



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1995

Vol. 22, No. 4

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

From The Keyboard -

Well here we are into 1996 still trying to get the final newsletter for 1995 finished up! The best laid plans of mice and men (or in this case birds and birders)..... I want to apologize for this issue being so late and for the articles that had to be pulled because of that. The bottom line was that both the editor and the final layout wizard/ business manager both got sick about the time this newsletter should have been getting wrapped up. I was lucky in that I was back on my feet in a couple of weeks. Dawn has not been so lucky and has been quite sick. We hope she's got the worst of it behind her now but she still has a lot of catching up to do. In the meantime I'll be responsible for doing all the pre-printing work on the Horned Lark so if it doesn't look quite as "snazzy" you'll understand why. And our sincerest get well soon to Dawn!!!

We had a great Fall Meeting in Salina! The local committee is commended for the fine job they did and they should be proud of it. The paper's session was unfortunately shortened when the van from KU broke down. And I was so looking forward to the paper on bird kills at towers. Start making plans now for an exciting spring meeting in Morton County. You'd better get your reservations in at the El Rancho soon! If you aren't sure if you want to go all the way to Elkhart just pull out the last couple years worth of Horned Larks and check out the birding roundup for the Morton County birds the end of April and early May. You need to be there in 1996!

I certainly hope that you have been enjoying some of the featured writers that have been added to the Horned Lark in 1995. Amy Rose's debut Kids Page was a big hit. Even if you don't have any youngsters at home pull that page out and find a niece, nephew, grandchild or neighbor child to give it to. Who knows what might happen. John Rakestraw's articles have also been greatly appreciated. If you read much of the other popular "birding press" you have probably seen several of John's articles over the past year. We appreciate John sharing his

talents with the Horned Lark readers! And let's not forget Tom & Sara Shane's photographs. They have added a new dimension to this newsletter and we hope to be able to keep including them.

For all of you who have sent letters or small articles, etc. I really appreciate your contributions, suggestions and necessary nudges that help keep this editor on track! Keep the suggestions, contributions and occasional reprimands coming!

Please read all the newsletter carefully. There's some tight schedules coming up. Tom Shane has a great workshop opportunity coming up but you need to let him know ASAP if you can be involved. Sorry for the delay, enjoy the newsletter and remember, spring migration is just around the corner!!!

-- chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1996

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

NOTICE

Kansas Ornithological Society Workshop

Dr. Richard F. Johnston will be conducting a workshop at the Bird Range, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, tentatively on the first or second Saturday of April, 1996. There will be a requested donation of \$20 for the two hour session on warbler identification with the use of study skins. Those interested please contact Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846 for a reservation. Please let Tom know the Saturday that would work best for you, and any other bird of groups of which you would like to see the study skins. All money donated through this workshop is tax deductible and will go into the Student Research Fund to be awarded to a student at the University of Kansas. Let Tom know as soon as possible to facilitate the scheduling.

Check it out further on in!

AOU Checklist Changes Coming

Which Gull Was that???

What papers were given at the fall meeting?

KBBAT Update

Then and Now

Taking Notes

Partners in Flight

Fifty by Fifty

Meet Your Treasurer

Morton County in May!

Start making plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting on May 3, 4 and 5, 1996 in Morton County. Year in and year out Morton County brings us great bird sightings. Of course there's the Cimarron Grasslands with Point of Rocks, the boy Scout area, the river crossings and the work station. There's the Elkhart Cemetery, the shelterbelt across the road north of the cemetery, the sewer ponds and let's not forget those infamous Elkhart alleys! If you've never been birding in Morton County start making plans now!

Welcome New Members

We take this opportunity to welcome the following new members since our last newsletter: Sister Susan Chase, Leavenworth; Douglas Robinson, Jr., Emporia; Gene & Shelby Bean, Mary Rau, Lawrence; Greg Farley, Hays; Dawn Gardner, Jan Boyd, Baldwin City; Laurie Ryland, Holcomb; Barbara Millar, Wichita; and Tate Gooden, Manhattan.

Also a reminder to everyone that it is time to renew your membership for 1996. Every time you remember to send in your next year's dues before you receive a notice in the mail you save the society just that much more money. A KOS membership also makes a dandy birthday or anniversary present for those hard to shop for birders or birder "wanna be's" on your shopping list!

Membership Directory Update Coming

We are starting to work on the KOS Membership Directory hoping to have it in your hands by late spring 1996. Take a look at your current listing in the 1994 edition (if you are in it). If you see errors or missing data please let myself (Chuck Otte) or preferably Membership Secretary Margaret Wedge know. If you would prefer not to have a phone number listed

or whatever other changes you need to let us know. We are also trying to put together a listing of electronic mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address and would allow it to be included please just e-mail me at OTTE@JC.NET. And of course anytime you have a change of address please notify Margaret or myself immediately so you don't miss any important mailings!

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PARTNERS IN FLIGHT COMING TO KANSAS

by Bill Busby

Migrant Birds

In recent years, biologists have noted alarming declines in populations of many migratory birds. Examples of species of concern in the Midwest are grassland birds such as the Bobolink, Dickcissel, and Grasshopper Sparrow; bottomland forest-dwellers such as Cerulean, Swainson's and Prothonotary Warblers; upland forest inhabitants such as Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Kirtland's Warbler; and early successional species such as Bell's Vireo and Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Threats to Migrants

Neotropical migrants face many challenges during their annual journey between tropical wintering areas and temperate breeding grounds. Ultimately, most of the problems they experience can be linked to ever-increasing human populations and the strain people put on the Earth's ecosystems. Pesticides, weather, feral cats, competition with non-native birds like House Sparrows and Starlings, and collisions with windows and towers all take a toll on songbirds. However, the chief problems for these species are habitat loss and degradation. As more forests, grasslands, and wetlands are destroyed or altered, important habitats are lost on breeding and wintering grounds, as well as at migration stopover sites.

Partners in Flight

To reverse the population declines of migrant birds, governmental agencies, private conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other interested individuals have joined forces to establish a program known as Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americas. Through cooperative efforts that integrate population monitoring, research, habitat management, and education, Partners in Flight promotes understanding about the status, limiting factors, and conservation needs of migrant birds.

Partners in Flight has developed an action plan that follows basic principles:

- conservation when it should be done--before species become endangered.
- enhanced conservation of both natural and managed habitats.
- simultaneous conservation on the breeding, migration, and nonbreeding areas.
- an informed, proactive constituency of birdwatchers.
- groundbreaking partnerships with which federal and private agencies, private conservation groups, industry, and citizens can work together for bird and habitat conservation.

This international program has a regional component known as the Midwest Working Group. Within the Midwest, several State Working Groups have formed and efforts are underway to get working groups established in the remaining states. Here in Kansas, we plan to establish a working group within the next year.

The Partners in Flight newsletter is the best way to stay informed about migrant bird conservation activities. For a free subscription, contact:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

For state/regional information about Partners in Flight you may contact me:

Bill Busby
Kansas Biological Survey
2041 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047
913-864-7692
e-mail w-busby@ukans.edu

Upcoming Trip (*Out of State - Way out of state*)

I have received notice of the following upcoming bird trip. The Kansas Ornithological Society is not involved in this trip and we present this information merely as a service to our members that would be interested in participating.

Birding in Southern Arizona

John Zimmerman will again (and possibly for the last time! - ed.) lead a birding trip to southern Arizona, departing Manhattan on May 19 and returning June 1, 1996.

Transportation will be by university van, accommodations will be by camping - sometimes primitive, and participants will share in the cooking. Itinerary includes Cave Creek Canyon, Rustler Park and Rucker Canyon in the Chiricahuas, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Sawmill Canyon in the Huachuclas, Sonoita Creek, Sycamore Canyon, Sonoran Desert at Tucson, and Baldy Peak Train in the White Mountains. Space limited, contact John Zimmerman, Div. Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Thank You!

Roy Beckemeyer and the rest of the KOS Board want to extend a hearty thank you to the Salina Local Committee for all their hard work on the fall meeting. It was outstanding in every fashion!!

LOCAL COMMITTEE: Clara Bruhn, Harriet Landon, Ivy Marsh, Charlie Marsh, Shannon Rayl - Meeting Coordinator, Sister Monica Schneider, Barbara Shannon, Marge Streckfus, Bill Trelc and Judy Zanardi

Facilities courtesy of Kansas Wesleyan University and Professor Art Neuburger.

Friday Reception sponsor: Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sunday Field Trip Leaders: Steve Burr and Jay Bailey
Banquet Speaker: Maure Weigel

Door Prizes: Joy Reuter
Map: Harold Lear

A special thanks to Leonard Rich and Ron & Marie Osterbuhr for their advice and assistance.

Special Thank yous also go out to EVERYONE that donated items to a very successful silent auction. (I want to add my personal thanks to Eugene Lewis of Silver City New Mexico for his generous donation of a copy of Goss's Birds of Kansas to the silent auction with the proceeds going to the Student Research Fund. I was fortunate enough to have been the high bidder and now have that fine volume resting proudly on my bookshelf - Editor.) We'll probably have another Silent Auction next year so start planning now on what you might be able to donate!

Checklist from the Fall Meeting, October 8, 1995, Salina, Kansas

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy

Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow and Red Shafted races), Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped

Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

KBBAT Update

Those of you who have been involved in the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project know that we are coming up on what should be the last year (hint, hint). Unfortunately only 64% of the 757 blocks have been completed AND turned in.

If you have completed blocks but have not turned them in to your regional coordinator NOW. If you have a partially finished block that you feel you want be able to finish or you haven't even started and know you probably won't (come on, be honest now!) please return them to John Zimmerman ASAP (that's as soon as possible) so that they can be re-assigned and completed. Believe it or not 98% of the blocks have been assigned and their are volunteers willing to do more so if you doubt you're going to get around to it, especially if you've already held the block for 4 years now,

give someone else a chance. The option is that the project will stand the expense of duplicating everything you have and re-assign it to someone else anyway!

There are several opportunities coming up for some friendly block busting. Pete Janzen in the south-central region is lining up at least 1 blockbuster weekend. Contact him at 3137 N. Mascot, Wichita KS 67204. Chuck Otte has 4 blocks in southern Dickinson County he want's to "bust out" in June, contact him at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 if you want in on that. And Sara Shane is planning a "buster weekend" in the northwest where average block completion time is a mere 8 hours. Contact Sara at 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS, 67846. Let's get this KBBAT project completed on time!

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

Gregg Friesen - KOS Treasurer

In the mid 60's I recall joining my peers from our church boys' club in the back of my dad's Rambler Classic for a Saturday trip to Cheyenne Bottoms. Little, apart from the Rambler ride, stands out about that trip other than the prize sighting, a group of American Avocets. Their color and movement captured me to the point that I recall that trip most every time I see the bird. I suppose that trip was also point one in my appreciation of birds. Being the treasurer of the KOS may be one of the later stages in this interest but certainly won't be the last.

By profession, I am a nurse. I work out of a psychiatric partial (day) hospital in Newton, KS in a varied job that includes everything from home health to utilization review work and school nursing. It is not the kind of work that affords many views of American Avocets but it provides much contact with people and many chances to share my interest in birds. This results in a mix of interactions with folks. I think my favorite birding/work story involves the time someone pried a dead bird off the grill of their car after

arriving at work and sent it to me through the interoffice mail for identification (female Common Yellowthroat). The mundane stuff involves calls from the break room for such things as a three letter work for a razorbill (Auk) or a request from the maintenance crew for a way to keep a Northern Cardinal from incessantly attacking a window in a clinician's room (Black silhouettes of American Kestrels did the job).

I took the treasurer's job with the KOS two years ago. I've learned quite a bit on the job and certainly owe much to my predecessor, Rose Fritz, as well as others for guiding me through some of this. I am a rather strong fiscal conservative in that I am very cautious about spending money committed to future use or that is not yet in our hands. When I leave this position in a few years I hope to see, with the help of the finance committee, an organization on solid financial ground with funding available to continue a tradition of serving some of the diverse wants and needs of varied birding communities in the state.

FIFTY BY FIFTY CAMPAIGN

by Max Thompson

You should have by now, received a letter from the Finance Committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society. This committee was appointed by President Mike Rader to raise funds to alleviate the money problems that KOS has run into in recent years. We are asking you as members of KOS, to give so that the KOS can be solvent and able to carry out the mandate of the society as stated in our by-laws. Giving can be done in many ways. Since this is a three year campaign, you might choose to make a contribution to the campaign but spread it out over a three year period. Thus, if you chose to donate \$900 to the campaign over a 3 year period, that would be \$300 per year. You could remit that anytime during the fiscal year, January through December.

Some people might opt to leave us money or property in their estate. That would count in the campaign but would be payable only after the death of the donor. We have had some people in the society that have chosen to make an immediate smaller gift and also write the society in their will for a larger donation upon their death.

Why is it necessary for the Kansas Ornithological Society to build an endowment? Like all businesses or societies, we are hit by inflation and low interest rates. While KOS may

have an endowment, it is too small for us to sustain the aims of the society. Life memberships no longer pay for themselves at the present interest rates. Several years back they drew enough interest to help pay for our low dues. Now it has been reversed and the society members are bearing the brunt of the cost of running the society. If we are maintain a stable society with stable dues, we need to increase the endowment to a point where the interest off of our endowment will give us that stability.

I would like to remind you that the Kansas Ornithological Society is an Internal Revenue 501(c3) organization. The donations you make to us are fully tax deductible as a charitable organization.

Please help the Kansas Ornithological Society endowment grow with your gift so that when we celebrate our 50th anniversary in Lawrence, Kansas, the town that gave birth to our society, we can announce a successful funding raising drive. We want to bring the endowment to \$50,000 by our 50th anniversary. Thank you for your consideration.

Max C. Thompson, Chairman,
Finance Committee.

KANSAS GULLS

John Rakestraw

The gulls are considered by some to be the most challenging group of birds to identify in the field. Depending on the species, gulls take from two to four years to reach maturity. (Thus, gull species are often referred to as two year, three year, and four year gulls.) Young birds appear different each season until they reach adulthood, and adults change from winter plumage to breeding plumage each year.

The temptation might be for the beginning birder to merely concentrate on breeding adults. These birds may be the easiest to identify, but gulls in breeding plumage are not that common in Kansas. Any vagrant gull in the Sunflower State is almost certain to be in immature or winter plumage.

Luckily for us gull neophytes, Kansas has three fairly common gulls that serve as excellent points of reference. These three are Franklin's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls. Study these birds at every opportunity and become familiar with their different plumages. When you get to the point where you can identify these three at a glance, you will be far more likely to recognize the less common species.

Franklin's Gull is a small two year gull that migrates through Kansas in great numbers in the spring and fall. In breeding plumage, it has a black hood, a broken white eye ring, and a pinkish cast to the white underparts. Familiarity with this species will make it much easier to recognize the occasional Laughing Gull.

Other small gulls in Kansas include Bonaparte's, Common Black-headed, Little, Sabine's, and the Black-legged Kittiwake. All of these have distinctive patterns on the wings and tail.

The Ring-billed Gull, a three year gull, is the most common large gull in Kansas. In breeding plumage, the Ring-billed Gull displays a white head and underparts, gray mantle, and a black band around the bill. Since it is so common, birders should carefully study this bird to become familiar with the various plumages.

Any gull noticeably larger than a Ring-billed Gull is likely to be a Herring Gull. A four year gull, the adult Herring Gull shows a white head and underparts, gray mantle, and a red spot on the lower mandible. While not nearly as common as the other two "reference species," the Herring Gull is important to know because it is extremely similar to several other species. Thayer's and California Gulls are rare visitors to Kansas, and can be very difficult to distinguish from the Herring Gull. Glaucous Gull is slightly larger and is usually much lighter in color than the Herring Gull. The Greater Black-backed Gull is considerably larger.

Early winter is the best time to study the gulls, as most are in fresh plumage. Learn as much as you can about the three most common species, giving them a good look whenever they are encountered. Don't assume that it is just another flock of Ring-bills.

Study the immature plumages for each species. The popular field guides show most of the variations. For a more detailed reference, many birders recommend "Seabirds: An Identification Guide," by Peter Harrison. Pay special attention to birds in flight, as wing and tail patterns are very important for making identifications.

If you do find a bird you don't recognize write down or sketch as many details as you can - THEN consult your field guide. Notice not only details of plumage, but also eye color, the size, shape, and color of the bill, the color of the feet and legs, and any distinctive flight style and habits.

Gulls can be a great challenge to the beginning (or advanced) birder. But the careful study needed to identify the gulls will help to build your birding skills and is well worth the effort.

AOU Checklist Changes

by Max Thompson

The American Ornithologists' Union checklist committee has voted some changes in the AOU checklist that affect us in Kansas. Some of the changes are as follows:

- American Swallow-tailed Kite becomes Swallow-tailed Kite
- Common Black-headed Gull becomes Black-headed Gull
- Gilded Flicker, *Colaptes chrysoides* is separated from Northern Flicker.
- Scrub Jay is split into three: Florida Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Island Scrub-Jay, *A. insularis*, and Western Scrub-Jay, *A. californica*.
- Gray-breasted Jay, becomes Mexican Jay
- Bicknell's Thrush, *Catharus bicknelli* is split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush, *C. minimus*.
- Rufous-sided Towhee is split into Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*, and Eastern Towhee, *P. erythrophthalmus*.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow is split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *A. nelsoni*.
- Northern Oriole becomes Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, Bullock's Oriole, *I. bullockii*, and Black-backed Oriole, *I. abeillei*.

Just remember though that these changes aren't "official" until they are published by the AOU!

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Following are the abstracts of the papers presented at the Annual Meeting in Salina October 7, 1995. There were a total of 11 papers presented. We deeply regret that the group coming from The University of Kansas were unable to make the meeting due to vehicle breakdown. Their four papers were sorely missed and we hope that we will see them in 1996! If you find an abstract that interests you I encourage you to get in touch with the author(s). Usually the first author mentioned (if more than one) was the presenter of the paper. If you have problems contacting an author let me know and I will assist you.

ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL EFFORT IN THE BROWN THRASHER: EFFECTS OF PREDATION RISK AND FOOD AVAILABILITY

*Authors: John F. Cavitt & John L. Zimmerman
Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

Many studies suggest that the two most important factors limiting the reproductive success of birds are nest predation and food supply. It has recently been suggested that these factors may interact to limit nesting success through a conflict between time parents allocate to foraging for nestlings and time needed to guard the nest from predators. We are testing this hypothesis in a population of Brown Thrashers by simultaneously increasing food supply and reducing predator numbers in a 2x2 factorial treatment structure. Parents receiving food supplements had a higher probability of success than controls. This may result from a reduction in foraging trips to the nest and increased time spent guarding the nest when food supply is increased.

NESTLING PEREGRINE FALCONS IN TOPEKA, KANSAS

*Author: Jerry Horak
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Emporia, KS*

A pair of marked Peregrine Falcons that were released in Des Moines, Iowa and Kansas City met in Topeka, Kansas in 1993. In 1994 the female laid 3 eggs on a window ledge of a 14 story abandoned bank building in downtown Topeka. The eggs rolled off the ledge and were destroyed. In 1994 a nest box was placed on the window ledge. The pair hatched 3 young with 1 surviving. In 1995 the nest was relocated to the KPL building two blocks away with an already established nest structure. The pair hatched 4 young and 3 fledged.

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN KANSAS

*Author: Max Thompson
Southwestern College, Winfield, KS*

The Anna's Hummingbird has been recorded in Kansas five times in the last five years. Three of these records are from

Cowley County in the fall of 1994 and the winter of 1995. The recent invasion of this species in the central United States is looked at.

PERCHING BEHAVIOR OF RED-TAILED HAWKS AND AMERICAN KESTRELS ALONG A HIGHWAY: SEASONAL CHANGES

*Author: Bill Langley
Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS*

Two frequently observed raptors along highways are Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The purpose of this study was to determine the cause for the increased number of these hawks observed in winter and describe the perching behavior of these two species. A 32.3 km stretch of two lane highway was observed for two years. The location, time, and perch characteristics, habitat, direction faced and weather were recorded for each bird. Active nests in the area were surveyed to estimate the population size of resident birds. Observations were made on 522 trips totaling 17,017 km and the behavior of 1711 Red-tails and 494 Kestrels were recorded. A change in perching behavior emerges as the major cause for the increased number of birds seen along the highway in winter. Each species differed in kind of habitat or perch it preferred and the extent to which the proximity of a nest or house and the weather affected its perching behavior. These differences presumably reduced potential competition for prey.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WINTERING SWAMP SPARROWS IN NORTHEASTERN KANSAS

*Authors: Dawn Gardner & Calvin L. Cink
Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS.*

We captured, banded, and measured 6 body variables on 250 Swamp Sparrows over 2 winters (1993-1994 and 1994-1995) in a shrubby habitat in the Baker Wetlands near Lawrence, KS. About 72% of the early winter samples were young of the year. Most sparrows showed a 24% decrease in body weight from October to December and a smaller 10% decrease from January to May. There is a similar pattern seen in body fat scores for early winter but not late winter. Temperature variation, snow cover, available seed crop and molt may all have a role in determining body condition of these wintering sparrows.

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER IN KANSAS

*Author: Gene Young
Museum of Natural History, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS*

Eleven specimens of the Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) were examined to determine subspecific identification. Specimens came from Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County (6), Slate Creek Wetlands, Sumner County (4), and Douglas County (1). Specimen dates range from 13 May - 31 May and 24 July - 9 October, while

site records exist from 21 April - 10 October throughout the state. Plumage characteristics (amount of spotting, ventral color, and amount of white on ventral surface) and morphological characteristics (tarsal length, wing length, bill length) were measured and compared with the literature and specimens from Alaska and the northeastern United States. Most specimens appear to be the inland race *L. griseus hendersoni* and at least one specimen most closely resembles the western race *L. griseus caurinus*.

JOHN W. VAN VLIET, MANHATTAN, KANSAS. FIELD NOTES ON OOLOGY FOR THE YEAR 1917

*Author: Tom Shane
1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS*

John W. Van Vliet attended school in and was a resident of Manhattan, Kansas. He also attended Kansas State College (now Kansas State University), where he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1922. John is known to have collected bird eggs from 1915 through 1917. His 1917 notes are still intact, and interesting portions, such as finding a fish in a Barred Owl nest, are extracted. John usually did his field work west of Manhattan with Wild Cat Creek being mentioned most often. Twenty-seven nests of 14 species (with one species being unidentified) were located between February 25 and May 5, 1917. I would hypothesize that the egg collectors of yesterday were the forerunners of the listers of today.

AVIAN USE OF DIFFERENT-AGED STANDS OF RESTORED RIPARIAN WOODLANDS

*Author: Greg Farley
Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS*

Salt cedar, or tamarisk, is a non-native tree which has become established in riparian areas of the western U. S., including Kansas, following human modification of the landscape. Of particular importance to ornithologists is the observation that avian communities in single species tracts of salt cedar are usually less diverse than those observed in nearby woodlands composed of mixed, native vegetation. In an effort to counteract the continued expansion of this plant in the Rio Grande basin of New Mexico, several federal agencies initiated a small scale restoration project. To assess the effectiveness of this program I censused avian communities in restored stands of different age, and compared the results to data collected simultaneously in a mature stand of native trees. The census data suggest that the restoration efforts are successful in reproducing habitat appropriate for a variety of bird species. As the restored habitat matures, avian species composition more closely resembles the assemblage observed in the existing native habitat.

CHANGES IN BREEDING BIRD POPULATION DENSITIES WITH REHYDRATION OF A WETLAND TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

*Author: Calvin L. Cink
Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS*

Breeding birds were censused from 1991 - 1995 on a 49 hectare (ha) floodplain tallgrass prairie in the Baker Wetlands in Douglas County, KS. Elevated roads and water control structures were added to the area following the 1991 season to retain water longer after annual spring flooding and snow melt. As water was retained for longer periods, several species of birds including Dickcissel, Sedge Wren, and Red-winged Blackbird showed significant population declines. Total territories for all species decreased from 236 per 49 ha to 97 per 49 ha. Unfavorable conditions for ground nesters and vegetation changes for several other species may be the main causes of these declines.

ELECTRONIC BIRDING RESOURCES

*Author: Chuck Otte
Geary County Extension Office, PO Box 28 Junction City, KS 66441*

Rapid increases in the availability of computers and access to the Internet have made interesting new resources accessible to birders. Examples include transcriptions of Bird Hot Lines, Discussion Groups, and access to Birding Checklists.

FOUR DOWN AND ONE? TO GO: THE KANSAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Authors: John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, & Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS.

With about two-thirds of the 756 KBBAT blocks completed, it is time to consider 1) breeding distribution maps of representative species, 2) what must be done to satisfactorily conclude this effort, and 3) how the data will be published.

KBBAT BLOCK BUSTER WEEKEND!

July 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1996

To cover blocks in Wallace, Sherman and Cheyenne counties.

For more information contact Sara or Tom Shane at 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

Historically Speaking.....

I receive correspondence from KOS members from time to time on a variety of subjects. One of the things that I enjoy (and one of the reasons I enjoy some of the books that I do) is the historical perspective of birds and birding. The following comments come to us from Harriet Wilson of Lawrence.

THEN AND NOW

by Harriet Wilson

As a non-scientist, but an enthusiastic reader of works by and about naturalists in nineteenth century North America, I have often been disagreeably affected by what I perceived as their "shoot at everything that moves" philosophy. I do realize though that they had to eat and as scientists were interested in exact measurements, stomach contents and other data.

However, this is not meant to be a criticism of their methods, merely reactions to what I have read. Apparently ornithologists and sportsmen of those times saw such an abundance of wildlife that they never conceived of its ever becoming endangered or extinct.

In this connection Robert Elman, in *America's Pioneering Naturalists* (Tulsa, 1982), tells of a camping trip in the Adirondacks in which Louis Agassiz was accompanied by Emerson, Lowell, Holmes and other scholars. "Agassiz was one of the very few naturalists who did not become hunters in order to gather their own specimens, and it is possible that he did not even carry a gun on this expedition."

Of course not all nature writers were eager to bring down every bird they saw. Ernest E. Thompson, better known as Ernest Thompson Seton, relates the following incident in *The Birds of Manitoba* (Washington, 1891); "On June 6, 1883, while crossing the prairie.... I flushed a Quail (Bartramia longicauda)* from her nest almost under my feet; she fluttered a few yards forward and lay flat on the prairie, beating her wings on the ground and uttering such heart broken cries that I could not but leave her in peace. The nest contained three eggs."

*Robert Elman says that the Upland Plover (Sandpiper) was named by Alexander Wilson for his friend, William Bartram. Upland Sandpipers are common summer residents of the Flint Hills and eastern Kansas.

Dr. John Zimmerman shocked all the ardent listers and won both listing contests held at the KOS banquet October 7, 1995. John has observed 49 of 58 warblers and 45 of 57 sparrows in North America north of Mexico. He won two bird carvings presented by KOS President Mike Rader. (*Photo by Sara Shane*) (*We regret that the photo is not available in the electronic version of this newsletter.*)

SUMMER ROUNDUP /July 1995 - September 1995/ by Chuck Otte

While we all complain about the doldrums of summer birding, there were (and usually are) good birds to be seen for those who go out and fight the heat, mosquitoes and Kansas wind during the late summer.

Tri-colored Herons were seen at both Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira by several birders (including the editor and his wife). Glossy Ibis' appeared at both Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira to the delight of numerous birders. And once again Mottled Ducks were seen irregularly at Quivira.

Raptors that were once thought to be quite uncommon Kansas summer residents again appeared more regularly than anticipated as birders worked hard on KBBAT blocks. Cooper's Hawks were found in apparent breeding season in Norton and Chautauqua counties. Other raptors made their fall appearances sooner than usual with a Northern Goshawk in Russell County, a Rough-legged Hawk in Dickinson County and Prairie Falcons in Stafford and Barton Counties.

Sandhill Cranes were reported from a couple of locations in what we would expect to be out of season periods with one apparently spending the summer in Pratt County and another seen in mid-August in Saline County. Red Knots were seen, or rather a Red Knot was seen by several observers at Quivira during August and early September.

Always a good find in Kansas, a Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted at Quivira in early September and a Sabine's Gull was spending some quality time at Clinton Reservoir in late

September. The uncommon Common Tern showed up at several large reservoirs in September including Perry, Clinton and Kanopolis. A calling Whip-poor-will was totally unexpected in early September in Pawnee County.

Hummingbirds continued to be charted in new areas with Broad-taileds and Rufous hummers showing up in several locations around the state. A possible Black-chinned female was reported from Stafford County and a possible Calliope female was phoned in from Finney County.

Several September reports have indicated that it could be an interesting winter. Violet-green Swallows from Stafford and Barton counties. A nice flock of Pinyon Jays was appreciated in flight by several birders at Morton County's Point of Rocks and a Curve-billed Thrasher and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were also good Morton County finds. Red-breasted Nuthatches exploded across Kansas in early September as well as most of the central and eastern US reaching the Texas Gulf coast by month's end. A new again species for Kansas, Bullock's Oriole - soon to be split out from the Northern Oriole complex - was sighted at Quivira also in early September.

So if you brave the Kansas weather you may be very well rewarded! Get out there and enjoy your Christmas Counts. 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.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / July 1995 through September 1995

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
Least Bittern	5 at QNWR including 1 juv	PJ,JN	8-05-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	2 at CB east of headquarters	SP,CH,SA	8-05-95	Barton
Tricolored Heron	1 s of CB inlet canal	JO,CO	9-03-95	Barton
Tricolored Heron	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DK, m. ob.	8-04-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	2 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Stafford
	1 still present	SP,AS,JOB	9-03-95	Stafford
Tricolored Heron	1 imm Lake McKinney	SP,CH,SA	9-16-95	Kearny
Glossy Ibis	1 at QNWR	CH	8-06-95	Stafford
Glossy Ibis	2 nw of CB	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Barton

This pair of Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage were reported from the Hoisington Gun Club area nw of Cheyenne Bottoms. They were among a large group of White-faced Ibis. If this record is accepted by the Birds Record Committee it would only be the second (or third?) record for Kansas.

Glossy Ibis	1 on w side CB Pool #4	JR	9-13-95	Barton
Mottled Duck	pair at QNWR	MR	9-08-95	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	2 pair at QNWR	JR	7-01-95	Stafford
Lesser Scaup	QNWR	BT	7-04-95	Stafford
Hooded Merganser	22 imm at MDC	MM	7-01-95	Linn
Osprey	8 at Clark State Lake	PJ, et. al.	9-14-95	Clark
Cooper's Hawk	female on nest e of Lenora	SS	7-01-95	Norton
Cooper's Hawk	in KBBAT block	LM	early July	Chautauqua

Northern Goshawk	1 early at Wilson Lake	MR	9-15-95	Russell
Broad-winged Hawk	1 in Logan County	SS	9-25-95	Logan
Ferruginous Hawk	1 at QNWR	SP	9-02-95	Stafford
Rough-legged Hawk	early migrant near Milford L	CO	9-16-95	Dickinson
Golden Eagle	2 in western Clark County	PJ,BD,BG	9-14-95	Clark
Merlin	2 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	DV,WA	9-15-95	Morton
Merlin	1 in Logan County	SS	9-23-95	Logan
Peregrine Falcon	1 imm	SS,TC	8-01-95	Morton
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Prairie Falcon	1 early at QNWR	JN	8-19-95	Stafford
Prairie Falcon	1 early nw of Great Bend	SS	9-03-95	Barton
King Rail	2 at QNWR	JR	7-18-95	Stafford
Common Moorhen	adult with young, QNWR	JR	8-16-95	Stafford
Common Moorhen	16 at QNWR	JN	9-17-95	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	1 "out of season"?	BT	8-13-95	Saline
Sandhill Crane	1 at Texas Lake near Cullison	DD	all summer	Pratt
Don Dick reported this bird (Brunson - per. comm.) as being present all summer. He doesn't think the bird is injured as he saw it flying. This may be the third year this bird or a Sandhill Crane has been present through the summer.				
Snowy Plover	300+ at QNWR	MR	8-14-95	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at MDC Unit A	MM	7-15-95	Linn
Piping Plover	1 at Otoe Park, Wilson Res	MR	8-16-95	Russell
Piping Plover	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	JR	8-07-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	MR	8-14-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-18-95	Stafford
Red Knot	1 at QNWR	JR	9-01-95	Stafford
Western Sandpiper	18 at QNWR	JR	7-18-95	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	5 in nw Reno County	DK	8-04-95	Reno
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2 in MDC Unit A	BF	7-30-95	Linn
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MR	8-19-95	Stafford
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3 at QNWR	JR	9-01-95	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at MDC	MM,GP,SA	7-16-95	Linn
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at QNWR	SP,MM,CH,MRo	8-19-95	Stafford
Red-necked Phalarope	15 at QNWR	SP,AS,JOB	9-03-95	Stafford
Laughing Gull	1, w side of Tuttle Creek	TC	7-09-95	Riley
Laughing Gull	1 at Perry Lake	LM,MM	9-08-95	Jefferson
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 at QNWR	JBa	9-04-95	Stafford
Sabine's Gull	1 imm at Clinton Reservoir	LM,MM,SP,SA	9-23-95	Douglas
	still present		10-01-95	
Common Tern	1 at Lassiter Marsh	LM	9-03-95	Jefferson
Common Tern	1 at Perry Lake	LM	9-20-95	Jefferson
Common Tern	1 at Clinton Res	LM,MM,SP,SA	9-23-95	Douglas
Common Tern	2 at Kanopolis	SS	9-30-95	Ellsworth
Whip-poor-will	1 calling nw of Larned	DR, AR	9-03-95	Pawnee
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 probable female, St. John	JR	9-24-95	Stafford
Calliope Hummingbird	1 female at feeder (possible)	Ssh,TSh	8-10-95	Finney
This small female with wings longer than its tail was seen just briefly by the Shanes at their feeder in Garden City.				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at Garden City feeder	Ssh,TSh	8-09-95	Finney
	present the 10th and 12th as well			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at Burdett feeder	JM	8-21-95	Pawnee
	present through		8-31-95	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 at n Wichita feeder	NKC	8-29-95	Sedgwick
	still present		9-01-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at feeder, good pictures	CS	8-12-95	Harvey
	present through		8-17-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at feeder in St. John	JR	8-22-95	Stafford
	through		8-30-95	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at Haysville feeder	PJ	8-23-95	Sedgwick

Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at Middle Springs another seen at Wilburton Crossing	PJ,RD,BG	9-15-95 9-17-95	Morton Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Wichita's Oak Park	PJ	9-01-95	Sedgwick
Violet-green Swallow	2 at QNWR, Wildlife Drive	SP	9-02-95	Stafford
Violet-green Swallow	1 imm at CB	JN, m.ob.	9-03-95	Barton
Barn Swallow	1 pure albino nw of Larned present to	SS	8-18-95 8-27-95	Pawnee
Pinyon Jay	35 flying w past Pt of Rocks	SP,CH,SA,BP	9-16-95	Morton
Fish Crow	1 at Schermerhorn Park	PJ	7-02-95	Cherokee
Chihuahuan Raven	7 just w of Hugoton	PJ	9-15-95	Stevens
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3 near Perry Lake	LM,MM	9-03-95	Jefferson
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4 at Wichita's MGC	PJ	9-09-95	Sedgwick
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 nw of Junction City	CO	9-09-95	Geary
Carolina Wren	family group (?) of 5 in Burdett present to	JM	8-24-95 8-26-95	Pawnee
Winter Wren	1 at Highland Cemetery	CO	9-21-95	Geary
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 on n edge of Elkhart	WA	9-17-95	Morton
Cedar Waxwing	<u>1 fledgling</u> in Leoti	SS	9-23-95	Wichita
Loggerhead Shrike	melanistic juv with normal adult	SS	7-24-95	Pawnee
Nashville Warbler	1 early migrant at Scott Lake	GF	8-20-95	Scott
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Wichita's MGC	CG	9-12-95	Sedgwick
Townsend's Warbler	1 female at Wichita's MGC	PJ	9-13-95	Sedgwick
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	LM,MM	9-01-95	Wyandotte
Pine Warbler	1 at MDC	LM,MM,GP,SA	9-09-95	Linn
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Bonner Springs	CH	9-02-95	Wyandotte
Canada Warbler	1 nw of Junction City	CO	9-02-95	Geary
Canada Warbler	at MDC wa	MM	9-03-95	Linn
Connecticut Warbler	1 at Wichita's CCP	JN	9-15-95	Sedgwick
Western Tanager	1 female at Work Station	SP,PW,GP	9-04-95	Morton
Western Tanager	w part of Elkhart	WA	9-15-95	Morton
Western Tanager	in Lakin	SP,CH,SA	9-16-95	Kearny
Black-throated Sparrow	near Hanston	SS,SSh,TSh	7-22-95	Hodgeman
Henslow's Sparrow	singing at RML	MM,GP,SA	7-16-95	Linn
Bullock's Oriole	1 male at QNWR	JN	9-03-95	Stafford

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

CCP = Chisholm Creek Park

e = east

imm = immature

juv = juvenile

KBBAT = Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

L = Lake

m. ob.

MGC = Maple Grove Cemetery

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

RML = Reclaimed Mine Land s of LaCygne Lake

w = west

wa = Wildlife Area

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Steve Addinal (SA), James Barnes (Jba), Ted Cable (TC), Nick & Kathy Claussen (NKC), Robert Dester (RD), Don Dick (DD), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Chet Gresham (CG), Bob Gress (BG), Chris Hobbs (CH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan Kilby (DK), Mick McHugh (MM), Johnnie Millington (JM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), John O'Brien (JOB), Sebastian Patti (SP), Brandon Percival (BP), Galen Pittman (GP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Mark Robbins (MRo), David Rose (DR), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), Andy Sigler (AS), Bill Treloc (BT), Phil Wedge (PW), Wichita Audubon (WA)

KOS member and *Horned Lark* columnist John Rakestraw recently had an excellent article published in *Birding* magazine. The Kansas Bird Records Committee felt that it was so well done that it needed to be repeated for all KOS members. Following is that article reprinted with permission of the American Birding Association, the author and *Birding* magazine from Volume XXVIII: Number 1, February 1996.

KEEPING FIELD NOTES

JOHN RAKESTRAW

Every birder knows the frustration of observing a rare bird or an unusual behavior while birding alone. A phone call to report the finding might sound something like this:

"I've found a White-tailed Kite at Cheyenne Bottoms!"
"Did you get a picture of it?"
"No."
"OK, thanks." (click)

Rare birds often seem to be attracted to novice birders or to those who bird alone. Whether you want to document rarities or merely record your birding experiences, the most practical method for most birders is to take field notes and photographs.

Notes and sketches made in the field greatly increase the chances of identifying an unknown species by forcing the observer to study the bird carefully instead of wasting precious time flipping through a field guide. If you thoroughly record your observations, you can then compare your notes to field guides and other references.

The concept of keeping field notes is certainly not new. Early naturalists, before the day's of telephoto lenses and video cameras, relied exclusively on their field notes (and collected specimens) to record their findings. Some of these journals are works of art in themselves, containing detailed drawings and paintings along with poetic narratives. Although most birders will feel that this level of artistry is beyond them, a great deal of information can be recorded with a few short sentences and a crude line drawing.

Many people can enjoy watching a bird for an extended period of time but then have difficulty describing the bird to others. The first step to taking good field notes is deciding what information to record. The level of detail in your notes will vary, depending on your purposes. If you are merely recording a sighting of a familiar species for your own journal, you will not go into as much detail as you would if you were recording an unknown species or documenting a rarity. Listed below are several things to look for when making field notes. Many of these suggestions are covered in greater detail in "How to Document Rare Birds" by Donna Dittmann and Greg Lasley in the June 1992 *Birding*.

Start with your first impression of the bird. Terms such as "chunky" or "slender" can help to quickly narrow down the list of possible species.

A bird's size can be a very important key to making an identification, but do not try to estimate a bird's length. Most estimates are amazingly inaccurate and are therefore of little value. Instead, compare the size of the bird to something nearby such as another bird or an object that can later be measured. Describing a bird as "the same size as nearby goldfinches" or "notably larger than adjacent Killdeer" provides a concrete size reference.

Make note of the bird's proportions. Does the head appear large or small? Is the tail half the total length of the bird or is it short? How far back do the wing tips extend? Note any prominent feathers such as crests, tail streamers, or ornamental breeding plumage.

After you have described the size and shape of a bird, you are ready to concentrate on colors and markings. Start with the head and move on to the back, wings, rump, and tail. Then return to the front of the bird, describing the chin, throat, breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts, and the underside of the tail. By adopting this routine, you will be less likely to omit important field marks. Look for wing-bars, eye-ring or eye-line, stripes, spots, barring, or any other distinguishing marks.

Some birds can be identified by their bills alone. If you can get a close view of the bird, notice the colors of the bill, as well as its general shape and depth. Careful observation of the bill is important when studying shorebirds. Is the bill straight, decurved, upturned, or straight with a droop at the tip? Is the length of the bill more or less than half the total length of the head?

The color of the legs and feet can vary considerably among individual birds. But combined with other field marks, however, leg color can be a valuable aid to the identification of some species.

Briefly describe what the bird is doing. Does it glean insects from foliage or does it catch its prey from the air? Does it have an unusual flight style or any "quirks," like teetering, tail wagging, or wing flicking?

Document any vocalizations that you hear. Describe these sounds in your own words, not in the words of your field guide.

Lastly, what type of habitat is the bird using? Although many migrants and vagrants will utilize whatever is available, a bird's choice of habitat can provide clues to its identity.

- - *Keeping Field Notes, continued*

Unless you can get very close to a very cooperative bird, you will probably not be able to see all the details noted above. But this list will give you an idea of what to look for and what type of information to record. How you record this information will depend on your personal preferences and artistic ability.

If you are more comfortable using words instead of pictures, you may choose to describe your observations with a straight narrative. A written account can provide a wealth of detail but sometimes takes a considerable amount of time to prepare. The best way to make detailed notes in the field is to carry a small tape recorder. A micro-cassette recorder in your shirt pocket can record your observations while you are actually looking at the bird. Your notes can then be transcribed and edited at home.

A simple sketch can quickly record a lot of detail. Proportion, prominent field marks, and bill shape can all be accurately portrayed with a primitive drawing. If you find the idea of drawing a bird to be intimidating, practice sketching the birds at your feeders or in your neighborhood. Don't try for perfection and don't take time to erase. Just jot down the important concepts. Make short notes around your drawing to clarify

details and to mention any interesting behavior. A small sketchbook, about the size of a field guide, can easily be carried with you in the field.

With a little practice, you may find your sketches becoming more and more life-like. As your artistic skills improve, you may want to keep a birding journal complete with colored illustrations. Colored pencils and watercolors are easy to work with and make very pleasing renditions. Colored pencils and watercolor pencils can be taken into the field, but you may find yourself spending more time drawing than you spend birding. It is usually more practical to take notes and make simple sketches in the field, then use these to create more formal journal entries at home.

Getting into the habit of taking field notes can benefit a birder in several ways. Unless you are carrying a camera, field notes and sketches are the best way to document rare birds. The accumulated notes of casual birders provide scientists with valuable information on bird distribution, populations, and behavior. And finally, keeping notes or a journal is an excellent way to relive your own birding experiences. Reviewing your notes from a warbler-filled morning in May is a great way to liven up a dreary February afternoon.

KOS Banquet speaker Maure Weigel, October 7, 1995 Salina, Kansas. *Photo by Tom Shane*
(We regret that the photo can not be reproduced in this electronic version of this newsletter issue.)

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1995

*Peters Science Hall
Kansas Wesleyan University
Salina, Kansas
October 7-8, 1995*

The forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 7-8, 1995 at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas. Shannon Rayl was chair of the local arrangements committee.

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Morning Session

Roy Beckemeyer, Vice-President of KOS, opened the meeting at 8:55 am and welcomed all those in attendance. He thanked Kansas Wesleyan University for hosting the meeting. He announced that the van from Kansas University had broken down and the group from KU would not be able to attend nor present their papers. He made additional announcements about local arrangements. Roy chaired the morning paper session. The papers were presented as listed on the program (see attachment A) except that papers #2 and #7 were canceled and papers #8 and #9 were postponed to the afternoon session.

The morning business meeting was called to order by Mike Rader at 10:50 am.

MINUTES: Max Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting as printed in the Newsletter. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE KOS BYLAWS: The following amendments to the KOS Bylaws, which will make the Editors elective officers and members of the Board of Directors, were proposed by the Board:

1. Article IV, Section 1A. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of elected officers.
2. Article V, section 1A. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" to the list of officers.
3. Article V, Section 2C. Add "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the 'Newsletter'" to the list of officers who may succeed themselves as elected.
4. Article V, Section 3A. Delete "Editor of the Bulletin" and "Editor of the Newsletter" from the list of appointed positions.
5. Article, Section 3B. Delete reference to the "two editors" and amend to read:
"The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board for a one year term which shall begin with the annual spring field trip. The Librarian may be reappointed at the discretion of the president and the Board."
6. Article VI, Section 2E. Delete reference to the Editors and amend to read:
"Appoint the Librarian subject to approval by the Board."
7. Article VI, Section 8. Add part D to read:
"D. Be members of the Board of Directors."

A motion was made to approve these amendments. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gregg Friesen reported that KOS had total assets of approximately \$37,000 with about \$34,000 of this amount in restricted funds. We will have sufficient income to cover our expenses this year.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Wedge reported that there were 404 members of KOS for 1995 (see attachment B). This is a decline in membership from 430 members at this time in 1994. Six libraries and 38 members failed to renew this year.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Chuck Otte asked that scheduled dates of Christmas Bird Counts be reported to him by November 10 for printing in the Newsletter.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Dawn Sharp reported some difficulties with the present printer of the Newsletter so she may be changing printers. Postage rates have made a slight increase, with more substantial increases in international rates.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: Max Thompson asked members to submit manuscripts for the Bulletin and reported that he had none for the December Bulletin. He reported that the price for printing had remained rather stable. He is changing the paper used in the Bulletin because the paper we had been using is no longer being made.

Max said that questions had been raised about including the Christmas Bird Counts in the Newsletter rather than the Bulletin. However he noted that of the 47 Kansas counts printed in the Bulletin only 23 were printed in the National Audubon Society Field Notes. Since the KOS Newsletter is not usually kept and bound by libraries, data from the other 24 counts would be unavailable for future reference if they were not printed in the Bulletin.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICERS' REPORTS: Chuck Otte moved to accept the Officers' Reports. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Bill Busby, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the following slate of nominations for KOS officers:

President: Mike Rader
Vice-President: Roy Beckemeyer
Corresponding Secretary: Dwight Platt
Membership Secretary: Margaret Wedge
Treasurer: Gregg Friesen
Business Manager: Dawn Sharp
Bulletin Editor: Max Thompson
Newsletter Editor: Chuck Otte
Board Members: John Schukman, Bill Busby

The terms of Board Members Shannon Rayl and Bob Gress do not expire.

After announcements about local arrangements, a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Afternoon Session.

Roy Beckemeyer opened the afternoon session at 1:35 p.m.. He announced that students presenting papers at the meeting will receive a free membership in KOS. He chaired the afternoon paper session. The first two papers were those by Gene Young and Tom Shane which had been postponed from the morning session, The rest of the papers were presented as listed in the program (see attachment A) except that the papers by Lisa G. Ball and by Richard O. Prum were canceled.

Mike Rader opened the afternoon business meeting at 4:20 p.m.,

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Mike Rader opened the meeting to nominations from the floor for officers and Board members. A motion was made to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT: Bill Busby reported that Partners in Flight is a loose association of people, agencies and organizations interested in protection of Neotropical migrants and land birds in general. They want state groups to set conservation priorities and a Kansas group will be organized for this purpose. Bill will keep KOS posted on developments.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUNDING INITIATIVE: Ken Brunson reported that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is organizing a campaign to get a fund for wildlife diversity conservation. They are proposing a tax of up to 5% at the wholesale level on certain equipment and supplies used in nongame wildlife recreation. He encouraged KOS members to support this initiative and to write to certain companies to encourage their support.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting and Field Trip will be in Morton County on the weekend of May 3-5. The Annual Fall Meeting in 1996 will be in Newton.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Mike Rader reported that the Board had approved plans by Tom Shane to activate this program, Tom will be putting it into motion.

KOS "FINANCIALLY-FIT AT FIFTY" CAMPAIGN: Max Thompson reported that the Board had approved this campaign by the Finance Committee to increase the KOS Endowment Fund. The goal of the campaign will be to increase the endowment fund by \$5,000 per year for the next three years so that the endowment fund would be \$15,000 larger by 1998. The Finance Committee determined that this amount should cover our forecasted cost increases on a sustaining basis. Members will be contacted for their donations,

Mike Rader thanked the local group for its excellent arrangements and thanked all those who presented papers at the meeting. A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m..

Saturday, October 7, 1995, Evening Banquet.

The Annual Banquet was served at the Salina Country Club with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. and the meal at 7 p.m.. After a delicious meal, Tom Shane, master of ceremonies, opened the meeting at 8 p.m.. Tom supervised the drawings for door prizes which were enjoyed by all. He thanked the people at Salina for hosting the meeting and introduced the KOS officers.

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: The top 10 birds of the year were presented:

1. Great Kiskadee (state record)
2. Tie Arctic Tern (state record)
Wilson's Plover (state record)
3. Anna's Hummingbird (second state record)
4. Glossy Ibis (second state record)
5. Pyrrhuloxia
6. Black-headed Gull
7. White-winged Dove
8. Harris Hawk
9. Black-throated Sparrow
10. Eurasian Wigeon

SILENT AUCTION RESULTS: Tom Shane announced that the proceeds from the Silent Auction amounted to \$604 (\$175 for the student Research Fund),

RESOLUTIONS: Resolutions were read expressing thanks to the speakers at the meeting, determination to complete the KBBAT blocks in 1996, thanks to retiring Board Members and gratitude to the local committee. The resolutions were accepted by acclamation.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Six persons have completed life memberships and pins were presented to those in attendance:

1. Bill Busby
2. Ted Cable
3. Barbara Campbell
4. Effie Edwards
5. John McBride Jr.
6. C. J. Ochs

Mike Rader expressed his thanks to KOS for the honor of being able to serve as president and his thanks to Shannon Rayl and the local committee for their excellent planning and preparations. He introduced Maure Weigel, founder of the Prairie Raptor Project, who gave a very interesting address illustrated with slides.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 1995, Morning Field Trips.

Field Trips were held on Sunday morning in the vicinity of Salina.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

- Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary

The KOS will hold it's annual fall meeting October 4, 5, and 6, 1996 in Harvey County, Kansas on the campuses of Hesston and Bethel College. Mark these dates on your calendars and be sure to attend. Look for registration information in June and September Horned Larks. .

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1995

October 7, 1995

Kansas Wesleyan University

Salina, Kansas

Members present: Shannon Rayl, Sara Shane, Gene Young, Roy Beckemeyer, Mike Rader, Gregg Friesen, Bob Gress, Margaret Wedge, Dwight Platt. non-voting: Chuck Otte, Max Thompson, John Zimmerman.

Mike Rader opened the luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors. The agenda for the meeting had been distributed (see attachment A).

ENDOWMENT FUND: Max Thompson reported for the Finance Committee on the "Financially-Fit at Fifty" Campaign (see attachment B). The Finance Committee is proposing a campaign for gifts to increase the Endowment Fund by \$5,000 per year for the next three years. We are now able to cover our expenses with our income but the income from this increased endowment will be sufficient to offset cost increases, Gene Young moved to authorize the Finance Committee to proceed with the "Financially-Fit at Fifty" Campaign. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

KOS BUDGET FOR 1996: Gregg Friesen presented a proposed budget for 1996 (see attachment C). Total budgeted expenses are \$4,865. projected income is approximately \$5,000. It was decided to use this budget as a guideline. It may be adjusted at the Winter Board Meeting.

SPRING 1997 MEETING: John Zimmerman thanked the Board for being willing to help host the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting at Kansas State University April 17-20, 1997. Typically 150 people attend these meetings. KOS members should be encouraged to participate in the paper sessions. The president of KOS will be involved in the opening exercises and volunteers from KOS will be asked to help lead field trips. The Board asked John to reserve some space for a KOS Spring Meeting during this time.

FUTURE MEETING SITES: The following future meeting sites were agreed to:

May 3-5, 1996 - Morton County

Fall 1996 (probably October 4-6) - Newton

April 17-20, 1997 - Manhattan

October 3-5, 1997 - Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

Spring 1998 - Barber County

October 2-4, 1998 - Lawrence (50th anniversary)

Spring 1999 - Winfield

Fall 1999 - Hays

NEW STATE CHECKLISTS: We are down to the last 350 checklists. Max reported that he had obtained a list of the changes that will be in the new AOU Checklist so we can go ahead and print a new Kansas checklist. There was discussion of trying to obtain some outside funding for it.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: It is time to publish a new membership directory. Margaret Wedge can send the computer file to Chuck Otte. It will cost \$80 -90 to get it published. Chuck will request e-mail addresses and permission to publish telephone numbers in the next Newsletter.

ABA REQUEST FOR KOS MEMBERSHIP LIST: Mike Rader reported that the American Birding Association had requested to use the KOS membership list. There was a discussion of policy in supplying our membership list to other organizations. Max Thompson moved that we supply the KOS membership list to the ABA for a one-time use for a charge of \$100. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: We still have two or three thousand membership brochures left but there are errors in the address and in the membership dues. Stickers to correct those errors would be expensive. Mike Rader will contact David Seibel to explore the possibility of a revised printing. Chuck Otte moved that we authorize the printing of an updated membership brochure with a print run of 500. Gregg Friesen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Mike Rader reported that Tom Shane has prepared a proposal to activate the Student Research Fund (see attachment D). It would allow for the generation of a number of memorial funds to be used by students at particular schools or from particular areas. The KOS Fund might be used for students in school that do not have a fund. Roy Beckemeyer

moved that we approve Tom Shane's plan for the Student Research Fund but reserve the KOS Student Research Fund for designation by the Student Research Fund Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

STUDENT AWARDS: There was discussion about giving awards to the best student papers at the Fall Meeting. This practice had been stopped a few years ago. It was suggested that we might give student memberships to all students who present papers. Bob Gress moved that we award student memberships in KOS to students making presentations of papers at the Annual Meeting. Margaret Wedge seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Treasurer will work out a certificate to accompany the award.

AMENDMENTS TO KOS BYLAWS: Dwight Platt summarized some problems in the current Bylaws that may necessitate revisions (see attachment E for memo of May 29, 1995 summarizing these problems). It was decided to take up Bylaws amendments at the Winter Board Meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: Dwight Platt announced that Officers' reports that should be included in the society's records need to be handed to him in written form. These will be included as attachments to the minutes.

MONEY FROM THE SALE OF GENE LEWIS' BOOKS: Gene Lewis has donated some old ornithology books for the Silent Auction and asked that the proceeds from their sale go into the student Research Fund. Gregg Friesen moved that the proceeds from the sale of Gene Lewis' books be put in the student Research Fund. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ABSTRACTS: Chuck Otte questioned whether the abstracts of papers presented at the Annual Meeting should be published in the Bulletin rather than the Newsletter. It was decided that the abstracts should be published in the Newsletter since they are not subject to review.

KNWAC: Chuck Otte reported on the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council. It has not been very active recently. However the new secretary of the Department seems to be moving in the right direction in asking for input and taking steps to minimize conflicts.

The Board Meeting adjourned.

- - *Respectfully submitted., Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary*

KOS Spring Meeting!!!!

May 3, 4 & 5, 1996

Morton County

Mark your calendar today

and look for details in the *March Horned Lark*

(Coming soon..... really!)