

The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

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### Who's Who in KOS - 2004

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**Past-President**, Gene Young, youngg6264@yahoo.com

### From The Keyboard -

First of all, for the 80 plus people that attended the Fall KOS meeting in Winfield; didn't Max put on one heck of a good meeting?! Birding spouse Jaye and I certainly had a wonderful time. Good papers, good birding, good food and good friends were in abundance. KOS is a community and every community get together makes me appreciate KOS even more!

Which brings me to my second point. Like many organizations, KOS has seen declining membership in recent years. Many factors contribute to this, but part of the blame has to lie on all of us. We haven't been doing our fair share of recruiting. Bird watching is growing by leaps and bounds across the country. So why isn't ore membership? Twenty years ago the only way to find much local information was to join a birdwatching organization. Now, via the Internet, it is much easier to find that same bird watching information. So it requires all of us to start recruiting new KOS members.

On page 19 you will find the KOS membership form. While you are getting ready to send in your own dues, make an extra copy of this page and sign up a friend who enjoys birds. A one year membership is only \$15. Sure, they may not join themselves next year, but if even a few do, then we keep growing the membership. Membership recruitment and extolling the benefits of being a KOS member doesn't just rest on the editors and the officers of KOS. It is the duty of all of us!

The end of one year is always a time of bittersweet excitement for many of us. We close out one year list, but we start a new one. We look back on the 2003 list and remember the good birds we saw and the ones we missed (but maybe shouldn't have!) But there's always January 1st and the start of the new list. What's the first bird of the new year going to be? A House Sparrow, a crow, maybe a goldfinch?

That new year's list is like a new chance on life. This year I'm not going to miss Rock Wren. And this year I'm going to get that Black-throated Blue Warbler. Maybe if a Painted Redstart shows up again, I'll be able to find the time to go look for it. A new year's list is the ultimate fresh page and brings the excitement and joy that I hope greets everyone of your days in 2004!

Happy New Year everyone!

Chuck

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## Upcoming Meeting Locations

Please note the upcoming tentative spring and fall meeting locations. Mark your calendars, look for more information in coming issues and plan to attend!

**Spring 2004** - Washington Co.  
**Fall 2004** - Baker University, Douglas County  
**Spring 2005** - Pratt  
**Fall 2005** - Wichita  
**Spring 2006 and Beyond** - Volunteers and locations needed!

Start thinking of where you'd like to go, or if you would be willing to host a spring or fall meeting. Spring meetings simply need some good bird watching areas as well as sleeping and eating establishments. Fall meetings require some place to hold meetings of around 75 to 100 people plus a location for a banquet. Contact any of the officers or board members if

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## KOS Items Available

If you would like to purchase KOS T-shirts, sweatshirts, window stickers, etc. then you need to contact the *NEW* KOS Business Manager, Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot Wichita, KS 67204, prarybrd@southwind.net, 316-832-0182

## Good WWW sites on a variety of topics

**Birds and Birding in Kansas**  
<http://ksbirds.org>

**Kansas Bird Records Committee Review List**  
<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>

List of birds that should be documented if seen in Kansas or certain locations in Kansas.

**Kansas Bird Records Committee Electronic Report Form**  
<http://www.ksu.edu/audubon/rarebirdform.html>  
You can submit your rare bird reports on line at this address.

**Archives of the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSIRD-L)**  
<http://listserv.ksu.edu/archives/ksbird-l.html>  
You can read all the past messages posted here since the list started in March of 1996.

**Archives of the BirdChat Internet Discussion List**  
<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdchat.html>  
Like KSIRD-L but on a national - international level. This list started in the early 1990s, but the archives only go back to January 1995.

## Time to Pay Dues!

Since this is the December issue it means that January 1st is just around the corner and that means it's time to pay dues!!!!!! Save KOS a little postage money and send your dues in to KOS Treasurer Dan Larson, 3636 SE 77th, Berryton, KS 66409 at your earliest convenience. How much are dues?

Student (grade school, high school or college) \$5  
Regular Individual \$15  
Regular Family \$20  
Sustaining Individual \$25  
Sustaining Family \$30  
Contributing \$40 or more  
Life Membership \$300

## Chasing

*by John Rakestraw*

Many of us keep track of bird sightings by subscribing to e-mail lists or checking web sites. Before e-mail, we may have received calls from a phone tree or called the rare bird hotline to hear recorded messages describing recent rarities. When we hear a report of a rare bird, we then have to make the decision whether to chase this bird to see it for ourselves.

Some birders do not chase. Some feel that a bird doesn't really "count" unless you find it yourself. Some argue that it is a waste of time, money, and fossil fuels to travel great distances to see one bird. Other birders are at the opposite end of the spectrum, jumping on planes whenever a significant rarity shows up anywhere in the country.

Most of us are somewhere in the middle, willing to chase a rarity if it can be done within a reasonable amount of time and expense. A general formula that I like to use when deciding whether to chase a bird is this: My birding time must be equal to or greater than my travel time. So when a Varied Thrush appeared in McPherson years ago, I did not chase it. It would have required four hours of driving to spend twenty minutes behind the Sonic drive-in. When I was living in Ohio, a flock of White-winged Crossbills was found in a cemetery in Cincinnati. It took me four attempts to finally see these birds, each trip involving two hours of travel and six hours of walking through the cemetery. So even though my total travel time was eight hours, it afforded 24 hours of birding.

Aside from travel time, what else should you consider when deciding whether to chase a stakeout?

The season has a major influence on your success in re-finding a bird. During spring migration, birds are driven to reach their nesting grounds and are much less likely to stay in one location very long. They may use staging areas for several days, but migrants in spring are much more likely to be "one day wonders."

Southbound migration is a little less urgent, and if conditions are right, southbound birds may hang around a little longer than they would in spring.

If a rare bird appears in summer or winter, your chances are greatly improved. As long as good habitat is available, the bird has no immediate reason to move on.

Have other birders been able to see this bird, or was it seen just once? You might want to wait to see if the bird is hanging around before you run out to look for it. This

involves some risk, since the longer you delay, the more likely it is that the bird will move on. But if you have far to travel, it is nice to have some assurance that the bird hasn't already left.

How easy is this bird to see? A Roseate Spoonbill is usually a lot easier to find than a Worm-eating Warbler.

And, of course, you have to decide how badly you "need" this bird. Some birds are worth a trip across town to see, while others might warrant a trip across the state (or several states).

Are there any special conditions (weather events, availability of certain foods) that brought a rare bird to that specific location? It is not uncommon for birders to find other unusual birds at the same site where a rarity was reported. (This is known as the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect.) But if similar conditions exist closer to home, your time may be better spent searching your local hot spots for other vagrants.

Once you have decided to chase a bird, start gathering information. Exactly where has the bird been seen? Get as detailed directions as possible. Has the bird been seen at certain times of day? What has the bird been doing? Is the bird using certain perches or feeding areas?

Next, learn as much as you can about the species so you will recognize the bird when you see him. Study a variety of field guides and other ID resources. Learn the bird's vocalizations. These will help you find the bird more easily.

So, you got directions, studied field guides and recordings, made the trip and found the bird. Don't celebrate yet. Study this bird as intently as if you were the first person to see him. Make notes of everything you notice about this bird, and come to your own conclusion about the identification. Just because another birder found this bird first does not mean that the other birder made a correct ID. Quite a few rare birds have been misidentified for days or weeks because no one questioned the original call. Don't be lazy. Someone else may have given you directions, but you still need to earn the bird for yourself. And when you see a rare bird, please don't assume that "someone else" will report the sighting to the state bird records committee. Go ahead and write up a report. Yours might contain vital information that others have missed.

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## Cheyenne Bottoms Drought (Year 2)

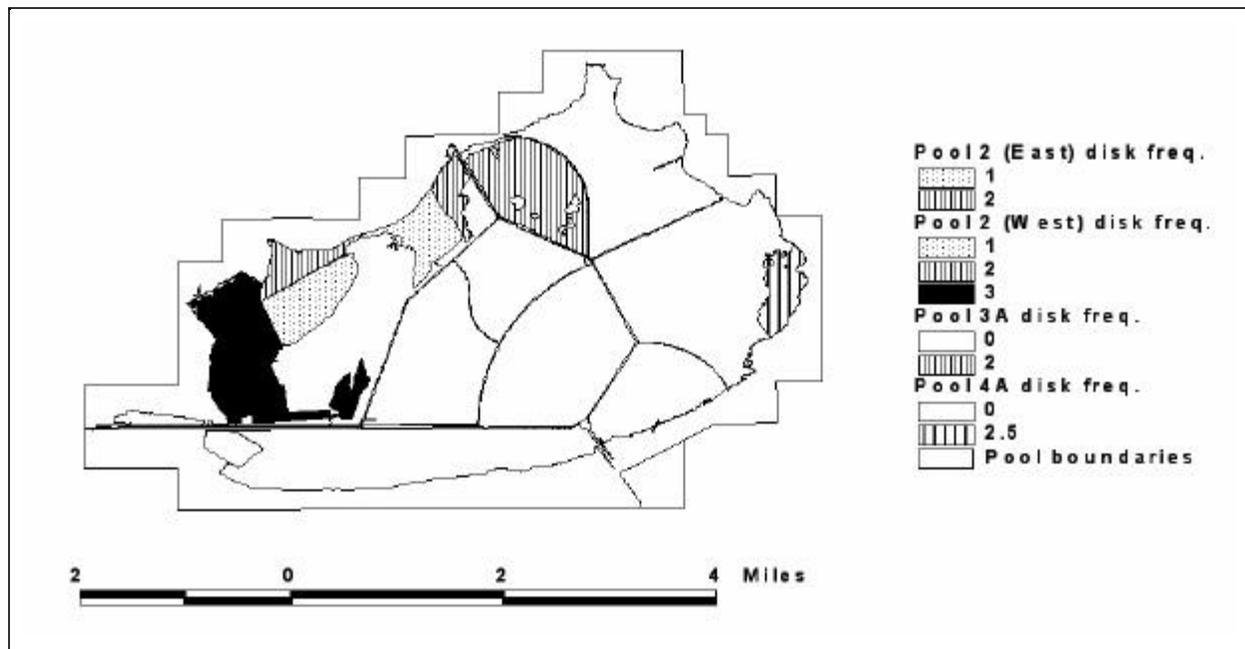
by Helen Hands

The dry conditions at Cheyenne Bottoms remind us that wetlands, especially those in the Great Plains, go dry periodically. Although as of this writing, the Bottoms isn't completely dry, I remember when it was completely dry from August 1991 through May 1992. Historically, the Bottoms went completely dry periodically and was completely full periodically, just how often these extremes occurred is unknown. These wide fluctuations in water conditions at the Bottoms and other Great Plains wetlands are natural, although extremely high or low water years probably are not preferred by either birders or most bird species. Fortunately, wetland vegetation and wildlife have adapted to fluctuating water levels. Migratory birds, however, probably are less able to deal with unsuitable water levels today than 100-200 years ago, because now they have fewer wetlands available to utilize. In the past, when water was unavailable or too deep at places like Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, there were other wetlands that might offer suitable conditions. As a result, management of the remaining wetlands is needed to maximize the time they are available to a diversity of wetland-dependent wildlife.

to the Arkansas River and Walnut Creek, dikes to concentrate water and minimize evaporative loss), we still can't make it rain and dry periods will occur, though maybe less often. One good thing about dry periods is that they allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to attack the cattail that expanded during the wet periods. Last year at this time, I told you that 1,300 of the approximately 2,000 acres of cattail in Pool 2 had been disked at least once. As of this writing, total acres disked in Pool 2 have increased to nearly 1,500, with 898 acres having been disked three times and 192 acres disked twice. Plus, 737 acres in Pool 3A have been disked twice and 222 acres in Pool 4A have been disked 2-3 times, bringing the total acres of cattail disked this year to nearly 3,000. If you consider the number of times these acres have been disked, that's over 6,000 acres. Based on previous experience with disking at the Bottoms, the multiple diskings and length of time these areas have been dry after disking should mean that these areas will be relatively free of cattail for several years. When the rains return, these disked areas will be attractive to a wide variety of waterbirds.

Despite the developments designed to minimize the chance the wildlife area would be dry (e.g., water rights

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# KANSAS SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2003 through July 31, 2003

By Lloyd Moore

All you have to say about the Summer 2003 report is Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Painted Redstart. I would hate to guess how many gallons of gas were consumed by Kansas, and regional, birders in pursuit of these three species.

The Reddish Egret and Painted Redstart each represented the second Kansas records and both were verified with photographs and videotape removing them from the hypothetical list by the KBRC. And anytime that a Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill and Black-bellied Whistling Duck take second fiddle has to be a fine summer of Kansas birding. Thanks to everyone who submitted records and photographs for all these species to the KBRC.

Eurasian-collared Doves continued their spread across the state with sight records coming from more and more counties. White-winged Doves kept popping up across the state with reports from as far east as Douglas and Pottawatomie County. Not to be out done, an Inca Dove was far east at Linn County.

Hummingbirds were again indicating a fine fall migration with July sightings of Calliope and Rufous from Finney and Pawnee respectively. Lesser Goldfinches were reported from a couple of Garden City locations.

*Errata* - In the Spring 2003 Roundup found in the September 2003 *Horned Lark* it should be noted that the nesting Say's Phoebe was from Harper County

Oklahoma, not Harper County Kansas. The record is still noteworthy as it is a county nesting record and the eastern most nesting record in Oklahoma.

Thanks once again to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Loon	1 imm. at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	<b>06/03-07/04</b>	DG
Pied-billed Grebe	several downy young on one pool at Marais des Cygnes, including 8-10 in an apparent crèche	Linn	07/04	DS,SC,MM,GP
Neotropic Cormorant	1 below spillway, John Redmond Rs. Coffey ( <i>At least one individual has been seen at this location since last fall.</i> )		07/02	AS
<b><u>Reddish Egret</u></b>	<D> 1 imm. at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/21-07/04	PJ,GF,SS,M:ob
Little Blue Heron	13 at <u>Wyandotte Co. Lk.</u>	Wyandotte	<u>06/22</u>	ML
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	1 at Quivira NWR 2 imm. at Lassiter Marsh 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Jefferson Barton Stafford	06/25-07/04 07/06-19 07/11 07/12-29	SP,CH,PJ,KG DLS & others fide KGr HA, M&ER
Cattle Egret	450 in two groups E of QNWR	Reno	07/05	CS, CM
Glossy Ibis	1 at Quivira NWR 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford Barton	07/04 07/13	ML, MG JB, PJ
<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	<D> 1 imm. at Hargis Lake 2 imm. at Quivira NWR <D> 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms ( <i>These are probably the same 2 birds reported from Quivira NWR.</i> )	Barber Stafford Barton	06/29-7/19 07/11-30 07/20-22	DA, M:ob DH, M:ob JM,MT,NL,MPo
<b><u>Wood Stork</u></b>	<D> 1 imm. at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/18-23	DH, M:ob

Black Vulture	2 E of Baxter Springs <D> 1 E of Baxter Springs	Cherokee Cherokee	06/07 HA 06/14-7/20 M&EC, M:ob
<b><u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u></b>	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11-13 fide KGr, M:ob
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 at Hargis Lake 1 at Quivira NWR	<u>Barber</u> Stafford	06/06 PJ 07/04 PJ,KG,DAr
Cinnamon Teal	2 pair at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 male at Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	06/21 B&NB 06/21 B&NB
Greater Scaup	1 male, Ritchie Sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>06/01</u> PJ
Red-breasted Merganser	2 females on small pond	Ellsworth	<u>06/06</u> MR
Osprey	1 N of Clinton Lake 1 on Farnum Crk. arm Milford Lk.	Douglas Geary	<u>06/01</u> GPa <u>07/14-27</u> C&JO
Mississippi Kite	1 in Overland Park 1 flying over Prairie Village res. 1 at SM Pkwy & Antioch, Merriam 1 at 87 & Woodward, Overland Pk. 1 at 82 <sup>nd</sup> & Lamar, Overland Park	Johnson Johnson Johnson Johnson Johnson	06/20 MG 06/10 NL 07/16 NL 07/10 ML 07/12 ML
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 near Corwin	<u>Harper</u>	07/13 JB, PJ
Swainson's Hawk	2 (single adults seen flying in 2 different areas near Marais des Cygnes WA)	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/04</u> DS,SC,MM,GP
Merlin	1 imm. in Garden City	Finney	<u>07/16</u> T&SSh
Prairie Falcon	1 1 at P. Dog town South of Holcomb	Kiowa Finney	<b><u>06/25</u></b> HA <u>07/12</u> T&SSh
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 south of Holcomb	Finney	07/12 T&SSh
Black Rail	1 at Coldwater Lake 1 at Quivira NWR 2 at Quivira NWR	Comanche Stafford Stafford	06/06 PJ 07/12 HA 07/17 MC
King Rail	1 at Quivira NWR 2 at Quivira NWR 12 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 07/12 HA 07/12 BG, MB
Virginia Rail	4 at Quivira NWR 2 adults & 9 chicks QNWR 4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 07/05 CS, CM 07/12 HA
Sora	<D> 2 at KCPL Prairie Wetland	Johnson	07/13 M&EC
<u>Purple Gallinule</u>	<D> 1 found dead 5 mi E. of Caney	Montgomery	07/21 IP
Common Moorhen	4 at Quivira NWR 1 heard at Coldwater Lake 1 adult & 5 young at QNWR	Stafford <u>Comanche</u> Stafford	07/04 PJ,KG,DAr 06/06 PJ 07/12 HA
Black-bellied Plover	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>06/22</u> GP
American Golden Plover	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>06/22</u> GP

Piping Plover	1 at Slate Creek Marsh 4 pairs of Piping Plovers and 20 pairs of Least Terns located in two colonies between St. Marys and Wamego on the Kansas River. Unfortunately, high water June 25-26 destroyed most of the nests. About half of them are re-nested.	Sumner Wabaunsee	07/07 06/24	MT RB	
Whimbrel	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN	
Long-billed Curlew	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	SP, CH	
Marbled Godwit	4 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	SP, CH	
	5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	06/25	SP, CH	
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN	
Western Sandpiper	15 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/11	AP, MP, AN	
White-rumped Sandpiper	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/25	DS, SC	
	1 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	07/07	MT	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at CB in alternate plumage <i>(the Buffy had a broken leg that was still dangling! .....and it kept picking at it! It just hobbled around on its little stump! fide GP)</i>	Barton	06/22	GP	
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/20	NL, MPo	
	1 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	07/27	B&NB	
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 imm. at a Playa lake	<u>Harper</u>	07/13	JB, PJ	
	2 at a Playa lake	Kearny	07/13	T&SSh	
Laughing Gull	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/13	M&ER	
Franklin's Gull	100+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	06/24	MR	
Forester's Tern	1 at Quivira NWR, seen carrying fish. Presumably to feed young.	Stafford	06/23	MT, MR	
Least Tern	1 at Elkhart sewage lagoons	Morton	06/01	R&LS	
	6 adults & 8 juveniles at nest site in N. Wichita	Sedgwick	06/19	RB	
	8 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/13	M&ER	
	4 nesting pairs at John Redmond Rs	Coffey	07/10	AS, TM	
	<i>(On 07/24 only 2 adult terns were seen in the vicinity. No evidence of incubation going on, Per Aaron Ball, Flint Hills NWR.)</i>				
Black Tern	400+ in pool 1A at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/29	M&EL	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Numerous in Hanston	Hodgeman	06/01	SS	
	1 in Paradise	Russell	06/01	HA	
	Pair nesting in Winfield	Cowley	06/05	MT	
	1 at Norwich	Kingman	06/08	LH	
	1 on BBS route	Nemaha	06/ ?	DLS	
	Pair at Coldwater Lake	Comanche	06/23	M:ob	
	<i>(Courting ,possibly nesting . As many as 10 individuals reported.)</i>				
	Pair in Zenda	Kingman	06/28	DL	
	1 near Dispatch	Jewell	07/02	HA	
	1 in Nickerson, 1 along 95 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Reno	07/05	CS, CM	
	1 near Riverside Hosp., Wichita	Sedgwick	07/15	JB	
<D> 2 at Eudora residence	Douglas	07/27	RN		

White-winged Dove	Pair at a residence in Goodland	<u>Sherman</u>	06/04	JP
	2 at Shane residence ( <i>since 4/28</i> )	Finney	06/04	T&SSh
	1 at feeder in Pratt	Pratt	06/06	J&LQ
	<D> 1 at feeder in Lawrence	Douglas	06/20	K&SSr, KC
	1 at Max's residence in Winfield	Cowley	07/16	MT
	1 at res. S of Olsburg	Pottawatomie	07/15	fide PW
Inca Dove	1 Still in Meade	Meade	06/07	TF
	4 at a Garden City residence	Finney	06/28	MC, AG
	1 at Rich residence, Garden City	Finney	06/28	L&BR
	1 SE Trading Post, MdC NWR	Linn	07/15	KK
<D>	2 adult & 3 imm. in Garden City	Finney	07/15	MC, AG
Burrowing Owl	4 young among several seen in Prairie Dog town SE of Haviland	Kiowa	06/26	J&LQ
	<u>79</u> total at 2 Prairie Dog towns SO of Holcomb.	Finney	07/12	T&SSh
Short-eared Owl	1 adult female, 9 mi. N. of Larned	Pawnee	07/27	SS
<b><u>Calliope Hummingbird</u></b>	<D> 1 male at Osterbuhr res.	Finney	07/27	MO
Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm. male at Kazmaier res. and 1 adult male at a neighbors in Larned	Pawnee	07/19	D&KK
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 female at Tuttle Crk. Rs. ( <i>A female LBWO has been seen at the Stockdale Area off and on since Sept. 2001.</i> )	Riley	06/09	LJ
Pileated Woodpecker	1 at feeder in Blue Rapids	<u>Marshall</u>	06/05	TP
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at NESAs	Jefferson	<b><u>06/13</u></b>	GP
Western Wood-Pewee	1 singing in Hugoton	Stevens	<u>06/14</u>	SP
Least Flycatcher	4 at Wilson Lake	Russell	<u>07/22-23</u>	MR
Great-crested Flycatcher	1 female at Shane's residence	<u>Finney</u>	<u>06/13</u>	T&SSh
Fish Crow	20+ near Riverton	Cherokee	07/06	MG, ML, MD
Swainson's Thrush	1 at residence in Garden City	Finney	<b><u>06/10</u></b>	T&SSh
Yellow-throated Warbler	19 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/14	JS, BB
Prairie Warbler	1 singing at Schermerhorn Pk.	Cherokee	07/06	MG, ML, MD
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	07/05	JS
<b><u>Painted Redstart</u></b>	<D> 1 adult male at Coldwater Lake	Comanche	06/23-29	P&VS,JL,VH
Black-headed Grosbeak	nesting at Scott Lake	Scott	06/06	T&SSh
Lazuli Bunting	1 male on BBS route	Osborne	06/15	MR
Bobolink	Pair in alfalfa field near MdCWA	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/04</u>	DS,SC,MM,GP
Pine Siskin	1 at feeder in Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	<u>07/05</u>	BY
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1 green-backed form male ( <i>a female showed up on 06/24.</i> )	Finney	06/20	BC
	Pair at Rich residence, Garden City ( <i>male was black backed form.</i> )	Finney	06/24	L&BR

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual, late or early sightings.

Underlined species indicates unusual species.

**Underlined species in bold** indicate species with no records or fewer than 10 records for Kansas.

<D> indicates that documentation was submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

**Abbreviations:** Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA), Marais des Cygne W. A. (MdcWA), Marais des Cygne National Wildlife Refuge (Mdc NWR), Ft. Hays State University (FHSU), KSU Field Ornithology Class (KSU FOC),

**OBSERVERS:** Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Dennis Angle, David Arbour (DAr), Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Bill Busby, Doris Burnett, Roger Boyd, Mary Butel, James Barnes, Mark Corder, Mark & Elaine Corder (M&EC), Kevin Crisp, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Sue Calhoon, Mary Deuser, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Alan Godwin, Kevin Groeneweg, Karl Grover (KGr), Bob Gress, Leon Hicks, David Hilley, Chris Hobbs, Vickie Hatfield, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Karl Karrow, Don & Kathy Kazmaier (D&KK), Mark Land, Mark & Eileen Land (M&EL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Jo Loyd, Dan Larson, Nancy Leo, Cheryl Miller, Mick McHugh, Jim Mayhew, Tim Menard, Arpad Nyari, Ron Nicholson, Marie Osterbuhr, Alexis Powell, John Palmquist, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Monica Papes, Melody Pollom (MPo), Galen Pittman, Tom Parker, Sebastian Patti, Ivan L. Pfalser, Jane & Lee Queal (J&LQ), Mike Rader, Mike & Ellen Rader (M&ER), Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Scott Seltman, David Seibel, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Kylee & Scott Sharp (K&SSr), John Schukman, Ruth & Leanna Smith (R&LS), Pat & Virginia Seibert (P&VS), Art Swalwell, Carolyn Schwab, Max Thompson, Paul Weidhaas, Beverly Yates,

## 10 Best Birds of the Past Year

*(October 2002 - September 2003)*

*As presented by Max Thompson at the KOS Fall Meeting in Winfield*

1. Painted Redstart - 6/23/2003 Pat Seibert, Jo Loyd, Ginny Seibert and Vicki Hatfield Coldwater Lake Campground, singing. (Seen thru 28th). Photos. 2nd State Record. Seen by many birders in the state!!
2. Reddish Egret - 6/21/03 Immature bird in Big Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR. 2nd state record. Seen by many birders. Photographs. Still at the marsh on 6/24/2003. Gregg Friesen & mob.
3. Yellow-billed Loon - 4/24/03 at Pottawatomie Lake #2 by David Rintoul; 11/10/2002 by Sebastian Patti and Chris Hobbs at Clark County State Lake. Removed from the hypothetical list by photos.
4. Western Screech Owl - 9/14/2003 by Scott Seltman and than many others at Boy Scout Area, Cimarron National Grasslands. Bird was photographed and recorded.
5. Roseate Spoonbill - 6/29/03 by Dennis Angle at a small private pond in Barber County and at Cheyenne Bottoms by several birders and again at Quivira NWR by mob.
6. Wood Stork - Quivira NWR, Dave Hilley. 6/18/2003,
7. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - Seen 7/11/2003 Cheyenne Bottoms, Karl Grover. Probably also the one seen at Quivira NWR later.
8. Common Raven - Hobbs, Patti, Rader, and Seltman reported a flock of 40-50 in Morton County on September 20, 2003.
9. Black Vulture - June 2003. Seen by Don Vannoy, Pete Janzen, Sebastian Patti., mob. In Cherokee County.
10. Clark's Nutcracker - Ozawkie, Perry Lake in Jefferson Co. 12/15/2002, Bunnie Watkins. Pictures

**Remember KOS...** If you would like to help the Kansas Ornithological Society's future growth consider leaving a memorial trust for the Society or including the KOS in your will. If you would like more information feel free to contact any of the Board Members.

# KOS Fall Meeting, 2003

## Winfield, Kansas

### October 3 – 5, 2003

Field Trips in Cowley and Sumner Counties

Canada Goose  
 Wood Duck  
 Gadwall  
 American Wigeon  
 Mallard  
 Blue-winged Teal  
 Northern Shoveler  
 Northern Pintail  
 Green-winged Teal  
 Redhead  
 Ring-necked Pheasant  
 Wild Turkey  
 Northern Bobwhite  
 Pied-billed Grebe  
 American White Pelican  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Great Egret  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Osprey  
 Bald Eagle  
 Northern Harrier  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 Cooper's Hawk  
 Red-shouldered Hawk  
 Swainson's Hawk  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Rough-legged Hawk  
 American Kestrel  
 Merlin  
 Peregrine Falcon  
 Prairie Falcon  
 Sora  
 American Coot  
 Sandhill Crane  
 Killdeer  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Lesser Yellowlegs  
 Least Sandpiper  
 Stilt Sandpiper  
 Long-billed Dowitcher  
 Wilson's Snipe  
 Franklin's Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove  
 Mourning Dove  
 Black-billed Cuckoo  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
 Eastern Screech-Owl  
 Great Horned Owl  
 Barred Owl  
 Short-eared Owl  
 Common Nighthawk  
 Chimney Swift  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-headed Woodpecker  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
 Loggerhead Shrike  
 Blue-headed Vireo  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow  
 Horned Lark  
 Tree Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow  
 Barn Swallow  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Carolina Wren  
 House Wren  
 Marsh Wren  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 Eastern Bluebird  
 American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Northern Mockingbird  
 Brown Thrasher  
 European Starling  
 American Pipit

Sprague's Pipit  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Summer Tanager  
 Spotted Towhee  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Clay-colored Sparrow  
 Field Sparrow  
 Vesper Sparrow  
 Lark Sparrow  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 Grasshopper Sparrow  
 Le Conte's Sparrow  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp.  
 Song Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Harris's Sparrow  
 White-crowned Sparrow  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Indigo Bunting  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Eastern Meadowlark  
 Common Grackle  
 Great-tailed Grackle  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 House Sparrow

*A total of 125 species were seen during the weekend. The Sunday morning field trips were truly spectacular regardless of whether you were watching thousands of Swainson's Hawks at Slate Creek Marsh, or Sandhill Cranes and Short-eared Owls at Max's pasture. Thank you to Max and all the field trip leaders!*

*The Editor*

# KOS Fall Board Meeting

## October 4, 2003

### Winfield, Kansas

Attendance:

Chuck Otte	John Schukman	Pete Janzen
Cal Cink	Bill Busby	Marvin Kuehn
Tom Shane	Kerrie Kirkpatrick	Mark Land
Lowell Johnson	Cheryl Miller	Matt Gearhart

Chairman Tom Shane called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Chuck Otte moved to accept the minutes from the spring meeting. Cal Cink seconded the motion and it passed. Tom had e-mailed items for discussion to board members prior to the meeting, and this list was followed.

**New Membership List.** Tom asked if the new membership list (directory) should be mailed out to KOS members. How would this be funded? Chuck Otte pointed out that a separate mailing would not be needed: it could be mailed out with the Bulletin and Newsletter.

**KOS Website Upgrade.** Chuck provided history on the Website: Originally, we had 50 mb of space. Dave and he had it increased to 250 mb, which is still sufficient for our current needs. However, they are looking at an opportunity to increase it to 500 mb at a cost of \$203 per year, which is relatively inexpensive. Uses are increasing, including by the Bird Records Committee. Pete Janzen made a motion to allow Chuck and Dave to upgrade the service to 500 mb. The motion was seconded by Marvin Kuehn and passed.

**Membership List Exchange.** Tom raised the question of whether KOS should exchange its membership list with that of Audubon so that each organization could recruit members from each other's list. Mark Land noted that Burrough's Audubon has something like 2,500 members, of which only a small proportion was active. Most appear to join in order to get the magazine. Mark would be happy to suggest names of individuals who are active in Burrough's Audubon but not KOS members. Pete suggested asking every life member to buy a membership for someone else as a way to increase membership (and allow life members to relieve their guilt for not shouldering their fair share of membership costs).

**Membership Slipping.** Tom said KOS was now below 300 members. He would like to get it back up to 400. Mark pointed out that we need to remind people about lapsed memberships. John Schukman suggested including a membership form in the next newsletter. Another suggestion was to chuck an old membership list and see who is still around (but no longer a member) and send them membership information.

**Kansas Bird Records Committee.** KBRC is planning to print and bind records for the past three or so years. Cost is estimated at \$300, and it was suggested to bill this against the KOS book fund. Max Thompson, KBRC Chair, will be consulted on printing plans and costs.

**KOS Library.** Tom inquired whether KOS needed a librarian, preferably someone in the Lawrence area. Katherine Kelly used to serve in this capacity, but it has been a number of years since we've had someone to keep track of KOS publications stored at KU. Volunteers?

**Bulletin Index.** Cal Cink reported that Roger Boyd is continuing to work on this.

**Future Meetings.**

Spring field trip 2004:	Washington County (Dan Thalmann)
Fall meeting 2004:	Baldwin City
Spring field trip 2005:	Pratt
Fall meeting 2005:	Wichita

**New Business.**

Cheryl Miller suggested we look into posting material about bequests on the KOS web page.

Tom noted that the Christmas Count issue of the Bulletin was quite large. However, the only material that might be cut from this issue is the main table, which was not deemed a good idea.

**KOS Awards.** Tom asked for board approval of the selection of 2003 KOS awards to Marvin Schwilling, Max Thompson, and Chuck Ely. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Conducting board business by e-mail.** A brief discussion of how this is working and how to track it occurred. It was agreed that Secretary Bill Busby would continue to summarize these discussions briefly and forward them to Chuck for publication in the newsletter with the meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

### **KOS Morning Business Meeting**

President Tom Shane announced fund balances for the checking account (\$416) and investment account (\$108,391).

Bulletin Editor Cal Cink stated that he is looking for manuscripts.

Newsletter Editor Chuck Otte asked that he be provided with Christmas Count dates for inclusion in the newsletter.

### **KOS Afternoon Business Meeting**

Tom Shane read the slate of officers. Changes from current office holders are: Pete Janzen, Business Manager; Mark Land, Membership Development Coordinator; Matt Gearheart, Director. Joyce Davis moved to accept the slate of officers. Roger Boyd seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

John Schukman commented that funds are available for student research projects.

Max Thompson stated that 85 people had registered for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
William H. Busby  
Corresponding Secretary

## **KOS Board Business via Internet Summer 2003 (5/04/03 to 10/03/03)**

The following KOS Board actions were taken through e-mail correspondence.

### **A. Printing of checklists**

10 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: A motion had been made and seconded to approve the printing of 10,000 KOS 10th edition checklists on #110 index paper for \$740 as quickly as the KBRC finalizes the species list. Please vote yes if you approve of this expenditure or no if you do not approve.

17 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: Printing of the KOS 10th edition checklist has been approved by the KOS Board; eleven yes votes to zero no votes.

### **B. KOS Award**

13 Sep 2003. Marvin Kuehn: Our President, Tom Shane brought up the subject of a recognition award for individuals who have provided outstanding service to the society over the years at the spring meeting . Tom has given this topic considerable thought and has discussed the idea with several members over the past month. He has asked if I would draft a proposal for consideration by the Board. Some of the details have been discussed with Roger Boyd and he appears to be very supportive of the award. You will understand this reference in a moment.

The challenge in developing the procedures for recognition awards is to find a balance between what items are essential or necessary and what information might be considered prescriptive and limiting. I have attempted to take the input Tom received and passed on to me and draft some general procedures without providing too many restrictions.

Recognition awards can be subjective but I believe in the integrity and intent of the KOS Board to be fair, to be nonpolitical and to make decisions without bias.

I therefore move that KOS institute the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award to be implemented following the procedures outlined in the following draft:

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Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

This award is to be given to a member(s) of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), usually each year, for outstanding contributions and service to the society. The award is not a monetary award but shall be presented to an individual(s) as a plaque with appropriate information provided. It shall be known as the Boyd Award in recognition of the contributions of Dr. Ivan Boyd who was a KOS Founder, Charter Member, and the first president of KOS. He was also a Bulletin Editor and helped start the Baldwin CBC in 1942, which is the longest running CBC in the state.

The specific information on the plaque shall be determined each year by the Board. It is suggested that the plaque read:

The Kansas Ornithological Society  
(Horned Lark emblem)

Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award

Presented to

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

For his/her  
outstanding contributions and service  
to the society

At the Annual Fall Meeting  
20\_\_

=====

Individuals must be nominated by another KOS member. Nominations should be submitted to the Board with instructions on deadlines and procedures provided to the membership in a timely manner. Nominations should provide a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. Contributions could include such things as number and years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the Bulletin or Horned Lark, number of CBC's compiled, and years of membership; this is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the society may be provided.

Each year information about nominations for the Boyd Award will be announced in the Horned Lark. Nominations will be accepted each year by the KOS Board and announcement of the Award recipient(s) will be made at the KOS meeting each fall. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive an award. The Board may select more than one recipient each year or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

The KOS Board may adopt other guidelines and procedures to improve or modify the administration of the Boyd Award.

13 Sep 2003. Chuck Otte seconds the motion. There were no dissenting votes

29 Sep 2003. Tom Shane: We have received three nominations for the Ivan L. Boyd Award. Let me know as soon as possible if you approve of the following persons receiving the Boyd Award. In order they were received:

**Max C. Thompson**, Member and Life Member since 1955, President: 1972 - 1973, Vice-President: 1971, Director: 1967 - 1968, Newsletter Editor: 1963, he edited the first number, and again from 1969 1974, and 1980 - 1982, Business Manager: 1983 - 1984, Bulletin Editor: 1992 - 2001, Committees: Served on many including Finance and KBRC, Compiler of the Udall/Winfield Winter Bird Count most years since 1955. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.

*(Nominated by Chuck Otte and Gene Young).*

**Marvin D. Schwilling** Member and Life Member since 1952, President: 1958 & 1966, Vice-President: 1956 - 1957, Director: 1953 - 1954, and 1962 - 1964, Committees: Served on many including Check-list, By-Laws and KBRC. Compiler of the Great Bend Winter Bird Count for many years. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.  
*(Nominated by Marvin Kuehn)*

**Charles A. Ely** Member and Life Member since 1960, President: 1981 - 1982, Vice-President: 1969 - 1970, 1978 - 1980. Director: 1961 - 1963, Newsletter Editor: 1967 - 1968, Bulletin Editor: 1969 - 1977, Compiler of the Ellis County Winter Bird Count for many years. Published dozens of papers and notes in the bulletin and newsletter. Hosted many meetings and presented numerous papers at the annual meeting.  
*(Nominated by Tom Shane)*

#### **New committee members**

2 Oct 2003. Tom Shane: Two members have resigned their offices (Dave Williams and Mike Stewart) and one member's term will expire (David Seibel). All three of those board members have other commitments for the weekend and all three have agreed to resign as of today. I will appoint the following people to those offices for two days or until the elections are held Saturday afternoon. That way they will be able to attend the board meeting Saturday noon and get up to speed much sooner.

Pete Janzen: Business Manager

Mark Land: Membership Development Coordinator.

Matt Gearheart: Director.

We certainly want to thank Dave, Mike, and David for their valuable support on the board.

Respectfully submitted, William H. Busby, Corresponding Secretary



KOS President Tom Shane (left) presented two of the inaugural Ivan L. Boyd Awards for outstanding contributions and service to the Kansas Ornithological Society to Charles A. Ely (center) and Max C. Thompson (right) at the annual meeting banquet held October 4, 2003 in Winfield Kansas. Marvin D. Schwilling, the third recipient was unable to attend and was presented his plaque the following week at his home by Vice-president Marvin Kuehn.  
*photo by Sara Shane*

# Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2003 Fall KOS Meetings Winfield, Kansas October 4, 2003

## **Effects of Prescribed Burns and Bison Grazing on Breeding Bird Abundances in Tallgrass Prairie.**

**Alexis F. L. A. Powell** Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Natural History Museum University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045

Grassland birds have declined more than any other avian guild in North America, with nearly every species decreasing. In the Flint Hills of Kansas, the largest remaining patch of the tallgrass ecosystem, rangeland management utilizing annual spring burning has recently replaced burning every 2-4 years. I examined the effects of burning and bison grazing on the June abundances of eight bird species using a 22-year dataset from the Long Term Ecological Research Program at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Fire had a significant effect on the abundance of every species except Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) were practically eliminated by an annual burn cycle, whereas Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) and Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) responded positively to it. Nonetheless, Dickcissel numbers were no higher and Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were lower on transects burned annually rather than every 4 or 20 years because of the impact of another fire-related parameter—time since last burn. These two species, along with Bell's Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), were all least abundant, and Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) was eliminated, in the season of a burn. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) had a bimodal pattern of abundance, being most numerous in the season of a burn and 4+ seasons since. Bison grazing boosted Upland Sandpiper numbers, but nearly eliminated Henslow's Sparrow. Grazing also significantly reduced Common Yellowthroat in 4-year burn cycle areas and Dickcissel in areas in the season of a burn. Although periodic fire and grazing are natural forces that maintain tallgrass prairie, most grassland birds respond negatively to recent fire and would benefit from rangeland that includes periodically unburned areas. Henslow's Sparrow would benefit from ungrazed refuges.

## **Least Terns and Piping Plovers Nesting on the Kansas River. Matthew G. Sexson**

Biology Department, Baker University

In 1996, William H. Busby first documented nesting colonies of least tern and piping plover on the sandbars of the Kansas River. A survey at this time revealed at least 2 breeding pair of piping plovers, and 7 breeding pair of least terns. Since 1998, the breeding population of these species has been monitored to determine the productivity of each on the Kansas River. From 1998 through 2002, the average fledgling success for least tern was 0.45 fledglings per pair, and for piping plover, 1.47 fledglings per pair. In 2002, 39 least tern nests were identified, with a total of 87 eggs. Of these, 11.5% hatched, 74.7% were depredated, and 15.9% were lost to abandonment, infertility, human disturbance, flooding and storms, or human disturbance. Seven of 10 least tern chicks fledged. Four piping plover nests were identified in 2002, with a total of 14 eggs. Of these, 28.6% hatched, 57.1% were depredated, and 14.2% were determined to be abandoned or infertile. All 4 piping plover chicks fledged in 2002. To decrease the effects of depredation on the breeding success of least tern and piping plover, researchers at other locations have used methods of predator exclusion. In 2003, similar methods were used on the Kansas River. Thirty-six least tern nests were identified in 2003, having a total of 80 eggs. Of these 21.3% hatched, 30.0% were depredated, 20.0% were determined to be abandoned or infertile, and 28.8% were lost to flooding and storms. Out of 17 least tern chicks, 5 fledged in 2003. Six piping plover nests were located in the same year, producing a total of 23 eggs. Of these, 13.0% hatched, 21.7% were depredated, 30.4% were determined to be abandoned or infertile, and 34.8% were lost to flooding and storms. No piping plover chicks fledged in 2003. The impact of predator exclusion on the breeding success of piping plover and least tern nesting on the Kansas River during 2003 will be discussed, as well as the use of predator exclusion in future Kansas River colonies.

## **Grassland Bird Surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms**

**Wildlife Area. Helen Hands**, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Great Bend, KS

Grassland bird surveys have been conducted at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) since 2000. The objectives are to monitor bird abundance of birds

in the grassland portions of CBWA and to determine the relationship, if any, between habitat management and bird abundance. Bird abundances is measured by counting all birds seen and heard at each of 90 points located in the grassland areas of CBWA during June. So far, 40 species of birds have been detected. Dickcissels and red-winged blackbirds have been the most abundant. During 2000-2002, mean total birds per point ranged from 10.80-11.23 and mean grassland-nesting birds per point ranged from 9.48-9.94. Mean abundance of all birds and grassland-nesting birds tended to be highest in Pool 3 and in pools burned within the last 2 years.

**The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Female Mate Choice for Aggressive Males in the Greater Prairie Chicken.** *J. K. Nooker* Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Lek mating systems provide an excellent opportunity to study mate choice, because female choice is unrestricted, and females receive few direct benefits from males other than gametes. In birds, females often choose testosterone dependent traits to assess male quality. In grouse, testosterone levels may affect behavior, territory position, and morphological traits. Our objective was to investigate which traits females use to select mates in the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Thirty-five males were observed at three leks near Manhattan in northeast Kansas. Males were captured and given unique leg band and tail color combinations. During focal observations, time spent displaying and fighting was calculated, and tallies taken of the number of fights and males engaged, boom vocalizations, and flutter jumps. Copulations and position of males at leks were recorded opportunistically. Males engaging in more fights gained more copulations, regardless of their display rate. Higher copulation rates were also correlated with larger combs and longer tails. Females did not select males based on territory size or distance from lek center. However, aggression and display rate were correlated with distance from lek center. This observational study provides mixed support for the hypothesis that females choose testosterone-mediated traits. As predicted, two testosterone-mediated traits, aggression and comb height, were correlated with mating success. However, display rate, territory size and position were not related to mating success.

**Structural Colors of Birds: Why are Bluebirds Blue?** *Richard O. Prum, Ph.D.* Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Curator of Ornithology, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas

The colors of birds are created by pigment molecules

and by interactions of light with structures in the feathers and skin. The structural colors of birds have recently begun to receive new scientific study. For more than a century, noniridescent blue colors have been hypothesized to be produced by Rayleigh or Tyndall scattering (the same mechanism of that creates the blue sky). But our research has shown that the noniridescent blue colors of bird feathers (e.g. Bluebirds) and skin (e.g. Ruddy Duck) are produced by constructive interference (the same mechanisms that creates the colors of an oil slick). Physical analysis of the structural color mechanisms will help us understand how structural colors have evolved and what function they have in the lives of birds.

**Consequences of brood parasitism and proximate mechanisms responsible for nest desertion in the Bell's Vireo.** *Karl L. Kosciuch*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506

The effects of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) differ among host species and correlate with body size. Large bodied hosts can raise mixed broods while small bodied hosts (< 30 g) fail to fledge host young. Nest desertion is a common response of small bodied hosts to parasitism, but variation in the incidence of desertion exists within and among populations. Populations that do not desert frequently are hypothesized to lack the response and show an evolutionary lag because of recent exposure of host to parasite. The Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) is a small bodied bird (9g), breeds from California to the Great Plains and is a common cowbird host. This species shows variability in desertion frequencies among and within populations. Bell's Vireos were studied at Konza Prairie Biological Station near Manhattan, Kansas from May to August, 2003. Nests were visited every three days and response to parasitism was defined as accept if Bell's Vireos incubated cowbird eggs or reject if the nest was abandoned during laying or early incubation and contained cowbird eggs. Sixty eight percent of all nests and 82 percent of all pairs were parasitized at least once. Fifty percent (12/24) of pairs that were parasitized more than once showed a mixed response (accept and reject). Seasonal productivity (total fledglings per pair) differed among responses ( $F_{2,23} = 8.54$ ,  $P = 0.0019$ ) with pairs that desert one or more nests fledging more young than pairs that accept one or more nests or have a mixed response. Logistic regression models of response to parasitism revealed that number of host eggs remaining in the nest had a significant effect on desertion rates, not the number of cowbird eggs laid. We found an increasing probability of desertion with decreased host clutch size. While selection should favor desertion, we hypothesize that Bell's Vireos do not respond to nest parasitism *per se*, but respond to a decline in clutch mass

during laying; a general response in birds. This hypothesis provides a more robust explanation than evolutionary lag because it accounts for variation in the incidence of desertion within and among host populations.

**Annual Survival Rates in a Migratory Population of Grasshopper Sparrows in Northeast Kansas.** *Brett K. Sandercock, Ph.D.*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Grasshopper Sparrows are a species of conservation concern in many areas of North America for ongoing population declines. Management efforts are hampered by a lack of baseline demographic data for migratory populations in the Great Plains. In particular, few estimates of survival are available, in part because Grasshopper Sparrows are thought to have low site fidelity to breeding territories in consecutive years. In this paper, we present mark-recapture data collected over a decade (1994-2003) at a MAPS banding station at Ft. Riley military base. In the first nine years of the study, we banded a total of 140 juveniles, 88 adult females, 111 adult males and 15 birds of indeterminate age or sex. The proportion of birds that returned was low, only 0.021 of juveniles, 0.034 of adult females and 0.198 of adult males were recaptured in the year after first banding. All of the three returning juveniles were recaptured as yearlings. We used mark-recapture statistics and CJS models to analyze adult survival. Apparent survival rates were similar in males (0.413 ± 0.064SE) and females (0.454 ± 0.160), but the probability of capture (p) was higher in males (0.402 ± 0.101) than females (0.103 ± 0.069). Our estimates of apparent survival are comparable to estimates for other small-bodied birds and also males Grasshopper Sparrows from a sedentary population in Florida (2 sites: 0.482 ± 0.079 and 0.533 ± 0.091). Moreover, our estimates of apparent survival >0.40 demonstrate that migratory Grasshopper Sparrows show greater fidelity to breeding territories than has been previously appreciated.

**Kansas Bird Databases.** *Max C. Thompson*, Professor Emeritus Southwestern College and *Chuck Otte* K-State Research and Extension, Geary County Extension Office

Birdwatchers sight records can serve as more than just a record for an individual's life list. Properly detailed records, when compiled with sightings from other observers, can provide a better picture of a species' chronologic and geographical distribution in the state. Currently bird records are being collected/compiled and used in various

databases and projects. Records are collected from birdwatchers and gleaned from the postings on the KSBIRD-L Internet discussion list. Records need to be complete in identification, location and time to be of optimal value. The authors will discuss the importance of good records, how they are used, where to send sight records and how to access information in the databases.

**Numbers of Fall Warblers Captured at the Fort Hays State Banding Station Did Not Change Significantly From 1966 to 2002.** *Greg H. Farley*, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

I supervise a group of graduate and undergraduate students who annually sample fall migrants on the Fort Hays State campus following a tradition established by Dr. Charles Ely in 1966. An equal number of nets are opened in standardized locations from 20 August through 31 October in an effort to replicate sampling effort over time. Analyses of these data indicate significant year to year variation in the number of individuals and species captured, independent of sampling effort. Various factors (e.g., weather and habitat structure) appear to interact on both local and large scales to produce unpredictable numbers of migrants detected on the study site. Comparisons of four-year intervals over the 37-year sampling period indicate no significant trends for the number of Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow or Wilson's warblers captured at this site. These population estimates, although inexact, suggest no overall decline of the most common warbler species over the last several decades.

**Habitat use and home range size differences in Upland Sandpipers *Bartramia longicauda* at Konza Prairie Biological Station.** *Tony W. Mong*, Kansas State University, Division of Biology, Manhattan, KS.

The Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* is an indicator species for prairie ecosystems because they are dependent on native grasslands for breeding and are sensitive to habitat fragmentation. We used data collected from nesting and radio-marked sandpipers during May-July of 2001-2003 to determine habitat use and home range size on the experimental landscape of the Konza Prairie Biological Station (3,487 ha) in the Flint Hills of northeast Kansas. In all years, sandpipers were captured at night with a large dip net while birds were dazzled with spotlights. In 2001-2003 we located 88 nests and examined nest placement in relation to habitat used for nest sites. In 2003, ~40 birds were

fitted with a 3.8 g radio transmitter attached with a figure-8 loop harness. We examined radio-telemetry data from 21 individuals with a total of 866 locations (only individuals with at least 30 locations were used) to determine home range and foraging/loafing areas. We analyzed home ranges using the fixed kernel method (smoothing parameter determined by least squares cross validation method) with the Animal Movement extension in ArcView 3.2. When all three years are pooled, nests were more likely to be located in unburned areas (n=59) than in experimental units burned the same spring (n=29) (binomial test,  $p=0.002$ ). However, there was significant annual variation in burn treatments used for nesting with

more birds nesting in burned areas in 2003 ( $G_4 = 35.0$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Foraging and loafing individuals used watersheds burned the same spring (643 of 783, binomial test,  $p < 0.001$ ). Male total home range size (median = 82.2 ha, IQR = 98.1, n=13) was significantly larger than that of females (median = 41.0 ha, IQR = 33.3, n=8, Mann-Whitney U-test,  $\chi^2_{21} = 6.79$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ). Our results indicate that Upland Sandpipers require a mosaic of habitats in tallgrass prairies to complete their breeding cycle and they may be sensitive to habitat fragmentation because they require large areas for foraging, nesting and brood-rearing.

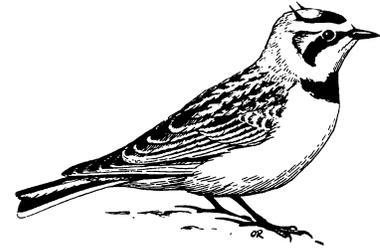


At the annual meeting banquet, KOS president Tom Shane (left) awarded KOS caps to the five students presenting at the papers session held during the day on October 4, 2003 on the campus of Southwestern College. Pictured with Tom are Tony Mong and Jackie Nooker.

*Photo by Sara Shane*

# Kansas Ornithological Society

## Membership Application



\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Membership Type - please clearly mark your choice:

<b>Individuals &amp; Families</b>	<b>Annual Dues</b>
_____ Student (K - college)	\$5
_____ Regular Individual	\$15
_____ Regular Family	\$20
_____ Sustaining Individual	\$25
_____ Sustaining Family	\$30
_____ Contributing	\$40 or more
_____ Life Member	\$300 one time payment (OR two consecutive annual payments of \$150)

Organizational Memberships are available, please contact Membership Development Coordinator for more information: Mark Land, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207, [kestrelland@aol.com](mailto:kestrelland@aol.com)

Mr./ Mrs./ Ms./ Dr./ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form along with your payment to:

Dan Larson  
3636 SE 77th  
Berryton, KS 66407

Please initial one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my membership information to be published in the KOS Membership Directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my membership information to be published in the KOS Membership Directory.

**NOTE:** KOS Membership Directories are only distributed to KOS Members and the information contained therein may not be used in a manner or for a purpose contrary to the guidelines approved by the KOS Board of Directors. The KOS Directory is not published electronically to protect the privacy of the membership

*Annual dues for KOS membership are payable to the KOS Treasurer by January 1st. A member's paid annual dues cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Dues for new members are not prorated. Dues of new members received after September 1st will also include membership for the following year.*



Slate Creek Wetlands, Sumner County Kansas, October 5, 2003 - A kettle of Swainson's Hawks estimated at over 4,000 birds was observed by Fall KOS Meeting field trip participants. An "incredible sight" according to several of the observers!

*Photo by Matt Gearheart*