



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1992

Vol. 19, No. 2

RECYCLED PAPER

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Welcome to More New KOS Members!

Roy & Pat Beckemeyer, Wichita; Barbara Campbell, Garden City; Wayne Dickerson, Lawrence; Melinda Droege, Bartlesville, OK; Joyce Gottschamer, Pomona; K. D. Hansen, Kansas City; Harry Heckethorn, McPherson; Ms. Marion Hughes, Mission Hills; Betty Huffman, Altamont; Delford & Regina Jamison, Garnett; H. Gordon Jones, Great Bend; Martha King, Eldorado; Shari Krentzel, Oskaloosa; Mary Sue Rose, Lenexa; Paul Schowalter, Larned; F. W. Shelton, Jr., Wichita; Georgia Shultz, Wakarusa; Richard & Kimberly Smith and Betty Strand, Leavenworth.

Spring 1992 Meeting Attendance and Highlights

The joint meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society and the Colorado Field Ornithologists held in St. Francis, Kansas and Bonny Reservoir, Colorado May 8-10 was a success despite unfavorable weather and light attendance. Saturday the wind gusted from the South at approximately 50 mph, blowing in dust and tumbleweeds but few rare birds. The Saturday evening cookout had to be replaced by supper in a restaurant in St. Francis because of the potential for prairie fires. But some hardy campers spend both nights in tents at the reservoir despite wind, broken tent poles and later, rain.

The group found 121 species with highlights such as Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler and Painted Bunting. Some members birding on the way to and from the meeting found a few interesting birds including Hermit Thrush in Thomas Co., Red Crossbill in Cheyenne Co. and Virginia's Warbler in Scott County.

Thanks to all who helped with the meeting even if it was simply by attending. It was a great opportunity for Kansans and Coloradans to get acquainted and both groups expressed interest in more such joint meetings.

Those attending from Colorado included David Pantle, Joe TenBrink, Jean Maquire, all of Denver; Peter Gent, Boulder; Bob & Juv Fleming, Golden; Bill & Margi Elliot, Lakewood; Bill & Inez Prather, Longmont; and Bob Dickson, Pueblo. Representing Kansas were Dave & Linda Bryan, Overland Park; John Schukman, Leavenworth; David Seibel, Ann Erickson, Lawrence; Pam Wilson, Stanley; Lowell & Wanda Johnson, Ted & Tim Cable, Manhattan; Gregg, Joanna & Rebecca Friesen, Newton; Mike Rader, Wilson; Ray & Karen Ganoung, Hoisington; Michael & Janice Speers, Paul Schowalter, Larned; and Scott & Diane Seltman, Nekoma. One out-of-range birder, Bill Evans, joined us from Mecklenburg, NY.

Bird Species Seen at Spring Meeting in Cheyenne County, KS & Yuma County, CO, May 9 & 10, 1992

White Pelican	CO	Great Horned Owl	KS CO	Yellow Warbler	KS CO
Double-crested Cormorant	CO	Burrowing Owl	CO	Yellow-rumped Warbler	KS CO
Great Blue Heron	KS CO	Chimney Swift	KS CO	Yellow-throated Warbler	KS
Green-backed Heron	KS CO	Belted Kingfisher	KS CO	American Redstart	CO
Canada Goose	CO	Red-headed Woodpecker	KS CO	Northern Waterthrush	KS CO
Wood Duck	KS CO	Red-bellied Woodpecker	KS CO	Common Yellowthroat	KS CO
Mallard	KS CO	Downy Woodpecker	KS CO	Wilson's Warbler	CO
Blue-winged Teal	CO	Hairy Woodpecker	KS	Yellow-breasted Chat	KS
Cinnamon Teal	CO	Northern Flicker	KS CO	Northern Cardinal	KS
Northern Shoveler	CO	Olive-sided Flycatcher	CO	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	KS
Gadwall	CO	Least Flycatcher	KS	Black-headed Grosbeak	KS CO
American Wigeon	CO	<i>Empidonax</i> species	KS	Blue Grosbeak	KS
Redhead	CO	Eastern Phoebe	KS	Lazuli Bunting	CO
Lesser Scaup	CO	Say's Phoebe	KS	Indigo Bunting	CO
Ruddy Duck	CO	Great-crested Flycatcher	KS	Painted Bunting	CO
Turkey Vulture	KS CO	Western Kingbird	KS CO	Rufous-sided Towhee	KS CO
Mississippi Kite	KS	Eastern Kingbird	KS CO	Cassin's Sparrow	CO
Osprey	CO	Horned Lark	KS CO	Chipping Sparrow	KS CO
Bald Eagle	CO	N. Rough-winged Swallow	KS CO	Clay-colored Sparrow	KS CO
Northern Harrier	KS CO	Cliff Swallow	KS CO	Vesper Sparrow	KS CO
Sharp-shinned Hawk	KS	Barn Swallow	KS CO	Lark Sparrow	KS CO
Cooper's Hawk	KS	Blue Jay	KS CO	Lark Bunting	KS CO
Swainson's Hawk	KS CO	Black-billed Magpie	KS CO	Savannah Sparrow	KS
Red-tailed Hawk	KS CO	American Crow	KS CO	Grasshopper Sparrow	CO
Ferruginous Hawk	CO	Black-capped Chickadee	KS CO	Song Sparrow	CO
American Kestrel	KS CO	Rock Wren	KS	Lincoln's Sparrow	KS CO
Ring-necked Pheasant	KS CO	House Wren	KS CO	White-throated Sparrow	CO
Wild Turkey	KS CO	Eastern Bluebird	CO	White-crowned Sparrow	KS CO
Northern Bobwhite	KS	Townsend's Solitaire	KS	Red-winged Blackbird	KS CO
American Coot	CO	Swainson's Thrush	KS CO	Western Meadowlark	KS CO
Killdeer	KS CO	American Robin	KS CO	Yellow-headed Blackbird	CO
Lesser Yellowlegs	CO	Gray Catbird	KS	Great-tailed Grackle	KS CO
Solitary Sandpiper	CO	Northern Mockingbird	CO	Common Grackle	KS CO
Spotted Sandpiper	KS CO	Brown Thrasher	KS CO	Brown-headed Cowbird	KS CO
Upland Sandpiper	CO	Cedar Waxwing	KS CO	Orchard Oriole	KS CO
Franklin's Gull	CO	Loggerhead Shrike	KS CO	Northern Oriole	KS CO
Ring-billed Gull	CO	European Starling	KS CO	House Finch	KS
Forster's Tern	CO	Solitary Vireo	CO	Pine Siskin	KS CO
Rock Dove	KS CO	Warbling Vireo	KS CO	American Goldfinch	KS CO
Mourning Dove	KS CO	Orange-crowned Warbler	CO	House Sparrow	KS CO
Barn Owl	KS	Northern Parula	KS		

You'll notice a new address is on the masthead this month. Don Vannoy has turned the reins over to Chuck Otte of Junction City. Don has served us well, but has decided to turn more of his time to birding and whatever else it is one does when happily retired. (Is there anything else?). Anyway, **Thank You**, Don and Good Luck, Chuck.

Despite the other changes in "management," I'm still doing the typing (Dawn Sharp, that is). Since I had some time due to this and that, I've made some changes. Drop a note to Chuck (see p. 1) and tell us whether you like it or not.

One more tiny thing...if you have something to add to this newsletter that will make it full of information and ideas that will turn heads, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**, have it to the editor by February 20, May 20, August 20 or November 20. This gives time for clarifications, editing, software problems, hardware problems, illness and any other else that could possibly go wrong. (Does anybody get the feeling that I speak from experience?)

And...(as they say)...Now for something completely different...

NEWS FROM THE KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

As you know, the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) adopted "new" Procedural Rules that were accepted by the KBRC and the KOS Board of Directors at the 1990 Fall KOS meeting. The Committee experienced some difficulties while getting use to doing things in a new and formal way and got off to a fairly slow start. However, those difficulties have, for the most part, been dealt with and the Committee is well on its way to operating much more smoothly and efficiently. The June 1992 issue of the KOS Bulletin contains the 1991 Annual Report of the KBRC.

This issue of the *Horned Lark* is going to hopefully inform you about the logistical workings, operational procedures, and philosophy behind the KBRC. Included in this issue is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Point/Counterpoint column of the December 1991 issue of "Birding" magazine. This excellent article is a good introduction to the rationale and necessity for rare bird documentation. Another article that has just been published in the current issue (June 1992) of "Birding" magazine is an absolute "must read" article, for any serious birder, entitled "How to Document Rare Birds" by Donna L. Dittmann and Greg W. Lasley! This article, I predict, will become the "standard" reference for anyone wishing to learn how to properly document bird sightings. If you have any questions about what it takes to write a good record submission, read this article! In response to that oft asked question: "Which bird sightings should I document and submit

to the KBRC?", refer to the KBRC Review List that is also found printed in this issue.

As a matter of catching up with old bookkeeping chores, also included in this issue are the minutes of three KBRC meetings that were held in April 1991, September 1991, and February 1992. In the future, minutes of KBRC meeting will be published in the next available issue of the *Horned Lark* after the meeting has taken place.

In the March 1991 issue of the *Horned Lark* a complete set of the Procedural Rules of the KBRC was reprinted, which spell out the logistical rules by which the Committee operates. Also, if you read the minutes of the KBRC you will see that as new situations arise new operational "policies" are adopted and old ones evolve or are abandoned. As an aid to understanding how the KBRC functions and to simply keep you informed there is an article included in this issue that updates and interprets the current policies and rules.

Hopefully this issue of the *Horned Lark* will answer many of your questions about the KBRC and make it easier for you to participate in documenting rare bird sightings in Kansas and therefore make an even greater contribution to what's known about bird distribution in Kansas.

Galen L. Pittman, KBRC Secretary



Kansas Bird Records Committee Review List

This review list is intended to be a guide for all potential contributors to the Kansas Bird Records Committee as to which species of birds are in need of documentation in Kansas. The four categories listed below are in descending order of importance. The species are listed in taxonomic order within each category.

1. Any species that is **not** currently on the KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas and is naturally occurring within the state should be documented with physical evidence (e.g., specimens, photos, videos, etc.) whenever it is sighted within the state!
2. Hypothetical species: These species are either already on the KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas and will be designated as "hypothetical" on the

next edition or are due to be added to the next edition as "hypothetical." All of these species need to be documented with physical evidence whenever they are sighted in the state.

Clark's Grebe
 Eurasian Wigeon
 Common Black-headed Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 White-winged Dove
 Western Screech-Owl
 White-throated Swift
 Williamson's Sapsucker
 Black Phoebe
 Fish Crow
 Western Bluebird
 Lesser Goldfinch

4 (KBRC Review List, Cont'd)

3. Species with less than 10 records in Kansas. These species should be documented whenever they are sighted in the state.

Red-throated Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Brown Pelican
Magnificent Frigatebird
White Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Greater Flamingo
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Garganey
Common Eider
King Eider
Barrow's Goldeneye
Am. Swallow-tailed Kite - greater than 10 records, but not recently
Black-shouldered Kite
Harris' Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Spotted Redshank
Eskimo Curlew - greater than 10 records, but not recently
Curlew Sandpiper
Ruff
Pomarine Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Little Gull
Black Skimmer
Band-tailed Pigeon
Magnificent Hummingbird
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Anna's Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Hammond's Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Cordilleran Flycatcher
Gray-breasted Jay
Black-capped Vireo - greater than 10 records, but not recently
Virginia's Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Pyrrhuloxia
Bachman's Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Scott's Oriole

4. Species with greater than 10 records, but with uncertain or changing status in the state. These species (though well established as occurring in the state) are found sufficiently infrequently that

additional data is needed to determine their current status within the state. These species should be documented whenever sighted or if designated with a "*" whenever found outside the stated range.

Pacific Loon
Anhinga
Tricolored Heron
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Trumpeter Swan
Brant
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Vulture
Ruffed Grouse
Sharp-tailed Grouse* - extreme northwest Kansas
Yellow Rail
Black Rail* - Stafford County
Snowy Plover* - Barton and Stafford Counties
Piping Plover
Mountain Plover* - extreme western Kansas
Red Knot* - Barton and Stafford Counties
Red Phalarope
Parasitic Jaeger
Laughing Gull
California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Glaucous Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Sabine's Gull
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Rufous Hummingbird* - southwest and southcentral Kansas
Groove-billed Ani
Lewis' Woodpecker* - southwest Kansas
Red-naped Sapsucker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker* - southwest Kansas
Dusky Flycatcher
Vermilion Flycatcher
Cassin's Kingbird* - Morton County
Violet-green Swallow* - western Kansas
Steller's Jay* - southwest Kansas
Scrub Jay* - southwest Kansas
Pinyon Jay* - southwest Kansas
Clark's Nutcracker
Chihuahuan Raven* - southwest Kansas
Common Raven
Mountain Chickadee* - southwest Kansas
Bushtit* - southwest Kansas
Pygmy Nuthatch
Varied Thrush
Sage Thrasher* - Morton County

Curve-billed Thrasher* - Morton County
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler* - Cherokee County
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler* - Linn and Cherokee
 Counties
 Worm-eating Warbler

MacGillivray's Warbler* - southwest Kansas
 Hooded Warbler
 Green-tailed Towhee
 Canyon Towhee* - Morton County
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow* - Morton County
 Brewer's Sparrow* - southwest Kansas
 Sage Sparrow* - Morton County
 Baird's Sparrow
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 Pine Grosbeak
 Cassin's Finch* - southwest Kansas
 White-winged Crossbill

Clarification of the Procedural Rules and Policies of the KBRC

Several very important policies concerning the submission of bird records for evaluation by the Committee should be made clear to all potential contributors.

First, all bird record submissions should be "complete" before they can be circulated for evaluation. A complete submission includes not only the pertinent information concerning what species was seen, when, where, and by whom, but also the conditions under which it was observed and, last but not least, a **complete written description** of the bird detailing relevant field marks, behavior and/or diagnostic characteristics that were actually observed. This written description is highly encouraged, even if photographs, sound recordings, and/or sketches are included. Under special circumstances bird records can be accepted for circulation with only photographic evidence to back-up the identification, but those photographs must show all the relevant field marks and be "irrefutable"!

The second policy that contributors should be aware of is that the Committee will **only accept photographic materials or tapes or sketches** that are "non-returnable" to the contributor. All submitted materials become the property of the KBRC. Also we request that all photographic evidence be submitted in the form of "prints."

The third policy, that was recently adopted is one that requires all circulated records to be distributed, on the first circulation, with the names of the submitted and any other observers obliterated! This anonymity should promote greater objectivity when evaluating records, and help achieve one of our main goals, which is to not "judge" birders, but to evaluate the merits of significant bird sightings in Kansas.

The following are several Procedural Rules that are important to keep in mind. The rules allow for the resubmission (section VI.C) of any record regardless of whether a final decision has been reached, if and only if, new and substantial evidence is submitted that could reverse the previous decision. It is at the discretion of the Secretary of the KBRC that resubmissions are actually circulated for re-examination. The rules require a vote to be decisive before it is final and if it is non-decisive (four *yes* votes and three *no* votes) the record must be recirculated (see sections VI.E.9. and VI.D.3). If a record still receives a non-decisive vote the second time, then it receives a third and final review. *A record under no circumstances can be accepted by the Committee without at least five or more yes votes!*



Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the home of Max Thompson in Winfield, KS, 6 April 1991

Minutes were recorded by Galen Pittman. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairperson Max Thompson.

Members present were Max Thompson (MCT), Chuck Ely (CAE), Galen Pittman (GLP), Scott

Seltman (SS), Lloyd Moore (LDM), Roger Boyd (RLB), and Mick McHugh (ESM).

LDM moved and ESM seconded a motion that acting Secretary Galen Pittman be elected to the position of Secretary of the KBRC. The motion passed.

RLB moved and LDM seconded a motion that acting Chairperson Max Thompson be elected to the

position of Chairperson of the KBRC. The motion passed.

After a discussion and a consensus agreement was reached, the current members and alternates to the Committee were assigned the following "official" positions on the KBRC:

- Position #1: Chuck Ely
- Position #2: Scott Seltman
- Position #3: Marvin Schwilling
- Position #4: Max Thompson
- Position #5: Lloyd Moore
- Position #6: Galen Pittman
- Position #7: Roger Boyd
- Alternate #1: Mick McHugh
- Alternate #2: Ted Cable

The KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas was reviewed and the several changes and updates (some of which were necessitated by the adoption of the "hypothetical" category in the Procedural Rules accepted in October 1990) were designated for the next edition. These changes and updates also reflect the new policy, adopted by the Committee, that asterisks (*) species retain that status on the checklist for the first ten records instead of five. Extinct and extirpated species will be reinserted, in taxonomic order, on the checklist. The species affected are the following:

- Red-throated Loon - add "*"
- Red-necked Grebe - add "*"
- Clark's Grebe - add "*" & "hypothetical"
- Brown Pelican - add "*"
- Magnificent Frigatebird - add "*"
- White Ibis - add "*"
- Roseate Spoonbill - add "*"
- Eurasian Widgeon - add "*" & "hypothetical",
change spelling of "Widgeon" to "Wigeon"
- American Widgeon - change spelling of "Widgeon" to "Wigeon"
- Harris' Hawk - add "*"
- Little Gull - add "*"
- Common Black-headed Gull - add "hypothetical"
- Great Black-backed Gull - add "hypothetical"
- White-winged Dove - add "hypothetical"
- Western Screech-Owl - add "hypothetical"
- White-throated Swift - add "hypothetical"
- Anna's Hummingbird - add to the list with "*" & "hypothetical"
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird - add "*"
- Williamson's Sapsucker - add "*" & "hypothetical"
- Hammond's Flycatcher - add "*"
- Black Phoebe - add "hypothetical"
- Fish Crow - add to the list with "*" & "hypothetical"
- Western Bluebird - add to the list with "*" & "hypothetical"
- Virginia's Warbler - add "*"

Golden-crowned Sparrow - add "*"

Lesser Goldfinch - add "hypothetical"

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the home of John Schukman in Leavenworth, KS, 20 September 1991, at the KOS fall meeting

Minutes were recorded by Galen Pittman. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM by Chairperson Max Thompson.

—Members present were Max Thompson (MCT), Marvin Schwilling (MDS), Galen Pittman (GLP), Scott Seltman (SS), and Ted Cable (TTC).

MCT announced that Chuck Ely has tendered his resignation to the Committee and that it had been accepted. It was the consensus of the Committee that the first alternate (Mick McHugh) be suggested to the current KOS President, David Seibel, to be appointed to serve out the remainder of the term for Position #1 (previously held by Chuck Ely). It was further suggested that the second alternate (Ted Cable) move up to the first alternate's position (vacated by McHugh) and that a brand new person (totally of the President's choosing) should be appointed to the second alternate's position by the President. [Later, after being informed of the suggestions of the Committee during the KOS fall meeting, David Seibe appointed Mick McHugh to KBRC Position #1, Ted Cable to KBRC Alternate # 1, and himself to KBRC Alternate # 2.]

GLP presented a list of topics for discussion which were discussed and accepted by consensus vote. The following is a list of the policies adopted by the Committee:

1. The KBRC Procedural Rules require members to cast their votes and return the completed validation forms to the Secretary within 30 days of receipt. If a member is delinquent in returning his validation form, the following policy will take affect. As soon as the 30 days are up, the Secretary will send the delinquent member a notification that the allotted time period has past and that he has 10 more days to respond. If at the end of that period the Secretary has still not received the member's vote(s) the appropriate alternate will be pressed into service to vote in his place including any needed recirculation votes on that particular record(s).
2. All KBRC record submissions should have written descriptions included, regardless of whether there is photograph evidence submitted or not. If a submission is received that would ordinarily be circulated and is incomplete, it should be returned to the contributor (without being circulated) and a

request made, of the contributor, to resubmit a "complete" record form. In addition, it should be explained that the KBRC can only circulate and vote on "complete" records. It will be at the discretion of the KBRC Secretary to determine whether or not a record submission is complete.

3. All photographic evidence submitted to the KBRC shall be required to be non-returnable, whether "prints" or video tapes; and that any slides or negatives that are submitted be sent back and a request made for copies that the KBRC can keep for its archives.
4. The KBRC shall send all contributors an acknowledgement of the receipt of the record submission, inform the submitter whether or not his record is being circulated, and report to him, individually, the results of any votes taken and the final disposition of that record.
5. When a record needs to be re-circulated, the contributor can submit additional information before re-circulation. A contributor can resubmit a rejected record if there is presented new and substantial evidence that might reverse that decision. The KBRC Secretary has the discretion to circulate it again if he thinks the new evidence presented warrants a re-examination.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Minutes of the KBRC meeting at the home of Marvin Schwilling in Emporia, KS, 22 February 1992

Minutes were recorded by Mick McHugh. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Chairperson Max Thompson.

Members present were Max Thompson (MCT), Marvin Schwilling (MDS), Galen Pittman (GLP), Mick McHugh (ESM), Roger Boyd (RLB), and Lloyd Moore (LDM).

GLP distributed a list of all previously submitted records with an account of the disposition of those records, including all votes. GLP discussed criteria for documentation.

LDM moved and RLB seconded a motion to form a subcommittee to draft a "review" list of bird species that the KBRC needs to receive documentations for. This draft would be presented to the full committee for editing and final approval and would be made available to the public by being published in the Horned Lark. The motion passed. MCT appointed GLP and LDM to produce the list. This review list will include any species that are designated as hypothetical or for which there are 10 or less records for Kansas. In addition, this list will

include species that there are more than 10 records for in the state but their distributional status is in question.

GLP initiated a discussion of record evaluation, i.e., the need to make the voting responses of the committee members as scientific as possible and to strive to recognize the inherent biases in this process so as to reduce errors. MCT asked all members present about the criteria that they use to evaluate bird records. ESM moved and MDS seconded a motion to require that a KBRC bird record submission, in addition to the standard details of the circumstances of the sighting, include a complete written description and/or irrefutable photographic (including video) evidence and/or verified specimen evidence to document the identification of the bird. In addition, the KBRC Secretary will have the discretion to determine whether or not the photographic evidence presented is "irrefutable" and thus determine if the record could be circulated without a written description. The motion passed.

GLP read notes from the two previous meetings of the KBRC on 6 April 1991 at Winfield and on 20 September 1991 at Leavenworth. LDM made a motion that the KBRC reimburse submitters for the cost of photos or tapes that are submitted to the Committee with record submissions. The motion died for lack of a second.

ESM moved and RLB seconded a motion to establish that all bird records for Kansas published in the KOS Bulletin include a caveat that indicates that this record has either been accepted, rejected, is under review, or has not been submitted to the KBRC. The motion was withdrawn after discussion.

MCT (current KOS Bulletin editor) indicated that he would request write-ups for rare bird records submitted to the Bulletin if photographs are received without written documentation. It was agreed that the Bulletin editor has the discretion to control what is published in the Bulletin in regards to bird records.

MCT also agreed to publish the "Annual Report of the KBRC" in the June issue of the Bulletin. Each annual report of the committee will cover a calendar year and be published in the June Bulletin following that year. The current report will include the activities of the Committee from Oct 1990 through Dec 1991.

GLP moved and MCT seconded a motion to remove section II.G from the Procedural Rules of the KBRC. This section reads: Choose the "ten best Kansas birds of the year" from among those submitted to and accepted by the Committee annually (the year being defined as from 1 June to 31 May), to be announced at the annual fall meeting of the KOS and subsequently published in The Horned Lark. The motion passed. The intention of this change is not to do away with the "top ten birds of the year", but to

remove the official responsibility for producing this list from the KBRC.

LDM and GLP brought up and discussed possible changes in the KOS checklist and the need for a Kansas date and abundance guide for birds. This guide could include information on the occurrence of birds in Kansas both temporally and by geographic region.

MDS moved and GLP seconded a motion that LDM and GLP investigate the possibilities for such a guide as well as look into possible format changes for the checklist and report back to the Committee at a later date. The motion passed.

LDM discussed reprinting articles from Birding magazine on documenting bird records in The Horned Lark. MCT suggested the Committee meet annually on the last Saturday of February at a place to be

determined by the Chairperson each year and that minutes of all of the KBRC meetings be published in the newsletter.

ESM moved and RLB seconded a motion to require that all future circulated bird record submissions be distributed anonymously on the first circulation, i.e., that the record be circulated with the names of the submitter and any other observers obliterated. The motion passed.

GLP distributed copies of previous votes for two records that are required to be recirculated because they received a 4-3 "non-decisive" vote on the first round. The specifics of these records, including the pros and cons for their acceptance were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.



Plea to potential contributors to the Kansas Bird Records Committee

The KBRC needs the support and especially the participation of all active birders that observe rare or unusual birds in the state of Kansas. The need to "document" the occurrence of unusual bird species is very important to improving the quality of our knowledge of Kansas birds. To be able to properly evaluate sightings, written documentation must be submitted by field observers to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the record. In addition, a written record can be accurately reproduced and archived for the benefit of any present or future investigators who wish to independently evaluate the data. To rely on "hearsay" or strictly verbal reports of sightings is notoriously inaccurate and nearly impossible to verify and archive. Even if there was irrefutable physical evidence to support the occurrence of a particular species, there would still need to be documentation included that would establish the time and place and other circumstances of the sighting.

Some potential contributors might shy away from submitting detailed written documentation because of the feeling that their "word" should be all that is needed to "accept" a record as valid. The purpose of the KBRC is not to "judge" the observers submitting the records, but to evaluate the evidence that is presented to support the sighting. If the documentation submitted is poor the record is likely to be rejected! The observer is assumed to be presenting the true facts and thus the decision to accept or reject the record should be based on the merits of the evidence provided. An observer might think that he/she had seen a rare species, but perhaps didn't realize that the criteria being using to identify that species wasn't sufficient to "rule out" a similar one. The Committee can't just rely on the good intentions of the observers. We must be as objective as possible and let the submitted facts speak for themselves.

Other potential contributors might shy away from submitting records because its just too much work or they don't have the time. The Committee needs your help to expand and improve our "database" of Kansas birds. Please take the time because, ultimately, the committee needs your records to further advance our "working" knowledge of the distribution of Kansas birds and to make the KOS Checklist of the Birds of Kansas as up-to-date as possible.

A new updated full size report form for submitting unusual bird sightings is included in this issues of the Horned Lark...feel free to copy this form and distribute it to any interested parties you encounter.

Galen L. Pittman, KBRC Secretary

Avian Wanderings and Bruised Egos

The Documentation of Rare Birds in Texas

Reprinted by permission of *American Birding Association, Inc.*

Ornithology can be a trying occupation. More than sixty million people are believed to be dabbling in this science to varying degrees—far more than are found in the average scientific discipline. As the numbers grow, the scientific study of birds is being pulled from every imaginable angle. The scientist, the romantic, and the sportsman all have staked claims within ornithology's boundaries.

One of the most attractive aspects of this science (and perhaps the most controversial) includes the sighting of rare birds—a sometimes frenetic world of checklists, special forms, hotline information, and the chase. Although documentation of rare birds is important to the hard science of ornithology, the contributors in this area range from the casual backyard bird-watcher to the university professor. Listers, who enjoy the sport of listing every new bird seen, also have an interest in a confirmed rarity because it may add another species to their life lists. With the growing number of birders, review committees have been formed in at least thirty-six states and three provinces (Roberson 1990) to screen the information. In Texas, where many rare birds are found, the review committee has improved the procedure for evaluating rare-bird reports. This improvement, however, has more than once included a costly price tag of bruised feelings and alienation.

Gathering the data begins innocently enough. Birds

considered rare can be rare in numbers, rare for North America, or, in this case, rare in Texas. The most common forms of rare bird data include rare-bird written reports, photographs, salvage specimens (e.g., road kills), and, by far the most controversial, collecting birds for identification. In this day and age, however, shooting a bird so that one may identify it is no longer a common practice; other forms of rare-bird data are far more numerous.

The most common form of rare-bird documentation is the sight-record description and, if the reviewing committee is lucky, accompanying photographs. In Texas, a rare-bird report is usually funneled to the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC)—a standing committee of the Texas Ornithological Society—for review. The questions which committee members ask when reviewing rare-bird reports are (in regard to the bird) the following: What is it? Where was it seen? Where is it from? How many times has it been seen in North America and in Texas? Is there enough documentation included with the record to warrant acceptance and perhaps publication? Although the questions seem simple enough, problems occur when the observer of the rarity feels challenged to defend his or her observation in writing.

Frequently, observers get nervous at the thought of trying to prove their sighting on a written form. What if the sighting is proven wrong or is

found unacceptable by the review committee because of poor (inadequate) details? The classic "fear of rejection" makes some of the most thick-skinned birders wary of written documentation. The rare-bird report form, if used, also has a way of taking on the tone of a contract, and the review procedure is frequently misconstrued as something legally binding. ("Sir, could you tell the jury in your own words just what binoculars you were using on April 17th?") Observers are asked to "defend" their sightings and provide good "evidence." The perceived courtroom dialogue has been known to produce an anxiety that may linger for weeks after one has submitted a rare-bird report.

The biggest obstacles concerning documentation, however, occur mainly because of confusion in regard to the proper procedure ("Whom do I send this to?") and laziness ("I bet someone has sent details in already"). In 1975, for example, a rare Red-necked Grebe was observed by over a hundred people attending a bird conference in west Texas. In a classic case of neglect, not one documented report or photograph now exists for this bird even though it stayed in the same spot for a week.

A far stranger form of neglect occurred in 1986 when a weakened pelagic bird washed ashore on the Texas coast. It was retrieved, thought to be a Sooty Shearwater, and then taken to someone who, it was hoped,

would photograph the bird and confirm its identity. (This species is very rare in Texas waters). The bird was looked at carefully, pictures were taken, and the final verdict given: the bird was a Sooty Shearwater. The information was published in a local birding newsletter shortly thereafter, and the identity of the bird was never questioned.

At that time, however, the Texas Bird Records Committee was being reorganized, and there was no clear procedure for rarity review. Consequently, the bird was never formally examined, the photographs were never sent to any of the TBRC members nor to the regional editors for *American Birds*, and the bird was never actually seen by more than a small number of people. Surprisingly, the bird died and was disposed of without any thought of sending it to an institution for preparation as a specimen! Yet the sighting of this Texas rarity made its way into *American Birds*.

But the story doesn't end there. In 1989, a reorganized Texas Bird Records Committee began to look closely at the documentation of this Sooty Shearwater. After the slides were obtained and submitted with the written documentation, all eight members of the committee independently determined that the bird was not a Sooty Shearwater. One member of the committee, in fact, suggested that the bird in question might not be in the same genus as the Sooty Shearwater!

At that point, the group decided to seek a few more opinions. Greg Lasley, secretary of the TBRC, promptly sent the pictures to several seabird specialists. A unanimous

decision was reached. The bird was proclaimed a White-chinned Petrel—of the genus *Procellaria*—a bird that is normally found south of the equator. If accepted by the TBRC, the bird would become the first state record of this species. When it is evaluated by the AOU and the ABA, it has the potential of becoming the first documented North American record of White-chinned petrel.

Needless to say, the response to this surprising discovery was a strange mixture of elation and embarrassment. This unusual bird may be a unique record for Texas and the ABA Area. Yet the specimen was thrown into the trash after it died, and it was published as a Sooty Shearwater—two rather serious blunders.

This story illustrates several points, particularly the need for a statewide bird-records committee. It also illustrates the need for higher standards in documentation and timely record submissions to the appropriate people. In Texas, both of these issues have been addressed, but the response has not always been pleasant. The controversy over rare-bird documentation has largely centered around the question of what constitutes documentation, unlike the situation in years past, the word alone from a "reliable" source is no longer grounds for an "accept" vote by most committees. Unfortunately, many people feel insulted by having to explain a rare-bird sighting on paper and will have nothing to do with what they perceive as an assault on their bird-watching skills.

On the local level, the question of documentation only now is beginning to get proper attention. California was the first state to formalize a bird-records committee in 1970, and

other states and provinces have followed with their own screening committees. In 1990 alone, the TBRC reviewed over two hundred records of rare-bird sightings. Most of those sightings were accepted, and three new species were added to the state's checklist. There is no argument that good procedures help clean up the exaggerated number of claims of rare-bird sightings. The more important question, perhaps, is whether observers can be convinced of the need for documenting their sightings.

The reasons for good documentation should be obvious. The Red-necked Grebe that was seen by over a hundred people, for example, has no written or photographic documentation. In seventy-five years will any of those observers be around to support the sighting of this bird? Those people may still be around now, but a report of that bird written in 1991, sixteen years after the fact, is hardly considered good documentation. Will any author or biologist feel any certainty about publishing this report in the year 2050 when writing the newest book on the birds of Texas? Documentation on paper or film will last far longer than even the best memory and be less subjective.

A good field observer should recognize that his or her report may be valuable even if it is not accepted. Rare-bird reports may provide clues to the unnatural or illegal transportation of birds. Records of birds transported artificially are usually rejected on the basis of unnatural origin. The numbers of such birds are far greater than most people realize. Unaccepted rare-bird reports also aid in establishing patterns of occurrence that may result in the report finally being

accepted if such a pattern develops or persists. Species migration trends, range expansions, identification information, and even behavioral characteristics can be gleaned from rare-bird reports. No one should assume that because a committee does not accept a report the report contains nothing of value.

Perhaps the birding community's perception of documentation could use an attitude adjustment and a little education. People should get into the habit of not having a deep personal stake in whether or not their report is accepted. An unaccepted rare-bird report does not mean that an individual did not see the alleged species, or that his or her report was crummy, or that the checklist police are going to come to his door and force him to remove that bird from his life list. It may simply mean that the committee members do not have enough information on which to accept this report into the official record. Nor does an unaccepted report mean that the committee members do not like the reporter or that they have an outside interest in manipulating the records. Hidden agendas are

usually transparent and vastly overrated.

Furthermore, bird-record committees need to spell out the mission of the committee and the importance and intention of rare-bird reports. A standardized form for rare-bird documentation is one possible way to ensure this communication. The language of these forms should be clear, simple, and unintimidating. How people are appointed to the committee should be public knowledge. Care should be taken so that the committee does not acquire a reputation for having a pompous attitude. Communication with members of Audubon chapters and bird clubs is critical. A committee whose own members hesitate to submit information is a dysfunctional committee.

As a science, ornithology may be unique. No other discipline relies so heavily on the field observations of, for lack of better words, amateurs or "hobbyists." Ornithology cannot possibly benefit from totally isolating science from the recreational interests of bird-watching. These two aspects of the birding community are

already interwoven. In reality, good documentation benefits everyone. Many records become important archives for later use. Information gleaned from them may help to improve field guides and local checklists. It may be only a matter of time before birders recognize these benefits and begin to feel good about their efforts to provide information on rare birds. It will be up to the committee members and other interested parties, however, to encourage the submission of such documentation—an effort that should not prove difficult when shown to have such harmless side-effects.

Acknowledgment

The author thanks Greg Lasley for his helpful comments on an earlier draft of this article.

Reference

Roberson, Don. 1990. North American bird records committees. *Birding* 22:276-285.

Jim Peterson
Dallas Museum of Natural
History
P.O. Box 150433
Dallas, TX 75315

WINTER ROUNDUP / December 1991 through February 1992 / by Scott Seltman

When snow began to fly on Halloween and the mercury dropped below zero (F) in early November, Kansans were predicting a long, cold winter. This prediction could not have been further from the truth as we instead enjoyed the warmest winter on record for Kansas, a fate shared with most of the rest of the United States as well. The only really cold weather of the winter occurred in late December and early January, coinciding rather predictably with the Christmas Bird Count season. December was decidedly wet across most of the state with some areas receiving as much as five inches of rain. The only significant snow of the entire season fell in extreme northwest Kansas in the first few days of January with over a foot accumulation in St. Francis. The weather turned sunny and generally very mild for the balance of January and February with overnight lows hardly dropping below freezing for much of the period. You know it's been a strange winter when the coldest day was November 3rd!

Passerine numbers seem very low throughout the winter, obviously never really recovering from the arctic blast at Halloween. For about six weeks in January and February the Seltmans did not see a single Harris' or Tree Sparrow or a Dark-eyed Junco visiting our feeders south of Nekoma, an occurrence I would have thought impossible considering all three species' normal abundance in Rush county. Because numbers of these and other birds began to rebound in late February we can conclude that many birds normally present in our area spent the winter a little further south. Ironically, many birds to our north that were not shaken loose during the autumn storms apparently spent the winter up there. In other words, passerine birding was pretty dull through much of the winter.

The one thing the mild weather did provide was lots of open water. All of the state's major reservoirs were at least partially open through the entire period, even the northwestern lakes which were only ten feet deep. This allowed a wide variety of unusual waterbirds to overwinter and produced a long list of vagrant gulls and waterfowl. The number of gull species reported to the KOS hotline during the winter months is certainly extraordinary and is actually symptomatic of a strong case of "gull fever" that began sweeping through ranks of birders throughout the central U.S. in early Fall 1991. Between August 4, 1991 and February 14, 1992 all thirteen species of gulls on the Kansas Checklist were reported in our state augmented by reports of three additional species not on the list. None of these latter three seem destined to become accepted records, but all are intriguing enough to be mentioned here. A possible Mew Gull was seen and photographed at Tuttle Creek on December 4, but this individual seemed to lack the diagnostic features that one would hope for in a first state record and could not be positively identified even by gull experts. Ted Cable, who of all Kansas birders seems to have the best instincts for finding rare gulls, felt that a dark-mantled bird at the Geary County Landfill on February 14 was possibly a sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gull. A third controversial sighting occurred at Sedgwick County's Lake Afton on February 11 and involved a pale brown gull of the Iceland/Thayer's persuasion. Several members of Wichita Audubon including myself were at the lake on a related matter (see Great Black-backed below) when a pale gull made an appearance. If a Thayer's Gull, it was certainly the palest Thayer's I have ever seen and its pale primaries, subtle tail band and lack of any bar through the trailing edge of the secondaries would in my opinion place the bird in the Iceland category. Birders who find gull identification frustrating are certainly not alone. Only twenty years ago scientific authorities went to great lengths to explain why "Thayer's" Gull was separate and distinct from Herring Gull and thus, a new species was born. Today many scientific authorities believe just as fervently that "Thayer's" Gull is merely the westernmost and darkest form of Iceland Gull and a new campaign is underway to lump the two species. In the field of taxonomy, Truth is definitely a fluid concept. At any rate none of these three sightings are offered as official records, but they are a testament to the fact that Kansas birders are attempting to add several species to the Kansas list which are already on the lists of neighboring states.

The family group of five Trumpeter Swans that arrived at Webster Reservoir about November 25, mentioned in the previous installment of this column, captured the attention of the Kansas media and were featured in several newsprint stories and on the television news. During December many area residents as well as birders and wildlife lovers from across the state traveled to the stilling basing below Webster Dam to see these birds. Unfortunately, the swans also captured the attention of some of society's dregs and on January 19 vandals shot and killed the three juveniles. The female died as well, probably from lead poison on February 8. The adult male apparently escaped injury and was last seen by Larry Stone on a farm pond near Agra in Phillips County on Sunday, March 1. The male seemed healthy and was seen leaving the pond

and flying north towards Nebraska. The general public was outraged by the attack on the swans and nearly \$5000 in reward money has been posted toward the arrest of the culprit or culprits. Wildlife officials and the local law enforcement investigated the incident but no arrests have been made and by now the trail is getting very cold. While the actions of the criminals who harmed these beautiful animals cannot be excused, it should be noted that these swans were extremely tame, would take food from people and blithely swam along as fishermen cast lines over their heads. The adult female was reportedly hand-raised and the entire family seemed to be habituated to humans. This whole ugly incident points out the importance of wild birds being truly wild and reinforces the concept that only wary waterfowl live long and prosper. Despite this small setback, Trumpeter Swan reintroduction projects to our north are still proceeding with great success and Kansas will have many more wintering swans in its future.

Many of the following records involve fairly common birds seen out of place or in unusually high concentrations. A number of unusual waterbirds either spent the winter or began migrating north very early. Several records along this line may almost be without precedent, especially mid-winter records for Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Pomarine Jaeger and Bonaparte's Gull. Without the normal limited influence of ice, some of these birds simply saw no reason to move further south. Most of the rarities found on Kansas Christmas Bird Counts (covered in *The KOS Bulletin*, Vol. 43, No. 1, March 1992) have been omitted, except when individuals were also reported before or after the count period. Reports for the period between March and July 1992 should be sent to RR 1 Box 36, Nekoma, KS 67559. As always the following entries are subject to review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / December 1991 through February 1992

Common Loon	max. of 5 at Milford	DLS	Dec. 91	Geary
Common Loon	2 at Milford	CO	<u>01-08-92</u>	Geary
Common Loon	3 at Milford	DLS	<u>01-25-92</u>	Geary
Common Loon	2 at Wolf Creek	PW	<u>02-01-92</u>	Coffey
Eared Grebe	1 at Clinton	LM,GP	<u>01-19-92</u>	Douglas
	still present	GP	<u>02-02-92</u>	Douglas
Eared Grebe	1 at LaCygne Lake	CH	<u>02-03-92</u>	Linn
Horned Grebe	1 at Wolf Creek	PW	02-01-92	Coffey
(By late February Horned Grebes were present on many bodies of water in Kansas).				
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1 at Hillsdale present from Nov.	LM	<u>12-07-91</u>	Miami
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1 at Hillsdale Lake	CH,LM	<u>01-29-92</u>	Miami
(Possibly same individual first found on 11-10-91 by Fisher and Griffith).				
White Pelican	3 at Perry	CH	01-04-92	Jefferson
	4 at Perry	LM,GP	01-19-92	Jefferson
White Pelican	1 at Lowell	LH	01-06-92	Cherokee
White Pelican	several wintering	CO	01-08-92	Geary
White Pelican	2 that overwintered at Webster	SS,DS	02-01-92	Rooks
White Pelican	40-50 early migrants at Wilson	MR	<u>02-27-92</u>	Russell
Double-crested Cormorant	10 at Lowell	LH	<u>01-10-92</u>	Cherokee
Tundra Swan	1 at Riverponds Tuttle Creek	TC,m.ob.	01-26-92	Pott.
	last seen		01-28-92	Pott.
Trumpeter Swan	2 adults still present	SS,DS	02-01-92	Rooks
Trumpeter Swan	1 imm. at Perry Lake	JB,RR	02-20-92	Jefferson
Ross' Goose	2 with Snows e. of Rossville	LM,GP	01-26-92	Shawnee
Ross' Goose	4 in unit B at MDC	BF	02-16-92	Linn
Ross' Goose	1 at Grandview Plaza sewage ponds	DLS	02-22-92	Geary
Ross' Goose	7 seen nw. Junction City	DLS	02-23-92	Geary
Ross' Goose	1 at ElDorado Lake	PJ,m.ob.	02-29-92	Butler
American Black Duck	2 at MDC	LM,GP	01-11-92	Linn
Ring-necked Duck	300-400 at MDC Unit F-1	LM,MM	02-09-92	Linn

14 (Winter Roundup, Cont'd)

Greater Scaup	1 at sandpit nw. Junction City	DLS	01-25-92	Geary
	4 at sandpit still present	DLS	02-29-92	Geary
Oldsquaw	1 at Wilson	MR	12-10-91	Russell
Oldsquaw	2 at Milford	DLS	12-15-91	Geary
Oldsquaw	1 at Clinton	LM,MM,GP	01-04-92	Douglas
Oldsquaw	4 at Clinton	GP	02-02-92	Douglas
Oldsquaw	1 imm. male Grandview Plaza	DLS	02-15-92	Geary
Common Goldeneye	6,750 on Wilson	MR	12-10-91	Russell
Hooded Merganser	135 at John Redmond		01-19-92	Coffey
Common Merganser	11,500 on Wilson	MR	12-10-91	Russell
Red-breasted Merganser	1 at Perry	CH	<u>01-04-92</u>	Jefferson
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at Wolf Creek	PW	<u>02-01-92</u>	Coffey
Red-breasted Merganser	2 at Perry		<u>02-16-92</u>	Jefferson
Turkey Vulture	2 near Welda		<u>02-18-92</u>	Anderson
Bald Eagle	50 in Wakefield end of Milford	LM,GP	01-26-92	Clay
Bald Eagle	pair incubating eggs at Clinton		02-24-92	Douglas
Bald Eagle	pair at Stockdale w. side Tuttle		Feb. 92	Riley
Northern Goshawk	1 in Chisholm Park	DV	01-14-92	Sedgwick
Red-tailed Hawk	1 eating 5' Bull Snake	SS	12-07-91	Pawnee
Ferruginous Hawk	1 seen 3 mi. e. Oswego	LH	01-10-92	<u>Cherokee</u>
Ferruginous Hawk	1 adult at Milford	DLS	02-08-92	Geary
Golden Eagle	1 along Kansas R. Tecumseh	DG	12-28-91	Shawnee
Merlin	2 at Riverponds below Tuttle	DR	01-19-92	Pott.
Merlin	1 at Melvern	MM,DLS	02-14-92	Osage
Peregrine Falcon	1 in downtown Topeka	DLS	01-10-92	Shawnee
Peregrine Falcon	1 s. of Welda	BB	02-07-92	Anderson
Prairie Falcon	1 at Clinton	MM,GP,PW	12-07-91	Douglas
Prairie Falcon	1 in Reclaimed Mined Area	MM	01-11-92	Linn
Prairie Falcon	1 at Melvern	BF,MM	01-19-92	Osage
Prairie Falcon	1 at KSU pig farm n. Manhattan	DR	01-31-92	Riley
Prairie Falcon	1 near Welda	BB	02-04-92	Anderson
Prairie Falcon	1 in Reclaimed Mined Area	BF	02-16-92	Linn
Sandhill Crane	3 on Kansas R. Tecumseh	DG	12-28-91	Shawnee
Killdeer	first report of spring migrants	CH	02-03-92	Linn
American Woodcock	3 seen e. of Lawrence	GP	02-20-92	Douglas
American Woodcock	1 at ElDorado Lake	PJ,m.ob.	02-29-92	Butler
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	2 at Milford Lake	DLS,CO,m.ob.	<u>12-25-91</u>	Geary
		present to	<u>01-08-92</u>	Geary

(These two jaegers were seen by numerous observers over a two-week period. The dark bird was identified with certainty with the lighter bird the subject of some lively discussion. Only Pomarines are expected in the interior of North America in winter. Kansas Pomarine records still stand at less than ten with this being the first December of January report for this species).

Franklin's Gull	1 at Tuttle Creek	CF	12-10-91	Riley
Franklin's Gull	1 at Geary landfill	DLS	02-15-92	Geary
Little Gull	1 at Harvey Co. East Lake	BD	<u>12-09-91</u>	Harvey
Bonaparte's Gull	85 at Lowell	LH	<u>02-01-92</u>	Cherokee

(Larry Herbert's report of Bonaparte's "present all winter in varying numbers" would have been unthinkable ten years ago, but it would appear that this species which seems to stay later and come back earlier every year is on its way to becoming a normal wintertime sight in Kansas).

Bonaparte's Gull	1 at Clinton	GP	<u>02-02-92</u>	Douglas
	1 at Clinton	JB	<u>02-17-92</u>	Douglas
Bonaparte's Gull	2 in Unit F-1 at MDC	BF	<u>02-16-92</u>	Linn
California Gull	1 adult on Great Bend's Stone Lake	SS	12-31-91	Barton
California Gull	1 adult w. side of Cheney	PJ,DV,DK	01-06-92	Reno
California Gull	1 first-winter at Milford	DLS	02-01-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	3 first-winter birds at Redmond	LM	12-18-91	Coffey

Thayer's Gull	1 at Melvern	MM,GP	12-24-91	Osage
Thayer's Gull	1 at Clinton	MM,GP	12-24-91	Douglas
Thayer's Gull	2 first-winter birds at Milford	DLS	01-01-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	1 adult at Tuttle Creek	TC	01-01-92	Pott.?
Thayer's Gull	4 at Milford and Geary landfill	TC,MR	01-11-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	1 adult at Perry	RR,MM,GP	01-12-92	Jefferson
	still present	RR	01-26-92	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	2 at Geary landfill	DLS	01-14-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	1 2nd-year bird at Cedar Bluff	SS	01-18-92	Trego
Thayer's Gull	1 1st-winter at John Redmond	BF,MM	01-19-92	Coffey
Thayer's/Iceland Gull	1 at Lake Afton	m.ob.	02-11-92	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 2nd-winter bird at Redmond	MI	02-14-92	Coffey
Thayer's Gull	1 1st-winter at Geary landfill	TC	02-14-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	1 1st-winter at Milford	DLS	02-15-92	Geary
Thayer's Gull	3 at Geary landfill	DLS,CO,MM	02-16-92	Geary
Glaucous Gull	1 2nd-winter at Clinton	MM,GP,PW	12-07-91	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	2 at Sedgwick Co. landfill	PJ	12-18-91	Sedgwick
	1 still present		01-26-92	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	1 at Clinton	LM	01-25-92	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1 2nd-winter at Tuttle Creek	LM,GP	01-26-92	Pott.?
Glaucous Gull	1 2nd-winter at ElDorado Lake	PJ	01-26-92	Butler
Glaucous Gull	1 2nd-winter at Geary landfill	TC	02-14-92	Geary
Glaucous Gull	1 1st-winter at Geary landfill	DLS	02-15-92	Geary
Glaucous Gull	1 2nd-winter at ElDorado Lake	PJ,m.ob.	02-29-92	Butler
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 2nd-winter bird at Lake Afton	PJ,DV	02-10-92	Sedgwick
	seen leaving lake	SS	02-11-92	Sedgwick

(This bird was described as being 20% larger than adjacent Herring Gulls. This is apparently only the third sight record for this species in Kansas with no specimens or photographs known. Great Black-backed Gulls continue to expand their range across the northeast, have been seen regularly in adjacent states, and Kansas sightings should eventually become more frequent).

Snowy Owl	1 at Wolf Creek Power Plant		01-15-92	Coffey
		present to	01-29-92	Coffey
Saw-whet Owl	1 bird w. side of Perry Lake	GP	12-31-91	Jefferson
	second bird found		01-11-92	Jefferson

(These two birds were enormously popular among birders throughout the region. Literally hundreds of people saw these owls, with some traveling upwards of 300 miles. Saw-whet Owls are the "Black Rails" of the owl family in that they are probably much more common than we believe, but because of their shyness and their affinity for dense cover, are very difficult to see).

Horned Lark	several hundred thousand in one flock	SS	01-11-92	Cheyenne
	(This flock along U.S. 36 east of Bird City covered about 300 acres and included 50,000 Lapland Longspurs. Surrounding fields were covered by snow, but one irrigated wheat field had some open ground. Largest single concentration of Horned Larks I have ever seen).			
Rock Wren	1 s. of Scott Lake	T&SSh	02-09-92	Scott
	(Either a very early migrant or a wintering bird overlooked on the Christmas Bird Count).			
Mountain Bluebird	600+ seen in county during day	BG	12-29-91	Barber
Mountain Bluebird	max. of 18 along Otter Creek road	DLS,m.ob.	Dec. 91	Geary
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Perry Lake	JL	01-11-92	Jefferson
	(This bird seen at the Saw-whet Owl roost remained through March).			
Varied Thrush	1 male photographed at Garden City	C&BF	01-06-92	Finney
	(This Varied Thrush was seen for a couple hours by several observers on January 6. It was seen again briefly on both January 24 and February 18. Despite lots of searching by Marie Osterbuhr, Leonard and Betty Rich and the Shanes, the primary territory of this individual was never discovered).			
Bohemian Waxwing	1 at Chaplin Nature Center	GW	01-19-92	Cowley

16 (Winter Roundup, Cont'd)

Bohemian Waxwing	1 at Southwestern College	MT	01-27-91	Cowley
Northern Shrike	1	SS	12-17-91	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 imm. at Milford	DLS	01-19-92	Geary
Northern Shrike	1 along 156	SS,DS	01-25-92	Finney
Northern Shrike	1 n. Rozel	SS	01-30-92	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 s. Nekoma	SS	02-03-92	Rush
Northern Shrike	1 adult se. of Chapman	DLS	02-09-92	Dickinson
Northern Shrike	1 near Lake Afton	PJ,DV	02-10-92	Sedgwick
	still present		02-20-92	Sedgwick
Common Yellowthroat	1 female at Curtis Creek/Milford	DLS,m.ob.	<u>12-15-91</u>	Geary
	seen sporadically and still present		<u>12-27-91</u>	Geary
Vesper Sparrow	1 early migrant Garden City	T&SSh	02-22-92	Finney
Lapland Longspur	1 flock of 50,000+ e. Bird City	SS	01-11-92	Cheyenne
Rusty Blackbird	<u>300-400</u> at Paola sewage ponds	CH	02-07-92	Miami
Great-tailed Grackle	100+ at Wolf Creek	LM,GP	01-19-92	Coffey
Common Redpoll	1 in Wichita	BG	12-01-91	Sedgwick
Common Redpoll	1 at Curtis Creek/Milford	DLS	12-14-91	Geary
Common Redpoll	1 at Wichita feeder	DV	12-19-91	Sedgwick
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder s. of Newton	CS	01-18-92	Harvey
	still present		02-29-92	Harvey
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder s. Junction City	CO	02-19-92	Geary
	still present		02-24-92	Geary
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at Garden City feeder	T&SSh	01-19-92	Finney
	seen again	T&SSh	02-28-92	Finney
American Goldfinch	flock of <u>500+</u> se. of Garfield	SS	12-27-91	Pawnee

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Bill Brecheisen (BB), Joanne Brier (JB), Ted Cable (TC), Bob Dester (BD), Cathy & Bob Fenton (C&BF), Clyde Ferguson (CF), Bob Fisher (BF), Dan Gish (DG), Bob Gress (BG), Larry Herbert (LH), Chris Hobbs (CH), Maxey Irwin (MI), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Jane Leo (JL), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Chuck Otte (CO), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), David Rintoul (DR), Richard Rucker (RR), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Tom & Sara Shane (TS&Sh), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Phil Wedge (PW), Gerald Wiens (GW).

