

The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

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Who's Who in KOS - 2004

President, Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont Place, Garden City, KS 67846, shane@pld.com

Vice-president, Marvin Kuehn, kuehnmar@emporia.edu

Corresponding Secretary, Bill Busby, 626 E 1900 Road, Baldwin, KS 66006

Membership Development

Coordinator, Mark Land, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207, kestrelland@aol.com

Treasurer, Dan Larson, 3636 SE 77th Street, Berryton, KS 66409

Board Members:

Matt Gearheart, mgearheart@gwhm.com

Lowell Johnson, ljohanson@plantpath.ksu.edu

Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com

Kerrie Kirkpatrick, hawkowl@earthlink.net

Business Manager, Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot Wichita, KS 67204, prarybrd@southwind.net

Editor, *The Bulletin*, Calvin Cink, Baker University, PO Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006 Calvin.Cink@bakeru.edu

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, otte@nqks.com

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

From The Keyboard -

Putting the June *Horned Lark* together is always a bittersweet event. On the one hand, by the time I get around to getting it assembled, spring migration is pretty well over. This year's migration was just a wee bit odd. A series of odd weather patterns probably held up some migrants and then strong south winds pushed them right past us. I mean it wasn't a disaster, but there have been better spring migrations.

But on the upbeat side, with June comes Breeding Bird Survey routes, exciting trips out of state and the knowledge that the southbound migration and post breeding dispersal will get started before the month of July is over. So we have a little bit of time to catch our breath and get our lists up to date.

Speaking of lists, be sure to read "On Being Listless" on page 4. Ted Cable brought this piece to us and we thank him for that. The author was a friend of Ted's who recently passed away. This tribute to the list helps bring many things into perspective. We get so busy trying to add one more bird to our life, state or county list that we don't take the time to appreciate and remember at least some of the more memorable birds on those lists.

Changes are in the wind. Please pay attention to the note on page 10 asking for your input and suggestions. It is easy and safe to stay the same. But it's hard to find something new and different and possibly better if you don't venture out of the normal routine. Sometimes we try changes and realize that not all change is good. And sometimes we try changes and wonder why we didn't do that years ago. I'll have more comments on change in the September issue.

It may be four months away still, but you need to start making plans for the fall meeting the first weekend in October at Baker University in Baldwin City. Start making plans to attend and start making plans to present a paper, or bring some of your digiscoped pictures for the birdwatchers hour or start making plans to come and listen to a great speaker, Jon Dunn. Spring meetings are always a fun three day birdwatching field trip. Fall meetings are a little different, and you may not think that listening to a bunch of papers is that great of a way to spend a day. But I have learned a lot about birds in Kansas from those presentations, and you can too!

Have a great summer, and I'll see you in Baldwin City in October!

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!

Fall 2004 - Baker University, Douglas County, Oct. 1, 2 & 3

Spring 2005 - Pratt, Apr. 22 - 24

Fall 2005 - Wichita

Spring 2006 - Northern Crosstimbers Greenwood/Woodson Counties

Fall 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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KOS Fall/Annual Meeting

The KOS Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 1 - 3, 2004 at Baker University in Baldwin City (Douglas County). Details are still being finalized and will be in the September *Horned Lark*, but you need to start making plans now. Guest speaker will be Mr. Jon Dunn, well known ornithologist and field guide author/editor (Peterson's *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*, Chief Consultant, National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*). In addition to the annual silent auction for the Student Research Fund there will be some special opportunities to help support Mr. Dunn's appearance at our meeting. Mark the first weekend in October to be present in Baldwin City for this special opportunity!

Playa Lakes Joint Venture Biological Planning

by Helen Hands

The Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV), one of several joint ventures created under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, was initiated in 1988. Since its inception, its boundaries have expanded from the Playa Lakes region in 5 states to Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) 18 (shortgrass prairie) and 19 (mixed-grass prairie) in 6 states (see map). Its mission has also changed from primarily waterfowl and cranes to all birds.

Because the PLJV's mission and boundaries have increased substantially in the past 3 years, the PLJV is in the process of updating its biological planning. Basically, this planning will step down to the PLJV area the existing North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the Central Prairies/Playa Lakes Regional Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Partners in Flight (PIF) Plan, and the in-process North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The PLJV also intends to assist its six states with their Comprehensive Wildlife Plans required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue receiving the State Wildlife Grants, which were initiated in 2002.

PLJV biological planning will be conducted by four planning teams organized by bird group: waterfowl and cranes, shorebirds, waterbirds, and grassland/riparian birds. These teams consist of members from the six states within the PLJV. Some KOS members are on the planning teams (Tom Flowers and myself on the shorebird team, Tom Shane on the waterbird team, and Bill Busby on the PIF birds team).

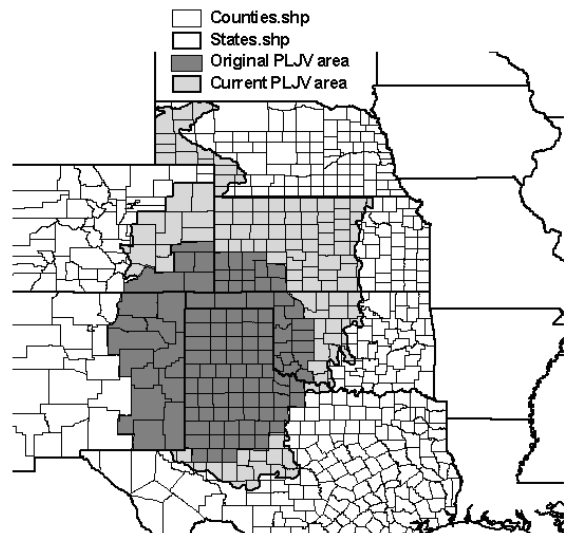
The PLJV's goal is to complete its planning by the end of 2004 and start assisting the states with their planning immediately. The waterfowl and shorebird planning teams are the farthest along. As co-chair of the shorebird planning team, I can update you on our progress.

Because a regional shorebird plan has already been completed, the PLJV shorebird planning team decided to build upon it to make the PLJV plan more quantitative. The PLJV shorebird plan also will be focused on foraging needs of wetland-dependent shorebirds during migration. Thus, the needs of shorebirds breeding within the PLJV will be included in the PLJV PIF birds plan, which will be more oriented toward breeding birds. The PLJV shorebird plan, like the waterfowl plan, will focus on how much habitat is needed to meet shorebirds' caloric and dietary needs during migration. The shorebird planning team will use an energetics model to calculate the number of acres needed to sustain objective numbers of shorebirds. This model was developed by the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture and takes into account the number of birds, what they eat, and how much food is typically available in their habitats.

So far, the shorebird planning team has agreed upon the use of the energetics model and has developed current population estimates. The population estimates by species were calculated from over 6,800 shorebird surveys conducted in the region that we could find. In the next month or so, the shorebird planning team will be reviewing population objectives by species, habitat objectives, and a detailed outline of the plan that I have put together. Tentatively, the population objective is 36 million use days for the entire PLJV in both spring and summer-fall, with 25 million of those use days in Kansas. (Use days are the sum of the population estimates for each 10-day period within a season times 10. Use days better reflect bird numbers when the birds are moving from place to place in a region during migration.) To provide enough food to meet these population objectives, the model estimates that shorebirds need 54,000 acres of wetlands throughout the PLJV, with 39,000 acres in Kansas, in both spring and summer-fall. These acres do not have to be available throughout the spring and summer-fall migratory periods. For example, about 22% of the spring Kansas habitat objectives should be available during April 21-30 and another 21% during May 1-10.

Despite being able to develop quantitative population and habitat objectives, there are large data gaps. Hopefully, this and other planning efforts will stimulate the work needed to start filling these gaps. As for the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Plan, Ken Brunson will probably be contacting many KOS members to assist with this plan.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Helenh@wp.state.ks.us*



On Being Listless

By Brian Barnette

Brian Barnette was a birding friend from Texas who enjoyed birding in Kansas. Brian died suddenly a few months ago. As a tribute to Brian I asked Chuck Otte if he would print the following essay written by Brian and previously published in Visions, a newsletter of the National Association for Interpretation (who have graciously allowed it to be reprinted). I had the fun of helping Brian add Thayer's Gull to his life list. But as Brian writes below, "*the real measure of life list was not in the length of list, but in the life it represented.*" --- Ted T. Cable, Manhattan, Kansas

Back on August 27, in the wee hours of the morning, my car was stolen.

Now, if you've ever seen my vehicle, your first reaction might be quite similar to mine: "What kind of sick, demented person would steal something that looked like that?" My ten-year-old Suburban, with 200,000 miles under its belts, was not exactly a thing of beauty. Its finish was equal parts paint and rust, the windshield had more cracks than a plumbers' convention, and it hadn't been washed in years. But it was paid for, and it ran, and it was mine. *Was*. Now there was just a big empty space on the street in front of my house.

Having never dealt with this situation before, I immediately set about trying to do all the right things. I called the police ("Stolen car? Don't call us, we'll call you.") The insurance company ("Don't you remember? Our records show that you dropped that coverage." The Museum ("I'm going to be a little late...") My brother and sister ("Hey, guess what happened...") I also began trying to compile a list of the vehicle's contents--the stuff that was stolen with it. Camping gear. Tools. My snake sticks. A box of field guides.

It was while I was talking to co-worker Barb Peterman, whom I had called to bum a ride into work, that it hit me. *My life list!* My life list was in the box of stolen field guides!

Ouch.

A "life list" is the record of all the birds one has seen and identified. To a birder, it's the equivalent of a big game hunter's trophy room-- all the species "bagged" over a lifetime of pursuit in the wild. It may represent hours, days, perhaps even years spent seeking a particular bird, as well as chance encounters and surprise sightings. For convenience, most birders use the checklists that are included in their field guides. Mine was in my well-worn copy of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Texas.

My list comprised a modest 300 or so species, observed over a period of about 30 years. In many cases, there was a notation of the date and locality of my first sighting of the bird. Of all the items in the car, it was the most irreplaceable. I could buy another tent. I could make some more snake sticks. But my life list! How could I

ever remember all the details it encompassed?

As I set about trying to reconstruct the list, I began to realize its true significance. For instance, they say you never forget your first one (birds... we're talking birds). I remember clearly the first unfamiliar bird that I successfully observed and identified. I was eleven or twelve at the time, on a hunting trip with my Dad in central Texas. I was sitting on a board nailed in the fork of a cedar elm, waiting for a deer to appear, when a small bird lit in the tree below me. I had no binoculars, so I trained the 2x telescopic sight on my rifle on the little ball of feathers. (If you're not familiar with optics, a 2x 'scope gives you approximately the same effect as looking through the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper).

The bird, in a gesture of cooperation quite atypical for its kind, overlooked my lapse in firearms etiquette and hopped around for several minutes so that I could get a good look at it. It was tiny, with a small, thin beak. It was mostly olive green with white bars on its wings and white rings around its eyes. And it had a bright red spot on the top of its head.

Later, back home, I found a copy of the Golden Guide to the Birds of North America in the Sanger-Harris book department at Big Town Mall (this was a while back). Sure enough, there he was, in living color-- the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I had my first bird. I was hooked.

Now I was faced with a blank list... no entries at all. As I read off the names of the birds, other memories came flooding back. There was the female Redstart that I saw on a float trip down the Buffalo River in Arkansas... the Eurasian Sparrows that surprised us at the conference in St. Louis... and the Red Crossbills in the ponderosa pines at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. I remembered the White-fronted (now White-tipped) Doves in the citrus groves down in Harlingen... the American Woodcock in the deep woods of the Big Thicket... and the Red-headed Woodpecker in my grandmother's East Dallas backyard. I saw again the bright orange bill of the Black Oystercatcher that we passed as we drove off the ferry in Vancouver... the

- - continued on page 10

Washington County KOS spring field trip recap

by Dan Thalman

Spring Field Trip Chair

Over 50 observers documented 144 species during the KOS spring field trip in Washington County from April 30-May 2. This was the first time a KOS event has been held in Washington County and many participants said it was their first time in the county.

Four new species were added to the Washington County species list during the weekend including Black-necked Stilt, Short-billed Dowitcher, Whip-poor-will and Kentucky Warbler. Other highlights include locating two more locations with potential breeding Louisiana Waterthrush on Saturday and hearing many Common Poorwills Saturday evening south of Barnes just after a beautiful sunset.

I wanted to thank everyone for coming and I give special thanks to Chuck Otte and Warren Buss for serving as field trip leaders.

Species documented were: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, BLACK-NECKED STILT, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great-Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Poorwill, Chuck-will's-widow, WHIP-POOR-WILL, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, KENTUCKY WARBLER, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. (*Species shown in all capital letters indicate new county records.*)

Participants came from 27 communities in Kansas and from Omaha, Neb. A not-quite-complete list of participants included: Terry and Sam Mannell, Matt Gearhart, Mark Land, Pete Janzen, Lisa Weeks, Joyce Davis, John Schukman, Lee and Jane Queal, Chuck and Jaye Otte, Calvin Wohler, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Galen Pittman, Cheryl Miller, David Seibel, Sue Stevenson, Carolyn Schwab, Marvin Kuehn, Norma Hermann, Mike Rader, Scott and Diane Seltman, Steve Seltman, Ted Cable, Johnny Brockway, Gregg Friesan, Joanne Brier, Patsy Hodges, Don Stout, Dan Larson, Ron Klataske, Hoogy and Carol Hoogheem, Jeanette Stamm, Wayne Fencil, Kevin Groeneweg, Lowell and Wanda Johnson, Thomas Shane, Ali Losano, Justing Neighbor, Marley Jones, Mitchell Jones, Jennifer Franken, Jon Strong, Jeff Strong, Tom Parker, Warren Buss and Dan Thalman.

KANSAS WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 2003 through February 29, 2004

By Lloyd Moore

I imagine that most birders would describe the winter season as slow, and for many of them, that might be a kind assessment! For whatever the reason, there just weren't the usual number of winter time rarities this year.

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) turned up some good birds. Not one but two Ferruginous Hawks were found on Manhattan's count. A Virginia Rail at Red Hills and a House Wren at Bonner Springs were nice additions to those count's tally sheets. A Varied Thrush is always a nice addition to a CBC list and one cooperated on the Arkansas City count. As we have come to expect, the Udall/Winfield count had spectacular sparrow numbers with Tree Sparrows totaling 3,000 and Harris's Sparrows over 5,000!

Quite unexpected in Manhattan at any season, but especially the end of January, was a female Western Tanager. David Rintoul was able to photograph this apparently unprecedented Kansas winter record at his bird bath.

Trumpeter Swans continue to increase in the state with ten winter season reports. Half of those reports indicated that at least some of the birds carried neck collars or patagial wing tags,

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

Lloyd Moore can be reached at:
ictinia@swbell.net
 or at:
 1250 Scott Avenue
 Kansas City, KS 66105

(Editor's note: Lloyd has expressed an interest in "retiring" from the grueling job of compiling the Roundup. As one of a handful of previous Roundup compilers, I can attest to the fact that it is a rather involved and time consuming task. If you are interested in tackling this responsibility, please contact Cheryl Miller or myself at the contact information on the front page of this issue.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Ross's Goose	800+ John Redmond Rs. Area	Coffey	01/10	TH, CS
	2000 S of Larned <i>(Flock of geese estimated at 50,000+, Snow Goose 28,000, Ross's Goose 2,000, White-Fronted Goose 10,000 and Canada Goose 10,000.)</i>	Pawnee	01/27	SS
Canada Goose	1 'Aleutian'-race S of Larned	Pawnee	01/27	SS
Trumpeter Swan	3 at Pottawatomie Lake #2 <i>(all 3 with orange patagial tags)</i>	Pottawatomie	12/17-20	JN
	2 at Frontenac sewer lagoons	Crawford	12/23	JH
	2 on frozen pond near Benton <i>(Both birds had red neck collars)</i>	Butler	01/07	PM, DV
	2 at Lake Perry <i>(one had a red neck collar and the other with an orange patagial wing tag)</i>	Jefferson	01/08	BW
	15 at Lake Sherwood, Topeka	Shawnee	01/12	DG, JR
	2 flying over Mulvane	Sumner	01/12	TH
	2 probable at QNWR	Stafford	01/24	S&DS, SSe, DBr
	2 imm. flying SW into Edwards Co.	Pawnee	01/28	SS, SSe
	1 on Blue R at confluence with Kansas R. <i>(with an orange patagial wing tag)</i>	Riley	02/14	DR
	2 on pond near Andover <i>(Both with red neck collars.)</i>	Butler	02/14	TRi
2 ad, 5 imm. at Bear Lake	Leavenworth	2/22	D&PI	
Black Duck	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/20	GP
	1 at El Dorado Lake	Butler	02/21	DW

Greater Scaup	17 on Wichita CBC 11 at Lone Star Lake 2 at Lake Shawnee 10 at New Strawn sewer lagoons 50-60 at Lone Star Lake	Sedgwick Douglas Shawnee Coffey Douglas	12/20 12/27 12/29 01/03 01/19	PJ PW MG ML, MG DG
White-winged Scoter	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	01/02-19	GP, KM, MP, DG
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Liberal sewage lagoons 1 at Hillsdale Lake 2 at Wilson Lake 1 flying near John Redmond Rs. 1 at Wilson Lake 1 at Pomona Lake	Seward Miami Russell Coffey Russell Osage	12/01-07 12/05-08 01/09 01/10 01/19-27 01/24	KH MC & others MR TH, CS MR BF, TR, GJ
Common Goldeneye	500+ Wilson Lake	Russell	01/09	MR
Hooded Merganser	<u>150+</u> at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/08	MR
Common Merganser	3200 on Wilson Lake CBC 40,000 on Lake Waconda CBC 5000+ at Cheney Rs.	Russell Mitchell Sedgwick	12/14 12/21 01/25	MR MR PJ
Greater Prairie-Chicken	39 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	22 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/27	SP
Scaled Quail	27 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/27	SP
White Pelican	2 at Wilson Lake <i>(present all winter, one appeared sick)</i> 17 at Cheney Rs. 18 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Russell Sedgwick Barton	01/09 01/25 02/24	MR PJ SS
Neotropic Cormorant	1 below John Redmond Lake Dam	Coffey	01/03/04	ML, MG
Great Blue Heron	50+ at John Redmond Rs.	Coffey	01/06	DG
Ferruginous Hawk	2 on <u>Manhattan CBC</u>	Riley	12/20	DR
Golden Eagle	2 at Wilson Lake 1 at Tuttle Creek Rs. 1 at John Redmond Rs.	Russell Riley Coffey	01/02 01/11 02/21	MR DR, DB AS
Merlin	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake 1 at Lake Shawnee	Johnson Shawnee	12/07 12/31	DS DG
Peregrine Falcon	1 on Lake Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/21	MR
Virginia Rail	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ
Sandhill Crane	5 in Red Hills area 200 in Red Hills area 5000 on Red Hills CBC 1 flying over Cheney Lake 300+ migrating , Wilson Lake	Barber Barber Barber Kingman Russell	12/29 12/30 01/03 01/11 01/19	MLi BR PJ B&NB MR
<u>Least Sandpiper</u>	11 at Wolf Creek Lake	Coffey	01/03	ML, MG
Wilson's Snipe	1 along Missouri River 12 on Red Hills CBC	Leavenworth Barber	12/15 01/03	JS PJ
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>265</u> at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/14	MR

California Gull	1 at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	01/30	PJ
	1 first winter at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	02/24	SS
Thayer's Gull	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/14	MR
	1 at Lake Waconda	Mitchell	12/21	MR
	1 probable first winter at Redmond	Coffey	02/21	AS
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 first winter at Wichita	Sedgwick	12/18	PJ
	1 first winter at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	01/24	S&DS, SSe, DBr
Glaucous Gull	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/14	MR
	1 at Lake Waconda	Mitchell	12/21	MR
	1 at Webster Res.	Rooks	01/01	MR
	1 at Cheney Rs.	Kingman	01/12	DV
	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	01/21	AS
Eurasian Collared-Dove	11 at residence in Meade	Meade	12/11	TF
	5 at Bunker Hill	Russell	12/14	MR
	26 Lake Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/21	MR
	1 at Pleasanton, Linn Co. CBC	Linn	12/21	ML
	1 in Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	12/28	MC
	several in Osborne	Osborne	12/25	CA
	3 in Bird City	Comanche	01/01	JSt
	3 at Garden City res.	Finney	01/18	T&SSh
	1 at Lebo	Coffey	01/24	BF, TR, GJ
	10 in Hays	Ellis	02/05	TM
	7 at res. in Clay Center	Clay	02/14	C&JO
	8-10 in Emporia	Lyon	02/16	RMa
	several in Delphos	Ottawa	02/ ?	GS
	several in Melvern	Osage	? / ?	GS
	15+ in Bogue	Graham	? / ?	MH
	10 in Bunker Hill	Russell	02/ ?	MR
several in Strong City	Chase	02/21	PJ	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 at feeder in Elk Falls	Elk	12/20	GJW
Inca Dove	2 at residence in Meade	Meade	12/11	TF
Greater Roadrunner	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ
	1 S of Satanta	Seward	01/24	JC
Barn Owl	2 in Ogden	Riley	12/17	IH
	1 on Lake Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/21	MR
Long-eared Owl	13 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	12/16	JN
	4 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/20	PJ
<u>Western Screech-Owl</u>	1 at Boy Scout Area CNG	Morton	12/27	SP
Short-eared Owl	20+ N. of HQ Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/19	MR
	13 on Lake Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/21	MR
	8 in CRP field S. of Wilson	Russell	12/22	MSm
	21 in mine land, Linn Co. CBC	Linn	12/21	ML
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at residence in Salina (First seen in October)	Saline	12/10	NH
Northern Shrike	1 at Cheney Reservoir (First reported on 11/22 KGr)	Reno	12/05	KK
	1 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR
	1 near entrance Camp Aldrich	Barton	12/19	MR

	1 on Wakefield CBC	Clay	12/21	CO
	2 along U.S. 36	Norton	01/02	JSt
	2 along U.S. 24	Rooks	01/02	JSt
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	02/24	NL, JL
	1 5 mi. n. of Rozel	Pawnee	02/26	SS
Chihuahuan Raven	3 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/27	SP
Bushtit	15 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/27	SP
Red-breasted Nuthatch	several at SW College, Winfield	Cowley	12/19	MT
	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/20	DR
Carolina Wren	<u>71</u> on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/20	DR
<u>House Wren</u>	1 on Bonner Springs CBC	Leavenworth	12/28	MS, JS
Winter Wren	1 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR
	1 singing on Wakefield CBC	Geary	12/21	CO
Marsh Wren	3 on Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR
	1 at KCPL Wetlands	Johnson	12/29	MG
Mountain Bluebird	30 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/08	MR
	100+ Red Hills area	Barber	12/29	MLi
	380 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	01/03	PJ
	70+ at Otoe Area, Wilson Lake	Russell	01/09	MR
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	1 at Kaw W.A., Ark City, CBC	Cowley	12/21	GY
Brown Thrasher	1 at Pittsburg residence	Crawford	12/02	RM
Orange-crowned Warbler	2 at Swanson Park Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/20	PJ
<u>Western Tanager</u>	1 female at Manhattan res.	Riley	01/31	DR
Tree Sparrow	3000 on Udall/Winfield CBC	Cowley	12/14	MT
Harris's Sparrow	5000+ on Udall/Winfield CBC	Cowley	12/14	MT
Snow Bunting	1 along K-15 near Mulvane	Sumner	02/02	TH
Great-tailed Grackle	1000 at Liberal sewer ponds	Seward	12/07	KH
Purple Finch	1 pair at feeder	Leavenworth	12/06	MS
	<u>47+</u> Perry Lake W. end of dam	Jefferson	12/29	MG
	7 at Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	01/24	ML
Red Crossbill	6 on Morton Co. CBC	Morton	12/27	SP
Common Redpoll	1 (af) at Garden City feeder	Finney	12/07-01/28	T&SSh
	<i>(Bird seen of 4 separate days from 12/7 to 1/28)</i>			
	1 at feeder, Cable residence	Riley	12/14	TC
	4 at feeder in Salina	Saline	02/03	JZ

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: Charles Anderson, Doris Burnett, Dave Bryan (DBr), Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Mark Corder, Ted Cable, Jack Conover, Tom Flowers, Bob Fisher, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Kevin Groeneweg (KGr), Kellye Hart, Nancy Highgate, Irwin "Hoogy" Hoogheem, John Hartley, Tyler Hicks, Mike Hammerschmidt, David & Patricia Isabell, Pete Janzen, Gary Johnson, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Mark Land, Matthew Linnabary (MLi), Nancy Leo, Jane Leo, Robert Mangile, Ron Marteney (RMA), Paul Mallonee, Kathy McDowell, Terry Mannell, Jackie Nooker, Chuck Otte, Marie Plinsky, Galen Pittman, Sebastian Patti, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Ben Rogers, Tommie Rogers, Tim Rigg (TRi), Jo Ramberg, Mike Stewart, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), David Seibel, John Schukman, Matt Smith (MSm), Jon Strong (JSt), Carolyn Schwab, Scott & Diane Seltman (S&DS), Steven Seltman (SSE), Greg Salisbury, Art Swalwell, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Bunnie Watkins, Gloria Jones-Wolf, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Gene Young, Judy Zanardi

Your opinion please!

You have probably just finished reading the seasonal birding roundup. The roundup has been printed in this same basic manner for 15 years or longer. In an ongoing effort to constantly improve the look and usability of the *Horned Lark*, as well as trying to keep printing costs in line, the *Horned Lark* Editorial Review Board would like some feedback from you, the readers. On pages 11 and 12 you will see a sample of an alternate roundup format (based on last issue's seasonal roundup). Love it? Hate it? Aren't sure? Please let us know! And be specific. Make sure you read the second page as well, especially if you aren't familiar with the Bird Banding Laboratory's 4 letter species codes.

We don't have all the answers and often times someone will see something just a little bit different than we do. And that little bit of different view is sometimes the difference between a good publication and a GREAT publication!

Drop an e-mail to Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com or Chuck Otte, otte@nqks.com and let us know what you think. If you don't have e-mail, comments as well as other suggestions can be sent to Chuck at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800.

Thanks for your input as we continue to try to improve this publication!

- - *On Being Listless, conclusion*

yellow of the Goldfinch on the feeder outside Bruce Boardman's window in Stephenville... and the ridiculous red, blue, and green of a Painted Bunting on a Possum Kingdom morning. And there were the ones that were extra special because I saw them on our family's San Saba ranch: Pyrrhuloxia, Green Kingfisher, and Black-shouldered Kite.

Gradually, it began to sink in... the real measure of a life list was not in the length of the list, but in the life it represented. Sure, it's a thrill to add a new bird to your total, and there's always a little good-natured one-ups-manship in comparing lists with other birders to see whose is longer. But that's not what's important. What matters are the memories-- of field trips and campouts, of family and friends-- the experiences that are somehow symbolized by the birds seen along the way. And while it was certainly disappointing to "lose" some of the species I had "bagged," there will be other opportunities. In the meantime, I've still got my memories... my 'nocs... and a brand new bird list to fill in. Only this time, I'm going to try to keep in mind that old adage, "Don't put all your egg layers in one basket." Or is it, "A bird list in the hand is worth two in the car?"

Oh, by the way, my Suburban turned up last week--minus my stuff, the battery, and the radio--but otherwise intact and operable. It's gratifying to know that even car thieves have some standards.

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.

KANSAS FALL REPORT (Aug. 1 – Nov. 30, 2003)

Bird	Location	County	Date	Observer	Bird	Location	County	Date	Observer
RTLO	2, Wilson Lake 1, Winfield City Lake	RS CL	11/13 11/26	MR MT	GRSC	2-3 below Melvern Lake dam	OS	11/15	DS
PALO	1, Lake Afton 1, Kirwin Reservoir	SG PL	11/08 11/29	KGr,DD SS	SUSC	1, SN Mission Lake 1 below dam, Melvern Lake 1 below dam, Turtle Creek 2 below dam, Melvern Lake	JO OS RL OS	11/05 11/08 11/14 11/15	ML MM,GP DB,CHe BF,BAS
COLO	1, Clinton Lake 1, Hell Creek, Wilson Lake 2, Ritchie Sandpits, Wichita	DG RS SG	09/02 10/20 10/25	AS MR PJ	WWSC	1, Quivira NWR 2, Lake SN 5, Quivira NWR 2, Lake Jivaro, Topeka 1 below dam, John Redmond 1, Cheney Reservoir	ST SN ST SN CF RN	11/02 11/03 11/04 11/05 11/08 11/16	CM,CSc JM B&NB JM MM,GP PJ
RNGR	1, SN Mission Lake 1, New Strawn Sewage Ponds	JO CF	11/09 11/26	DS AS	BLSC	1, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Quivira 2, Garnett City Lake 1 near dam, Wilson Lake	BT ST AN RS	10/31 11/04 11/08 11/15	JL MR MM,GP MR,WAS,SHAS
WEGR	1, Quivira NWR 4, Empire Power Plant Lake 6, Council Grove Lake 2, MN Lake	ST CK MR MN	11/05 11/07 11/26 11/26	L&JQ R&LM CG CG	LTDU	1, Liberal sewer ponds 1, Perry Lake	SW JF	11/16 11/27	KH NL
NECO	1 below John Redmond spillway 2 below John Redmond spillway <i>(There have been 1-2 reported off and on, this location for over a year.)</i>	CF CF	10/19 11/26	MS AS	OSPR	1, Kirwin Res.	PL	08/10	SS
LBHE	10 adults with several "very young juveniles", <u>WY Co. Lake</u>	WY	08/02	SS	MIKI	<u>300+</u> in Larned	PN	08/19	SS, StS
TCHE	2, Quivira NWR 2 imm, Arkansas River Pk, Wichita	ST SG	08/02-03 08/27-09/09	DS,SP,MM,GP CA, M:ob	NOGO	1, Elkhart sewer ponds 1 imm, Smoky Hill R. bridge 1 imm, KCPL wetland	MT EW JO	09/28 10/14 10/15	SS MR AS
<u>ROSP</u>	2, Quivira NWR 1, Cheyenne Bottoms	ST BT	08/03 08/29	DS,SP,MM,GP KG	SWHA	<u>500+</u> in a field 2mi E. of Mt. Hope <u>4000+</u> in a kettle over Slate Creek	SG SU	10/01 10/05	PJ KOS
<D>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	BT	09/06	KGr	PEFA	2, Quivira NWR 1, Cheyenne Bottoms	ST BT	08/02 08/02	DS,SP,MM,GP DS,SP,MM,GP
<u>BBWD</u>	<D> 1, Quivira NWR	ST	09/05-07	AP,Any,KGr	TUSW	5, Quivira NWR	ST	11/09-22	GS, M:ob

Records are listed according to current AOU listing.

Key:

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Observers: Henry Armknecht, Charles AN, 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 & GT Elder (M&GE), Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Dave Fischer, Steve FO, 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 JO, 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, SC 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.

Band Code Explanation:

- One word bird name: the code is the first four letters of the word Ex: Osprey: OSPR
- Two word bird name: the code is the first two letters of each word Ex: Indigo Bunting: INBU
- Three word bird name: the code is the first letter of the first two words and the first two of the third word Ex: Great Blue Heron: GBHE
- Three word bird name with hyphenated pair: the code is the first letters of each hyphenated word and the first two letters of the un-hyphenated word Ex: Black-capped Chickadee: BCCH
- Four word bird name: the code is the first letter of each word Ex: Lesser Black-backed Gull: LBBG

Safe Birding Through Personal Protection

by *Chuck Otte*

The general public doesn't perceive birdwatching to be a very dangerous activity. When compared to mountain climbing or white-water rafting the average person would say that birdwatching is pretty safe.

But the reality of the situation is that unless you do all of your birding from your car, you put yourself at a great deal of risk. And most of that risk does not come from two legged or four legged threats, but from six and eight legged adversaries!

Think about it. We are often out many days of the year, especially during the spring and summer. Right out there with us are insects of all kinds and insect relatives like mosquitoes and ticks which not only annoy us, but can infect us with diseases! Naturally, if you think about it, there are many other potential dangers out there to. Stinging insects like bees and wasps (and while not an insect we have scorpions in Kansas as well). Then there's poison ivy and poisonous snakes.

Now my goal is not to scare you into not going birdwatching anymore, but rather to just make sure that you are aware of the risks and that you are taking steps to protect yourself.

In recent years, the insect borne disease du jour has been Lyme Disease or West Nile Virus. But long before those two popped onto the radar screen we were still at risk. Various encephalitis viruses have been carried by mosquitoes for years. Ticks in Kansas have been carrying and transmitting Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, relapsing fever, Q fever, human monocytic ehrlichiosis and tick paralysis for years.

Many of the personal protection schemes that are suggested by experts go totally contrary to what we do as bird watchers. We tend to be out and active at the same time that the mosquitoes are and the best birding is always right in the middle of the heaviest tick populations. And since most of us aren't going to stop birdwatching, what are the options?

Awareness of the risks is really the first place to start. Know that you are going to be out in places with insects and ticks and snakes and poison ivy. Know how to identify a copperhead from a gopher snake. Learn the sound of a yellowjacket nest about to go ballistic!

The next step is clothing. Clothing not only can protect you against insects and poison ivy, it can also protect you against one of those other nasty outdoor threats, the sun. Skin cancer is a growing concern and we can lower

our risk by protecting our skin. Wear long sleeved shirts when the mosquitoes are bad. Tuck your pant legs inside your socks when you enter areas that may host a lot of ticks. It may not be much of a fashion statement, but it'll keep the ticks on the outside of the clothing where they can be more easily seen.

While hats can be great to keep the glare out of your eyes and the sun off your ears and face (and the top of the head for some of us) they don't do much protection against ticks. The old tale that ticks drop out of trees on your head is not very accurate. Most ticks come onto the body below the neck, but their natural inclination is to always climb up. Look low first.

Personal inspection is a must anytime you have been birding in "ticky" areas. Keep an eye on each other while out in the field (this may be somewhat like the cooperative grooming that primates perform). Then give yourself a good going over when you get back inside. Ticks crawl around for some time before they settle in to a feeding site, and then it's several hours before they become well attached allowing for easier removal. Speaking of removal, forget all the potions and chemicals and heat. Firmly grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and then apply a straight gentle pull until it can release it's mouth parts. Be patient, this may take several minutes. Then treat with an antibiotic and keep an eye on the feeding site for several days.

Now we get to repellents. Forget the ultrasonic devices and herbal remedies as they have not been proven to be reliable. Dusting sulfur can be effective, but is messy and can have undesirable odors. The most effective skin treatment is DEET, N, N, diethyl-meta-toluamide. Choose solutions of 35% active ingredient or less. Higher concentrations are not more effective. Follow directions for use and upon returning home, wash off all treated skin. Use lower dosage products for children and do not retreat skin more often than directed.

For clothing treatment use DEET or consider one of the permethrin based products like Repel Permanone. These are very effective but only work on clothing NOT skin. Properly treated clothing will serve as an effective repellent for days and even after washing the clothing.

Few of us are going to stop birding because of a few bugs. But let's make sure we take a few safety precautions so our birding isn't encumbered by illness or disease!

(Please note that the following minutes are preliminary and have not been formally approved by the KOS Board.)

KOS SPRING BOARD MEETING

May 1, 2004

Barnes, Kansas

Attendance:

Chuck Otte	John Schukman	Marvin Kuehn
Cal Cink	Kerrie Kirkpatrick	Mark Land
Tom Shane	Cheryl Miller	Matt Gearheart
Lowell Johnson	Pete Janzen	Dan Larson

Chairman Tom Shane called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. In the absence of Bill Busby, Pete Janzen agreed to act as corresponding secretary and record the minutes of the meeting.

Treasurers Report - Dan Larson reported for that he had made a \$2500.00 withdrawal from the endowment fund to defray 2003-2004 operating expenses. A discussion of the controllable expenses of the KOS followed. A variety of avenues for generating income and reducing costs were mentioned. Pete and Dan will gather exact figures relating to publication costs and will present them to the board at a later time. The current membership of the Finance Committee was reviewed for the benefit of new board members.

KBRC - Chuck Otte reported on the recent activities of the Records Committee. The list of reviewable species has been revised, and many species with a number of records have been removed. The current membership and rotation of membership positions of the KBRC was discussed. The printing and binding of records is proceeding. Chuck indicated that funds will be needed for this. A motion was made and seconded to print and bind these records, with the total costs not to exceed \$500.00. The money will come from the Book Royalty Fund. The motion passed.

Student Research Fund Awards - John Schukman reported on the students who had been awarded research funds from the moneys allocated for this purpose.

Bulletin - Calvin Cink reported that he had enough material for the June issue, but not much beyond that. The CBC compilation issue was discussed. For several reasons, it is difficult to produce this issue in time for the spring mailing to go out on time. This problem would be alleviated if we published the CBC results in Issue #2 instead of #1 each year. It was moved and seconded that the CBC results will be published in Issue #2 each year to resolve this problem. This motion passed

Horned Lark - Chuck announced that he will retire from this position at the end of this year, and that Cheryl Miller has agreed to take on this duty. Cheryl indicated that she would like KOS to purchase a software publishing program such as Quark for the production of the Horned Lark. Cheryl will get a formal quote for this and report to the board.

Membership categories - Marvin Kuehn and Cheryl Miller had been asked to review membership categories in light of overall budget concerns and the decrease in membership. They distributed a two-page document to the board which discussed this review in detail. They do not feel that a specific action recommendation pursuant to membership categories is appropriate at this time. There was further discussion of the imbalance between income and expenditures.

Membership coordinator - Mark Land reported that we have added 19 new or renewed memberships since February. He discussed the variety of approaches he has taken to reverse the decline in membership. He showed the Board how he has revised the existing membership brochure to make it current. A discussion of additional ways to recruit new members followed.

- - continued next page

56th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

October 1, 2 & 3, 2004

Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas

Silent Auction

Presented Papers

Banquet

Jon Dunn, Keynote Speaker

KOS Annual Business Meeting

Election of Board and Officers for 2005

and, of course,

Fellowship and Field Trips

Look for registration information,
details and Call for Papers
in the September Horned Lark

(Information on Presented Papers will be available by late July
on the KSBIRDS website, <http://ksbirds.org>)