

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March, 2004

Vol. 31, No. 1

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From The Keyboard -

Spring migration is knocking on the door, and not a moment too soon! This winter seemed particularly long, and cold, and icy, and snowy. Actually more like a real winter and more like the winters we used to have when many of us were "kids". But rare birds were lacking. If it wasn't for Christmas Bird Counts and New Year's lists, I think I would have gone crazy!

As you glance through this issue you'll find the information for the spring field trip in Washington County. And you may ask yourself, "Why on earth are we going to Washington County?" For the simple reason that many of us haven't done much birding in Washington County or maybe even in Republic or Marshall county either for that matter. We get stuck in the rut of going to the same places at the same time every year. We go to the same places because we know them. There is comfort in familiarity, but comfort leads to many things, none of which usually include the words new and different. We have 105 counties covering 81,823 square miles in this great state. How many counties have you birded? As of right now I personally have bird lists for 96 of those counties. Sure, I may only have 1 species on my Wallace county list, but it's a start! Dan Thalman has been busy setting up field trips for us around Washington County including access to some areas we might not be able to get to otherwise. I've driven by the sign to Washington State Fishing Lake dozens of times, but have never slowed down, made the turn and gone there. That'll change on May 1st. Please join me and let's all have some fun!

Be sure to read *Birding: A Reawakening* on page 13 by new KOS member Terry Mannell. I think Terry will touch a little part of your heart and most of us will have no problem connecting with his rediscovered passion. I hope you get a chance to bird with Terry and Sam some time soon, it will be a pleasure for you.

Every spring holds new surprises for us. This bird shows up early, that one shows up late. A favorite place turns up a new species for us, and a newly discovered place holds mysteries that will draw us like the Siren's song. Spring migration is getting underway and we all know that it'll be over before we know it. And when that happens you'll regret that morning you thought about going birding, but didn't. I'm certainly not encouraging you to be irresponsible, but don't let any opportunity pass to enjoy your birding passion or more importantly to share your birding passion! Get on out there, and I'll see you in Washington!

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. There are many areas of the state that have yet to host a KOS field trip so be brave and step forward! Contact any of the officers or board members if you have an invitation or idea for an upcoming meeting.

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 (KSBIRD-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 KSBIRD-L but on a national - international level. This list started in the early 1990s, but the archives only go back to January 1995.

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2004 Spring KOS Field Trip Washington County, Kansas April 30 - May 2

Start making plans to attend.

Details are on page 16 of this issue.

NO registration fee!

Bird the unexplored regions of north-central Kansas!

**Be sure to drop Dan a note and
let him know you're coming!**

- - *Message from the President:*

Please Consider Helping!

Greetings, fellow birders and ornithologists. I want to report that the Kansas Ornithological Society is in great shape financially due to the past efforts of some of our dedicated members. We are publishing a great journal now in the 55th volume with important notes, papers, winter bird count results and Kansas Bird Records Committee actions. Our newsletter has been superb for decades with a wide variety of materials for the diverse interests of our members. The board voted at the last meeting to increase expenditures, continuing the expansion of our growing website. The society is also regularly supporting students with some small grants to help with their research needs and goals. If you attend our annual fall meeting you will hear about some very exciting results of student bird research.

I belong to six other state societies from surrounding states and I am convinced that our group is the most productive and well-balanced. However, like a wide variety of organizations in this age of the internet, our membership has been decreasing when it really should be increasing. I know many of you do a considerable amount of recruiting by a variety of means. Mark Land, our new Membership Development Coordinator is investing much time and energy in recruiting

new members as well as appealing to dropped members to join again.

Many of our past presidents and board members have often pleaded for help in recruiting new members. I am going to go one step further and ask each of you to make a donation of a new member. Buy a membership for a friend or relative who is interested in birds or the little couple down the block that feeds birds or that outdoorsman who sits in his deer blind and enjoys watching the birds as much as he does hunting. Sara and I just sent in dues for two new members, both of whom should renew in the coming years. Print off a membership application from www.ksbirds.org or just send the name and address of the person and mail in \$15 to our KOS Treasurer: Dan Larson, 3636 SE 77th Street, Berryton, KS 66409.

I am looking forward to birding with all of you at the spring meeting at Washington in May and/or at the fall meeting at Baldwin in October.

*Tom Shane
President*

Kansas Ornithological Society



Sara and Tom Shane rest on the banks of the Arkansas River three miles east of the Colorado line during the Syracuse winter bird count after a challenging quarter mile hike through a Tamarisk forest. January 11, 2004

Photo by Pam Ramsey

Canada Geese Made Less Simple

by *John Rakestraw*

Canada Goose is one of the most common, and most easily recognizable species of waterfowl, and its numbers have increased significantly in recent decades. Finding and identifying these birds in Kansas is hardly a challenge at any time of year. But if birding is slow, and Canada Geese are the only birds around, you may want to try your hand at identifying these birds to subspecies.

The simplest definition of subspecies is an identifiable population within a species. Subspecies are not "countable" for listing purposes. But sometimes scientists find enough differences in a subspecies to elevate that population to full species status. Recent examples include Solitary Vireo being split into Cassin's, Plumbeous, and Blue-headed Vireos, and Rufous-sided Towhee being split into Eastern and Spotted Towhees.

Listed below are the eleven subspecies of Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) that are generally recognized. Some argue that number should be smaller, while others insist it should be much larger.

-Western Canada Goose (*B. c. moffitti*)- breeds from central Alberta and British Columbia south to the central northwestern states; winters in the Southwest

-Atlantic Canada Goose (*B. c. Canadensis*) - breeds on Baffin Island, Labrador, Newfoundland, Anticosti Island, and the Magdalen Islands, winters in New England and the Maritime Provinces

-Todd's Canada Goose (*B. c. interior*) - breeds in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba; winters in the Midwest and from Delaware to North Carolina

-Dusky Canada Goose (*B. c. occidentalis*) - breeds on Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet; winters from Washington to California

-Vancouver Canada Goose (*B. c. fulva*) - breeds and winters along coast of Alaska and British Columbia

-Giant Canada Goose (*B. c. maxima*) - breeds and winters on refuges in the farm belt states, typically Oklahoma and Kansas

-Tavener's Canada Goose (*B. c. taverneri*) - breeds throughout interior Alaska; winters from Washington to California

-Richardson's Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*) - breeds on western Baffin Island and surrounding islands; winters on the North Platte River in Nebraska and in Oklahoma and Texas

-Lesser Canada Goose (*B. c. parvipes*)- breeds from central Alaska across northern Canada; winters in the same areas as *B. c. hutchinsii*

-Aleutian Canada Goose (*B. c. leucopareira*) - breeds on the Aleutian Islands; winters from Washington to California

-Cackling Canada Goose (*B. c. minima*) - breeds along coastal Alaska; winters from Washington to California

Four forms can be expected in Kansas. All share similar coloring, with the classic black neck and head, white cheek patches, and pale breasts.

Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) is the largest of the subspecies, measuring 45" in length. Once extirpated from the state, it is now a common nester and year-round resident, sometimes too common in urban settings. This subspecies is recognized by its large size, long thin neck, and long bill.

Todd's Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis interior*) shows the same long slender shape of Giant. Todd's is a little smaller in size and has a darker breast. This race normally winters on the Mississippi Flyway, but may migrate through eastern Kansas.

Lesser Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis parvipes*) measures 36" in length. Its neck is slender, but proportionately shorter than that of Giant Canada Goose. The bill on Lessers is also proportionately shorter. Lessers may be found wintering in Kansas.

Richardson's Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*) passes through Kansas on its way to its wintering grounds on the Gulf Coast. It is the smallest and palest of the four subspecies likely to occur in the state, measuring only 27" in length. Look for the short neck, square head, and stubby bill.

If you find a Canada Goose with a dark breast, you may have found one of the races that normally winter on the west coast. Pay close attention to the size and shape of such birds to help with identification. While the Aleutian subspecies is known for its white neckband, any of the dark-breasted races can show this mark. Voice is only helpful in identifying the tiny Cackling Canada Goose. It has a high-pitched yelping call, which differs from the honking of all the other races.

It is unlikely that Canada Goose will be split into different species. As breeding ranges expand and overlap, the different subspecies mix and produce intergrades that defy categorization. But if you don't take yourself too seriously, assigning birds to a subspecies can add a new level to your birding and provide an added challenge to those slow days.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Statewide Shorebird Survey – 2003 Preliminary Results

by Helen Hands

We have completed the second year of the statewide shorebird survey. Over 50 people have volunteered to survey 51 sites. As you may recall, I asked volunteers to select a site to conduct shorebird surveys. Sites should have potential to attract shorebirds and be convenient enough for volunteers to visit several times. I asked volunteers to count shorebirds at their sites twice monthly during March 16-May 31 and July 1-October 31. Frequent surveys are needed to describe migration chronology and are necessary to detect shorebird use of ephemeral habitats. Although it would be better to survey sites more frequently, perhaps as often as twice a week, it probably isn't feasible for many volunteers.

So far I have received data for 39 sites (78%) surveyed in spring 2002, 33 sites (70%) surveyed in summer-fall 2002, 33 surveyed in spring 2003 (68%), and 30 surveyed in summer-fall 2003 (62%) (see map). Most volunteers conducted one survey per survey period, 5 in spring and 8 in summer-fall. However, up to 54 surveys were conducted at a site. To minimize bias due to differences in number of surveys, when analyzing data for statewide comparisons I selected the maximum count for each species per site per 2-week survey period. Below I summarize the results from these sites plus Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, which I have been surveying since 1992.

In spring 2003, 32 species of shorebirds and 45,922 individuals were recorded, less than half of the spring 2002 total. Wilson's phalaropes (30%) and "dowitchers" (26%) were the most common shorebirds reported, followed by "peeps" (16%). Of the small calidrids (i.e., peeps) identified, white-rumped (9%), semipalmated (7%), and Baird's sandpipers (5%) were reported most often.

During summer-fall 2003, 32 species of shorebirds and 30,575 individuals were observed, less than half of the summer-fall 2002 total. "Dowitchers" (26%) were the most common species reported, followed by killdeer and least sandpipers (both 14%), avocets (11%), and peeps (10%). Least, semipalmated (2%), and Baird's (1%) sandpipers were the most common peeps identified.

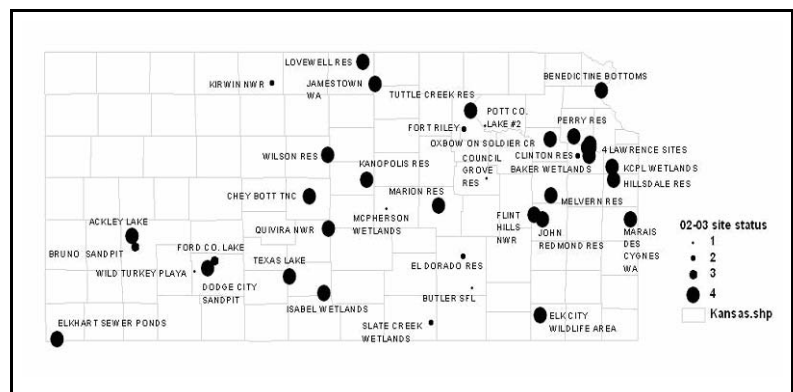
Not surprisingly, number of shorebirds reported in spring 2003 was highest at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR, 46% of the statewide

total) and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA, 34%). After these traditional hotspots came the Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve (5%) and Slate Creek Wetlands (3%). During summer-fall, shorebird numbers were again highest at QNWR (38%) and CBWA (34%), followed by the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge (9%) and Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (4%).

Shorebird numbers in spring peaked during the first and second weeks of May (50% of shorebirds), followed by the third and fourth weeks of May (19%) and the third and fourth weeks of April (18%). During summer-fall, shorebird numbers were highest during the third and fourth weeks of September (22%) and first and second weeks of October (17%). The summer-fall peak was much less dramatic than in spring.

As you can see from the map, sites for which people have volunteered are concentrated in northeast Kansas. I have not yet received data for several sites that people volunteered to survey. These sites include a few state-owned marshes; large reservoirs; small, private lakes; and small, private marshes. I still hope to receive 2002 and/or 2003 data from those who volunteered for these sites. Reservoirs like Milford can have extensive shoreline habitat, so several people working as a team would make surveying these areas more feasible. There also are other sites that have potential for shorebird use for which no one has volunteered and a few sites where the volunteer cannot continue. So if you didn't volunteer last year and would like to volunteer this year, call me at 620-793-3066 or e-mail me at helenh@wp.state.ks.us. Volunteers will receive a shorebird identification book and video

Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks



KANSAS FALL SEASON ROUNDUP

August 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003

By Lloyd Moore

It wasn't a "bad" birding period, especially given the winter that would follow it, but it wasn't an "Oh, wow!" season either.

Oh sure, there was the usual assortment of loons, and of course the Roseate Spoonbills, but where were the great gull reports and other great rarities?

A stuck weather pattern brought the state extreme dry heat in August only to break it with torrential downpours followed by a very leisurely autumn. While the weather was enjoyable, it lacked the massive weather systems that are frequently needed to bring in rarities.

Okay, there were a few bright spots so let's review them. Kenny, the very

cooperative Western Screech-Owl provided many birders with a state record and finally provided the Kansas Bird Records Committee with unequivocal evidence, finally removing this species from the hypothetical ranks.

A soaring kettle of Swainson's Hawks in excess of 4,000 birds wowed field trip participants at the fall KOS meetings in Winfield, while the other field trip group had to settle for Sprague's Pipits, Short-eared Owls and Sandhill Cranes.

Western Hummingbirds are becoming more and more common in the western half of the state. Even so, the KBRC is still lacking in good reports documenting the occurrence of these

species. Records for Black-chinned and Calliope are still sorely needed by the KBRC, as well as Anna's, if you happen to be so lucky!

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>
Red-throated Loon	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/13	MR
	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/26	MT
Pacific Loon	1 at Lake Afton	Sedgwick	11/08	KGr,DD
	1 at Kirwin Reservoir	Phillips	11/29	SS
Common Loon	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	<u>09/02</u>	AS
	1 at Hell Creek, Wilson Lake	Russell	10/20	MR
	2 at Ritchie Sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	10/25	PJ
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	11/09	DS
	1 at New Strawn Sewage Ponds	Coffey	11/26	AS
Western Grebe	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/05	L&JQ
	4 at Empire Power Plant Lake	Cherokee	11/07	R&LM
	6 at Council Grove Lake	Morris	11/26	CG
	2 at Marion Lake	Marion	11/26	CG
Neotropic Cormorant	1 below John Redmond spillway	Coffey	10/19	MS
	2 below John Redmond spillway	Coffey	11/26	AS
<i>(There have been 1-2 reported off and on at this location for over a year.)</i>				
Little Blue Heron	10 adults with several "very young juveniles" at <u>Wyandotte Co. Lake</u>	Wyandotte	08/02	SS
Tricolored Heron	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02-03	DS,SP,MM,GP
	2 imm at Arkansas River Pk, Wichita	Sedgwick	08/27-09/09	CA, M:ob

<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/03	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/29	KG
	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/06	KGr
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	<D> 1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/05-07	AP,ANy,KGr
Tundra Swan	5 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/09-22	GS, M:ob
Greater Scaup	2-3 below Melvern Lake dam	Osage	11/15	DS
Surf Scoter	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	11/05	ML
	1 below dam at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/08	MM,GP
	1 below dam at Tuttle Creek	Riley	11/14	DB,CHe
	2 below dam at Melvern Lake	Osage	11/15	BF,BAS
White-winged Scoter	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/02	CM,CSc
	2 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	11/03	JM
	5 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/04	B&NB
	2 at Lake Jivaro, Topeka	Shawnee	11/05	JM
	1 below dam at John Redmond	Coffey	11/08	MM,GP
	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Reno	11/16	PJ
Black Scoter	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/31	JL
	1 at Quivira	Stafford	11/04	MR
	2 at Garnett City Lake	Anderson	11/08	MM,GP
	1 near dam at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/15	MR,WAS,SHAS
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Liberal sewer ponds	Seward	11/16	KH
	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/27	NL
Osprey	1 at Kirwin Rs.	Phillips	08/10	SS
Mississippi Kite	300+ in Larned	Pawnee	08/19	SS, StS
Northern Goshawk	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/28	SS
	1 imm at Smoky Hill R. bridge	Ellsworth	10/14	MR
	1 imm at KCPL wetland	Johnson	10/15	AS
Swainson's Hawk	500+ in a field 2mi E. of Mt. Hope	Sedgwick	10/01	PJ
	4000+ in a kettle over Slate Creek	Sumner	10/05	KOS
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/23	SS
	1 in Merriam	Johnson	09/08-15	NL,MG
	1 in Topeka	Shawnee	09/18	DL
Prairie Falcon	1 near town of Aurora	Cloud	<u>08/03</u>	BB
	1 in Mined Land	<u>Linn</u>	10/25	MG
	1 along US-36	<u>Doniphan</u>		11/20 MG
Black Rail	2 at S. end wildlife loop, QNWR	Stafford	08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP
Sandhill Crane	5 near Udall	<u>Cowley</u>	<u>10/04</u>	KOS
	80 at west end Wilson Lake	Russell	10/20	MR
Whooping Crane	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/29	MR,CO
	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/31	JL & others
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/07	D&FV, PM
	8 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/09	GS
	3 flying over Wilson Lake	Russell	11/10	fide MR

Piping Plover	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/23	SS
American Avocet	700+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/04	MR
Willet	11 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/26	MR
Long-billed Curlew	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/26	MR
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/01	DS,SP,MM,GP
Red Knot	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/05	AP,Any
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/06	MR
Sanderling	15 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/23	SS
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/26	MR
	10 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/06	MR
Dunlin	<u>100</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/07	HH
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	27 at Colwich sod farms	Sedgwick	08/02	D&FV
	3 at MdCWA Unit B	Linn	08/17	MC
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/17	PJ
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/21	SS
	40+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/23	SS
	40+ at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/23	SS
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	08/23	AP
	9 at Overland Park Sod Farm J	ohnson	08/23	ML
	22 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/26	MR
	9 2mi N. Inman Lake	McPherson	10/16	B&NB
Short-billed Dowitcher	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	08/21	SS
	6-8 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/06	KGr, WAS
	14 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/11	PJ,KGr,DW
	4 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	Morton	09/15	SP,DA
	24 at Elkhart Sewer Ponds	Morton	09/18	SP
	45 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/18	ML
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1 possible 2 nd winter at John Redmond Rs. Coffey		11/28	BVD
California Gull	1 2 nd year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/04-07	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/01	SS
	1 at Clark Lake	Clark	11/02	DS,GP
	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Reno	11/22	KGr
	1 at Webster Reservoir	Rooks	11/29	SS
<u>Lesser Blk-backed Gull</u>	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Reno	11/22	KGr
Sabine's Gull	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	08/03	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 at Elkhart sewage ponds	Morton	09/12	L&RS
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	09/14	JN,CS
	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/17-18	JB,ML
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 in Gardner	Johnson	08/09	AS
	5 in Rush Center	Rush	08/10	SS
	"bunches" in Wakeeney and Ness City	Trego & Ness	08/10	SS
<D>	3 in Overbrook	Osage	08/16	MH
	5 at res. in Morland	Graham	08/21	RR
	<i>(Seen off and on during the summer. Also found nesting in another part of town.)</i>			

	1 pair at CNG hwy 27 park	Morton	08/22	SSo
	Pair nesting in Hays	Ellis	08/25	JT
	35 in Conway Springs	Sumner	09/21	L&JQ
	23 in Overbrook	Osage	10/04	MM
	10-15 in Richmond	Franklin	11/08	MM,GP
White-winged Dove	3 at Shane res., Garden City (2-3 have been seen, off and on, at the Shane residence since April.)	Finney	08/04-27	T&SSh
	1 heard in St. Francis	Cheyenne	08/09	HA
	1 in Ulysses	Grant	08/11	KH
	1 in Tribune on "Zenaide Street"	Greeley	09/17	SP
Inca Dove	3 along ditch behind Rich's res. 2 at Meade res.	Finney Meade	08/16 11/07	MR,TS,DS,GP TF
Barn Owl	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	10/16	KH,SG
<u>Western Screech-Owl</u>	<D> 2-3 singing at state line location <D> 1 at Boy Scout Area, CNG (Photos, video and sound recordings)(Seen again on 09/28 by MG and MC)	Morton Morton	09/05 09/14	DS,SP,MM,GP SS,OS,PJ,KGr
Common Poorwill	several in Ulysses	Grant	08/20	KH
Whip-poor-will	1 'eastern race' in Garden City	<u>Finney</u>	08/31	SS,DS,StS
<i>Archilochus spp.</i>	1 at Kazmaier res.	Pawnee	08/16	MR
Ruby-throated Hummer.	1 imm. at Osterbuhr res. 1 imm. at Conover's, Satanta 1 im at Schartz res. 1 am & 1 af at a Larned res.	Finney Haskell Pawnee Pawnee	08/16 08/16 08/17 08/17	MR,TS MR,J&NC MR.OS MR,DK
<u>Black-chinned Hummer.</u>	1 "probable" female at Osterbuhr's 1 female at Conover res. 1 "probable" at Overland Park res. 1 "possible" female at a Larned res. 1 at Kazmaier res., Larned	Finney Haskell Johnson Pawnee Pawnee	08/16 08/16 08/14-18 08/17 08/19	MR,TS MR,J&NC AS MR,DK SS, StS
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Ramsey res. 1 female at Ramsey res. 1 sub-adult male at Ramsey's 2 imm. at Shane res. 1 female at Schartz res., Larned 1 af, 1am, 1if at Conover res. 1 at Kazmaier res., Larned 1 female/imm at Elkhart res. 1 imm male at Shane res.	Finney Finney Finney Finney Pawnee Haskell Pawnee Morton Finney	08/07-09 08/08-09 08/09 08/09 08/12 08/16 08/19 09/05 09/21	M&PR M&PR M&PR T&SSh SS,OS MR,J&NC SS, StS DS,SP,MM,GP T&SSh
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 imm. at Shane res. 2 at res. N. of Holcomb 1 at Kazmaier res. 1 female at Osterbuhr res. 1 im & 1 af at Conover res. 1 af at Schartz res. 1 af at a Larned res. 1 female at Kazmaier res. 1 female at Rader res., Wilson 1 at Kazmaier res. Larned 1 female at res. in Elkhart	Finney Finney Pawnee Finney Haskell Pawnee Pawnee Pawnee Ellsworth Pawnee Morton	08/05-10 08/10 08/16 08/16 08/16 08/17 08/17 08/19 08/23 08/27 09/05-06	T&SSh AN MR MR,TS MR, J&NC MR,OS MR,DK SS, StS MR DK DS,SP,MM,GP

	1 imm. male at Satanta	Haskell	09/12	MR,J&NC
	1 imm male in Tribune	Greeley	09/17	SP
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1 adult male at Janzen res.	Sedgwick	08/04	PJ
	1 imm. at Kazmaier res. in Larned	Pawnee	08/11	DK
	1 imm. male at Kazmaier res.	Pawnee	08/12	DK
	1 imm. at Osterbuhr res.	Finney	08/16	MR,TS
	1 imm. at Conover res.	Haskell	08/16	MR,J&NC
	1 im & 1 af at Kazmaier res.	Pawnee	08/17	MR,DK
	1 am at a Larned res.	Pawnee	08/17	MR,DK
	3+ at Kazmaier res., Larned	Pawnee	08/19	SS, StS
	2 imm. at Kazmaier res. Larned	Pawnee	08/27	DK
	4 (3 imm) in Larned	Pawnee	08/29	SS
	6 in Elkhart	Morton	09/06-07	AP, Any
	1 west of Cherokee	Crawford	09/09	SF
	1 female in Satanta	Haskell	09/12	MR, J&NC
<u>Red-naped Sapsucker</u>	1 at Boy Scout Area CNG	Morton	09/21	SP,CH,SS,MR
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 female <i>(Apparently the same bird that has been seen in the Stockdale Area of Tuttle Creek Rsv. For 2+ years.)</i>	<u>Riley</u>	10/06-11/20	LJ
	1 at res. in Wichita	<u>Sedgwick</u>	11/15	M&GE
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at Osterbuhr's in Garden City	Finney	08/16	DS,GP
	3 at Osterbuhr res.	Finney	08/17	PJ & others
	1 in Ulysses	Grant	08/28	KH
Western Wood-Pewee	1 calling in Satanta City Park	Haskell	08/17	MR
	2 calling at Osterbuhr res.	Finney	08/17	PJ & others
	1 in Ulysses	Grant	08/20	KH
	1 in Elkhart	Morton	09/06	AP.ANY
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	09/01	DF
Least Flycatcher	1 adult at Meade State Lake	Meade	08/03	TF
Dusky Flycatcher	1 at Osterbuhr's, Garden City	Finney	08/31	SS,DS,StS
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 calling at Middle Spring CNG	Morton	09/05	DS,SP,MM,GP
Say's Phoebe	1 at Clinton State Park	<u>Douglas</u>	09/22	GPa
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	09/22	TC
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 at west Cimarron crossing	Morton	09/12	PJ,KGr,DW
Cassin's Kingbird	1 in Horace	Greeley	09/12	SP
	<u>13+</u>	Morton	09/20-21	SP,CH,SS,MR
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 along I-35	Sumner	<u>11/08</u>	JNo
	2, 8-9 mi S of Columbus	Cherokee	<u>11/12</u>	R&LM
Northern Shrike	1 6mi N of Larned	Pawnee	10/24	SS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/02-04	GF,MR,B&NB
	1 10mi NE of Wakeeney	Trego	11/09	SS
	1 3mi E of Lenora	Norton	11/09	SS
	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Reno	11/22	KGr
Cassin's Vireo	1 male in Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	09/21	SP,CH,SS,MR
Blue-headed Vireo	1 at Concannon Lake	Finney	10/23	MR

Philadelphia Vireo	1	Jefferson	<u>10/11</u>	MM,GP
<u>Common Raven</u>	45+ along Cimarron River the Colorado line east to Rolla	Morton	09/20	SP,CH,SS,MR
	1 seen 2 mi W. of Boy Scout Area	Morton	09/28	MG,MC
Violet-Green Swallow	1 at Conover res., Satanta	Haskell	08/16	MR
Barn Swallow	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	<u>11/01</u>	DS,GP
Rock Wren	1 on the dam at Clinton Lake	<u>Douglas</u>	11/24	DG
Mountain Bluebird	1 in Hell Creek Area, Wilson Lk.	Russell	<u>10/13</u>	MR
	2, 4 mi N of Finney county line	Scott	10/19	T&SSh
	2 at west end Wilson Lake	Russell	10/20	MR
	2	Rush	10/19	SS
	25 in Otoe Area at Wilson Lake	Russell	10/23-31	MR,JZ
	4-5 near Boy Scout area CNG	Morton	11/01	DS,GP
Townsend's Solitaire	6 at Point of Rocks, CNG	Morton	09/14	SP, HA
	1	Pawnee	10/18	SS
	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	10/19	T&SSh
Veery	1 in Tribune	Greeley	09/17	SP
Swainson's Thrush	1 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	<u>08/31</u>	TS, SS
Sage Thrasher	2 in Ulysses	Grant	08/12	KH
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 in Ulysses	Grant	08/28	KH, SG
	2 at Elkhart	Morton	09/06	AP,Any
Sprague's Pipit	1 in Seltman's driveway	Rush	09/24	SS
	15 in 4 locations in N. Pawnee	Pawnee	09/25	SS
	2 near entr. To Wilson Lk.	Lincoln	10/06	MR
	25 in pasture E. of Lenora	Norton	10/09	SS
	10-80 2 mi N & 1 mi E Pawnee Rock	Barton	10/17-23	SS
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Felker Park, Topeka	Shawnee	08/26	DG
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	<u>11/09</u>	T&SSh
Black-thrtd Gray Warbler	1 at Elkhart	Morton	08/17	DS,GP
Townsend's Warbler	1 at Elkhart	Morton	08/17	DS,GP
	1 at Boy Scout Area, CNG	Morton	09/12	PJ,KGr,DW
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	08/29	MM
Pine Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	09/01	DF
	1 at Junction City	Geary	10/24	CO
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	<u>Johnson</u>	08/29	MM
Hooded Warbler	1 in Mulvane	<u>Sumner</u>	08/31	TH,LH
Western Tanager	3 in Elkhart	Morton	09/05-06	DS,SP,MM,GP
	1 south of Alma	<u>Wabaunsee</u>	09/14	DLS
Green-tailed Towhee	1 in Elkhart	Morton	09/06	DS,SP,MM,GP
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 singing in Patti Canyon	Morton	09/12	PJ,KGr,DW
Brewer's Sparrow	1 in Horace	Greeley	09/17	SP

LeConte's Sparrow	50 at Slate Creek	Sumner	10/19	PJ,WAS
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	5 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	10/05	KOS
	2 at Slate Creek	Sumner	10/19	PJ,WAS
	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/22	ANy,KGe
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/02	GF
"White-winged" Dark-eyed Junco	1 at Shane res.	Finney	10/30	T&SSh
McCown's Longspur	<u>400</u> along Cimarron R. at CO. Line	Morton	11/01	DS,GP
Smith's Longspur	75 at Lyon State Lake	Lyon	11/15	BF,BAS
Black-headed Grosbeak	2 at res. in rural Towanda	Butler	08/20	BB
Lazuli Bunting	1 female in Blue Rapids	Marshall	09/01	TP
	2 at Elkhart sewage ponds	Morton	09/06	AP,ANy
Great-tailed Grackle	200-300 near 153rd & Lone Elm Rd.	Johnson	09/02	MG
	600+ in Maize	Sedgwick	10/02	JNo
	1000+ near Liberal sewer ponds	Seward	11/16	KH
Cassin's Finch	1 at Shane res., Garden City	Finney	11/07	TS

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),

The following abbreviations indicate the age and sex of the bird: Adult Male (am), Adult Female (af), Immature Male (im), Immature Female (if).

OBSERVERS: Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Bob Broyles, Joanne Brier, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Doris Burnett, Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Jack & Norma Conover (J&NC), Mark Corder, Ted Cable, Duane DeLong, Marie & Grant Elder (M&GE), Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Dave Fischer, Steve Ford, Gregg Friesen, Dan Gish, Sam Guy, Karl Grover, Matt Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg (KGr), Kyle Gerstner (KGe), Chet Gresham, Kellye Hart, Tyler Hicks, Leon Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Helen Hands, Chod Hedinger (CHe), Michael Hinterweger, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), Mark Land, Nancy Leo, Dan Larson, Jean Leonatti, Dan LaShelle, Mick McHugh, Cheryl Miller, Jim Malcolm, Pete Meggars, Robert & Liz Mangile (R&LM), Art Nonhof, Arpad Nyari (ANy), Jackie Nooker, John Northrup (JNo), Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Tom Parker, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Lee & Jane Queal (L&JQ), Mike & Pamela Ramsey (M&PR), Mike Rader, Robert Rath, Omar Schartz, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman, Steven Seltman (StS), Steven Sorensen (SSo), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Tom Shane, Art Swalwell, Lawrence & Ruth Smith (L&RS), Chris Smith, Mike Stoakes, Carolyn Schwab (CSc), Greg Schrott, Smoky Hills Audubon Society (SHAS), Joe Thomasson, Max Thompson, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Beverly VanDyke, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Dave Williams, Jeremy Zimmerman

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.

Birding: A Reawakening

by Terry Mannell

The reasons for many of my life choices remain a mystery to me. This may be the case for many of us I presume. I guess, for the most, they seemed like good ideas at the time. Such was the case with our decision to become birders. I say ours because my wife, Sam, and I made the choice together. We had casually watched birds for many years, but never made the leap to trying to identify all of the little brown jobbers until May 5, 2003. No reason for that particular date either, I suppose, except that two, not before seen, LBJs showed up at the feeder.

I grew up in a family that hunted, fished, camped and spent most of our time in the outdoors. The outdoors was a large expanse of unknown with secrets waiting to be discovered by a Kansas boy. Summer found me, whenever I wasn't doing chores, at the creek close to our home. Occasionally my brother, Mark, and I fished; but, mostly we cooled off in the somewhat muddy water and searched for all things living including snakes, frogs, toads and other crawling things. I knew the names of the common birds such as cardinals, orioles, blue jays, thrashers and of course bobwhite quail. With so much to see and learn, I never got around to naming the little birds that usually were seen for only a fleeting moment.

My wife, on the other hand, grew up on a dairy farm. Farmers are surrounded by nature on a daily basis but it often goes unnoticed in the long days of just trying to make ends meet. So my wife, who had rarely traveled out of Kansas as a girl, was in for an eye opening experience when she married into a family of nature lovers. With the birth of our two sons her life quickly became centered around the outdoors. So following the traditions, I had learned from my grandpa and dad, we raised the boys to hunt, fish, camp and enjoy the outdoors. Family vacations were spent not at the Holiday Inn but, in a tent somewhere in the mountains of the west; one year South Dakota, another Wyoming and still another Montana.

However, children grow up and move away and the outdoors took a back seat to other activities we deemed more necessary. Sam and I still vacationed in the outdoors and I continued to fish, but without those questioning minds of our boys something seemed to be missing for me. Sam continued to look at nature with awe, but I had lost much of my enthusiasm. Maybe I just needed a new challenge.

So on May 5th I pulled out the "none to good bird book" we had and as a couple, Sam and I started studying those two new birds in the back yard. After many minutes of looking at the birds and referring to the book and, I might add, many times of changing our minds, we finally identified the birds as a Clay-colored and a White-crowned Sparrow. Of the one I am certain but, the Clay-colored still nags at me. I hope we get another chance for observation during migration this spring.

Identification gave way to keeping track of the birds we had seen and all of a sudden we have become listers in the vernacular of birders. So the last year has been one of reawakening. Sam and I try to go birding once a week if only to the stream that runs through town. We helped with two Christmas Bird Counts and spent 10 days birding in southern Texas. We no longer drive the highways or walk our dogs without looking for and trying to name the birds we see. Everywhere we go others are eager to help us, whether it is to take us birding or point us in the right direction. Thanks to birding we have fallen in love all over again with the outdoors and I again look at nature with the wonderment of that young boy in eastern Kansas.

Bird Records Committee

The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) serves as a committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society with the expressed purpose of reviewing records of rare birds, maintaining those records and publishing an "official" list of the birds of Kansas. Periodically the KBRC updates the "Review List" or those birds that should be documented when they are seen in Kansas. The list is maintained on the Internet at:
<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>.
If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of the review list and rare bird report form please contact the KBRC secretary, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 and he will provide you with printed copies of all this material.

Kansas Ornithological Society Income & Expense Summary 2003

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>
Transfer from Trust Fund		3,500.00
2003 Dues		3,433.00
Apparel & Checklists		355.70
Donation		10.00
Book Royalties		515.00
Student Award	15.00	
Bulletin	3,427.39	
Horned Lark	3,011.93	
Business Manager	787.27	
Internet	309.40	
Membership	116.41	
Treasurer	29.60	
KBRC		
Misc.		
Insurance	226.00	
State	41.57	
Subtotal	\$7,964.57	\$7,813.70
 <u>Meeting</u>		
Spring Meeting		197.40
Fall Meeting		300.00
Silent Auction		955.00
Subtotal		\$1,452.40
 Total	 \$7,964.57	 \$9,266.10

Editor's Notes

On this page and the following page are the pertinent financial summaries for the Kansas Ornithological Society as presented to the KOS Board by treasurer Dan Larson. The Income and Expense Summary for 2003 is basically the checking account ledger totaled by categories. Please note that the very first item of income is a transfer from the Trust or Endowment Fund. Also note the amount of dues immediately below that and then look at the expenses for the year. If you have not already read the KOS President's message on page 3, please do so now!

On the following page is the Balance Sheet for the Society as of January 1, 2004 after Interest and Appreciation from the Endowment Fund and CDs has been allocated to the respective funds. Total interest earnings for 2003 on the Trust Fund/CDs was \$3,132.93. Given the track record of many funds the past couple of years, it is good to see that while we didn't earn a great deal of income from these investments, we didn't lose money either! Our many thanks to the prudent efforts of the Financial Committee. If you have any questions on either of these reports you can contact Dan whose address is on the front page of the *Horned Lark*.

Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet Begin Year 2004 After Allocation

Assets		Liabilities and Fund Balances	
Fund	\$108,580.55	General Fund	\$1,036.61
Certificate of Deposit	6,087.23	Business Manager Advance	500.00
Checking	1,592.67		
<u>Business Manager</u>	<u>500.00</u>	Endowments	65,835.60
Sub Total	\$116,760.45	Life Membership Account	20,522.00
		Book Royalty Fund	15,896.32
Dingus Land	56,000.00	Dingus Natural Area Fund	7,300.91
		Dingus Natural Area Land	56,000.00
Total	\$172,760.45	Student Research Fund	<u>5,669.01</u>
		Total	\$172,760.45



With lunch over, the Syracuse Winter Bird Count participants were ready to look for more birds: Left to right, Pam Ramsey, Mike Ramsey, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Marie Osterbuhr, Scott Seltman and Art Nonhoff. Photo by Jeff Clouser 11 January 2004.

2004 KOS Spring Field Trip

Washington County, April 30-May 2

The 2004 Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Field Trip is set for Friday, April 30, to Sunday, May 2 in Washington County. The county is located at the apex of three geologic regions in Kansas: the Flint Hills Uplands, Glaciated Region and Smoky Hills.

The county also sits at either the eastern or western edges of the breeding ranges of several species of birds so the opportunity to see a wide-variety of species exists.

The field trip will be based out of Washington with trips planned in all directions. Field trip sites include

mature riparian areas along the Little Blue River, the Washington County State Lake, abandoned farmsteads, wooded creeks and the virgin tallgrass prairie of the northern tip of the Flint Hills. An easy and accessible viewing of Greater Prairie Chickens on their booming ground will also be part of the trip.

Unusual county records over the years have included such rarities as a Brambling and a Long-tailed Jaeger, so anything is possible. Eighteen species of warblers have been spotted in Washington County as well as at least 25 species of shorebirds. There are over 200 birds on the county's bird list but more are added every year.

The format that will be used for the weekend's field trips will be more like a leisurely big day than a nature tour. On Saturday, the field trip groups will leave from Washington in the morning and return for lunch so a trip to a different location can be taken in the afternoon. Several trip options will be offered on Saturday morning, afternoon and Sunday morning so everyone has the opportunity to go to a variety of locations. Field trips will depart from the Washington Motel each morning.

Itinerary

Washington is located slightly over an hour north-northwest of Manhattan or about an hour north of Abilene, depending on which way you're coming from.

Friday, April 30

7 p.m. – Social time at "Old City Hall" in Washington. Field trip maps available. Old City Hall is located on the 100 block of C Street, just northwest of Washington's downtown square, south of the post office. Washington is a small town, so if you're confused, ask anyone for Old City Hall and they'll point you in the right direction.

Saturday, May 1

6:45 a.m. – Leave for prairie chicken viewing
7:15 a.m. – Leave for first round of field trips
Noon – Gather at Schooky's Deli, 207 C St., Washington.

1 p.m. – Leave for second round of field trips
6:30 p.m. – Supper at Our Daily Bread bake shoppe, downtown Barnes.

Sunday, May 2

6:45 a.m. – Leave for prairie chicken viewing
7:15 a.m. – Leave for field trips.
11:30 a.m. – Meet for list compilation at location TBA.

Saturday meal – Saturday evening's meal will be at Our Daily Bread at the north end of downtown Barnes. Available meal options will be chicken pot pie or lasagna, all the fixings and dessert for \$7.50. (The homemade food is so good you'll think grandma is cooking in the kitchen!) Vegetarian option is available if you give me a call. We will have a room to ourselves so if you want to bring photographs or anything to show and tell, you're welcome and encouraged to do so.

Lodging – Washington Motel, 785-325-2281, or K Motel in Washington, 785-325-2100. The Washington Motel is at the west edge of town on Hwy. 36 and the K Motel is near the middle of the stretch of Hwy. 36 which passes through town. Rates are in the \$30 range and there are no other events that weekend.

There is no registration fee for the weekend, but a head count would be appreciated so I can let the restaurants know what to expect. Please contact me at 785-348-5768 or bluestem@bluevalley.net

Field trip coordinator – Dan Thalmann, 785-348-5768 (H), 785-325-2219 (W) or bluestem@bluevalley.net