



The Horned Lark

The newsletter of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

June 2009

Vol. 36, No. 2

President's Message

Migration has begun winding down. I am truly amazed at this spectacle twice a year, but more so in May. Millions of birds are on the move, all with one thing in mind...to get back to their old stomping grounds, to play a little house, and to perform the mating rituals for their intended, just as their ancestors have done thousands of times before.

I am awestruck by the perils they have endured to come this far, not only on their journey from the wintering grounds, but to the uncertainties they must deal with when they get here. Habitat loss and fragmentation is a concern for both their wintering grounds and their breeding habitat. Males and females of many species defend the same wintering foraging territories year after year. Geography in the tropics dictates that millions of these migratory birds and the permanent

residents are packed into a very tiny area each winter. These territories are getting smaller and smaller each year because of human activities, and the continuing loss of habitat in the Neotropics has a crucial impact on their survival. This diminishes the chances of a successful migration back to their breeding grounds in Kansas and elsewhere.

What can we do as concerned birders to help stop this alarming trend? We should get more involved in conservation groups and put money towards efforts to safeguard Neotropical habitat loss. Burroughs Audubon Society of Kansas City, along with the Missouri Department of Conservation, started a grassroots alliance in 2007 to raise monies just for this purpose.

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From the field



One of the pleasures of birding is the element of surprise. Top: Blue Grosbeak, Wichita, December 20, 2008. Photo by Mike Heaney, © 2009. Bottom: White-winged Crossbill, Wichita, April 22, 2009. Photo by Cheryl Miller, © 2009.

President's Message

The Avian Conservation Alliance of the Americas now includes eight Missouri Audubon chapters, and it is their hope to involve more state organizations such as KOS, local Audubon groups and concerned citizens. Not only does ACAA help with land acquisition and habitat restoration, but other activities include education, eco-tourism, and research and monitoring of Neotropical migrants. What is really cool about this coalition is that ACAA is based on a leverage building concept where monies raised are matched with other conservation groups. When the funds finally reach the target in Honduras, for example, there is an eightfold increase in monies that will reach Pico Bonito National Park. Just think, for every \$100 donated, Pico Bonito will get \$800. ACAA's ultimate goal is to help conserve a contiguous greenbelt highway from Mexico to Panama for songbirds and migrants. We know from

conservation efforts here how destructive fragmentation can be to the survival of birds.

I would like to get KOS more involved with preservation efforts not only in our state, but also in international conservation endeavors. As the experts in identification, abundance and distribution of more than 460 species in Kansas, we need to take a more active role in keeping birds around so future generations can enjoy them as much as we have. For more information on ACAA, visit <http://birdconservation.org> to learn more about their mission and purpose. I hope to get an ACAA spokesperson to one of our upcoming meetings to help promote this enormous and worthwhile undertaking.

Nancy Leo

President



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Spring KOS compilation list

Observers found the following species in Cherokee, Crawford and Neosho counties during the spring KOS meeting May 1-3, 2009.

Greater White-fronted Goose
 Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Green-winged Teal
 Ring-necked Duck
 Ruddy Duck
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Pied-billed Grebe
 American White Pelican
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Little Blue Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Mississippi Kite
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs

Solitary Sandpiper
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Upland Sandpiper
 Wilson's Snipe
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Caspian Tern
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chuck-will's-widow
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Loggerhead Shrike
 White-eyed Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Fish Crow
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Cliff Swallow

Barn Swallow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Carolina Wren
 Bewick's Wren
 House Wren
 Sedge Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Wilson's Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swam Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Harris's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Painted Bunting
 Dickcissel
 Bobolink
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow
 Cuckoo species



Remembering Don Vannoy

By *Pete Janzen*

The Kansas Ornithological Society and Wichita Audubon Society lost one of its most influential members and powerful personalities when Don Vannoy passed away March 19, 2009, after a long and brave struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. Born January 29, 1935, in Arkansas City, Don graduated from the University of Wichita in 1957. When he took the CPA exam that year he had the highest score in Kansas. He was a retired partner with Grant Thornton and is survived by his remarkable wife, Fran. He out-lived the doctor's diagnosis by more than five years and faced his terminal illness with great courage and dignity.

Don's contributions to the Wichita Audubon Society were crucial in shaping its direction and growth. He served as president from 1973-1975 and 1978-1979. During his first term he handled the negotiations for the purchase of the Chaplain Nature Center property. He served as treasurer from 1989-1994, and sat on the WAS board of directors for several years before that. He was a member of the field trip committee for many years and led innumerable trips. Even when he was not the official treasurer he still acted as the accountant and kept all the records for about 20 years. He did not serve as an officer or board member after 1994, but he continued to attend all the field trip planning meetings and to lead trips until his illness stopped him. He participated in every Wichita Christmas Bird Count



Don Vannoy

until this past December when he was simply unable to attend. He was the compiler for the Ark City CBC for many years and participated in several other CBCs annually. He represented WAS on the Kansas Audubon Council in the 1980s and served as an officer for that organization. Additionally, he served as newsletter editor for the Kansas Ornithological Society for two years and did a great deal of fieldwork for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas. His records and comments were invaluable to me as I worked on "The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir," which was published in 2007.

I will always remember Don the most for his tireless intensity in pursuit of uncommon and rare birds. Few could match his ardent zeal in this area. He and Fran traveled the nation and the globe on many birding trips. A highlight of his life, he traveled to Attu in 2000, shortly before he contracted his illness. His ABA area life list was 736, which as far as I know is the highest total ever achieved by a Kansas birder. He and I always had a mostly unspoken competition for who would have the best life list of birds seen in Kansas. A couple of years ago I think I managed to tie his total for a year or so, but he was one ahead of me when he died and he still is. I'm glad I never caught

the old warhorse in that competition.

I've been privileged to receive his vast collection of field notes and as I've gone through the material, I've recalled many great trips we took together. I remember in particular stumbling upon a Sage Thrasher in Pratt one February day, driving all night to see a Clark's Nutcracker in Ulysses, and sharing the legendary Long-billed Murrelet chase to Wilson Reservoir, but there were many other great times together. He and I had our differences on occasion, but whenever I found a good bird in town he was always the first guy I'd call and vice-versa.

Despite Don's reputation for being a rather humorless sort of guy, he truly had a heart of gold. I recall vividly a bird walk at Oak Park in the early 1990s on which he went well out of his way to accommodate a neurologically handicapped young man who was having trouble getting onto the birds with his binoculars. Another clear memory is an April day when he and I were birding together and he heard the first Brown Thrasher of the spring singing in Oak Park. He shouted, "Welcome back, old buddy!" I looked at him to see if he was being serious and he was actually a bit moist around the eyes. Don't worry, Don, when I hear the first Brown Thrasher each season, I'll welcome him back for you and you can bet I'll get a little moist-eyed, too. I'll really miss you, old friend.

Kansas winter season roundup

December 1 – February 28

Mark Corder, compiler

The headliner for this reporting period is a first state record from Tuttle Creek of a Ross's Gull seen only by a few on January 14, 2009—a nice way to start the year despite that the bird was not relocated after the initial sighting. Distant second records, but significant ones, were a December Blue Grosbeak from Sedgwick County and an oriole in early January coming to a residence in Saline County. At this time, there is no agreement on the species of oriole, but the pundits seem to favor it being a Baltimore. Nevertheless, these species appearing in Kansas in the winter is pretty mind-boggling. Kudos to the birders who found and reported these three birds.

Next is the impressive number of swans. If the individual birds are assumed to be distinct then Kansas had approximately 160 Trumpeter and Tundra Swans during December, January and February. After that come the unusual gulls reported during the 2008-2009 winter. Butler County landfill may become the successor in interest to the former gull magnet in north Wichita with reports of Mew, Thayer's and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Lake Afton was a pretty good place to be in February for gulls with credible reports of California, Thayer's, Glaucous and Lesser Black-

backed Gulls. Anyone needing gull species to add to their Kansas list next year might want to "camp out" at either location. Don't forget a gull ID book as identification in this arena can be difficult.

In the "what are they doing here?" category are a hardy Great Egret in late December, two "what are they thinking?" White-faced Ibis in mid-December at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, a Turkey Vulture recorded on the Emporia Christmas Bird Count, a December Osprey, three Greater Yellowlegs in mid-February, a Lesser Yellowlegs in late February, three separate Eastern Phoebes in December and two in January, two Pine Warblers in Wichita, and an extremely out-of-place Common Yellowthroat in Linn County in late December.

Then Kansas had numbers, impressive numbers—3.7 million Red-winged Blackbirds on combined Christmas counts, nearly a million geese reported from all of the Christmas counts, approximately 100 wintering White Pelicans at John Redmond Reservoir, an estimated 100,000 American Robins in Lawrence, more than 2,000 Harris's Sparrows on the Slate Creek Wetlands CBC, and a flock of more than 500 Rusty Blackbirds in Linn County in February.

Other notables are five Surf Scoters, two White-winged

Scoters, two Barrow's Goldeneyes, a Western Grebe at Tuttle Creek, a Wood Duck on the Arkansas City CBC, historic nesting records of Bald Eagles in Sedgwick and Cowley counties, 15 Merlins, Snowy Owls at Cheyenne Bottoms, very late Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Quivira NWR and Cimarron National Grasslands, two Common Redpolls, and a first county record of Lesser Goldfinch at a Bonner Springs residence.

Oftentimes as the winter reporting period goes, the bird activity seems a bit mundane. This might be said at first impression of the 2008-2009 winter, but as can be surmised from the foregoing, it was an awesome three months! The only way that these observations can happen is with dedicated birders and reporters. So, pat yourselves on the back and keep it up.

You may reach Mark Corder at buddesystem@msn.com.



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	198,154, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Snow Goose	377,810, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Ross's Goose	512, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Cackling Goose	8,232, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Canada Goose	297,772, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	8, Walker Airbase near Hays	Ellis	12/1	GP
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/4	MR
	1, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	12/10	MT
	5, Leavenworth Fishing Lake	Leavenworth	12/12	DF
	2, Wolf Creek causeway	Coffey	12/20	MG
	7, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	12/22	ML
	4, north of Prairie Globe area	Douglas	12/29	AP,JK
	5 adults, Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/31	BW
	30, 3 separate groups, rural areas	Jefferson	1/7	JSh
	6, Nature Conservancy main marsh	Barton	1/8	RP
	5 adults, north of Lakeview	Douglas	1/10	JK
	18, near Crawford Road	Shawnee	1/10	DM
	3, Perry Lake	Jefferson	1/11	JK
	4, Hutchinson area	Reno	1/28	MR
	5, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/12	SS
	18, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/4	MR
	1, Perry Lake	Jefferson	1/11	JK
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/12	SS
	3, Delaware Marsh	Jefferson	2/26	PH
Swan (sp.)	1, east of Wathena	Doniphan	12/7	DC
	7, west side, Clinton Lake	Douglas	12/7	JK
	3, fly-overs, east of Manhattan	Riley	12/20	RK
	4, rural area	Elk	1/11	GW
	2, Paola sewage lagoons	Miami	1/14	MC
	4, Canaan Lake	Wyandotte	1/18	BS,CD
	2, farm pond north of Meriden	Shawnee	2/6	LH
	3, Delaware marsh	Jefferson	2/22	SR,m:obs.
	6, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	2/25	LM (r)
	1 fly-over, Great Plains Nature Ctr.	Sedgwick	2/27	NO
Wood Duck	1, Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/21</u>	GY(c)
Northern Pintail	1, Perry Lake CBC	Jefferson	<u>12/14</u>	MC,MM
	1, Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/21</u>	GY(c)
	2, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	<u>1/7</u>	JC,NO



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	2, near dam Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/14	MC,MM
	3, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	12/14	HA
<u>White-winged Scoter</u>	2, Perry Lake	Jefferson	1/11	JK
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	1, Riviera Pond	Sedgwick	12/10	JC
	1, Topeka CBC	Shawnee	12/20	JM(c)
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1, La Farge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/1	KG
	1, Clinton Lake	Douglas	1/10	JK
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>8</u> , Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/14	MR(c)
	<u>13</u> , Slate Creek Wetlands CBC	Sumner	12/17	GY(c)
Western Grebe	1, Tuttle Creek Reservoir	Pottawatomie	12/17	DB
White Pelican	1, near dam Perry Lake	Jefferson	<u>12/14</u>	MC,MM
	<u>100+</u> , below John Redmond Dam	Coffee	<u>12/20</u>	MG
	1, Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/21</u>	GY(c)
	3, Perry Lake	Jefferson	<u>1/3</u>	SM
	<u>70+</u> , Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	<u>1/7</u>	NO,JC
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	1, Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/21</u>	GY(c)
Great Egret	1, Ferguson Marsh	Jefferson	<u>12/27</u>	MG,NA
White-faced Ibis	2, Quivira CBC	Stafford	<u>12/15</u>	MR(c)
Black Vulture	4, Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	1/8	LH
Turkey Vulture	1, Emporia CBC	Lyon	<u>12/14</u>	JS(c)
Osprey	1, Pottawatomie Lake #1	Pottawatomie	<u>12/1</u>	DB
Bald Eagle	Nesting pair, unknown location	<u>Sedgwick</u>	2/18	JC
	Nesting pair, Arkansas River <i>(First county record in more than 30 years)</i>	Cowley	2/19	GY
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1, Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	12/21	PG
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>11</u> , Linn County CBC	Linn	12/28	RB(c)
Merlin <i>(Taiga race)</i>	1, Cheney Lake	Sedgwick	12/1	PG
	1, Topeka CBC	Shawnee	12/20	JM(c)
	1, Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	12/21	GY(c)
	2, Hays CBC	Ellis	12/21	CO(c)
	1, Halstead/Newton CBC	Harvey	12/27	GF,NP
	1, 47 th and Rock, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/28	CM

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Merlin	2, Linn County CBC	Linn	12/28	RB(c)
	3, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3	PJ(c)
	1 fly-by, Griffin residence	Sedgwick	1/11	PG
	1, downtown Manhattan	Riley	1/12	DM
	1, rural area	Saline	2/1	JK
Peregrine Falcon	1, Topeka CBC	Shawnee	<u>cw 12/20</u>	JM(c)
	1, I-35 & I-635	Johnson	2/2	MG
Prairie Falcon	8, Slate Creek Wetlands CBC (<i>Multiple reports</i>)	Sumner Statewide	12/17 various	GY(c) m:obs.
Great Yellowlegs	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/12	SS
	3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/13	RP
	13, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/22	SS
Lesser Yellowlegs	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/22	SS
Least Sandpiper	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/22	SS
American Woodcock	1, NESA	Jefferson	2/10	GP
	1, 3 mi north of Lawrence	Douglas	2/16	MR
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u>	1, Junction City CBC	Geary	12/28	CO(c)
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1, 1 st cycle, Butler County landfill	Butler	1/31	BL
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1, 1 st year, DG/JF landfill	Douglas	1/9	CW
	2, outlet tubes, John Redmond	Coffey	1/15	DS,MM,GP
	<R> 1, Butler County landfill	Butler	1/31	BL
	1 adult, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	2/6	PJ
<u>Ross's Gull</u>	<A> 1, Tuttle Creek Res. outlet tubes (<i>First state record</i>)	Riley	1/14	TC,GS
<u>California Gull</u>	1 adult, landfill	Douglas	12/6	JK,MA
	3, Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/20	DR(c)
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/1	SS
	1, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	2/3	PJ
	1, 1 st cycle, below Perry Dam	Jefferson	2/26	PH
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	1, 1 st cycle, landfill	Douglas	12/6	JK,MA
	1 below dam, Tuttle Creek Res.	Pottawatomie	12/27	LJ
	3, Perry Lake	Jefferson	1/1	KM,DW
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/1	SS
	4 adults, 1 imm., DG/JF landfill	Douglas	1/9	CW
	1, "classic" 1 st winter, SMP	Johnson	2/4	ML
	Several, Butler County landfill	Butler	2/6	BL

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Thayer's Gull	1, 1 st winter, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	2/6	PJ
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/20	GP(c)
	1, John Redmond CBC	Coffey	12/20	BC(c)
	1 juvenile, Perry Reservoir	Jefferson	1/1	KM,DW
	1 1 st winter, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3	SS
	1, Kanopolis CBC	Ellworth	1/18	MR(c)
	1, DG/JF landfill	Douglas	1/9	CW
	1, bridge of Kansas River	Douglas	1/10	JK
	8, various ages, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/10	SS
	1, Tower Harbor Marina	Ellsworth	1/18	SS,MR,JR
	1, 1 st cycle, Otter Creek	Coffey	2/1	PJ, KG,DW
	1, 1 st cycle, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	2/3	PJ
	4 imm., Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/3	SS
	1, Perry Marina	Jefferson	2/26	PH
<u>Lssr Blck-bckd Gull</u>	1, Tuttle Creek Reservoir	Riley	1/1	DB
	2 adults, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	1/21	PJ
	1, 1 st cycle, Butler County landfill	Butler	2/6	BL
White-winged Dove	1, feeder at residence, Wichita	<u>Sedgwick</u>	12/18	DV
	1, at residence, Ulysses	<u>Grant</u>	1/6	SG,KH
Greater Roadrunner	1, Quivira CBC	Stafford	<u>12/15</u>	MR(c)
Barn Owl	2, Quivira CBC	Stafford	12/15	MR(c)
	1, Hays CBC	Ellis	12/21	CO(c)
	4, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3	PJ(c)
<u>Snowy Owl</u>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/29	GS,RJ
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3	SS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms <i>(Possibly the same individual)</i>	Barton	1/6, 1/8	MR
	1, CB, east of headquarters	Barton	1/8	RP
Long-eared Owl	24, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Short-eared Owl	<u>19</u> , rural area	Saline	1/11	GF,PJ
	34, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Red-headed Wdpckr	<u>404</u> , Linn County CBC	Linn	12/28	RB(c)
Ladder-bckd Wdpckr	1, CNG CBC	Morton	12/27	SP(c)
	1, Stockdale Park	Riley	1/11	JSh
Eastern Phoebe	1, near Towanda	Butler	12/2,12/14	BB
	1, Slate Creek Wetlands CBC	Sumner	12/17	GY(c)
	1, Topeka CBC	Shawnee	12/20	JM(c)



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Phoebe	1, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3	PJ(c)
	1, Black Wolf CBC	Ellsworth	1/17	MR,,JR
Loggerhead Shrike	1, Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/20	DR(c)
	4, Kanopolis CBC	Ellsworth	1/18	MR(c)
Northern Shrike	1, Lovewell	Mitchell	12/6	PJ,GF,JN
	2, Quivira CBC	Stafford	12/15	MR(c)
	1, Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/20	DR(c)
	1, rural area	Jackson	12/27	MG,NA
	1, Junction City CBC	Geary	12/28	CO(c)
	1, Quivira CBC	Stafford	12/29	RG
	1, power plant lake	Coffey	1/18	MC
	2, Blackwolf CBC	Russell	1/17	MR(c)
	5, Kanopolis CBC	Ellsworth	1/18	MR(c)
	1, Seltman residence	Pawnee	1/2	SS
	1 adult, near Seltman residence	Pawnee	2/2	SS
	1, rural area	Finney	2/22	GF
2, rural area	Gray	2/22	GF	
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	1, residence, Lightville Road	Saline	1/5	JW(r)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Very few reported this winter	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Mountain Bluebird	25, Hell Creek Area, Wilson Res.	Russell	12/5	MR
	140, Wilson Reservoir CBC	Russell	12/16	MR(c)
Townsend's Solitaire	1, Ogden area	Riley	12/17	IH
	1, Ulysses environs	Grant	12/20	KH,SG
	1, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/20	CM, MH, KG
	3, Junction City CBC	Geary	12/28	CO(c)
American Robin	<u>100,000</u> +/-, Bob Billings Parkway	Douglas	1/29	MR
Hermit Thrush	1, residential feeder	Leavenworth	12/16	JSc
	1, Oak Park	Sedgwick	12/17	PG
	65, combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Brown Thrasher	1, Ulysses CBC	Grant	<u>1/1</u>	KH(c)
	1, rural area	Sedgwick	<u>1/16</u>	JC
American Pipit	3, John Redmond CBC	Coffey	<u>12/20</u>	BC(c)
	1, Garden City CBC	Finney	<u>1/3</u>	MO(c)
	5, Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3</u>	PJ(c)
	4, Otter Creek	Coffey	2/01	PJ.KG,DW
Orange-crownd Wrblr	1, rural area	Harvey	12/7	CM
	1, Mined Land CBC	Bourbon	<u>1/1</u>	SF(c)

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Orange-crowned Wren	1, residence, Pittsburg	Crawford	<u>1/15</u>	MB
	1, Riverside Park	Sedgwick	<u>1/27</u>	PG
Pine Warbler	1, Gregory residence <i>(Probably different from below)</i>	Sedgwick	12/17, 12/22	H&SG
	1, Vannoy's feeders	Sedgwick	12/31	DV
	1, McDavitt residence <i>(Probably same as above)</i>	Sedgwick	12/31	PG
Common Yellowthroat	1, Linn County CBC	Linn	<u>12/28</u>	RB(c)
Chipping Sparrow	2, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	<u>1/4</u>	DS
Clay-colored Sparrow	1, Webster Reservoir CBC	Rooks	<u>1/5</u>	MR,SS,JR
Vesper Sparrow	1, CNG CBC	Morton	<u>12/27</u>	SP (c)
	1, 3 mi north of Lawrence	Douglas	1/3	MR
Le Conte's Sparrow	1, Slate Creek Wetlands CBC	Sumner	<u>12/17</u>	GY(c)
	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	<u>12/20</u>	GP(c)
	1, Sawyer CBC	Pratt	<u>12/27</u>	KB(c)
	1, Canoe Launch area	Sedgwick	<u>12/28</u>	CM, JC
	1, Derby golf course weedy field	Sedgwick	<u>1/9</u>	JC,SH
Lincoln's Sparrow	2, Slate Creek Wetlands CBC	Sumner	12/17	GY(c)
	1, Derby golf course weedy field	Sedgwick	<u>1/9</u>	JC,SH
Harris's Sparrow	<u>2,212</u> , Slate Creek Wetlands CBC	Sumner	12/17	GY(c)
Smith's Longspur	6, Lyon County Fishing Lake "Dozens," north of El Dorado	Lyon	2/1	PJ,KG,DW
		Butler	2/23	BL
Blue Grosbeak <u><A></u>	1, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	<u>12/20</u>	CM,MH,KG
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>3,715,059</u> , combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	3, Quivira CBC 1, CNG CBC	Stafford	<u>12/15</u>	MR(c)
		<u>Morton</u>	<u>12/27</u>	SP(c)
Rusty Blackbird	500+, rural area	Linn	2/9	MG,ML,NA
Brewer's Blackbird	<u>233</u> , Arkansas City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/21</u>	GY(c)
	<u>211</u> , Blackwolf CBC	Russell	1/17	m:obs
	<u>1,195</u> , Kanopolis CBC	Ellsworth	1/18	MR(c)
Oriole (sp.)	1, Salina CBC	Saline	<u>1/3</u>	HL(c)
Red Crossbill	<u>24</u> , Southwestern College	Cowley	12/6	MT

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Red Crossbill	Multiple reports	Statewide	various	m:obs.
White-winged Crossbill	1, Winfield residence	Cowley	12/16	RW
<u>Common Redpoll</u>	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/20	GP (c)
	1 adult male, N of Lawrence	Douglas	1/17	MR
	1, Gish residence	Shawnee	2/5	DG
Pine Siskin	<u>1,464</u> , combined CBCs	Statewide	various	m:obs.

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 the Kansas Bird Records Committee.
- <A> indicates documentation was accepted by KBRC.
- <R> indicates documentation is under review by KBRC.

Abbreviations: Center (Ctr.); Cheyenne Bottoms (CB); Cimarron National Grassland (CNG); Christmas Bird Count (CBC); compiler ((c)); count week (cw); Creek (Crk.); mile (mi.); multiple observers (m:obs.); Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESAs); Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR); reporter of another source, [i.e. second hand report ((r))]; Reservoir (Res.); residence (res.); Shawnee Mission Park (SMP); species (sp.).

Observers: Nic Allen, Mike Andersen, Henry Armknecht, Mavis Benner, Roger Boyd, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Doris Burnett, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Donna Chance, Mark Corder, Bob Culbertson, Chuck Daze, David Farmer, Steve Ford, Gregg Friesen, Rob Graham, Harry and Sharron Gregory, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groenweg, Sam Guy, Sarah Harper, Kellye Hart, Mike Heaney, Lawrence Herbert, Irwin Hoogheem, Pete Hosner, Lyn

Huffaker, Lowell
Johnson, Jonathan
King, Ron Klataske,
Harold Lear, Bill
Langley, James
Malcom, Kristi
Mayo, Steve
McDaniel, Mick
McHugh, Debby
McKee, Cheryl
Miller, Lloyd Moore,
Dan Mulhern, Jim
Nickel, Nathan
Ofsthun, Marie
Osterbuhr, Chuck
Otte, Norman
Pankrantz, Sebastian
Patti, Robert Penner,
Galen Pittman,
Alexis Powell,
George Probasco
(GPr), Jennifer Rader,
Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Mark
Robbins, Steve Roels, Beth
Schukman, John Schukman (JSc),
Jean Schulenberg, Gene
Schneweis, David Seibel, Scott
Seltman, Jim Shroyer (JSh),
Gerry Snyder, Max Thompson,



Don Vannoy, John Wachholz,
Bunnie Watkins, Dave Welfelt,
Doug Willis (DWi), Robert
Wimmer, Gloria Wolf, Chris
Wood, Beverly Yates, Gene
Young.

Birds in Flight: A book review

By Eugene A. Young

Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly (2008, 160 pages, 150 color photos, 15 diagrams, \$25.00 hardcover, ISBN-13:978-0-7603-3392-1, Voyageur Press, MN).

This is a delightful book for both young and old. Henderson is a wildlife biologist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a nature photographer and veteran bird-watcher. He dedicated the book to Harrison B. “Bud” Tordoff, whom many KOS members will recognize as a former 1950s University of Kansas faculty member.

The layout of the book is easy to follow with a brief Introduction, *Visions of Flight*, followed by eight chapters broken into three distinct sections. Part I (Chapter 1) is a photo gallery of birds in flight that focuses on why flight is interesting. The author uses an interesting technique where pictures of a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hoatzin and Ringed Kingfisher (and others) are out-of-focus, but provide details unique to avian flight because of his emphasis on the appreciation of flight and structure (i.e., wings and feathers). He also combines poetry and narratives of unique experiences from around the globe to provide a perspective that is more reminiscent of a Renaissance style. A nice set of images Kansans can appreciate include the Peregrine Falcon, American

Kestrel and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, while another set of pictures will leave one wishing to bird abroad (Snowcap, Scintillant Hummingbird, Swallow-tailed Gull, and my favorite, an Augur Buzzard). While the images are generally high quality, the full page Forster’s Tern (page 38) and Purple Martin (page 39) appear grainy and a reader may find some of the blurry images distracting if one simply picks up the book and glances at it. The book is not meant to be a field guide, and once one starts reading, one quickly finds out the traditional “less than quality images” serve a purpose—a real challenge—but one that was met with success.

Part II emphasizes *Avian Aerodynamics* (Chapters 2-5) with a crash course in aerodynamics and an introduction to avian anatomy as it relates to flight. There is a diagram and discussion on Bernoulli’s Principle that some may remember from physics or an ornithology class. Henderson does a nice job of making a complex concept relatively easy to understand. He later ties together the concept of flight from a human perspective (e.g., airplane flight and pilots) with birds and flight. For example, on pages 62-63 is a discussion on the angle of attack and stalling. There are diagrams to help explain airflow over a wing, and pictures of a Northern Gannet and Snowy Egret demonstrating

hovering and landing as it relates to the relative angle of the wing. Another plus for this chapter—that makes it a good tool for education at the K-12 level—are the discussions on *Aspect Ratio* and *Wing Loading*. Not only does Henderson define the concepts, he demonstrates how to use them and provides values (data) for various species along with examples of different types of wings (pages 64-68). The use of common birds to show complex concepts should be valuable for enticing classroom discussion.

Chapter 3 is brief, but it does provide insight on the challenges of feather maintenance and replacement. It would be helpful to see a discussion of molt and how this affects avian flight. Chapter 4 provides a lengthy discussion on wings, anatomy, feather types and overall shape, with a variety of examples. Again, this is a chapter Kansas birders should enjoy due to the use of species like the Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow. The picture of the male Crested Francolins (page 91) is a classic, showing two birds in an action pose. Chapter 5 discusses the significance of the tail in flight, and although short, the pictures make it worth it.

Part III, *On the Wing*, (Chapters 6-8) focuses on how birds take to the air, variations in flight and the art of landing. Each of these chapters contains a series of photographs that tell the story.

(continued on page 14)

Birds in Flight, *cont.*

Along with the text, they provide some real insight into challenges birds face in order to achieve flight, and the remarkable evolutionary changes they have undergone in order to take to the sky. One of the more interesting sets of images can be found on pages 146-147, showing a Common Loon coming in for a landing. From an aesthetic viewpoint, Part III has some of the

best and most interesting photographs in the book.

The overall color tones of the photos are pleasing and the quality of most images is good. Even the poor quality images are used to tell a story masterfully. The art of flight as presented in this book makes it an invaluable tool for educators, especially K-12, and would be a way to encourage young minds to

explore the world of science. It also has great appeal for the amateur birding enthusiast because it helps explain a component of natural history in an interesting fashion.

You may contact Gene Young at Science Division, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand, PO Box 310, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310, eugene.young@north-ok.edu.

KOS snapshots



Top: Pat St. John, Glen Caspers, Lisa Weeks and Art Weigand search for the Blue-winged Warbler during a KOS field trip. Bottom: Business Manager Lisa Weeks conducts sales from the trunk of her car. Photos by Cheryl Miller, © 2009.

100 years ago...

On November 7, 1908, Charles Bunker and Alex Wetmore¹ were collecting birds along Washington Creek, eight miles southwest of Lawrence, and secured a single female specimen of Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). On January 9, 1909, they collected an adult female Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*), a pale race from the Cascades of western North America, two miles south of Lawrence.

Again from Washington Creek, during mid-September 1907, Bunker and Wetmore² observed a flock of a dozen Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). These birds were found every day for about a week feeding on great numbers of cicadas. They managed to collect a few of these birds and found them exceedingly fat. Wetmore noted that collecting at this time of year was especially disagreeable. "The heat made struggling thru the dense thickets, with the luxuriant growth of vegetation found there, exceedingly hard work, and when we worked the timber, the cobwebs caught on our faces and hands in the most exasperating manner."

1. Wetmore, A. 1909. *Two records from eastern Kansas*. The Condor 11:208.

2. Wetmore, A. 1909. *Fall notes from eastern Kansas*. The Condor 11:154-164.



Avian Conservationist of the Year Award

The Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award is given to an individual who makes significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education. Nominations should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation through the management or preservation of habitats, education, or research.

A nominee may be any

professional, volunteer, educator, or other person who has accomplished significant contributions in any of the areas listed. The nominee does not have to be a member of KOS, but the nominator must be a current member of KOS. The accomplishments should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation and/or education within the state of Kansas. This

award will be presented at the annual fall KOS meeting.

Previous recipients:

2008 **Bob Gress**

2007 **Chuck Otte**

2006 **Stan Roth**

2005 **Max C. Thompson**

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1. Send this completed form and attachments to Robert L. Penner, 1490 East Highway 56, Ellinwood, KS 67526 or rpenner@tnc.org.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Attach a typed description of no more than two pages. You may use both sides of the paper. Give a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished. Past and current achievements, organization membership, or any other information the nominator feels pertinent will be considered.



Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

KOS founding member **Ivan Boyd** was the first president of our organization and the first editor of the *Bulletin*. A professor at Baker University, he was active in KOS from 1949 until his death in 1982.

In honor of Dr. Boyd, the Kansas Ornithological Society recognizes one of its members for outstanding contributions and service to the Society. The Board may choose to recognize more than one recipient per year, or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

Winners receive a plaque.

KOS members must nominate individuals for the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award. Nominations should be submitted to the president and include a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. This could entail number of years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the *Bulletin* or *Horned Lark*, number of CBCs compiled, and years of membership. This is not an

exclusive list and other contributions to the Society may be provided. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive this award.

Previous Recipients:

- 2008 **Tom Shane**
- 2007 **John Zimmerman**
- 2005 **Celia Markum, Dwight Platt**
- 2004 **Katharine Kelly**
- 2003 **Chuck Ely, Marvin Schwilling, and Max Thompson**

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1. Send this completed form and attachments to Nancy Leo, 4505 W. 66th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208, njleo@earthlink.net.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Attach a typed description of no more than two pages. Give specific examples of contributions to KOS the nominee has made.