



# The Horned Lark

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## President's Message

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WOW! What an excellent fall meeting we had at Kansas State University, organized by the very capable Brett Sandercocock and his local committee. There are not many state groups that can have a paper session all day, mixing scientists with amateurs, and keeping everyone's attention. That is exactly what happened at our fall meeting. It is great to see this kind of interaction. We were happy to see John Zimmerman come back from Virginia to receive the Boyd Award. Gene and Eulalia Lewis came from New Mexico, and Chuck Ely from Texas, to help round out the meeting.

Next fall we will convene October 3-5 at Fort Hays State University. Greg Farley and his crew will host.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing all of you at the spring meeting, which will be based in Goodland. Field

trips will explore several areas in the northwest region.

*Max C. Thompson*

President



*Alvaro Jaramillo gave a presentation, "Birding in Chile: The Other West Coast," at the fall KOS meeting in Manhattan. Photos by Cheryl Miller, © 2007.*

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## From the field

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There's not much I can add to Max's enthusiastic appraisal and endorsement of the fall KOS meeting.

In the following pages you'll find the paper abstracts and information on the Boyd and Avian Conservationist award recipients. Also, two Best Paper awards were given, going to Khara M. Strum (masters student) and Page E. Klug (doctoral student), both from Kansas State University.

We will soon be entering the annual round of Christmas Bird Counts. A listing may be found online at this Web address: <http://ksbirds.org/2007CBC.htm>. Here's hoping for favorable conditions, unexpected zooties, and fond memories of times a field.

—CKM

# Birds of the Great Plains: A Book Review

By Thomas G. Shane

**Birds of the Great Plains.** By Bob Jennings, Ted T. Cable, and Roger Burrows. Lone Pine Publishing International Inc. 2005: 384 pp., ISBN 1-55105-369-1, \$21.95 (paper).

I picked this book up off the bookstore shelf after noticing the title. I made a quick thumb through it with the maps for each species catching my eye. I immediately thought "Johnsgard." After checking the cover again, I noted two other familiar names: Bob Jennings, the former director of the Oxley Nature Center and the 1994 KOS banquet speaker, along with world birder Ted Cable, K-State professor and the senior author of the *Birds of the Cimarron National Grassland*. Roger Burrows, the third author, assists Lone Star with many of their guides.

The book opens with a handy table of contents: first by family, then by groups of small colored drawings arranged by family. Both are color coded to color tabs on the edge of the book. This has to be of great help to the beginning birder as well as the advanced birder who has difficulty with the ever-changing phylogenetic order of birds.

The introduction includes the sections "Birding in the Great Plains," "Birding by Habitat," "Bird Listing," "Birding Activities," "Bird Feeding," "Nest Boxes," "West Nile Virus," and the "Top 20 Birding Sites in the Great Plains."

The species accounts include 324 birds each with a color

drawing by one of three artists, an introduction with some general information about the species, and a short section on ID, size, habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, and similar species, along with an excellent colored map. The maps are similar to the ones used by Paul Johnsgard in his 1979 book, *Birds of the Great Plains: Breeding Species and their Distribution*. Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and both Dakotas are completely covered. Parts of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri also are covered.

An additional 50 rare species are addressed briefly in the appendix "Occasional Bird Species." The remainder of the book includes a checklist, indices for scientific and common bird names, and author biographies.

If you are a beginning, intermediate or backyard birdwatcher and want to invest in only one other book besides your field guide, then this should be your book. It has all the species you will normally encounter. The presence of albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, and alcids are not there to overburden your efforts to learn the birds of our Great Plains region. If you are among the top ten percent of the listers and sport birders, you will probably not want this title.

However, I think it is an excellent little book, and I am quite certain that most birdwatchers in Kansas will want to purchase a copy.

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# KOS fall meeting species compilation

Observers found 103 species on field trips during the fall KOS meeting. Birds were observed in Clay, Pottawatomie and Riley counties.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
American Wigeon  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Ring-necked Duck  
Wild Turkey  
Northern Bobwhite  
Pied-billed Grebe  
American White Pelican  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
American Coot  
Killdeer  
American Avocet  
Least Sandpiper  
Phalarope species  
Franklin's Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Forster's Tern



Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Common Nighthawk  
Common Poor-will  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Horned Lark  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Bewick's Wren  
House Wren  
Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Swainson's Thrush  
American Robin  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Spotted Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow

Clay-colored Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Indigo Bunting  
Dickcissel  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Great-tailed Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

## KOS spring meeting: Northwest Kansas

KOS members will travel to northwest Kansas for the spring meeting, May 2-4, 2008. Goodland will serve as home base.

The High Plains zone of Kansas features open flatlands and gently rolling hills. Most of the land is now in agricultural production, which has replaced much of the original short-grass prairie. The area experiences limited rainfall, and some unusual land formations may be found in the extreme northwest corner at the Arikaree Breaks.

Look for more information in the March 2008 issue of *The Horned Lark*.



# Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

**Survey of antibiotic-resistant bacteria carried in the oral cavities of migratory birds.** *Jessica Bitner\**, *Greg Farley*, and *Eric Gillock*, *Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University*. Non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in the agriculture industry has led to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which have been detected in air, soil, and surface and ground water by other researchers. From these areas resistant bacteria can be spread throughout ecosystems and potentially enter human populations. Saliva samples were taken from 114 birds at the Fort Hays State University banding site during fall 2006. Each sample was plated on brain heart infusion agar allowing for bacterial growth. Isolated colonies were then gram stained and tested for resistance to vancomycin. Differential and selective media was used for preliminary colony screening. Sixteen vancomycin-resistant gram positive bacterial isolates were putatively identified using partial sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene. Three different bacterial species (*Staphylococcus succinus*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*, and *Enterococcus gallinarum*) were identified from the sixteen vancomycin-resistant isolates collected from six different bird species. Overall, twenty-four bacterial isolates showed a high level of resistance (50-100 µg/

ml) to vancomycin.

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**Great Salt Lake Snowy Plover Survey 2007.** *Christian N. Edwards\**, *Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University*, and *John Cavitt*, *Department of Zoology, Weber State University*. The Great Salt Lake (GSL) is well-known as one of North America's most important inland shorebird sites, and has been recognized both nationally and globally for its importance to migratory and breeding birds. The expansive mudflats and playas of the GSL shoreline provide ideal breeding habitat for the Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). During the past two decades, throughout much of its range, Snowy Plover numbers have been declining and interior populations have been given a Priority Status in many conservation programs. The breeding population size of Snowy Plovers at the GSL has been estimated at approximately 10,000. If correct, this accounts for approximately 50% of the estimated US population. Due to the current status of this vulnerable bird, it is critical to determine current population size at the location with the largest breeding concentration. Subsequently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with the US Geological Survey and other shorebird scientists, developed a survey at the GSL to establish a

long-term monitoring program to track population trends of Snowy Plovers. Our hope is that this and future surveys will produce successful breeding population estimates for the GSL.

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**Landscape heterogeneity, habitat contagion and anthropogenic disturbance may be driving Greater Prairie-Chicken genetic structure in the Flint Hills of Kansas.** *Andrew J. Gregory\**, *Lance B. McNew*, *Samantha M. Wisely*, and *Brett K. Sandercock*, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*. The Flint Hills of Kansas represents 80% of the remaining tall-grass prairie ecosystem in the United States today. However development for human use and management for livestock have left much of the Flint Hills tall-grass prairie fragmented and/or degraded. Consequently much of the remaining natural tall-grass prairie habitat exists as a series of remnant habitat patches. Due to large dispersal distances, home-range, and habitat requirements, Greater Prairie-chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) are considered an indicator species for continuous tall-grass prairie and should be sensitive to anthropogenic disturbances. We assessed what influence anthropogenic alterations in the Flint Hills may have prairie chicken movements and genetic structure. Our data suggest that in the past gene flow was



unhindered across the entire range of the Kansas Flint Hills ( $F_{ST} = 0.011 \pm 0.003$ ). However,  $F_{ST}$  values change slowly with respect to population size and isolation; consequently  $F_{ST}$  may not be suited to detect more recent effects of anthropogenic disturbance on genetic structure. Contemporary measures of structure, based on changes in allele frequencies, indicate that prairie chicken populations along the northwestern reaches of the Flint Hills are becoming genetically isolated from the south ( $LN(P) = -12416.9$ ). Measures of landscape composition and connectivity indicate that genetically isolated populations have 30% less grassland and 4-fold less connectivity of grasslands between them than non-genetically isolated groups.

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**Ecology of Burrowing Owl in western Kansas.** *Carol D. Grover\**, and *Elmer J. Finck*, *Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University*. Smoky Valley Ranch, located in Logan County Kansas, is prime habitat for the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). A total of 96 nests was located and monitored from March 24, 2007 through July 28, 2007. Data collected at each nest included a GPS location of the nest, distance to nest from the burrow entrance, clutch size, brood size, and number of fledged juveniles. Juveniles also were trapped and banded. Based on our preliminary data mean clutch size was 5.16, mean number of nestlings was 2.43, mean number of fledged

individuals was 2.61, and apparent nest success was 33%. Additional data will also be collected during the 2008 season to compliment data collected during the 2007 season and to examine the return rate of juveniles.

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**Nest site selection and movement of a recently translocated island ptarmigan population.** *Robb S. A. Kaler\**, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*, *Steve E. Ebbert*, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge*, and *Brett K. Sandercock*, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*. Translocations were used to reestablish a breeding population of Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus evermanni*) on Agattu Island in the western of the Aleutian Archipelago, Alaska. We translocated 75 ptarmigan from Attu to Agattu during 2003-2006. During 2005 and 2006 we used radio-telemetry to monitor the post-release movements, seasonal survival, and reproductive success of 35 females (15 resident and 20 translocated). We compared performance of recently translocated birds to resident birds that were the result of previous translocations. Nest sites of translocated females were located an average distance of 4.2 km from their release locations and were not different from nest locations of resident females with regard to topographical features or nest cover. Female nest site selection was influenced by percent

composition of rock and forb coverage but was unaffected by slope, aspect, or general habitat. After leaving the nest, broods of both resident (mean +62 m  $\pm$  21.8 SD) and translocated (+108 m  $\pm$  25.3 SD) females moved to higher elevations. Brood home range sizes were similar for resident (3.6 ha, SE = 1.6) and translocated (6.7 ha, SE = 2.4) females, distances traveled between the nest site and the arithmetic center of the brood home range were greater for translocated females. Overall, we conclude that translocations are an effective technique for reestablishing island populations of Rock Ptarmigan. Our results provide baseline estimates of translocation success which will benefit future projects to reestablish endemic populations of ptarmigan and landbirds elsewhere in the Aleutian Islands.

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**Evaluation of habitat overlap by nesting grassland birds and their snake predators.** *Page E. Klug\** and *Kimberly A. With*, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*. Grassland management (fire x grazing) alters habitat and influences birds and their nest predators. Management may be enhancing predation risk in the tallgrass prairie through habitat modification that simultaneously favors birds and snakes, creating "hotspots of predation risk" that pose an ecological trap to nesting songbirds (i.e. songbirds may be attracted to areas that support high snake densities). We compare habitat variables



between snake telemetric locations, successful bird nests, and unsuccessful bird nests to analyze if grassland birds select nest sites based on the habitat to avoid snakes or if their nest site selection is increasing their chance of encounter with a predatory snake. We conducted the study at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Habitat heterogeneity at the local scale (within 30-m of nests and snake locations) is evaluated under the hypothesis that birds that overlap with the habitat use of snakes will suffer higher rates of nest predation due to an increase of encounters with snakes. We radio-tracked Eastern Racers (*Coluber constrictor*) and Great Plains Ratsnakes (*Pantherophis emoryi*) to record habitat variables at snake locations throughout the avian breeding season. These predatory snakes are usually found within 25-100 meters of shrubs which are located in draws and on rocky outcrops. Birds nesting in areas of increased vegetation structure and decreased shrubs may be able to better avoid snake predators and have shown higher reproductive success. Grassland birds and snakes overlap in habitat use. The habitat at predated nests is more similar to snake habitat than the habitat at fledged nests.

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**Reproductive ecology of Greater Prairie-chickens in the Flint Hills prior to wind power development.** Lance B. McNew\* and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University. The greater prairie-chicken

(*Tympanuchus cupido*) is an obligate grassland bird and indicator species for unfragmented grasslands in the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. They are a species of conservation concern because indices of abundance have declined annually since 1980. The core of the remaining breeding range of greater prairie-chickens is in the Flint Hills of Kansas; where wind power development is scheduled to occur. Recent research has suggested that population reduction and loss of genetic diversity facilitates decreases in reproductive potential. In addition, anthropogenic features are known to have deleterious effects on prairie-grouse demography. We hypothesize that development may impact population viability by affecting demography, and our study utilizes a Before/After-Control Impact (BACI) design with three replicates of paired study sites to assess the potential impact of wind power development on prairie-chicken fecundity and survival. We present breeding-season data for three research sites occurring across the Flint Hills prior to wind power development. During May – August, 2007, we fitted 93 females with radio-transmitters; which allowed us to located 97 nests. Reproductive potential was high because (1) nearly all hens initiated nests, (2) clutch sizes were large ( $11.4 \pm 0.3$  eggs), (3) hens with failed nests usually attempted second nests, and (4) egg hatchability was relatively high ( $0.80 \pm 0.04$ ). However, nest success ( $0.12 \pm$

$0.04$ ) and brood survival to fledge ( $0.23 \pm 0.09$ ) were extremely low. As a result, greater prairie-chickens occupying the Flint Hills had markedly low estimated fecundity ( $F_{\text{pooled}} = 0.13$ ). Due to the documented influence of fecundity on prairie-grouse population growth, our low estimates indicate that prairie-chicken populations are likely declining at a significant rate; even in the relatively undeveloped Flint Hills region.

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**An attempt to relocate pre-fledged Interior Least Tern chicks on the Kansas River.**

Daniel W. Mulhern\*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Michael A. Watkins, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water releases which had to be made from Kansas River tributary reservoirs in August 2007 were sufficient to completely inundate a small breeding colony of Interior Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*). The Fish and Wildlife Service and Corps of Engineers captured and relocated eight chicks to a nearby site whose elevation was calculated to remain above water. Although adult terns did not exhibit any immediate behavior that indicated they would follow their broods to the new location, the next morning two of the five adult pairs were observed caring for their chicks. All chicks were eventually lost, presumably to mammalian predation, and we conclude this was primarily due to marginal habitat quality at the relocation site.



**Breeding ecology of female Greater Prairie-chickens in unfragmented grasslands.**

*Jacqueline K. Nooker and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.* Populations of greater prairie-chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) have been declining in Kansas for at least 30 years due to the destruction and fragmentation of their tallgrass prairie habitat. Management of this species is hindered by a lack of contemporary demographic data analyzed with modern statistics. In this study, we examined nesting success and female movements to provide baseline demographic information for a population in natural, unfragmented prairie. Four leks were monitored for four years (2003-2006) in northeast Kansas. We fitted 43 females with radio-transmitters to locate nests and to monitor survival. Potential reproductive output was high because females laid large clutches ( $10.9 \pm 1.7$  eggs,  $n = 24$ ), renested following clutch loss (22.2%,  $n = 27$  females), and had high egg viability ( $88.6 \pm 13.3$  % of eggs hatched;  $n = 7$  nests). However, daily survival rate of nests was low (0.928,  $n = 34$  nests) resulting in a predicted nest success rate of 7.4% for a 35-day exposure period. Comparison of seasonal and annual survival of females indicates that survival is 1.6 to 2.0 times higher during the nonbreeding season than the breeding season, presumably because females are susceptible to predation during incubation. Nest survival and breeding

season survival was unexpectedly low in greater prairie-chickens in natural habitats and may be the primary demographic factors limiting population viability. Rangeland practices that increase residual nesting cover or reduce predator impacts may be beneficial.

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**Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) phylogeographic patterns and Pleistocene refugia.** A.

*Townsend Peterson\*, Brett W. Benz, and Mark B. Robbins, Division of Ornithology, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas.* Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) show striking geographic variation across the Great Plains, suggesting structured populations. We sequenced the fast-evolving mitochondrial control region for 28 nighthawks sampled from across the species' distribution in North America, and found negligible population differentiation—indeed, all Great Plains samples were essentially identical. We linked these sequence data to ecological niche models of Pleistocene potential distribution of the species, which suggest that all of the central North American populations would have been derived from a single Pleistocene distributional area, which may account for the low levels of population differentiation.

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**The Ruths from Halstead: early KOS members and dedicated birders and record keepers.** *Dwight R. Platt\**,

*Bethel College.* Sisters Edna and Alma Ruth and their niece, Ruth Rose, lived in Halstead located in Harvey County, Kansas, at the confluence of the Black Kettle Creek and the Little Arkansas River during the middle of the twentieth century. They became interested in birds, probably in the 1930s, and joined KOS in 1950 in the second year of the organization. They observed birds that visited their yard and also spent much time hiking, boating on the river and driving roads to find birds in western Harvey County and beyond. Edna Ruth was a KOS Board member, a writer, sponsor of a Junior Audubon Society, compiler of the Christmas Bird Count and member of the AOU. One of their lasting contributions are daily records of species of birds observed in their yard and on their trips from 1942 to 1970. These records have been preserved and give a picture of birdlife in Harvey County in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Influence of seasonality on stable isotope composition of feathers from grassland birds.**

*David A. Rintoul\*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, David Podlesak, Department of Biology, University of Utah, and James Ehleringer, Department of Biology, University of Utah.* Feather stable-isotope signatures have been used to infer geographic locations where breeding or molting occurs in several species of birds, both passerines and non-passerines. This inference depends upon several assumptions about



measurable variations in the stable-isotope signature of growing-season precipitation across the continent. However, the stable-isotope signature of precipitation, which varies geographically, also varies seasonally over much of the North American continent; these seasonal variations can be significant in mid-continental locations. In addition, significant variation in isotope composition between near-surface water and deeper ground water has been demonstrated, leading to differential isotope composition in xylem water of plants with different root distributions. These considerations make it likely that feathers from birds exploiting different food sources (e.g., insects from different plants, or insects vs. seeds) will also exhibit different isotopic compositions depending on feeding strategy and/or season. We measured the content of stable isotopes of hydrogen in rectrices gathered over three breeding seasons from populations of Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus* *savannarum*) in prairies located on Ft. Riley, Kansas. Stable-isotope composition of the local precipitation was also measured. Feathers from juvenile birds, grown early in the breeding season, have significantly lower levels of deuterium compared to feathers from adult birds, grown during the previous year at the end of the breeding season. The results indicate that seasonal variations in stable-isotope composition of local precipitation are reflected in the stable-isotope composition of

feathers of these grassland birds, and imply that season, as well as geographic location, must be considered when making inferences from feather stable-isotope analyses.

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**Partitioning seasonal demography of a long-distance migrant, the Upland Sandpiper.** Brett K.

*Sandercock\**, Ashley E. Casey, and Tony W. Mong. *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*. Population declines in migratory shorebirds are a global conservation concern. Development of effective conservation strategies would be aided by robust estimates of demographic rates and a better understanding of their contributions to variation in rates of population change. Moreover, a mechanistic understanding of the impacts of environmental factors on demographic processes would help in allocation of resources for conservation at breeding, stopover and nonbreeding sites. Demographic parameters were estimated from a 6-year population study of Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*). Uplands breed as yearlings but fecundity rates are low because clutch size is usually 4 eggs, nesting success is low (10-30%), and rates of re-nesting after clutch failure are low. Survival of radio-marked birds during the breeding period is high (0.90 for 4 mo) and annual apparent survival of females is moderate (0.70). A matrix population model based on life-stage simulation analyses indicated that variation in

survival during migration and winter have the greatest effect on population growth rates, but that the magnitude of the effect is sensitive to parameter estimates for juvenile survival. The model results identify gaps in our current knowledge, but indicate that studies of winter ecology will be a useful avenue for future research and conservation.

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**Spatial and temporal patterns of the Bald Eagle wintering along the Upper Mississippi River Corridor.**

Ryan T. Schmitz\*, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University, Brett A. Mandernack, Eagle Valley Nature Preserve, Glen Haven, Wisconsin, and Elmer J. Finck, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University. From March 1999 through February 2006, we placed 14 satellite transmitters on wild-caught individuals of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (12 adults, 2 immatures) in southwestern Wisconsin. Our objective was to understand how key landscape-level features and weather affected Bald Eagle selection of winter night roosts along the Upper Mississippi River corridor. Preliminary results on two individuals (1 adult, #944; 1 immature, #945) relative to their winter movements indicated that mean distances traveled from daytime locations to night roost locations were 0.73km and 2.47km for Bald Eagles #944 and #945, respectively, and that mean distance traveled from night roost locations to the

following daytime locations were 0.61km and 14.13km for Bald Eagles #944 and #945, respectively. Bald Eagle #944 stayed in a confined area (1.5km<sup>2</sup>) in the Mississippi River floodplain forest from 26 Feb 2006 through 10 Mar 2006 regardless of weather conditions. Conversely, Bald Eagle #945 traveled south 223km from 11 Feb 2006 to 02 Mar 2006, mainly during a severe drop in mean temperature; therefore, two different strategies were observed relative to winter movements of the Bald Eagle.

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**Initial results from the first two winter seasons of the Finney County Winter Bird Atlas Project.** *Thomas G. Shane\**, Garden City, Kansas. In an attempt to further document the bird populations of Finney County, Kansas; the resident bird watchers along with other Kansas birders counted birds over the entire county during the previous two winter seasons. Thirty-six, six by six mile blocks, or townships, created by the American System of Land Survey: Township and Range System were used. The county roads follow this system making it easy for the atlas participants to locate the borders of each block. The entire county has the potential of being covered. Participants were to spend at least five hours covering all the habitats found in a given block while counting each species located. During the first two years, 84 species were recorded. Timely observations such as the first wintering Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus*

*sandwichensis*) for the county, and the spread of the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) into the rural areas of the county from the towns where they first became established a few years earlier were recorded. These data will ultimately be compared to Christmas Bird Count results and to historical lists when the project is completed.

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**Geographic patterns of song similarity in the Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*.**

*Derek M. Schook, Department of Biology, College of Wooster, Michael D. Collins, Department of Biology, Hampden-Sydney College, William E. Jensen\**, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, *Perry J. Williams, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, Nicholas E. Bader, Department of Biology, Whitman College, and Timothy H. Parker, Department of Biology, Whitman College.* Song sharing among neighboring males is a well known, frequent outcome of song learning in oscine passerines and some other groups, but only limited investigations of spatial scales of this phenomenon have been pursued. Based on recordings from 1042 individuals, we investigated song sharing in Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) at local and regional scales across the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma. Classification of song elements revealed decreasing song similarity with increasing distances between

individual birds at small to intermediate scales, to approximately 10km. At the largest spatial scales (10 to 300 km between sites) there was very little similarity among sites and no obvious tendency for a decrease in similarity with increasing distances among our 30 sites. Throughout the breeding season we found high conformity of both SY and ASY male songs to the local song neighborhood. Returning ASY males also sang the same song they had produced in the previous breeding season. Variability among sites in spatial scales of song similarity indicated that other factors besides distance govern song sharing patterns.

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**Keep off the Grass? Evaluating pesticide exposure in migrating shorebirds using turf grass farms.** *Khara M.*

*Strum\**, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, *Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Michael J. Hooper, TIEHH, Texas Tech University, Kevin A. Johnson, Department of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University, and Richard B. Lanctot, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska).* Migratory shorebirds traverse long distances during their annual movements and stopover habit is critical to completion of a successful migration. As natural habitats are destroyed or changed, many shorebirds utilize alternative habitats that may increase their risk of pesticide exposure. We evaluated exposure to cholinesterase-



## Abstract, *cont.*

inhibiting pesticides in three species of shorebirds, Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), using turf grass farms during migration in Kansas and Texas, USA. Migratory sandpipers were sampled from reference sites, with no known pesticide use, and turf grass farms, where pesticides are recommended for pest control. We used two methods of evaluating exposure, comparison of mean enzyme activity from reference and use sites and the increase of enzyme activity after reactivation assays. Mean cholinesterase activity analysis indicated that Pectoral Sandpipers using turf grass habitat had higher mean butyrylcholinesterase than those sampled from reference sites. Pectoral Sandpipers using turf grass also had significantly higher reactivation of butyrylcholinesterase than those sampled from reference sites. There were no differences in mean cholinesterases or reactivations in other species tested. We conclude that shorebirds were not exposed to cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticides when using turf grass habitats during fall migration.

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

## 2007 Avian Conservationist: Chuck Otte

Chuck Otte started watching birds early—at age 4—if you ask his mother, who was a positive birding influence in his younger years. He and birding spouse, Jaye, became serious birders in the late 1980s. They joined KOS in 1990 and he has been an integral part of the organization

since. Chuck served as editor for *The Horned Lark* for 12 years.

Chuck has been a member and served as past-president of the Kansas Non-game Advisory Council for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. He co-owns KSBIRD-L, BirdChat, and BirdCntr—important web-based birding listservs—and also serves as co-webmaster of KSBIRDS.org. Throughout the state he gives public presentations on birds, birding and landscaping for birds. He leads monthly bird walks in the Junction City area, teaching birders the hotspots and tips for being a better birder. He is the secretary of the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

Recently Chuck took on the Kansas County Records project, where he solicits, tracks and



*Chuck Otte, center, accepts his plaque from Rob Penner, left, presenter, and Mike Rader, right, nominator, for the 2007 Avian Conservationist of the Year Award.*

maintains bird records from individuals for each county in Kansas. He shares this information with Max Thompson, who maintains the official bird records database for the state. Chuck is also scanning all old editions of the *KOS Bulletin* and making them available on the KOS Web site and is doing the same with *The Horned Lark*. This project will be a valuable, handy resource for those who enjoy looking back into the history of birding in Kansas.

Chuck has a goal of seeing at least 100 species in all 105 Kansas counties and at least 100 species in each of the continental United States. His role as a county extension agent has given him some latitude in the pursuit of this goal, but he accedes he may have to retire to achieve it.

# 2007 Ivan L. Boyd Award: John Zimmerman

John L. Zimmerman has a long history with KOS, as a member and life member since 1964. Through the years, he served as president, vice president, director, and editor of *The Horned Lark* and the *KOS Bulletin*. He published nine papers, 13 Midwinter Bird Counts and seven reviews in the *KOS Bulletin*, and compiled the Manhattan Christmas Bird Count for 33 years. He hosted the KOS annual meeting at Manhattan four times and the combined KOS and Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in 1997. He was the WOS secretary 11 years, coordinated the Kansas Breeding Bird Survey for 32 years, and served as the director for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project for nine years.



*John Zimmerman, far right, accepts the plaque from his nominators for the Ivan L. Boyd Award (left to right): John Cavitt, Elmer Finck, Greg Farley and Tom Shane.*

More than 1,000 students enrolled in his ornithology class at Kansas State University during his 34 years there. He also supervised 14 graduate students: nine earned the Master's degree and five the Ph.D.

He published four books on

Kansas birds including *A Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri* with Sebastian Patti; *Cheyenne Bottoms: Wetland in Jeopardy*; *The Birds of Konza*; and *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas* with William H. Busby.

## KOS fall meeting minutes, September 29, 2007

### **KOS membership meeting Morning session 29 September 2007 Manhattan, Kansas**

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. by Max Thompson, KOS president.

The nominating committee reported on nominations for the board positions for the following year. These included: President, Max Thompson; Vice President, Nancy Leo; Corresponding Secretary, Gregg

Friesen; Membership Secretary, Mark Land; Business Manager, Pete Janzen; Treasurer, Terry Mannell; Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Cheryl Miller; Editor, *KOS Bulletin*, Gene Young; At-Large Member, Lisa Weeks; At-Large Member, Bob Broyles; At-Large Member, Patty Marlett; At-Large Member, Rob Penner.

It was noted that Chuck Otte and Matt Gearheart will be leaving the board this year as their terms expire.

The floor was open for additional nominations with none received. Voting on the slate is to be in the afternoon general membership meeting on this date.

Chuck Otte moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Rader made a second of the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

*(continued next page)*

**KOS Board meeting  
29 September, 2007  
Manhattan, Kansas**

Max Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

Present: Max Thompson, Pete Janzen, Cheryl Miller, Matt Gearheart, Mark Land, Terry Mannell, Chuck Otte, Bill Busby (not a board member), Gregg Friesen, Bob Broyles, Nancy Leo, Rob Penner.

Absent: Gene Young, Patty Marlett, Lisa Weeks.

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed along with minutes from Internet business since the last meeting. Pete Janzen moved to accept the minutes and Mark Land made a second to the motion. The motion carried with a voice vote.

**Old Business  
Committee reports**

**A. Membership:** Mark Land gave the membership committee report. Life membership dropped by one when a life member died. This year we are up a total of eight members from this point last year with 311 members; 54 members from last year did not renew. The expenses for membership committee were about \$130 this year. Gregg Friesen moved to accept the report and Chuck Otte seconded the motion. The motion to accept passed by voice vote.

**B. Publicity:** Terry Mannell reported on the Publicity Committee. New releases were sent out to local papers concerning the fall meeting. Matt Gearheart moved to accept the report and Max Thompson seconded the motion. The motion to accept passed by voice vote.

**C. KBRC:** Chuck Otte reported on the Kansas Bird Records Committee. Two submissions are now in the indecisive category and will be circulated further for discussion. New members include Mark Robbins, Matt Gearheart, and Doris Burnett (alternate). Matt Gearheart moved to accept the report and Nancy Leo seconded the motion, which carried by a voice vote.

**D. Finance:** Max Thompson submitted the Finance Committee report. He noted that overall we are not in bad shape financially. Our funds include money in cash account (43%), bonds, guaranteed bonds, U.S. equities, and international equities. Our funds have outperformed indexes except for one. Our current fund assets are \$119,437. Estimated income from accounts this year will be \$5,200. Disbursements are estimated at \$4,200. The Dingus Natural Area land is worth about \$56,000 and the Book Royalty Fund is at \$11,000. There remains \$7,300 to manage the Dingus land, making our assets at about \$182,000.

Home National Bank has suggested that we move more funding to a growth fund at this time, which will increase some risk. Chuck Otte moved to direct the bank to move in this direction and Nancy Leo seconded the motion, which carried by a voice vote.

**E. Conservation:** Bill Busby gave the Conservation Committee report. Bill noted monitoring a few items in the legislature and monitoring supporting parts of the Farm Bill, which also promotes conservation

practices. Rob Penner nominated Chuck Otte for The Conservationist of the Year Award and the award will be given out this evening at the banquet. Mark Land moved to accept the report and Cheryl Miller seconded the motion, which carried on a voice vote.

**F. Student Research:** John Shuckman reported for the Student Research Committee. A free subscription to an ornithological organization of one's choice is still given to the Best Paper winner. This year funding was provided to Samantha Franks (\$400) and Jessica Bitner (\$500). Bob Broyles moved to accept the report and Cheryl Miller seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

**G. Editor Reports**

**1. The Horned Lark:** Cheryl Miller reported on *The Horned Lark* noting only that the publication is doing well. Nancy Leo moved to accept the report and Terry Mannell gave a second. The motion passed by voice vote.

**2. KOS Bulletin:** Gene Young was not present to give a report on the *KOS Bulletin* though Max Thompson noted that he has enough material for the next edition.

**H. Business Manager:** Pete Janzen gave the business manager's report. He noted a good profit from the Sedgwick County book with 450 copies left. The group agreed to sell copies of *The Birds of Sedgwick County* to Pete Janzen at cost (\$3). Current cost for our publications each year is about \$7,000. He did highlight the increased cost of mailings and the fact that currently it costs us

\$22 to fund each membership; a cost above our current membership price. Some options are available for a new business manager to take over next year. Also, he noted that Dan Kilby has a new art piece ready for a T-shirt. Max moved to accept the report and Gregg Friesen gave a second. The motion passed by voice vote.

**I. Treasurer:** Dan Larson was not present to give a report from the treasurer.

## **New Business**

### **A. Future meetings:**

Upcoming meeting locations were discussed. Current plans call for the fall 2008 meeting to be in Hays with an option to link up with the Native Plant Society, which will meet at the same location and the same time. The group agreed to aim for a spring meeting in Goodland in 2008. Nancy Leo, Mark Land, and Bob Broyles agreed to work on a committee to put together the meeting.

**B. Dues increase:** The issue of a dues increase was noted. The above issue noted by Pete Janzen led this issue given the cost of a membership at \$15 for a regular membership and the cost to service it being \$22. The idea was to look at a \$5 increase across the board for membership categories. Changing this will be difficult as the bylaws only allow changes to the bylaws (Article 10, section 3) with 2/3 majority (if the proposal is made in advance) or 95% of the voting members voting for the change. One problem comes from the dues being set by the bylaws. The steps to bring about a change in the dues would include first to allow a vote to occur to allow the

bylaws section to be changed at a business meeting (to allow a dues change at today's meeting), a second vote to remove the dues structure from the bylaws, and a third vote to change the dues. Mark Land moved to recommend all three motions to the general membership and Matt Gearheart gave a second. The motion passed by voice vote. Cheryl Miller raised the idea of also simplifying the dues structure to include fewer membership categories with the possibility of a year-end sustaining campaign. Changes in the bylaws and dues amounts must occur first.

**C. Grant support from KDWP:** The possibility of working with grant money from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was discussed, with Max Thompson appointing a group to include Brett Sandercock, Greg Farley, Gene Young, and Bill Busby to pursue this. The grant would allow work on a program related to wildlife/birds with an emphasis on non-consumptive wildlife/birds issues. Gregg Friesen moved to approve the ad hoc committee and Chuck Otte gave a second. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Adjournment:** Pete Janzen moved to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl Miller gave a second to the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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## **KOS membership meeting Afternoon session 29 September 2007 Manhattan, Kansas**

The meeting was called to order by Max Thompson (president) at 5:12 p.m.

The board of directors slate was presented with Chuck Otte moving that we accept the slate proposed in a vote to include the entire slate as noted. Cheryl Miller gave a second to the motion. There was no discussion and no additional nominations. The slate included: President, Max Thompson; Vice President, Nancy Leo; Corresponding Secretary, Gregg Friesen; Membership Secretary, Mark Land; Business Manager, Pete Janzen; Treasurer, Terry Mannell; Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Cheryl Miller; Editor, *KOS Bulletin*, Gene Young; At-Large Member, Lisa Weeks; At-Large Member, Bob Broyles; At-Large Member, Patty Marlett; At-Large Member, Rob Penner.

The motion carried with a unanimous vote allowing the above slate to assume the positions noted.

Discussion took place on the issue of the cost of membership versus the cost of servicing a membership. It was noted that it costs about \$22 to service a membership while we got only about \$15 per membership (annual renewal) and we get only about \$7.50 on most life memberships from interest. Several steps were needed to correct this with the board suggesting a \$5 increase in each category this year to start the process of correcting the problem. The following votes took place to deal with this.

Chuck Otte moved to amend the bylaws of the KOS in Article 10, section 2, **FROM** *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 **TO** At any annual business meeting amendments may be made to the Bylaws, by a 95% positive vote of KOS members present and voting. Cheryl Miller made a second to the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ken Brunson moved that at any business meeting the KOS membership change the bylaws to exclude specific fees for membership categories and to read in *Article X, Section 3, Classes of membership and schedule of dues*. A. *Regular members, Sustaining members, Life members, Family regular members, Family sustaining members, Contributing members, Student members (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students) and Libraries*. B. *The dues can be changed at any regular meeting of KOS upon recommendation by the board and a 2/3 positive vote by the members present and voting*. C. *Any foreign category or subscription will have an additional cost for postage*. Fee structures themselves will be struck from the bylaws. Elmer Finck gave a second to the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

And, finally, Chuck Otte moved that the membership fees for membership categories be changed to C. *Any foreign category or subscription will have an additional cost for postage*. Additionally, *Membership costs will be (by category): A. Regular members: \$20.00 per year. B. Sustaining members: \$30.00 per*

*year. C. Life members: \$300 in a lump sum or \$150.00 each year in two (2) consecutive years. D. Family regular members: \$25.00 per year. E. Family sustaining members: \$35.00 per year. F. Contributing members and Libraries: \$45.00 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*. Bob Broyles gave a second and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mike Rader moved that the meeting adjourn at 5:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Miller and the motion carried with no discussion and by a unanimous vote.

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### **E-mail/Internet business May—September 2007**

Pete Janzen noted that we are out of t-shirts to sell. Dan Kilby is working on a picture for the next shirt. There will likely be no more shirt orders till 2008.

The idea of combining the *KOS Bulletin* and *The Horned Lark* was noted with little support at this time. It was noted that the two have very different missions within the organization. Gene noted some cost issues with the publications due to the manner in which they are set up on the computer with Cheryl having a fair amount of control given some program options available to her. Getting Gene set up to format the *KOS Bulletin* much as Cheryl does *The Horned Lark* could be a money saving option.

Wings-N-Wetland gave a thank you note to KOS along with the Friends of Quivira for help in

the local festival.

Pete gave Gene Young 300 checklists to use in school presentations. This is seen as good public relations for the organization.

Old *Bulletins* and *Horned Larks* in a limited supply are now in the possession of Gregg Friesen, secretary of KOS. The excessive numbers of some were taken to the shredder because access to most old publications is possible now on the Web.

Dan Larson met with the KDWP Kansas Non-game Advisory Council in June.

Postal rates for mailings went from \$80 per mailing to \$120 per mailing with the new flat rate schedule. This makes combining mailings a money saving option. Total annual mailing fees are over \$600.

Max has noted a need to discuss membership dues given that the cost per membership is not being met by income now generated. The old life memberships are one large issue given their initial low cost. This will be an agenda item at the September meeting. Pete noted the average membership cost now is \$21.82. The decline in membership has been a big issue as the old higher membership numbers would have compensated for this and reduced the cost per member to a more reasonable and sustainable number. Mark Land noted a need for membership rates quickly given requests from subscribers.

John Zimmerman has been nominated for the Boyd Award this year (and selected with Gene Young moving to accept and

*(continued next page)*



# Minutes, *cont.*

Mark Land giving a second)

The Kansas Book working group (bird book) met and discussed book options as well as funding options for a Web based information resource on Kansas birds. Some funding may be available with Ken Brunson of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. It is noted that if we do not do this, a major university may take the ball on it. This was noted to be acceptable to some given the workload that would go into setting up a Web resource and the limited time available to Kansas birders in KOS.

Brent Sandercock noted plans for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the KOS at Manhattan this year.

All minutes respectively submitted by Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.



*Chuck Otte demonstrates calling in a Turkey Vulture at the fall KOS meeting.*

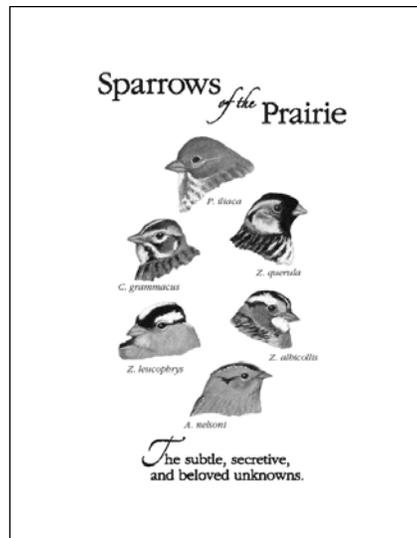
## KOS T-shirts: Sparrows of the Prairie

The new KOS Sparrows of the Prairie T-shirt features artwork by legendary and nationally published Kansas bird artist Dan Kilby. Catherine Lewis contributed the graphic design. KOS thanks both of these members for donating their time and talent.

The shirts are short-sleeved, 100% cotton and white or ash gray in color. Choose either a shirt with artwork on the front and the KOS logo on the sleeve, or one with a pocket with the KOS logo on the front and the artwork on the back of the shirt.

KOS is offering 12" x 18" prints of this appealing artwork on high-quality white bond paper. These prints may be purchased as matted and framed in 16" x 20" custom-made weathered "barn wood" frames.

The prices, which include sales tax, are as follows: **T-shirts, S-3X:** \$15.00; **Prints:** \$7.50; **Framed and Matted Prints:** \$30.00. Please add \$2.50 per item for shipping and handling for shirts and prints; \$5.00 for framed and matted prints.



### Order Form: Sparrows of the Prairie merchandise

#### Sparrows of the Prairie T-shirts. Please specify size and color.

White, Artwork on front, S-3X Size _____	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 = _____
Gray, Artwork on front, S-3X Size _____	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 = _____
White, Artwork on back, S-3X Size _____	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 = _____
Gray, Artwork on back, S-3X Size _____	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 = _____

#### Sparrows of the Prairie Prints

Print only	Quantity _____	x \$7.50 = _____
Framed and matted	Quantity _____	x \$30.00 = _____

#### Shipping and Handling

All items except for framed prints	Quantity _____	x \$2.50 = _____
Framed prints	Quantity _____	x \$5.00 = _____

#### Total

Ship to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Daytime phone or e-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip Code

Please pay by check or money order. Do not send cash. KOS is unable to accept credit or debit cards. Make payable to KOS and send to Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204.



# Remembering Glen Koontz

By Dan Gish

Glen Koontz, a long time member of KOS and two time president of Topeka Audubon Society, died on August 20, 2007 at the age of eighty-six. He seldom missed going on Topeka Audubon field trips and laid claim to the front passenger seat of my '85 Astro van so he could get a better view of whatever avian species was skittering across the road or flying alongside. He traveled to hotspots in Texas, Arizona, Florida, California, and other locations.

I took him on one of his last birding adventures to Walden, Colorado to see Greater Sage Grouse on his 80th birthday. We succeeded beyond our dreams as one hundred or more danced just a short distance from the blind. This was one of the last species

Glen would add to his life list of more than 600 North American birds.

On an earlier occasion, I was birding Kyle Marsh in Jefferson County and saw a "different" tern. I studied the tern for some time and tentatively identified it as an Arctic Tern. I wanted more substantiation so I high-tailed it back to Topeka and got Glen. We sped back to the marsh and soon had the tern full-framed in our scopes. Glen said, "Dan, that's an Arctic Tern!" I didn't have a camera so I made a sketch of the tern and submitted our find to the records committee, which later confirmed the sighting as a first of that species in Kansas.

Glen also participated in



numerous Christmas Bird Counts at Topeka, Lake Perry, Lake Pomona, and Kanopolis Reservoir. He was a frequent participant at KOS meetings and field trips. Glen was small in stature, but big in his enthusiasm for birding. His unpretentious demeanor made novice birders feel at ease when trying to identify a bird. He was a great birding companion and my friend.

## 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 2006-September 2007.

**1. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.** 22 October. White Woman Creek, Greeley County. Henry Armknecht;

**2. Wilson's Plover.** 31 July. Quivira, Stafford County. Mark Rogers. Third state record;

**3. Garganey.** 29 July. Stafford County. Pete Janzen and Cheryl Miller. Fourth state record;

**4. Magnificent Frigatebird.** 9 September. Tuttle Tubes, Riley County. Brian Monser. Seven records: first, 16 August 1880 in Osborne County;

**5. Fulvous Whistling-Duck.** 26 June. Quivira, Stafford County. Matt Gearhart. Kansas State University students later reported three;

**6. Neotropic Cormorants, nesting.** 19 July. Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County. Scott Seltman. Rob Graham later confirmed at least four nests;

**7. Yellow Rail.** 11 September. Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita, Sedgwick County. Bob Gress;

**8. Canyon Towhee.** Two sightings. 8 May. Gove County. J. Pat Valentik. 29 August. Morton County. Chet Gresham;

**9. Harris's Hawk.** 12 January. Pawnee Prairie Park. Unknown observer. Eighth state record;

**10. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.** 13 July. Island Pond, Winfield, Cowley County. Linda Woolf.



# Kansas spring season roundup

June 1– July 31, 2007

Mark Corder, compiler

Reports of water birds and shorebirds from Barton and Stafford counties dominate the 2007 Kansas summer report for June and July. A probable Garganey, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck, a Mottled Duck, a Glossy Ibis and five species of mid-June shorebirds made the period exceptional for Stafford County. The Garganey was the only sighting submitted for review to the Kansas Birds Records Committee and the only report this period of a species with fewer than ten Kansas records.

Barton County hosted a June Cinnamon Teal, a very late female Bufflehead, a large breeding population of Eared Grebes, one Glossy Ibis, twenty Short-billed Dowitchers, and a

lingering Lesser Yellowlegs. More significantly, for the first time, breeding Neotropic Cormorants were observed in late July by Scott Seltman, Rob Graham and others at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Three presumably different Laughing Gulls meandered into the state in June and an adult California Gull put in a brief appearance in July at Quivira. A Least Tern breeding colony was discovered in Sedgwick County in July by Bob Gress, and Forster's Terns—adults and juveniles—were observed by Scott Seltman at Quivira earlier in the period.

White-winged Doves continued their expansion in Kansas with reports from

southwest to northeast: Satanta to Overland Park. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, an early-arriving fall migrant, was reported in late July from Tom and Sara Shane's residence in Garden City. The Common Raven appears to be becoming a regular, albeit still very rare, species in Morton County.

A single White-crowned Sparrow and a solo Dark-eyed Junco lingered into June. An extremely late Harris's Sparrow was found by Leon Hicks in Sumner County in July.

Many thanks to those reporting their observations.

You may reach Mark Corder at [buddesystem@msn.com](mailto:buddesystem@msn.com).

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observers</b>
<u>Blk-bellied Whstlg-Duck</u>	1, Island Park, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	7/17	LW
<u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u>	1, Big Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/26	MG, AM, TS
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1, Big Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/26	MG, AM, TS
Cinnamon Teal	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/03	RG
<u>Garganey</u> <RC>	1 probable, on playa	Stafford	7/29	PJ, CM
Bufflehead	1 f., Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>7/21</u>	SS
Eared Grebe	<u>75-100</u> pair, nesting, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/30	TM
Neotropic Cormorant	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/19	SS
	Pair, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/21	SS
	2 nesting pair, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/25	RG
Double-crested Cormorant	2 nesting colonies, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/21	SS



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/09	SS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/29	T&SM
Cooper's Hawk	1 ad. & 4 chicks, nest, Arkansas Riv.	Sedgwick	6/22	JC
	1 ad. & 1-2 chicks, nest, FCSP	Riley	7/21	LJ
Broad-winged Hawk	1 ad., Ft. Riley	<u>Riley</u>	6/12	JK
Common Moorhen	1, Baker Wetlands	<u>Douglas</u>	6/10	KS
Lesser Yellowlegs	1, Nature Conservancy property	Barton	<u>6/09</u>	SS
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<u>70+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/09</u>	SS
Western Sandpiper	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/09</u>	SS
Least Sandpiper	<u>30+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/09</u>	SS
White-rumped Sandpiper	<u>200+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/09</u>	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>6/09</u>	SS
	7, S of Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/28	SS
Short-billed Dowitcher	20, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>6/21</u>	SS
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr., John Redmond Res.	Coffey	6/03	MG, AM
	1, Stockdale area, Tuttle Creek Res.	Riley	6/11	LJ
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/26	PJ, KG
California Gull	1 ad., Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/28	SS
Forster's Tern	2 ad., 2 juv., Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/16	SS
Least Tern	16, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/16	SS
	15, Jeffery Energy Center	Pottawatomie	6/26	BM
	30 ad. in colony, Arkansas Riv., Wichita	<u>Sedgwick</u>	7/18	BG
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	7/30	MG
White-winged Dove	1 heard, Satanta	Haskell	6/03	MR
	3-4 in area of hospital, Russell	Russell	6/09	MR
	4 juv., feeder Garden City	Finney	6/13	T&SSh
	1, residence, Overland Park	<u>Johnson</u>	6/18	R&JF
Inca Dove	1 heard, Hesston	Harvey	7/31	MR, KB, BMa
Greater Roadrunner	1, Valley Center	Sedgwick	6/03	BC

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observers</b>
<u>Broad-tailed Humm'gbird</u>	1 imm. m., Garden City residence	Finney	7/30	T&SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	1 f./imm., rural residence	Finney	7/13	P&MR
<u>Western Wood-Pewee</u>	1 on Turkey Trail CNG	Morton	6/28	TC
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1, Wolf Creek Environmental Center	Coffey	6/03	MG, AM
Vermilion Flycatcher	1 f., Cimarron picnic area	Morton	6/09	KG
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Pair, Point of Rocks, CNG At 3 locations on Turkey Trail	Morton Morton	6/14 6/28	TC TC
Fish Crow	4, Lake Ft. Scott 3, Schermerhorn Park	Bourbon Cherokee	6/12 6/21	MR LHe
<u>Common Raven</u>	2, N of Elkhart	Morton	6/29	TC
Swainson's Thrush	1, residence, Satanta 1, residence, Garden City 1, Derby 1, Garden City residence	Haskell Finney Sedgwick Finney	<u>6/02</u> <u>6/01</u> <u>6/02</u> <u>6/08</u>	JCo, MR T&SSh LH T&SSh
Blk-thrtd Green Warbler	1 m., Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>7/29</u>	PG
Blackpoll Warbler	1, residence, Satanta	Haskell	<u>6/02</u>	MR
Cassin's Sparrow	4, singing, S of Satanta	Haskell	6/02	MR
Lark Bunting	2, SE of Satanta	Haskell	6/02	MR
Harris's Sparrow	1, brush pile SE of Mulvane	Sumner	<u>7/08-11</u>	LH
White-crowned Sparrow	1, E of Lassiter Marsh	Jefferson	<u>6/17</u>	DL
Dark-eyed Junco	1, residence, Kansas City	Wyandotte	<u>6/06</u>	LM

**Key:**

- Underlined dates, locations or comments indicates unusual, late or early sightings.
- Underlined species indicates unusual species.
- Underlined species in bold** indicates species with no records or fewer than 10 records for Kansas.
- <D> indicates documentation was submitted to Kansas Bird Records Committee.

**Abbreviations:** adult (ad.);  
Cimarron National Grassland  
(CNG); female (f.); Fancy Creek  
State Park (FCSP), immature  
(imm.); juvenile (juv.); male (m);

National Wildlife Refuge (NWR);  
Reservoir (Res.); River (Riv.).  
**Observer/s:** Ken Brunson,  
Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Bruce  
Campbell, Jack Conover (JCo),

Randy & Jane Franek, Matt  
Gearheart, Rob Graham, Bob  
Gress, Paul Griffin, Kevin  
Groeneweg, Leon Hicks, Lawrence  
*(continued next page)*

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## Thank you!

KOS thanks Mr. and Mrs. Jack Conover for contributing to the KOS Endowment fund. Their generosity will assist us with future endeavors and is most appreciated.

For more information about donating to the KOS Endowment fund, please contact any of the KOS Board members. Their e-mail addresses may be found on page 2.



*Kevin Groeneweg and Tony Schaar scan a marsh at Milford Wildlife Area during the KOS Sunday morning field trip. See the species compilation list from the fall KOS meeting on page 3.*

## Roundup, *cont.*

Herbert, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Jeff Keating, Dan LaShelle, Aaron Mitchell, Lloyd Moore, Brandon Magette, Terry Mannell, Terry & Sam Mannell (T&SM), Bob Mathews (BMA), Cheryl Miller, Mike Rader, Pam & Mike Ramsey, Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSH), Kylee

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