



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

September 2010

Vol. 37, No. 3

President's message

By now, many of you know that the KOS petition written by Gene Young and Mark Robbins to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened through Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was declined. I am very disappointed with this decision as I'm sure many of you are too. We can only hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will step in and list this species at the federal level.

There are too many threats that abound now for the birds we are so passionate about. Take the BP oil spill. What a mess! The biggest environmental disaster the world has ever known, the well leaked from April 20 to July 15. In the early days of the spill, as much as 62,000 barrels of oil per day leaked from the well; this number decreased to

(continued on page 2)

From the field



© Kevin Groeneweg

Known for their comical behaviors, Greater Roadrunners have entertained many Kansans this year. The bird above is one of a pair known to have nested in a cedar at the Great Bend Cemetery this breeding season. They fledged two young. Members of the cuckoo family, roadrunner diet items include lizards, snakes, insects, and small rodents and birds. Details about spring sightings of Kansas roadrunners may be found on page 10.

President's message, *cont.*

53,000 barrels daily before the leak was plugged. While on vacation in Montana, I stayed near one of the many prairie pothole nurseries hosting Redheads, Canvasbacks, Pintails, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Common Loons, Eared Grebes, Red-necked Grebes and Long-billed Curlews, which all winter along the Gulf Coast. The thought of what might happen to all these birds just makes me sick. I cannot imagine what might be in store for them.

It is all too easy to just get angry and not do anything about conservation, letting others do the hard work. It is too easy any of us to point blame and not take any responsibility to do anything. That is why I am so pleased with the direction KOS has taken in regards to conservation and trying to make a difference for birds. I know when I pass the reins to the new president, Chuck Otte, he will continue to lead us in this direction.

Many of you already know Chuck. He was The Horned Lark editor for many years, served as a board member, and was secretary for the Kansas Bird Records Committee. I

have been extremely blessed to serve as president between two great men, Max Thompson and Chuck. I thank you for the privilege of being able to serve as your KOS president. I am honored to have been associated with KOS for 13 years and look forward to helping out whenever I am needed in the future.

Don't forget about the fall meeting at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, October 8-10. Make sure you send your nominations for the "Best Bird of the Year" to Max at maxt@cox.net with brief details of the species observed, observer location and date. To be eligible, records must be of birds that were seen in Kansas during the period of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. Bring silent auction donations as well. All proceeds will go to the KOS Student Research Fund, helping Kansas scholars learn more about birds and their needs. I'll see you all at the meeting!

Nancy Leo

President

Statement of non-profit status and copyright:

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

KOS Board of Directors

•President

Nancy Leo, njleo@earthlink.net

•Vice-President

Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441; otte2@cox.net

•Corresponding Secretary

Gregg Friesen, 515 east4th, Newton, KS 67114; gfff@sbcglobal.net

•Membership Development Coordinator

Patty Marlett, pmarlett@cox.net

•Treasurer

Terry Mannell, 218 Northridge Drive, Hays, KS 67601; terryman@ruraltel.net

•Business Manager

Lisa Weeks, 208 Arizona St, Lawrence, KS 66049; lisafweeks@gmail.com

•Editor, KOS Bulletin

Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 eastGrand Ave., Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; eugene.young@north-ok.edu, youngg6264@yahoo.com

•Editor, The Horned Lark

Cheryl K. Miller, avian67226@gmail.com

•Past-President

Max Thompson, 1729 east11th Ave., Winfield, KS 67156; maxt@cox.net

•Board Members:

Henry Armknecht, armknecht@ruraltel.net
Michael Andersen, mja43@ku.edu
Bill Jensen, wjensen@emporia.edu
Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com



KOS fall meeting, October 8-10, 2010

Johnson County Community College, Overland Park

Join KOS members for a weekend of paper presentations and birding in northeast Kansas.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 8

7 p.m.— Informal reception at JCCC in Dining Down Under, College Commons Building, 913-469-8500. Mingle and eat a few hors d'oeuvres. JCCC is located at 12345 College Boulevard in Overland Park. You may download a campus map at <http://tinyurl.com/2fu9avp>.

Saturday, October 9

7:45 - 8:30 a.m. —Registration begins at JCCC, room GEB 233.

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 session. Silent auction ends.

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. —Business meeting.

6 - 6:30 p.m. —Social.

6:30 - 9 p.m.—Banquet

At JCCC in the Dining Down Under, College Commons Building.

Our banquet speaker will be Timothy Barksdale. Tim is a cinematographer and bird expert who has been filming birds and other wildlife since 1992. Tim has worked extensively with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and has amassed the largest collection of footage on North American bird species in the world. He is now filming and



Tim Barksdale prepares to film in the Flint Hills.

producing a film on Greater Prairie-Chickens for PBS, due for release in 2011.

Sunday, October 10

6:30 a.m.—Half-day field trips locations may include: Baker Wetlands, KCP&L Wetlands, Shawnee Mission Park, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, Overland Park Arboretum, Mill Creek Streamway Trail, Olathe Lake, Prairie Center and Ernie Miller Nature Park.

Noon—Lunch and compilation to be announced at a later date.

Lodging and Dining

KOS has room blocks at three hotels. We have 40 rooms at Pear Tree Inn, (913) 451-0200, 10951 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park (15 king and 25 double), for \$69.95 + tax. The cutoff date for this rate is September 8.

We have 30 rooms at La Quinta Inn, (913) 492-5500, 9461 Lenexa Drive, Overland Park, for \$69.00 + tax. The cutoff date for this rate is September 17.

We have 18 rooms at Super 8 Motel, (913) 341-4440, 10750 Barkley Street, Overland Park for \$54.99+ tax (single) and \$64.99+ tax (double). The cutoff for these rates is September 15.

There are many places to eat in Overland Park, especially at 95th Street and Quivira Road near the Oak Park Mall.

Registration

Registration will be \$15, the Saturday evening banquet will be \$22 and the Sunday box lunch will be \$8. Unless presenting, students will pay a \$5 registration fee. Registrations received after September 15 will carry a \$10 surcharge.

The registration form may be found on page 20. All participants must sign the liability release in order to participate in any portion of this meeting.

Silent auction

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. Suitable donations include birding-themed equipment, field guides, bird houses, bird baths and optics. All proceeds go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

Kansas spring season roundup

March 1 – May 31

Mark Corder, compiler

Birding in Kansas in spring 2010 was hampered by an extended period of colder weather and snow carrying on into the middle of March. It was followed by more than the normal amount of rainfall in April and May. Notwithstanding the challenges wrought by the weather, spring 2010 was a terrific time for Kansas birds and birders.

Barry Jones at Quivira National Wildlife Center made multiple reports on the conditions of the roads on the refuge during the period. Barry is also responsible for many of the rare bird reports, the highlights of which were Tundra Swans and a Golden Eagle in March, seventy-six Whooping Cranes, four Cinnamon Teal, four Willets, a Greater Roadrunner and a Say's Phoebe in April. The Whooping Crane count was the highest in recent history at Quivira and a good sign for the ongoing recovery of this magnificent bird.

The apparent continued expansion of Greater Roadrunner into Kansas was evidenced by reports of nest building in Butler and Barton counties. Fish Crow

and Red-shouldered Hawk reports showed range expansion by both of those species as well. There were at least thirteen sightings of Black-headed Grosbeaks from ten counties including Shawnee County in the eastern part of the state. Lazuli Buntings were also impressive with twenty or more birds reported from twelve counties including Leavenworth and Johnson.

Eurasian Wigeon and Great Black-backed Gull top the rarities list. The former was one of those one-day, one-observer wonders briefly seen by Larry Londagin at the LaFarge Sandpit in Wichita. The latter was seen by three lucky birders at Cheyenne Bottoms in mid-March. Documentation was submitted to the Kansas Rare Bird Committee on both birds, and determinations are expected prior to the next report.

Other birds of note include a Clark's Grebe at Cheyenne Bottoms, an Anhinga in Rice County, two Ruff (one in Wichita and one at Slate Creek Wetlands) and a Tricolored Heron seen in Wichita. A male Black-chinned Hummingbird took advantage of a

feeder at a residence in Barton County. The male Williamson's Sapsucker at Wilson Lake and a Dark-eyed Junco hanging around into early May—just miraculous!

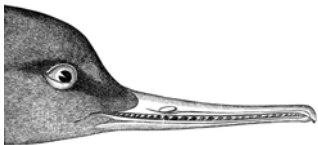
Warblers were well-represented. Twenty of the rarer warbler species were reported, including Prairie, Cerulean, Blue-winged and Golden-winged, from primarily the eastern counties. However, the tough-to-find Virginia's, Black-throated Gray and Black-throated Blue were present in Morton County in a four-day period in mid-May.


Also of note is the number of individuals (more than 120) posting bird information to the list-serve. This is a record at least for the time period that I have been preparing the roundup reports. Will spring 2011 be as good and as impressive? With the KOS spring meeting being in Morton County, it would be a good bet. Thanks again to everyone who participates at all levels in Kansas birding.

Mark Corder may be reached at buddesystem@msn.com.

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2, flyover, west of Veteran Lake	Barton	5/26	RG
Greater White-fronted Goose	2, north of 83 rd Street Bridge	Sedgwick	5/9	JC
	4, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>5/19</u>	RP
	1, Schwab property	Harvey	<u>5/23</u>	CM
Snow Goose	1, possibly injured, Schwab's	Harvey	5/23	CM
Cackling Goose	<u>200</u> +/-, near Scott Park	Scott	3/7	T&SS

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Swan (sp.)	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/5	GF
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/10	MR
	8, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/14	BJ
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/17	NO
Tundra Swan	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/5	GF
	5, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/8	BJ
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/10	MR
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/14	BJ
	5, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/17	NO
Trumpeter Swan	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/5	GF
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/10	MR
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/17	NO
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/28	MG,NA
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>4/18</u>	MK,JA,PM
American Wigeon	1 m., rural area	Ellis	<u>5/31</u>	TM
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u> <D>	1 m., LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	3/7	LL
American Black Duck	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>5/9</u>	BJ (rep.)
Cinnamon Teal	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/11	GS
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/23	BJ
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/28	MG,NA
	1 m., Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/14	MR
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/15	BJ
	1, <u>Heritage Park</u>	Johnson	4/17	ML,CF
	1 f., near St. Francis	Cheyenne	4/17	HA
	1, west of Bitting Street Bridge	Sedgwick	4/23	JN
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/29	RG
Green-winged Teal	1 m., rural area	Ellis	<u>5/31</u>	TM
Redhead	<u>40,000</u> +/-, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/5	RP (rep.)
Common Merganser	1, Shawnee County Lake	Shawnee	<u>5/22</u>	CMo
Red-breasted Merganser	1, Perry Lake	Jefferson	3/7	MA,JK
	1 m., LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	3/9	PJ
	12, New Strawn lagoons	Coffey	3/13	MG,NA
	7, near Burnett residence	Pottawatomie	3/16	DB
	Unreported number, LaFarge	Sedgwick	3/27	KG (rep.)
	Unreported number, Tuttle Creek	Pottawatomie	3/27	DB
	1 f., Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/1	MR
	1 f., along U.S.-24 east of St. Marys	Shawnee	4/2	MR
	1 m., 2 f., Jeffrey Energy Center	Coffey	4/7	BM
	2 f., Clinton Lake dam	Douglas	<u>5/7</u>	MA,JK
	1 f., Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	<u>5/21</u>	MG,NA
Greater Prairie-Chicken	2 displaying males, <u>Quivira NWR</u>	Stafford	4/22	BJ

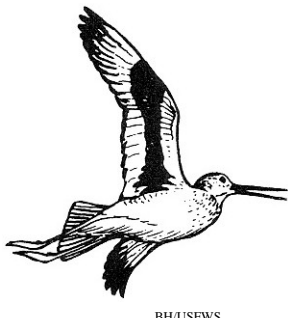


Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 heard, Z-bar ranch area	<u>Barber</u>	3/23	MR,KBr
 Common Loon	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	3/25	ML
	1, Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	3/26	GF,PJ,MG,NA
	Unreported number, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	3/28	RRoy
	1, Shawnee County Lake	Shawnee	4/9	DL,DG
	2, on power plant lake	Linn	4/26	ML,TSw
	1, Cheney Reservoir	Kingman	5/8	JC,NO
	1, appropriate habitat	Phillips	5/14-16	KOS
	1 possible, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	<u>5/19</u>	RRoy
Western Grebe	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/6	RP
	1, Elkhart sewage ponds	Morton	4/17	SS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms, main pool	Barton	4/24	JW
	2, rural area	Norton	4/27	DL
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/1	TE
	1, appropriate habitat	Phillips	5/14-16	KOS
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	ML,EL
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
Brown Pelican <D>	1, Little Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/12	BJ,J&EM
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>350</u> , Santa Fe Lake, Chanute	Neosho	3/28	MH
<u>Anhinga</u> <D>	1, private property, near Bushton	Rice	4/1	RP,CSw
American Bittern	1, <u>Antioch Park</u>	Johnson	4/13	ML
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	1, south of 13 th Street Bridge, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/18	PG
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<u>100</u> active nests, Garden City Zoo	Finney	5/31	TS
Turkey Vulture	<u>135</u> , kettles, Keating residence	Geary	3/23	JK
Osprey	Multiple reports in SC, C, SE and E Kansas regions		April-May	m:obs
	1, Harper County migration count	Harper	5/8	ES
	1, appropriate habitat	Phillips	5/14-16	KOS
	1, appropriate habitat	Russell	5/14-16	KOS
Mississippi Kite	1, north of University of Kansas	Douglas	<u>3/16</u>	BA
Bald Eagle	Multiple nesting reports in E, SE and S Kansas regions		March-May	m:obs
Northern Harrier	1, rural area	Sedgwick	<u>5/7</u>	NO
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1, Zempel residence	Jackson	3/5	JLZ
	2, hunting backyard environs	Finney	3/20	T&SS
	Unreported number, rural areas	Marshall	3/27	PJ,GF
	Unreported number, rural areas	Republic	3/27	PJ,GF
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/17	ML,EL
	1 flyover, state fishing lake	Barber	4/23	TE


Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Cooper's Hawk	Multiple reports in E and SC Kansas regions Nesting activity, rural area	<u>Morton</u>	March-May 5/10-13	m:obs TC,DW
Red-shouldered Hawk	Expanding range into C and E Kansas regions 1, rural area	<u>Morton</u>	March-May 5/10-13	m:obs TC,DW
Broad-winged Hawk	Multiple reports in E, C and S Kansas regions 1, near Arkansas City	Cowley	April-May <u>5/30</u>	m:obs DS
Swainson's Hawk	Multiple reports in E, C and S Kansas regions		April-May	m:obs
Ferruginous Hawk	Pair, nesting north of river	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>30</u> +/-, Flint Hills 1, late, at Horsethief Reservoir 1, late juv. west of Garden City 3, rural areas 1, northwest of Larned 1, very late, north rural area	Chase Hodgeman Finney Sheridan Pawnee Gray	3/7 4/14 4/15 4/17 <u>4/30</u> <u>5/3</u>	TB SS TS HA DSe SS
Golden Eagle	1 juv., Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/23	BJ
Merlin	1, near Cassoday 1, near Burlington 1, near Mount Hope 1, rural area 1, <u>suburban Overland Park</u> 2, different locations 1, Texaco Hill area 1, Baker Wetlands 1, Ernie Miller Nature Park 1, prairie dog town	Butler Coffey Sedgwick Coffey Johnson Johnson Chase Douglas Johnson Rice	3/7 3/7 3/13 3/13 4/5 4/17 4/18 4/19 4/22 5/3	TB TB PJ MG,NA RR ML,CF TB BA,TSw JW MR
Peregrine Falcon	1, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Quivira NWR 1, rural area 1, over pool 4, Cheyenne Bottoms Unreported numbers, Quivira NWR 1, rural area 1, Clinton Lake 1, north of Lawrence 1, Baker Wetlands 1, flyover, Wedel residence 1, Quivira NWR 2-3, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, flyover, east of Rocky Ford	Barton Stafford Kiowa Barton Stafford Gray Douglas Douglas Douglas Harvey Stafford Barton Barton Riley	3/1 4/1 4/11 4/16 4/24 5/4 5/7 5/8 5/9 5/16 5/17 5/17 5/19 5/21	RP KBr WAS,PJ MR JW SS MA,JK MA,JK S&SR RW MR DS,JS RP TC
Prairie Falcon	1, southwest of Shawnee County Lake 1, Waconda 1, south of Belleville 1, south of Ellinwood	Shawnee Mitchell Republic Barton/Stafford	3/1 3/27 3/27 3/28	CMo PJ,GF PJ,GF MG,NA



Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Prairie Falcon	1, rural area, northwest	Ford	4/3	SS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/6	RP
Black Rail	1, Baker Wetlands	<u>Douglas</u>	5/9	BA (rep.)
	2 calling, Richardson Tract	Stafford	5/17	MR
King Rail	1, Baker Wetlands	<u>Douglas</u>	4/18	MG,NA
Common Moorhen	Unreported number, county record	<u>Lincoln</u>	5/14-16	KOS
Sandhill Crane	Thousands over Penner's acreage	Barton	3/18	RP
Whooping Crane	<u>76</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/1	BJ,MR
American Golden-Plover	300+, Thurman Creek and Madison roads	Chase	4/18	CM
	<u>1,168</u> , Texaco Hill area	Chase	4/18	TB
Piping Plover	3, Larned Sandpit	<u>Pawnee</u>	4/23	SS
Snowy Plover	1, Elkhart sewage ponds	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
Killdeer	Many early arrivals	Statewide	March	m:obs
Mountain Plover	4, along Highway K-51	Morton	4/17	SS
Black-necked Stilt	1, playa east of Scott City	<u>Scott</u>	4/24	T&SS
Willet	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/22	BJ
	1, rural area	Pratt	4/25	SS
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/27	BJ
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/3	MR
	<u>7</u> , <u>Shawnee Mission Park</u>	Johnson	5/7	MG,NA
	Unreported number, rural area	Mitchell	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Phillips	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, county record	<u>Smith</u>	5/14-16	KOS
	6 +/-, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	DS,JS
	9, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
	1, along Kansas River	Sedgwick	5/21	NO,Rro
	5, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/21	GY,MT
Upland Sandpiper	<u>200</u> +/-, rural areas	Chase	4/18	CM
Whimbrel	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/1	TE
	1, playa, rural area	<u>Lane</u>	5/1	HA
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/9	BJ (rep.)
	<u>30</u> +/-, over Carbondale Lake	Osage	5/11	DL
	7, Atwood sewage ponds	<u>Rawlins</u>	5/14	MG
Long-billed Curlew	17, rural area	Finney	<u>3/22</u>	T&SS
	<u>1,838</u> , west environs	Finney	4/2	T&SS
	26, north environs	Gray	4/3	SS



BH/USFWS

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Long-billed Curlew	1 flyover, Clinton Reservoir	Douglas	4/4	GP
Marbled Godwit	Unreported number, Cawker City	<u>Mitchell</u>	4/14	HA
	Unreported number, Melvern	<u>Osage</u>	4/16	DL
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/18	MK,JA,PM
	1, on mud flat, east of Medicine Lodge	Barber	4/21	MR
	Unreported number, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/24	JW
	<u>20</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/2	TE
	1, rural area	<u>Scott</u>	5/2	HA
	1, Baker Wetlands	<u>Douglas</u>	5/14	BA
	Unreported number, rural area	Mitchell	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Lincoln	5/14-16	KOS
	<u>20</u> , Unit 49, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/18	BJ
	3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
<u>Ruddy Turnstone</u>	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/29	JSh
	4, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	ML,EL
	1, Big Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/18	BJ
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
Sanderling	Unreported number, rural area	Mitchell	5/14-16	KOS
	3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	DS,JS
<u>Ruff</u>	1 m., west of Bitting Street Bridge	Sedgwick	4/23	JN
	1 f., Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/7	GY,KG,SSi
Short-billed Dowitcher	Unreported number, rural area	Rooks	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, county record	<u>Mitchell</u>	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, county record	<u>Phillips</u>	5/14-16	KOS
Wilson's Phalarope	<u>Thousands</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/17	ML,EL
Red-necked Phalarope	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	DS,JS
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1, Tuttle River outlet tubes	Riley	5/9	DR,RRo,EB
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	1, John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	3/13	MG,NA
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u> <D>	1, Elkhart sewage ponds	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	1 juv./2 nd winter, WWTP	Johnson	3/6	MG,NA,MS
	1, 1 st cycle, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	3/8	ML,TSw
	1, 1 st winter, LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	3/9	PJ
Great Black-backed Gull <D>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	3/13	KG,CM,JC
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1, <u>Shawnee Mission Park</u>	Johnson	3/28	CM,NL,TB
Caspian Tern	2, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	4/24	RJ
	15, Clinton Lake	Douglas	5/7	MA,JK
	2, north of Lawrence	Douglas	5/8	MA,JK
	Unreported number, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	5/11	RRoy

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Caspian Tern	Unreported number, county record	<u>Mitchell</u>	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, county record	<u>Jewell</u>	5/14-16	KOS
	2, along Arkansas River	Sedgwick	5/21	NO,RRo
Common Tern	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/4	GF
	2, Melvern	Osage	5/10	DL
	Unreported number, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	5/11	RRoy
	Unreported number, county record	<u>Mitchell</u>	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Jewell	5/14-16	KOS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
	2, over gun club, south marsh	Sumner	5/21	GY,MT
Least Tern	3, fishing the minnow ponds	<u>Pratt</u>	5/25	KB
Black Tern	Many reports in S, C and NE Kansas regions		April-May	m:obs
White-winged Dove	Becoming fairly common in SC and SW Kansas regions		March-May	m:obs
Inca Dove	1, Garden City residence	Finney	5/1	MO
Black-billed Cuckoo	1, Harvey County East Lake	Harvey	5/7	CM
	1, along Walnut River	Butler	5/25	JC
Greater Roadrunner	3, Z-Bar Ranch area	Barber	3/23	MR,KBr
	1, rural area	Comanche	4/11	WAS,PJ
	1, photographed, Quivira NWR	Stafford	4/28	BJ
	1, Haukap residence driveway	Sedgwick	4/30	PH
	1, <u>nest building</u> , residential area	Butler	5/4	PJ,BG,KBr,MR
	1, trailer park west of Newton	Harvey	5/14	GF (rep.)
	1, near WaKeeney residence	Trego	5/18	JC
	1-2, Great Bend Cemetery	Barton	5/22-31	RG
Barn Owl	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/28	MG,NA
	1, Satanta	Haskell	5/14	KH
	1, north of Belle Plaine	Sumner	5/17	TR
Great Horned Owl	Many successful nest sites	Statewide	March-April	m:obs
Short-eared Owl	1 flyby, day break, Quivira NWR	Stafford	3/28	MG,NA
	2, different locations	Lyon	4/6	TB
	2, breeding habitat	Gray	5/3	SS
Long-eared Owl	2, near Sylvan Grove	Lincoln	3/27	MG,NA
Common Poorwill	1, Fort's Cedar View Bed and Breakfast	Grant	5/15	KH,SG
<u>Black-chinned Hmngbrd</u>	2, Garden City feeders	Finney	5/1	MO
	1 m., Garden City residence	Finney	5/1	SSh
	<D> 1 m., Miller residence	<u>Barton</u>	5/2	JM,RG,KE
<u>Broad-tailed Hmngbrd</u>	1 m., Shane residence	Finney	5/6	T&SS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Hairy Woodpecker	Adults introducing young to feeders	Sedgwick	5/17	JC
<u>Williamson's Sapsucker</u>	1 continuing, Wilson Lake	Ellsworth	3/3	m:obs
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/7	DS
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/21	MG,NA
	1, new trail, east side of Rocky Ford	Riley	5/21	TC
	1, Schukman residence	Leavenworth	5/22	JS
	1, Gearheart residence	Johnson	5/23	MG
	2, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/29	BA
Dusky Flycatcher	1, Garden City Zoo	Finney	4/13	TS
Say's Phoebe	1, near Unit 49, Quivira NWR	<u>Stafford</u>	4/4	BJ
Cassin's Kingbird	1, rural area	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Loggerhead Shrike	1, Shane residence, Garden City	Finney	3/13	T&SS
	1, Roels residence feeders	Leavenworth	3/21	SR
	2, near Ofsthun residence	Sedgwick	3/25	NO
	2, north of Cheney Reservoir	Harvey	4/3	P&LS
	1, west of Wilson	Ellsworth	4/4	DK
	1, west of Alma	Wabaunsee	4/6	CMo
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	4/6	RP
	1, near burn area, Melvern environs	Osage	4/11	ML,NA,MG,TSw
	9, rural areas	Sedgwick	4/16	NO
	5, rural areas, near CB and Quivira NWR	Barton/Stafford	4/18	MK,JA,PM
	1, northeast rural area	Sedgwick	4/21	NO
	1, on South Hydraulic, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/27	RT
	1, north of Bel Aire	Sedgwick	4/30	NO
	Unreported number, rural area	Jewell	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Lincoln	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Mitchell	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Smith	5/14-16	KOS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1, With residence	Pottawatomie	3/13	KW
	1, Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Ellsworth	3/13	KG,CM,JC
	2, Buffalo Hill area	McPherson	4/5	DW
Yellow-throated Vireo	1, quietly foraging, Pet Cemetery	Geary	<u>4/18</u>	C&JO
<u>Plumbeous Vireo</u> <D>	2-3, Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Philadelphia Vireo	2, Elkhart	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
	5, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/19	MG,ML,NA
Fish Crow	Regular, increasing numbers, Derby	Sedgwick	March-May	JC, m:obs
	1, marsh area, north of <u>Hartford</u>	Lyon	4/11	ML,NA,MG,TSw
	4, near Burgess Marsh Trail	Lyon	4/18	CF
	2-3, <u>Prairie Village</u> , Leo residence	Johnson	5/5	NL,TB



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Raven (sp.)	Unreported numbers, rural areas	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1, Sutton residence	Ford	5/12	WS
Brown Creeper	1, singing territorial song, WWTP	Johnson	3/6	MG,NA,MS
	Unreported number, rural area	Shawnee	3/26	PJ,GF
	Unreported number, rural area	Atchison	3/26	PJ,GF
	1, Tucker residence	Labette	3/27	RT
	1, west edge of Derby	Sedgwick	4/4	JC
	1, LOS, Guy residence, Ulysses	Grant	<u>4/29</u>	SG
Rock Wren	1, Kansas Wetlands Education Center	Barton	4/2	MR
House Wren	1, residence, Manhattan	Riley	<u>3/10</u>	DM
Winter Wren	2, Oak Park	Sedgwick	3/3	PG
	1, near Calhoun residence	Sedgwick	3/6	JC
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	4/18	NL,HH
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/19	PG
	1, LOS, rural area	Leavenworth	<u>4/24</u>	JB
Sedge Wren	2, pond on Z Bar Ranch	Barber	4/8	MR,KBr
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/27	MG,NA,TSw
	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	4/27	ML,TSw
	1, Schwab residence	Harvey	5/2	CS
	2, rural area	<u>Rice</u>	5/3	MR
	Several, west side of Prairie Center	Johnson	5/7	JW
	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/8	BS
	2, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/12	BA
Marsh Wren	2, Jamestown	Republic	3/27	PJ,GF
	1, pond on Z Bar Ranch	Barber	4/8	MR,KBr
	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	4/26	BA
	2, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/3	BA
	2, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/8	BA,BS
	6, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/9	BA,JH
	3, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/12	LW
	<u>16+</u> , Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/12	BA
	25+, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/14	BA
	Unreported number, rural area	Lincoln	5/14-16	KOS
	3, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
<u>Veery</u>	2, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/9	MG,NA
	1, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/19	MG,ML,NA
<u>Gray-cheeked Thrush</u>	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/7	DS
	1, Hobbs' backyard, Shawnee	Johnson	5/11	CH
	1, Calhoun backyard	Sedgwick	5/17	JC
	1, Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	5/21	GY,MT
Swainson's Thrush	<u>100+</u> , nocturnal migrants	Ellsworth	5/17	MR



Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Hermit Thrush	Multiple reports Several, rural areas	Statewide Morton	March-May <u>5/10-13</u>	m:obs TC,DW
Gray Catbird	1, Wichita residence	Sedgwick	<u>3/3</u>	CL
Sprague's Pipit	Several, various locations 1, Texaco Hill area 1, singing near Americus 1, Gray county side of county line 1, Finney side of county line	Cowley Chase Lyon Gray Finney	3/17 4/16 4/17 5/2 5/2	GY TB TB SS SS
Cedar Waxwing	<u>180-200</u> , Nebraska Furniture Mart <u>80 +/-</u> , Shane residence <u>Hundreds</u> , Winfield	Wyandotte Finney Cowley	3/7 3/14 3/16	MC T&SS MT
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	1, along Kansas River 1, Overland Park Arboretum 1, Overland Park Arboretum	Douglas Johnson Johnson	5/2 5/3 5/5	BA,RJ,JJ TSw NA
<u>Golden-winged Warbler</u>	2, Overland Park Arboretum 1, Burcham Park, Lawrence 1, Marais de Cygne WA 1-3, Mill Creek 1, Minor Park 1, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland 1, near Bonner Springs 1, Leo residence 1, riparian area 1, Blackhoof Park, Lake Lenexa 1 f., Oak Park, Wichita 1, Meyer residence 1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson Douglas Linn Johnson Johnson Leavenworth Wyandotte Johnson Sumner Johnson Sedgwick Johnson Johnson	5/1 5/6 5/6 5/7 5/7 5/8 5/9 5/11 5/12 5/12 5/13 5/13 5/14	MG BA MR,m:obs DS SP MG,m:obs JS,GPi NL LHi MG TE KM PJ
<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>	1, Boy Scout area	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1, Rogers' residence, Wichita 1, Burcham Park, Lawrence 1, Marais de Cygne Wildlife Area 1, Roe Park 2, Wedge residence 1, Baker Wetlands 1, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland 1, Elkhart sewage lagoons 1, near chancellor's residence 2, Antioch Park 1, Shawnee Mission Park 1, Meyer residence Unreported number, county record 1, Oak Park, Wichita Unreported number, Topeka Unreported number, Crane Park 6, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick Douglas Linn Johnson Douglas Douglas Leavenworth Morton Douglas Johnson Johnson Johnson Rooks Sedgwick Shawnee Sedgwick Sedgwick	4/14 5/6 5/6 5/7 5/8 5/8 5/8 5/9 5/11 5/11 5/12 5/13 5/14-16 5/16 5/16 5/17 5/17	MNR BA MR,m:obs SP PW BA,BS MG,m:obs DW PW CH MG KM KOS PG WF JC KG



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	5/17	MR	
	1, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/19	MG,ML,NA	
	6+, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/20	AW	
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1, <u>Prairie Village</u> , Leo residence	Johnson	5/5	NL,TB	
<u>Blck-thrtd Gray Warbler</u>	2; 1, Middle Spring; 1,work station	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW	
<u>Blk-thrtd Blue Warbler</u>	1 possible, Oak Mills Drive	Leavenworth	5/9	JB	
	1, Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW	
Blackburnian Warbler	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/5	NA	
	1, Dodge City	Ford	5/6	WS	
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/7	MR,m:obs	
	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/7	DS	
	3, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/7	DW,EL,TSw	
	1, Roe Park	Johnson	5/7	SP	
	2, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland	Leavenworth	5/8	MG,m:obs	
	3, Antioch Park	Johnson	5/11	CH	
	1, Crane Park	Sumner	5/12	LHi	
	1, Ernie Miller Nature Park	Johnson	5/14	JW	
	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/14	MZ	
	1, Volmut residence	Jefferson	5/19	JV	
	1 m., 1 f., Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/20	AW	
	Yellow-throated Warbler	1, Copan Wildlife Area	Montgomery	<u>4/3</u>	KG
		1, Sutton residence, Dodge City	<u>Ford</u>	4/6	WS
2, Schermerhorn Park		Cherokee	4/22	LH	
1, Nine Mile Creek		Leavenworth	5/2	JS,JB	
2, Blackhoof Park, Lenexa		Johnson	5/5	MG,NA	
1, Shawnee Mission Park		Johnson	5/12	MG	
<u>Prairie Warbler</u>	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	4/30	TSw	
Palm Warbler	1, singing, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	4/28	BA	
	2, riparian area	Ellsworth	5/6	DK	
	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	5/7	MZ	
	1, Schwab residence, Newton	Harvey	5/7	CS	
	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/7	DS	
	1, Chisholm Creek Park	Sedgwick	5/7	AW	
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/12	MG	
1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/18	PG		
Bay-breasted Warbler	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/6	MR	
	1, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland	Leavenworth	5/8	MG,m:obs	
	1 m., Tuttle River Pond	Riley	5/9	DR,RRo,EB	
Blackpoll Warbler	<u>15</u> , Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/17	KG	
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	1 possible, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/4	NA	
	1, residence	Douglas	5/6	BA (rep.)	
	1, south end of Douglas County Lake	Douglas	5/9	MA	



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-and-white Warbler	1, Pawnee Prairie Park	Sedgwick	<u>3/30</u>	TE
	1, Sedan New City Lake	Chautauqua	<u>4/5</u>	HA
Ovenbird	1, Mill Creek	Johnson	<u>4/30</u>	ML
<u>MacGillvray's Warbler</u>	<u>Several</u> , rural areas	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Hooded Warbler	1, Sutton residence, Dodge City	<u>Ford</u>	4/8	WS
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/3	NL
	1 f., Tuttle River Pond	Riley	5/9	DR,RRo,EB
	1 m., campground	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/14	PJ
	1 m., Hobbs' residence	Johnson	5/14	CH
	1 f., Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/16	PG
1, riparian area south of Wilson	Ellsworth	5/18	MR	
Canada Warbler	2, along Kansas River, Burcham Park	Douglas	5/4	BA
	1-2, Mill Creek	Johnson	5/7	DS
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	5/9	MG,NA
	1, near Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	5/9	JS,GPi
	1, Crane Park, Derby	Sedgwick	5/14	LHi
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/17,19	KG,PG
	1, Volmut residence	Jefferson	5/19	JV
	1 f., Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/21	MG,NA
Yellow-breasted Chat	3-4, Middle Spring	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
Summer Tanager	2, rural areas	<u>Morton</u>	5/10-13	TC,DW
Scarlet Tanager	1 m., Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	4/29	ML,TMi
	1, south side of Tuttle River Pond	Pottawatomie	5/2	DR
	3, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland	Leavenworth	5/8	MG,m:obs
	1 m., Calhoun residence	Sedgwick	5/9	JC
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/14	Mhe
	1, Severance BBS	Doniphan	5/30	JS
<u>Western Tanager</u>	1 f., Lemon Park, Pratt	<u>Pratt</u>	5/7	MR
	1 m., Oak Park, Wichita	<u>Sedgwick</u>	5/10	TE
	2, rural areas	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
<u>Green-tailed Towhee</u>	2; 1, work station;1, campground	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
Eastern Towhee	1, Oak Park	Sedgwick	3/27	PG
	1, Royer residence	Brown	3/29	RR
	4, rural area	Leavenworth	5/1	JB
	5, Fort Leavenworth, bottomland	Leavenworth	5/8	MG,m:obs
	Unreported number, rural area	<u>Jewell</u>	5/14-16	KOS
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	1, Arkalon environs	<u>Seward</u>	5/3	HA
Brewer's Sparrow	1, northwest of Cimarron	<u>Gray</u>	5/11	SS

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Vesper Sparrow	1, rural area	Dickinson	<u>5/29</u>	J&CO
	1, Severance BBS	Doniphan	5/30	JS
Lark Bunting	Hundreds, rural areas	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
LeConte's Sparrow	1, very cooperative, John Redmond	Coffey	4/11	ML,MG,NA,TSw
	1, Texaco Hill area	Chase	4/16	TB
	1, near Thurman Creek and Madison roads	Chase	4/18	CM
Harris's Sparrow	Large numbers, Flint Hills	Coffey	4/11	ML,MG,NA,TSw
	350 +/-, north rural areas	Sedgwick	4/16	NO
Dark-eyed Junco	3, Stockdale Park	Riley	4/11	JRo
	2, northwest Manhattan	Riley	4/11	JRo
	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	4/15	PG
	1, Royer residence	Brown	4/22	RR
	1, Marais de Cygne	Linn	4/26	ML,TSw
	1, very late, Row residence	Pottawatomie	<u>5/1</u>	JR
White-crowned Sparrow	1, <u><i>gambelli</i></u> , Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	5/7	ML
McCown's Longspur	4, rural area	Gray	<u>4/14</u>	SS
Smith's Longspur	<u>130</u> +/-, Flint Hills	Chase	3/8	TB
	Several, various areas	Cowley	3/17	GY
	13, Texaco Hill area	Chase	4/16	TB
	5, Thurman Creek and Madison roads	Chase	4/18	CM
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1, rural area	Gray	<u>4/14</u>	SS
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak</u>	1, Freeman residence, Manhattan	<u>Riley</u>	5/1	FF
	1 f., Armknecht residence	Osborne	5/7	HA
	1 m., Ashland Bottoms	<u>Riley</u>	5/8	JR
	1 m., Comeau residence	<u>Sedgwick</u>	5/9	SC
	1, rural area	Morton	5/10-13	TC,DW
	1 m. and 1 f., Morgan residence	<u>Shawnee</u>	5/12	CMo
	Unreported number, rural area	Smith	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Graham	5/14-16	KOS
	Unreported number, rural area	Mitchell	5/14-16	KOS
	1 f., Rader residence feeder	Ellsworth	5/16	MR,ER
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	5/19	RP
	<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	1, Satanta City Park	Haskell	4/23
1, Garden City residence		Finney	5/1	MO
1, Comeau residence, Wichita		Sedgwick	5/1	SC
1 m., Wilson State Park feeder		Russell	5/7	ER
1 m., Armknecht residence		Osborne	5/7	HA
1 m., Broyles residence		Butler	5/8	BB
2, rural residence		Leavenworth	5/8	DW,ELa
1, Overland Park Arboretum		Johnson	5/9	MG,NA
1, Cable residence feeders		Riley	5/9	TC
1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/9	PG	



Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	1 m., Graham residence	Barton	5/9	RG
	1 m., Casper residence feeders	Jefferson	5/11	GC
	1 m., Canoe Launch	Sedgwick	5/11	JC
	1 m., Pawnee Prairie Park	Sedgwick	5/11	NO
	<u>4</u> , Calhoun residence feeders	Sedgwick	5/12	JC
	Unreported number, rural area	Jewell	5/14-16	KOS
Painted Bunting	1, near Calhoun residence, Wichita	Sedgwick	5/1	JC
Bobolink	Multiple reports in E, SE and C Kansas regions 1, Middle Spring	<u>Morton</u>	April-May 5/10-13	m:obs TC,DW
Eastern Meadowlark	1 possible, Sheridan State Lake	<u>Sheridan</u>	4/17	HA
Rusty Blackbird	4, Roels residence feeders	Leavenworth	3/21	SR
	100 +/-, rural areas	Chase	4/18	CM
Great-tailed Grackle	Resident flock, <u>Mur-len & 135th</u>	Johnson	March-May	MCo
Orchard Oriole	<u>265</u> , Slate Creek environs	Sumner	5/21	GY,MT
Pine Siskin	1, Schwab residence, Newton	Harvey	5/6	CS
	1 singing, Highway 77 rest stop	Butler	<u>5/25</u>	JC
	1 fledgling remaining, Shane's	Finney	<u>5/31</u>	TS
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1 m. flyover, Shane residence	Finney	5/30	TS

Key:

- Underlined dates, locations, numbers or comments indicate unusual, late or early sightings.
- Underlined species indicate unusual species.
- Underlined species in bold** indicate species with no records or fewer than 10 records for Kansas.
- <D> indicates documentation was submitted to Kansas Bird Records Committee.
- <A> indicates that the record was accepted by the KBRC.

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), female (f.), juvenile (juv.), Kansas Ornithological Society spring 210 meeting report (KOS), last of season (LOS), male (m.), multiple observers (m:obs), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), reporting (rep.), species (sp.), state regions (C, E, NE, S, SC, SE, SW) Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Wildlife Area (WA).

Observers: Nic Allen, Michael Andersen, Bob Antonio,

Henry Armknecht, John Atkinson, Tim Barksdale, Kevin Becker, Emilie Blevins, John Bollin, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson (KBr), Doris Burnett, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Glen Casper, Marshall Coleman, Steve Comeau, Mark Corder (MCo), Karole Erikson, Tom Ewert, Chris Fagyal, William Falk, Fred Freeman, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Rob Graham, Bob Gress, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Joe Harrington, Kellye Hart, Peggy Haukap, Mary Haynes, Mike Heaney (MHe), Kelvin Heitmann, Law-

rence Herbert, Helen Hewins, Leon Hicks (LHi), Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Richard Johnson, Josh Johnson, Barry Jones, Jonathan King, Dave Klema, Marvin Kuehn, Eileen Land, Mark Land, Evelyn Lange (ELa), Dan Larson, Nancy Leo, Catherine Lewis, Larry Longdakin, Brandon Magette, Terry Mannell, Paul McKnab, Kathy Meyer, Terry Milberger (TMi), Cheryl Miller, Jay Miller, John and Edna Mitchell (J&EM), Carol Morgan (CMo), Dan Mulhern, Jay Newton, Nathan Ofsthun, Marie Osterbuhr, Jaye & Chuck Otte

Sparrow identification made easier

By Barry Jones, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Frequently known as the classic LBBs, Little Brown Birds, sparrows are often the bane of both beginner and expert birders alike. Due to limitations on experience, time, poor visibility, or just frustration, many birders do not complete, or even attempt, sparrow identification. Every birder has his or her own way of approaching them, and the following method is one that has consistently worked for me.

The process involves mentally separating the sparrows into groups. It should work fairly well, keeping in mind the following underlying points:

- It covers species that normally and regularly occur in Kansas.
- It ignores immature and winter plumages.
- The author does not presume to consider himself an expert on this, or any other, subject.

To identify sparrows, it is helpful to know some of the features that often separate them. Note the presence or absence of streaking on the under parts, the shape and length of the tail, a noticeable head pattern, the presence or absence of white on the tail, and the overall look, or “giz,” of the bird.

Also, the time of the year is important. Some species are primarily here during the summer, while others are here only in winter. Some occur only in migration. The best months to view a good variety of sparrows are April and October. These periods

capture all of the seasonal specialties. A diligent birder can find ten or more species per day during these times.

Try following this step-by-step process for identification.

1. First, know what species typically occur in Kansas. There are twenty:

- American Tree
- Cassin’s
- Chipping
- Clay-colored
- Field
- Fox
- Grasshopper
- Harris’s
- Henslow’s
- House
- Lark
- LeConte’s
- Lincoln’s
- Nelson’s Sharp-tailed
- Savannah
- Song
- Swamp
- Vesper
- White-crowned
- White-throated

2. Separate out the short-tailed species with proportionally large, flattish heads. Look at under part streaking and face colors. The Grasshopper is the “cleanest” of these: no streaking and no prominent yellow or olive on the face. Le Conte’s, Nelson’s Sharp-tailed and Henslow’s have prominent yellow or olive on the face *and* streaks that are clearly visible on the breast and abdomen. To further separate these three, look at the colors on the nape of the neck, if there is gray and buff contrasting on face, and the color

of the background under the streaking on the sides and chest.

3. Separate out the species with prominent streaking

somewhere on the breast or sides.

4. Of the streaked sparrows, three can be separated due to very bold or prominent features. The Fox Sparrow is very large with a lot of reddish-brown color, like a Brown Thrasher. It also has contrasting gray and reddish-brown on its face. The Vesper Sparrow has a bold white eye ring and prominent white outer tail feathers. The Harris’ Sparrow has a black “beard” and a contrasting pink-orange bill.

5. The remainder of the streaked species (Savannah, Song and Lincoln’s) can then be separated by the background color of the side and breast streaks, length and shape of tail, presence of a breast spot, and presence of buff coloration.

6. Of the unstreaked sparrows, first separate out the species that have bold markings on the middle or sides of throat: White-throated, Lark, Clay-colored, House and Swamp.

7. Of the species listed in Step 6, first separate out House and Lark sparrows by the presence of dark markings on the chest. Note



(continued on page 19)

Sparrow identification made easier, *cont.*

that the House Sparrow has a large black bib that is absent in the Lark Sparrow.

8. The other three species can then be separated by the presence of bold black and white stripes on the top of the head (White-throated), then by color of under parts and wings (reddish brown on Swamp; gray-white on Clay-colored).

9. Of the remaining species (White-crowned, Chipping, American Tree, Cassin's, and Field)

the first three have bold black-and-white (White-crowned), or reddish-brown markings on the top of the head. The Chipping Sparrow has bold black-and-white eye stripes but no spot on the chest. The American Tree Sparrow has dull reddish-brown stripes and a spot on the chest.

10. The two remaining species are the least marked of our sparrows. The Cassin's Sparrow has virtually no markings except white

on the tail, and is found only in southwest Kansas. The statewide-ranging Field Sparrow has a bold white eye ring, bright orange-pink bill and no white on the tail.

Try hard and good luck!



Roundup, *cont.*

(J&CO), Gerry Parkinson, Robert Penner, Steve Phillips, Galen Pittman (GPi), Ellen Rader, Mike Rader, Robert Reed, Dave Rintoul, Steve and Sarah Roels (S&SR), Sarah Roels, Mary Nelle Rogers, Travis Ross, Rachel Roth (RRo), John Row, Rosella Royer (RRoy), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Diane Seltmann (DSe), Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Tom and Sara Shane (T&SS), Paul and Lisa Sharp (P&LS), Jim Shroyer (JSh), Shawn Silliman (SSi), Bill Staples, Eddie Stegall, Mike Stoakes, William Sutton, Charlie Swank (CSw), Greg Swick, Terry Swope, Max Thompson, Rick Tucker, Joyce Volmut, Rod Wedel, Phil Wedge, Lisa Weeks, Art Weigand, David Welfelt, David Wiggins, Dave Williams (DWi), Kim With, Jeff Witters, Gene Young, Molly Zahn, John and Linda Zempel (J&LZ).

Thanks, KOS!

By Charlie Black

On behalf of the Kansas Wildscape Foundation and our board of directors, I'd like to thank the Kansas Ornithological Society for its contribution to our Kansas WildLifer Challenge program.

This is a wonderful new program that will reach many children across Kansas, inspiring each one to participate in simple outdoor activities that have been on the decline over the last three decades. Children today don't get outside like most of us did growing up. The television and video game consoles have consumed the majority of households across the country. Wildscape has its sights on reversing that trend through this program.

The WildLifer Challenge program encourages youth to participate in activities as varied as fishing and planting a tree. Where possible, our challenges have a corporate sponsor. For example,

Coleman is sponsoring the "Pitch a Tent" challenge. But in some cases, the challenge doesn't particularly match well with any corporate entities. Instead of letting the challenge go sponsor-less, we decided to use these opportunities to promote other Kansas outdoor-based organizations that may be affiliated with the activity promoted in the challenge. For our challenge "For the Birds," our youth programs coordinator, Jennifer Rader, suggested the Kansas Ornithological Society as its sponsor.

Thank you for taking up a collection on our behalf at your recent spring meeting. Please extend our gratitude to the entire membership of KOS.

Charlie Black is the executive director of Kansas Wildscape. For more information on the Kansas WildLifer Challenge, visit www.kansaswildlifer.com.

Registration Form

KOS fall meeting

October 8-10, 2010

Johnson County Community College, Overland Park

I (we) plan to attend the 2010 KOS fall meeting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Saturday dinner Number ___ @ \$22.00 each \$ _____

Sunday lunch Number ___ @ \$8.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

*Registrations received after September 15 will be \$25.00.
Unless presenting, students will pay a \$5.00 registration fee.

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 2010 fall 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 September 30, 2010)

Species _____

Observers _____

Location _____

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