



The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1996

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### From The Keyboard -

If it wasn't for time on Breeding Bird Survey routes and KBBAT blocks I don't know if I'd be doing any birding this summer. Of course by the time I get through with Breeding Bird Survey Routes and KBBAT blocks I don't think I have time left for anything else like painting the house!

Seriously though we're on the last leg of this 5 year KBBAT journey. I've visited with several of you who, like myself, have been trying to squeeze in a couple more hours to finish up your blocks. I guess now we'll just have to wait and see if Dr. Zimmerman thinks we need a mop up year to pick up the loose ends. I know I have had a lot of fun and even picked up a life bird or two, the most recent of which was Henslow's Sparrow in a block in Dickinson County. I know I should have had them before, living in the Flint Hills like I do, but you know the old story, "just never in the right place at the right time!"

We have another big challenge ahead of us even before KBBAT is finished. The 1997 Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) is being held in Manhattan, Kansas in late April 1997. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the KOS Spring 1997 meeting. This will be a bit of a change because there will be a fair number of papers sessions in which KOS members will be welcome to participate. You'll be seeing more information on this meeting in the near future and probably hear quite a bit about it at the Fall Meeting in October.

In the meantime though, many of you may be getting calls from those of us on the local committee asking for help. I'll be needing some volunteers to help lead field trips in both the Manhattan / Junction City area as well as trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and/or Quivira. There will be WOS members from all over the country coming to this meeting and we have a great opportunity to really show off our bird watching opportunities. But this will require a little extra effort and assistance from a lot of KOS members. When asked to help please "get

involved" and even volunteer to help before you are asked! We know we have great birding here in Kansas, now we can show that to many others!

As I write this in the early summer "doldrums", visions of migrating shorebirds in July and August dance through my head. I keep hoping that the wet areas created by the early June rains stick around to attract some of those southbound migrants. I also know that October and the Fall Meeting are just around the corner and we'll be getting ready to do the 1996 Christmas Bird Counts before long!

Have a good summer everyone.....

*chuck*

### Who's Who in KOS - 1996

**President**, Mike Rader, PO Box 395 Wilson, KS 67490

**Vice-president**, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry,  
Wichita, KS 67203

**Corresponding Secretary**, Dwight Platt, RR2 Box 209,  
Newton, KS 67114

**Membership Secretary**, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana,  
Lawrence, KS 66044

**Treasurer**, Gregg Friesen, 515 E 4th, Newton, KS 67114

#### **Board Members:**

Shannon Rayl, 1013 Marymount, Salina, KS 67401

Bob Gress, 1409 West 35th N, Wichita, KS 67204

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

**Business Manager**, (acting) Galen Pittman, 12042 258th St.,  
Lawrence, KS 66044

**Editor, *The Bulletin***, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St.,  
Winfield, KS 67156

**Editor, *The Horned Lark***, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk,  
Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Have you renewed your KOS membership yet? If not, then this is the last *Horned Lark* and *Bulletin* that you will receive! In fact, you are getting an extra issue since the editor forgot to run this notice in the March issue. Pay up soon or you will not receive the September issues. Renewals can be sent to KOS Treasurer, Gregg Friesen, see front page for Gregg's address. Dues are \$15 for regular membership, \$20 for regular family, \$25 for sustaining member, \$30 for sustaining family and \$40 or more for contributing member. Student memberships \$5 per year and all foreign memberships are an extra \$5, US currency. Don't miss another exciting issue, renew today. Aren't sure if you have already "expired"? Fish the mailer out of the trash and check your name label, the expiration date should be there! As I was putting together the membership directory I noticed about 65 of you that still had 1995 expiration dates! Let's get this taken care of!!!!

### Don't Miss.....

- \* Early-bird (sorry!) Fall Meeting registration.
- \* Preliminary Call for Papers for Fall Meeting.
- \* Elmer needs your feedback!
- \* The Birds Nest

### Keep in Mind

- \* The Spring KOS meeting will be in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society Annual Meeting in Manhattan, KS in April 1997. We will need many volunteers. Details in the September *Horned Lark* or contact John Zimmerman or Chuck Otte for information now!
- \* Deadline for September *Horned Lark*

**August 15th!**

**KOS Fall Meeting October 4, 5 & 6, 1996**

## KBBAT SPECIAL BLOCKS AT CHEYENNE BOTTOMS

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project (KBBAT) has three special blocks covering portions of Cheyenne Bottoms and is soliciting your observations of breeding birds at the Bottoms (1992 - present). Ed Martinez (316-792-2062) is compiling two of these blocks. Please contact Ed about bird observations. For maps of the blocks and other information, please contact Bill Busby (913-864-7692; email w-busby@ukans.edu). If KBBAT needs another field season in 1997 to mop up standard blocks, we will continue observations in Cheyenne Bottoms blocks next year as well.

*Bill Busby*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have had several new members join our ranks since the last newsletter.

John Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Topeka: Deb Rumsey, Manhattan; Roger Applegate, Emporia; Terrell & Nelda Giddens and family, Elkhart; Doug & Mary Ellen Rudick, Salina; and Mandy Stone, Olathe. We would also like to welcome back Paul Watson of Prairie Village who was out for a year and missed KOS so much he had to come back! A big welcome to all these members and we hope we get to see you at the Fall Meeting!

## NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY

The updated membership directory is out. Check your listing and if it isn't correct or incomplete (missing phone number, you didn't send us your e-mail address or whatever) let Chuck Otte know so that we can get it corrected in our records. Also, if you would like a big print version let me (Chuck) know and I will be happy to oblige.

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## BIRDING AT NIGHT

*John Rakestraw*

Going birding after dark can be an intimidating endeavor. Can I actually see anything or do I just concentrate on bird sounds? Do I need a tape player? A flashlight? Should I drive or walk? And most importantly, why should I go birding at night in the first place? The answers to these questions depend on what type of night time birding experience you want to have.

The most obvious reason for going birding after dark is to find those birds that are most active at night. These include the owls, rails, and nightjars. If you bird long enough, you will eventually see all these species during the day. But even though you may not get as good a look at these birds at night, it is worth it to be able to experience them when they are active.

The simplest form of nocturnal birding is to simply stand in one place and listen. Drive to a "birdy looking" area, turn off the engine and just listen. Many nocturnal birds have very distinctive calls, making identification fairly easy. Diurnal species can also be heard at night. Migrating birds often call out to keep track of each other in the darkness. It is certainly easier to recognize the call of a Whip-poor-will than it is to recognize the little chips and chirps of a migrating songbird. But with practice, even chip notes can become recognizable.

Owls, nightjars, and rails will respond to recordings of their calls, but tapes should be used sparingly. While provoking a bird into calling once or twice should not cause any harm, repeated harassment can cause stress which may adversely affect the bird's feeding or nesting success.

Can you count a bird on your life list if you hear it but don't actually see it? That debate has been raging for years. Many birds that we see, most notably flycatchers, meadowlarks, and some sparrows, are actually identified by sound anyway. Some birders designate birds as "heard only" on their lists. In the end, how you list your birds is your own decision.

It is possible to actually see birds at night. Once your eyes adjust to the dark (this takes about 20 minutes for adult eyes) you may be surprised by how well you can see. You will find that colors are not discernible in very low light. You will also notice that if you look directly at an object, that object seems to disappear. This is because the cones (the cells that distinguish color) are concentrated in the center of the retina. The rods (the cells that detect low light levels) are more numerous around the edges. So if you look just off to the side of an object, that object will be more visible than if you stare directly at it.

A full moon provides plenty of light to see by, but this extra light sometimes keeps shy birds from coming out into the open.

Using a flashlight, or car headlights, will enable you to see whatever is in the light beam. But using a bright light will ruin your night vision, forcing your eyes to adjust to the darkness all over again once you turn out the light. Shining a light into the eyes of a bird can't do the bird's night vision any good, either. To maintain your night vision, don't turn on your flashlight unless it is an emergency. If you want to shine a little light on a bird, cover the light source with a red lens or red cellophane. Red light provides some illumination but doesn't affect your night vision.

Don't put your binoculars away when the sun goes down. Optical equipment concentrates available light and can be very useful for seeing birds in low light conditions.

If you plan to walk around after dark, it is important that you scout out the area during daylight. If you are familiar with them, hiking trails and dirt roads are easily walked at night. Wear stout shoes or boots to protect yourself from rocks, tree roots, or any slithery creatures that might be lying in your path. Long sleeves and long pants are required protection from mosquitoes and unseen branches.

Birding at night may seem a little intimidating at first. But a nocturnal outing provides opportunities to enjoy several species of birds that are very difficult to locate during the day. The ear training involved in night birding will benefit you during the day as well. You will also find many other wildlife species active at night. So let your eyes adjust, find a familiar trail, and see what's out there.

### ***HELP WANTED !!***

Do you like birds and birding? Do you like to write? Have you ever read the *Horned Lark* and thought, "I could write something like that?!" Well, you're probably right! We are always looking for more material for the *Horned Lark*. If you have a one time article you'd like to write up or an idea for an ongoing series write it up, send it to the *Horned Lark* Editor, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 (otte@jc.net) and you may see your name in print very soon!

# KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## SPRING FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS - TRIP LIST

Approximately 35 people attended the Spring 1996 Kansas Ornithological Society Field Trip in Morton County, Kansas on May 4 & 5. The trip was a rousing success, with a whopping 175 species (176 taxa) recorded in Morton County, and an additional 8 species recorded by those who made a Saturday excursion into adjacent Baca County Colorado and Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Energies were focused on the shelter belt north of the cemetery and the sewage treatment ponds in Elkhart, and on Middle Springs and Point-of-Rocks in the Cimarron National Grasslands. A number of folks visited the Lesser Prairie Chicken leks to watch the booming activity. A number of unusual species were recorded, including one new to the state that will have to be documented for approval by the Kansas Bird Records Committee: Gray Vireo. Other species that should be written up by those who observed them included: Clark's Grebe, Snowy Plover, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Virginia's Warbler, and Black-throated Sparrow

An unusual specimen record for the county was discovered when the head of a Western Grebe was found on the edge of the sewage ponds (the remains of a Peregrine's lunch?). Because of all the migrant action, there was comparatively little attention focused on the riparian habitat along the Cimarron River, with the result that some resident species like the Ladder-backed Woodpecker, were not observed - thus the list, as large as it is, is certainly not as high as it might have been. Lots of indications of resident bird breeding activities, with displaying Cassin's Sparrows, mating Horned Larks, and a Ferruginous Hawk on her nest. Altogether, a great weekend for birders and birding. Here's the list:

Species from Morton County, Kansas:

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, American Coot, Lesser Golden Plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Mountain Plover, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Common Poor-will, Chimney Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Lewis' Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, 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, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Chihuahuan Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Gray Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee, Canyon Towhee, Cassin's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tail Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Additional species from OK/CO: Golden Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Canyon Wren, Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco

Thanks to Tom Shane, John Rakestraw, and Lawrence & Ruth Smith for serving as leaders, and to Terrell and Nelda Giddins of Elkhart for their kindness.

*Roy Beckemeyer*

# KANSAS NON-GAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY TASK FORCE

## *A Request for Information*

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The national and state endangered species acts have had numerous success stories during the years of their existence. The Bald Eagle, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon are 3 species that come to mind as having been brought back to a much stronger chance of survival thanks in part to the endangered species act.

Over the past several years at both the state and national level these endangered species acts have been under fire. In the 1996 Kansas Legislature there were substantial changes recommended for the Kansas Endangered Species Act (ESA). Many of us feel that these changes would have significantly limited the scope and protective nature of the Kansas ESA. Virtually at the last minute though a substitute bill was introduced and passed that established a task force for 1 year to evaluate the Kansas ESA.

The directive for this task force, as stated in the senate bill, is, "It shall be the duty of the task force to review the provisions of the nongame and endangered species conservation act, giving particular attention to the practices and procedures involved in determining whether any species of wildlife indigenous to the state is a threatened or endangered species in this state, the task force shall make recommendations emphasizing voluntary compliance with the nongame and endangered species conservation act and shall make a report and recommendations thereon to the chairperson, vice-chairperson and ranking minority member of the standing committees on energy and natural resources

of the senate and the house of representatives, on or before the first day of the 1997 regular session of the legislature."

The senate bill also specifies who and what groups will be represented on the 17 member task force. The Kansas Ornithological Society is to have a representative on this task force. KOS President, Mike Rader, has asked Elmer Finck to represent us and Elmer has agreed to do so. HOWEVER, Elmer wants your input and he needs it in a hurry!

Elmer has requested that members let him know their major concerns relative to the Kansas Endangered Species Act as it relates to birds. He needs your comments before **July 22nd**, so that he can get everything in order before the task force's first meeting on July 26th. You can write, telephone, fax or e-mail Elmer at the following:

Elmer Finck  
Associate Professor, Division of Biology  
Box 4050, Emporia State University  
Emporia, Kansas, 66801-5623  
phone (316) 341-5623  
fax (316) 341-5997  
finckelm@esumail.emporia.edu

This is an important issue so please let Elmer know your thoughts and concerns.

## **HELP WANTED !! BUSINESS MANAGER NEEDED!**

Galen Pittman has graciously agreed to step back into his former role for a few months as Business Manager and we want to extend to him our **deepest** appreciation. But he specified that this was only temporary. We need a full time Business Manager to take over as soon as possible.

Business Manager is a rather diversified job. As the KOS Business Manager you would be responsible for getting the newsletter copied and mailed out after the editor sends it to you all completed as well as the mailing of *The Bulletin* (so some basic knowledge of bulk mailing may be helpful but not necessary). You would also keep all the inventories of

the Society's for sale items such as checklists, clothing, window decals, etc.

I'm sure that there is more that I am forgetting or just don't know about. If you are interested, or know someone that is interested, you need to contact Galen Pittman. Galen will be able to give you the complete job description and be able to answer your questions for you. Galen's phone number is (913) 842-7105. His address is on the front page of the newsletter.

Help the Society grow, get involved!

## GET INVOLVED

by Chuck Otte, Editor, *The Horned Lark*

The following editorial is the opinion of the editor and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Kansas Ornithological Society Officers, Board of Directors or its members. The editor is solely responsible for the opinions expressed in this editorial.

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[About once a year I decide I need to speak out about something and I invoke editor privilege and write a true editorial in addition to my chatty "from the keyboard" that I like to start each Horned Lark. Indulge me, read on and know that it'll be another year, or more, before I impose my opinion on you again.]

How many times have you heard the expression that if you want to get something done ask a busy person to do it because then you know it will get done? It is unfortunately true! Time and time again I see or am involved with a group where it seems like 10% of the membership is doing 90% of the work. If that 10% burns out and leaves, then the group can quickly degenerate in to a wallowing mass of un-led followers. At this point new leaders either step in or the group dissolves and ceases to be. This is not a lead in to get a bunch of you on committees or the board or anything like that, although I do tend to see a lot of the same faces and hear the same names over and over again. This is a comment about life in general.

There are many opportunities around each of us everyday regardless of our interests and abilities. We don't have to be editors or hotline compilers or board members of KOS. We can do simple little things like show up at a spring or fall meeting. Participate in a Christmas Bird Count or a North American Migration Count or help finish up a KBBAT block. Or maybe it's time to take another step and start getting involved in the community to help others learn a little bit more about your hobby.

Volunteer at a nursing home to help put up a bird feeder where the residents can watch it and then arrange for it to be filled on a regular basis. Take a school group for a nature walk. Never led a walk before? The best way to learn something is to teach it and even though you may think your bird/nature knowledge is limited I'll guarantee you've plenty of knowledge to share with that class. Take on a challenge and set up a nature walk/trip with a class or group of sight or hearing impaired students or adults. I'm still working to take a vision impaired group birding. You may learn as much about using some of your other senses from these groups as they learn about birds from you!

Environmental issues continue to be of vital interest not only to our feathered friends but to each of us in every day life. The birds as well as the wildlife and the ecosystems are the barometer or the early warning system to human health and quality of life. Try as many humans do we are part of

the ecosystem, and we can not separate ourselves from it. The miners of yore take the canary into the mine because they knew that if the canary wasn't doing well they needed to get out of the mine for their own safety! How many canaries have already died and we haven't even noticed? Get involved with environmental issues not only at the federal and state level but at the local level also. Attend meetings of your local planning commission and board of zoning appeals. Let them know that someone is out there watching out and speaking up for the environment and it isn't a batch of east or west coast activists it's their neighbors. I know that most of you have opinions about these issues, because many of you have shared them with me. Now share those opinions with decision makers from your county seat to Washington, D.C. And start by reading the notice from Elmer Finck and give Elmer a call and a piece of your mind!

My bottom line message is get involved. It becomes all too easy to take and take and take. The television, the newspapers, the magazines are all willing to give, give, give as long as you are willing to take it up. There comes a point, though, when you have to start giving back and giving back something with a lot more substance than what is usually coming off the television, the movie screen, and the other popular media. And that also usually involved a little sweat equity from you and maybe a little less time to do what YOU want to do. But you will probably find that the old adage "you get back more than what you put in" is quite true.

It's also okay to ask for help, to say no when you feel that it is somebody else's turn, or to even fail sometimes. If you fail it means that you are at least trying and that is more than the other 90% can say.

Think what a difference it would make if the 400+ members of the KOS all tackled one new project in 1996 for KOS or their community or church or school or whatever. 400+ projects that may not have gotten done without YOU. If we could each help 1 or 3 or 5 school students or law makers or neighbors understand the natural world around them (and us) a little better, think what a multiplier effect this could have and what a better world we could live in.

Think what a difference it would make. Just because you took a little bit of your time and energy to get involved!

## **KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING**

*February 3, 1996*

*Room R-14*

*Salina Vocational-Technical School*

*Salina*

Members present: Gregg Friesen, Max Thompson, Shannon Rayl, Mike Rader, Dwight Platt, Bob Gress, Roy Beckemeyer, Margaret Wedge.

President Mike Rader opened the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the Fall Board Meeting were read by Dwight Platt. Mike Rader asked for corrections or additions. Max Thompson moved to approve the minutes. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gregg Friesen provided a 1995 Treasurer's Report (see attachment A). He pointed out that the accounts had not yet been audited. He reported that there had been an increase in total assets of approximately \$6000 during the year. Margaret Wedge made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Margaret Wedge reported a total of 411 members as of February 1 (see attachment B).

**KOS LIBRARIAN:** Mike Rader has been working to appoint a Librarian. Our records need to be collected and we need to try to set up our archives at the Museum of Natural History in Lawrence. The new Librarian should probably have a contact with the Museum.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Dawn Sharp has not sent a report. She has been ill and has not been able to get the KOS mailings done. Dawn has done a good job but we probably need to get a new Business Manager.

**BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT:** The September and December Bulletins are completed and in the hands of the Business Manager. The March Bulletin is just about done. Max has the material for the June Bulletin.

**COUNTY BIRD LISTS:** The Meade County and Shawnee County bird lists are in process and being published by KOS. Pete Janzen wants to do a list and guide for Sedgwick county. KOS would be willing to consider publishing it.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT:** The December newsletter has been sent to the Business Manager. The March newsletter deadline will be March 1.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS:** Bob Gress made a motion to approve the officers' reports. Roy Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:** The Kansas Bird Records committee has nominated Roger Boyd, Galen Pittman and Dave Rintoul for election to the committee. Gregg Friesen moved to approve the nominations of the Kansas Bird Records committee. Bob Gress seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Max Thompson reported that the committee met at Lawrence last weekend. The Kansas bird list has been brought up to date and there are 432 species on the list. The committee decided to go ahead and publish a new edition of the Kansas list now and not wait for the AOU checklist.

**STUDENT RESEARCH FUND:** A workshop on warbler identification will be held at the University of Kansas on the first or second weekend of April to raise funds for the K.U. Student Research Fund.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:** Mike Rader has appointed the following chairs of standing committees:

Membership Committee: Joanne Brier

Conservation Committee: David Rintoul

Publicity Committee: Chris Hobbs

A chair has not been appointed yet for the Dingus Natural Area Committee.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE:** The audit has not occurred yet but will occur soon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The "Fit at Fifty" campaign is in progress. We need to raise \$5000 per year to reach the goal. We need to continue to publicize it in the newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE:** A new membership brochure is being published. It will have the dues structure but will have a space in which to stamp the address for the Treasurer.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** We will wait to publish a new membership directory until the membership list has been purged of those who haven't paid this year's dues by March.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP PINS:** We need to purchase more life membership pins but no one knew the source for ordering them.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** The Spring Meeting 1996 will be in Morton county on May 4-6. Larry Smith will make arrangements.

The Fall Meeting 1996 will be in Hesston/North Newton on October 4-6. Dwight Platt will be local arrangements chair.

The Spring Meeting 1997 will be a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society at Kansas State University in Manhattan on April 24-27, KOS members will be asked to help lead field trips.

The Fall Meeting 1997 will be at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita on October 3-5.

It was suggested that we should encourage non-members to attend the meetings. The Publicity chair should be encouraged to put announcements of meetings in the newsletters of other organizations.

**OSPREY INTRODUCTION:** Bob Gress reported that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was attempting to introduce Ospreys in the El Dorado area this year. Since there are no historical records of Ospreys having nested in Kansas, he questioned the reason for doing it.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwight R. Platt  
Corresponding Secretary

## **1996 FALL KOS ANNUAL MEETING**

**October 4, 5 and 6, 1996**

**North Newton & Hesston, Kansas**

Registration forms, hotel information, preliminary call for papers are all at the back of this newsletter. Don't let time slip away! Send in your registration today!

## **KOS SPRING BOARD MEETING**

*May 4, 1996  
Elkhart, Kansas*

Members present: Mike Rader, Gregg Friesen, Margaret Wedge, Roy Beckemeyer, Bill Busby, Galen Pittman.

President Mike Rader called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Mike Rader reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Dawn Sharp as KOS Business Manager. He appointed Galen Pittman to serve in her place until the next general election.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** A membership directory is due out soon.

**MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE:** A new membership brochure is also in the works.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Mike Rader appointed Roy Beckemeyer as Nominating Committee Chair.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mike Rader presented the 1995 KOS Treasurer's Audit Report. Galen Pittman moved that the Board accept the report. Beckemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**STUDENT RESEARCH FUND:** Gregg Friesen reported on the Student Research Fund and suggested that endowment money in the fund needed to be replaced with money that is accessible. He moved that life membership money in the Student Research Fund be transferred to the Endowment Fund and remain restricted such that only the interest from it is spendable through the general fund and an equal amount of money from the Endowment Fund (which originated from Garden City Auction funds) be transferred to the Student Research Fund where it can be used for student research money. Bill Busby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**PARTNERS IN FLIGHT:** Bill Busby reported on possible KOS involvement with Partners in Flight's Southern Great Plains regional committee. A Southern Great Plains group meeting is scheduled for May 7, 1996, in Manhattan. He encouraged KOS to participate.

**NON-GAME WILDLIFE:** Bill Busby also reported on a national effort that was currently underway to raise money for non-game wildlife with a tax on the sale of outdoor recreation equipment. Organizations and their members are encouraged to write businesses in support of the concept. It was decided that Bill Busby on behalf of KOS should send a letter to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in support of the concept and that an article appear in the KOS Newsletter.

**REQUEST FOR KOS ADDRESS LIST:**

Wilson Ornithological Society needs a set of labels of KOS members for the announcement of our joint meeting in Manhattan in Spring 1997. A set will be sent.

**FALL MEETING:** The Fall Meeting is in Hesston/North Newton.

**ENDOWMENT FUND:**

The Finance Committee will present recommendations for investment vehicles for the Endowment Fund at the Fall KOS Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Pittman  
Acting Secretary

## WINTER ROUNDUP / January - March, 1996 / by Chuck Otte

When reviewing the bird/birding activity for any time period it becomes fairly simple to determine how active the birding was or at least how many uncommon birds were being reported. The more days between Rare Bird Alert (RBA) updates the fewer the rarities being reported. January appeared to be slow and February slower. Many of the normal mid-late winter returning species were later than normal.

Killdeer arrivals noted on February 25 in both Wyandotte and Geary counties were later than recent years. Their arrival in Pawnee County on March 12 was 6 days later than any other spring arrival date for the last 20 years according to Seltman. Yet other species arrived on time or even early. Great Egrets and Greater Yellowlegs arrived in Sedgwick county on record or near record early dates.

Ross' Geese are being reported more often now days probably due in a great part to the increased diligence of Kansas birdwatchers. The mention of Ross' Geese on the RBA and the Roundup may become less frequent as has happened with both Common Loons and Osprey. It often becomes difficult to separate a real increase of bird populations in an area from increased birdwatching activity, i.e., is the bird becoming more common or are birdwatchers spending more time birding? Regardless, as we spend more time in the field and record and report what we see we will develop a much better understanding of bird populations and distribution in Kansas.

Of interest to me is how weather and natural "catastrophes" affect bird populations and /or location. In late February huge wildfires moved from Oklahoma into Kansas burning thousands of acres in Barber County. In recent years Barber County has been known for its good numbers of wintering Mountain Bluebirds. On February 22, a day or two after these fires, Seltman noted large numbers of Mountain Bluebirds in Pawnee and Rush County, possibly birds displaced by fires in Barber County and other southern Kansas locations.

Those who spent the time braving the Kansas winter were often treated to good gulls at the various reservoirs in the state. Also to be found this winter were both Northern Shrikes and Common Redpolls. The Northern Shrikes were again in "the usual places" in roughly the northwestern half of the state. Reviewing past roundups it looks like the last time there were numerous Common Redpoll reports was the winter of 91/92. Most of these reports were from the central part of the state with Geary County being the eastern most report. Good redpoll reports from mid-January to early March this year were all from the eastern 1/3 of the state with Geary County being the western most report.

Finally a few comments about the Birding Roundup and a request (plea?!) for your assistance. The following table probably takes more time to prepare than all the rest of this newsletter. Scott Seltman gathers all the reports off the RBA hotline and updates the tape as conditions warrant. I record these updates and attempt to transcribe them verbatim. These transcriptions then get posted on the Internet (where they are available to anyone with an Internet e-mail address - contact me on how to obtain them) and from those transcripts I prepare the rough draft of the highlights. Scott then proofs the draft catching all (or at least most) of my errors, fills in the gaps in names and dates, and adds reports that may have been noteworthy but didn't make the tape. Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated. Keep calling in your reports, please! If you are not a "regular" caller or have an uncommon name (like Otte) that can be easily misspelled, please spell your last name and give as many details as possible especially county location. It seems like some of the best birding hot spots are on county lines. Milford, Cheney and Wilson reservoirs all come immediately to mind as being on county lines and county locations are not always obvious to Scott and myself. (By the way, are the Reading Sewer Ponds in Osage or Lyon County?).

Please also keep in mind that while we (Scott and Chuck) strive to make this report as accurate as possible it **is not** an official report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). A report called in to the hotline or sent to me may well show up in the Birding Highlights but it will not be acted upon by the KBRC. There has been more than one record show up in the highlights that was not accepted by the KBRC. The Birding Highlights is meant to be simply a record of what has been reported to the Kansas RBA Hotline and to Scott and myself personally. The informal - a little bit for fun - record. For official action please obtain the KBRC report form (found in back issues - including January 1996 - of *The Horned Lark*, or from Galen Pittman or from myself - yes it is available in WordPerfect format) fill it out and mail it to Galen Pittman, 12042 258th St, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The official reports and action by the KBRC are published regularly in *The Bulletin*.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation and of course all your good sightings. None of the following sightings are "official" until acted upon by the KBRC. Thanks to Scott for taking time out of his busy work and family time to keep the hotline updated and for proofing the Highlights table!

**BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / January 1996 through March 1996**

Species	Location and number	Observers	Date	County
American White Pelican	2 at Wilson Lake	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Great Egret	record early arrival for Wichita area	JN	3-12-96	Sedgwick
Tundra Swan	1 imm at Hillsdale Lake	??	1-01-96	Miami
Tundra Swan	3 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
	apparently still present	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Trumpeter Swan	1 at pond near Executive Park Airport	??	1-12-96	Johnson
Trumpeter Swan	near Hillsdale Res, orange neck collar	DA	2-17-96	Miami
	This bird was seen sporadically at Hillsdale. The orange neck collar indicates that it was released in Minnesota			
Greater White-fronted Goose	20,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Snow Goose x White-fronted Goose	apparent hybrid at Winfield City L.	MT	1-06-96	Cowley
Ross' Goose	2 at LaCygne cooling lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
Ross' Goose	1 at Twin Lakes, Wichita	PJ	1-13-96	Sedgwick
Ross' Goose	2 below Milford Reservoir Dam	CO	2-10-96	Gearly
Ross' Goose	5 at Reading Sewer Ponds	LM,GP	2-18-96	Osage
Ross' Goose	35 at QNWR	MR	3-03-96	Stafford
Brant	1 light phase at Dillon Nature Center	BK	1-25-96	Reno
	seen again at Carey Park		2-04-96	
American Black Duck	2 at LaCygne cooling lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
American Black Duck	2 below Melvern Reservoir Dam	DG	2-17-96	Osage
	at Marsh of the Swans			
Northern Pintail	5,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	1 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	pair at QNWR	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Cinnamon Teal	1 m in Ft. Riley Wetlands	JK	3-25-96	Riley
Greater Scaup	several at Harvey Co. East L.	RD,GF	2-10/11-96	Harvey
Greater Scaup	3 at QNWR	MR	3-03-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	3-16-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	1 w of Clay Center	DG	3-20-96	Clay
Oldsquaw	1 f. at Wichita sandpit	PJ,DV,ML	1-20-96	Sedgwick
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 f. at Wichita sandpit	PJ,JN,CG	1-21-96	Sedgwick
Common Merganser	6300 at Wilson Res.	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Common Merganser	10,000 at Melvern Reservoir	LM	2-18-96	Osage
Turkey Vulture	early arrival (in very cold weather)	DW	3-05-96	Douglas
Merlin	2 north of Wakefield	CO	2-24-96	Clay
Merlin	1 below Tuttle Creek Dam	DG	3-20-96	Pottawatomie
Gyr Falcon	1 brown phase over Tuttle Creek Res.	TC	3-31-96	Riley/Pott
Prairie Falcon	1 at RML	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
Sandhill Crane	20,000 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	DB,MW	3-02-96	Stafford
Greater Yellowlegs	very early arrival e. of Cheney Res.	PJ,JN,RD	2-18-96	Sedgwick
Bonaparte's Gull	several at LaCygne Lake	GP,MM	1-06-96	Linn
California Gull	1 ad at Lake Afton	PJ	1-14-96	Sedgwick
Thayer's Gull	1 at Wilson Res.	MR	1-16-96	Russell
Thayer's Gull	1 at Cheney Res	PJ,JN,RD	2-18-96	Reno
Thayer's Gull	2nd win bird near Melvern Dam	JEZ, BF	2-18-96	Osage
Thayer's Gull	1st win bird at Clinton Res.	LM,GP	2-18-96	Douglas
Thayer's Gull	1st win bird at Milford Res	JO,CO	3-10-96	Gearly
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 ad at Winfield City Lake	MT	2-08-96	Cowley
Glaucous Gull	1 at Winfield City Lake	MT	1-06-96	Cowley
Glaucous Gull	1 at Cessna L. Wichita	JN	1-14-96	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	2 at Wichita Sandpit	PJ,DV,ML	1-20-96	Sedgwick
Glaucous Gull	1 first win at Melvern Dam	JEZ,BF	2-18-96	Osage
Glaucous Gull	1 at Clinton Lake Marina	AP	2-17-96	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1 at W. Rolling Hills, Milford Res	JO,CO	2-25-96	Gearly
Great Black-backed Gull	1st winter at Cessna L. Wichita	JN	1-14-96	Sedgwick
	seen again		1-25-96	

Forster's Tern	5 early at MDC	AS		3-21-96	Linn
Inca Dove	at Garden City feeder	SSh, TSh		2-3&4-96	Finney
	another one or same one at the Shane's feeder			3-2&3-96	
Greater Roadrunner	1 at Sun City	LB		1-14-96	Barber
Snowy Owl	male near Shallow Water	m.ob.	last seen	1-01-96	Scott
Long-eared Owl	several at Milford Res	MS,CO		1-15-96	Geary
Long-eared Owl	south shore Lyon Co. State Lake	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Short-eared Owl	6 at RML	GP,MM		1-06-96	Linn
Short-eared Owl	south shore Lyon Co. State Lake	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Pileated Woodpecker	1 nw of normal range, Sante Fe Lake	BP		1-05-96	Butler
Pileated Woodpecker	1 far nw at Sandhill SP, Hutchinson	JR		3-13-96	Reno
Eastern Phoebe	early arrival (in very cold weather)	DW		3-05-96	Douglas
Tree Swallow	3 at Perry Lake's Kyle Marsh	DG		3-16-96	Jefferson
Mountain Chickadee	1 in Garden City	MO		3-04-96	Finney
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Wyandotte County Lake	MC		1-03-96	Wyandotte
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at Davis Farm	JD		2-18-96	Haskell
Northern Shrike	1 on w side of Tuttle Creek Res	TC		1-17-96	Riley
			seen through	1-28-96	
Northern Shrike	4 at Wilson Res	MR		1-17-96	Russell
Northern Shrike	1 ad nw of Larned	SS		3-11-96	Pawnee
Northern Shrike	1 ad at QNWR	AS		3-11-96	Stafford
Northern Shrike	at QNWR	MR		3-17-96	Stafford
Northern Shrike	10 miles se of Kinsley	PJ		3-25-96	Edwards
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	CH		1-04-96	Wyandotte
Vesper Sparrow	early arrival at QNWR	JN,CG		3-16-96	Stafford
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 ad. at Marais des Cygnes	MM		1-01-96	Linn
Smith's Longspur	200 in field south of Lyon Co State L	DG		2-17-96	Lyon
Chestnut-collared Longspur	200 near Garfield	PJ		3-25-96	Pawnee
Rusty Blackbird	small flock at MDC	MM,GP		3-16-96	Linn
Common Redpoll	5 at W. Rolling Hills, Milford Lake	MS,CO		1-15-96	Geary
Common Redpoll	7 coming to rural Topeka feeder	KDB		early Feb.	Shawnee
			through	2-15-96	
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder near Elmont	BM		2-06-96	Pottawatomie
Common Redpoll	flock coming to feeder in Topeka	JoB		3-02-96	Shawnee

### Key to abbreviations used in Birding Highlights

ad. = adult

Co. = County

e = east

f. = female

imm = immature

L = Lake

m. = male

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

nw = northwest

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res. = Reservoir

RML = Reclaimed Mine Lands of LaCygne Lake

SP = State Park

w = west

**LIST OF OBSERVERS:** Don Arney (DA), Joyce Baughmet (JoB), Leann Brunson (LB), David Bryan (DB), Ken & Diane Busey (KDB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Joyce Davis (JD), Robert Dester (RD), Bob Fisher (BF), Gregg Friesen (GF), Dan Gish (DG), Chet Gresham (CG), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chris Hobbs (CH), Jeff Keating (JK), Bent Konen (BK), Mike Lesan (ML), Brandon Magett (BM), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Galen Pittman (GP), Alexi Powell (AP), Mike Pulliam (MP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Scott Seltman (SS), Mike Stewart (MS), Art Swalwell (AS), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Mike Whited (MW), Dave Williams (DW), James & Ellen Zellmer (JEZ)

## Cyber-Birding Update

by Chuck Otte

From time to time I like to bring you updates from the world of cyber-birding. For those of you without computers cyber-birding is birdwatching related activities that revolve around computers and the Internet.

Just about every week I receive an e-mail message from another KOS member that has just gotten their computer hooked up to the internet and received an electronic mail address. The just updated membership directory has a partial listing towards the back of e-mail addresses that we were aware of. As you come "on-line" please drop me a note at [otte@jc.net](mailto:otte@jc.net) and let me know your address so we can add you to the list.

I am actively involved with a project call the National Birding Hotline Cooperative (NBHC) or BirdChat. NBHC is a collection of computer discussion groups/lists that focus

on bird issues and Rare Bird Alerts. It is open to anyone with an e-mail address and I regularly see KOS members in the discussions. If you would like more information drop me an e-mail message and I'll tell you how to subscribe.

Here in Kansas a couple of us have also started the fledgling (sorry, I couldn't resist) discussion group called KS\_BIRDS. Drop me a note and we'll get you added!

For those with World Wide Web (WWW) access here are a couple of "new" addresses you may want to check out:

Birding News and Classifieds <http://www.qedge.com/birds/>  
Backyard Birdfeeder <http://www.sienna.com>  
NBHC <http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

*We regret that the photograph is unavailable for the electronic version of this newsletter*

The complete crew for the Syracuse Christmas Bird Count, January 13, 1996: (left to right) Barbara Campbell, Dan LaShelle, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Art Nonhoff (compiler) and Scott Seltman. *photo by Tom Shane*