-15-90	Jefferson
Sprague's Pipit	1	SS	5-17-90	Norton
Solitary Vireo	1 'plumbeous' race by KOS	SS,m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 at Work Station during KOS	m.ob.	5-05-90	Morton
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at CB campground; scarce in west	DB,LB	5-07-90	Barton
Blue-winged Warbler	1 near MDC	LM	7-22-90	Linn
Golden-winged Warbler	1 in Mission Hills	MM	5-07-90	Johnson
Virginia's Warbler	2 n. Elkhart Cem. day after KOS	m.ob.	5-07-90	Morton
(This species is a common to occasionally abundant migrant along the front range near Trinidad, Colorado [Dan Bridges, pers. comm.] but is rarely seen in Kansas.)				
Chesnut-sided Warbler	1 in Sim Park	PJ	5-09-90	Sedgwick
Magnolia Warbler	1 n. Elkhart Cem. by KOS	m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Cape May Warbler	1 fem. at Ft. Leavenworth	DB	5-12-90	Leaven.
Black-th. Blue Warbler	1 male seen and heard Bertram Park	PW	4-27-90	Douglas
Townsend's Warbler	1 n. Elkhart Cem.	m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Blackburnian Warbler	1 in Oak Park	PJ	5-09-90	Sedgwick
Blackburnian Warbler	2 along Mill Creek at S.M.Park	DB,LB,SS,DS	5-12-90	Johnson
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 singing bird at Milford	DLS	4-11-90	Geary
	same bird still present	DLS	4-21-90	Geary
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottomland	JS	4-28-90	Leaven.
Yellow-throated Warbler	5 at Ft. Leavenworth	CH	4-28-90	Leaven.
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Work Station during KOS	SS	5-06-90	Morton
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	CH	4-28-90	Leaven.
Cerulean Warbler	1 at MDC	CH,LM	5-13-90	Linn
Black-and-White Warbler	1 early arrival in Russell	JH	4-08-90	Russell
American Redstart	1 singing in Larned	SS	6-14-90	Pawnee
Worm-eating Warbler	2 at Ft. Leavenworth	CH	4-28-90	Leaven.
Worm-eating Warbler	1 n. Elkhart Cem. during KOS	E&EL,JB	5-05-90	Morton
	bird seen by most Spring Meeting birders		5-06-90	Morton
Worm-eating Warbler	1 in Oak Park	PJ	5-09-90	Sedgwick
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 early arrival at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	4-03-90	Leaven.
Hooded Warbler	1 female n. Elkhart Cem. during KOS	m.ob.	5-06-90	Morton
Hooded Warbler	1 in Oak Park	PJ	5-09-90	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	1 female in Antioch Park	SS	5-12-90	Johnson
Western Tanager	1 male at Elkhart	??	5-07-90	Morton
Lazuli Bunting	1 singing male at Perry	DLS	5-13-90	Jefferson
Canyon Towhee	1 at Pt. of Rocks	MR,SS	4-14-90	Morton
Cassin's Sparrow	several singing birds	MR,SS	4-14-90	Morton
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	1 singing at Point of Rocks	PL,SF	6-13-90	Morton
Lark Bunting	1 very early arrival at CB	SP	3-10-90	Barton
Baird's Sparrow	1 under vehicle at prairie chicken	MS	5-06-90	Morton
	blind during Spring KOS Meeting			
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 late bird on Bear Creek	SP	6-01-90	Stanton
McCown's Longspur	1 flushed from dike at Q	SS,DS	4-21-90	Stafford
Orchard Oriole	first arrivals at MDC	LM	4-22-90	Linn
Northern Oriole	first arrivals at MDC	LM	4-22-90	Linn
House Finch	being seen daily in Manhattan	DR	Spring 90	Riley
House Finch	being seen daily in Wamego	DR	Spring 90	Pottawat.

House Finch	nesting in Iola	TomC	June 90	Allen
House Finch	nesting in Junction City	BLS	June 90	Geary
Pine Siskin	several pairs building nests in Elkhart Cemetery. Abandoned later.	MR,SS	4-14-90	Morton
Pine Siskin	several still at feeder	SS	5-28-90	Rush
Pine Siskin	several still at feeder in Wilson	MR	June 90	Ellsworth
Common Redpoll	1 at Garden City feeder	L&BR	3-10-90	Finney
Evening Grosbeak	flock at Sedgwick Co. Zoo	ES,JY	4-05-90	Sedgwick

EXOTICS

Gray Partridge	2 at country club s. Garden City	T&SSh	4-29-90	Finney
Chukar	flock of 7 s. Sublette	GP	3-01-90	Seward

(Gray Partridge and Chukar were reportedly released in numbers at a "controlled shooting area" in Haskell County. These birds understandably hit the ground running.)

Ringed Turtle-Dove	pair nesting in artificial plant back porch of 1225 Cornwall in Topeka.	E&EL	4-20-90	Shawnee
--------------------	--	------	---------	---------

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Bill Brecheisen (BB), Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), Tom Cannon (TomC), Jack & Norma Conover (J&NC), Mark Corder (MC), Beverly Evans (BE), Shawnee Finnegan (SF), Don Haley (DH), Dave Hedges (DH), Linda Hedges (LH), Bev & Ruth Hodges (B&RH), Jane Holland (JH), Gerald Horak (GH), Maxey Irwin (MI), Pete Janzen (PJ), Hugh Jeffries (HJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Bob LaShelle (BLS), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Bob Lawson (BL), David Leatherman (DL), Paul Lehman (PL), Eugene & Eulalia Lewis (E&EL), Joe Mammoser (JM), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhearn (DM), John Northrup (JN), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Ellen Rader (ER), Mike Rader (MR), Pam Rasmussen (PR), Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Dave Rintoul (DR), Richard Rucker (RR), John Schukman (JS), Marvin Schwilling (MS), David Seibel (DvS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Eddie Stegall (ES), Max Thompson (MT), Beverly Van Dyke (BVD), Don Vannoy (DV), Fran Vannoy (FV), Margaret Wedge (MW), Phil Wedge (PW), Joan Yoder (JY), John Zimmerman (JZ). Q = Quivira NWR, CB = Cheyenne Bottoms, MDC = Marais Des Cynes WMA.

KANSAS RARE-BIRD-ALERT 913-329-4499

The Kansas Rare-Bird-Alert received 193 calls in August, 238 in September, 224 in October and 269 in November 1990. During the same period the tape was updated 40 times with the printed text filling 18 pages. Thirty calls were received on 9/23, the date that the number was mentioned in the Wichita Eagle. The operating fund comprised of donations solicited last spring has been depleted. If the RBA has been instrumental in adding birds to your life or state list, you might consider sending a contribution to KOS Treasurer Rose Fritz. Operating costs for the hotline are currently running at about five cents per call. Frequent callers who wish to leave a message without listening to the entire announcement can skip ahead to the beep by hitting "5" on a touch-tone phone. Keep those calls coming!

NOTICE FOR ALL KOS MEMBERS:

Roger and Jan Boyd are leading a 14 day nature tour to Costa Rica 20 July through 2 Aug. Cost is \$1200 plus air fare. Call 913-594-3172 or write 520 Third St, Baldwin City, Ks 66006 for details. Must register by March 1. This will be a trip of a lifetime, plan to join us.