



The Horned Lark

The newsletter of the Kansas
Ornithological Society

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From the field

Birding is a dangerous activity! For those of you who haven't heard, I suffered an injury while birding on a trail during the fall KOS meeting.

My ankle and fibula are healing but it will be awhile before I can hike about carefree again. I have an independent nature that is not suited for a sedentary lifestyle, and not being able to enjoy the mild fall weather has been frustrating.

As I am writing this column, I'm also occasionally looking out at the feeders and bird bath. The House Finches fight for the best feeder position. Eight Mourning Doves—a new record for my yard—perch in the Green Ash. A female Downy Woodpecker pecks at a safflower seed she took from the tray. This view doesn't compare with Quivira at this time of year, but watching the activity is pleasurable.

As I am healing, I am reminded that this is a temporary

situation. There are many others with permanent limited mobility. As you are making holiday plans, please consider making a gift of a feeder and seed to a local assisted living facility and pledge to maintain the feeder throughout the year. This is a great way to bring birds to people who will enjoy them—even the common species many of us take for granted.



In September, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks commissioners made a few changes to the Sandhill Crane hunting season. It opened four days later this fall and the hunting hours were modified slightly through December 1. KDWP also is increasing emphasis on hunter education and identification.

Christmas Bird Counts will begin soon. Unfortunately there is no space in this issue of *The Horned Lark* to list the dates and compiler contact information. Please refer to the KOS Web site, www.ksbirds.org, for information about counts in Kansas.

—CKM

The Eagle's Roost: Message from the president

Dear KOS members—

First and foremost, I want to say it is an honor to serve each of you for a second term as KOS president. I want also to extend a special thanks to Bill Busby, who served as secretary, and to Marvin Kuehn, who served as vice-president, for jobs well done the past few years. The continued devotion of folks like Bill and Marvin are what makes KOS such an enjoyable organization. Thank you. I also want to thank the new and continuing board members for their willingness to serve.

Furthermore, I want to thank the folks that put on the Wichita meeting: it was a blast and I had a great time! Seeing old faces, new faces, and learning about the diverse assemblage of birds that reside within our state makes for an enjoyable time. Unfortunately, the meetings come and go rather quickly and I didn't have much time to talk to individuals about KOS.

One of the items I wanted to discuss pertains to KOS and its mission to understand the complex avifauna we enjoy observing. Over the past few months I've had conversations with some of you about the potential for the KOS membership to be involved with research similar to what we did with the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas a few years ago. I recently posted a message on the KS-BIRD listserv soliciting ideas for projects and the responses included: repeating the KBBAT; setting up a web-based checklist project to report birds recorded on KDWP land (similar to Missouri's project); developing a sewer lagoon location booklet for birders; conducting a Winter Bird Atlas (Oklahoma's is currently

underway); ascertaining changes in habitats and bird populations and their relationship within urban and suburban sprawl; assessing statewide avian mortality associated with transmission towers; and surveying water birds (which could include secretive marsh birds like rails).

Let's examine each of the suggestions. Although a worthwhile project, the value of doing the KBBAT again so soon is minimal because habitat alterations statewide haven't changed much. Although there is no consensus as to when to repeat it, 20, 25, or 30 years from now seems a more useful point for



comparison and reference. The checklist project for KDWP lands would need to clear the administrative hurdles of development and implementation, but KOS membership contributions over the long-term would supply data from visited sites. The sewer lagoon booklet is an interesting concept. This wouldn't require members to conduct fieldwork; rather you would provide details of your favorite locations. A Winter Bird Atlas raises the question

of who wants to survey birds during the winter. What can we obtain from this that we don't get from Christmas Bird Counts? Are you willing to conduct CBCs and your WBA blocks over the next five years?

Ascertaining changes in habitats and bird populations within urban and suburban sprawl is a great idea! Many of us are interested in transmission tower kills. Would you be willing to walk around transmission towers for a couple of hours on a weekend? How many weekends would you be willing to do so? Then there's the water birds survey. Do you like stomping around in wetlands? Can you deal with the mosquitoes? Are you willing to survey at night? Wait! A new idea! What about a nocturnal raptor survey program?

Some of these are exciting proposals, some have been discussed previously, and some are indicated for the first time. Thus, I'm asking you to review the short list above. Which type of project would you like to be involved with over the next few years? Prioritize, select a specific project, offer another idea, or outline positives and negatives for these projects and let me know what you think.

I hope this column stimulates more interest and ideas you will share with the KOS board. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your help in developing a new research-oriented project for KOS.

Eugene A. Young

President



And the winners are...

KOS president Gene Young presented several awards during the fall meeting banquet. Each award recognizes the outstanding contributions the recipient has made to the organization.

Avian Conservation Award

Max Thompson joined KOS in



Gene Young presents Max Thompson with the Avian Conservation Award. All photos by Cheryl K. Miller, © 2005.

1955. As an undergraduate student at Southwestern College, he assisted M.F. Baker with editing the *KOS Bulletin*. Max went on to earn his graduate degree from the University of Kansas. His service record includes starting the KOS Newsletter in 1964 (now *The Horned Lark*) and acting as its first editor. He was also KOS business manager (the first), KOS president, *KOS Bulletin* editor, and KOS board member. Max has held several of these positions for more than one term.

While KOS president, Max worked with the Dingus family, The Nature Conservancy and Lloyd Hulbert to deed the Dingus property to KOS with a quit claim deed; this insures the transfer of the property back to TNC should KOS relinquish it. Max also assisted with the reservation of the Big Basin area in

southwest Kansas. He was instrumental in helping Home National Bank and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks negotiate the purchase of property at Slate Creek Wetlands. He also assisted the Slate Valley Sportsman Club and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with managing property

owned at Slate Creek. Max frequently holds terms on the Kansas Birds Records Committee, and co-authored with Chuck Ely the two-volume set "Birds in Kansas." He is adjunct curator of birds at the University of Kansas Museum of

Natural History and emeritus professor at Southwestern College.

Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Awards

A member of the Kansas Ornithological Society since 1955, **Celia Markum** was the first of two women presidents the society has elected. She also held one-year terms



Gene Young and Celia Markum.

as the vice-president and as a director. She co-hosted the 1967 and 1975

KOS meetings in Junction City, and co-compiled the Junction City Christmas Bird Counts for a few years. The birding was always great, but the elaborate lunch at Celia's was something the participants looked forward to every time! She was the first to create awards for service to the society and presented to the recipients hand-carved birds created by the Canadian artist Epp.

Dwight Platt joined KOS one

year after its incorporation (1949). In 1964 he was elected to the board of directors and served for five years. He was president three years, and served as vice-president for one. In 1978 he was elected as



Dwight Platt

corresponding secretary and he held that position through 1996. Dwight was instrumental in setting up the Sand-Sage Prairie Preserve at Bethel College. He has compiled the Halstead/Newton CBC for many years, and his write-ups are very detailed. Dwight has also served as a member of the local committee for each of the five KOS meetings held in Newton.

Best Paper Award

Matt Sexon, graduate student at Fort Hays State University, presented the paper "Nest-site Selection and Reproductive Success of the Snowy Plover in Kansas."



Matt Sexon

Matt also will receive a one-year subscription to the ornithology journal of his choice.



Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

Grazing Effects on Ground-Nesting Birds in the Red Hills of South-Central Kansas. Amy D. Zavala and Elmer J. Finck,

Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University, and Karen R. Hickman, Department of Biological Science, Oklahoma State University.

The mixed-grass prairie is a focus for biological research because of the loss of native grasslands throughout the Great Plains of North America. Land-use practices from agriculture, ranching, and urban development adversely have impacted a number of native grassland species including ground-nesting birds. Therefore, managers and landowners are interested in range management practices that might increase ground-nesting bird habitat. Cattle (*Bos taurus*) grazing commonly is used by ranchers to manage, secondarily, for wildlife. However, previous research on two types of grazing systems, continuous grazing (CG) and short-duration rotational grazing (SDG), has shown mixed results on the effects on ground-nesting birds. Some studies indicate positive grazing effects by reducing ground litter for brooding and foraging habitat, while other studies indicate disturbance and trampling effects during the peak nesting season. Because little research has been conducted on this topic in the mixed-grass prairie, the objective of our study is to assess the effects of CG versus SDG on bird nesting success in the Red Hills of south-central Kansas. Data on 88 nests were collected in 2004 and results indicate no difference for nest density, species abundance, and reproductive success of birds between grazing treatments. However, brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus*

ater) was higher in the CG treatment than in the SDG treatment. Data on 135 nests were collected in 2005 and species of interest include: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Common Nighthawk (*Chrodeiles minor*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*).

Avian Community Response to Riparian Area Restoration: A Novel Use of Robust Design Mark-Recapture Models. Tracey N.

Johnson and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

We aimed to quantify the success of restoration of riparian bird communities in southeast Kansas after eight years of cattle exclusion using mark-recapture robust design models that accounted for heterogeneity in species detection. Our study objectives were: 1) to estimate bird species richness within restored (fenced) and reference (grazed) riparian communities, 2) to use these unbiased estimates of species richness to quantify any changes in restored riparian bird communities either over time or when compared to reference communities, and 3) to identify any qualitative differences among communities. Estimates of species richness, rate of change in species richness, number of local colonizers, local extinction probability, and species turnover rate did not differ significantly between restored and reference communities over an eight year period. Species

diversity was highest in fenced plots in 2004, and community overlap between fenced and grazed plots was lowest in 2004. Nine new species of forest birds were recorded in fenced areas in 2004.

These results suggest that although species richness has not increased with cattle removal, riparian bird community composition within fenced and grazed sites has diverged over the past eight years. We hope this novel use of mark-recapture methods for community dynamics will assist conservation efforts for evaluating the response of bird communities to restoration.

Effectiveness of an RT-PCR Protocol for West Nile Virus Detection in Live Birds. A.J.

Thomas, Greg H. Farley and Eric T. Gillock, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University

Since its first appearance in New York in 1999, West Nile Virus (WNV) has spread west across the United States and caused many human and avian deaths. Previous protocols for testing WNV in birds were only effective for post-mortem specimens; therefore, we have developed a useable protocol for live birds. We have tested nasopharyngeal epithelial and molting feather samples from 220 individuals of 40 species, and 15 families, captured at a long term bird-banding station in western Kansas. By using reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to check for prevalence, we detected 10 individuals as positive for WNV. Nine of the positive samples are from long-distance migrants: Orange-crowned Warbler (n=3), Red-eyed Vireo (n=1), Slate-colored Junco (n=1), Wilson's Warbler (n=2), Nashville Warbler (n=1), and



Ovenbird (n=1). The one positive short-distance migrant was an American Robin (n=1).

Unexpectedly, WNV was detected in nasopharyngeal epithelial samples, but not in molting feathers from the American Robin and Ovenbird samples. Unlike previous studies using RT-PCR, our data suggest nasopharyngeal epithelia may be preferred over molting feather samples for testing live birds. Our results show that effective WNV testing is possible in live birds and indicate reservoirs in migrant as well as resident species.

Using GIS Spatial Analysis to Describe Nest Site Habitat in Say's and Eastern Phoebe (Part II). *John M. Schukman and Shannan K. Nilz.*

In the Northern Great Plains the Say's (*Sayornis saya*) and Eastern phoebe (*S. phoebe*) are sympatric along the eastern and western limit of their breeding range, respectively. Previous research in west-central Kansas found that Eastern Phoebe primarily nested in wooded habitat, whereas Say's Phoebe nested more often in open country. However, in habitats with sparse or intermittent woodland both species were observed at the same nest site in alternate (usual) or concurrent (unusual) years. In 2005, a pair of each nested ~5 m apart under a bridge where 8 young were banded on the same day—3 Say's and 5 Eastern. We collected nest occurrence data in Ellis County, Kansas during the 2004-2005 breeding seasons for the purpose of quantifying coarse habitat composition within 300 meters of each nest by using aerial photographic analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The proportion of grassland was significantly higher at nest sites occupied by Say's Phoebe, whereas the proportion of woodland was significantly higher at nest sites occupied by Eastern Phoebe.

Cropland was not a significant factor for either species. A discriminant function analysis indicated a broad overlap of habitat variables at nest sites occupied by both species. However, a habitat overlap index of 0.27 suggests that competition for nest sites is not an important factor in limiting the distribution of these phoebes.

Breeding and Conservation Biology of the Cerulean Warbler in Michigan. *Christopher M. Rogers,* Department of Biological Sciences, Wichita State University.

The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) is a Nearctic-Neotropical migratory bird species that has declined significantly over the long-term, with Breeding Bird Survey data showing an annual rate of population change of -4.2%/year from 1966 to 2003. Poor reproduction may be an important factor contributing to the observed decline, but so far reproductive output has been measured for very few breeding populations of this species. N=22-23 breeding territories of the Cerulean Warbler were intensively monitored for the duration of the breeding season in each of two large-forest habitats in southwestern Michigan: oak-hickory in 2003 (Barry State Game Area), and black-locust-black cherry, 2004 and 2005 (Fort Custer U.S. Army Michigan National Guard Reservation). Additional, descriptive data were gathered on plumage variation of males and non-song vocalizations. Using two independent methods of aging territorial males, there is a strong preponderance of after-second-year males at the breeding sites in the three study site-year combinations studied.

Only 9 (from 7 nests), 12 (from 14 nests) and 30 (from 25 nests) fledglings were produced in the three study site-year combinations. Nests were on average the highest yet recorded for this species (mean nest

height 19-20 meters), and were difficult to locate in the canopy. However, few if any fledglings of any avian species were unaccounted for at either site, as all fledglings and alarm-chipping adults of all breeding birds occupying all foliage layers were identified to species. Cerulean Warbler fledglings are particularly easy to detect shortly after they leave the canopy nest, being vociferous and some moving to the ground or low shrubs. Male fecundity was 0.30 and 0.32, and 0.80 male fledglings/breeding male excluding unpaired males, in oak-hickory and black-locust habitat, respectively; corresponding values for number of fledglings/breeding pair were 0.60, 0.63 and 1.58. All of these productivity estimates are below values obtained for a well-studied cerulean population in southern Ontario, which is not considered to be self-sustaining. Therefore two geographic regions in the northern part of the breeding range of the Cerulean Warbler, in aggregate representing three different forest types, all show poor reproductive output.

Reproduction was especially poor at the two study sites in southwestern Michigan during the two study years. The preponderance of after-second-year males at the Michigan study sites, also found in southern Ontario, suggests a need for regional models of population dynamics in this species.

Attu to Agattu: The Ptarmigan Story. *Robb Kaler,* Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Arctic and red foxes were first released in the Aleutian Archipelago of Alaska by Russian furtraders, starting in 1751. Many island populations of native birds were dramatically impacted. By 1936, Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus evermanni*) had been Extirpated from all islands in the



Near Island group (near the Russia Kamchateka Peninsula of Siberia), except Attu. In 1968, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began removing foxes from Agattu and by the late 70's foxes were no longer present. In 2003 and 2004, the USFWS began to reintroduce ptarmigan from Attu Island to Agattu Island. In 2005, we conducted a third year of translocations and I remained on Agattu for three months to monitor birds after release using radio telemetry equipment. Nine of the ten translocated females paired with local males and laid eggs. A comparison of breeding success and habitat use by recently translocated hens to local breeding hens (either previously translocated birds or their offspring) showed that recently translocated females had smaller clutch size and delayed nest initiation dates, both direct results of the timing of translocation. Habitat selection of female Rock Ptarmigan with broods differed because local breeders spent more time in forbs and translocated hens preferred upland areas. Research results will be useful in conservation of the endemic subspecies of rock ptarmigan of the Aleutian Islands.

It is important that bird conservation efforts, including inventory and monitoring systems, are implemented consistently across regions that are spatially meaningful to migratory birds. The North American Bird Conservation initiative (NABCI) has developed a framework for this to occur, and has delineated ecologically based planning, implementation, and evaluation units called Bird Conservation Regions (BCR). The goal of this effort is for states, Joint Ventures, federal agencies, and conservation groups within these regions to develop "regionally-based, biologically driven partnerships." RMBO, through its Prairie Partners Program, has been instrumental in creating these partnerships for the Shortgrass BCR by gaining the cooperation and financial support of Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), Kansas Parks and Wildlife (KPW), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), Oklahoma City Zoo and USDA Forest Service (USFS) in implementing a region-wide inventory and monitoring system.

Although the U. S. Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is designed to provide broad-based, long-term monitoring for these species, there are drawbacks to relying on BBS data to sufficiently monitor local populations and implement conservation measures. Therefore, there is limited ability to use the data to indicate how management of habitats may be influencing bird population trends and distributions.

These drawbacks indicate that there is a need to implement an inventory and monitoring protocol that is able to predict population trends and distributions at regional and local scales, incorporate habitat

associations, and provide insight on how management may be influencing population trends. RMBO has designed a protocol called "Section Surveys" that can accomplish these needs.

What Can We Learn About Brown-headed Cowbirds From Stable Isotope Analysis? *Karl L. Kosciuch, Roxane Fagan, Brett K. Sandercock, and David A. Rintoul*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Determining habitat use by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) in a habitat mosaic is complicated because cowbirds are host generalists and will parasitize hosts in a variety of habitats while foraging in others. We used stable isotope analysis to examine diet of adult and juvenile cowbirds collected from a grassland habitat mosaic. We found that adults foraged on insects that fed on the dominant grasses, while juveniles were fed insects that fed on forbs and scrubs.

Nest-site Selection and Reproductive Success of the Snowy Plover in Kansas. *Matthew G. Sexson and Greg H. Farley*, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

As a result of the detectable Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) population decline throughout the United States, the species was listed as threatened in Kansas in 1987. As such, information regarding reproductive success and habitat associations are valuable in guiding management and conservation activities at state and regional levels.

In 2005, we located and monitored 264 Snowy Plover nests at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (n=233) and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area (n=31). Each nest was checked for an attending adult at least once per week



BCR-wide Bird Inventory and Monitoring in the Shortgrass Prairie Focusing on Western Kansas. *David Hanni*, Monitoring Division Director, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Fort Collins, Colo.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory has initiated an inventory and monitoring system for grassland birds within the majority of the Shortgrass Prairie Bird Conservation Region (BCR18) of North America. This monitoring system is currently being implemented and the data collected will be used to help guide local, state, and regional conservation efforts related to threatened, endangered, and declining grassland birds.



during the (18 April – 10 August) breeding season, and estimated hatch date was established using egg flotation.

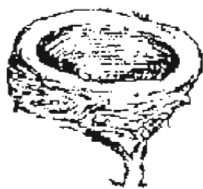
In the event that eggs in a nest did not hatch, we attempted to determine cause. Our preliminary analyses indicated that, 31.1% of the nests had eggs that hatched, 28.7% were lost to flooding, 23.9% had an unknown fate, 8.0% were abandoned, 7.6% had eggs that were preyed upon, and 0.7% were lost to human disturbance. Post hatching, we attempted to monitor chicks through fledging. At the conclusion of the breeding season, nest characteristics such as nest substrate and surrounding vegetation were surveyed using a 1-m² quadrat centered on each nest, and compared to paired random sites.

Nested Subsets of North American Avifauna Breeding Bird Survey Data. *Shaun Dunn and Robert B. Channell*, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

Nested subsets patterns have been well described in many faunas and geographical areas. A nested subset pattern occurs when at least one species present in a species poor area comprises a select portion of the species pool in a more species rich area. Most studies of nested subsets have focused on the faunas of oceanic archipelagos or areas where a loss of habitat, glacial retreat, or other changes have created habitat islands.

Using data collected by the Breeding Bird Survey of North America (BBS) I evaluated ninety BBS routes to assess their degree of nestedness.

Initially, I examined nestedness within a survey route by comparing



species composition at the different stops within the route. I then combined the data of three adjacent BBS routes to evaluate the patterns of nestedness at a larger spatial scale.

My results indicate that very few of the individual BBS routes are nested at the level of the individual stops (14%, mean p-value= 0.559184), but when the routes were combined into groups of three, all of the grouped routes were shown to be significantly nested (mean p-value 0.000283 < 0.001). This pattern was unexpected because most published studies observe nestedness is at small to intermediate spatial scales, whereas these data show the pattern almost exclusively at large spatial scales. Some possible explanations for this atypical pattern include passive sampling techniques and differences in species pools.

Demography of Upland Sandpipers in an Experimental Prairie Landscape. *Brett K. Sandercock, Tony W. Mong, and Karan J. Odum*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) are a neotropical migrant that require native grasslands for breeding. I present field data from a 5-year population study of Uplands at Konza Prairie Biological Station in northeast Kansas. Konza Prairie is a 3600 ha tallgrass prairie site that is subdivided into 60 replicated experimental units. Each unit is treated with a different combination of grazing and prescribed fire, creating an experimental landscape with a mosaic of grassland habitats.

My demographic analyses are based on radio tracking of ~40 birds per year and a sample of ~120 nests. Uplands require large areas for breeding and had home ranges >200 ha. Compositional analysis revealed that home ranges were preferentially located in grazed sites that had been burned the previous spring. In

contrast, nest sites were more likely to be located in unburned or ungrazed sites in 3 of 4 years. In grazed areas, there was a 3-fold difference in nest survival between unburned (31.4%) and burned sites (11.2%). Similar patterns were observed in ungrazed areas that were unburned (20.2%) and burned (15.6%). Variation in nest survival may have been determined by changes in the predator community, search behavior or nest concealment. Future conservation efforts for Upland Sandpipers should aim to preserve large tracts of prairie, to manage for heterogeneity, and to set aside areas without burning or grazing.

Shorebird Toxicology. *Khara Strum*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Numerous shorebird populations have been declining for the last century. Twenty-seven shorebird species are listed as species of high concern and seven are considered highly imperiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Causes for these declines are not well studied. Contact with cholinesterase inhibiting pesticides, such as organophosphates and carbamates, outside of the breeding range may be a contributing factor.

Consumption of these pesticides can effectively shut down the respiratory system leading to death. Buff-breasted Sandpipers and other upland species are particularly likely to encounter these agrochemicals due to their use of sod farms, golf courses and agricultural fields during migration and on the wintering grounds. The purpose of my research is to investigate the impacts of organophosphate and carbamate exposure on Buff-breasted Sandpipers and five other shorebird species of high concern including Upland

(continued bottom of page 8)



KOS species list, September 30—October 2, 2005

Birders on KOS field trips to Cowley, Harvey, Kingman, Sedgwick, Sumner and Reno counties found 106 avian species during the fall meeting.

Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Little Blue Heron
Snowy Egret
Cattle Egret
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
American Wigeon
Gadwall
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Ring-necked Duck
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Northern Bobwhite
Ring-necked Pheasant
American Coot

Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Ring-billed Gull
Franklin's Gull
Forster's Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Horned Lark
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
American Pipit
Sprague's Pipit
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Eastern Bluebird



American Robin
Carolina Chickadee
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Loggerhead Shrike
Blue Jay
American Crow
European Starling
Blue-headed Vireo
Black-throated Green Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Palm Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Baird's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

KOS paper abstracts, *cont.*

Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*), Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) and Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). Sampling will commence this winter in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay and continue during the spring migration through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska with a second sampling season beginning winter 2006. A

combination of blood samples, feather samples and foot washing will be collected from control sites, where pesticide exposure is unlikely, and treatment sites, where pesticide exposure is anticipated. Cholinesterase activity and reactivation from protected lands will be compared to agricultural lands. Lower levels of cholinesterase activity and higher levels of reactivation indicative of organophosphate or carbamate poisoning are expected in areas where

agrochemicals are in use. This project will provide baseline data on the exposure of shorebirds to cholinesterase inhibiting pesticides. Significant results can be used to assess habitat quality and provide evidence for the regulation of pesticide use on important wintering grounds and migration corridors if needed.

Editor's note: Abstracts appear as they were submitted. Please contact the authors for more information.



KOS fall board and business meetings minutes, October 1, 2005, Wichita

Morning Business Meeting

President Gene Young called the meeting to order at 11:30.

Gene asked for approval of the minutes. Chuck Otte moved that the winter board minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nominations for positions.

Gene presented the slate of candidates for board positions.

President: Gene Young; Vice-President: Max Thompson; Corresponding Secretary: Gregg Friesen; Membership: Mark Land; Business Manager: Pete Janzen; Treasurer: Dan Larson; Open Board Positions: Matt Gearhart, Chuck Otte, Patty Marlett (replacement for Max Thompson).

Proposed by-law changes.

Gene referred to changes proposed in the Sept HOLA issue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:39.

Noon Board Meeting

Attendance: Chuck Otte; Pete Janzen; Cal Cink; Bill Busby; Marvin Kuehn; Gene Young; Nancy Leo; Mark Land; Dan Larson; Max Thompson; Cheryl Miller; Matt Gearhart

President Gene Young called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

Committee Reports

Membership. Mark Land provided a handout showing steady membership levels. To gather information for an updated membership directory, he will have a questionnaire distributed with the December HOLA. Max suggested that we make Henry Fitch—one of the few remaining charter members—an honorary member. Cal so moved, and the motion was

seconded and approved.

Publicity. This committee has been inactive for a while.

Kansas Bird Records. Max Thompson reported that one round of voting has been conducted so far this year.

Finance. Dan Larson referred to the balance sheet handout, reporting that interest income was about \$6000 this year of which about \$4000 was transferred back to endowments.

Conservation. A report will be presented at afternoon meeting.

Newsletter. Cheryl Miller said the HOLA was going well.

Bulletin. Cal Cink reported that he has no material for the December issue onward. Please submit manuscripts.

Business Manager. Pete Janzen provided a written report and noted that there was \$1100 in sales on merchandise over the past year.

Treasurer. Dan Larson provided a balance sheet and an income & expense summary. The need to get budget requests from board members was discussed.

Non-game Advisory Board. No news to report.

Student Research Fund. Gene outlined the procedure suggested by John Schukman. The student research committee receives proposals and selects winners. After announcement of awards, the membership coordinator and business manager keep track of winners and process the monetary reward and free membership. Gene asked if the board should approve selections for student research award selections. After discussion, Chuck moved that the board approve expenditure of funds for the student

research award. The move was seconded and passed.

Max inquired about transfer of auction funds to the student research fund. The consensus was yes, fall auction funds are to be directed to the student research fund. If auction funds are inadequate to cover student awards, then interest from the income account can be used to make up the difference. Recently, income from auctions has been adequate to cover the \$400 student awards. It was decided that the finance committee should determine the appropriate amount to allocate from interest income to the student research award fund.

Walk-in Birding Areas. The pros and cons of KOS promoting this were discussed. Chuck noted that due to liability issues it would make sense for KDWP, not KOS, to sponsor such areas. The consensus was to continue to encourage to KDWP to develop leases of private land for non-game wildlife recreation.

Future Meetings. Spring '06 – Yates Center (Pete Janzen). A location for future fall meetings is open. Suggestions were Manhattan and southeastern Kansas. KU may be interested in hosting the fall meeting in '07 or '08.

KOS Bulletin on Web. Gene discussed plans for making the bulletin available on the web and ideas for funding the cost of doing so. Chuck moved that efforts be taken to start publishing the bulletin on the KOS webpage, starting with issues at least two years old. Max seconded the motion and it was approved. Pete noted that he is continuing to deposit bulletin issues (12 sets) at KU.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55.

(continued on page 10)



Afternoon Business Meeting

President Gene Young called the meeting to order at 4:12.

Publicity Committee. Gene asked for help with publicity for KOS.

KBRC Committee. Chuck listed current members and reported that the committee had held one round of voting in August.

Conservation Committee. Rob Penner announced that the Avian Conservationist of the Year award would be presented at the banquet.

HOLA. Cheryl requested ideas for material to include in the Horned Lark.

Bulletin. Cal thanked reviewers for their work and noted that Roger Boyd had recently completed a 25-year cross-reference to the bulletin. The cupboard is bare for December forward; please submit material.

Business Manager. Pete reported sales of \$1000 this year.

Treasurer. Dan said that the upcoming HOLA would contain a report.

Future Meetings. Gene explained that a site for next fall's meeting is needed and put in a plug for hosting it in Manhattan.

Proposed By-laws Changes.

Kerrie Kirkpatrick proposed that personal pronouns remain as written in the by-laws. The motion was seconded and passed with over 95% of the votes. Joyce Davis made the motion to accept the by-laws as amended. The motion was seconded and passed. To put us in compliance with current society practices, Max Thompson made the motion to delete Kansas Bird Records from Article V, Section 3, Paragraph A, and Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph C in the proposed by-laws changes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Vote on Positions. Gene reviewed the list of candidates for board positions (see minutes of morning meeting) and asked for additional nominations. A motion to close nominations was moved, seconded, and approved. Chuck moved to vote on the slate of candidates together. The motion was seconded and approved. Gene asked for a vote on the slate and the slate of candidates was approved.

Announcements. Chuck said there would be a birding festival in Wakefield on 28-30 April. Details will be published in HOLA. Roger

Boyd announced that Katherine Kelly passed away last week on September 28th at the age of 96. She was one of three remaining founding members. It was also announced that Janell O'Keefe died recently and a \$100 donation to KOS has been received in her memory.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Busby

Corresponding Secretary

KOS Board Business over the Internet

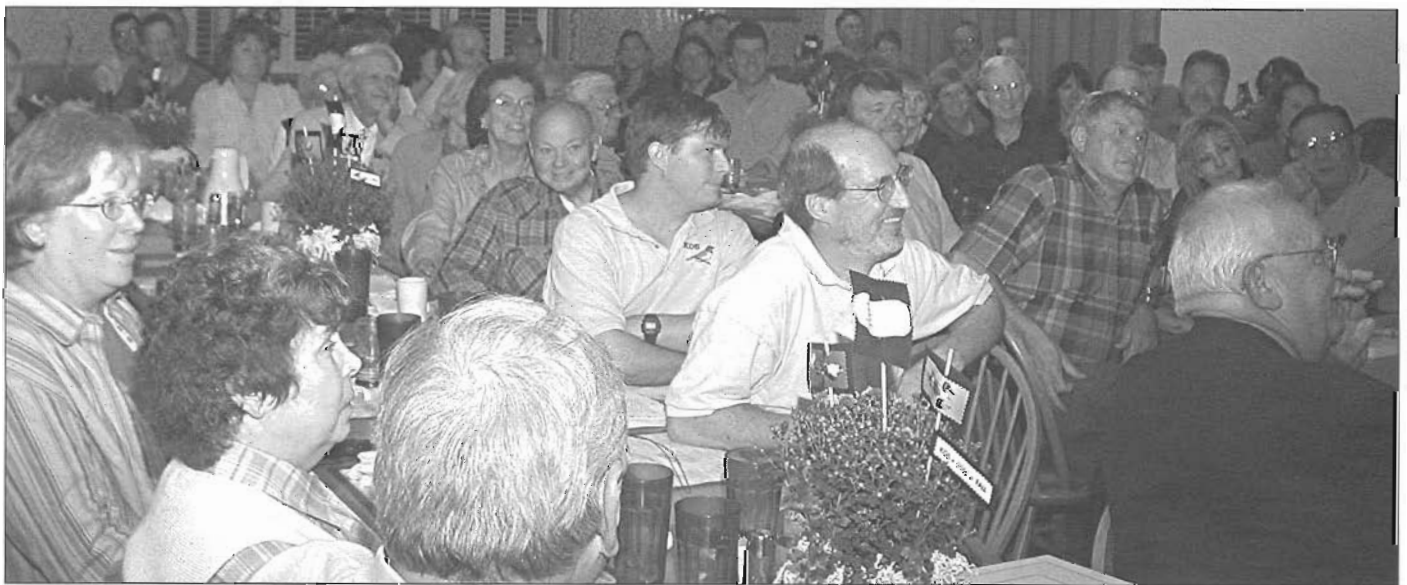
Summer 2005

President Gene Young requested nominations for the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award. On September 16, Gene announced that he had received two nominations, Celia Markum and Dwight Platt, and stated that board members should vote for each candidate. Dan Larson motioned that the board vote on the candidates. The motion was seconded and passed for each nominee.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Busby

Corresponding Secretary



The fall itinerary wasn't all meetings! KOS members enjoyed good food and friendship at the Saturday banquet. Photo by Cheryl K. Miller, © 2005.



Bylaws for the Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.

Adopted 3 May 1981 (*Amended 2 May and 2 October 1982, 1 October 1983, 4 October 1986, 1 October 1988, 7 October 1989, 5 May 1990, 1 October 1994, 7 October 1995, 10 October 1998, and 1 October 2005*)

Article I. EMBLEM

Article II. MEMBERSHIP AND SCHEDULE OF DUES

Article III. MEETINGS

Article IV. THE GOVERNING BODY

Article V. OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

Article VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES

Article VII. SPECIAL

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROPERTY

Article VIII. LOCAL CHAPTERS

Article IX. AFFILIATIONS

Article X. AMENDMENTS

Article I. EMBLEM

Section 1. The emblem of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) shall be the Horned Lark.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP AND SCHEDULE OF DUES

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all persons interested in the purposes of KOS as stated in the Constitution (Article II. Purpose).

Section 2. Powers of the members.

A. To elect officers and directors.

B. To make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

C. To receive and take action on recommendations of the Board of Directors.

D. To exercise all other powers usually vested in voting members of a corporation.

E. To set the dues schedule for various memberships.

F. To approve affiliation with other organizations.

Section 3. Classes of membership and schedule of dues.

A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.

B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year.

C. Life members: \$300 in a lump

sum or \$150.00 each year in two (2) consecutive years.

D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year.

E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year.

F. Contributing members: \$40.00 per year.

G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students).

H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year.

Section 4. Membership rules and regulations.

A. Each membership class receives one set of publications.

B. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

C. Annual dues shall be payable to the treasurer by January 1.

D. Members in arrears after the spring meeting will be deleted from the membership.

E. The dues schedule of members may be changed by a 2/3 vote of the KOS members present and voting at any regular or special meeting provided that the membership has had written notice of such proposal 30 days prior to the vote.

F. The dues of new members paid during the last four months of any calendar year will also include membership for the following year.

G. Principal amounts received from life memberships shall be placed in an endowment fund and invested in securities **approved by the Finance Committee with interest there from used**, as needed, for the expenses of KOS in lieu of annual dues.

Expenditure of the principal may be made after the death of a life member by a majority vote of the board to further the objectives of KOS.

Article III. MEETINGS

Section 1. KOS shall have an annual 2-day meeting to transact business, present papers on ornithology and have a field trip.

Section 2. KOS shall, in addition to Section 1, schedule an annual field trip.

Section 3. Times and dates of meetings and trips shall be set at the annual meeting or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the President upon written notice (Newsletter or direct mail) to each member not less than 30 days prior to such **meeting**.

Section 5. A special meeting must be called by the President upon written petition of 25% of the members.

Section 6. A quorum shall be the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting.

Section 7. Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be the authority on all questions of procedure not specifically stated in the Constitution or Bylaws.

Section 8. Annual meetings are recommended to rotate to different geographic areas of the state for the convenience of all members and to afford a wider knowledge of bird species.

Article IV. THE GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The Governing Body shall consist of a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) made up as follows:

A. Elected officers: President (**Chairman** of the Board), Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary (Secretary of the Board), Membership Development Coordinator, Treasurer, Business Manager, four (4) Directors at large, Editor of the *Bulletin*, and Editor of the Newsletter.

B. Immediate past president.

Section 2. Meetings. The Board shall meet during the annual KOS meeting as notified by the President. Other meetings may be scheduled by the Board or may be called by the President with 30 days notice to each Board member. Board business may also be **conducted by mail, telephone, or electronic media (ex. E-mail, video**

conference etc.), if necessary, but any such actions must be recorded by the Secretary and included in the Secretary's report.

Section 3. Quorum. A simple majority of the voting Board members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 4. The Board shall have the power to act on all matters pertaining to KOS except as otherwise noted in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 5. Reports.

A. The proceedings of the Board shall be reported at each annual meeting of KOS by the Corresponding Secretary.

B. The Treasurer shall give a financial report at each annual meeting.

C. These reports shall be published in full or in resume in the Newsletter.

Article V. OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

Section 1. Elected positions.

A. Officers: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Development Coordinator, Treasurer, Business Manager, Editor of the *Bulletin* and Editor of the Newsletter.

B. Four (4) Directors at large: Two shall be elected at the annual meeting each year to serve two-year terms. Good geographical distribution should be considered.

Section 2. Elections.

A. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year and shall serve until the end of the regular annual business meeting in which their respective successors have been elected.

B. The President and Vice-President may be elected to their respective offices for two consecutive terms only.

C. The Corresponding Secretary, the Membership Development Coordinator, the Treasurer, the Business Manager, the Editor of the *Bulletin* and the Editor of the Newsletter may succeed themselves as elected.

D. A slate of officers shall be submitted by the nominating committee which shall have been appointed by the

President at least three months prior to the annual meeting.

E. Nominations may be made from the floor.

F. Voting shall be by secret ballot if more than one candidate is nominated for a given office.

G. A majority of those members present and voting shall elect.

Section 3. Appointed positions.

A. Appointed positions are: Librarian, and the **Chairman** of each of the standing **committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity, and Finance Committee.**

B. The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board for a one year term which shall begin with the annual spring field trip. The Librarian may be reappointed at the discretion of the President and the Board.

C. The **chairmen** of the standing committees shall be appointed by the President within 60 days of the election and shall serve until the next annual meeting. They may be reappointed.

D. These appointees shall be notified of and should attend Board meetings but have no voting rights.

Article VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTEES

Section 1. Duties of officers and appointees shall be such as are implied in their respective titles and as specified hereafter.

Section 2. The president shall:

A. Preside at all meetings.

B. Be empowered to call special meetings.

C. Appoint standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity, **Finance Committee and such other ad hoc committees as may be deemed necessary to serve during his term of office.**

D. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

E. Appoint the Librarian, subject to the approval of the Board.

F. Appoint a nominating committee for next year's officers and directors.

G. Be **Chairman** of the Board of Directors.

H. Be authorized to fill, until the next annual or special meeting, any vacancy on the board.

I. Call for nominations for the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award and Avian Conservation Recognition Award with an announcement in the *Horned Lark* and in *KSBIRDS* prior to the fall meeting per Article VII Section 5 and Section 6.

J. Be authorized to sign checks.

K. The President will appoint an Auditing Committee at the Fall Meeting.

Section 3. The Vice-president shall:

A. Perform the duties of the President in his absence or in the event of his inability to perform such duties.

B. Perform such duties as directed by the President.

C. The Vice-President will coordinate with the local committee for the fall meeting and conduct the scientific papers sessions.

D. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

A. Keep complete and accurate minutes of all meetings.

B. Carry on the correspondence, as directed by the President, pertaining to the affairs of KOS.

C. Keep a listing of the duties of each standing committee as specified by the Board and shall supply a copy of the pertinent list to each newly appointed committee **chairman.**

D. Be a member of, and act as Secretary of, the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Membership Development Coordinator shall:

A. Prepare and preserve a record of all members and their attendance at each meeting and make such records available.

B. Issue membership receipts (sent only on request), dues reminders, membership applications and invitations.

C. Advise the Business Manager of membership changes.

D. Make a written report at the annual meeting.

E. Be responsible for the local chapter program.



F. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

G. Maintain the mailing list.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall:

A. Be the custodian of all funds belonging to KOS. All instruments for financial transactions may be signed by one of the following officers: Treasurer, Business Manager or **President**.

B. Pay out and expend the same by check.

C. Notify Membership Secretary of the date and amount of each dues payment.

D. Prepare an interim financial statement to be presented at the annual business meeting and an annual financial statement to be published in full in the Newsletter.

E. Be resident agent of KOS.

F. Prepare an annual report for the Secretary of State on incorporation status.

G. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Business Manager shall:

A. Be responsible for conducting business activities of KOS in collaboration with members of the Board of Directors.

B. Oversee the printing and distribution of the Bulletin, Newsletter and other publications.

C. Prepare all legal agreements with individuals and organizations.

D. Inventory and maintain stock of all supplies and print replacement stationery, forms, etc. as needed.

E. Be an ex-officio member of all committees which involve legal agreements, contracts, or major outlay of funds.

F. Be authorized to sign checks.

G. Be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. The two editors shall:

A. Be charged with the organizing, editing, and publishing of the KOS Bulletin and the Newsletter and other printed matter as shall be approved by the Board.

B. May appoint such associates and Assistant Editors as shall be necessary to aid in the performance of their duties.

C. Publish the Bulletin quarterly and the Newsletter bimonthly if material and funds permit.

D. Be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 9. The Librarian shall:

A. Be responsible for maintaining all scientific papers and archives belonging to KOS.

B. Make all papers of Section A available on loan to KOS members.

Section 10. The Conservation Committee shall:

A. Be responsible for providing awareness to the Board and KOS members on conservation issues that may have positive or negative impacts on avian communities in Kansas pursuant to Article II of the KOS Constitution.

B. Be responsible for soliciting nominees and selecting from those nominees the recipient of the Annual KOS Avian Conservation of the Year Award to be approved by the Board per Article VII Section 6.

C. Seek to promote conservation and provide educational opportunities for the general public.

Section 11. The Membership Committee shall:

A. In coordination with the Membership Development Coordinator develop communications media for use in KOS membership development activities.

B. Develop activities to educate the public about KOS, its aims, and the benefits of membership.

C. Encourage interest of young people in birds and ornithology as part of long term membership development.

D. Develop outreach programs whereby KOS members can interact with the public, schools, and other organizations to further interest in ornithology in Kansas.

Section 12. The Publicity Committee shall:

A. Be responsible for contacting media outlets of upcoming meetings and other pertinent events sponsored by KOS.

Section 13. Kansas Bird Records

Committee shall:

A. Be responsible for evaluating reports of rare and unusual bird sightings from Kansas per the KBRC Procedural Rules of the KOS's KBRC (as approved and amended by the KOS Board).

Section 14. Finance Committee shall:

A. Consist of the Chairman, the Treasurer, and the past Treasurer.

B. Be responsible for the management of all funds of the KOS and make investments for the Society as approved by the Board.

C. Solicit budget requests from each officer and standing committee prior to the annual business meeting.

D. Provide a budget for the next fiscal year at the annual board meeting for approval by the Board.

Section 15. The Auditing Committee shall:

A. Audit the Treasurer's books and annual report for the year ending December 31 and will report this audit to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Article VII. SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROPERTY

Section 1. Contributions by bequests, memorials, and gifts in the form of money may be accepted anytime, such contributions to be used as designated by the donor upon approval by the Board.

Section 2. The donation of property may be accepted by the Society, by vote, upon recommendation of the Board, such property to be managed in its natural state for scientific or educational purposes, or to be managed or sold as a source of income for KOS.

Section 3. The specific uses to which the property is put shall be designated at the time of acceptance by the Society.

Section 4. Special funds may be established as needed to administer the contributions given for use in special projects and property management.

Section 5. Establishment of the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award. This award is to be given to a member(s) of KOS, usually each year, for outstanding contributions and service to the society.



The award is not a monetary award but shall be presented to an individual(s) as a plaque with appropriate information provided. It shall be known as the Boyd Award in recognition of the contributions of Dr. Ivan Boyd who was a KOS Founder, Charter Member, and the first president of KOS.

A. Individuals must be nominated by another KOS member. Nominations will be accepted each year by the KOS President.

B. The KOS President will notify the Board of all nominations.

C. The Board will review the nominations and make a selection. The Board may approve more than one recipient each year or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

D. Announcement of the Award recipient(s) will be made at the KOS meeting each fall.

E. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive the Boyd Award.

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

Section 6. Establishment of the KOS Avian Conservation of the Year Award. This award is to be given to an individual, who may or may not be a KOS member, usually each year, for outstanding efforts in avian conservation in Kansas. The award is not a monetary award but shall be presented to an individual(s) as a plaque with appropriate information provided.

A. Individuals must be nominated by a KOS member.

B. Nominations will be accepted each year by the KOS Conservation Committee. The Committee will select a recipient to be approved by the Board.

C. The Committee may select and the Board may approve more than one recipient each year or the Board may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

D. Announcement of the Award recipient(s) will be made at the KOS meeting each fall.

E. Current KOS Board members are eligible to receive this award.

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

Article VIII. LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. A local chapter of the Kansas Ornithological Society may:

A. Be formed at any institution, city, town or other places upon affirmation by the Board that a majority of its members are in good standing in KOS and upon payment of an annual affiliation fee as determined by the Board and approved by the KOS membership.

B. Elect its own officers, assess additional dues, and conduct its own meetings.

C. Be known by a name of its own selection plus the designation: Chapter of the Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc.

D. Provide a rallying point for monthly meetings and local field trips.

Section 2. Applications for local chapter designations shall be made to the Membership Development

Coordinator and approved by the KOS Board. The affiliation may be revoked by the Board at any time.

Article IX. AFFILIATIONS

Section 1. The Kansas Ornithological Society, Inc. may consider or seek affiliation with other organizations having similar goals for the purpose of strengthening KOS or furthering ornithological development or publication.

Section 2. Active affiliation with another organization may become binding only after being approved by a 2/3 vote of all members present and voting at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for this purpose.

Section 3. No affiliation shall be considered which runs counter to provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of KOS.

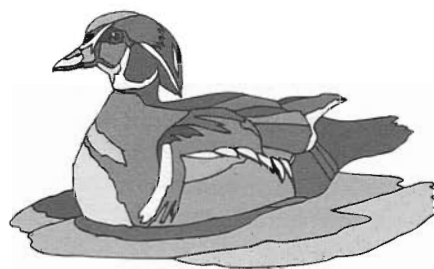
Article X. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special called meeting of KOS by a two-third (2/3) positive vote of all those KOS members present and voting, except as otherwise provided, provided such amendments shall have been submitted to the Board and notice of such amendments mailed to each KOS member or published in the Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. At any annual business meeting amendments may be made to the Bylaws, except for Article II, Section 3, by a 95% positive vote of KOS members present and voting.

New KOS Members

Please welcome these new members: **John Boyer IV**, Kingman; **Eric, Kristi, and Micah Bond**, Lawrence; and **Jack Revare**, Shawnee Mission.



Statement of non-profit status and copyright:

The Kansas Ornithological Society is a 501(c) 3 organization created for the study, conservation and enjoyment of wild birds. *The Horned Lark* is the membership newsletter of the society and all material contained herein is copyrighted.



The 2004 – 2005 northern finch year at a Garden City feeding station

By Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane

The list of northern finches (*Carduelinae*) for our Garden City yard list, as well as the Finney County, Kansas, bird list stands at 10 species. The Pine Grosbeak is the only species on the official Kansas list that has not been recorded on both of our lists. (We missed once again when the Pine Grosbeak was recorded only 50 miles away from Garden City during the best finch invasion in more than 30 years.) Our yard, about one-fifth of an acre, contains a little more than a dozen trees with numerous shrubs, a waterfall, and pond. Whole sunflower seeds, chips, thistle seed, and white millet are kept in numerous feeders and spread out at several places on the ground. These feeders have been maintained during the fall, winter, and spring months, and occasionally during the summer the past 16 years.

We observe and record high counts of each species frequenting our feeders and yard most days throughout the year. When densities are under 20, actual counts are most often recorded, and when observable densities are over 20, an estimate of numbers is most often made. Recorded numbers are never adjusted to take in account birds that are not visible but most likely present.

Our initial plan was to report the number of finches using our feeding station for a given 12-month period such as 1 July - 30 June. Our final compilation needed an extension of a few months due to the differences in the annual cycles of the species present. The following species were recorded: House Finch, Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, and American Goldfinch. We report early and late dates of departure as well as monthly relative

abundance for the common species with some behavioral notes. Not observed this season were the Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill, and the Evening Grosbeak. Each of these species has been observed previously during more than one winter season.

Species Accounts: The following list of species include data from July 2004 through October 2005. Densities of the abundant finches are recorded by month (with mean, range, and number of days observed).

House Finch: A permanent resident with many pairs nesting within a short distance of the yard. The first fledgling (a brown-streaked bird with two sets of white down feathers protruding from its head, giving it a horned appearance) was observed being fed by an adult on 29 Apr 2005. The last fledgling was observed on 22 Sept 2005. No count was made, but numbers of sick House Finches were well below the numbers observed in some of the previous years. High counts include 90 observed on 4 Jan and 72 observed on 23 Feb 2005. Monthly densities: July (3, 2-4, 3), Aug (1, 1-3, 7), Sept (3, 1-8, 9), Oct (2, 1-4, 9), Nov (6, 1-18, 26), Dec (18, 3-63, 21), Jan (38, 3-90, 18), Feb (25, 6-72, 10), Mar (13, 6-23, 13), Apr (5, 2-10, 21), May (9, 4-16, 22), June (9, 1-16, 23), July (10, 5-28, 30), Aug (6, 1-12, 25).

Red Crossbill: Two immature males and two females were observed on a stand of wild sunflowers near the house on 25 Sept 2004. Even though there were many reports across Kansas the species was only observed once during the winter months: a female on 9 Jan 2005 and then not again until 9 Apr 2005 when one male and two females were observed at the

thistle feeders. A larger group then appeared on 15 Apr with a maximum of seven males and seven females observed on 17 Apr. Numbers seen at the thistle feeders started falling about 19 May and the last bird was seen on 29 May.

From 16-21 Apr the sex ratio was even and then from 22 Apr through 22 May, only 40% of the crossbills at the feeders were female. It was possible that some of the females were incubating during this time period. A good number of medium-to-large pine trees are present south of the yard, and birds would often be seen departing toward that direction. No juvenile crossbills were recorded during this time period. Several severe storms with very high winds during this possible nesting period would certainly have contributed to considerable, if not total nest loss.

Common Redpoll: An adult male was observed feeding with other finches at the thistle feeders and at the flat sunflower chip feeder (kept on top of the picnic table) from 2-5 Jan and again from 23-30 Jan 2005. He was a very aggressive individual and could hold his favorite position in the seed tray against the hordes of Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches.

Pine Siskin: The first siskin was observed on 4 Oct 2004, with singles in again on 27-30 Nov and on 3 Dec. The species then remained a regular visitor from 12 Dec 2004 through 12 Aug 2005. High counts of 160 and 300 were observed on 16 Feb and 13 March 2005 in association with cold and snowy weather. The first juvenile was observed on 15 May 2005, with 8 on 21 May and the highest count of 14 on 25 June. All adult siskins had departed by mid-June. The last juvenile of the presumed local group



was seen on 12 Aug. One to two molting juveniles appeared from 21 through 26 Aug. It appeared these birds were not familiar with the yard, and they were not tame compared to the earlier group. Before, we could exit our front door and walk within six feet of the birds at the feeder without their departing.

These late siskins probably came in from a more distant 2005 nesting area. Monthly densities: Oct (1, 1-1, 1), Nov (1, 1-1, 4), Dec (4, 1-16, 11), Jan (31, 4-60, 18), Feb (30, 1-160, 13), Mar (54, 10-300, 15), Apr (18, 6-90, 25), May (14, 8-28, 25), June (10, 3-17, 26), July (5, 1-12, 31), Aug (3, 1-8, 16).

Lesser Goldfinch: An adult green-backed male arrived 29 May and stayed feeding primarily at the thistle feeders with the Pine Siskins and the House Finches through 4 June 2005.

American Goldfinch: The first individual appeared at the feeders on 30 Oct 2004 with high counts of 60 on 31 Dec, and 9-10 and 22 Jan. The last bird observed in the yard for the winter season was on 27 May 2005. A presumed early fall migrant adult male was at the thistle on 16 Sept 2005. A single male and or female then was present on 17-18 and 20 Sept. An unexpected event occurred on 21 Sept when a fledgling American Goldfinch was observed begging from an adult female. On 22 Sept two fledglings, a male and a female, were observed. On 23 Sept two adult males were observed. On 24 Sept the female was observed and a fledgling was observed begging and being fed by an adult male. From 25 Sept through 2 Oct the fledgling could be heard begging while the female would be seen only occasionally. Around 2 Oct the young bird appeared to be

independent and feeding on its own. The begging call was not harsh as it is in many other species. It was very sweet sounding such as; "sweetie-sweetie" or "sweedie-sweedie." The fledgling had bold, broad tan wing-bars while the wing-bars of the female were completely worn away. The fledgling or juvenile was observed feeding at the thistle feeders with the Pine Siskins through 23 Oct. Monthly densities: Oct (1, 1-1, 2), Nov (3, 1-14, 18), Dec (11, 1-60, 21), Jan (35, 5-60, 18), Feb (23, 10-50, 12), Mar (29, 10-60, 15), Apr (10, 1-35, 24), May (4, 1-10, 21).

We thank Debra Bolton for reviewing an earlier draft of this report.

You may reach **Tom** and **Sara Shane** at shane@pld.com; 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846.

Spring meeting May 5-7, 2006

The northern Cross Timbers region and Yates Center mark the location for the KOS spring meeting, May 5-7, 2006. Birders will visit Toronto, John Redmond, and Fall River Reservoirs, Wilson County and Woodson County State Lakes, and a few other locations.

The meeting will include a banquet and speaker on Saturday night, and a catered picnic lunch on Sunday.

Make lodging reservations early. There are a limited number of motel rooms in Yates Center. Options include the Townsman Motel, (620) 625-2131, and the Star Motel (620) 625-2175. Camping is available at the above-mentioned lakes.

The March *Horned Lark* and the KOS Web site will have complete information about the meeting.

Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet 12/31/04

Assets	
Fund	111578.99
Certificate of Deposit	6215.17
Checking	1714.59
Business Manager	150.00
Sub Total	119658.75
Dingus Land	56000.00
Total	175658.75
Liabilities and Fund Balances	
Fund Income	
General Fund	2435.03
Business Manager Advance	150.00
Endowments	65835.60
Life Membership Account	20522.00
Book Royalty Fund	17396.32
Dingus Natural Area Fund	8114.10
Dingus Natural Area Land	56000.00
Student Research Fund	5205.70
Total	175658.75



Kansas Summer Roundup

June 1– July 31, 2005

Mark Corder, compiler

Who doesn't like woodpeckers? My guess is that inside the birding community there aren't any who would proclaim a dislike of woodpeckers. Actually, I'd bet that as a general proposition birders rank woodpeckers pretty high on the list of their favorites. In fact, with the apparent comeback of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the attention it has received, this group of birds may have jumped up a couple of notches on the popularity list.

This summer Kansas had its own woodpecker event in Morton County (Where else?). Hardly on anyone's radar of possible new first state records, the American Three-toed Woodpecker found by **Matt Gearheart** in early July is, without question, the highlight of summer 2005. If the record is accepted, it will be the 12th woodpecker species to appear on the Kansas bird list.

In contrast to the summer of 2004 when no birds from Morton County made the roundup, 16% of the birds appearing in this summer's roundup are from this far southwestern county. Two notables were the Cave Swallow

and Cerulean Warbler seen in late June. This all suggests that Morton County may be more productive during this period than has previously been thought. You may just have to go there and find out in 2006!

Thirty-two percent of the reported birds for the summer of 2005 came from Stafford and Barton counties, combined. Again, this was in sharp contrast to the previous year when only two reports total came from these two powerhouse counties. Over 10,000 shorebirds were reported by **Helen Hands** on June 8 at Cheyenne Bottoms. A month later she reported more than 1000 American Avocets at the Bottoms. **Mike Rader** found lingering shorebirds at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in late June, noting the presence of Snowy Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Whimbrel, and Marbled Godwit, and a nice collection of Semipalmated, White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers on June 27.

Three species of western hummers came in under the wire in late July. Pawnee, Sherman and Finney counties had the monopoly on

Rufous, Broad-tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds. A Lesser Goldfinch put on a repeat performance in Wichita in June and July. Least terns were reported from Sedgwick County and, more expectedly, from Pottawatomie County at the Jeffrey Energy Center. The Shanes reported an amazing 16 Pine Siskins coming to their feeders in Garden City on June 26.

First state records are more difficult to come by as time passes. They truly are events to celebrate when they occur and especially when, as was the case with the American Three-toed Woodpecker, many observers get to see and record it. Apart from the woodpecker, June and July 2005 were a couple of pretty "hot" birding months in Kansas. If you are wondering where to spend a little time next June and July, take a quick look at the past three to five years of the roundup and go from there.

You may reach **Mark Corder** at buddesystem@msn.com or 232 S. Cherry, Olathe, KS 66061.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Black-bellied W'ling-Duck</u>	2 on cattle pond E of QNWR	Stafford	07/21	MS
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 on playa N of Minneola	<u>Clark</u>	07/09	PJ & others
Canvasback	1 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Common Loon	1 basic plumage, Wilson Lake	Russell	<u>07/16</u>	MR
Neotropic Cormorant	1 Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/27	MR
Black-cr'nd Night-Heron	<u>200</u> Elkhart Sewer Ponds	Morton	07/05	KH, SG
Mississippi Kite	2 adults, 1 nestling (Recurrent successful breeding pair since mid- to late-1990s?)	Johnson	07/15	ML



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 W of North Newton	Harvey	<u>07/10</u>	GF
Shorebirds	<u>10000+</u> Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	06/08	HH
Snowy Plover	200+ Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/27	MR
American Avocet	<u>1000+</u> Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/08	HH
Greater Yellowlegs	4 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Lesser Yellowlegs	70+ Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Willet	1 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Whimbrel	1 Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/18	AM, BAS
Marbled Godwit	2 Cheyenne Bottoms 1 Elkhart sewer ponds 1 Quivira NWR	Barton Morton Stafford	<u>06/15</u> <u>06/22</u> <u>06/27</u>	ML, TSw SP MR
Sanderling	2 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/15</u>	ML, TSw
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
White-rumped Sandpiper	48 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>06/27</u>	MR
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	8 in field with Killdeer 37 Colwich Sod Farms	Marion Sedgwick	07/29 07/31	KK PJ
California Gull	1 3 rd summer, Cheney Res.	Reno	06/05	PJ
Least Tern	Nesting pair, N Wichita 2 pair Jeffery Energy Ctr. <u>16</u> pair Jeffery Energy Ctr.	Sedgwick <u>Pottawatomie</u> <u>Pottawatomie</u>	06/03 06/08 06/20	BG BM BM
White-winged Dove	1 residence, Washington 1 feeder, Larned	Washington Pawnee	06/06 06/28	DT OS
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 Middle Springs, CNG	<u>Morton</u>	07/06	SS, MT
Short-eared Owl	1 CRP acreage, Stevens Co.	Stevens	07/10	PJ
Calliope Hummingbird	1 imm female, Larned feeder	Pawnee	07/28	DK
Broad-tailed Humm'bird	1 female, Garden City res.	Finney	07/27	T&SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	2 at feeder Ruleton 1 ad male, Garden City feeder 4 imm/female, Larned res. 2 female and imm male, Larned	Sherman Finney Pawnee Pawnee	07/26 07/27 07/28 07/29	JP ES, T&SSh DK SS,DK



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Am. Three-toed W'pecker</u> <D>	1 picnic area, CNG (1 st state record if accepted)	<u>Morton</u>	07/03	MG, AM, ApM, WCT, M: ob.
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1 picnic area, CNG	Morton	07/03	DS, GP
<u>Fish Crow</u>	2 near Elk City	Montgomery	07/03	PJ, KG
Chihuahuan Raven	1 S of Hugoton	Stevens	07/03	MG, AM, ApM, WCT
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1 Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	06/22	SP
Swainson's Thrush	1 Garden City	Finney	<u>06/08</u>	T&SSh
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 singing, Shawnee Mission Pk.	Johnson	<u>07/11</u>	DS
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 singing, Middle Springs, CNG	<u>Morton</u>	<u>06/22</u>	SP
Prothonotary Warbler	1 Middle Springs, CNG	<u>Morton</u>	07/05	KH, SG
Pine Siskin	<u>16</u> Shane res., Garden City	Finney	06/26	T&SSh
Lesser Goldfinch	1 Wichita residence	Sedgwick	06/25-7/17	BR

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 than 10 records for Kansas.
- <D>indicates documentation was submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reservoir (Res), residence (res), M:ob (many observers), ad (adult), imm (immature).

Observers Gregg Friesen, Bob Gress, Matt Gearheart, Kevin

Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Kellye Hart, Helen Hands, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Brandon Magette, Aaron Mitchell, April Mitchell (ApM) Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, John Palmquist, Ben Rogers, Mike Rader, Tom and Sara Shane

(T&SSh), Emaline Scott, Terry Swope (TSw), David Seibel, Matt Sexson, Omar Schartz, Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Dan Thalmann, Will Chatfield-Taylor, Max Thompson.

In Memoriam

KOS charter member **Katharine Kelley** died September 27 at the age of 96. She taught fourth and fifth grade elementary children for 42 years. Baldwin City residents remembered her as the teacher who took children on walks to identify wildflowers and birds. She was also a member of the Baldwin Bird Club and the North American Bird

Banding Association. KOS recognized her contributions in 2004 with the first Ivan L. Boyd Award.

KOS life member, **Janelle O'Keefe**, died September 8. She was part of KOS for 47 years. She and her husband farmed near Dodge City and near Towner, Colo. A contribution of \$100 was given to KOS in her memory this fall.



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)



Please 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.

Ten best birds of the year

During the fall KOS banquet, **Max Thompson** presented the following birds as best of the year, for the period October 2004-September 2005.

1. Band-rumped Storm Petrel. July 18, four birds, Meade County State Lake. *Mark Goldsberry, Troy Hurlburt and Tom Flowers.* First observed occurrence in Kansas;

2. American Three-toed Woodpecker. July 3, Cimarron National Grasslands picnic area. *Matt Gearhart, Aaron and April Mitchell, Will Chatfield-Taylor.* First state record documented by multiple photos;

3. Broad-billed Hummingbird. October 4. *Phil Rich* at *Leonard Rich's* residence, Garden City. First state record;

4. Arctic Tern. May 12. Elkhart Sewer Ponds. *Sebastian Patti, Chris Hobbs and Max Thompson.* Third state record;

5. Swallow-tailed Kite. August 27, Slate Creek Wetlands. *Gary Davis;*

6. Cave Swallow. June 22, Morton County, *Patti;* September 2, Ford County, *Patti, Mick McHugh, Galen Pittman, and David Seibel;* September 4, Hamilton County, *Pete Janzen;*

7. Roseate Spoonbill. August 1, Tuttle Reservoir, Riley County. *Doris Burnett.* Eighth state record;

8 Ruff. May 5. Red Jaw Marsh, Reno County. *Kerrie Kirkpatrick.* Seventh state record;

9. Pine Grosbeak. November 6, Wichita, *Roy and Pat Beckemeyer;* November 12, Leoti, *Patti, Mike Rader, and Hobbs;* December 2, Ulysses, *Kellye Hart and Sam Guy;* December 19. Wilson Reservoir, *Rader (1) and Rob Penner (2);*

10. Prairie Warbler. October 30, Oak Park, Wichita. *Paul Griffin.* Winter record.

