



The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

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### From the Keyboard -

Well, it looks like the vast majority of the 1994 spring migration has passed on through at this writing. I had some good birding days (never as many as I would like, though!), participated in the North American Migration Count and even helped out the Northern Flint Hills Audubon in their annual birdathon on the last day of April (which was a cold day and started with snow!).

Unfortunately, I missed the spring meeting and what a spring meeting it was! 170 species tallied (although I noticed they missed House Sparrow!) and a great attendance roster. Numerous KOS members who were in attendance dropped me a note or called to let me know what a great time they had and what good birds I missed. As one KOS Board Member said, "It was a great meeting and good to see so many old friends!" That's what these spring and fall meetings are all about! A great time birding with old and new friends alike. I cringe every time I miss one and look forward to the next one. Please note in this issue a preliminary announcement of the fall meeting in Garden City, as well as the list of upcoming spring and fall meetings through 1998!

The survey responses have been very interesting and supportive, with some excellent constructive comments, many of which we are working on right now, while others may take a little bit longer. We've had a range of respondents so far from a 10 year old first year member up through someone who missed being a charter member by 1 year! We still need your surveys, though. If you've got an idea - send it in. If you've got a gripe - send it in. If you've got a compliment - send it in. Your responses will remain

anonymous. We just want to know how you feel about KOS!

After last year's deluge across much of Kansas, many of us are looking forward to some normal summer weather so we can run our Breeding Bird Survey routes without a pontoon boat and get caught up on our KBBAT blocks. If you are currently an atlaser, get out there and let's get caught up. If you aren't an atlaser you can easily become one. Contact myself or John Zimmerman and we'll get you in touch with a regional coordinator. We're a little behind schedule, (it's the middle of the 5th and we're down 3 runs for you baseball fans) but we're not completely out of the picture. A good summer and we can catch back up and get ahead. It's a little bit of work, but it's a lot of fun. Become part of this record making event. You never know what you'll find out there in your block!

Be sure not to miss the next installment of "Is Your Landscape for the Birds?" I'm having a lot of fun with this series and may wind up making it an irregular visitor to the *Horned Lark* after the first four installments. One thing that Jaye and I have noticed is the increase in bird activity as our landscape has started to get some size and maturity to it. We try to work in the back yard anymore and we just get scolded from all sides by birds who feel that *we* are in *their* space. I'm still waiting for that spring when I get a passerine fall out in my trees.... maybe next year.

Have a good summer, get those Atlas blocks done and we'll see you in Garden City!

--chuck

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## PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the winter board meeting on February 26, 1994, the KOS Board of Directors voted to forward the following two By-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Garden City in October. (Please note that there were a couple of minor errors in the proposed change that was published in the March newsletter. The lettering sequence was not correct and I omitted one category. The correct version follows.)

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.
- B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year
- D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year
- E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year
- F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year
- G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students.)
- H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following part of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years.

These proposed changes would take affect January 1, 1995. Members who are currently paying on life memberships would be allowed to finish their payments. Sections A, B, D, and E are all \$5.00 increases. Section F was changed by adding the words "or more". Section C is currently a lump sum payment of \$150 or 4 consecutive annual payments of \$37.50. Section G, student memberships was left unchanged. Section H is a new section, added to help defray the expense of foreign mailings.

The Board of Directors felt that they had 2 choices. Raise dues or cut services. The Board doesn't want to reduce what the members get from KOS, in fact they want to provide more. We all hope that you will attend the Fall Meeting in Garden City (see related article in this issue) and support this by-laws change. If you have any questions about this change feel free to contact any one of the Board Members or the *Horned Lark* editor.

### When WAS That?

A special KOS committee is already starting work on a special annual meeting on our 50th Anniversary. The only problem is that there appears to be some confusion as to when the first annual meeting occurred and when the 50th anniversary will happen! If you can shed some light on this mystery, or are interested in helping plan this special celebration, please drop a note to KOS President **Jim Mayhew** (1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502) or the newsletter editor **Chuck Otte** (613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441).

### NEW MEMBERS????

It's no secret that the only way any organization can survive is to have an active and growing membership. More than likely we all have birdwatching friends who aren't (gasp) KOS members. Maybe you've never told them about KOS, maybe you've never had a membership brochure to give them, or maybe you're just too shy to bring it up. For whatever reason, *there are options!* Send me the name and address of potential members and I'll send them a membership brochure. Or get in touch with myself or one of the officers and get a supply of membership brochures. Or even do like I did with my brother. I paid for the first year membership and after that he was on his own. It worked though, he's still a member! Ohh.... don't forget to mention the benefits such as the wonderful Newsletter and *Bulletin* they get 4 times a year!!!!

### DIRECTORY DIGRESSIONS

Now that you've had a couple months to check out the new membership directory, I'll give you one more chance to request a large print edition. If you would like a large print version of the membership directory, *please don't hesitate* to request one. We recognize that we all have different sight capabilities. My father, at age 77, can drive down the road just fine without his glasses..... just don't ask him to read the speedometer! If you need a large print version, drop me a note and I'll get one in the mail.

Check out the  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

on page 5...

There's *something* for everyone!

## SPRING MEETING A SUCCESS!

by Greg Friesen

The Kansas Ornithological Society met May 5 - 7, 1994, at the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center in southern Miami County (south of Louisburg) for the annual Spring meeting. Forty-two members met for a weekend of field trips with access to the La Cygne Power Plant, Marais des Cygnes WMA, the newly established Marais des Cygnes NWR, the Dingus Natural Area and the grounds of the center hosting the event. Members planning the event obtained special permission from the WMA staff as well as the NWR staff to access both Unit B of the WMA and the entire NWR during the weekend. Both are currently closed to public use. One area of note was the grounds of the Wildwood Center which presented a plethora of warblers including Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. KOS extends a note of thanks to Mike Rader and Jerry Horak for organizing the event and to KDWP and the USFW Service for access to some excellent wooded as well as prairie and wetland habitat. Weekend participants noted a total of 170 species of birds in a weekend marked by initial cloudy and cool

weather and habitat recovering from some rather heavy flooding in the days just prior to the meeting.

Members and guests involved included: Bill Busby (Baldwin City), Joyce Davis (Dodge City), Marvin Schwilling, Jay Jeffrey, Jerry Horak (Emporia), Tom Cannon (Iola), Jacquie Singer (Kansas City, MO), Paul Schowalter (Larned), Richard Rucker, Effie Edwards, Galen Pittman (Lawrence), John Schukman (Leavenworth), Brett Adams (Lenexa), John Zimmerman, Jim Mayhew, Dan Mulhern (Manhattan), Allen Jahn (McPherson), Gregg Friesen, Rose Fritz (Newton), Cindy Jeffrey, Gary Jeffrey (Olsburg), Dave Bryan, Linda Bryan (Overland Park), Jared Turner, Lisa Bowlen, Matt Hurd (Shawnee), Boots Leiter, Catie Jensen (Shawnee Mission), John Rakestraw (St. John), C. Pamela Wilson, Debra Brown (Stanley), Joanne Brier, Glen Koontz, Lil Willis, Paul Willis (Topeka), Nada Voth (Walton), Don Vannoy, Fran Vannoy, Pat Beckemeyer, Roy Beckemeyer, Sandra Tholen (Wichita), and Mike Rader (Wilson).

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### SPRING MEETING CHECKLIST --compiled by Mike Rader

Those lucky participants in the 1994 KOS Spring Meeting had a great weekend of birding compiling a list of 170 species. Following is the compiled list of the field trips: **Pied-billed Grebe**, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, **Turkey Vulture**, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Turkey, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl,

Common Nighthawk, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, **Horned Lark**, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, **Eastern Bluebird**, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, **Golden-**

**winged Warbler**, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, **Bobolink**, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, **Rufous-sided Towhee**, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, American Goldfinch.

## KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

As reflected in the minutes from the KOS Winter Board Meeting, the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) has adopted some new rules which have been subsequently approved by the KOS Board. Most of these were fairly minor changes that affect how members are selected to the board, when the terms of office start, etc. Following are the complete rules as recently amended. If you would like to see a copy of the previous rules, refer to your March 1991 *Horned Lark* or drop me a note and I'll get a copy sent off to you.

### Procedural Rules of the Kansas Ornithological Society's KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

#### I. Name and Affiliation

- A. Name. The official name of this committee shall be the "Kansas Bird Records Committee" and is hereafter referred to as the "Committee".
- B. Affiliation. This is a committee of the society known as the "Kansas Ornithological Society." The Committee is established under the auspices of the Kansas Ornithological Society (hereafter, "KOS"), as approved by their Board of Directors.

#### II. Purposes

- A. Evaluate reports of rare or unusual bird sightings from the state of Kansas.
- B. Maintain those original bird records and all Committee votes and comments for the use of any future bird students or enthusiasts.
- C. Publish at least minimal data on all records receiving a decision.
- D. Incorporate all records of the Committee and revise and publish, as appropriate, the official KOS Checklist of Birds of Kansas.
- E. Provide a means by which sight records can gain acceptance as valuable scientific data.
- F. Establish standards of observation and reporting for improving the quality and quantity of our knowledge of Kansas birds.

#### III. Membership

- A. Number and Definitions. The Committee shall consist of seven regular voting members (one of whom is the "Chairperson" and another the "Secretary") and two alternate members. The alternate members shall vote in place of regular members on records submitted by those members, and in place of any absent members who have not expressed their votes in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

- B. Qualifications. Committee members should possess expertise in identification of Kansas birds, knowledge of Kansas bird distribution, and familiarity with birders and localities in Kansas. Committee members shall be members of KOS.

#### C. Members.

1. Election and Term of Office. The Kansas Bird Records Committee shall elect, subject to approval by the KOS Board of Directors, the seven members and two alternates to terms of three years each. Members and alternates will be elected to designated slots on the committee, i.e. position #1, position #2, alternate #1, etc. Elections shall be staggered, three annually, in order to maintain continuity. The stagger is as follows: 1, 2, 3 / 4, 5, alt. 1 / 6, 7, alt. 2. Members and alternates of the Committee will be allowed to serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years total). After a one-year or longer absence from the Committee each member shall become eligible to serve again, with the same two-term restriction. Alternates, however, can be elected to serve as a member for a maximum of two consecutive terms directly after having served as an alternate for one or two terms. There shall be no limit on the number of separate six-year periods that any one person may serve on the Committee. New members take office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS.

2. Duties. Vote on bird records and in all elections.

#### D. Chairperson

1. Election and Term of Office. The Chairperson must be a regular voting member of the Committee. The Chairperson shall be elected for a term of three years by a vote of the members of the Committee, at the annual winter meeting of the KBRC. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; a tie shall be decided by an additional ballot listing only those persons tied. The Chairperson takes office at the beginning of the annual spring field trip of the KOS. The position has the same restrictions on terms served as does that of a regular member.

#### 2. Duties

- a. Call and preside at Committee meetings.
- b. Vote on bird records and in all elections.
- c. Appoint subcommittees as needed.
- d. Assure that the current Rules and procedures are properly applied.
- e. Should the Secretary be unable to serve, the Chairperson shall act as Secretary in all respects.

- E. Secretary
  - 1. Election and Term of Office. Same criteria and provisions as for the Chairperson.
  - 2. Duties
    - a. Receive, circulate, recirculate, file, and maintain all bird records and supporting data submitted to the Committee. Deposit a duplicate set of records for permanent storage at the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
    - b. Vote on bird records and in all elections.
    - c. Tabulate results of all votes of the Committee, including votes on bird records, but excepting the election of the Secretary.
    - d. Keep or cause to keep minutes of Committee meetings.
    - e. Furnish to anyone, upon request, any accepted or rejected bird record with all evidence, including Committee comments.
    - f. Produce an Annual Report of the Committee's decisions and submit it for publication to the editor of *The KOS Bulletin*.
- F. Removals. The Committee may remove, for cause, any member who is delinquent in his/her duties. Such action requires a super-majority vote of all other voting members, i.e., 5-1 or 6-0 for removal. A removal must be accomplished by written ballot

either by mail or at a meeting of the Committee. An absent member may vote by supplying a written ballot to the Committee.

- G. Vacancies and Special Elections. If the Committee loses a voting member or alternate during mid-term (through death, resignation, removal, etc.) the Chairperson of the Committee shall immediately appoint a replacement, who will finish out the vacated member's term. If the Chairperson or Secretary position becomes vacant in mid-term the Secretary (or acting Secretary) shall immediately conduct an election, termed a special election, for the purpose of filling the vacancy. A special election may be conducted at a meeting or by individual contact (mail, etc.), whichever is most expedient in the opinion of the Secretary.

IV. Meetings

- A. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the Committee shall be held before the winter KOS Board meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to conduct any elections and such other business as may be brought before the Committee. The Secretary must give prior notice of the annual meeting to all members.

CLASSIFIED ADS

<p><b>New Position Available!</b> Bluebird Trails Committee Chair <i>and</i> Members are needed. If interested, contact <b>Jim Mayhew</b>, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p><b>Now Available...</b>Position for a Committee Person for the Dingus Natural Area Committee and also, Marais des Cygnes Project Coordinator. Don't miss out on <i>these</i> opportunities of a lifetime!</p>
<p><b>Still Wanted: KOS Officer Positions - Membership Secretary</b> Diane Seltman and <b>Business Manager</b> 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 Directing. 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 <b>Ken Brunson</b>, 40050 NE 10th St, Pratt, KS, 67124, (316) 672-7289 or <b>Jim Mayhew</b>, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS, 66502, (913) 776-5121.</p>	<p><b>Still Wanted: Hotline Operator</b> - 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 machines (#@!%\$^&amp;*). If you are interested, start talking to <b>Scott</b> now, (913) 372-5411.</p> <p><b>ALWAYS Wanted: VOLUNTEERS</b> - 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!</p>

*apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now, don't miss out...apply now!*

## PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF KOS

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS  
SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH OCTOBER 2, 1994

October will be your chance to find those rare and unusual birds in Garden City. 1993 was a very exciting year-- a Phainopepla, Varied Thrush, Inca Dove, Green-tailed Towhee, Canyon Wren, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Mute Swan and Trumpeter Swan were all observed in Garden City or nearby.

The Kansas Ornithological Society annual meeting will be held in Garden City, Kansas, Saturday, October 1 at the Garden City Community College. The Friday night informal reception will be held at the beautiful and historic home of Ron and Marie Osterbuhr. We will plan field trips to look for Scaled Quail, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Mountain Plover and other specialties of southwest Kansas. Mark your calendar now and start making plans to attend the annual meeting!

--Leonard Rich, Local Committee Chairman

### AND THE SURVEY SAYS.....!

You'll notice that we have a copy of the survey that first appeared in the March *Horned Lark* in this issue also. We received numerous responses, but we'd like quite a few more. We've already gotten several good ideas that we are working on that, hopefully, you'll start to see in the September *Horned Lark*. So, if you haven't taken the time to send in your already filled out survey, just drop it in the mail. And if you've misplaced your March *Horned Lark*, just turn to the survey form in this issue, fill it out and drop it in the mail or FAX it to me. I'll have a synopsis of the replies in the next issue of the *Horned Lark*.

### WE STILL NEED.....

KOS President Jim Mayhew informs me that we are still looking for qualified KOS members (don't underrate yourself - you are probably more qualified than you think!) to take on the following positions:

**Membership Secretary Business Manager  
Hotline Supervisor**

New positions that have opened up since the last newsletter:

**Bluebird Trails Committee Person and Members  
Dingus Natural Area Committee Person  
Marais des Cygnes Project Coordinator**

And Jim suggests that as a possible alternative to delay the pain of a dues increase:

**A \$3,000 donation for expenses**

### FALL FIELD TRIPS

We are looking for individuals to lead field trips in the October, November, December time frame. I know that many of you don't feel that you are qualified to lead a field trip, but on the contrary, leading a field trip can be as much a learning experience as a teaching experience. All you are doing is volunteering your time to show other people bird watching areas in your part of Kansas. You have those favorite spots around your home that you will visit time and time again. Why not take a few KOS friends (or potential KOS members) on a half day or day long field trip?

All you have to do is set a day, a time and a meeting location and decide if it is going to be a half day or full day trip. Once you've decided that just give Mike Rader a call and let him know, then he can get in touch with me and we will get it printed up in the September *Horned Lark*. If you are already doing a local field trip or bird walk, why not get it listed in the *Horned Lark* on a one time or regular basis. Drop me a note, let me know the details and maybe we can get you a few more members on your local trips.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Okay, so maybe it is a little early to be getting out your 1996 or 1997 or 1998 calendars out and marked, but the KOS Board has set tentative Spring Field Trip and Fall Meeting dates through 1998. We'll try to keep putting these in on a regular basis to help you plan your May and October calendars for the next several years.

If you see your location listed why not take the initiative to start getting a local committee together and making some plans. Go to other meetings in the mean time, take notes, and get ideas for when KOS gets together in your locale. The list that follows is pretty darn good. and I'm excited about these upcoming meetings!

May 5, 6 & 7, 1995	Barton County
Oct 6, 7 & 8, 1995	Salina
May 3, 4 & 5, 1996	Morton County
Oct 4, 5 & 6, 1996	Newton
May 2, 3 & 4, 1997	Riley County
Oct 3, 4 & 5, 1997	Wichita
May 1, 2 & 3, 1998	Gypsum Hills (Barber County)
Oct 2, 3 & 4, 1998	Lawrence --

(or whenever the 50th Anniversary is!)

**GEAR UP FOR KBBAT 1994!**

## Is Your Landscape "For The Birds?"

### Part II - Basics of Form and Shape

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

by Chuck Otte

Landscaping is all too often thought of as something "too difficult for me to do, I mean with all those rules and everything. . . ." To which I reply, "Nonsense!" There are far fewer "rules" than anyone thinks, and the bottom line is that if you like it and it does what you want it to do, who cares if a few landscape architects are spinning in their graves!

There are a few basic things that you need to keep in mind though that might help you be happier with the end result 10 years from now. Let's start with 2 basic concepts, mass and void. Mass is trees, shrubs, gardens (flower, vegetable or both), decks, etc. Void is grass. A house with no trees or shrubs, only grass, is a house on a golf course. Now some people think that golf courses are great and that's what they want around their homes. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of birds that are going to utilize a golf course fairway. On the other hand, a house built in the middle of timber with absolutely no turf area is all mass and no void. While this may be great for quite a few birds, most people need a little grass space or at least space around their home. When you merge mass and void you create areas around your home or "outdoor rooms."

Patterns or design or shape are controlled in the landscape by lines. Lines can be obvious lines like sidewalks or fences or they can become less obvious by carrying the lines from walks to fences or bed borders or hedges. Lines should be pleasing, natural flowing lines, large, sweeping, uninterrupted curves. If you look at nature you will find very few straight lines and right angles. Lines can also control movement, to help get "traffic from point A to point B." If you have nothing but grass in your front yard you might as well have a straight sidewalk going directly from the curb to the house to get people there as quickly as possible. Curves and line intersections create opportunities to stop at possible points of interest. Have a broad sweeping arc of a sidewalk with flower beds or shrub groupings along the way and you will slow down traffic and make them want to stop and enjoy the landscape.

Form takes line or shape and adds three dimensionality to it. The trunk, branches and leaves of a tree create the form of that tree. Generally we speak of upright or vertical form or, if it is low and spreading, of horizontal form. Within those groups, then, we can have some individual plants that are round, vase, weeping, pyramidal, columnar, oval and irregular. If you stop and think you can probably come up with plants that fit all of those categories. In the western 3/4 of Kansas the natural landscape tends to be dominated by horizontal forms due to the classic windswept conditions. As we

move into the eastern 1/4 of the state we start to forsake the Great Plains look for the Midwest or Eastern Deciduous forest look which tends to become much more vertical. Within your yard you can create a mix of both horizontal and vertical. I have one property line that has a wooden fence and layered plantings in front of it--a very horizontal look. On the south side of my house I have a much more vertical look, with larger trees providing shade and windbreak. As I work along my back property line the topography "climbs" up out of a low spot. I keep the low spot relatively low then take the height up as I go to the edge. This accentuates the low area and makes it look "deeper" than it really is.

We also use form to help blend the house into the landscape. Have you ever seen a house that just looked totally out of place? This is frequently the result of improper landscaping. Plants around the house should help balance and enframe the house and soften corners and edges. A corner is a very "harsh" view. There are very strong horizontal and vertical straight lines coming together. These can be softened with corner plantings of shrubs and small trees that hide or defuse the harsh straight lines. But make sure that the plants you ultimately choose will stay at or below the roof line or you will have made a bad problem worse. Make sure these corner plantings avoid plant forms that have straight lines, i.e. pyramidal (no Blue Spruce). Rounded forms are better. Plant larger shade trees around the sides and back of the house and to the sides of the front yard when possible. From the front view larger trees should frame the house, not cut it in two.

Grab a chair and walk around the house sitting down at numerous locations to look at your house and away from your house. Take a look and decide what you enjoy looking at and what you would just as soon not look at if you could help it. Then use form and shape to screen certain views or to call attention to certain other views. Create a layered look through the use of different textures, colors, slightly different heights or forms. Layering also tends to create more density which provides more cover and shelter for wildlife. Remember, in making this evaluation we aren't worried about which plant we are going to use yet. We just want to think what *form* or *shape* we want. And most importantly, start writing down what you want to add, remove or change. Remember that a landscape is not static, it is dynamic and ever changing which means that at certain times plants, even large trees, will need to be removed and replaced.

Next issue: *Selecting Plant Material and Finalizing the Plan*

## KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING 1994

*February 26, 1994*

*Kansas State University - Salina  
Salina, KS*

President Jim Mayhew call the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

Those present: Jim Mayhew, Mike Rader, Diane Seltman, Greg Friesen, Joanne Brier, Sara Shane, Roy Beckemeyer, Galen Pittman, John Schuckman, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane and Chuck Otte. In the absence of Corresponding Secretary Dwight Platt, Jim Mayhew asked Chuck Otte if he would keep the minutes.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Jim Mayhew presented and discussed the Organizational Format for 1994. The format is broken into 4 areas: Organizational, Membership, Finance and Events. Each area has board members assigned for specific responsibilities and support. Jim has appointed the following committee chairs: 50th Anniversary - Marion Jenkins; Audit Committee - John Tourline; Student Research Fund - Mark Corder, Conservation Committee - John Schuckman.

**MINUTES:** The board members reviewed the minutes of the Fall Meeting. Jim Mayhew asked for corrections by the end of the meeting.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Greg Friesen presented the treasurers report for the 1993 fiscal year. The end of year financial statements will be published in the March 1994 newsletter. During the year, with the change of treasurer, the accounting method has been changed to a double entry accounting system. Greg expressed his concern over the financial situation. The current per member cost is \$12.50. With individual dues starting at \$10 this has resulted in declining balances in the KOS financial situation. It was suggested that it may help if the dues paid by life members be transferred into the general fund upon notification of their death, to help with general operation costs. The board concurred that this should be done. Mike Rader moved that the treasurers report and financial statement be accepted, and that the treasurer transfer the life payment funds of the 2 deceased life members from 1993 into the general fund. It was seconded and passed.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Diane Seltman reported that there are currently 462 members. In the past she would wait for several months before pulling past due members from the mailing lists. Past due members will now have their names pulled after the first *Bulletin* and *Horned Lark* issues of the new year to help reduce printing and mailing costs.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Galen Pittman reported that he and Greg are attempting to develop a procedure that will do a better job of inventory accounting. Galen intends to try to keep the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark* in the same mailing, when practical, to reduce mailing costs.

**BULLETIN EDITORS REPORT:** Max Thompson had visited with Jim Mayhew over the phone and indicated that there were lot's of articles coming in.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT:** Chuck Otte reported that the March issue was being wrapped up. He is receiving a fair amount of submitted material for the newsletter from the members, but could always use more. He has been working with Diane Seltman on publishing a new membership directory and handed around a rough draft for the board to review. It was the general consensus of the board that a membership directory should be printed every 2 years and that it remain in the "half-page" format. Chuck indicated that a larger print version would be made available for those members requesting one.

**KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:** Galen Pittman reported for the committee. They have been quite active and recently voted to accept 9 submissions and reject 2. The KOS Checklist is out of print and needs to be revised. However, the committee would like to wait until the AOU update is received so that name changes are consistent. This will postpone the revision until sometime in 1995. The committee suggests doing a limited run of the current checklist to get us through until the revisions can be made. The committee is considering work on an annotated checklist. The idea was warmly received by those in attendance.

**STUDENT RESEARCH FUND:** Jim Mayhew reported for Mark Corder. Mark is working on plans to raise funds and work on investment of those funds.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Roy Beckemeyer reported that they are working on getting volunteers to help with projects. The Young Naturalist Award has been well received and 5 youth have been presented with this award. Members are encouraged to nominate deserving youth to receive this award.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:** John Schuckman reported that Jodi Smith has been contacted and is working with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) on Bluebirds and Bluebird Trail information.

**DINGUS NATURAL AREA:** Jim Mayhew reported that Dingus survived the 1993 weather in good shape. There is a need to find a KOS member in the area who would be willing to help oversee the Dingus Natural Area.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:** Jim Mayhew and Greg Friesen presented the auditor's written report. The report indicated that a good job has been done and offered a few minor improvements.

**KANSAS NON-GAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Chuck Otte has been filling in for Ted Cable while Ted has been gone. Chuck attended the December meeting and is planning on attending the next meeting on March 11. Chuck indicated that the meetings are interesting and cover a lot of important issues. He felt it was very critical that KOS maintain active attendance on the council to ensure that they have a membership position.

**HOTLINE REPORT:** Scott Seltman indicated that it was going well, but that he felt that it was time to find someone else to keep the hotline in the near future.

Mike Rader moved that all officer and committee reports be accepted. It was seconded and passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Kansas Bird Records Committee had voted to amend their Procedural Rules at their February 5, 1994, meeting. Most of the changes had to do with how members are appointed and when terms of office begin. Roy Beckemeyer moved to accept the amended Procedural Rules of the KOS Kansas Bird Records Committee. It was seconded and passed. The amended version will be published in the *Horned Lark*.

**BIRD FEEDER SURVEY:** The annual Bird Feeder Survey performed by KDWP has been completed. We have received the mailing list from KDWP of those surveyors who indicated that they desired more information on KOS. They will be sent membership brochures.

Greg Friesen moved that Article II, Section 3 of the by-laws be amended to read:

"A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year. B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year. D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year. E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year. F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year. G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full-time undergraduate or graduate students). H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year."

It was seconded and passed, 7 - 0.

Roy Beckemeyer moved that Article II, Section 3C of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

"C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years."

It was seconded and passed, 7 - 0. Both of these proposed changes will be published in the *Horned Lark* and voted on by the general membership at the Fall Meeting in Garden City.

**FIELD TRIPS:** No report.

**BUDGET REQUESTS:** Jim Mayhew encouraged any board members who needed help to contact Chuck Otte to get a notice in the newsletter. The following requests for funds had been received and were dealt with by the board case by case.

John Zimmerman - \$300 to help with non-administrative costs for the KBBAT area managers. Mike Rader moved that this request be granted. It was seconded and passed.

Ken Brunson - \$100 to add to the reward money for arrest and conviction of person(s) involved in the shooting of Trumpeter Swans at Webster Reservoir in early 1993. There was no motion presented.

Roger Boyd - \$25 for Annual Association payment to the Conservation Forum. Galen Pittman moved that we pay this expense. It died for lack of a second.

International Council on Bird Preservation - \$100 annual membership. Sara Shane moved that we cease payment on this membership. It was seconded and passed.

Roy Beckemeyer moved that funds be made available to print 3,000 copies of the current KOS Checklist. It was seconded and passed.

**SPRING MEETING 1994:** It is ready to go.

**FALL MEETING 1994:** September 30, October 1 & 2 in Garden City. Leonard Rich is in charge of the local committee. Ten best bird nominations will go to Tom Shane. Ken Brunson has agreed to chair the nominating committee for the Annual Meeting. The terms of Joanne Brier and Lloyd Moore will be expiring.

Joanne Brier moved that the minutes be approved. It was seconded and passed. The minutes will be published in the March 1994 newsletter.

Mike Rader moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded and passed. Jim Mayhew adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

*--respectfully submitted, Chuck Otte, acting corresponding secretary*

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### LATE FALL/EARLY WINTER ROUNDUP/February 1994 - April 1994/by Chuck Otte

January's slow birding carried right on into February. And had it not been for McPherson's Varied Thrush, the RBA machine would have felt as lonely as the Maytag Repairman during February. The Varied Thrush was a good sighting and many Kansas birders availed themselves of the opportunity (although I spent 2 hours looking for it and it arrived 20 minutes after I left. . . . how many times has that happened to all of us?!)

March and April had some very erratic weather. First warm temperatures and good south winds would move in good numbers of birds, then they would get stalled out by colder temperatures and north winds. Many birders commented that waterfowl moved in and through the state very early, and then other migrants seemed late in arriving. Of course after a slow winter I think we were all anxious for migration to get going. Late April started to finally bring in some good spring migrants that got everyone hoping for a great May.

Speaking of erratic weather I had the opportunity to spend the last day of April with Dave Rintoul and other members of Northern Flint Hills Audubon in their annual Birdathon. When I met Dave at 6:30 in the morning it was snowing! In spite of the cold, wet weather we had a good day with over 100 species being sighted. If you ever want to have some fun, get together with some friends and do a FULL day of birding.

Western Kansas seemed to have the market on longspurs this spring. Large numbers (flocks of 100+) of McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported by birders from western Kansas. These flocks seemed to grow in size as more birds joined in waiting for the weather to break in late March and early April.

As spring migrants moved into the state in April, it wasn't uncommon to see large numbers appear overnight. The old theory of when it rains it pours seemed to fit. But other species seemed light in comparison. Purple Martin numbers in north-central Kansas still seem light making one wonder if the martin die-off during the cold snap several years ago is still hurting the population.

And then Garden City always seems to come up with *unusual*, if not *great* birds (making me anxious for the Fall Meeting - see announcement elsewhere). Early orioles and night-herons in residential yards? Tanagers and crossbills the same week?! What a birding mecca!

Remember to call the Hotline (913-372-5499) with your sightings, and be sure to fill out a Bird Records Committee Report Form for appropriate sightings. And, of course, all of the following entries are subject to consideration by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

#### **GET INVOLVED IN KOS. . .**

*Run for Office      Serve on a Standing Committee      Lead a Field Trip*  
*Attend the Fall Meeting      Help Plan a Future Meeting      Bust a Block*

## BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / February 1994 through April 1994

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Western Grebe	1 at Harvey County East Lake was seen through May 1st	BD	04-27-94	Harvey
American White Pelican	3 at Melvern Res	MM,GG	02-06-94	Osage
American White Pelican	475 at Wilson Res	MR	03-27-94	Russell
Double-crested Cormorant	At Pomona Res	BF,GG	03-06-94	Osage
Great Egret	1 in Wichita	JN	03-19-94	Sedgwick
Great Egret	1 at Wilson Res	MR	03-27-94	Russell
Black-crowned Night Heron	5 wintered at Wichita Zoo	ES	02-20-94	Sedgwick
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1 in Marie Osterbuh's yard	BR	04-23-94	Finney
White-faced Ibis	28 record early at CB	MR	04-03-94	Barton
Tundra Swan	seen by staff at QNWR		03-09-94	Stafford
Greater White-fronted Goose	67 at MDC Unit F1	CH	04-17-94	Linn
Greater White-fronted Goose	1 at Slate Creek Marsh	wa	04-23-94	Sumner
Ross's Goose	2 at Wilson Lake	MR	02-15-94	Russell
Ross's Goose	4 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	MR	03-03-94	Stafford
Ross's Goose	2 at McPherson Valley Wetland	AJ	03-06-94	McPherson
Ross's Goose	1 at Mount Hope Marsh	PJ	03-07-94	Sedgwick
Brant	1 at McPherson Valley Wetland	AJ	03-06-94	McPherson
American Black Duck	2 in sandpits n of Lawrence	MM,GP	03-05-94	Douglas
Northern Pintail	Thousands at Patterson Marsh	PJ,RB	02-28-94	Harvey
Greater Scaup	4 at sand pits along Bus 77	DLS,CO	02-27-94	Geary
Greater Scaup	1 at Glen Elder Res	MR	03-02-94	Mitchell
Greater Scaup	2 at QNWR	PB,RB	03-26-94	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at MDC Unit G	LM	03-31-94	Linn
Turkey Vulture	early arrival, McDowell Creek	DR	02-13-94	Riley
Osprey	numerous in Kansas City Area	LM	04-08-94	Wyandotte
Bald Eagle	136 at Clinton Lake	LM	02-10-94	Douglas
Bald Eagle	pair on eggs at Clinton Lake	LM	02-10-94	Douglas
	at least 1 young	MM,BF	04-16-94	Douglas
Bald Eagle	nest building at Hillsdale Lake		early March	Miami
Bald Eagle	nest building at Tuttle Creek later found to be abandoned		early March	Riley
Northern Goshawk	1 s of Grinnell	SS	03-19-94	Gove
Red-shouldered Hawk	Pair at MDC Wildlife Area	GG	03-12-94	Linn
Red-tailed Hawk	several pair at nest sites	SS	02-05-94	w KS
Peregrine Falcon	pair nesting in Topeka	JB	03-23-94	Shawnee
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	MR	04-26-94	Stafford
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 leks at Pratt Sandhills Refuge	JR	04-14-94	Pratt
Sandhill Crane	heard overhead at CBR	SS	02-19-94	Trego
Sandhill Crane	1 wintered at Wichita Zoo	ES	02-20-94	Sedgwick
Whooping Crane	2 seen near Pratt	??	03-07-94	Pratt
Whooping Crane	7 in flight	DS	04-08-94	Rush
King Rail	3 rather early, QNWR	RB,PB	03-05-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at QNWR	MR	04-26-94	Stafford
Piping Plover	2 at QNWR, Little Salt Marsh	DZ	04-26-94	Stafford
Mountain Plover	1 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh	JN,CG	03-23-93	Stafford
American Woodcock	nw side of El Dorado Lake	BL	04-14-94	Butler
Parasitic Jaeger	(probable) 1 at Wilson Res	MR	03-25-94	Russell
California Gull	2nd winter at swimming beach	LM	03-03-94	Jefferson
Thayer's Gull	1 first winter at Clinton Lake	MM,GP	03-05-94	Douglas

12 (Birding Highlights, contd)

Glaucous Gull	1 first winter at Melvern Res still present	MM,GG LM	02-06-94 02-18-94	Osage
Glaucous Gull	2 first winter at Milford Res	DLS	02-21-94	Geary
4 first winter birds were subsequently found in the Curtis Creek area of Milford Lake by LaShelle and Otte on February 27.				
Glaucous Gull	1 at Glen Elder Res	MR	03-02-94	Mitchell
Forster's Tern	4 early at QNWR	SS,DS,DB,LB	04-02-94	Stafford
Long-eared Owl	20+ s shore of Lyon State Lake	DG,m.ob.	02-12-94	Lyon
Long-eared Owl	30+ at shelterbelt, CBR	SS	02-19-94	Trego
Long-eared Owl	Wilson State Park Office area	MR	02-20-94	Russell
Whip-poor-will	1 at Lone Star	PW	04-15-94	Douglas
Eastern Phoebe	1 at Neosho Wildlife Area	DM	03-08-94	Neosho
Say's Phoebe	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	??	03-18-94	Johnson
Purple Martin	first of season in Winfield	MT	03-15-94	Cowley
Tree Swallow	at Wolf Creek Power Plant	BF,GG	03-06-94	Coffey
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 in Highland Cemetery, Jct City	CO	04-19-94	Geary
Rock Wren	1 s of Scott Lake State Park	TSh	02-13-94	Scott
either an early migrant or a wintering bird				
Canyon Wren	1 s of Scott Lake State Park	TSh	02-13-94	Scott
This was the bird first seen December 30, 1993 and subsequently seen by many observers. If accepted by the KBRC it will be the second record for Kansas.				
Mountain Bluebird	7 at Cheney State Park	PJ	02-20-94	Sedgwick or Kingman
Hermit Thrush	1 wintered at Oxford	??	02-11-94	Sumner
Varied Thrush	1 at city park in McPherson	AJ	02-26-94	McPherson
This bird was found by local residents on the 25th and reported by Alan Jahn on the 26th. Many birders saw this bird as it was fairly reliable for several weeks. It was last seen on March 16.				
Curve-billed Thrasher	still coming to feeder	LQ	03-01-94	Pratt
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 wintered at Oxford	??	02-11-94	Sumner
Yellow-throated Warbler	3 at Ft. Leavenworth Westin Bend	JS	04-09-94	Leavenworth
Palm Warbler	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	LM	04-24-94	Wyandotte
Black and White Warbler	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Scott Lake	AN	04-17-94	Scott
Worm-eating Warbler	1 along east edge of QNWR	MR	04-18-94	Reno
Hooded Warbler	female at Harvey County East Lake	BD	04-27-94	Harvey
Scarlet Tanager	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney
Lazuli Bunting	1 at feeder	JO,CO	04-29-94	Geary
bird was very regular for about 5 days				
Baird's Sparrow	1 at Thompson Pasture	wa	04-23-94	Cowley
McCown's Longspur	100 nw of Larned	SS	03-29-94	Pawnee
Smith's Longspur	150 at Lyon County State Lake	MM,GG	02-06-94	Lyon
still present but in smaller numbers				
Chestnut-collared Longspur	300 s of Nekoma	SS	03-29-94	Rush
flock of 300 still in area				
Chestnut-collared Longspur	small flock	TSh,SSh	03-27-94	Logan
Northern (Bullock's) Oriole	1 in Garden City	LBR	03-20-94	Finney
Red Crossbill	1 in Garden City	BR	04-23-94	Finney

CORRECTIONS

Harris Hawk	1 unconfirmed adult w of Great Bend	SS	11-06-93	Rush
This bird was listed originally in Barton County but was actually reported from just a mile into Rush County.				

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms  
CBR = Cedar Bluff Reservoir  
MDC = Marais des Cygnes  
m.ob. = many observers  
QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge  
Res = Reservoir

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Wichita Audubon (wa), Pat Beckemeyer (PB), Roy Beckemeyer (RB), Joanne Brier (JB), Dave Bryan (DB), Linda Bryan (LB), Bob Dester (BD), Bob Fisher (BF), Dan Gish (DG), Chuck Greshen (CG), Greg Griffith (GG), Chris Hobbs (CH), Alan Jahn (AJ), Pete Janzen (PJ), Bill Langley (BL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), Art Nonhoff (AN), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Galen Pittman (GP), Lee Queal (LQ), John Rakestraw (JR), Mike Rader (MR), Leonard and Betty Rich (LBR, BR), Dave Rintoul (DR), John Schukman (JS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Eddie Stegall (ES), Max Thompson (MT), Phil Wedge (PW), Dennis Zehr (DZ).

## WHY DO YOU BELONG TO KOS

Please take a few minutes to think about the following questions, fill in your answers and return the survey to me. Your responses will be compiled and taken to the KOS Board of Directors, as well as help shape what shows up in the Newsletter as well as what other activities KOS becomes involved in. Thank you for your time and effort!

1. How long have you belonged to KOS? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you belong to the KOS?

Spring Field Trip \_\_\_\_\_  
Fall Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
KOS led Field Trips \_\_\_\_\_  
The Horned Lark Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_  
The Bulletin \_\_\_\_\_  
KOS Rare Bird Alert \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you like most about the *Horned Lark*? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see more of? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see less of? \_\_\_\_\_

What else would you like to change? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you like most about the *Bulletin*? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see more of? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see less of? \_\_\_\_\_

What else would you like to change? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you call the KOS Rare Bird Alert? \_\_\_\_\_

How often (daily, weekly, twice a week, etc)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What could KOS do to attract more members? \_\_\_\_\_

What projects do you think KOS should become involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to help with those projects? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What else would you like to say to the KOS Board of Directors, *The Bulletin* editor or *The Horned Lark* editor?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return to:**

**Chuck Otte, Editor**  
*The Horned Lark*  
613 Tamerisk  
Junction City, KS 66441

or if you prefer to FAX it:

913-238-7166