



The Horned Lark

The newsletter of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

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President's message

Ahhhh, the lazy days of summer have come to a close, and I'm creating lesson plans to hook students on biology and the outdoors. It is not easy to get kids excited about the natural world around us. They are programmed to have immediate gratification made possible by modern technologies and instant communication so they now have little patience for just enjoying the sights and sounds of nature.

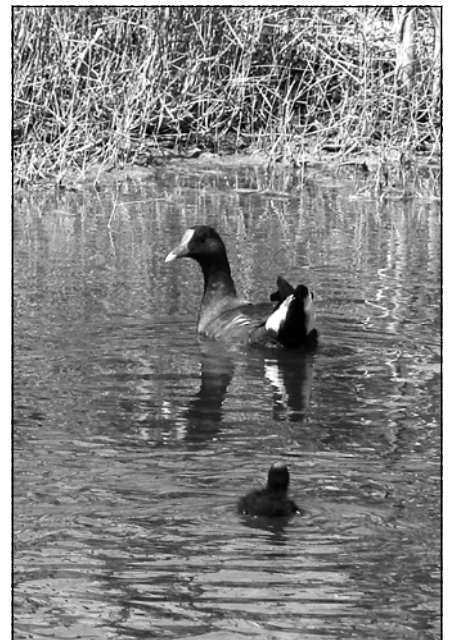
One way we can get kids involved in the joys of the great outdoors is to expose them at an early age by taking fun nature hikes. Earlier this summer, I visited my brother and family in Ouray, Colo. It gave me much gratification and pleasure to relive the excitement of birding through my six-year-old nephew's eyes as he got his binoculars on a magnificent male Western Tanager. "Wow, let's go find some more birds," he'd blissfully declare as he got his glasses on a

Plumbeous Vireo, Grace's Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, and Williamson's Sapsucker. I've also tried to influence my niece. When she was three, we would go on wildflower walks. She would excitedly flit from flower to flower wanting to know what they were. Now at age 10, she tells me what they are! I know both my nephew and niece will always appreciate nature because they were exposed to it at an early age.

I talked with a friend who runs nature camps during the summers. I asked her why she gives up several weeks of her summer vacation from teaching science to be around kids again. She said it surely wasn't the money, but strictly a personal reason: she loves to turn kids on to nature. She told me a story about a young girl, "Suzy," whose mother called and said that Suzy didn't want to go to nature camp and was crying that she was scared of

(continued on page 2)

From the field



Common Moorhen adult with juvenile, August 2, 2009, at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Kevin Groeneweg, © 2009.

President's Message, *continued*

the critters she'd run into. My friend assured Suzy's mother that she would love it if given a chance. Sure enough, when the mom came to pick up Suzy, she ran out to the car with a big grin on her face and a snake wrapped around her neck!

Parents also play a large role in nurturing a love of the outdoors. On a recent trip to southeastern Arizona I witnessed a father indulging his teenage son's budding herpetology career. Dad relaxed by reading books and photographing lizards and snakes while his son ran around the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains lassoing and photographing lizards.

I know a few of you came into birding because your child had a

yearning to learn about birds, and begged you to drive them around. So the next time you are going out in the field, do kids a favor and invite one of them to explore the beautiful spectacle and reverberation of nature with you.

Have a great fall everyone, and I hope to see you at the KOS meeting in Hutchinson. Mark your calendar for this meeting, and while you're at it, pencil in May 14 - 16 for our spring meeting at the Ringneck Ranch near Tipton. I'm sure both weekends will be informative and fun, so don't miss them!

Nancy Leo



Kansas birders often stray out of state. Jonathan King, Nic Allen, Will Chatfield-Taylor and Matt Gearheart spent part of July 4 weekend birding in Cottonwood Canyon, Colo. Photo by Matt Gearheart, © 2009.

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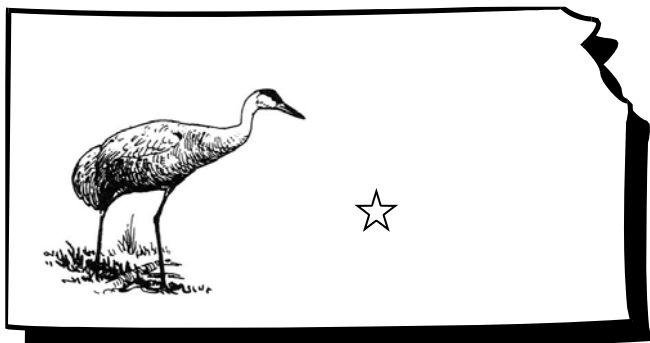
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KOS fall meeting, October 2-4, 2009

Hutchinson, Reno County

Join KOS members for a weekend of paper presentations and birding in the sandhills and wetlands of southcentral Kansas.



Schedule of Events

Friday, October 2

7 p.m.— Informal reception at Dillon Nature Center, 3002 E. 30th Avenue. Mingle, visit and maybe do a little night birding.

Saturday, October 3

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.—Registration at Shears Technology Center, Hutchinson Community College, one block east of 14th Avenue and Plum Street. Park in the lot west of the building. Silent auction begins.

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.—Welcome

8:45 - 9 a.m. —Business meeting

9 a.m. - noon —Paper session

Noon - 1:30 p.m. —Lunch on your own; KOS board will meet in location to be determined.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.—Birdwatchers' Hour

2:30 - 5 p.m.—Paper sessions

5 p.m.—Silent auction ends

5 - 5:30 p.m.—Business meeting

6 - 6:30 p.m. —Social

6:30 - 9 p.m. —Banquet at Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 North Lorraine Street. Brad Jacobs from the Missouri Department of Conservation is the featured guest speaker. Brad has been involved

with the Avian Conservation Alliance of the Americas, and will talk about the time he has spent in the neotropics conserving habitat for many of our breeding birds.

Sunday, October 4

6:30 a.m.—Half-day field trips to McPherson Valley Wetlands, Cheney Reservoir, Sand Hills State Park, and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Noon—Lunch and compilation at Dillon Nature Center.

Lodging and dining

KOS has blocked 30 rooms at the Hampton Inn, (620) 665-9800, 1401 1/2 E. 11th Avenue, for \$89.95, and 20 rooms at Comfort Inn, (620) 663-7822, 1621 Super Plaza (west of 17th Avenue and K-61), for \$79.95. The cutoff date for holding the blocks is September 14.

There are many places to eat in Hutchinson along both K-61 and 30th Avenue. There are also a few options on Main Street. Carriage Crossing, renowned for its homestyle cooking and pies, is located at K-96 and Yoder Road, southeast of Hutchinson.

Registration and meals

Registration per person for the fall meeting is \$15; the Saturday evening banquet, \$20; and Sunday box lunch, \$7. Participants should bring their own snacks and beverages for field trips. All registrants must sign the liability release on the registration form in order to participate in any portion of this meeting. The registration form is on page 16.

Silent auction

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to donate birding-themed items in good condition including equipment, field guides, bird houses and bird baths. Donors will need to collect any unsold items. Proceeds go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

A future for Kansas wildlife:

By Ken Brunson, *Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks*

Did you know about the major wildlife plan for Kansas? KDWP personnel are designing priority geographic areas based on priority species and issues defined in the plan, *A Future for Kansas Wildlife*. Top precedence habitats and species are joined into geographic layers on a watershed format to help direct efforts. Agency employees also use it to direct and approve State Wildlife Grant projects and other programs. *A Future for Kansas Wildlife* is posted on the KDWP Web site under the Other Services tab.

This plan includes one hundred bird species—more than one-fifth of documented species for Kansas—which went through several filters to be included as “Species of Greatest Conservation Need.” Simply put, this is our state species watch list—species for which we want to at least maintain or improve populations and keep from advancing towards state or federal endangered species lists.

Below are the top species for the priority habitats in each of the three major grassland ecosystems in Kansas:

Tallgrass Prairie Henslow’s Sparrow; Baird’s Sparrow; Loggerhead Shrike; Greater Prairie-Chicken.

Mixed Grass Prairie Henslow’s Sparrow; Ferruginous Hawk; Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

Shortgrass Prairie Ferruginous Hawk; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Mountain Plover.

Prairie-chickens always catch attention, and it’s not surprising that Lesser Prairie-Chickens are the present focus of a state threatened and endangered species listing effort. This listing review, if it proceeds, should logically continue along scientifically based evaluations and recommendations. The effort acknowledges there are a number of reasons behind the declines in prairie-chickens (e.g., habitat loss, wind farm development, climate change). The losses are partially mitigated by some major efforts directed towards tree removal in prairie systems. There are also some heroic stands being made against negative impacts from energy development that will predictably hurt prairie-chicken populations.

There is the possibility for major programs which could have hugely positive impacts for prairie-chickens and other priority species listed in *A Future for Kansas Wildlife*. These interventions reside in some of the federal legislation being considered on several fronts, including climate change.

Tackling climate change relates directly to conserving birds. *A Future for Kansas Wildlife* deals with some climate change issues but will focus on them even more as the debate “heats up.” It is an understatement to say there is some disagreement about the climate change issue. So, let’s rethink the whole argument. Exchange the word “conservation” for “climate change” in anything you read about



Photo by Bob Gress, © 2009.

this issue and you may develop a more refined perspective. The exact measures being proposed in current legislation addressing climate change should be the very same methods if we were to supplant the word “conservation” anywhere reference is made to climate change, greenhouse gases, or emissions.

Forty years ago, it was appropriate to consider that polluters should be held accountable and should pay for their pollution. Consequences of greenhouse gases were pretty well known even then. Now it appears we are on the verge of seeing passage of some significant climate change legislation. But the broader issue is still conservation. I wonder if we would be seeing as much opposition to this issue if the terminology was couched in terms of “conservation” rather than the seemingly volatile phrase “climate change.” Would there still be much negative public perception? And as birders, do we have anything at stake in legislation such as the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454)?

You bet your greenhouse gases we do! There will be money in this bill to address climate change (conservation) issues for Kansas

chickens and climate change

wildlife. Ultimately, several million dollars a year will be available to apply to such projects as improving rangeland condition for prairie-chickens, and in the process helping both birds and beef producers.

There could be substantial help for dealing with the negative effects of wind power, as well as other forms of energy development, which will have major impacts on prairie-chickens and other prairie obligate species.

On a subtle level, however, one of the biggest threats to Kansas wildlife is the continuing spread of

invasive species, some related to climate change. The wildlife component of this conservation legislation can supply major resources in this nuisance species war.

Bringing our native chickens back with these other priority species is going to take much more than a state listing petition. It's going to take the kind of substantial funding for major landscape level efforts which could be possible through H.R. 2454, the Teaming With Wildlife initiative, and possibly other congressional action.

However, don't rest on your laurels over the possibility of a successful petitioning process that might lead to curtailed hunting. This would be a false sense of accomplishment in believing that perhaps something major has been done for prairie-chickens. It would be counterproductive to see passion and energy expended in a petitioning process stop there—far short of our present and incredible legislative opportunities for bird conservation.

Submission guidelines for KOS paper presentations

The KOS fall meeting traditionally features papers given by scientists, students and birders.

To submit an abstract:

Include the title of the presentation, the list of authors (use an asterisk to indicate the speaker), the institutional affiliation of the authors (if applicable), and a brief abstract of up to 250 words. Abstracts will be printed in the KOS meeting program. When you submit the abstract, please provide four additional pieces of information:

- 1) the multimedia equipment needed;
- 2) any request for presentation length extension or reduction. Time slots are 15 minutes unless otherwise requested;
- 3) whether the speaker is

eligible and would like to be considered for a student presentation award;

4) stage of academic program (undergraduate, graduate, or doctorate) if the speaker is eligible for a student presentation award.

Paper abstracts are due by September 15; please send in MS Word to Chuck Otte at otte2@cox.net. In the subject line of the e-mail, please indicate the meeting and give your surname (e.g., KOS 2009: Miller).

Example abstract:

Interspecific competition with wildcats limits populations of jay-hawks in northeast Kansas. Willie T. Wildcat*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Ongoing declines in autumn

populations of jay-hawks (*Cyanorufa chalcii*) are a topic of conservation concern in Kansas. To assess the role of interspecific competition with wildcats (*Felis purpula*) as a factor contributing to observed population trends, I conducted three-hour observation bouts of captive animals in large enclosed arenas. In competition trials, jay-hawks demonstrated a strong aversion to environments saturated with royal purple. Thus, interspecific competition from wild felids may be a limiting factor that controls foraging and reproductive success of jay-hawk populations in Kansas. Effective conservation strategies for jay-hawks should include keeping cats indoors.

Common Nighthawk fall migration, Garden City

By Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane

Southwestern Kansas and Garden City are ideal locations to study early dates of fall arrival of the Common Nighthawk. This species is generally not seen over Garden City during early summer because it appears not to breed in town.

However, it is a low density breeding species in Finney and surrounding counties, primarily in the areas of remaining native prairie.

We recorded the highest count of Common Nighthawks and all other species on as many days as possible in and over our Garden City yard throughout the year. Arrival and departure dates were chosen by finding an initial or final cluster of three dates from 19 observation years, 1990 through 2008. During this period we first recorded nighthawks on 13 August 2002 and last on 19 October 1992 and 2000. During this 68-day migratory period for 19 years we observed nighthawks on 198 evenings. A three-date cluster of the earliest arrivals are 13, 18 and 19 August and latest dates of departure are 16, 19 and 19 October. Dates when no nighthawks were observed are not included because of the highly variable days of counting birds. On certain evenings time is spent outside, but on many evenings observations are made only from the inside of the house, excluding the potential for nighthawk observations.

The 68-day nighthawk fall migration period may be narrowed to nine periods with considerable variation in migrant numbers.

Abbreviations for the following results include: DP, days in period; L, lowest high nighthawk count for a period; H, highest high count; CT, cumulative total for a period; n, the number of days nighthawks were observed for that period over the 19 year study; and M, mean number of nighthawks per day for that period.

Results of Common Nighthawk counts for the nine fall migration periods are:

Period 1 13 Aug – 31 Aug:
DP = 19, L = 0, H = 14, CT = 101,
n = 31, M = 3.3;

Period 2 1 Sept – 5 Sept:
DP = 5, L = 20, H = 60, CT = 311,
n = 27, M = 11.5;

Period 3 6 Sept – 10 Sept:
DP = 5, L = 3, H = 23, CT = 63,
n = 16, M = 3.9;

Period 4 11 Sept – 13 Sept:
DP = 3, L = 20, H = 60, CT = 244,
n = 16, M = 15.3;

Period 5 14 Sept – 16 Sept:
DP = 3, L = 2, H = 16, CT = 76,
n = 15, M = 5.1;

Period 6 17 Sept – 22 Sept:
DP = 6, L = 20, H = 50, CT = 490,
n = 29, M = 16.9;

Period 7 23 Sept – 26 Sept:
DP = 4, L = 140, H = 290,
CT = 1,001, n = 21, M = 47.6;

Period 8 27 Sept – 2 Oct:
DP = 6, L = 20, H = 75, CT = 401,
n = 23, M = 17.4;

Period 9 3 Oct – 19 Oct:
DP = 17, L = 0, H = 46, CT = 166,
n = 20, M = 8.3.

The fall migration of Common Nighthawks at Garden City starts between 13 and 18 August when single digit overhead counts were made each evening. For five days starting 1 September, a brief early

surge occurs with as many as 60 nighthawks observed in one night. That is followed by a five-day lull with counts in the single digits. Another short surge occurs between 11 and 13 September with counts as high as 20 and 60 nighthawks per evening. That is followed by a three-day slow migratory period and then the main migration period of the season begins on 17 September and continues through 2 October. Sixty-six percent of all fall migrating nighthawks pass during this 16-day period. In this period there are four consecutive days, 23 – 26 September, in which large numbers from 100 to 290 birds per evening may be observed flying over our home and the city. Thirty-five percent of all migrating nighthawks pass during this four-day period. These high volume days are usually followed by several days with low numbers, indicating the birds are moving through and are not staging for any length of time. From 3 – 19 October, medium-sized groups may occasionally be observed with about half the counts in double digits, unlike the early days of the migration in August.

These observations do not reveal any differential movements in regard to age or sex. However, the two early surges suggest the need for future studies in regard to these possibilities. Rehabilitation centers receiving numbers of injured Common Nighthawks could begin by recording the age and sex of those birds.

You may reach the Shanes at tomshane@sbcglobal.net.

Kansas spring season roundup

March 1– May 31, 2009

Mark Corder, compiler

Birding in Kansas was a bit challenging at times this past spring given the late, heavy snow in March (for example, perhaps two feet from one storm at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge) and inundating rains in late April. As one birder put it, “I’ve been going to Quivira for nearly 30 years and today saw water (lakes, really) in places I’d never seen it before,” (Scott Seltman, KS-Bird listserv, April 30, 2009). Nevertheless, some really great birds were reported.

Many Kansas listers who have been scanning flocks of Canada Geese for years to find that elusive look-a-like Brant finally got one. Located by Seltman in late April near the Hoisington sewer lagoons, it remained several days thereafter. Seltman is also to be credited for

Clark’s Grebe at both Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, and twenty Red Knots and a Whimbrel at Quivira. Four Glossy Ibis were reported from three counties in late April and May, and Peregrine Falcons were reported nearly weekly during that same period. An apparent Yellow Rail was a one-day, one-observer wonder on May 8 in Geary County, and an Iceland Gull and a Black-headed Gull were reported from the central part of the state in March.

Reports of birds away from water include seven Greater Roadrunners in six counties, good numbers of Short-eared Owls gracing the Kansas evening landscapes, sufficient numbers of Carolina Wrens to believe that they are recovering from a previous decrease in population,

and several warblers (Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, Townsend’s and Cerulean) were among the rare and beautiful.

Black-headed Grosbeaks (14) and Lazuli Buntings (16) were reported from various parts of the state. Painted Buntings seem to be on the increase as there were multiple reports from the southern, eastern and southcentral parts of the state. Separate reports of two White-winged Crossbills and two Lesser Goldfinches even out the spring 2009 roundup—a very nice way to go. Many thanks to all contributors.


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>
Blk-blld Whstlng-Duck	3, near Quivira NWR	Reno	4/30	MR (rep.)
Grtr Wht-frntd Goose	<u>300</u> , Schwab property ponds	Harvey	3/1	CS
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>5/15</u>	SS
<D>	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	<u>5/26</u>	RB
Snow Goose	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford	<u>4/25</u>	SS
Cackling Goose	1, Colwich area, Twin Lakes	Sedgwick	<u>5/9</u>	PJ
<u>Brant</u>	1 “eastern” race, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/25	SS, m:obs
Swan (sp.)	<u>11</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/8	GF
Tundra Swan	3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/18	MA,JK
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/13	GF
Trumpeter Swan	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/18	MA,JK
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/21	CM

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cinnamon Teal	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/9	SS
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/18	MA,JK
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/12	KGr,CG
	2, Kansas City Power & Light Wetlands	Johnson	4/8	ML,TS,MG
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/11	MA,PH,DL,HO
	Pair, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
Greater Scaup	2, Satanta sewage ponds	<u>Haskell</u>	3/16	MR
	<u>17</u> , LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	4/12	PJ
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	3, Stockdale Cove	Riley	4/28	LJ
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	1, Wilson sewage lagoons	Ellsworth	3/6	MR
	1, (same bird?) Wilson sewage lagoons	Ellsworth	5/4	DKI
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>17</u> , Perry Lake	Jefferson	3/14	MA
Common Loon	<u>8</u> , La Cygne Power Plant	Linn	3/21	GP,MM
	1, oxbow west of Wathena	<u>Doniphan</u>	5/3	PJ,KG
	1, I-70 and I-35 interchange	Saline	<u>5/19</u>	RP
Western Grebe	Pair, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/24	SS
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/10	SS,DK
	1, rural area	Hamilton	5/16	GF
	Pair, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	MR
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	Pair, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/24	SS
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/10	SS,DK
<u>Brown Pelican</u>	1, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/11	GY,MT
Neotropic Cormorant	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	SS
Dbl-crstd Cormorant	<u>2,500+</u> , south of La Cygne Power Plant	Linn	3/21	GP,MM
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/24	SS
	1, 151 st Street bridge over Cowskin Creek	Sedgwick	5/9	PJ
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	PM, m:obs
Black Vulture	5, Baxter Springs sewage ponds	Cherokee	4/5	MG,ML,NA
	2, Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	5/2	LH
Osprey	1, rural area	Cheyenne	<u>3/4</u>	RR
	Nest building, Bone Creek Lake	Crawford	<u>5/2</u>	LH
Bald Eagle	<i>Multiple nesting reports in eastern, southeastern and southern Kansas</i>		Mar-May	m:obs
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1, Riley Park, Derby	Sedgwick	<u>5/6</u>	KG
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Multiple reports in eastern and southcentral Kansas</i>		Mar-May	m:obs
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 fly over Midland Drive, Shawnee	Johnson	3/24	MG

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 fly over, Blue Rapids residence	Marshall	5/15	TP
Red-shouldered Hawk	Nesting pair, Crane Park, Derby	Sedgwick	4/1	PJ
	Second (?) nesting pair, Derby	Sedgwick	5/3	JC
	1, Ernie Miller Nature Center	Johnson	5/9	MG
	1, Tom Parker residence	Marshall	5/22	TP
Golden Eagle	1 (possible), rural area	<u>Atchison</u>	3/17	GS
	3, rural areas	Logan	3/18	NO
	1, Scott County Lake	Scott	3/19	NO
Merlin	1, rural area	Logan	3/20	DM
	1, "prairie" race, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	3/20	GY
	3, rural areas	Logan	3/21	NO
	1, Baker Wetlands	Johnson	3/30	JK
	1, west of Wathena	Doniphan	4/4	DC
	1, "prairie" race, rural area	Leavenworth	4/19	ML
Peregrine Falcon	1, Kansas City Power & Light Wetlands	Johnson	4/8	DL
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford	4/14	MR
	1, Harbor Isle subdivision	Sedgwick	4/19	BTM
	1, Derby Canoe Launch	Sedgwick	4/27	JC
	1, northwest of Junction City	Geary	4/29	JCO
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/1	NA, MG
	1, Garnett North City Lake	Anderson	5/1	HA
	1, Camp Naish	Wyandotte	5/3	PJ, KG
	1, Nature Conservancy land	Barton	5/4	BS
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/10	SS, DK
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	MR
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/16	PJ
Prairie Falcon	1, rural area	Logan	3/18	NO
	1, Scott County Lake	Scott	3/19	NO
<u>Yellow Rail</u>	1, in flight, Fort Riley	Geary	5/8	DM
Black Rail	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/22	HH, RL
King Rail	1, Greenfield Lake	Harvey	5/4	GF
Sandhill Crane	1, Baker Wetlands	<u>Douglas</u>	5/1	MZ
Whooping Crane	<i>Encouraging numbers in Central Flyway across Kansas</i>		Apr-May	m:obs
	1 imm., Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>5/15</u>	SS
Am. Golden Plover	<u>173</u> , one burned field	Elk	4/11	GY
	<u>200+</u> , west of Garnett	Anderson	4/19	NA, MG
Willet	<u>13</u> , rural area	Osborne	4/22	HA
	1, Wilson sewage ponds	Ellsworth	4/27	MR
	1, Kansas City Power & Light Wetlands	Johnson	5/6	DS
	2, 103 rd and Meridian, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/6	JC



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Willet	3, northeast part of county	Sedgwick	5/8	NO
	3, Kansas City Power & Light Wetlands	Johnson	5/9	MG
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	PM, m:obs
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/20	HH
<u>Whimbrel</u>	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
Long-billed Curlew	1, near Bucklin	Ford	<u>4/1</u>	BG
Hudsonian Godwit	<u>352</u> , Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/11	GY,MT
	135, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
Marbled Godwit	Several, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/15	HH
	1, Colwich Wetlands "South"	Sedgwick	5/9	PJ
	6, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/15	MR
	10, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/21	MR
	8, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/24	GF
Ruddy Turnstone	1, Kansas City Power & Light Wetlands	<u>Johnson</u>	5/10	MG
	4, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/13	HH
	1, Larned Sand and Gravel	<u>Pawnee</u>	5/15	SS
	4, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/15	MR
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/16	MR
	6, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/20	HH
 <u>Red Knot</u>	<u>20+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<u>535</u> , Butler, Elk and Cowley counties		5/3	GY
	3, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/12	GY,MT
	1, south of Strong City	<u>Chase</u>	5/30	JC,KG,CM
<u>Red-necked Phalarope</u>	<u>10+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/15	SS
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1, Barton County landfill	Barton	5/2	TM
	1, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/11	GY,MT
<u>Black-headed Gull</u> <D>	1, 1 st cycle, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/5	JN
California Gull	1, 1 st cycle, Perry Lake	Jefferson	3/1	JK
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/10	SS,DK
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/15	MR
Thayer's Gull	2, 1 st cycle, county landfill	Douglas	3/1	JK
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	1, 1 st cycle, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/18	MA,JK
Glaucous Gull	2, 1 st cycle, Perry Lake marina	Jefferson	3/1	JK
Common Tern	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/30	SS
	2, Tuttle Creek Dam	Riley	5/11	MR,TC
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/16	PJ

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
White-winged Dove	<i>Becoming fairly common in southern and southwestern Kansas</i>		Mar-May	m:obs
Black-billed Cuckoo	1, near Severance	Doniphan	5/30	JS
Greater Roadrunner	1, southwest of Pratt ethanol plant	Pratt	4/2	MR
	1, Southwestern College, Winfield	Cowley	4/15	MT
	1, Brunson residence	Pratt	4/17	KB
	1, Maple Hill subdivision, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/19	PHa
	1, near Parsons	Labette	5/18	RT
	1, near Buhler	Reno	5/19	KF (rep.)
	1, rural area	Crawford	5/29	BM
Short-eared Owl	<i>Good numbers in multiple locations across central Kansas</i>		Apr-May	m:obs
Long-eared Owl	12 +/-, Wilson Wildlife Area	Ellsworth	3/9	DKI
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1, Scott County State Lake	Scott	4/15	DL
Northern Shrike	1 juv., east of Quivira NWR	Reno	3/2	SS
	1, west side of Shawnee County Lake	Shawnee	3/3	DG
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/18	MA,JK
Yellow-throated Vireo	1, near Hart's Mill	Chautaugua	4/4	JNe
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/21	MG
	1, near Little Plum Creek	Leavenworth	4/24	JB
Vireo (sp.)	<i>Seven species seen this date in Wyandotte and Johnson counties</i>		5/17	DS
American Crow	<u>100's of thousands</u> , Wichita roost	Sedgwick	March	JC
Fish Crow	1, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	3/20	GY
	2-3, Blackhoof Park, Lenexa	<u>Johnson</u>	4/4	MG,DW
	1, with probable others, Burcham	Douglas	4/27	RA
	6, Derby (breeding?)	Sedgwick	5/29	JC
<u>Violet-green Swallow</u> <D>	1, Shawnee Mission Park	<u>Johnson</u>	5/14	ML
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2, Oldfather residence	Pottawatomie	<u>5/29</u>	KO
Carolina Wren	<i>Multiple reports across central and eastern Kansas</i>		Mar-May	m:obs
Hermit Thrush	Multiple reports statewide		Mar-May	m:obs
American Pipit	Flocks of 1,000+, Broyles property	Butler	April	BB
Sprague's Pipit	3, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	3/20	GY
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Several large flocks reported eastern, southern and central Kansas</i>		Mar-May	m:obs
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	2, northwest of Pittsburg	Crawford	5/2	LH
	2, KOS spring meeting fieldtrip	Crawford	5/3	m:obs
	1, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/9	MM

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Golden-winged Warbler	1, southeastern Kansas	<i>KOS fieldtrip</i>	5/3	m:obs
	1, Governor's trails, Topeka	Shawnee	5/7	CMo
	1, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/8	MC
	1, Osborne Golf Course	Osborne	5/9	HA,CA
	1, Osborne River Walk	Osborne	5/9	HA,CA
	1, Baker Woods	Douglas	5/10	JK
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/14	AW
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/14	LK
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/16	KG
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/16	DG,VC,DL
	1, rural area	Wyandotte	5/17	DS
	1, Blackhoof Park, Lenexa	Johnson	5/17	MC
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<u>30+</u> , <i>Kansas City area in Johnson and Wyandotte counties</i>		5/17	DS
<u>Black-thrted Blue Warbler</u>	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/25	m:obs
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/30	PG
	1, Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/4	NO
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1, first year, Baldwin Woods	Douglas	<u>5/17</u>	JK
<u>Townsend's Warbler</u>	1, Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	4/23	SS
Yellow-throated Warbler	1, northwest of Caney	Montgomery	<u>4/4</u>	PJ, m:obs
	1, Blackhoof Park, Lenexa	Johnson	4/15	MG,NA
	1, near Bollin residence	Leavenworth	4/21	JB
	<u>11</u> , Fort Leavenworth	Leavenworth	4/25	JB,JS
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/25	m:obs
American Redstart	<u>50+</u> , <i>Kansas City area, in Johnson and Wyandotte counties</i>		5/17	DS
Worm-eating Warbler	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/1	NA,MG
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/2	PG
	1, Island Park Nature Trail, Winfield	Cowley	5/7	MT
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/16	KG
Hooded Warbler	1, Rogers residence	Sedgwick	4/28	BMNR
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/4	GC
Summer Tanager	1, Seltman residence	<u>Pawnee</u>	5/11	SS
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Multiple reports, eastern and southcentral Kansas</i>		Apr-May	m:obs
Western Tanager	1, work station, Cimarron National Grasslands	Morton	4/23	TC
Nelson's Shrp-tld Sprrw	1, Schwab residence	Harvey	5/11	RW
Henslow's Sparrow	2, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/25	JW
	2, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/1	NA,MG
	2, rural area	Crawford	5/3	SS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
LeConte's Sparrow	20 +/-, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/15	NA,ML
Harris's Sparrow	1, Mangile residence	Crawford	<u>5/29</u>	BM
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	1, near Cheyenne Bottoms headquarters	Barton	4/26	NL,TW
Dark-eyed Junco <D>	1, Centralia	Nemaha	<u>4/16</u>	DLe
McCown's Longspur	1, Stockdale area 3 m., northwest of Larned 5, north of Rozel <u>Many</u> with Chestnut-collareds A few, with Chestnut-collareds	Riley Pawnee Pawnee Rush/Pawnee Pawnee	3/4 3/5 3/11 3/28 4/3	LJ SS SS SS SS
Smith's Longspur	75, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	3/20	GY
Chstnt-cllrd Lngspr	100+, northwest Pawnee County	Pawnee	4/3	SS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Multiple reports in eastern and southcentral Kansas</i>		May	m:obs
Black-headed Grosbeak	1, Owen residence, Topeka 1, Seltman residence, Larned 1, Sutton residence, Dodge City 1 ad. m., Brunson residence 1, Kazmaier residence, Larned 1 f., Heitmann residence, Satanta 1, Oak Park, Wichita 1, Quivira NWR 3, Loomis residence 1 f., Swope residence, Lenexa <D> 1, Baldwin City 1, Shawnee County Lake	Shawnee Pawnee Ford Pratt Pawnee Haskell Sedgwick Stafford Pratt <u>Johnson</u> <u>Douglas</u> Shawnee	Jan-4/13 4/30 5/3 5/4 5/6 5/8 5/9 5/10 5/10 5/13 5/16 5/18	CMo SS BS MR DK KH PG SS,DK LL TS RB DM
Lazuli Bunting	1, Oldfather residence 1, north of Timber Creek 1, Osborne Golf Course 2 m., east side of Wichita 1, Broyles residence, Towanda 4, Broyles residence, Towanda 1 ad. m., Northrup residence 2 ads., Roels residence 1, rural area 2 m. and 1 f., Broyles residence	Pottawatomie Clay Osborne Sedgwick Butler Butler Sedgwick Leavenworth Hamilton Butler	5/9 5/9 5/9 5/10 5/13 5/15 5/16 5/16 5/16 5/20	KO CO HA,CA JC BB BB JN SSR GF BB
Painted Bunting	<i>Multiple reports in southcentral and southeastern Kansas</i>		Apr-May	m:obs
Bobolink	<i>Multiple reports in southcentral and eastern Kansas</i>		May	m:obs
Brewer's Blackbird	<u>13,000</u> , Flint Hills <u>20,000</u> , rural areas	Butler Elk	4/11 4/11	GY GY
Oriole (sp.)	1, wintering, rural residence	Saline	3/29	SR



<D>

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Purple Finch	2, feeders, Pittman residence	Leavenworth	3/1	DS,MM,GP
Red Crossbill	4+/-, McDavitt residence	Sedgwick	<u>4/9-5/7</u>	BTM
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>	1, Manhattan residence	Riley	3/22	DR
	1, Matson residence, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/22	CM
<u>Common Redpoll</u>	1, O'Neill residence	Johnson	3/15	JO'N
Pine Siskin	<i>Multiple reports including breeding</i>	Statewide	Mar-May	m:obs
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1, Griffin residence, Wichita	Sedgwick	3/1	PG
	1, continues, Yates residence	Leavenworth	3/3	BY

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), female (f.), immature (imm.), juvenile (juv.), male (m.), multiple observers (m:obs) reporting (rep.).

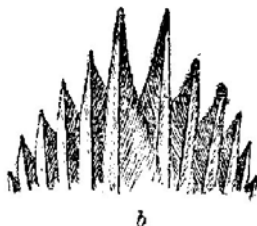
Observers: Nic Allen, Michael Andersen, Charles Anderson, Robert Antonio, Henry Armknecht, John Bollin, Roger Boyd, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Donna Chance, Marshall Coleman, Vickie Console, Gary Crook, Kat Farres, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Bob Gress, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Carol Grover, Karl Grover (KGr), Helen Hands, Peggy

Haukap (PHa), Lawrence Herbert, Kelvin Heitmann, Pete Hosner, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Jonathan King, Dave Klema (DKl), Laurie Kosmiski, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Rachel Laubhan, Dan Lebbin, Nancy Leo, Deana Lewis (DLe), Linda Loomis, Bob Mangile, Terry Mannell, Patricia Marlett, Billie and Tom McDavitt (BTM), Mick McHugh, Debra McKee, Cheryl Miller, Carol Morgan (CMo), Dan Mulhern, Jeff Newton (JNe), John Northrup, Nathan Ofsthun, Kathleen Oldfather, John O'Neill, Chuck Otte, Jaye and

Chuck Otte (JCO), Hannah Owens, Tom Parker, Roger Plankhorn, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Shannon Rayl, Rick Reeser, Dave Rintoul, Sara and Steve Roels (SSR), Ben and Mary Nelle Rogers (BMNR), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Scott Seltman, David Seibel, Greg Stempien, Bill Sutton, Terry Swope, Max Thompson, Rick Tucker, Rod Wedel, Art Weigand, Dave Williams, Jeff Witters, Tracy Wohl, Beverly Yates, Gene Young, Molly Zahn.

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.



Tip of tail of (a) Downy Woodpecker and of (b) Brown Creeper, to show the pointed shape in tails of creeping birds of different families.

Statement of non-profit status and copyright:

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Petition filed to list Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened species

The Kansas Ornithological Society, along with six other state wildlife and conservation organizations, has filed an emergency petition with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks requesting that the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) be added to the state's Threatened and Endangered Species list as a threatened species.

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken, native to southwest Kansas, has experienced significant population and range reductions. The current global population for Lesser Prairie-Chickens is estimated at a maximum of 65,000 birds, a decrease from more than two million in the early 20th century. Likewise, the current range and distribution for this species has been reduced by 75 percent in that time. The rate of decline in the past 35 years has accelerated dramatically, leading biologists to be highly concerned for the survival of this species. It is estimated that 50 percent of the remaining Lesser Prairie-Chickens occur in Kansas. Smaller fragmented populations exist in southeastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico, northwestern Texas and northwestern Oklahoma. With the largest remaining population of Lesser Prairie-Chickens in the world, Kansas is pivotal in protecting this species from extinction.

The species is under several threats that could cause the global population to decline even further. During the 1980s and 1990s, agricultural land in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken's range was taken out of production and put into native forbs

and grasses through the federal government's Conservation Reserve Program. With two-thirds of the CRP contracts set to expire by 2012, much of this land will likely be converted from rangeland back to farmland which will no longer support Lesser Prairie-Chickens. The presence of nearly 900,000 acres of CRP land in Kansas alone has helped slow the loss of Lesser Prairie-Chickens. As this land is returned to farmland, the population loss could once again accelerate.

Recent studies at Kansas State University indicate that Lesser Prairie-Chickens avoid nesting near man-made structures. Lesser Prairie-Chicken hens were shown to avoid nesting or rearing their broods within a quarter-mile of power lines, and within one-third mile of improved roads. Taller structures were avoided anywhere between two-thirds of a mile and one mile. With the recent push to increase energy supplies, the building of structures including towers, transmission and distribution power lines, oil and gas wells, compressor stations, fences, wind turbines and buildings may all further fragment and isolate current Lesser Prairie-Chicken populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also believes the degree of threats to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

are mounting. In fall 2008, USFWS re-evaluated the status of Lesser Prairie-Chickens. Listing priority follows a scale from 1 to 12 indicating the relative urgency for listing plants or animals as threatened or endangered. A listing priority of 1 shows maximum urgency. The USFWS changed their



Photo by Bob Gress, © 2009.

listing priority for Lesser Prairie-Chickens from category 8 (moderate to low threat of becoming threatened or endangered) to category 2 (imminent danger of becoming threatened or endangered).

The complete petition and supporting documentation may be viewed online at: http://ksbirds.org/LPC/LPC_Petition.html. For more information, contact Mark B. Robbins, mrobbins@ku.edu, or Gene Young, Eugene.Young@north-ok.edu.



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Registration Form

KOS fall meeting

October 2-4, 2009

Hutchinson Community College, Reno County

I (we) plan to attend the 2009 KOS fall meeting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Number ___ @ \$15.00 each* \$ _____

Saturday dinner Number ___ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Sunday lunch Number ___ @ \$7.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

*Registrations received after September 15 will be \$20.
Students will pay a \$5 registration fee unless they are presenting.

In submitting this registration I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2008 spring field meeting.

Signatures

Date



Please remit check or money order, payable to KOS, and mail this completed form with it to:

Terry Mannell
218 Northridge Dr.
Hays, KS 67601

Best Bird of the Year

(Nomination form for unusual or rare birds observed since October 1, 2008.)

Species _____

Observers _____

Location _____

Mail or e-mail your nominations to **Max C. Thompson**, 1729 E. 11th Ave. Winfield, KS 67156; *maxt@cox.net*.