The Horned Lark

The official newsletter of the Kansas Ornithological Society

December 2004 Vol. 31, No. 4

KOS Board of Directors

•**President** Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 East Grand Ave., Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; *eyoung@north-ok.edu, youngg6264@yahoo.com*

•**Vice-President** Marvin Kuehn, 1720 Thompson, Emporia, KS 66801 *kuehnmar@emporia.edu*

•**Corresponding Secretary** Bill Busby, 626 E. 1900 Road, Baldwin City, KS 66006

Membership Development Coordinator Mark Land, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207; *kestrelland@aol.com*

•**Treasurer** Dan Larson, *larsondaer@aol.com*

•**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,* Cheryl K. Miller, *avian67226@hotmail.com*

•**Past-President** Tom Shane, 1706 Belmont Pl, Garden City, KS 67846; *shane@pld.com*

Board Members:
•Matt Gearheart, *mgearheart@gwhm.com*
•Nancy Leo, *njleo@earthlink.net*
•Chuck Otte, *otte@nqks.com*
•Max Thompson, *maxt@cox.net*

From the field

Is it really December?

I'm still recovering from the shock of the unusually pleasant summer and fall we had. I hope the weather is conducive to the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts.

I participated in my first CBC in 1998 with Carolyn Schwab and Tyler Hicks. It was bitterly cold and although I had layered my clothing, I still shivered. The harsh wind chilled me and my nose felt as though it had been clipped off by an unseen gremlin. I wondered why on earth I'd awakened at an early hour to spend most of the day in a vehicle with two people I barely knew.

As Carolyn, Tyler and I made our way around our assigned territory, conversation topics ranged from current "indie" bands to observing the malar markings on meadowlark species. Both told birding stories and introduced me to what I believe is the innate generosity of most birders. Not only was I adding to my birding knowledge and helping with an important project, I was also getting to know people.

CBCs, I decided, were a gift.

There are more than 50 CBCs scheduled across Kansas this season. You'll find a listing of reported counts on page 14. Check the KOS Web site for additions: *(www.ksbirds.org/kos/index.html).*

If you weren't able to join us for the KOS meeting in Baldwin City, perhaps this issue of the newsletter will bring you up to speed. The paper presentations were informative and keynote speaker Jon Dunn gave a detailed and educational talk on the nuances of sparrow identification.

Jon Dunn. Photo by Sara Shane.

Of course, the weather was fabulous and the field trips were great! Many thanks to Roger and Jan Boyd, Cal and Mary Jo Cink, Mike Rader and others for the work they put forth in making the weekend a success.

—CKM

KOS meeting news at a glance

Best Birds of the Year

Max Thompson presented the following *Best Birds of the Year* list at the KOS banquet, October 2.

1. Magnificent Hummingbird, July 11, Chautauqua County. *Mark Corder.* Previous records include *Orville Rice (1965)* and *Martin Pressgrove (1977);*

2. Ruff, April 15, Barton County. *Bob Gress, Pete Janzen, Dave Williams,* and *Lee* and *Jane Queal;*

3. Varied Thrush, December 21, Cowley County/ Arkansas City CBC. *Gene Young;*

4. Black-bellied Whistling Duck (2), May 15, Sedgwick County. *Don* and *Fran Vannoy;*

5. Western Tanager, January 31, Riley County. *Dave Rintoul;*

6. Bushtit (15), January 4, Morton County/Cimmaron NG CBC. *Sebastian Patti;*

7. Cassins' Finch November 7, Finney County. *Tom* and *Sara Shane;*

8. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, May 4 breeding record, Comanche County. *Pete Janzen, Scott Seltman* and *Ken Brunson;*

9. Least Sandpiper, January 3, Coffey County. *Mark Land* and *Matt Gearheart;*

10. Black Vulture, April 16, Wichita, Sedgwick County. *Mike Heaney;*

11. Ferruginous Hawk, April 18, Barber County. *Pete Janzen* and *Gregg Friessen.*

Max announced 11 birds rather than the usual 10. He included the single nomination as number 11 and culled the KS-BIRDS listserv and KBRC records for the remainder. This list covers the period October 2003-September 2004.

Kosciuch and Mong win Best Paper awards

Two Kansas State University graduate students won Best Paper awards at the fall KOS meeting.

Karl L. Kosciuch presented "Local Experimental Cowbird Removal Results in Decreased Nest Desertion Frequencies by Bell's Vireos in Kansas" and Tony Mong delivered "The Life of the Upland Sandpiper at Konza Prairie." Assistant professor Brett Sandercock aided both students with their studies.

The winners will receive a one-year subscription to the ornithology journal of their choice.

Recurved bill of Avocet.

Charter member Katharine Kelley receives Ivan L. Boyd Award

Editor's note: These are the remarks given by President Tom Shane at the KOS banquet, Saturday, Oct. 2.

During the 1940s, a number of Kansas towns had active birding groups and clubs. Topeka Audubon was in place, Burrough's Nature Club was actively supported by members on both sides of the Kansas/ Missouri border, and there was a very active group here called the Baldwin Bird Club.

It was those groups, along with a dozen Kansas faculty members, which came together and formed the Kansas Ornithological Society in the spring of 1949. Those initial groups helped stimulate the formation of additional groups in other towns and cities. An example of this was evident in the number of Christmas Bird Counts conducted during the 1940s. From 1940 to 1948 an average of 3.2 CBCs were conducted in Kansas. The first issue of the KOS Bulletin reported on 14 counts conducted in 1949 around the state.

Tonight we would like to honor Katharine B. Kelley, who was active in one of those early

(continued on page 13)

KOS species list, Baldwin City and Douglas County

October 1-3, 2004

KOS meeting participants found 128 species on field trips and during private excursions. Field trip sites included the University of Kansas Breidenthal Reserve, Douglas County Lake, Baker University Wetlands, Clinton Lake, Lone Star Lake and Rock Creek.

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Ring-necked Duck
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Little Blue Heron
Green Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
King Rail
Sora
American Coot
Killdeer
American Avocet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Forster's Tern
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike
Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Sprague's Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Palm Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Summer Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

Timing of Peak Migration from 1966-2003 for Songbirds Captured at the Fort Hays State Banding Station
Matthew G. Sexson and Greg H. Farley, Fort Hays State University, Department of Biological Sciences, Hays, KS 67601

We have been mist-netting and banding birds on the Fort Hays State University campus since 1966, following a sampling regime established by Dr. Charles Ely. The use of standardized net locations and capture times allows different species-specific analyses to be conducted, for example, changes in population size over time, and assessment of differences in the timing of migration.

Large scale phenomena such as global climate change and land use patterns likely affect migratory bird biology, and we are attempting to see if changes in songbird behavior are detectable in this long term data set.

Comparisons of the median arrival date for the most common migratory songbirds captured on the site (e.g., Least Flycatcher, House Wren, Orange-Crowned and Nashville Warblers) across the 38-year sampling interval may provide insight into whether any shifts in the timing of fall migration have occurred.

Effects of Prescribed Fire and Cattle Grazing on Tallgrass Prairie Breeding Bird Abundances. *Alexis F. L. A. Powell*, Lawrence, KS 66044

No other group of birds in North America has declined as precipitously, consistently, and over so large an area as has the grassland assemblage, with nearly every species showing negative population trends. In the Flint Hills of Kansas, the last large remnant of the tallgrass prairie biome, annual spring burning of rangeland has recently replaced burning every 2–3 years.

I examined effects of burning and low-intensity cattle grazing on abundances of seven bird species at Konza Prairie Biological Station in June of 2002 and 2003. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) was most abundant at burned sites, but six species—Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), and female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)—were relatively scarce at, or eliminated from, sites in the breeding season following a fire.

On the other hand, abundances of Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark were lower, all other factors held equal, at sites on a 4-year burn cycle when compared to more frequently burned areas. Cattle grazing benefited Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. If the Flint Hills region is to harbor high abundances of grassland birds, the region-wide practice of annual burning must be replaced with alternatives that restore the landscape to a mosaic of asynchronously, but regularly burned pastures.

Do Melanin- or Carotenoid-Pigmented Plumage Ornaments Signal Condition and Predict Pairing Success in the Kentucky Warbler? *Timothy H. Parker, Brooke M. Stansberry, C. Dustin Becker, and Philip S. Gipson*, Department of Biology, Kansas State University Manhattan, KS 66506

Several recent papers have claimed that plumage pigmented by carotenoids (typically reds and yellows) is more likely to signal individual condition or quality than plumage pigmented by melanins (typically brown or black). Kentucky warblers (*Oporornis formosus*), both male and female, have multiple color ornaments, including a black cap, black face patch and a bright yellow breast. Based on a sample of study skins, males have larger black patches and brighter yellow breasts.

In wild caught individuals, males in better condition had more extensive black caps and faces, but not brighter-yellow breasts. Males with larger black caps were also more likely to attract mates. These patterns remain when putative yearling males were eliminated from the analyses. This demonstrates that melanin-pigmented ornaments can signal condition and explain variance in mating success in a system with both carotenoid- and melanin-pigmented feathers.

Assessment of the Prevalence of West Nile Virus in Resident and Migratory Birds in Western Kansas *Anthony J. Thomas, Greg H. Farley and Eric T. Gillock*, Fort Hays State University

Recent outbreaks of West Nile Virus in North America have caused human health concern; possible impacts on avian survivorship are also of interest to ornithologists. To date, species in over 45 North American families of Aves have tested positively for West Nile Virus (WNV); many of these families include migratory species.

With the onset of migration, individuals carrying WNV have the potential to infect new areas and species. Various testing protocols have emerged to check for WNV in birds, however, the majority have been conducted on postmortem specimens.

Sampling on live specimens is possible using feather "pulp" if molt is occurring, as well as through blood, cloacal, and saliva samples. Assays are needed to show which non-invasive and non-lethal protocol(s) might be most effective in testing for WNV in live specimens. We are taking samples from birds caught at an existing long-term bird-banding site in the Hays, KS area.

Nest Site Habitat of Say's and Eastern Phoebe *John M. Schukman*, Leavenworth, KS

In west-central Kansas typical nest site habitat of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) was open country whereas Eastern Phoebe (*S. phoebe*) preferred wooded streams. However, both used the same nest site (alternately) or the same vicinity (concurrently) where woodland was intermittent or sparse.

Specific habitat was estimated using a single variable, woodland cover within a 300 m diameter circle centered on nest sites. Mean % woodland cover where Say's, Eastern, and both nested was 2±3 (0-13, N=22), 24±13 (3-60, N=43), and 15 ±14 (3-40, N=7), respectively. Some explanations of population structure include inter- and intra-specific competition, coexistence, reproductive success, and environmental variability.

Floodplain Birds at Fort Leavenworth *Bill Busby*, Kansas Biological Survey

Fort Leavenworth contains one of the best remaining examples of bottomland forest along the lower Missouri River. The importance of old-growth forest at this site to breeding birds is well documented. However, less is known about the other floodplain habitats.

This study documented the relative density of breeding birds in four habitats along a natural successional gradient at Fort Leavenworth from oldfield to mature forest in order to provide consistent data for resource management and conservation purposes by Fort Leavenworth staff. Fixed-radius point counts were conducted in June of 2003 and 2004. A total of 59 species were documented. Oldfield plots (containing tall herbaceous and patchy woody sapling cover) had the lowest species richness (36 species) but the largest number of species unique to one habitat type (6). Mid-successional forest (cottonwood-dominated, trees to 40 years, disturbed by cutting and fire) supported the highest number of species (45) and was dominated by forest edge species. Late-successional forest (Mixed deciduous tree species up to 65 years old, complete canopy cover) had intermediate bird richness (38 species) and composition similar to mature forest. Mature forest (Sycamore-Hackberry-Pecan dominated, 250+ years old, closed canopy) had intermediate richness (40 species) and the largest proportion of forest interior bird species.

An analysis of the distribution of 9 conservation-priority species revealed that species were evenly distributed across habitat types but that oldfield and mature forests supported the highest densities of priority species. The scarcity of old-growth forest argues for conservation of this forest type as a top priority while recognizing that early and mid-successional vegetation also contribute to breeding bird diversity.

The Life of the Upland Sandpiper at Konza Prairie *Tony W. Mong and Brett K. Sandercock*, Kansas State University

The Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* is a long-distant migrant that breeds in temperate regions of North America and winters in southern areas of South America. There are key areas of their breeding biology that are poorly understood because of their cryptic coloration

(continued on page 6)

and the difficulties associated with their capture.

We studied nesting and radio-marked sandpipers to determine habitat use, home range size and departure dates at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Radio-telemetry data from 39 (M = 21, F = 18) individuals with a total of 2093 (= 48 ± 13 SD per individual) locations were used to determine home range. Over the entire breeding season, male home range size (= 177.6 ha ± 34.9 SE, n= 21) was larger than that of females (= 124.8 ha ± 17.8 SE, n=18).

However, during pre-laying and incubation, home ranges of females (= 104.9 ha ± 39.5 SE, n = 18) were larger than males (= 66.8 ha ± 11.9 SE, n=16). Upland Sandpipers exhibit a male-biased parental care system. We found that the average hatch day for upland sandpiper nests on our site was on Julian day 162 (June 11, n = 25, SE ± 2), however the average departure day for females was on day 167 (n = 13, SE ± 3) and for males it was on day 180 (n= 14, SE ± 2).

Females are leaving their broods and the breeding area soon after broods hatch, leaving males to undertake all brood rearing responsibilities. This study will help shed light on some poorly understood aspects of the breeding biology of a true grassland bird species and will give grassland managers more data to devise more sound management practices.

Local Experimental Cowbird Removal Results in Decreased Nest Desertion Frequencies by Bell's Vireos in Kansas *Karl L. Kosciuch and Brett K. Sandercock,* Kansas State University

Nest desertion is a response of small-bodied songbirds to interspecific brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and can be an effective anti-parasite strategy. However, high variability in the incidence of desertion among and within species is perplexing because of the high cost of accepting a parasitic egg for many small-bodied hosts.

In 2004, we trapped and removed cowbirds at two sites at the Konza Prairie Biological Station and examined vireo response. If vireos desert nests in response to the addition of cowbird eggs, we predict that desertion frequencies will not change as a function of parasitism frequencies. From 7 May to 14 July, we trapped 316 adult (76 female) cowbirds at both sites. Parasitism frequencies were significantly higher (ÿ21 = 8.63, *P* = 0.003) on un-manipulated sites (79.2%) compared to removal sites (62.1%). Similarly, nest desertion frequencies were significantly higher (ÿ21 = 13.0, *P* = 0.0003) on un-manipulated sites (71.3%) compared to removal sites (37.3%). Using logistic regression, the only factor that explained variability in nest desertion was the number of vireo eggs remaining in the nest; number of cowbird eggs added had no effect.

Our results demonstrate that proximate mechanisms (egg loss) causes nest desertion in Bell's Vireos breeding in Kansas, not cowbird egg addition. We suggest that high cowbird abundance creates high desertion frequencies due to cowbirds removing vireo eggs. It is essential to understand what factors drive nest desertion locally prior to interpreting variability in desertion frequencies among subspecies.

Effects of Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing on Ground Nesting Birds in the Red Hills of Kansas. *Amy Zavala and Elmer J. Finck,* Fort Hays State University

Native mixed grass prairie is a focus for biological research because of its drastic decline throughout the Great Plains of North America. Altered land use practices from agriculture, ranching, and urban development have impacted a number of native grassland species including ground nesting birds.

Managers and landowners alike are interested in range management practices that might improve habitat for conservation. In contrast to low density continuous grazing, rotational grazing is a relatively new management practice that uses high density short duration rotations, which might increase vegetative cover for wildlife.

The objective of our study was to assess the differences between continuous grazing and rotational grazing systems on ground nesting birds in Barber and Comanche counties Kansas. We used a rope dragging technique to flush female birds and locate nests; these nests were monitored every three days and data were recorded. We also collected data on population

densities by doing a line transect count for each site.

Preliminary analysis suggests no difference among grazing systems for grassland bird species richness, nest density, and apparent reproductive success.

Grassland Bird Community Responses to a Novel Restoration Technique. *Tracey N. Johnson and Brett K. Sandercock,* Kansas State University

Grassland bird species have shown widespread declines over the last century, many of which have been attributed to altered habitat structure due to changing land-use practices. Restoration of grassland habitat in an agricultural setting might result in improved conditions for breeding grassland species, if effective restoration techniques can be developed.

My objectives were to (1) determine if winter grazing by cattle can be used as an effective method to restore pastures dominated by exotic tall fescue to native tallgrass prairie, and (2) to evaluate the effects of this restoration technique on associated breeding grassland bird communities. We quantified avian community structure using space-for-time substitution in a series of experimental pastures. Treatments included continuously grazed pastures, and pastures that had been subjected to winter grazing for 1, 2, and 4 years.

We established two line transects per pasture to assess avian community composition, species density, and diversity. Preliminary results indicate pastures winter-grazed for 4 years have higher diversity than all other treatments. Results will be presented relative to each treatment. Development of effective grassland restoration techniques that are based on present agricultural practices is the key to successful grassland bird conservation initiatives.

This novel, time-series approach to grassland restoration may ultimately contribute to a better understanding of grassland bird community responses to altered habitats and areas subject to multiple land-use practices.

Robins vs. Meadowlarks: Seeking the Best Birding in the Midwest. *Jackie Nooker*, Kansas State University

Everyone has a special connection to the place they were born and raised. In my case, that place is Wisconsin. However, I currently find myself attending school in Kansas. Though both states are technically in the Midwest, there are many differences between the two states with respect to latitude, land area, diversity of habitats, water availability, and of course, the associated bird communities. During this talk, I contrast the birding opportunities between the Wisconsin and Kansas. Comparisons will be made between the official state checklists, big day counts, Christmas bird counts, and MAPS bird banding stations. I will let you decide which state deserves the title "Birdiest Midwest State". Wisconsin checklists will be available after the presentation.

Kansas Bird Records Committee – Update on Species and Records. *Max C. Thompson,* Professor Emeritus, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS 67156 and *Chuck Otte,* K-State Research and Extension, Geary County Extension Office, Junction City, KS 66441

The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) evaluates reports of rare or unusual bird sightings from the state of Kansas. Through the scientific evaluation of the submitted materials, records may be accepted and bird species may be added to the official KOS Checklist. All records are maintained for future reference and often serve as valuable scientific material.

The KBRC strives to establish standards of observation and reporting to improve the quality and quantity of our knowledge of Kansas birds. Recent changes in the KBRC review list, those species that the committee desires to have sight records submitted for, will be discussed. Possible new additions and changes to the KOS Checklist will be explained. Additionally, data will be shown on how many records are submitted, circulated and accepted with particular attention paid to challenging species such as the Empidonax flycatchers and hummingbirds.

Please contact presenters for more information about these studies. Abstracts appear as they were submitted.

Fall KOS Board meeting minutes, Oct. 2, 2004, Baldwin City

Attendance:

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

Chairman Tom Shane called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Student Presenter Policy Tom Shane asked for clarification of policy on free KOS memberships for student presenters. Chuck responded that there was a year when the decision was made to give student presenters a free one-year KOS membership but that this was not an ongoing policy. Student paper award winners, however, are given a free one-year subscription to a national ornithological journal. After discussion about incentives to recruit new members, Marvin made a motion to give all student presenters a one-year KOS membership. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dingus Area Sign Tom reported that he'd heard the new sign at Dingus Natural Area had been knocked down. Apparently, it had been hit by a vehicle. It is unclear if the sign itself was damaged. Dan Larson suggested that multiple small signs be produced and placed at the site. Pete Janzen recommended that the sign be repaired or replaced and a more substantial mounting structure be used. A motion to replace or repair the existing sign was made, seconded, and passed.

Treasurer's Report Dan reported that at the spring meeting a motion was made and passed to withdraw $500 from the Book Royalty Fund to print and bind KBRC records. He said that these funds should have been taken from the General Fund. To remedy the situation, Dan will credit the Book Royalty Fund for $500 and to take $500 from the General Fund for KBRC records printing and binding.

Nongame Advisory Board Chuck will be resigning as KOS representative to the Kansas Nongame Advisory Board at the end of the year, and asked for a volunteer to replace him. The board provides input on activities of the Nongame Program of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. This will be a multi-year position due to the time it takes to become familiar with advisory board activities. Dan Larson volunteered to assume this position.

Horned Lark Cheryl Miller has taken over newsletter responsibilities from Chuck Otte. Cheryl asked about revising the newsletter cover design and was advised that she was free to make changes. She inquired if there was continuing interest in continuing to include abstracts from the fall meeting in the December issue. The consensus was yes, these should continue to be published.

Bulletin Cal Cink re-initiated a discussion from the spring meeting about possibly postponing the publication of CBC results to due the large size of this task. After discussion of pros (fewer errors, less pressure on editor) and cons (desire for results ASAP) of a delay in publishing the CBC compilation, Cal decided to continue to with the status quo of including them in the spring issue. The board agreed that the editor has the freedom to change the timing of the CBC data publication if he feels it is appropriate.

Business Manager Pete Janzen provided a detailed written report via email to the board. He mentioned that a German university with a KOS subscription has repeatedly notified him that they've not been receiving issues despite the fact that Pete has mailed them copies multiple times. The problem was discussed but no immediate solution acted on.

Finance Committee Tom suggested that the Finance Committee be formally designated in the by-laws. A discussion followed with Chuck recommending against including this in the by-laws because this would allow more flexibility in the future if the situation changed. No action was taken.

Field Checklist Kerrie distributed copies of the new KOS field checklist and asked the board to review it.

Future Meetings:

Spring 2005: Pratt
Fall 2005: Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita
Spring 2006: Fredonia or Yates Center.

Pete looked into reserving rooms at a church camp near Coyville for the Spring '06 meeting but said

(contined on page 9)

Don't miss the Spring KOS meeting April 22-24 in Pratt!

by Lee Queal and Ken Brunson

The 2005 KOS Spring meeting will be April 22-24 in Pratt. The date is a week earlier than usual to avoid conflict with the Wings and Wetland activities at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, as well as to provide better observation potential for Lesser Prairie Chickens. Key species on our local agenda include Lesser Prairie Chickens, Burrowing Owls, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows.

Plans are to hold whole-day field trips in Barber, Kiowa, Pratt and Comanche counties on Saturday, with half-day trips in Pratt and Kingman counties on Sunday morning. If necessary, we will schedule a Sunday morning side trip to Kiowa County for those who missed the Saturday viewing of Lesser Prairie Chickens.

Ken Brunson and Jane and Lee Queal are coordinators for the field trips. Gregg Friesen, Kevin Groeneweg, Pete Janzen and Stan Roth, in addition to local birders, will assist with the tours.

We are tentatively planning a roast hog dinner for Saturday evening at the Pratt County Fairgrounds. After dinner, Mike Blair, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks photographer, will give a slide presentation of wildlife and their habitats in the four-county area. Also, David Seibel has graciously agreed to "talk to the owls" in Lemon Park, which is within walking distance of the dinner site.

More information and a registration form will appear in the March issue of the Horned Lark. Mark your calendar—April 22, 23, and 24, 2005—and plan to join us in Pratt for a fun weekend of birding in south-central Kansas!

Contact: Lee Queal, 1004 West Ninth, Pratt, KS, 67124, (620) 672-6100; *lqueal@cox.net* or Ken Brunson, KDWP, 512 SE 25th, Pratt, KS, 67124 (620) 672-0792 (office), (620) 672-7289. (home); *kenb@wp.state.ks.us.*

Fall KOS Board meeting minutes, *continued*

this wasn't going to work out. He recommended a hotel in Fredonia or Yates Center. Destinations will include the Red Buffalo Ranch (Bill Curtis), Chatauqua Hills sites, and John Redmond Reservoir.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary

Morning Business Meeting

President Tom Shane read off the slate of candidates:
President: Gene Young*
Vice-President: Marvin Kuehn
Corresponding Secretary: Bill Busby
Membership Development Coordinator: Mark Land
Treasurer: Dan Larson
Business Manager: Pete Janzen
Board Members:
Nancy Leo *(first year)* *
Max Thompson *(first year)**
Chuck Otte *(second year replacement for Cheryl Miller)*
Matt Gearhart *(second year)*
Newsletter Editor:
Cheryl Miller*
Bulletin Editor: Cal Cink
Past-President: Tom Shane*
*new candidate for position

Afternoon Business Meeting

President Tom Shane convened the meeting at 4:37.

Dan Larson distributed the Treasurer's Report including a sheet with an analysis of the cost of producing and mailing the bulletin and newsletter to members (member expense) vs. the income generated by membership dues. Dan explained the analysis. He came to the conclusion that income from annual and life memberships is almost equal to member expense. This suggests we are very close to breaking even on member income and expense—and not losing money as previously suspected. Dan suggested we may need to increase membership dues slightly in the future if costs go up.

Tom Shane asked for a motion to accept the slate of candidates presented at the morning business meeting. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed. A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 4:42 p.m.

Kansas Summer Report

June 1 – July 31, 2004

Lloyd Moore, compiler

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer/s
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	06/07	DG
	1 on Kansas River	Riley	06/09	DM
Common Loon	1 in basic plumage at Wilson Lake	Russell	07/16	MR
	1 at Hane Lake	Ford	07/15	TF
	(Caught at a nearby farm by a KDW&P employee and released at the lake.)			
Neotropic Cormorant	2 below dam at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	06/19	NL
	(There have been reports by many observers, for the past two years, of 1-2 NECO at this location during all seasons.)			
Least Bittern	2 at Baker Wetlands, Lawrence	Douglas	06/20	DS
Tricolored Heron	1 along Wildlife Loop at QNWR	Stafford	07/18	PJ
Yellow-crnd Night-Heron	5 adult at Broken Arrow Pk.	Douglas	06/20	DS
	2 adult 2 imm at Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	06/25	JB
Roseate Spoonbill	1 along Wildlife Loop at QNWR	Stafford	07/22	TA, MRo
Mississippi Kite	Pair with one nestling in suburban Overland Park neighborhood.	Johnson	07/17	ML, MG
	(There is apparently another nest nearby as two recently fledged young have been seen in the area.)			
Bald Eagle	2 in Unit A, Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	07/04	M&EC
	(Both were sub-adults, with one being a first year bird.)			
	1 imm. near dam at Cedar Bluff	Trego	07/25	PJ, GF
Northern Harrier	1 female in mined land	Linn	06/13	MM
Cooper's Hawk	1 at Wilson St. Park office	Russell	06/19	MR
	1 near Russell on I-70	Russell	06/14	MR
	3 on Covert BBS route	Osborne	06/13	MR
	1 imm at Topeka Audubon Sanc	Jefferson	06.25	JB
	1 at Marais des Cygne WA	Linn	07/04	M&EC
	1 adult NW of Howard	Elk	07/18	SS, MR
	2 between Nickerson & Hutchinson	Reno	07/25	PJ, GF
Red-shouldered Hawk	Nesting pair in upland post-oak forest	Wilson	06/11	BR, LR
Broad-winged Hawk	2 adult & 1 imm. near Fredonia	Wilson	06/26	PJ
	1 near Yocemento	Ellis	07/25	PJ, GF

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer/s
Swainson's Hawk	Pair nesting in suburban Lenexa	Johnson	06/16	DS
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Olathe School for the Deaf	Johnson	07/01	DW
	(Apparently this bird has been in Olathe for some time.)			
	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	07/29	PJ
Least Terns	Several pair nesting in construction area in NW Wichita.	Sedgwick	06/15	PJ
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 in Lenora	Norton	06/17	SS
	In Alexander, Nekoma, Rush Cntr.	Rush	06/27	SS
	2 in Baileyville	Nemaha	06/14	JS
	2 in Moran	Allen	07/10	GP
	5-6 in Girard	Crawford	07/10	GP
	20+ in Yates Center	Woodson	07/11	SS
	1 just west of Gas city limits	Allen	07/11	SS
	1 at Elk City	Montgomery	07/14	GP,DS
White-winged Dove	1 in Newton	Harvey	06/05	G&JF
	1 at residence in Greensburg	Kiowa	07/05	G&JF
	2 seen and heard in Salina	Saline	?	*fide* CO
	1 seen and heard in Wichita	Sedgwick	07/19	DV
Greater Roadrunner	1 Southwestern College, Winfield	Cowley	06/02	MT
	Possible breeding in 4 locations	Barber	06/12	DA
	1 at farm near Arma	Crawford	06/06	RM
	(seen again on 7/16)			
Barn Owl	1 flying over Rader res. in Wilson	Ellsworth	07/30	MR
Magnificent Hummingbird **<D>**				
	1 at Bill & Lorraine Dailey's farm	Chautauqua	07/11-18	M&EC, M:ob
Rufous Hummingbird	1 female at Ramsey res.	Finney	07/24-25	M&PR
	1 adult along Cimarron R	Meade	07/26	JA
	1 imm. female at Ramsey's	Finney	07/26	M&PR
Hairy Woodpecker	1 adult 3 fledglings at Meade State Park	Meade	07/28	TS, Dr.F
	(Possible first breeding record for Meade Co.)			
Western Wood-Pewee	1 near dam at Scott Lake	Scott	06/01	T&SSh
Least Flycatcher	1 below Wilson Lk. Dam	Russell	07/25	PJ, GF
	1 just S Old 40 near Yocemento	Ellis	07/25	PJ, GF
Great-crested Flycatcher	both parents carrying food to nest hole	Scott	07/31	T&SSh
	(First breeding record for Scott Co.)			

(continued on page 12)

Kansas Summer Report, *continued*

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer/s
Yellow-throated Vireo	Nesting in top of Hackberry tree	Riley	06/14	LJ
Fish Crow	3 at Verdigris R. bridge & US-75	Wilson	07/14	GP,DS
	1 at SW end of Elk City Lake	Montgomery	07/18	SS, MR
Carolina Wren	1 on Ash Valley BBS route	Pawnee	06/12	SS
Bewick's Wren	1 seen and heard at Wilson SP Office	Russell	07/24	MR
Wood Thrush	1 at Kanopolis Res.	Ellsworth	06/26	MR
Cassin's Sparrow	12 on Ash Valley BBS route	Pawnee	06/12	SS
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at residence in Wichita *(Male blacked-backed form.)*	Sedgwick	07/25	LR

Key:
•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 that 10 records for Kansas.

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), M: ob (many observers); *fide* (reliable unofficial report).

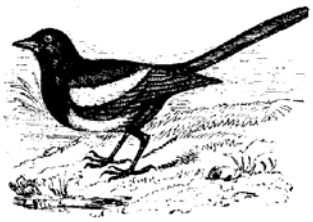
The following abbreviations indicate the age and sex of the bird: Adult Male (am), Adult Female (af), Immature Male (im), Immature Female (if).

Observers: Judy Adams, Dennis Angle, Tony Anderson, Joanne Brier, Mark and Elaine Corder (M&EC), Gregg Friesen, Gregg and Joanna Friesen (G&JF), Tom Flowers, Dr. Fitzgerald (Dr.F), Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Mark Land, Nancy Leo, Mick McHugh, Dan Mulhern, Robert Mangile, Chuck Otte, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Mark Rondeau, Mike and Pamela Ramsey (M&PR), Ben Rogers, Lewis Rogers, Tom Shane, Tom and Sara Shane (T&SSh), David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Jon Strong, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Dave Williams.

Editor's note: Please join me in expressing gratitude to Lloyd Moore for the outstanding work he's done with the seasonal roundup. His dedication to combing the KS-BIRDS listserv reports and assessing personal accounts for unusual sightings is remarkable. It's a gigantic task and he has handled it well.

However, Lloyd has decided to relinquish this responsibility and I am pleased to announce Mark Corder will take on the project.

Thank you for your service, gentlemen!



Katharine Kelley, *continued*

groups, the Baldwin Bird Club, and became a charter member of KOS. She is now in her 56th year of membership. She was a director for the society in 1958 and 1959 and became the first Life Member when that category was established.

Dr. Roger Boyd of Baker University nominated her for the Ivan L. Boyd Award. He wrote:

"...Ms. Kelley was a 5th grade teacher in Baldwin for many years and was instrumental in educating hundreds of local youths about the art of watching birds and appreciating what birds can do for us as living creatures. She operated a Junior Audubon Chapter after school for many years. Katharine and her long-time friend, Amelia Betts, became bird-banders in the early1950s.They were apprentices under Margaret and Ivan Boyd but acquired their own Master Bird Banding Permits in a couple of years. Katharine and Amelia banded thousands of birds and had interesting stories to tell relating to their experiences. A number of Katharine's birds were captured by other banders around the U.S. and Canada and she also captured some birds banded by others. More than a dozen newspaper articles have been written about her banding activities.

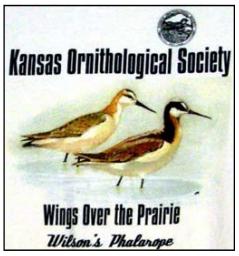
Katharine has given many presentations over the years about her experiences, to local groups as well as KOS and the Inland Bird Banding Association. Katharine is still very active and volunteers at the Baldwin Public Library nearly every day of the week. She has contributed much to the organization of local history articles, especially in reference to the Santa Fe Trail and Baker University."

Katharine Kelley accepts the Ivan L. Boyd Award from President Tom Shane at the fall KOS banquet. Roger Boyd, Linda Bryan, Scott Seltman and Dave Bryan look on. Photo by Sara Shane.

It's time to update your collection of KOS merchandise!

Has your spouse relegated your most holey and sweat-stained birding shirt to the rag pile? Did you leave your birding cap on the plane coming back from Costa Rica? Have you used all of your KOS checklists? Did your dog eat your KOS window decal? Despair no more. KOS can fill the void!

Dan Kilby has graciously donated artwork for two of our



KOS shirts. Both are 100% cotton Hanes Beefy-Ts. The Wilson's Phalaropes shirts are natural color and available in limited numbers of sizes L and XXL for $17. The

Prairie Merlin shirts are sand color and feature the *richardsonii* race. They are available in sizes S-2XXL for $20. The KOS logo appears on the right shirt sleeve.

Nothing could be worse than experiencing the Kansas sun in your eyes and on your face when birding. For $9 you may own a KOS cap and minimize some of the discomforts of birding on sunny days! The cap features an embroidered Horned Lark on the front. It has an adjustable band for a secure fit in the Kansas winds.

You also may purchase KOS checklists for 10 cents each and KOS static-cling window decals for $1 each.

Sales tax and postage are included in the shirt and cap prices. Postage varies for the checklists and decals.

Place your order with Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204-4407; 316/832-0182; *prarybrd@southwind.net. Photos by Pete Janzen.*

Christmas Bird Counts, 2004-2005

Date	Name	Compiler	Contact
Tu 12/14	Quivira	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595
Fr 12/17	Cheyenne Bottoms	Helen Hands	helenh@wp.state.ks.us; 620/793-3066
Fe 12/17	Olsburg	Gary Jeffrey	785/468-3587
Sa 12/18	Halstead-Newton	Dwight Platt	platword@southwind.net; 316/283-6708
Sa 12/18	Hays	Greg Farley	gfarley@fhsu.edu; 785/628-5965
Sa 12/18	Hulah Lake (OK & KS)	Suzy Harris	mbhsuzy@sbcglobal.net; 918/331-9080
Sa 12/18	Lakin	Tom Shane	shane@pld.com; 620/275-4616
Sa 12/18	Lawrence	Galen Pittman	gpittman@ku.edu; 785/ 842-7105
Sa 12/18	Manhattan	Dave Rintoul	drintoul@ksu.edu; 785/532-6615
Sa 12/18	Olathe	Don Weiss	don.weiss@comcast.net; 913/780-6588
Sa 12/18	Smoky Hills Audubon	Harold Vear	h.v.lear@att.net; 785/823-2366
Sa 12/18	Topeka Audubon	Gary Haden	gchaden@earthlink.net; 785/273-5598
Sa 12/18	Wichita	Pete Janzen	prarybrd@southwind.net; 316/832-0182
Su 12/19	Emporia	Jean Schulenberg	620/341-5896
Su 12/19	Linn County	Roger Boyd	Roger.Boyd@bakeru.edu
Su 12/19	Oskaloosa-Perry Lake	Bunnie Watkins	Bunnie.A.Watkins@usace.army.mil; 785-597-5144
Su 12/19	Scott Park	Tom Shane	shane@pld.com; 620/275-4616
Su 12/19	Wakefield	Chuck Otte	otte@nqks.com; 785/238-8800
Su 12/19	Wilson Lake	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595
Su 12/19	Winfield-Udall	Max Thompson	maxt@cox.net
M 12/20	Camp Naish	Stan Roth	sdroth@ku.edu; 785/843-4764
We 12/22	Slate Creek	Gene Young	youngg6264@yahoo.com
Su 12/26	Arkansas City	Gene Young	youngg6264@yahoo.com
Su 12/26	Leavenworth-Atchison	John Schukman	schuksaya@kc.rr.com; 913/727-5141
Mo 12/27	Baldwin City	Roger Boyd	Roger.Boyd@bakeru.edu
Tu 12/28	Junction City	Chuck Otte	otte@nqks.com; 785/238-8800
Sa 1/1	Cimmaron NG	Sebastian Patti	sebastianpatti@hotmail.com; 773/248-0570
Sa 1/1	Mined Land	Steve Ford	sford@pittstate.edu
Su 1/2	Bonner Springs-Lansing	Galen Pittman	gpittman@ku.edu; 785/842-7105
Su 1/2	El Dorado	Bill Langley	316/321-3495
Su 1/2	Kenton (Black Mesa) OK	Sebastian Patti	sebastianpatti@hotmail.com; 773/248-0570
Su 1/2	Red Hills	Pete Janzen	prarybrd@southwind.net; 316/832-0182
Mo 1/3	Liberal/Seward Co.	Sebastian Patti	sebastianpatti@hotmail.com; 773/248-0570
Sa 1/8	Black Wolf	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595
Sa 1/8	Blue Rapids	Tom Parker	tlparker1@sbcglobal.net; 785/363-7228
Sa 1/8	Doniphan County	John Schukman	schuksaya@kc.rr.com; 913/727-5141
Sa 1/8	Garden City	Tom Shane	shane@pld.com; 620/275-4616
Sa 1/8	Sawyer	Ken Brunson	kenb@wp.state.ks.us; 620-672-0792
Su 1/9	Kanopolis	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595
Su 1/9 or Sa 1/15	Syracuse	Tom Shane	shane@pld.com; 620/275-4616
TBA	Waconda	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595
TBA	Webster	Mike Rader	mike_rader@hotmail.com; 785/ 658-2595

Favorite Kansas birding spot: Hargis Lake

by Pete Janzen

Hargis Lake is a small man-made lake with peripheral wetland areas, located along Salty Creek in southwestern Barber County. I do not know the history of this site, but I believe it was a wetland basin that was significantly altered in order to facilitate water management in the general area. It is entirely privately owned, but adjacent county roads allow reasonably good viewing opportunities for birding, especially with the use of a spotting scope. For birders visiting the Red Hills area, this is an interesting spot to visit, offering a completely different set of birds than the rugged hill country a few miles to the west.

Hargis Lake is very similar to Quivira NWR in its habitats and avifauna, although it is obviously a tiny fraction of the size. Like other Kansas wetlands, water conditions can vary dramatically from year to year and season to season, but I have never seen the main lake dry up completely.

To reach Hargis Lake, go east 1 ½ miles on Corwin Road from the little community of Hazelton, located on Highway 2 in extreme southeastern Barber County. Where the road tees, go south for ¾ mile to Hargis Road and turn east again. After about ½ mile you reach the wetland areas. There are playa wetlands on both sides of the road at this spot. Black-necked Stilt nested south of the road several years ago. American Avocet is present throughout the summer and may nest at this site. During migration an excellent variety of shorebirds have been seen here, including Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit. South of the road the upper end of the main body of the lake is visible, where a number of waterfowl species have been observed, including one June record of Mottled Duck.

Continue on Hargis Road to the next intersection at Harper Road. Go south on Harper Road for ½ mile to an old concrete bridge at the outlet structure. From the bridge you can view the deepest part of the lake. When the playas are dry, look for shorebirds in the exposed mud along the water at this spot. Other species expected here include a variety of herons, White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and waterfowl. Listen for rails in the cattails near the bridge. Black Rail has been recorded at this spot. This is also where the Roseate Spoonbill spent a few weeks during the summer of 2003. Continue south on Harper Road; there are some more wetland areas to the west.

The next intersection is with Hawkins Road. Take it back to the west and scan over the pastures south of the lake. There are many small potholes there that can be productive for shorebirds in wet years, but they are difficult to see well except from a few slightly higher points along the road. In the winter months if you are here at dawn or dusk, look for numbers of Short-eared Owls hunting over the grasslands along this road.

A good time was had by all...

KOS members take an afternoon break for a group photo. Enlargements may be ordered from Debarah Arnett: debaraharnett@ sbcglobal.net. Photo by Debarah Arnett.

It's time to renew your KOS membership!

(or become a new member)

_____New Member _____Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below:

Category	**Annual Dues**
_____Student	$5
_____Regular Individual	$15
_____Regular Family	$20
_____Sustaining Individual	$25
_____Sustaining Family	$30
_____Contributing	$40 or more
_____Life Member	$300 one time payment (or two consecutive annual payments of $150)

Mail this form and your dues payment to:

Dan Larson
KOS Treasurer
3636 SE 77th
Berryton, KS 66407

Name

Address:

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone E-mail Address

The small print: Annual dues for KOS memberships are payable to the KOS Treasurer by January 1st. A member's paid annual dues cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Dues for new members are not prorated. Dues of new members received after September 1st will also include membership for the following year. KOS Membership Directories are only distributed to KOS Members and the information contained therein may not be used in a manner or for a purpose contrary to the guidelines approved by the KOS Board of Directors. To protect the privacy of the membership, the KOS Directory is not published electronically. Organizational memberships are available. Contact Mark Land, KOS Membership Development Coordinator, 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207; *kestrelland@aol.com.*

Future KOS meeting dates and locations

2005

April 22-24 Pratt
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Wichita

2006

April 28-30 Cross Timbers Region: Greenwood and Woodson Counties

If you'd like to host a meeting, please contact KOS president Gene Young or any KOS board member.

Spring KOS meetings are center ed on birding opportunities and should be held near eating and lodging establishments. Fall KOS meetings are more structured and include paper presentations. Host facilities must accommodate 75-100 people and be able to provide a banquet.