

The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

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March 1994

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From the Keyboard -

Boy, what an issue. This issue is usually nip and tuck to get the information from the Spring Field Trip local committee and then get it out with more than a week to go before that field trip. But Jerry Horak and the local committee are well organized and had their information to me by early February! So I thought I was in good shape and had things pretty well lined out . . . that was until the Winter KOS Board meeting at the end of February. Then all of a sudden I had a whole lot more to get into the *Horned Lark*. I had originally intended for "Is Your Landscape For the Birds" to be one large article, but I was afraid that with everything else that had to go in this issue we would wind up with a mailing that would cost extra. So we'll just spread that article over the next year's worth of issues!

There are lots of activities coming up as you can tell from the articles. It's been a blah winter so let's hope that spring rewards us with some great birding! You've got lots of advance notice so plan to attend the Spring Field Trip (that is unless you are a florist or married to one, in which case you'll be busy with Mother's Day!), as this could be a good place to pick up a few of those warblers you've missed the past several years. And please, take some time to answer our little *survey* . . . your input is DESIRED and NEEDED!

The 1994 Legislature is still in session which means anything can happen! Keep an eye on your local newspaper so when something comes up that you strongly support OR that really concerns you, call or write your local senator/representative and let them know how you feel. Many questionable pieces of legislation get passed every year because "those folks in Topeka" here nothing from "the folks back home" and feel that no news must be good news. As Woody Allen said, "The world is run by those who show up!" If you can't "show up" at least make sure that a letter or phone call shows up!

As always my thanks to Dawn for taking these ramblings and making them look good, thanks to Dawn and Galen for getting this all together and mailed, to Diane for helping get the new Directory together, to Scott for helping proofread the Birding Roundup and finally to all of you who contribute so much to each issue. Keep those cards and letters coming - it's how we'll continue to improve each issue of the *Horned Lark*!

Have a good spring and good birding!

--chuck

This is the last regular mailing you will receive if you have not paid your 1994 dues.

If you don't remember when you last paid or at which level, check you address label. So in order not to miss out on the next exciting issues of the *The Horned Lark* and *The KOS Bulletin*, send your check as soon as possible to the KOS Treasurer.

Just another reminder that Gregg Friesen is now our KOS Treasurer. Please make sure you are using his proper address when sending dues or donations.

Gregg Friesen
KOS Treasurer
515 E. 4th

Newton, KS 67114-3531

Gregg and the Postal Service appreciate it!

Thank you for your continued support of K.O.S.

--Diane Seltman, Membership Secretary

The North American Migration Count - May 14, 1994

by Dave Rintoul

Purpose: (paraphrased from Chandler S. Robbins) To give each and every birdwatcher the opportunity to enjoy a day's birding during Spring Migration with the knowledge that the result of their findings, together with the birds counted by others, would fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and reveal the status of bird migration on a specified date.

Have you ever wondered what is the shape of migration? It all depends upon your viewpoint. Waterfowlers have benefited from the extensive studies of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in their role of managing the Nation's game species. Hawk watchers may think of it as "Rivers" and space themselves on ridges and prominent peninsulas like the Marin Highlands, Whitefish Point, the Blue Ridge Mountains and Cape May to count the flow. Shorebirders look at it as "Island Hopping" and go to the islands of Bodega Bay, Mono Lake, Bear River, Galveston, Cheyenne Bottoms, Higbee's Beach and Pea Island. All of these have led to efforts to preserve and protect critical habitat for migration; we now have the National Wildlife Refuge System, Hawk Mountain and the Delaware Bay beaches. But what of songbirds?

By what paths do neotropical migrants move from Central and South America to their breeding grounds. Do American Redstarts line up in military style and move north in a solid front, leaving occupying forces along the way? Perhaps Wood Thrushes are like blood flowing through capillaries before anastomosing into arteries. Think of Kingbirds lining up like runners in the New York Marathon and visualize the spread after the starter's pistol. Maybe Purple Martins move like ducks, geese and swans, with colonies making a series of short hops along a predictable route. It may seem wild, but do Bobolinks move like shorebirds, with a series of widely spaced discrete essential stops?

Most of you have participated on the Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The rules are simple: spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area and keep track of hours and miles on foot, car, boat, feeder watching. The North American Migration Count is like a Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The Area for any one count is not a 15 mile diameter circle, but an entire county (parish in Louisiana). The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done on just a single day. That day is the second Saturday in May, which falls on May 14 in 1994.

The choice of the second Saturday in May has been to try to find the peaks of movement of neotropical species while they are still where most of the birders are. It will not be peak everywhere; the northern states will be getting the first glimmer of spring and the Deep South will be in early

breeding season, but the overall goal is of importance to everyone. The goals of the North American Migration Count are:

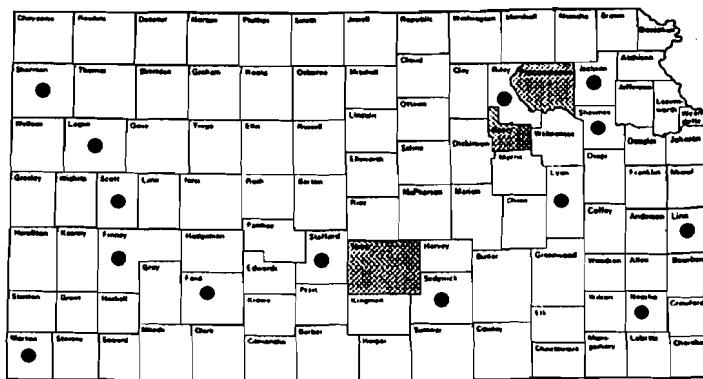
- to obtain a "snapshot" of the progress of spring migration
- to obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species
- to initiate more participation among birders within and between states
- to create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information
- to aid in organization and centralization of data
- to have fun
- to establish the second Saturday in May as "National Birding Day"

Last year 5,807 birders in 43 states and 3 Canadian provinces counted 2,237,309 individual birds of 554 species. Sixty birders in 14 Kansas counties counted 53,785 individuals of 244 species; the high species count was in Stafford County with 163 species tallied. This year we hope to double the number of counties covered. You are being asked to help.

Listed below are the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the count coordinators from 1993. If you live in a county that was covered in 1993, and would like to participate, please contact those individuals. Some counties are conspicuous by their absence; maybe we can get some results from Douglas, Cowley, Butler, Johnson and Wyandotte counties this year! In addition, the national coordinator (Jim Stasz of Maryland) sent NAMC newsletters to all the Kansas Christmas Count coordinators, hoping to convince them to coordinate a migration count as well. Call your local CBC compiler and ask him or her to coordinate a count. Or, better yet, call me (Dave Rintoul) and volunteer to coordinate a count yourself. I will send you a copy of the 1994 NAMC newsletter with detailed instructions, as well as a report form and checklist. I would certainly send you a DOS diskette with these forms on it if you would like to send me your data in computer readable format! Be the first in your county to participate; maybe Kansas can be the next state (following Maryland and Illinois) to include the entire state in the North American Migration Count. There are no fees (and never will be) for this activity; it is a volunteer effort on behalf of North American songbirds and a great opportunity to pay back Mother Nature for all those beautiful birds that she has

placed in front of your binoculars throughout the years. Call, write, or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Dave Rintoul, NAMC Coordinator for Kansas
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 Kansas State University
 Manhattan KS 66506-4901
 (913)532-6663 (days); (913)537-0781 (eves)
 drintoul@ksu.ksu.edu (Internet); 71634,32
 (CompuServe)



1993 and 1994 NAMC County Coordinators

Shawnee County - Joanne Brier
 1822 Westwood Drive
 Topeka KS 66604
 (913)232-4317

Ford County - Joleen Fromm
 2402 5th Avenue
 Dodge City KS 67801
 (316)227-6342

Neosho County - Paul L. Milks
 2624 Gabriel
 Parsons KS 67357
 (316)421-3427

Linn County - Lloyd D. Moore
 1250 Scott Avenue
 Kansas City KS 66105
 (913)371-6475

Sedgwick County - John Northrup
 634 N. Shefford
 Wichita KS 67218
 (316)722-0018

Sherman County - J. Palmquist
 1521 Clark
 Goodland KS 67735
 (913)899-5187

Finney County - Leonard F. Rich
 1107 E. Johnson
 Garden City KS 67846
 (316)275-4616

Jefferson County - Richard C. Rucker
 121 East 17th Street
 Lawrence KS 66044
 (913)842-3845

Stafford County - Scott Seltman
 RR 1, Box 36
 Nekoma KS 67559
 (913)372-5411

Reno County - James M. Smith
 (not covered in 1993, but will be covered in 1994)
 3002 E. 30th
 Hutchinson KS 67502
 (316)665-8172

Logan County - Betsy Johnson
 HCR 1, Box 18
 Oakley KS 67748
 (913)672-3046

Morton County - Ruth/Lawrence Smith
 Box 841
 Elkhart KS 67950
 (316)697-4573

Lyon County - Marvin Schwilling
 1407 College Drive
 Emporia KS 66801
 (316)342-1985

Riley County - David A. Rintoul
 Biology Division - Ackert Hall
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan KS 66506-4901
 (913)537-0781

Scott County - Tom Shane
 1706 Belmont
 Garden City KS 67846
 (316)275-4616

Pottawatomie County - Duane Kerr
 (new for 1994)
 15110 6th St. Rd.
 Wamego KS 66547
 (913)456-2771

Geary County - Chuck Otte
 (new for 1994)
 613 Tamerisk
 Junction City KS 66441
 (913)238-4161 (work)
 (913)238-8800 (home)

**JOIN THE NORTH AMERICAN
 MIGRATION COUNT
 MAY 14, 1994!**

KBBAT Update

Year 2 of the Kansas Breeding-Bird Atlas Project wasn't a total washout, but it certainly submerged below expectations, i.e. the weather didn't help at all. Many of you (like this editor) did not get the block finished that you started pre-deluge back in April. Let's all get out there this spring and get those blocks finished up and move on to that next block. Or if you did get your block finished last year and you haven't gotten your sheets turned in to your regional coordinator, take the time to get your sheets together, finished up, proofed and sent off in the mail! Remember, we've got three years to go and more than 60% yet to finish so let's go!

Stafford County Spring Migration Count

On the 1993 count just four observers found 163 species at Quivira NWR and surrounding Stafford County. In 1994 we plan to be in the field about 20 hours and hope to find an even wider variety of birds. Each party will be given a portion of Quivira refuge, a large portion of rural Stafford County and at least one of the nine communities in the county. Call or write Scott Seltman well in advance of the count to receive your assignments and maps at RR1, Box 36, Nekoma, KS 67559, phone (913) 372-5411.

(Editors note- While Scott was the only person who submitted a help wanted add for "his" Migration Count you can see by the accompanying story in this issue that there are a lot of other counts. Since there aren't any field trip announcements in this issue, plan to take that second Saturday in May and get involved in one of the numerous counts across the state. Any of the count coordinators would love to hear from you and have your involvement!)

Wichita Area Block Busters?

Pat and I have been really enjoying the new challenge of Breeding Bird Atlas Survey birding. It is a great chance to really get to know the Kansas avifauna. As you know, John Zimmerman is the coordinator for the project, and he is concerned that things are going a bit slower than hoped. You can make a real contribution to the understanding of the status of birds in the Kansas ecosystem by helping to complete the survey per schedule. Pete Janzen is the South-Central Kansas coordinator, and he would really be happy to hear from you, either as a volunteer to do a block or as a candidate for a "block-busting" raid. That's where a large group of KOS birders converge on a three-mile square plot of Kansas landscape and find all the breeding birds hiding there. If you are interested in participating in such an adventure, call Pat or me at (316) 264-0049 or Pete at (316) 832-0182 and let us know.

-- Roy Beckemeyer

Morton County Records

Ted Cable and Scott Seltman will soon be conducting one last update of the Morton County bird records. Any birders who visited the Cimarron Grasslands in 1992 or may have previous records that have not yet been submitted are invited to send checklists and field notes to Scott Seltman, RR1, Nekoma, KS 67559. Dates and numbers for the more common species are especially needed.

WE NEED YOUR QUIVIRA CHECKLISTS!

Mike Rader has been asked to help update the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Checklist. The problem is that he's under a tight deadline, but he wants to make the update as accurate as possible. If you could make copies of any checklists you have from your visits to Quivira over the past 5 years and get them to Mike by May 1st, he would be very appreciative, and we all will benefit from a new, updated checklist! Send those copies (not the originals) to: Mike Rader, PO Box 395, Wilson, KS 67490.

Donations?

As you have read (will read) in a related article the KOS is operating under very tight finances at the present time. Many of our activities, current and future, suffer from inadequate funding or (as in the case of the Hotline) operate solely on the donations of those who use it. We encourage you to contribute to the special project of your choice. Two that could always use some more assistance are the Rare Bird Alert Hotline and the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project (KBBAT). While a lot of the hard funds for running KBBAT are coming from several sources, there are some costs (primarily from the poor beleaguered regional coordinators) that aren't picked up anywhere. If you feel that either of these projects (or other special projects that KOS is involved in) are worthy please send a contribution to the KOS Treasurer, Gregg Friesen. Simply indicate on your donation which special project you would like it applied to.

CELEBRATE SPRING:
Attend the Spring KOS Meeting
Marais des Cygnes
May 6-8, 1994
(signup deadline, April 20)

KOS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE 11-1-93:

James L. Barnes, Wichita; Danion Doman, Lawrence; Lisa Edwards, Liberal; K.M. Highfill, Lawrence; Lawrence & Gail Kliewer, Newton; John & Diane Torline, Newton; Donald Wolfe - Sutton Avian Research Center, Bartlesville, OK; Christopher Farney, Wilson; Michael Heaney, Wichita; Harold McFadden, Wichita; Sally McGee, Lawrence; Phil Osborne, Hesston; Wesley Pauls, North Newton; Karen Barker, Oklahoma City, OK; Raymond & Janet Franz, Newton; Walter Ross, Lenexa.

Welcome!

What Do You Mean You Can't Read Your Membership Directory?!

When the last membership directory was published a couple of years ago we received a few complaints about the small type and difficulty in reading it. Well, the new directory is the same format, but hopefully it will be a little easier to read.

However, if you really are having trouble reading that lovely 8 point print (and not because you enjoy harassing the editor and membership secretary) drop me a note or give me a call and I will make arrangements to provide you with a large print version.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted: KOS Officer Positions - Membership Secretary Diane Seltman and Business Manager Galen Pittman have both indicated that by this time next year they would both like to be spending more time birding and less time Board of Directoring. If you are interested PLEASE contact these individuals and talk with them. They both cover several areas and can be tough, time consuming positions. Dedication has to come first on your resume! After you have visited with either of them and you still want to pursue the position contact Ken Brunson, 40050 NE 10th St, Pratt, KS, 67124, (316) 672-7289 or Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS, 66502, (913) 776-5121.

Help Wanted: KOS Board of Directors Members - there will probably also be a (some) board position(s) coming open in the upcoming year. If you are interested in helping with the decision making process of your organization contact Ken Brunson or Jim Mayhew at the numbers listed in the notice above to find out more about the responsibilities involved.

Help Wanted: Hotline Operator - Scott Seltman has been running the Kansas Rare Bird Alert Hotline for 4 years and he has told us that 5 years should be long enough before a new person takes it over. This is a very demanding job requiring good knowledge of birds, Kansas and answering good machines (#@!%\$^&*). If you are interested, start talking to Scott now, (913) 372-5411.

Wanted: VOLUNTEERS - Roy Beckemeyer can still use volunteers in various and sundry activities. If you didn't fill out your volunteer survey a couple of issues back, dig it out and send it in. The placement rate for volunteers has been VERY high!

Wanted: Survey Completers - Elsewhere in this issue you will find a survey about KOS, why are you in it, what do you like about the organization, the Newsletter and the Bulletin, and what you would like to add or change. PLEASE take the time to fill it out and return it to me before you get busy with KBBAT blocks and Migration Counts later this spring!

CELEBRATE SPRING . . . CELEBRATE YOUTH

KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS, p. 7

Is Your Landscape "For the Birds?"

(This is the first of a four-part series)

by Chuck Otte

When I'm not editing this newsletter or birdwatching, I'm probably at my "real" job as a county extension agent for the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service. One of the fun things I get to do in that capacity is to help people landscape around their homes. This becomes a real challenge since most people aren't sure what they want, but they want it to look nice and cost little! I have the most fun when people want to create a backyard wildlife habitat. What a nice change from the "golf course" landscaping so many people want (all grass with a few trees at the edge).

I could spend 4 pages talking about that, but the Business manager would probably have a fit when he saw the mailing cost since this issue already has so much in it, so I'll break it up over the next several issues and discuss some of the basics that will help you create a backyard landscape that really is "for the birds!"

The first step is to recognize the basic needs of not only birds, but of all wildlife. . . food, water and shelter. Most birdwatchers do a pretty good job with food and water, but why not take those a step farther. In addition to a bird bath put in a small pond. These can be as small as half a whiskey barrel with a liner on the back patio, or take the liner out of the barrel and bury it in the ground. Add a couple of water plants like water lilies and pickrel rush, then throw in a couple of fish and you're in business. Many nurseries now have pond kits complete with in ground liners and recirculating pumps. Moving water is very attractive to wildlife, and it tends to have a soothing affect on humans after a long hard day as well. There are also dripper and mister attachments that you can add to your birdbath if you don't want to go to the work of installing a pond. My wife and I installed a barrel liner in the ground 3

years ago and have so enjoyed it my wife now wants me to build a mountain stream in our backyard!!

Food for the birds doesn't just have to come from a bird seed bag and feeder. Many landscape plants can provide food as well. But don't just limit yourself to thoughts of flowering crabapples, cotoeasters and honeysuckle. Think of hackberry, cedars and hawthornes. Too often we plan our landscapes and think only of perennials. Think of annuals also. Plant some sunflowers, safflower, millet and ornamental grasses. Not only do they provide nice color, form and shape but most of them come with built in bird feeders as well! Plant lots of flowers to attract hummingbirds as well as butterflies. Remember that hummers are going to be more attracted to colors in the red end of the color spectrum, so make your selections accordingly. If you have lots of room plant a trumpet vine plant as well. But make sure that you do have lots of room!

Be sure to provide diverse cover. Mix up evergreen and deciduous plantings. Some birds like high cover, some like low cover. Some want something they can completely disappear into, like junipers, while others prefer more open cover like spirea, forsythia or lilac. Remember to provide different layers in your landscape.

(If you can't wait until the next issue for more information on landscaping stop by your local County Extension Office and pick up their brochures on trees and shrubs for Kansas and other brochures on landscaping. Look in your phone book usually under County Government, or Extension Service or Cooperative Extension Service listings.) Next issue: *Basics of Form and Shape*.

Wichita Area KOS Beginning Birdwatchers Sessions

Pat and Roy Beckemeyer and Bert McClard, Wichita KOS members, are willing to work with new KOS members to help them sharpen their birding skills between now and the coming spring migrations. They plan to start in late March/early April, and tentatively plan for sessions to begin at the Wild Bird Center, 8414 W. 13th in Wichita at 8:30 or 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings, with half an hour to 45 minutes of instructions and questions and answers, followed by a couple of hours of birding in Wichita area hot spots. Area KOS experts will be asked to provide occassional assistance in order to keep the ratio of beginners to veterans at 3 or 4 to 1. If you are interested, either as a beginner or a volunteer leader, contact Roy or Pat at (316) 264-0049 or Bert at the Wild Bird Center (316) 729-8110. See you in the field!

Passings.....

We regret to inform KOS members of the recent passing of Mrs. Ivan Boyd of Baldwin City. Mrs. Boyd was a KOS Charter Member and a well respected friend to many KOS members. We extend our deepest condolences to Roger Boyd and the entire Boyd family over their recent loss. Mrs. Boyd's obituary will be in an upcoming issue of The Bulletin.

KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS

by Roy J. Beckemeyer

The following young people have all made significant contributions to the preservation of the environment of Kansas and to the welfare of the avian fauna of the state. They are the first recipients of the KOS Young Naturalist Award; we hope they are the first of many.

Amy Rintoul is an active participant in bird censusing studies. She has participated in Christmas bird counts and has helped with three Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. In addition to her contributions to the documentation of the statistics of the avian population of Kansas, Amy also helps others to appreciate the beauties of our natural world by providing sketches which appear regularly in the "Prairie Falcon," the newsletter of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. Amy is 11 years old, resides in Manhattan, and attends Marlett Elementary School. She is the first recipient of the KOS Young Naturalist Award.

Jonathan Boyd has accomplished many significant improvements at the Baker University Wetlands. He played a key role in the installation of 850 feet of boardwalk and 24 wood duck and 10 Canada goose nesting structures. He planted native grass seed and 100 oak seedlings, and rip-rapped dikes and culverts. He was also involved in building a quarter-mile nature trail at Ivan Boyd Woods. He has assisted his father in conducting Least Tern research, and has helped with 4 KBBAT blocks. Jonathan is also an Eagle Scout who has earned most of the merit badges related to natural history and the environment. He is 16 and attends Baldwin High School.

Marie and Aaron Weigel have been working with the Prairie Raptor Project since they were toddlers. They participate in record-keeping, cage cleaning and repair, and medical treatment of injured birds--in other words, with the day-to-day operations of the project. (I'm sure they are now the envy of most KOS members, young and old!) But they also take part in the educational side of the project, including leading tours and telling the public about raptors and the part they play in the natural world. Marie is 15 and she attends Saline High School. Aaron is 12 and is a student at Brookville Grade School.

Aliah Seay was a 12 year old 7th grader at Manhattan Middle School when she initiated a petition drive last year to halt drag boat races that might have endangered a heron rookery in River Pond. She took the petitions to the race's sponsors in Manhattan, and mailed copies to other race sponsors. Her fortitude and commitment to environmental activism is certainly a model for us all, young or old! It should be mentioned that Aliah's actions served as the inspiration for the initiation of the KOS Young Naturalist Award as a way to say thanks to young people who are working to preserve the environment.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating these young people for their important contributions to the betterment of Kansas ornithology.

(Editors Note - The KOS Young Naturalist Award is a new program that was discussed in the last issue of the Horned Lark. With the YNA we have an opportunity to recognize and encourage those youth who are making a positive environmental impact in the world around them. Refer to the December, 1993 issue of the Horned Lark for more information and an application form, or call Roy Beckemeyer at (316) 264-0049.)

Spring Soothsaying

Anticipation of a poke-sprout spring lured me out before the source of Kansas' wind had gone on south for yet another year. North-places lingering on the wind (Great Slave Lake, the Yukon River) soon had me snuffling like an old bird dog, hoping to find scents from afar mingled with those more familiar (snowshoe hare with cottontail, caribou with white-tailed deer).

Along with elusive Alaskan odors (melting arctic snow, swelling spruce buds), a choir of chanting geese were in the air. Above the river's meandering indecision they banked and wheeled, in loose formation, into the north-wind's waning breath: a hundred prescient geese reading sign on the wind of a coming, a gray-green, a sprouting arctic spring.

--Roy Beckemeyer (Along the Arkansas River)

QUIVIRA ON FOOT*by John Rakestraw*

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is well known for its user-friendliness. One can drive through many parts of the refuge and experience some fine birding. But those who limit themselves to the Wildlife Drive and the main roads are missing out on a lot of birds and other aspects of this wild area. That is why I prefer to explore Quivira on foot.

Much has been written on birding from the car. The two main advantages are being able to cover large areas in a short time and sometimes being able to use the car as a blind to closely approach wildlife. The disadvantages, however, are many. A curved windshield, tinted glass, and a roof greatly reduce your ability to see. Birds flying overhead can go completely unnoticed. Another disadvantage is speed. When driving 15 - 30 MPH, not only are you more likely to miss some birds, but you are also less likely to go to the trouble of stopping to really look at all the birds you do see. It is much easier to assume all those birds by the road are Tree Sparrows.

Footwear becomes an important consideration when you decide to get out of the car. I wear knee boots for most of my birding. They allow me to cross through mud or water up to a foot deep and provide protection from burrs, ticks, chiggers, and the occasional rattlesnake. Red Ball knee boots are available at any farm supply store for \$15.00. If you are more fashion conscious, you can get a pair of Wellingtons, the choice of British birders, for about \$30.00.

When birding any wild area, you should be aware of your impact on the habitat. At Quivira, you can cover a lot of territory by walking on the service roads. Birders should never walk out into the nesting areas of plovers or terns, and should always keep an eye open for other ground nesters. The grasslands are less fragile, and birders can really immerse themselves in Quivira's large tracts of prairie. Be careful to keep your bearings when walking the prairie. On more than one occasion I have walked a large loop through a section of grassland and, upon returning to my starting point, discovered that my car had moved several hundred yards.

Listed below are several areas that have been productive for me. The section numbers correspond to those on the refuge map. An "N" before the number indicates that the section is north of County Road 484. An "S" indicates that the section is south of the road.

- The Wildlife Drive - Get out of the car from time to time and explore the little peninsulas that extend into the marsh.
- Halfway through the Wildlife Drive is a service road. You can walk this road clear around the east and south sides of the Big Salt Marsh.
- There is also a service road that runs along the west side of the Big Salt Marsh (section N29).
- Many birders ignore the east edge of the refuge. Park at the second parking area north of County Road 484 on the refuge's eastern boundary. A service road will take you along a large stand of hardwoods and ends up at a grove of cedars. This section (N36) has several large wooded areas and windbreaks interspersed with grassland.
- Park at the display on the border of sections S36 and S1. Walking east takes you into woods, while walking west will take you into the Little Salt Marsh.
- Walk to the photo blind on the south end of the Little Salt Marsh. This area is good for sparrows as well as waterfowl.
- There is a gate on the refuge boundary west of the Little Salt Marsh (south end of section S35). On this service road you can reach grasslands southwest of the marsh and walk into the Little Salt Marsh from the west.

These are just a few possibilities. Do some exploring on your own. You will be delighted with the variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that you can find by leaving the car and exploring Quivira on foot.

Missouri Audubon Society Spring Meeting

We have been invited to attend the spring meeting of the Missouri Audubon Society. The dates of their spring meeting are April 29, 30 and May 1st. The location is down in the "boot heel" of Missouri at Mingo NWR and Big Oak Tree State Park.

Probably the best location to find a motel will be at Sikeston (be sure to go to Lamberts Cafe - Home of Throed Rolls!) Registration fee is \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children up to age 11. Registrations can be sent to Bill Reeves, 98 Hawthorne #35, Farmington, MO 63640 by April 15. Last minute reservations can be made by calling Bill at home, 314-756-6446 or at work 756-4160. If you've got that weekend open plan to attend. That is a beautiful part of the state, and some good birding!

