



The Horned Lark

The newsletter of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

December 2009

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President's message

Wow...another year is almost under our belt and a new one is about to begin. While I was contemplating what to write for this column, I started thinking about our four seasons and the variety of birds they bring with them. I love spring best because all of our Neotropical buddies are winging their way back to their homeland. Their plumages are breathtaking, and of course, their lovely and flutelike voices ring throughout our Kansas habitats.

I love birding in April, especially watching the crazy antics of the prairie-chickens. They strut their stuff and stomp their feet as the males' hormones fill the air along with their booming calls. I love going to Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms and seeing thousands of shorebirds probing their bills in the mud, searching for tasty morsels that will give them strength to travel to their

breeding grounds in the Arctic. I love the summer, watching the fledglings learn how to fly and figure out how to feed. I love watching the baby shorebirds—the fluffy little golf balls with legs—that run around so cute I want to kiss them! (I know. It's a girl thing.) I love the fall, seeing all our feathered friends working their way back to warmer climates. I also enjoy the puzzle of trying to identify them in their winter coats. I love birding in the winter, too—bundling up and doing CBCs—and seeing all our loony friends and their cohorts from up north. Birders are the same in one respect: we are captivated by watching nature at its best, anytime of the year.

I want to update you on the petition KOS initiated to list Lesser Prairie-Chickens as threatened in Kansas. The Threatened and Endangered
(continued on page 2)

From the field



This Tricolored Heron visited a pond in Hugoton on September 5. The species usually stays along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts in the summer, rarely venturing to southern Maine. © Kevin Groeneweg.

President's message, *cont.*

Species Task Force has recommended to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Secretary Mike Hayden that the status of Lesser Prairie-Chickens warrants a review. This does not mean the species will be listed. There are several more hurdles to clear before that would happen including using expert input, a thorough review of the petition and making sure that all required statutory actions are met before hearing a final recommendation from the committee. This long process may take up to a year before we hear a decision. I personally have faith that the Lesser Prairie-Chicken will prevail and be listed.

I would like to thank Gene Young and Mark Robbins for drafting and working tirelessly on the petition to protect the chickens, and the six Kansas Audubon chapters that were our co-petitioners. I am appreciative that KOS is making a stand in conservation issues and taking the initiative

to ensure our children and grandchildren will be able to experience seeing the species dance in Kansas. John Muir's quote sums up my feelings on this conservation issue: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

I hope to see everyone at the KOS spring meeting at the Ringneck Ranch in Mitchell County. Pete Janzen has planned a great weekend with luxurious accommodations, good food, incredible birds and enjoyable company. See you there!



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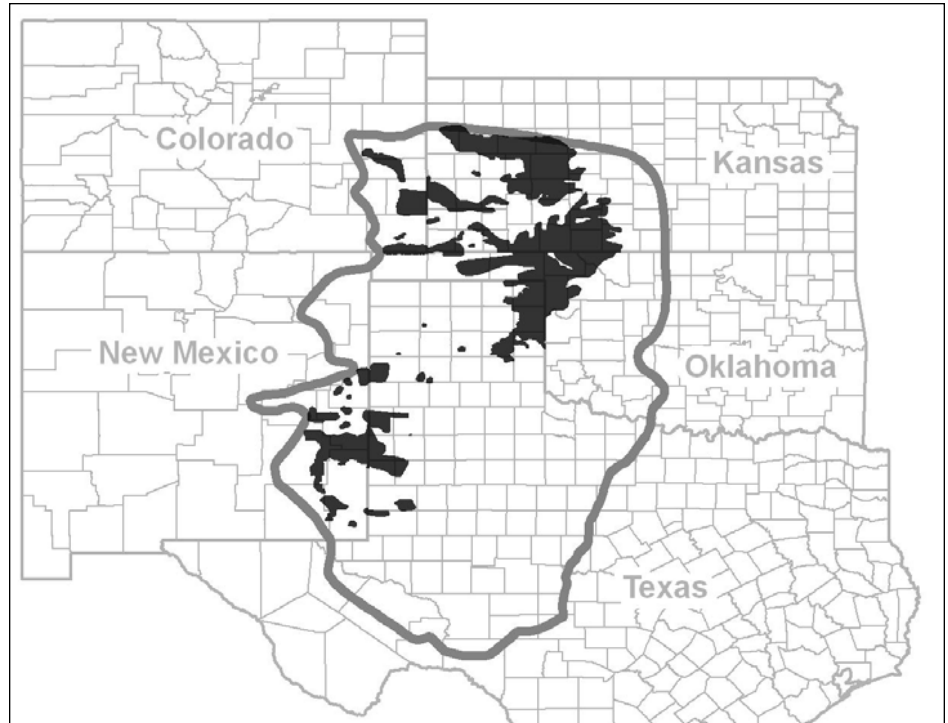
Lesser Prairie-Chicken Listing Update

By Bill Busby

Recently KOS filed a petition with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened or endangered in Kansas. The petition was filed after KDWP's spring 2008 solicitation and review for the five-year review process of threatened and endangered species. However, this later filing was prompted by the fall 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service update on the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The USFWS re-designated the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as a Candidate 2 species, which means it is in imminent danger of becoming threatened or endangered. This was the main impetus behind the emergency petition to have the species listed as threatened in Kansas. Six other wildlife and conservation organizations supported the petition.

This fall the Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species Task Force met twice to discuss the status of the species and the listing process. The task force includes seven biologists, of which three are from KDWP (James Larson, Ed Miller and Tom Mosher) and four from other natural resource agencies or state universities (Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey; Mark Eberle and Elmer Finck, both of Fort Hays State University; and Dan Mulhern, USFWS).

At its most recent meeting in October, the task force voted to approve proceeding with the next



This 2007 map shows the range of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. The gray line is the former extent of its range; dark areas show the currently occupied distribution. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

step in the listing review, which consists of seeking outside review by several experts on Lesser Prairie-Chicken biology. KDWP Secretary Mike Hayden concurred with this decision. Presently, evaluative questionnaires are being prepared to send out to selected experts. After receiving their evaluations, the task force will meet again to review this information and then make a recommendation about whether to list the species as threatened. This recommendation will then be forwarded to Secretary Hayden and KDWP for approval.

As mentioned in the September 2009 issue of *The Horned Lark*, Kansas has the

largest remaining population of Lesser Prairie-Chickens. Other states within the species' range are Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico. Major threats involve habitat loss or degradation including: 1) potential loss of Conservation Reserve Program lands currently used by the chickens; 2) wind energy development that may cause chickens to decline in or abandon affected areas; and 3) woody invasion of habitat, particularly in the eastern part of the species' range. The full petition is posted at http://ksbirds.org/LPC/LPC_Petition.html.

Whooper Madness



On Thursday, November 4, Whooping Cranes appeared in migratory groups at both Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. Birders were able to see as many as 36 whoopers in one day; usually they are seen in small family groups of two or three birds.

The cranes stayed in these areas for about three weeks and then pushed south towards Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, where they spend the winter. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports, last winter was especially difficult: of the 270 birds that completed the fall migration, 247 survived. Drought and decreases in the population of blue crabs, their main diet item, were prime factors in the population loss. Cool, rainy weather in Canada compromised the breeding season this spring.

Top: four adults take flight. Middle: six adults rest on a sand bar, while a Ross's Gull and Snow Goose fly behind them. Below: Whooping Cranes are the largest birds in North America, standing about five feet tall.



Next page, top: two adults and one juvenile rest in a field. Below left: whoopers have an approximate wingspan of seven feet. Below right: a juvenile whooper trails two adults in flight. Juveniles molt into adult plumage at approximately one year, but do not become sexually mature, on average, until they reach five years of age.





© Rob Graham



© Bob Gress



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Spring KOS meeting: May 14-16, 2010

Tipton, Kansas

Make plans now to attend the KOS spring meeting in northcentral Kansas, May 14-16, 2010. We've planned a great weekend of birding with the nationally famous Ringneck Ranch in Mitchell County serving as home base (www.ringneckranch.net). Located in the scenic Blue Hills about 30 miles north of Wilson Reservoir, this family-run ranch with guest houses and lodge may make you feel as if you've escaped for a special retreat. Plus, its secluded location and complete lack of light pollution make it a popular destination for stargazers.

Major birding destinations for the field trips will include the Jamestown Wetlands,

beautiful Lovewell Reservoir, Waconda Lake, Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Webster Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir and a number of other sites. The combination of habitats should ensure a diverse and lengthy list of bird species. County listing fans will have a fine time and it is expected that many new county sightings will be recorded in this seldom-birded area. Guides include Henry Armknecht, Pete Janzen, Mike Rader and Scott Seltman.

We reserved the entire ranch to ensure a weekend of natural beauty with minimal distraction. *When you register and pay before March 15, you receive discounted registration and ensure KOS stays in the black.*

With early registration, the cost for both nights is \$85.00. This price includes lodging and maid service, wireless internet, a generous homemade continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday, and all associated taxes. Due to the varied nature of lodging facilities at the ranch, please indicate the number of people in your party or any other requests pertaining to lodging. We will try to accommodate all requests.

The Saturday night banquet menu includes roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, lettuce salad, homemade rolls and homemade pie. Sunday lunch and compilation will be held at noon. Sunday boxed lunches

may be ordered and include sandwich, chips, homemade cookie, fruit and bottle of water. Fill out the registration form on page 7 and send it in. Hurry! Space is limited!



KOS spring meeting, May 14 – 16, 2010

Ringneck Ranch, Tipton, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2010 KOS spring meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Costs

Registration fee \$5.00 x ____ = \$ _____

(High school, college and graduate students are exempt from the registration fee.)

Lodging and breakfast for Friday and Saturday \$85.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Saturday banquet (includes 20% gratuity) \$20.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Sunday box lunch \$11.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Surcharge for payment received after March 15 **\$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____**

Total amount due (Please make checks payable to KOS) \$ _____

Number in party: _____

Lodging comments/requests (if any) _____

Please mail completed registration with full payment to: **Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204-4407**

If you have questions about the meeting, contact Pete Janzen at pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

In submitting this registration form I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injuries that might be associated with the 2010 KOS spring meeting.

Signature Date

Signature Date

Kansas summer season roundup

June 1– July 31, 2009

Mark Corder, compiler

Reports of waterfowl, waders and shorebirds dominated the months of June and July in Kansas. As one might expect, the vast majority came from Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. One notable exception was a Ruff Pete Janzen and Gregg Friesen discovered in mid-July at the Nemaha Wildlife Area. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks continued their now nearly annual appearance in the state with two in Pratt County and five in Wyandotte County in July.



Quivira hosted a couple of semi-rarities during the period with a Tricolored Heron in early June and a White Ibis in the middle of July. It also attracted approximately 750 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 875 Least Sandpipers and 400 Stilt

Sandpipers on July 17. Not to be outdone, Cheyenne Bottoms hosted 275 Lesser Yellowlegs, 600 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1,000 Stilt Sandpipers and approximately 200 Wilson's Phalaropes, also on July 17.

White-winged Doves wandered into Riley County (June and July) and into Pottawatomie County (July). A Black-billed Cuckoo appeared out of its normal range in Sedgwick County and Greater Roadrunners made multiple appearances in nearby Pratt County.

In June, Ted Cable found a Western Wood-Pewee in Morton County and three Ash-throated Flycatchers at Point of Rocks. Not seen with any degree of regularity in recent years, two Chihuahuan Ravens flew over a wheat field in Stevens County July 4.

Gene Young observed a

Cave Swallow July 29 at Cheyenne Bottoms. A black-backed "Texas" race of Lesser Goldfinch graced the backyard of a lucky Wichita resident on and off in June and July. Red Crossbills probably bred at a Wichita residence with a juvenile observed at a feeder in early June.

Last, and perhaps not least, is an interesting report of a Bronzed Cowbird from Reno County. The observer submitted documentation to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. If this record is accepted, it will be a first state record for this species.

Once again thanks to everyone who submitted reports which provide the database for the roundup. And, special thanks to Lloyd Moore for his continued assistance with data collection and review of reports.

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

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Blk-blld Whstlng-Duck	<D> 2, KDWP fish ponds	Pratt	7/10	DP, KB
	<D> 5, rural area	Wyandotte	7/25	AF
Grtr White-fronted Goose	4, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/5	MR
Mottled Duck	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/5	JK,WCT,NA,MG
	2, Winfield Gun Club	<u>Sumner</u>	7/14	MT
Blue-winged Teal	2 broods, Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/12	MR
Cinnamon Teal	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/7	SS
Northern Shoveler	Brood with 5 young, Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/12	MR
Northern Pintail	1 f. with young, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	PJ

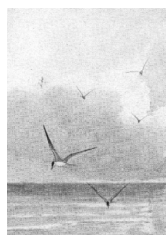
<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Greater Scaup	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	6/21	PJ
Common Merganser	1 ad. m. near Arkansas River	Sedgwick	6/27	JC, PJ
Ruddy Duck	1 ad. with 6 young, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/12	MR
Common Loon	1, Lake Waconda	Mitchell	6/7	HA
	1, 1 st summer, Perry Lake	Jefferson	6/23	BW
Eared Grebe	65 (46 nests), Lake McKinney	Kearny	7/6	T&SSh, DLS
White Pelican	200, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	PJ
	75, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/19	MR
Neotropic Cormorant	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	PJ
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/14	MR
	5, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/19	MR
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/5	JK,WCT,NA,MG
	1-2, Kirwin NWR	<u>Phillips</u>	7/26	HA
American Bittern	<u>7</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SS
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/7	BS
Cattle Egret	<u>5,000</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Yellow-crnd Night-Heron	1 ad., 7 young, at nest	Shawnee	6/22	CM
<u>White Ibis</u> <D>	1 imm., Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/11	NO
White-faced Ibis	<u>1,200</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Osprey	2, Tuttle Creek Reservoir	Riley	<u>7/19</u>	TC
Bald Eagle	1 flying over Shawnee	Johnson	6/15	CH
	1, Wichita	Sedgwick	6/15	JC
	1 imm., Stockdale Area Tuttle Crk.	Riley	6/29	LJ
Cooper's Hawk	1 near St. Mary's landfill	Pottawatomie	6/8	BM, CM
	1 over WSU campus, Wichita	Sedgwick	6/10	JC
	1, Ft. Riley	Geary	7/5	GF
Broad-winged Hawk	2 (pair?), Pilot Knob	Leavenworth	6/12	JS
	Pair nesting S. edge Lake Quivira	Johnson	6/15	CH
Black Rail	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/19	DS
King Rail	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	MR
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SS
Sora	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SS



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Moorhen	3, Quivira NWR 1, Lawrence fish ponds	Stafford Douglas	6/14-7/5 7/18	SS,JK,MG MA
Black-bellied Plover	8, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton Barton	6/5 6/14	MR MR
Snowy Plover	65-35, Quivira NWR 30, Cheyenne Bottoms	Stafford Barton	7/5 7/5	JK,WCT,NA,MG JK,WCT,NA,MG
Piping Plover	2, Wichita	Sedgwick	6/1	NO
Hudsonian Godwit	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/14	MR
Black-necked Stilt	100+, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	PJ
American Avocet	75, Cheyenne Bottoms 200+, Cheyenne Bottoms 700+/-, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton Barton Barton	6/14 6/26 7/17	MR MR JK, LS-G, MA
Greater Yellowlegs	30, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Lesser Yellowlegs	275, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Whimbrel	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Marbled Godwit	2, Quivira NWR 3, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Kirwin NWR	Stafford Barton Phillips	7/5 7/17 7/26	JK,WCT,NA,MG JK, LS-G, MA HA
Ruddy Turnstone	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
Semipalmated Sandpiper	600, Cheyenne Bottoms 750, Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	7/17 7/17	JK, LS-G, MA JK, LS-G, MA
Least Sandpiper	875, Quivira NWR	Stafford	7/17	JK, LS-G, MA
White-rumped Sandpiper	750, Wichita 170, Slate Creek Wetlands 2,000+, Cheyenne Bottoms 200+, Quivira NWR 250+, Cheyenne Bottoms	Sedgwick Cowley Barton Stafford Barton	6/1 6/2 6/5 6/14 6/14	NO MT MR MR MR
Dunlin	25, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/5	MR
Stilt Sandpiper	1,000, Cheyenne Bottoms 400, Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	7/17 7/17	JK, LS-G, MA JK, LS-G, MA
<u>Ruff</u> <D>	1, Nemaha Wildlife Area	Nemaha	7/11	PJ, GF
Wilson's Phalarope	200+/-, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/5	JK,WCT,NA,MG
Franklin's Gull	100+, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/19	MR



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Ring-billed Gull	30, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/19	MR
Caspian Tern	2, Banner Lake	Jackson	7/11	PJ, FG
Forster's Tern	10 (3 on nests), Quivira NWR Pair with 2 chicks, Quivira NWR 6, Lake Wabaunsee	Stafford Stafford Wabaunsee	6/14 7/11 7/11	MR NO PJ, GF
Least Tern	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	6/5	MR
	2 courting, Jeffery Energy Center	Pottawatomie	6/8	BM, CM
	3 nests, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	PJ
	15, Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/14	SS
	11, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	6/21	PJ
White-winged Dove	1, Ogden	Riley	6/3	HH
	1, Osborne residence	Osborne	6/7	HA
	1, St. Mary's landfill	Pottawatomie	6/8	BM, CM
	2, CNG Campground	Morton	6/12	TC
	1 E. of St. Francis	Cheyenne	6/13	RR
	1, Johnson City	Stanton	7/4	JK,WCT,NA,MG
	1, Manhattan	Riley	7/8	DR
	6 juv., Garden City residence	Finney	7/15	T&SSh
Black-billed Cuckoo	1, Little Ark. River, Valley Center	<u>Sedgwick</u>	6/11	PJ
Greater Roadrunner	1, Larned	Pawnee	7/4	SS
	Several, various rural locations	Pratt	7/27	KB
Burrowing Owl	13 ad., SW of Scott City	Scott	7/4	T&SSh, DLS
Calliope Hummingbird	1 ad. m., Garden City residence	Finney	7/15	T&SSh
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 imm. f., Garden City residence	Finney	7/27	T&SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	1 hatch year, Larned residence	Pawnee	7/22	DK
	1 imm. m., N of Garden City	Finney	7/25	M&PR
	1 ad. m., Hays residence	Ellis	7/29	TM
Western Wood-Pewee	1 along Turkey Trail, CNG	Morton	6/12	TC
Say's Phoebe	Adult male feeding 6 fledglings	Logan	6/21	T&SS
Ash-throated Flycatcher	3, Point of Rocks, CNG	Morton	6/12	TC
	1, Point of Rocks, CNG	Morton	7/4	JK,WCT,NA,MG
Chihuahuan Raven	2 over a wheat field	Stevens	7/4	JK,WCT,NA,MG
Swainson's Thrush	1, Garden City residence	Finney	6/14	MO
<u>Cave Swallow</u> <D>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/29	GY
Hermit Thrush	1, Garden City residence	Finney	<u>6/20</u>	T&SSh



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	40, Lake McKinney	Kearny	7/6	T&SSh, DLS
<u>Bronzed Cowbird</u> <D>	1 possible, rural area	Reno	7/14	MI
Painted Bunting	1 ad. m., 6 mi. N. of Garden City	Finney	7/23	M&PR
Red Crossbill	1 juv., Wichita residence	Sedgwick	<u>6/5</u>	B&TM
Pine Siskin	2 ad., 2 juv., Manhattan feeder	Riley	6/16	DR
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u> <D>	1 m. "Texas," Wichita residence	Sedgwick	6/20+	SC

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.), Arkansas (Ark.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), County (Co.), Creek (Crk.) female (f.), immature (imm.), juvenile (juv.), Kansas Dept. Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), male (m.), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), residence (res.), Wichita State University (WSU).

Observers: Nic Allen, Michael Andersen, Henry

Armknecht, Ken Brunson, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Steve Comeau, Andy Friesen, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez, Chris Hobbs, Hoogy Hoogheem, Mariam Iwashige, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Donnie Kazmaier, Jon King, Dan LaShelle Brandon Magette, Terry Mannell, Billie and Tom McDavitt (B&TM), Carol Morgan, Nathan Ofsthun,

Marie Osterbuhr, Duane Panek, Mike Rader, Mike & Pam Ramsey (M&PR), Rick Reeser, Dave Rintoul, Brett Sandercock, John Schukman, Scott Seltman, David Seibel, Tom and Sara Shane (T&SSh), Will Chatfield-Taylor, Max Thompson, Bunnie Watkins, Gene Young.

Kansas fall meeting a success

Right: Brad Jacobs, Missouri Department of Conservation, gave the banquet presentation on supporting the Avian Conservation Alliance of the Americas. Far right: Several birders sort sparrows and other passerines at Cheney Wildlife Area.



Avian Conservationist Award: Michael Watkins

Michael Watkins is a wildlife biologist with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a volunteer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He has been actively working on Bald Eagle recovery in Kansas since 1989.

Michael has documented 34 nesting territories in Kansas, which have successfully fledged 330 juvenile eagles. Each year Michael, along with the USFWS, has attempted to band eaglets from selected territories. Through June 2009, he assisted with banding 157 eagles in Kansas. In addition to the banding efforts, Michael has spent hundreds of volunteer hours each year monitoring eagle nests and documenting beginning incubation dates, incubation activities, hatch dates and fledging dates. Michael has prepared numerous scientific articles on his findings, demonstrating the eagles' remarkable recovery and population increase in Kansas.

Michael is recognized as an authority on Bald Eagle nesting territories, habitat and activities within Kansas. He has been instrumental in organizing,



Michael Watkins, center, is congratulated by Rob Penner, award coordinator, and Nancy Leo, KOS president, after receiving the Avian Conservationist Award at the KOS fall meeting banquet.

advising and directing public land managers on actions they should take to protect eagle nesting territories.

Public awareness and Bald Eagle education are areas in which Michael makes extraordinary efforts. His publications have appeared in *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine, and the *KOS Bulletin*.

Articles about his work have been featured in the *Kansas City Star* and *Lawrence Journal World*. Many USACE lakes and Audubon societies in Kansas and Missouri hold annual Eagle Day programs, at which Michael is a highly

acclaimed presenter. Since 1989, he has presented more than 525 eagle programs.

Since 1990, Michael has also been active in a cooperative effort with USACE, USFWS and KDWP to monitor nesting Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Kansas River. He has devoted many hours in monitoring and protection efforts, compiling valuable data for dam releases and nesting success. Michael has served as the primary liaison between USACE and USFWS to minimize the adverse effects of basin management practices on these species.



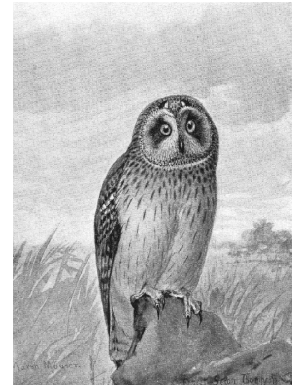
KOS fall meeting species compilation

KOS fall meeting participants found 144 species at sites in and around Hutchinson. Birders visited Cheney Reservoir, Dillon Nature Center, McPherson Valley Wetlands, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Sand Hills State Park.

Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Mottled Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Ruddy Duck
Northern Bobwhite
Ring-necked Pheasant
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Eared Grebe
American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron

White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Prairie Falcon
King Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Snowy Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Black-Necked Stilt
American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Forster's Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Burrowing Owl
Barred Owl
Short-eared Owl
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Blue Jay
American Crow
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Rock Wren
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow



Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

Establishment of bluebirds on Butler Community College campus. *Sean Jahansooz* and William Langley, Biology Department, Butler Community College.*

Bluebirds are now a familiar sight at Butler Community College of El Dorado, Kansas. Before the summer of 2004 this was hardly the case. At that time the college

campus was filled with sparrows and starlings with no bluebird sightings to note. However, after introducing the low cost, eco-friendly

bluebird initiative to Butler CC, those observations soon changed. We began the project by reducing the number of nesting sites for sparrows and starlings. This included plugging holes in classroom and office buildings around campus. After two years, we noticed a sharp reduction in sparrow and starling populations. Concurrently, we placed bluebird boxes around the perimeter of the campus. We had success attracting bluebird pairs; however, initially (2004), the bluebirds competed with sparrow pairs. This competition soon ended with the drastic decline in sparrow and starling populations. Thus, as the sparrow and starling populations decreased, the bluebird



population increased due to suitable nesting quarters and little competition.

Effects of prescribed burning on nest success and brood parasitism of Lark Sparrow nests in southern Great Plains shortgrass prairie.

Ashley M. Long and W. E. Jensen, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University; R. S. Matlack, Department of Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, West Texas A&M University.*

Fire suppression and overgrazing in the southern Great Plains has led to increased shrub density in areas once dominated by shortgrass prairie. Such woody encroachment has been shown to facilitate bird nest predators in grasslands. In 2002, replicated, experimental plots of varying fire frequency (fire every 2, 4, and 10 years) were established at the Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area located in the Texas Panhandle to examine the effect of fire on mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) density. We monitored 325 Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) nests in 2008 and 2009 to examine the effects of prescribed burning on nest success and brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). Using a model selection procedure, we compared daily nest mortality and brood parasitism rates to fire frequency and several covariates. Best-fit models

indicated that DMR and brood parasitism rates were influenced by fire frequency, shrub density, and temporal covariates.

Although shrub density did not differ among the burn treatments ($P = 0.084$), DMR was significantly higher ($P = 0.024$) in plots burned every 4 or 10 years than those burned every 2 years. Brood parasitism was significantly higher in 2008 (16% of nests parasitized) than 2009 (5% of nests parasitized) ($P = 0.005$); however, this was only marginally related to burn treatment ($P = 0.061$). Although it is unclear what role fire has in affecting nest success in shortgrass prairie, our results suggest that prescribed burning may increase the nesting success of the Lark Sparrow, and potentially other species in this region.

Influence of vegetation on avian communities in small prairie pothole wetlands in Minnesota. *Alexander L. Galt*, Minnesota Private Lands Office, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Elmer J. Finck, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.*

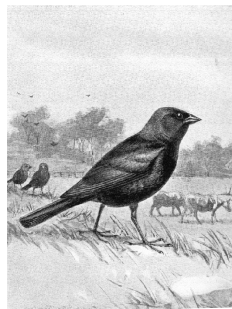
A “hemi-marsh” is a semi-permanent wetland with an emergent vegetation-open water ratio of 50:50. Research shows that the hemi-marsh condition has the most diverse avian communities. For this reason, the primary goal of many natural resource managers, throughout

the Prairie Pothole Region, has been to manage existing wetlands and to restore drained wetlands in ways that support this condition. The literature does not address the influence of vegetation on semi-permanent wetlands that are less than 1 ha, yet there are thousands of these wetlands in PPR. We conducted avian surveys and a nest success analysis on 53 small (<0.5 ha), semi-permanent wetlands in the PPR of Minnesota to assess the influence of vegetation on avian communities. Our data showed a positive relationship between the proportion of emergent vegetation and avian diversity, as well as between the proportion of emergent vegetation and nest success, which suggested that small, semi-permanent wetlands were functioning differently than larger wetlands of the same type. Small wetlands that were once referred to as “vegetation choked” and of low quality habitat are actually fully functional wetlands for avian communities. These results could have major management implications for resource managers in the PPR because the monetary cost of managing and restoring wetlands, for the hemimarsh condition, is often high.

The effects of prescribed burning on grassland nesting birds on Conservation Reserve Program areas in Gove County, Kansas. *Justin V. Hamilton**, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University; *Randy D. Rodgers*, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and *Elmer J.*

Finck, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

The Conservation Reserve Program provides a substantial amount of habitat for grassland nesting birds. Prescribed burning is a management practice that can be used to manage CRP. In the spring of 2008 and 2009, we burned one-third of seven quarter-section CRP plots in the mixed-grass prairie in Gove County, Kansas. Our objectives were to assess the effects of burning on areas selected for nesting and on nest success, and to assess if burning has an effect on predation and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) brood parasitism. A total of 189 nests from nine species was observed



from mid-May through early August of the 2008 and 2009 field seasons. Overall, apparent nest success was 22% (42 nests). A Chi-square test showed significant difference in the number of nests found in each burn treatment ($\chi^2=39.28$, $df=2$, $P<0.05$), yet, no significant difference in the number of successful nests found in each burn treatment ($\chi^2=5.1965$, $df=2$, $P>0.05$). Brood parasitism occurred in only two of the 189 nests observed. This research will help us better understand how birds respond to prescribed burning in the mixed-grass prairie where little research has been conducted.

Detection and trapping of Black Rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

*Stephanie A. Kane** and *Greg H. Farley*. Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

The Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) is a small marsh bird notorious for its elusive behavior. This behavior, combined with the dense vegetation where the species is found, makes studying this bird difficult. Of the two subspecies found in the United States, the Eastern Black Rail (*L. j. jamaicensis*) is the least studied, and limited research has been conducted on these populations. Eastern Black Rails are known to breed at several locations in Kansas and are most often observed at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. We conducted call-playback surveys in accordance with the National Marsh Bird Survey Program’s protocol for four rail species at QNWR between 14 June and 13 August 2009. In areas where Black Rails were detected, drift fences and traps were set, and in an effort to draw rails to the trap lines, we played two types of calls at set intervals. Preliminary data indicate that at QNWR Black Rails respond most to call playback within two hours of sunrise and two hours of sunset. Birds were detected most often in wet meadow habitat dominated by sedge species. One Black Rail was captured and banded, and data on age, sex, fat deposits and molt were recorded. Future research efforts will include surveying earlier in

the year and improving trap methods to potentially increase the number of birds captured. Additionally, stable isotope analysis will be run on feathers plucked from individuals to help assess where individual Black Rails are wintering.

Effects of environmental conditions and distance from the geographic range center on the abundance of avian species.

Elita M. Baldridge and Dr. Rob Channell, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.*

A species should have higher abundances where the environmental conditions are the most favorable for that species. A common assumption in ecology is that the center of the geographic range has the most favorable conditions for a species. The niche of a species consists of all the environmental conditions under which a species can survive and reproduce so that the most favorable conditions for the species occur in the center of the niche. However, the center of the geographic range might not overlap with the center of the niche of a species. I will test the abundant center hypothesis using data downloaded from NatureServe, the Breeding Bird Survey, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Using NatureServe maps, I calculated the center of the range for twenty-one bird species, and modeled the realized niche with GBIF records in MaxEnt. With the distances to the geographic range center and modeled

distributions, I tested to see if the species was found at more sites and at higher abundances in the center of the geographic range and niche than expected by chance. I also compared the geographic range and the niche to see if the center of the geographic range also contained the predicted optimal environmental conditions. A more thorough understanding of this problem will allow biologists to make more accurate management and conservation predictions which are based on a better understanding of how the range and niche are related to the abundance of a species.

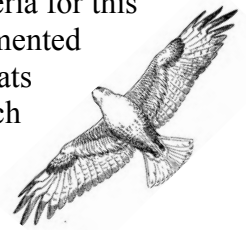
The Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms: A half-year in review. *Curtis Wolf*, Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Fort Hays State University.*

The Kansas Wetlands Education Center opened in April 2009. The mission of the KWEC is to educate the public about wetland communities, wetland management and wetland conservation. After the grand opening, the KWEC has continued to see steady attendance, which has included many birders during the fall migration. Because thousands of birders “flock” to Cheyenne Bottoms and nearby Quivira National Wildlife Refuge annually, birders are an obvious population we hope to attract to the KWEC. And, the KWEC offers several interesting birding exhibits to assist birders during their Cheyenne Bottoms and QNWR birding outings. This presentation is meant to update

KOS about what has been done since the doors opened, what is being done and what we are planning to do at the KWEC.

Spatial applications in setting Kansas bird conservation priorities. *Ken Brunson, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.*

The Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, “A Future for Kansas Wildlife,” was approved in October, 2005. As part of required elements for State Wildlife Grant funding eligibility, Species of Greatest Conservation Need were determined. One hundred bird species met criteria for this list and complemented prioritized habitats and issues in each of three major Bird Conservation



Regions: the Shortgrass, Central Mixed Grass and Eastern Tallgrass prairies. Efforts are underway to geographically refine priorities within these major ecosystems. This presentation explains a current approach for applying Geographic Information System technology for defining priority watersheds at the HUC10 (Hydrological Unit Codes) level. Examples will be provided to justify the focus of conservation efforts in watersheds which harbor the top sensitive species for each of the three BCR regions. Other prioritization efforts and GIS layers will be solicited and applied in further refining this dynamic approach for application of conservation

dollars and programs. This will be particularly applicable as “A Future for Kansas Wildlife” is updated with further provisions to deal with implications of climate change.

White-faced Ibis flock killed in a Kearny County, Kansas hailstorm. *Thomas G. Shane, Garden City, Kansas.*

A major hailstorm built in northwest Kearny County, Kansas in the early morning hours of June 12, 2009, and ultimately blocked roads and highways and stripped the leaves from trees with pea- to marble-size hail. There were reports of many dead birds at various farmsteads. Almost five days after the storm, 18 White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) were found dead in a bare fallow field below the Lake McKinney dam. The birds were in a slight arc about 20 yards in length. The initial results appear to be a non-breeding flock composed of four immature ibis, 13 sub-adults and one adult. The status of the original roosting place of the evening and the reason the ibis ended up in a fallow field may remain a mystery.

A preliminary look at North American Migration County data for Harvey County, Kansas. *Gregg Friesen, Newton, Kansas.*

The Harvey County North American Migration count began in 1994 with 7 birders in two parties canvassing a small part of the county over the course of a morning. The count has continued every year since with larger numbers of

individuals and better coverage of the county. The count, conducted on the second Saturday of May and meant to provide a “snapshot” of bird migration across the country, provides a good record of migrants in the county during this time frame. While multiple variables make a single count setting a poor indicator of overall populations of migrants, the count does provide an interesting window into summer and winter bird populations in the county and a guide to arrival and departure dates for some species. Additionally, the count gives a look at some resident populations of birds affected by disease or habitat change including chickadees, crows, jays and others.

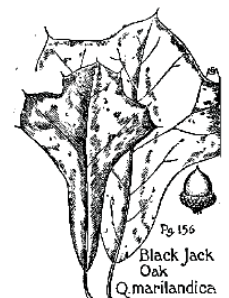
Meade State Lake banding station, 1985-2009. *Thomas L. Flowers, Meade, Kansas.*

A banding station established at Meade State Lake, Meade County, Kansas in 1985 has greatly expanded the knowledge of migratory birds in Meade County. A total of 4,393 birds have been banded, representing 114 species. West Nile Virus, wildfires and other environmental factors have greatly influenced the species composition and overall numbers of birds captured since 2003. Comparisons are made for major species showing annual banding results and Breeding Bird Survey information since the onset of West Nile Virus. Several species are still in serious decline and at least one has been extirpated. Discussion will also include birds in the

Meade County hybridization zone. The Meade State Lake banding station is also used for educational activities hosting more than 500 students annually.

Avian responses to restoration of Cross Timbers savanna. *William E. Jensen, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University.*

Much forest in the eastern United States has emerged from open oak (*Quercus*) savanna. Accordingly, savanna restoration projects are occurring throughout the Midwest. Recent research has demonstrated shifts in avian community structure as savannas are restored from closed-canopy forest, and increased nest success of many woodland-nesting bird species that remain in restored savanna. The Cross Timbers region of southeastern Kansas is characterized by stands of blackjack (*Quercus marilandica*) and post oak (*Q. stellata*). Restoration of historic, savanna-like habitat is underway in this ecoregion and I am investigating avian community and population responses to such restoration. Point count surveys were established in 2009 at a site in Elk County to examine variation in bird species richness, and species occurrence, in relation to (1) natural variation in tree canopy cover and density and (2) experimentally-thinned vs. untreated stands



of oaks. No substantial variation in bird species richness was found in relation to tree canopy cover, density, or experimental thinning. Occurrence probabilities of Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) were positively related to either tree canopy cover or density, whereas Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) and Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) occurrences were negatively related to either tree canopy cover or density. Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) were encountered more frequently in un-thinned stands, whereas Orchard Oriole was more frequent in experimentally-thinned stands. Future research will continue investigation of avian community structure, abundance and nest success in response to restoration of Cross Timbers savanna.

Nesting patterns of Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls in southcentral Kansas. *William Langley, Butler Community College.*

Several naturalists have commented on the interaction between Great Horned Owls and other nesting raptors. A 40-square mile area of rural habitat served as the study area. Over 21 years, 225 red-tailed nests and 69 great horned nests were located. The distance between nests and the use of nest sites were compared. Overall, their populations remained fairly stable over this period of time

with more than twice as many nesting Red-tailed Hawks as Great Horned Owls in the



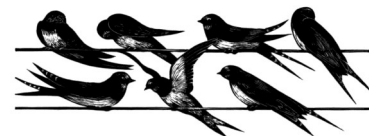
area. Their distribution in space and their utilization of nest sites over time indicates a complex relationship occurs between these two nesting raptors.

Ecological characterization of the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*): Extralimital nest-sites and hybridization with the Black Phoebe (*S. nigricans*). *John M. Schukman*, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, Kansas; A. Lira-Noriega and A.T. Peterson, University of Kansas.*

The potential range expansion of species can be anticipated with the use of Ecological Niche Models. We assessed ecological characteristics of the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) by developing ENMs and comparing model predictions with extralimital occurrences. A bioclimatic model showed a clearly defined limit for this species in the central plains; however, a model using vegetation indices showed scattered and isolated predictions throughout the western half of the United States. In the foothills of the Rocky Mountains (Colorado), geographically an extralimital location of the Eastern Phoebe, recent discovery of nest-sites and hybridization with the Black

Phoebe (*S. nigricans*) coincide with model predictions.

Editor's note: An asterisk indicates the presenter's name. Except for minor editing, abstracts appear as they were submitted. Please contact the authors for more information.



Best Student Paper Award

Each year, student papers are judged by selected members of the KOS audience. The person presenting the best paper receives a KOS membership and one-year subscription to the ornithological journal of their choice.

This year the competition was strong, with the score difference between the top two papers differing by three-tenths of a point.

Congratulations to Alex Galt for presenting his winning paper on prairie pothole wetlands.

Book Review: Birding in the Northern Plains: The Ornithological Writings of Herbert Krause

By *Thomas G. Shane*

Birding in the Northern Plains: The Ornithological Writings of Herbert Krause, edited by Ronald R. Nelson, paper, 252 pp, \$27.50, published by the Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197.

To the serious student of grassland birds, the name of Herbert Krause is familiar. His species account of the McCown's Longspur in the final volumes of the Bent's Life Histories series was excellent. Krause was an English professor at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota for many decades. Along

with the traditional publications of a person in the field of English, Krause started publishing on birds as early as 1947. He took a formal ornithology class at the University of Michigan's field station under O. S. Pettingill in the summer of 1957.

This book is a compendium and reprinting of his ornithological writings which have been split into seven categories: 1) Historical works of ornithology on the Great Plains; 2) Early writings for the Fergus Falls Daily Journal; 3) Publications with or for O.S. Pettingill; 4) Major works on individual species or area surveys; 5) Book reviews; 6) Bird topics

published in South Dakota Bird Notes, and 7) Editor of the Northern Great Plains region for Audubon Field Notes.

This book was a noble undertaking and will be useful for many researchers in the years to come. However, I wonder if a book which would have included biographies and bibliographies of other influential and productive ornithologists of South Dakota such as B. Harris, A. Larson, W. H. Over, Craig Thoms, T. C. Stephens, S. S. Visher, W. Youngworth, as well as Krause, would have been an even more valuable resource.

You may reach Tom Shane at tom.shane@sbcglobal.net.

KOS meeting minutes, October 3, Hutchinson

General membership meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Leo at 11:45 a.m.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate for officers for the coming year. This includes:

President: Nancy Leo;
Vice President: Chuck Otte;
Secretary: Gregg Friesen;
Treasurer: Terry Mannell;
Membership Secretary: Patty Marlett; **Board Members:** Michael Andersen; Mike Rader; Bill Jensen; Henry Armknecht; **Business Manger:** Lisa Weeks;
Bulletin Editor: Eugene

Young; **The Horned Lark Editor:** Cheryl Miller.

The slate will be considered at the afternoon membership meeting on this date.

The meeting closed at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Friesen, Secretary.

KOS Board meeting

Present: Michael Andersen, Mike Rader, Nancy Leo, Terry Mannell, Bill Busby, Robert Penner, Henry Armknecht, Gene Young, Lisa Weeks, Patty Marlett, Cheryl Miller, John Schukman,

Chuck Otte, Gregg Friesen, Max Thompson.

The meeting was called to order at noon.

The minutes from the fall meeting were reviewed by Gregg Friesen. Max Thompson moved to accept the minutes as submitted and the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Reports from committees and board members included the following:

Horned Lark: Cheryl Miller reported on The Horned Lark. She noted that due to some logistical issues the submission date for The Horned Lark likely will be

moved up two weeks. Apart from this the publication is doing well. Gene Young moved to accept her report with the motion being seconded and approved by voice vote.

Bulletin: Gene Young reported that the September issue has been delayed due to a lack of submissions. He now has submissions and a note in the first mailing let subscribers and members know that the September issue will be sent with the December mailing. Submissions are needed. Gene noted in the session that many articles formerly submitted to the KOS Bulletin are now only reported online or to the KBRC. He encouraged members to consider submitting to both or at least to the Bulletin. It was noted that the criteria for submission to The Horned Lark or to the KOS Bulletin is based on the need for peer review of the material and this is not a clear issue to some. Max Thompson moved to accept the report with the motion seconded and approved by voice vote.

Membership: (attachment) Patty Marlett reported on the recent move to contact past members with encouragement to renew membership. With this move, membership increased slightly to 299 members. Patty noted reports from a number of libraries concerning missed publications and the need to fill these requests. She asked about putting return envelopes in the mailing for membership

(due to bulk mailing rules, all packets will require one). Chuck Otte moved to accept her report and allow insertion of a return envelope. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Treasurer: (attachment) Terry Mannell reported that expenses are slightly above income so far this year. Some of this comes from making a \$2,000 down payment on the spring meeting. This was taken from our investment fund and should be replaced. The investment account has stayed fairly steady over the past year at \$118,039.41. No issues in the office were noted. Gene Young moved to accept the treasurer's report with the motion seconded and carried by voice vote.

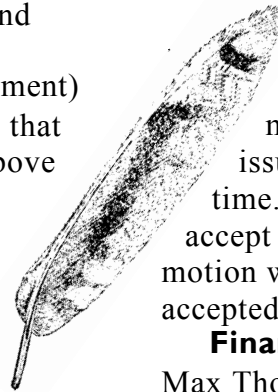
Business Manager: (attachment) Lisa Weeks reports that merchandise sales are "lean." She spoke of soliciting artwork for a new shirt and looking into a possible way to negotiate sales over the Web. She is also involved in the process to try to redesign the KOS Web page. Max Thompson moved to accept her report with the motion seconded and approved by voice vote.

Conservation Committee: Bill Busby spoke on the submission of the petition to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as a threatened species in the state of Kansas. The process to advance the petition is in

committee (an advisory committee for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks) after a 3-3 vote with a second vote planned when all members are available to vote (seven members). No other issues are noted at this time. Gene Young voted to accept the report and the motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

Finance Committee: Max Thompson spoke for the committee. Max noted that as of the close of business September 30, 2009 the assets of the organization were \$118,041, which, as was noted earlier, is only slightly less than at this time last year. Considering the market, this is doing well. We withdrew \$7,500 since that time with \$3,000 used to manage the account. Holdings remain roughly at 16 percent in CDs, 12 percent in fixed income, and 69 percent in mutual funds. The money encumbered for the Birds of Kansas book was not needed, with money for this project coming from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, KDWP and Westar. Max also noted that publication for the book is slated for spring 2011 with manuscripts due in December of 2009. Chuck Otte moved to accept the report and the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

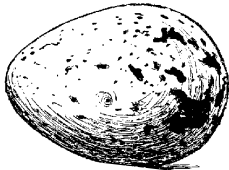
Kansas Bird Record Committee: Max Thompson reported for the committee. He noted that Mark Land is taking



over as the head of the committee and is working on getting the process going for the next round of voting. No issues stand out. Rob Penner moved to accept the report and the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Publicity Committee:

Nancy Leo reported on the press releases for the issue related to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. She also talked of putting up a Facebook page for the organization and work on a new brochure (hopefully out by spring). The issue of whether to have an insert with prices for different categories and for a mailing address was noted with no clear decision made. The issue of seeing if we could get an article on the organization into the KDWP magazine was discussed with no clear direction on the nature of the articles sought for the magazine.



The issue of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken petition was discussed earlier in the meeting during discussion of the actions of the conservation committee.

The issue of money for goods sold in the silent auction prompted discussion. The concern came up over how to handle items others wish to sell with proceeds split between the seller and the organization. Given some concerns that our tax status may be jeopardized by this kind of activity, Terry

Mannell moved that we accept only fully donated items. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. Of note is the desire of the guest speaker at the banquet having items to sell. This is not problematic but KOS will not act as a broker for receipt of the money.

Student Research

Fund: (attachment) John Schukman asked that recipients of funding from the student research fund be asked to present a written or verbal report of findings within three years of getting funding. Max suggested that this be done in three years. The issue of getting compliance will remain an issue in either case. Max moved to require a report in three years and the motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Fall 2010 meeting:

Johnson County Community College has offered to host the fall 2010 meeting. Rooms need to be reserved soon if this is to happen and Lisa Weeks will check to see if holding to the traditional weekend will work. Max Thompson moved to proceed with this plan and the motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

The Ivan Boyd Award:

There were no nominations for the award this year. Members noted that the award does not need to be given every year and in fact should only be given when a clear level of merit for such is present.

New Business

KOS Web site: Chuck

Otte reported that the Web site moved to *GoDaddy.com* at a rate of \$160 for three years as opposed to \$200 per year or more at the old site. The new site has more storage with only three percent of our available space used while the old site was nearly full. Additionally, the new site allows for much more traffic. Chuck also reported on the county birding project (*birdinginkansas.com*) which will allow a county by county direction on birding options.

Birding program:

Terry Mannell asked about a PowerPoint program on the birds of Kansas that could be available to members who are asked to present to community groups. Chuck Otte and Gregg Friesen agreed to begin the process to put such a program together with Chuck proposing that we recruit Bob Gress to help with this.

Adjournment:

Max Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Friesen, Secretary.

General membership meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Nancy Leo, KOS president.

Committee reports

Horned Lark: Cheryl Miller noted the newsletter work is going well. She is taking submissions with criteria focused on material not needing peer review.

Bulletin: Gene Young

reported on the KOS Bulletin, noting that the September issue will be sent in the winter mailing due to a lack of submissions. He issued a call for submissions recalling that some material formerly submitted to the Bulletin now goes to the KBRC but could still be sent to the Bulletin.

Membership: Patty Marlett reported, noting that an aggressive program to renew members did reverse the decline in membership noted in the past.

Treasurer: Terry Mannell reported, noting that income last year was exceeded by expenses but our overall balance is only slightly less than this time last year.

Business Manager: Lisa Weeks reported and commented that designs for logos or shirts are welcome as inventory is suggesting that we may be about ready to reorder in the near future.

Finance: Max Thompson reported, noting again the breakdown in investments (see earlier minutes from the board meeting) and the stability in holdings from last year to this year.

Conservation: Bill Busby reported on the petition process involving the Lesser Prairie-Chicken issue (see board meeting minutes of this date).

Publicity: Nancy Leo reported on projects including putting together a new membership brochure and possibly setting up a Facebook page.

Kansas Bird Records

Committee: Max Thompson noted the committee has 25 records set to review.

Nominations for the board: Nancy Leo opened the floor for further nominations to the board. With none noted, Chuck Otte moved that nominations cease and that the slate of officers presented in the morning session be adopted. The motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote. By voice vote, the membership approved the election of the slate of officers to include:

President: Nancy Leo;
Vice President: Chuck Otte;
Secretary: Gregg Friesen;
Treasurer: Terry Mannell;
Membership Secretary: Patty Marlett; **Board Members:** Michael Andersen; Mike Rader; Bill Jensen; Henry Armknecht; **Business Manger:** Lisa Weeks; **KOS Bulletin Editor:** Eugene Young; **The Horned Lark Editor:** Cheryl Miller.

Spring meeting: Pete Janzen commented on plans for the spring meeting at Tipton, Kansas with reservations being accepted at this time. The goal is to fill the housing at the ranch hosting the meeting and to have many options for field trips available in the north central Kansas area.

Fall meeting: The fall meeting will be hosted by Johnson County Community College with tentative dates for the meeting being October 1-8, 2010.

Adjournment: With no further agenda noted, Max

Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Friesen, Secretary.

In memoriam

KOS life member Jon Barlow died February 9, 2009. His professional accomplishments included professor of zoology and curator of birds, University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario; fellow, American Ornithologists' Union; and president, Wilson Ornithological Society. His research focused on avian vocalization, specializing in the study of vireos.



