



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@bakeryu.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 -

The September issue always announces the Fall KOS Meeting. All those details are on pages 12 to 16. Another great annual meeting is planned and I am looking forward to it, as always. Of particular interest is the banquet speaker, Jon Dunn. Many of us are familiar with Jon by way of the books he has written or edited. Now you have a chance to meet him in person and maybe even go birding with him. Even if you can't make any other part of the fall meeting, plan to attend the banquet!

Late summer is upon us and the early stages of the fall migration are already manifesting themselves to us. Breeding bird surveys, county listing, and various other activities that help us survive the summer doldrums between the end of spring migration and the start of fall migration, are now behind us. The anticipation of what may come yet this year quickly blocks out what has been, like a child waiting for Christmas.

Fall is a season of change, so I suppose it is somewhat fitting that this issue marks several changes, or transitions. John Rakestraw, in his Winged Tips section, talks about Lesser Prairie-Chickens. John has informed us that this will be his last installment. While John still has a strong interest in Kansas birds and birding, he has been gone from Kansas for eight years now and feels that it is time to clear the space for someone else. Thanks for all your great columns John.

Lloyd Moore has likewise decided to turnover the compilation reins for the seasonal roundup to someone else. There is a small handful of folks who understand how demanding it is to glean and maintain that information from season to season. Needless to say, we are still looking for someone to pick up this task.

When this issue is done, I will say good bye to the position of newsletter editor which I have held for a little over 12 years. It's been fun, but it's time for someone else to pick up the quill and take the *Horned Lark* on to the next level. I think we've found that person and if you don't know Cheryl, you can briefly meet her on page 11, right after my brief comments of my tenure. I'm not going to disappear. I'll still be active in KOS and will still serve as secretary of the Birds Record Committee. I have a lot of bird oriented projects that I want to work on, and various other activities certainly keep me busy. This change will allow me more time for those.

It's been a fun run as the editor, I thank you for the opportunity, and I hope to see many of you in Baldwin City in early 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!

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). Registration information can be found on pages 12 through 16 of this issue.

Important Deadlines to Remember

September 1 - Lodging accommodations for KOS block of rooms (page 14)

September 1 - Submission of Abstracts for presented papers (page 16)

September 15 - Nominations for Boyd Recognition Award (page 13)

September 17 - Meeting preregistrations (page 15)

October 1 - Best Bird of the Year

White-winged Doves

by Helen Hands

With so many species declining in numbers and with ranges that are contracting, it's unusual to hear about a species whose numbers are increasing and whose range is expanding. That's the case with the White-winged Dove and other species in the Columbiformes. Historically, a bird of Mexico and the southwestern portion of the U.S., according to Lloyd Moore's compilation (<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/wwdo.htm>), there were 56 White-winged Dove records in 27 Kansas counties through August 2003 (plus at least three additional records in two new counties since then).

Actually, there are four breeding populations of White-winged Dove and not all are doing equally well. The Western population (in California, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico) is decreasing in both numbers and range, although in some areas numbers have remained stable. Little is known about the Upper Big Bend population whose range is much smaller than the other populations. The breeding ranges of the Mexican Highland and Eastern (southern half of Texas, northeastern Mexico, and Florida) populations have expanded northward. White-winged Dove that have been sighted recently in Kansas are most likely from the Eastern population.

As late as 1980, most White-winged Dove in the Texas portion of the Eastern population nested in the Lower Rio Grande River Valley. During the 1980s, some freezes and a 4-year drought devastated citrus orchards, where approximately 50% of the White-winged Dove nested. Consequently, numbers of White-winged Dove declined, but then White-winged Dove numbers in south-central Texas, near San Antonio, started increasing. Over 200,000 breeding White-winged Dove were estimated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in San Antonio in 1990. By 2001, the breeding population in San Antonio had reached nearly 1.1 million with an additional 285,000 in Austin. During 1990-2001, the breeding population was higher in south-central Texas, mostly in urban areas, than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Breeding Bird Survey data corroborate the Texas surveys. White-winged Dove increased in Florida (23.6%), Texas (10.8%), New Mexico (22.0%), California (9.1%), but declined in Arizona (-1.7%) during 1980-2003.

The wintering range of White-winged Dove has also increased as shown by Christmas Bird Count data, (<http://www.birdsource.org/features/doves/doves.html#map2>). Historically, White-winged Dove wintered in Mexico and

other countries in Central America. By the 1990s, White-winged Dove commonly wintered in central Texas and there was even a record as far north as Morton County, Kansas.

White-winged Dove are an interesting example of a bird species that can adapt to human-caused changes in habitat, as long as the changes are not too severe. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, White-winged Dove populations increased when native brush habitats were first being converted to irrigated grain farming in the early 1900s. However, as more native brush was converted to agriculture and urbanization, White-winged Dove populations declined. When citrus production was introduced in the 1940s, White-winged Dove started to depend on citrus trees for nesting. However, then White-winged Dove populations became susceptible to occasional declines due to freezes that killed citrus trees.

In the past 15 years, White-winged Dove have been successful nesting in urban areas in Texas, but urbanization and suburbanization in Arizona have been detrimental. The key for White-winged Dove being able to adapt to habitat changes seems to be to retain a good mix of woody vegetation for nesting and grain production for foraging. Urban areas with woody vegetation (as well as bird feeders, lawn sprinklers, and bird baths) apparently provide nesting areas with less nest predation where White-winged Dove can produce more young than rural areas. In addition, the warmer temperatures and bird feeders in urban areas allow White-winged Dove to remain during winter, rather than face the hazards of migration.

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

Reasons why you should attend the fall KOS meeting!

- * A chance to meet other birders who share your passion.
- * Listen to great presentations by students and members.
- * Birding Field Trips
- * The Birdwatcher's Hour
- * Presentation of the Best Birds of the Year!
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Guest banquet speaker Jon Dunn
- * The Resolutions
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Because it's just fun!!

Lesser Prairie-Chickens

by John Rakestraw

One of my favorite Kansas birds, Lesser Prairie-Chickens are small grouse native to sand-sage prairies and Shinnery Oak rangelands of the southern Great Plains. They differ from the Greater Prairie-Chicken by their paler plumage, plum-colored vocal sacks, bubbling call, and more aggressive behavior on their leks.

Most people view Lesser Prairie-Chickens during the birds' spring courtship rituals. Male prairie-chickens gather to vie for dominance and to attract the attention of passing females. But some people feel that sitting in a blind has a "canned" quality to it, so they prefer to find the birds away from the leks. During autumn and winter, Lesser Prairie-Chickens can be seen flying into grain fields to feed at dawn and dusk.

Viewing Lesser Prairie-Chickens has become increasingly difficult over the past few decades, not because of the birds' elusive nature, but because of a steady decline in the specie's population.

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, these birds were abundant, with single flocks of several thousand being reported feeding in grain fields adjacent to the birds' prairie habitat. Market hunting and poaching during this period, followed by the "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s dealt major blows to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken population. Since that time, more and more of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken's habitat has been converted to farmland and altered to promote cattle grazing. Biologists estimate that the specie's occupied range has decreased by at least 78 percent since 1963 and by 92 percent since the 1800s. The birds that remain are in small isolated populations in southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, the Oklahoma Panhandle, western Texas, and eastern New Mexico. As the space between pockets of good habitat grow larger, it becomes less likely that the birds will be able to re-colonize parts of their former range and maintain sufficient genetic diversity. There have been at least 12 attempts to reintroduce Lesser Prairie-Chickens to areas of their former range, but all have failed.

In the past, intensive agriculture and cattle grazing have been the most common causes of habitat degradation and fragmentation. But oil and gas exploration and development continue to expand within the bird's range. Within the last decade, commercial wind-power facilities have appeared in increasing numbers. Prairie-Chickens show a strong avoidance of tall structures such as utility poles and wind turbines.

As areas of habitat continue to shrink, Lesser Prairie-Chickens face new threats from other bird species. In western Kansas, Lesser Prairie-Chickens have recently hybridized with Greater Prairie-Chickens. When a bird's population is dangerously low, hybridization further weakens the gene pool. Introduced Ring-necked Pheasants compete with Lesser Prairie-Chickens for food and nesting territories. Pheasants are known to disrupt the nesting of Greater Prairie-Chickens by laying their eggs in prairie-chickens' nests. This parasitism has recently been documented in Lesser Prairie-Chicken nests.

Most birders travel to the Cimarron National Grasslands to find Lesser Prairie-Chickens, but this species can be found at scattered sites throughout the southwestern third of Kansas. The birds may be expanding their range slightly northward. When I lived in Kansas, my favorite site was the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area, but lek counts in 2002 and 2003 did not find any birds there.

I encourage you to seek out Lesser Prairie-Chickens whenever you can, even if you don't "need" them for your state list. When traveling to find these birds, tell every gas station attendant, motel clerk, and waitress why you are there. Offer private landowners a few dollars for the privilege of viewing these birds on their land. The more the public becomes aware of the plight of these birds and of the financial benefits of protecting them, the better the chances that Lesser Prairie-Chickens will survive their current decline.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

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 SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2004 through May 31, 2004

By Lloyd Moore

While many Kansas birders probably wouldn't call spring migration 2004 a bust, it was certainly less than spectacular.

We continue to see apparent increasing numbers of Trumpeter Swans, probable proof of the success of reintroduction efforts. Notable this season was a small FLOCK of Trumpeters in a field north of Ellinwood. One can only hope that this sight becomes a regular thing in years to come.

A definite highlight of the season was a well documented and photographed Ruff at Cheyenne Bottoms in late April. If accepted by the Kansas Bird Records Committee this will only be the 6th record for this species in Kansas.

Eurasian Collared-Doves are about to become not news worthy as all but a few counties in Kansas now have records and probably breeding populations.

What was news worthy with doves this spring was the appearance of White-winged Doves at numerous locations across Kansas. (If you have not yet read Helen Hands article on page 3, go there now!) Inca Doves continue to be seen regularly in southwest Kansas.

Several species appeared in Kansas at or near early record dates. While early arrival dates can be exciting, one can't help but wonder about the survival of these primarily insect eating species that early in the season.

As was indicated in an earlier issue, this will be my final seasonal roundup. Thanks to all who have contributed their bird sightings while I have served as compiler for the seasonal roundup. As soon as a new compiler is selected, please keep sending them your reports 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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2 in Wichita yard	Sedgwick	05/15	D&FV, m:ob
Ross's Goose	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	<u>Morton</u>	<u>04/24</u>	SP
Trumpeter Swan	2 imm., 2mi W. of Baxter Spgs. 2 west of Wichita <i>(Wearing neck collars P92 and P100, both released in Iowa in spring 2003).</i> 24 2mi N of Ellinwood 1 imm. Milford Lake 2 on Browning Lk. E. of Wathena <i>(One with red neck collar and one with red-orange wing tag.)</i>	Cherokee Sedgwick Barton Geary Doniphan	03/05 03/07 03/09 03/23 03/29	DH TR T&BM CO DC
Tundra Swan	2 at Quivira N.W.R.	Stafford	03/07	PJ, KG, GF
Am. Black Duck	1 pair at Wilson Lake, Otoe Area	Russell	04/17	MR
Cinnamon Teal	1 pair at Dodge City Sandpits	Ford	04/06-14	JD
Greater Scaup	30 below Melvern Lk. Dam 12+ at New Strawn sewer ponds 4 at Belle Plaine sewer ponds 2 at Quivira NWR 3 at Lake Shawnee 10+ at Quivira NWR 4 at Bourbon Co. State Lake	Osage Coffey Sumner Stafford Shawnee Stafford Bourbon	03/06 03/06 03/18 03/25 04/10 04/10 04/18	MG, WCT MG, WCT TH MR DG SS PJ, GF
Surf Scoter	1 below dam at Melvern Lk.	Osage	04/26	TH

White-winged Scoter	1 at Big Hill Res. 1 at Chisholm Crk. Park, Wichita	Labette Sedgwick	03/13 03/24-31	TH LR, m:ob
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	20 on lek S. of Nekoma	Rush	03/15	SS
Common Loon	3 below Melvern Lake dam	Osage	<u>05/03</u>	TH
Western Grebe	1 at Harm's Pond S. of Marion 1 at Meade State Park	Marion Meade	04/28 04/30	KKi TH
Clark's Grebe	1 at Kiowa SFL 1 at sandpit in Pratt	Kiowa Pratt	04/13 05/08	JS L&JQ
Neotropic Cormorant	2 below dam at John Redmond Rs. <i>(There have been 1-2 individuals reported from this location at all seasons for at least the past year and a half.)</i> 1 at Neosho WMA	Coffey Neosho	05/04 05/04	TH TH
Tricolored Heron	<D> 1 at Patterson Marsh 1 on Kansas R. 2mi W of Topeka	Harvey Shawnee	05/08 05/21	GF, RW DMu
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	<D> 1 at Quivira NWR <D> 2 adults together at Quivira NWR	Stafford Stafford	04/25 05/24	DW PL,SM,JO,SS,MR
White-faced Ibis	<u>400</u> in field at Quivira NWR	Stafford	04/25	MK
<u>Black Vulture</u>	<D> 1 flying over Wichita 1 flying over Schermerhorn Park	<u>Sedgwick</u> Cherokee	04/05 04/30	MH LHe
Turkey Vulture	<u>80</u> over Elk City Res. dam	Montgomery	03/12	TH
Mississippi Kite	2 at 80 th & Antioch, Overland Pk. 1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	<u>Johnson</u> Douglas	05/08 05/20	MG Ba
Bald Eagle	<u>167</u> Milford Lake Pair nesting at Milford Lake 2 pair nesting at Perry Lake	Geary Geary Jefferson	03/03 03/29 04/04	C & JO CO BF
Cooper's Hawk	1 on nest, Dornwood Pk., Topeka	Shawnee	04/10	DG
Northern Goshawk	1 NW of Larned	Pawnee	03/25	DS
Swainson's Hawk	2 in Meade Co. 50 following a tractor Pair nesting in Lenexa (3 young)	Meade Pawnee Johnson	<u>03/23</u> 04/04 04/05	TF SS DSe
Ferruginous Hawk	<D> 1 at Hollister WMA	<u>Bourbon</u>	<u>04/18</u>	PJ, GF
Peregrine Falcon	Pair nesting in Topeka 1 at Fall River WA 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Quivira NWR 1 at CNG work station 1 at Slate Creek Wetlands 1 1 at Patterson Marsh	Shawnee Greenwood Barton Stafford Morton Sumner Cowley Harvey	04/16 04/25 04/24 04/24 05/01 05/05 05/05 05/08	JB PJ, WAS SS, TC, DBu SS, TC, DBu TH MT, GY MT, GY GF, RW
Prairie Falcon	1 N. of Bourbon Co. SFL	Bourbon	03/12	TH
<u>Black Rail</u>	3 at Coldwater Lake	Comanche	05/06	PJ, SS, KB
Virginia Rail	5 in wetland along Ninnescah R.	Kingman	03/29	PJ, CG

Sandhill Crane	6 flying over Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Slate Creek Wetlands	Barton Sumner	04/25 05/12	LP, DSe MT, GY
Whooping Crane	5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/14	JS
Snowy Plover	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	03/13	MG, AG
Semipalmated Plover	<u>62</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/29	HH
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira NWR 13 at Cheyenne Bottoms <D> 25 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Elkhart sewage ponds 2 sitting on eggs along Kansas R. west of Topeka	Stafford Barton Barton Morton Shawnee	04/16 04/21 04/25 04/30 05/21	JB SS DW, MG TH Dmu
Mountain Plover	1 adult with young chick along K-51, 4 ½ mi. East of CO border	Morton	05/17	SM, PL
Whimbrel	3 at Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	05/05	MT, GY
Long-billed Curlew	54 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/06	HH
Marbled Godwit	4 at Quivira NWR 16 at a pond N. of Leoti 14 at Elkhart sewer ponds 38 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at KCPL Wetlands, Gardner	Stafford Wichita Morton Barton Johnson	04/11 04/24 04/24 04/21 05/07	GF, PY SP SP PJ DF
Ruddy Turnstone	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton Barton	04/23 05/16	SS, MR TC
White-rumped Sandpiper	est. <u>40,000+</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/24	SS,PL,SM,JO
Stilt Sandpiper	est. <u>8,000+</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	05/24	SS,PL,SM,JO
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4 at Patterson Marsh	Harvey	05/15	RW
Ruff	<D> 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	04/17-21	BG,PJ,DW,L&JQ
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Slate Creek Wetlands 1 at Linn sewage ponds	Sumner Washington	05/05 05/14	MT, GY DT
American Woodcock	3 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	03/02	ML
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Elkhart sewage ponds	Morton	04.24	TH, LH
California Gull	1 2 nd year at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Elkhart sewage ponds	Barton Morton	03/13 04/30	MR TH
Thayer's Gull	1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	03/13	MG, AG
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 alternate adult at C B	Barton	03/21-05/02	SS, DB, m:ob
Least Tern	11 nesting along Kansas River between St. George and Topeka 5 nesting again in N Wichita	Shawnee Sedgwick	05/21 05/31	DMu PJ
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 in Caney 1 2 in McCracken 2 pair in Berryton several in Overbrook ? in Independence	Montgomery Anderson Rush Shawnee Osage Montgomery	03/06 03/06 03/05 03/13 03/13 03/12	HP MG, WCT JS DL DL TH

Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 in Waldo	Russell	03/20	JPi
	1 in Tipton	Mitchell	03/19	JS
	2 in Traer	Decatur	03/19	JS
	5 in Winona	Logan	03/20	JS
	1 in Nekoma	Rush	03/28	SS
	1 near Alma	Wabaunsee	04/03	CO
	1 at Mulvane	Sumner	04/04	TH
	3 at Garden City residence	Finney	04/09	T&SSh
	1 in Abilene	Dickinson	04/15	C&JO
	1 in Ft. Scott	Bourbon	04/16	JS
	1 at Greensburg	Kiowa	04/13	JS
	1 in Ashland	Clark	04/13	JS
	1 in Meade	Meade	04/13	JS
	4 in Manter	Stanton	04/13	JS
	1 in Kinsley	Edwards	04/13	JS
	1 in Rice Co.	Rice	04/25	MG
	2 in McPherson	McPherson	04/25	MG
	2 in Lawrence	Douglas	05/09	BA
	A colony	Anderson	05/09	JS
	2 in Atwood	Rawlins	05/11	JS
1 at Udall	Cowley	05/24	LH	
White-winged Dove	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	04/09	T&SSh
	1 at Otte residence, Junction City	Geary	05/04	C&JO
	1 at Pottawatomie SFL #2	Pottawatomie	05/08	DR, ER
	1 in Washington	Washington	05/10	Jim Y.
	1 juvenile in Garden City	Finney	05/15	T&SSH
	<i>(We finally have evidence of breeding for the White-winged Dove in Finney County. A lone juvenile White-winged Dove has visited our backyard twice today, primarily for water. An adult was observed at another time. This could count as a second Kansas breeding record for the state. Tom Shane)</i>			
	1 at residence in Hays	Ellis	05/20	TM
	1 at Rader residence in Wilson	Ellsworth	05/20	MR
Inca Dove	1 in Ulysses	Grant	03/05	KH
	1 pair at Shane residence	Finney	03/29	T&SSh
	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	04/09	T&SSh
	2 at Osterbuhr's in Garden City	Finney	04/25	MO
	<i>(Marie said they have been around since 01/29.)</i>			
	1 at feeder in Salina	Saline	05/29	BH
Barn Owl	1 in barn NW of Larned	Pawnee	03/29	SS
	1 just S. of Lone Star	Douglas	04/20	PW
	1 at Wilson St. Pk., shop area	Russell	04/26	MR
	1 S. of Wilson on Smoky Hill R.	Ellsworth	04/26	MR
	2 Elkhart Shelter Belt & Work Station	Morton	05/01	TH
	3 young in burrow, Boy Scout area	Morton	05/15	SS & Others
Greater Roadrunner	2 birds in different locations	Kiowa	05/06	PJ, SS, KB
	1 seen in Frontenac	Crawford	05/07	DM
Burrowing Owl	1 west of Salina	<u>Saline</u>	03/22	JP
Long-eared Owl	Adults with 3 young , CNG	Morton	05/15	SS & Others
Short-eared Owl	30+ between Kanopolis and Salina	Saline	03/30	KF
	1 along hwy. W of LaCrosse	Rush	03/30	SS
	1 W of Colwich	Sedgwick	04/05	B&NB
	2 at Globe Prairie	Douglas	04/04	AP

Common Poorwill	1 S. of Wilson on Smoky Hill R.	Ellsworth	04/26	MR
Chimney Swift	2 flying over Eskridge	Wabaunsee	03/31	TC, DBu, RS
Lewis's Woodpecker	1 About 1 1/2 miles N of Horace	Greeley	05/14	SP
Say's Phoebe	1 in Waldo <i>("eating cooked hamburger and some insects caught on ground and eaten after perching on fence." JPi)</i>	Russell	<u>03/01-06</u>	JPi
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 7 mi. NE of Fowler	<u>Ford</u>	05/15	DSe, GP
Cassin's Kingbird	6 at various locations in CNG	Morton	05/15	DSe, GP
Western Kingbird	1 in Winfield cemetery 1 in Wellington <i>(These two sightings tie the extreme date for Kansas.)</i>	Cowley Sumner	04/02 04/02	MT DLa
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Marais des Cygne W.A. 1 at Tribune City Park	Linn <u>Greeley</u>	<u>04/03</u> 05/14	MM, GP SP
Plumbeous Vireo	<D> 1 in Elkhart	Morton	<u>05/18</u>	PL,SM,JO
Fish Crow	3 flying over Slate Creek Wetlands 3 at Kaw Wildlife Area 2 at Neosho WMA 1 at Ft Scott City Lake 2 along N. Sugar Creek, MdC	<u>Sumner</u> <u>Cowley</u> Neosho Bourbon Linn	05/05 04/30 05/04 05/06 05/17	MT, GY TH TH TH MG, EM
Western Scrub-Jay	2 below Point of Rocks, CNG	Morton	05/01	TH
<u>Common Raven</u>	1 flying over Boy Scout Camp, CNG 1 near Wilburton	Morton Morton	05/15 05/16	SS,SP,TC & others TC
Violet-Green Swallow	1 at Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	05/16	SP,TC,HA,CA
Wood Thrush	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	<u>Morton</u>	05/15	MP
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 NE of Tribune	Greeley	05/13	SP
Sprague's Pipit	1 in Max's pasture near Udall 1 in an alfalfa field 1 NW of Larned 3 at Chase Co. SFL	Cowley Kingman Pawnee Chase	04/02 04/12 04/14 04/26	MT PJ SS TH
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Douglas	04/28	BA
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Lone Star Lake 1 at Ft. Leavenworth	Douglas Leavenworth	05/02 05/15	AP DW
Cape May Warbler	1 at Lake Shawnee 1 at Rader residence, Wilson 1 at Konza Prairie nature trail 1 near Schukman residence	Shawnee Ellsworth Riley Leavenworth	05/14 05/17 05/19 05/19	DG, JM MR GS JSc
Black-throated Blue	1 at Crane Park, Derby 1 male at Burcham Pk., Lawrence	Sedgwick Douglas	05/05 05/17	LH BA
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 along "Lone Star Road" 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 7 at Marais des Cygne WA 3 along Lone Star Rd.	Wyandotte Johnson Linn Wyandotte	04/03 04/05 04/26 05/06	DSe WCT TH CH
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Marais des Cygne, Unit G	Linn	05/06	TH

Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Burcham Park, Lawrence 1 along Ninnescah River at Pratt	Douglas Pratt	05/01 05/08	BA L&JQ
Hooded Warbler	2 males in Oak Crk Pk, Wichita 1 female at cemetery shelter belt 1 male in a Lenexa park 1 at Perry Park, Lawrence	Sedgwick Morton Johnson Douglas	04/17 04/24 04/29 04/30	PG SP WCT GPa
Summer Tanager	2 at Konza Prairie	Riley	<u>04/22</u>	DR, KSU FOC
Western Tanager	1 at Rader residence, Wilson	Ellsworth	05/17	MR
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 adult feeding fledged young	Comanche	05/06	PJ, SS, KB
Dark-eyed Junco	1 very late at Cable residence	Riley	05/17	TC
Smith's Longspur	100+ on Skyline Drive E. of Alma 40 in southeastern Riley Co. 30 SW of Haviland	Wabaunsee Riley Kiowa	03/25 04/14 04/21	AS GS, KK L&JQ
Lazuli Bunting	1 in Oak Park, Wichita 1 male at Shane's, Garden City 1 at Kazmaier residence, Larned 1 male at Manhattan Linear Park 1 at Cable residence, Manhattan 1 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sedgwick Finney Pawnee Riley Riley Sumner	04/26 04/29 05/04 05/10 05/19 05/24	CS T&SSh DK GS TC LH
Painted Bunting	1 imm. male in Larned	<u>Pawnee</u>	05/15-18	E&DM,DK,SS
Brewer's Blackbird	350+ in feedlot	Greenwood	03/06	MG, WCT
Purple Finch	7 in Milford State Park 3 near Fitch Reservation 3 at residence near Lone Star 1 at residence, Manhattan	Geary Douglas Douglas Riley	03/13 03/29 04/04 04/05	CO, SHA KS AP DBu
Lesser Goldfinch	1 female at Shane's, Garden City 1 at feeder (green backed form)	Finney Finney	04/25 05/22	T&SSh MRa

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 (NESAs), 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: Bob Antonio, Charles Anderson, Henry Armknecht, Dave Bryan, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Doris Burnett (DBu), Joanne Brier, Ken Brunson, Donna Chance, Joyce Davis, Dave Fischer, Kat Farres, Gregg Friesen, Tom Flowers, Bill Falk, Matt Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg, Alan Godwin, Bob Gress, Paul Griffin, Chet Gresham, Dan Gish, Kellye Hart, Dave Hennessy, Tyler Hicks, Leon Hicks, Larry Herbert (LHe), Mike Heaney, Helen Hands, Chris Hobbs, Bob Highgate, Pete Janzen, Karl Kosciuch, Kerrie Kirkpatrick (KKi), Marvin Kuehn, Don Kazmaier, Mark

Land, Dan Larson, Paul Lehman, Dorothy Lambert (DLA), Mick McHugh, Tom & Billie McDavit (T&BM), Ed & Donna Meyer (E&DM), David Mangile, Jim Malcom, Ed McCullough, Terry Mannell, Dan Mulhern (DMu), Steve Mlodinow, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Chuck Otte, Marie Osterbuhr, Jerry Oldenetter, Judd Patterson, Harold Peterson, Jim Piland (JPi), Galen Pittman, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Alexis Powell, Sebastian Patti, Loren Padelford, Michael Patten, Lee & Jane Queal (L&JQ), Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Ellen Rintoul, Timothy Rigg, Lewis Rogers, Jon Strong, Mike Ramsey (MRa), John Schukman (JSc), Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman, David Seibel (DSe), Kylee Sharp, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Smoky Hill Audubon (SHA), Art Swalwell, Greg Schrott, Ruth Stewart, Carolyn Schwab, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Max Thompson, Dan Thalmann, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Phil Wedge, Dave Williams, Rod Wedel, Perry Yoder, Gene Young

Thank you KOS!

For the last 12 years I have served as editor of the *Horned Lark*. I appreciate then KOS President David Seibel taking a chance on a fairly new, virtually unknown KOS member when he made that fateful phone call that June evening. In those days the two editors were appointed by the president, now they are elected by the membership. I encourage you all to join with me and cast a vote in October for the very capable Cheryl Miller! I've had a lot of help and support through the years from many folks. Past editors have been very supportive of changes I considered and were an eternal source of ideas. Many members stepped forward with regular articles, periodic contributions, and in recent years photos. A special thank you to the folks who served as seasonal roundup compilers. Scott, Chris, Pete and I understand very well why Lloyd has decided to pass that responsibility on.

I don't have a lot of room here, and that's fine with me. I've rattled on long enough over the past several dozen issues. And my ramblings may yet appear in these pages, in future issues, if the new editor is willing. I just want to say thank you to the members and the boards of the Kansas Ornithological Society for the past 12 years for letting me serve and grow in this position. It has been a pleasure for me, and I hope it has been for you as well!

Chuck

A Word from Your New *Horned Lark* Editor, Cheryl Miller

Greetings fellow birders! I'm looking forward to serving as the *Horned Lark* editor. Please join me in thanking Chuck for his work in this capacity.

A little about me: I grew up on a farm in Harvey County and my mother still lives there. It's a small farm with a hay meadow, riparian habitat along Emma Creek and wheat, milo and bean fields. The house is surrounded by walnut, elm and cedar trees. Some of the more interesting birds we've had on the property include Swainson's Hawks, Long-eared Owls, Lazuli Buntings, Magnolia Warblers, Black-crowned Night-Herons and Winter Wrens. It was here that I became a birder and it is where I go often when I need time away.

When I'm not birding, I work at Wichita State University for the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Part of my duties include general college relations. I write and edit our college's newsletter, maintain the webpage and work with faculty to coordinate the Watkins Visiting Professorship lecture series. This program allows us to bring top notch scientists to campus. Over the years we've hosted Jane Goodall, Steven Jay Gould, Niles Eldredge and Alan Feduccia. I like my job and am fortunate to work with people who have similar interests.

As *Horned Lark* editor, I'd like to hear your suggestions regarding content and format of the newsletter. Submissions, artwork and digital photos are welcome and may be sent to me at this e-mail address:

avian67226@hotmail.com.

Grab your optics and get outdoors!

Cheryl

56th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society

Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas

Fall 2004

The Kansas Ornithological Society will be meeting at Baker University. The Biology Department will host the meeting on the weekend of 1-3 October. Meeting headquarters will be in Owens Musical Arts Building.

Program

Friday, October 1

6:30-9:00 p.m. Informal reception in McKibben Recital Hall in Owens.

Saturday, October 2

6:30-8:00 a.m. Local field trip to the University of Kansas Breidenthal Biological Preserve and Douglas County Lake. Meet in parking lot north of the Harter Student Union.

8:00-9:00 Registration, lobby of Owens Musical Arts Building.

9:00-11:00 Morning paper sessions, Owens AV Room.

11:00 - 11:30 Business meeting

11:30-12:30 Lunch available at several restaurants several blocks south of campus in downtown Baldwin City or on Highway 56 (Ames Street) several blocks north. Board meeting at reserved table at Express Yourself Coffee Shop downtown.

1:00-2:00 Birdwatchers Hour. A-V Room of Owens. Bring photos and videos to share.

2:00-4:00 Afternoon paper session. Owens A-V Room.

4:00-5:00 Afternoon business meeting.

5:00-6:00 Free time

6:00- Banquet, Best Birds of the Year, Resolutions and Guest Speaker: Jon Dunn “**Sparrows of the Great Plains**” -Baker Student Union.

Sunday, October 3

6:30 Field Trips from Student Union parking lot.

12:00 Lunch- Broken Arrow Park in Lawrence (31st & Louisiana), adjacent to the Baker Wetlands. Compilation of weekend bird list.

Banquet Guest Speaker: Jon Dunn has been a birding tour leader with WINGS. He is the author of a number of books on birding including the *Peterson Field Guide: Warblers of North America*, and narrator of bird watching videos including *Hummingbirds of North America* and *Large Gulls of North America*. Jon is a Board Member for the American Birding Association and is a member of the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. (See Special Auction Notice for an opportunity to go birding with Jon Dunn on page 13)

SILENT AUCTION: **Members are encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction.** Many items will be available for view and bidding at the Friday Evening Reception. All proceeds from this event go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

SPECIAL ITEMS FOR SILENT AUCTION: The proceeds from the following three items will go towards defraying cost of bringing Jon Dunn to Baldwin. The Local Committee thanks Mike Rader for obtaining the binoculars and his suggestions for this event.

I. *Bushnell Binoculars* [7 power Birders Model]

II. *Bushnell Binoculars* [8 x 42 Legends] This is a very fine pair of binoculars.

There will be a minimum bid of \$30 and \$250 respectively. Come prepared to acquire a great pair of binoculars.

III. *“Birding with the Experts”*. Both Jon Dunn and Mark Robbins will be leading a field trip for the top five bidders. Mark is Collections Manager for the KU Museum of Natural History and will be designing the itinerary for the field trip which will occur Sunday morning in conjunction with the other field trips. Mark is the leader for the World Record Kansas Big Day Event and knows all of the best birding spots in Eastern Kansas (don't plan on a chartered flight to Quivira, however). Minimum bid for this will be \$25. This promises to be a special occasion for all of the five winners.

Winners of ALL the Silent Auction items will be determined after the afternoon business meeting on Saturday.

Planned Field trips

I. Clinton Lake and environs.

II. Breidenthal and Rice Woodlands and Douglas County Lake.

III. Lone Star Lake, Rock Creek area, and Clinton Lake (part)

IV. Baker Wetlands (Cal Cink will be mist netting) This should be ideal for various sparrows.

V. Birding with the Experts – led by Mark Robbins and Jon Dunn. Available through winning bid in Silent Auction..

All field trips will leave from the parking lot north of the Harter Student Union in Baldwin.

Directions to Baldwin City/Baker University:

From Kansas City

Take I-35 south to the Gardner Exit (Exit 210; about 15 miles south of the I-35 and I-435 interchange). From Gardner, go west on highway 56 to Baldwin City (about 15 miles). Turn left on 6th Street at Quick Shop, 3 blocks south to Dearborn St., left ½ block to Union parking lot.

From Wichita

Take I-35 to the Ottawa exit (Exit 183). Proceed north on highway 59 to the junction of 59 and highway 56 (about 10 miles). Go east on 56 to Baldwin City (about 5 miles). Turn right on 6th St. at Quick Shop. South 3 blocks to Dearborn, left ½ block to Union parking lot.

From Lawrence

Take highway 59 south to the junction of highways 59 and 56 (about 10 miles) Go east on 56 to Baldwin City (about 5 miles). Turn right on 6th St. at Quick Shop, south 3 blocks to campus. Right on Dearborn ½ block to Union parking lot.

Dr Ivan L Boyd Recognition Award - Call for Nominations

This award is to be given to a member(s) of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), usually each year, for outstanding contributions and service to the society. The award is not a monetary award but shall be presented to an individual(s) as a plaque with appropriate information provided. Individuals must be nominated by another KOS member. Nominations should be submitted to the Board with instructions on deadlines and procedures provided to the membership in a timely manner. Nominations should provide a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. Contributions could include such things as number and years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the *Bulletin* or *Horned Lark*, number of CBC's compiled, and years of membership; this is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the society may be provided. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive an award. The Board may select more than one recipient each year or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year. Please send nominations to Tom Shane by September 15. Contact information for Tom is on page 1 of the *Horned Lark*.

Accommodations:

Please make your own motel reservations.

There is one motel in Baldwin with a block of rooms **held until September 1st**.

Advise them that you are attending the "KOS Meeting". This will be homecoming weekend at Baker so **early reservations are encouraged**.

The Lodge- 502 Ames (Hwy 56), Baldwin City, KS 66006 785-594-3900

peach@thesandbar.com , info@baldwinlodge.com

There are 2 bed and breakfasts in Baldwin City:

The Three Sisters Inn, 1035 Ames, 785-594-3244

Grove House, 807 Grove St., 785-594-2947

There are many motels in Lawrence, a 15 mile drive north of Baldwin on Hwys 56 and 59. The nearest is Holiday Inn-Express with a block of rooms held until September 1st. Advise them you are attending the "KOS Meeting".

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 3411 Iowa, Lawrence, 785-749-7555

There is one other motel on the south side of Lawrence:

Days Inn, 2309 Iowa, 785-843-9100

Other motels include:

Baymount Inns and Suites, 740 Iowa St., 785-838-4242

Hallmark Inn Best Western, 730 Iowa St., 785-841-6500

Hampton Inn, 2300 W. 6th, 785-841-4994

Holiday Inn Lawrence, 200 McDonald Drive, 785-749-7555

(toll free—800-465-4329)

Quality Inn, 801 North Iowa, 785-842-5100

Ramada Inn of Lawrence, 2222 W. 6th St., 785-842-7030

Super 8 Motel, 515 McDonald Drive, 785-842-5721

Camping: Available at Douglas County Lake, 1 mile north of Baldwin City on Highway 1055, east 1 mile to lake. Primitive but no fee.

KOA Campground in Lawrence, 1473 Highway 40, 785-842-3877

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

(for period since October 1, 2003)

Mail to:

Max C. Thompson

1729 E. 11th Ave.

Winfield, KS 67156

Or e-mail to Max at: maxt@cox.net

Species _____

Observers _____

Location _____

Registration Form - KOS 2004 Fall Meeting

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Additional Persons Attending With You _____

		Number	Total
Registration Fee	\$16.00 (KOS members)	_____	\$ _____
	\$25.00 (non-members)	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch-----On your own			
Banquet	\$14.00 per person	_____	\$ _____
Sunday Box Lunch	\$ 4.00 per person	_____	\$ _____
		Amount	
		Enclosed	\$ _____

Make checks payable to: Baker University

Send completed forms to: **Dr. Cal Cink**
Biology Department
Baker University, PO Box 65
Baldwin City, Kansas 66006

Preregistration forms must be received by 17 September 2004.

RELEASE

Please read and sign. This release must be signed before the registration can be accepted.

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the KOS and their officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrants participation in this meeting.

Name (print) _____ Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Date _____

(attach additional names and signatures as necessary)

**KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL 2004 MEETING
CALL FOR PAPERS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004
BAKER UNIVERSITY
BALDWIN CITY, KANSAS**

The fall meeting of the KOS for 2004 will be held in Baldwin City. Paper sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 2 October, in the AV Room of Owens Musical Arts Building. Audio/visual equipment includes 35 mm slides, VHS video, and computer projection. Papers on any topic of interest to Kansas ornithologists and birdwatchers are requested. Our paper sessions traditionally include both technical and general interest presentations. Student papers will be judged and the best paper announced at the banquet Saturday night. All student presenters will receive a year's free membership in KOS.

Please submit your abstract by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Marvin D. Kuehn
Emporia State University
1200 Commercial - Campus Box 4036
Emporia, Kansas 66801

Off: 620-341-5795
Fax: 620-341-6200
Home: 620-342-9133
kuehnmar@emporia.edu

Submissions should include:

Title of Paper: _____

Authors and affiliations: _____

Estimated time in minutes: 10___15___20___

Audio/visual: Slides:___ Video:___ Computer projection___ Overhead:___

If using computer projection: Bringing my own laptop (preferred):___ Need a computer:___

ABSTRACT: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT ABSTRACTS NO LATER THAN 1 SEPTEMBER 2004!
