



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

December 2010

Vol. 37, No. 4

President's message

Happy Holidays to one and all! At this time of year it just seems to be the only way to start this message. First, I want to thank the members of KOS for having the faith and trust to select me to be president. I consider it a great honor, especially when I look at the list of past KOS presidents!

Next, a big thank you to Nancy Leo for not only her two years as president, but also all her hard work in arranging the fall meeting in Overland Park. We had a great time and I know how much work goes into planning a meeting.

Thanks also go to the past leadership. KOS is in good shape in all areas except membership. Many organizations have lost membership in recent years and dozens of excuses have been given. KOS is not an expensive organization, so we can't use that excuse. KOS offers a lot to Kansas birders. It must come

down to the simple fact that we are just too good of a secret! My challenge to the new KOS board, as well as to all the members, is to find ways to attract new members. Make sure that other birdwatchers you spend time with are members. Give gift memberships to friends. Most especially, find that young man or woman who is interested in birds and the outdoors and give them a gift membership!

The end of the year is an exciting time for birders. We've got Christmas Bird Counts to plan or participate in. Be sure to check the CBC page at <http://ksbirds.org/> for counts in your part of Kansas. Of course there's also the new year and the chance to start a new "year list." But before you get too wrapped up in your CBCs or your other holiday activities, be sure to pull out your 2011 calendar and mark the spring

(continued on page 2)

From the field



Cal Cink holds a Sedge Wren he mist-netted and banded at Baker Wetlands October 9 during a KOS field trip. President Chuck Otte looks on. © Cheryl Miller.

President's message, *cont.*

and fall meeting dates. During May 6 – 8 we'll be in Morton County for our spring meeting. It's been more than 10 years since we've been to Morton County and I'm looking forward to it. Also tentatively mark September 30 – October 2 for the fall meeting at the Wetland Education Center near Great Bend.

With that said, it's time to get back to birding. I look forward to a great year for KOS and if you have any questions or ideas, don't hesitate to contact me!

Chuck Otte

President

Spring KOS meeting, May 6-8, Elkhart, Morton County

The KOS spring meeting will be held in Elkhart, Morton County. Elkhart is in the extreme southwest portion of the state. The area provides good chances to see some of the birds that typically inhabit the southwestern United States and may allow you to add some species to your Kansas list.

The meeting headquarters will be the El Rancho motel in Elkhart. Field trips will be offered on Saturday and Sunday.

Mike Rader, Scott Seltman and Max Thompson are co-hosts. More details and a registration form will be in the next Horned Lark.



KOS Board of Directors

•President

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

•Vice-President

Henry Armknecht, armknecht@ruraltel.net

•Corresponding Secretary

Gregg Friesen, 515 E. 4th, 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, Lawrence, KS 66049; lisafweeks@gmail.com

•Editor, *KOS Bulletin*

Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand 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

Nancy Leo, njleo@earthlink.net

•Board Members

John Bollin III, BollinJ@umkc.edu
Bill Jensen, wjensen@emporia.edu
Rick Tucker, rickt@wavewls.com

Northeast Kansas upland bird partnership formed

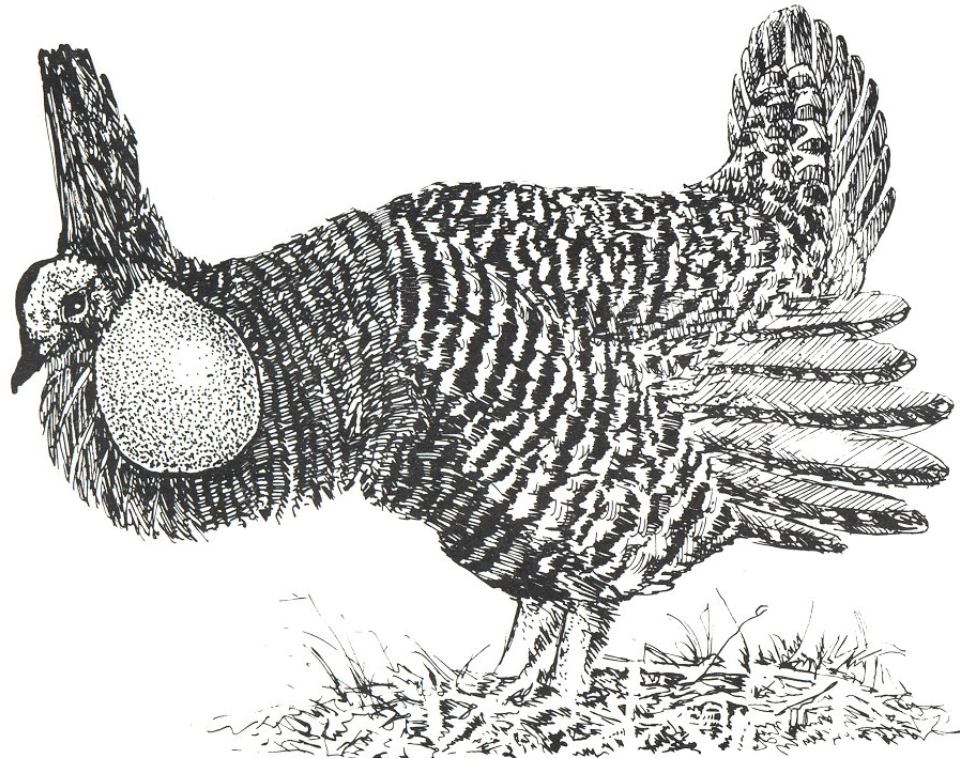
By John Schukman,
Coordinator, Northeast Kansas
Upland Bird Partnership

Because of declining upland bird populations, including both game and non-game species, a regional partnership of 16 organizations has formed in northeast Kansas.

The primary focus of the Northeast Kansas Upland Bird Partnership is to work together with other groups, agencies and organizations in the region to restore and protect habitat for game species and priority-ranked non-game species. A primary goal is to promote the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program in place of expiring CRP contracts. This will be accomplished in part by publishing and distributing a brochure showing the advantages, net income and lack of risk in keeping land in CRP. The organization also will provide workshops and training to area state and federal employees in order to assist them in disseminating information to landowners interested in the benefits of the CCRP.

Other goals include the development of habitat improvement teams and capabilities. This will be accomplished by providing help in implementing habitat programs, by providing equipment to plant native grass and to burn grasslands appropriately, and by preventing and eliminating invasive species.

Another goal is to improve brood habitat, which could



benefit many high-priority grassland birds. The breeding species of most concern listed in the Kansas comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan include Henslow's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow and Northern Bobwhite.

The partners are a diverse group and include Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc. (sponsor), Audubon of Kansas, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Kansas Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas State Conservation Commission, Pheasants Forever,

Quail Forever, Fort Riley Public Works Environmental Division, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education, Quail Unlimited, Sierra Club International and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

KOS members are directly or indirectly involved in the partnership goals, holding the best interests of these grassland birds for reproducing successfully and reversing population declines. More information about the partnership can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2698u9a>.

Kansas summer season roundup

June 1– July 31, 2010

Mark Corder, compiler

A Brown Pelican tops the better bird list for June and July 2010. First seen and identified by Rosella Royer in late June, this strange but graceful bird remained at Pony Creek Lake in Brown County for at least a week and was consequently added to many observers' county, state and life lists.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their apparent expansion into Kansas with two each seen in Sedgwick and Barton counties. Mottled Ducks seem to be moving away from their traditional strongholds at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge with one seen in Sedgwick County in late July by Nathan Ofsthun. Mike Rader reported a very cooperative female Black Scoter at Quivira in early June, and Barry Jones reported a single Roseate Spoonbill near the end of June in the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Lyon County. No fewer than four Glossy Ibis appeared in Barton and Stafford counties during the period.

Good raptors include a Black Vulture in Cherokee County, a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Leavenworth County in July, and four Red-shouldered Hawks in Riley County. This last part suggests a first possible species nesting record for that county. A single Peregrine Falcon, perhaps a bit lost, was seen in Gray County in mid-June by Scott Seltman.

An aberrant number of nearly one hundred Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred in the state in July. Laughing Gulls made single appearances in Stafford and Clay counties in early and late June, respectively. Eight White-winged Doves were appreciated by observers in seven counties from early in the period to mid-July.

Greater Roadrunners made a successful breeding excursion into the central Kansas landscape this summer with confirmed reports of nesting and chick raising (three) in the Great Bend Cemetery. There were also nesting reports from Butler and Pratt counties. Tens of thousands of Purple Martins congregated in downtown

Wichita as they staged for the long migration flight to the warmer climes of South America.

Other notables include a Riley County Fish Crow; a Tufted Titmouse in Pawnee County; a late, singing Wood Thrush near Derby; three Henslow's Sparrows seen in Ellis County in early June; a very late White-crowned Sparrow; and, what appears to be a species seen at least annually in the state, a Lesser Goldfinch at a Wichita residence.

Thanks again to Lloyd Moore for his assistance and review of the data for this report.

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



Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Bkck-bllld Whstlng-Duck	2, Wichita 2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Sedgwick Barton	6/19 7/3	JC (rep.) CM,TB,HH,NL
Mottled Duck	3, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge 2, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, Wichita area wetland	Stafford Barton <u>Sedgwick</u>	6/11 7/3 7/28	BJ CM,TB,HH,NL NO
<u>Black Scoter</u>	1 f., Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	<u>6/1</u>	MR
Hooded Merganser	1 f. and 4 juv., near Lake Lenexa 2 f., Gray Co., separate locations	Johnson <u>Gray</u>	6/1 <u>6/6</u>	MG SS

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
<u>Brown Pelican</u> <D>	1, Pony Creek Lake	<u>Brown</u>	6/29-7/5	RR, m:obs
Neotropic Cormorant	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/31	MRo, JKi
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1, Nature Conservancy land	Barton	6/26	MG,NA
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/31	MRo,JKi
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	7/31	MRo,JKi
Roseate Spoonbill	1, Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge	Lyon	6/21	BJ (rep.)
Black Vulture	1, Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	6/12	MR
Mississippi Kite	1, flying over Manhattan residence	<u>Riley</u>	6/6	TC
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1, above Pilot Ridge Knob	Leavenworth	<u>7/1</u>	JS
Bald Eagle	Nest with 2 juv., Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/19	BJ
	Nest with 2 juv., west of Derby	Sedgwick	7/6	JC
Red-shouldered Hawk	2 ad. and 2 juv., Fort Riley	Riley	6/16	JK
Peregrine Falcon	1, two miles north of Cimarron	<u>Gray</u>	<u>6/14</u>	SS
Black Rail	1, wetlands	<u>Sumner</u>	6/13-7/4	LH, m:obs
	2, wet meadow north end Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/26	MG,NA
Piping Plover	2, parking lot, Clinton Lake	Douglas	7/21	GP
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	7/31	MRo,JKi
White-rumped Sandpiper	200+, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	6/11	BJ
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7-59, Hudec Wetlands-Milford	Clay	<u>7/28,29</u>	ER
	23, near Ellinwood, in a field	Barton	<u>7/31</u>	MRo,JKi
Laughing Gull	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	6/1	MR
	1 ad., Milford Lake	Clay	6/18	ER
Least Tern	12 nests, LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	6/8	BG,NO
	2, Smith Bottoms Wetland	Clay	6/13	C&JO
	4, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	6/26	MG,NA
White-winged Dove	1, Wilson	Ellsworth	6/5	MR
	1, Russell Regional Hospital	Russell	6/6	MR
	1, Wichita residence	Sedgwick	6/9	PJ
	2, Colby	Thomas	7/2	PJ,KG
	1, north end of St. John	Stafford	7/6	MR
	1, Manhattan	Riley	7/19	MM
Inca Dove	1 heard, KSU campus	Riley	7/7	MR
Greater Roadrunner	2, Great Bend Cemetery	Barton	6/2	DKl,RG, m:obs
	1, south of Garfield	Pawnee	6/27	DK
	Nesting, Andover subdivision	Butler	6/29	PJ (rep.)
	Pair nesting, driveway, Pratt	Pratt	6/23	KB (rep.)
Common Poorwill	1, east of Abilene	Dickinson	6/16	MG,NA

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Rufous Hummingbird	1 m., Junction City residence	Geary	7/25	C&JO
Fish Crow	1, flying up Tuttle Creek Reservoir	<u>Riley</u>	6/6	TC
Purple Martin	<u>20,000-30,000</u> , downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	7/27	KG
Tufted Titmouse	1, residence northwest of Larned	<u>Pawnee</u>	7/1	SS
Wood Thrush	1, singing near Derby	Sedgwick	<u>6/12</u>	JC
Henslow's Sparrow	3, Kanopolis BBS route	Ellis	6/6	MR
White-crowned Sparrow	1, Gray/Meade county line	Gray	<u>6/5</u>	GF
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1, Wichita residence	Sedgwick	6/13	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.), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), female (f.), juvenile (juv.), Kansas State University (KSU), male (m.), multiple observers (m:obs), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), reporting (rep.).

Observers: Nic Allen, Tim

Barksdale, Ken Brunson, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Steve Comeau, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Rob Graham, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Leon Hicks, Helen Hewins, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Don Kazmaier, Dave Klema (DKI), Jeff Keating, Jon

King (JKi), Nancy Leo, Mark Mayfield, Cheryl Miller, Nathan Ofsthun, Chuck and Jaye Otte (C&JO), Gerry Parkinson, Mike Rader, Edward J. Raynor, Mark Robbins (MRo), Rosella Royer, Scott Seltman, John Schukman.

Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award: Jean Schulenberg

KOS honored Jean Schulenberg at the fall meeting with the Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award. In his nomination, Tom Shane wrote:

“Jean Schulenberg became a member of the Kansas Ornithological Society in 1967. She and her husband, Ed, became regular participants at KOS events. On field trips their young daughter Margaret was often curled up and sleeping in the back seat of the family's little Ford. They took many trips, including the most exciting of that period: riding the train to

Churchill, Canada. About another trip, Ed and Margaret often told the story of being parked for three consecutive days in order to locate one difficult bird species that finally did show.

Jean's interest in birds quickly expanded beyond basic birding when she took up banding, primarily at their prairie home north of Emporia. There she banded hundreds of Tree and Harris's sparrows. She held the office of vice president of the Inland Bird Banding Association from 1973-

1977. She also held offices in KOS: a director, 1972-1973; secretary, 1973-1974; vice president, 1974-1975, and then became the second woman president for the society from 1976-1978.

The Schulenbergs became excellent photographers: Ed with his Hasselblad and Jean with her Nikon. They published a number of bird photos. Most noteworthy were those published in Paul Johnsgard's 1979 book, “Breeding Birds of the Great Plains.”

(continued, page 7)

Avian Conservationist Award: Ken Brunson

KOS honored Ken Brunson with the Avian Conservationist Award at the fall 2010 meeting. In his nomination, Mike Rader wrote:

“Ken Brunson has long been an important figure in Kansas bird conservation and in KOS. He began his career with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in 1973 as a fisheries biologist with the Kansas Fish and Game Commission. In the last several years, Ken has served KDWP as the non-game species specialist. In that capacity, he has steered funding from the Chickadee Checkoff program to multiple projects that have benefited birds, including the publication and data management of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas, the first volumes of Thompson and Ely's "Birds of Kansas," and the highly anticipated revision of that same work.

Ken's work with KDWP has been extremely important, even when it seemed he was a "voice in the woods" on many non-game wildlife issues. Ken has taken the opportunity to speak to many groups around the state about conservation issues, ranging from non-game species to prairie-chickens and Sandhill Cranes, always trying to present both sides of the many arguments and passion invoked by bird conservation issues. He maintains the role of the consummate professional, acting as diplomatically as possible on highly-charged conservation issues, and providing thoughtful insight gained from his vast years of experience.



Mike Rader and Rob Penner surround Ken Brunson, center, congratulating him on the Avian Conservationist Award.

Ken has conducted Breeding Bird Survey routes for more than a dozen years and has participated in numerous other bird surveys across Kansas. He has participated in Kansas Christmas Bird Counts for more than 30 years and compiles the Sawyer CBC to this date.

Ken rarely seeks attention or credit for the work he has done. This doesn't mean that it doesn't matter to him. That's just the way he chooses to present himself—someone in the background, working diligently on the big picture concerning the many aspects of all wildlife conservation efforts in Kansas.”

Schulenberg, *cont.*

Jean has published four excellent papers in the KOS Bulletin as well as in other journals such as North American Birds. Her notes from Admire, which were published in the KOS Newsletter, kept us all informed of the bird sightings from that region of the Flint Hills. She started compiling the Emporia Christmas Bird Count in 1973 and has completed that task nearly every year to the most recent count.

When most people are looking ahead a few years to their retirement, Jean returned to college, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in biology at Emporia State University. She continued at that institution teaching biology labs for several years.”



Nancy Leo, KOS president, congratulates Jean Schulenberg, right, on receiving the Boyd Award. Photos by Cheryl Miller.

KOS fall meeting species compilation

Birders found 117 species on field trips organized for the KOS fall meeting. Species were observed in Douglas, Johnson and Linn counties.

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Gadwall
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Lesser Scaup
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Prairie Falcon
Sora
American Coot
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Palm Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

Kin avoidance and multiple paternity in a recently translocated island population of Rock Ptarmigan. *Andrew J. Gregory**, *Robert Kaler*, *Thomas Prebyl*, *Brett Sandercock*, and *Samantha Wisely*, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University.*

Island populations are prone to extinction in part because insular species are vulnerable to the deterministic and stochastic phenomenon associated with small population size and isolation. A further problem faced by small and isolated populations is reduced genetic diversity and the potential for inbreeding depression. Thus, wildlife translocation project plans must account for geographic isolation. We assessed microsatellite variation of a newly established population of Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta evermanni*) at Agattu Island, in the Aleutian Island Archipelago, Alaska. We found low levels of genetic diversity ($HO = 0.39$, and $AR = 3.4$) and small effective population size ($Ne = 36$). Despite low genetic diversity and a small effective population size, the Ne / N was high (0.61). Additionally, pairwise relatedness among reproductively successful adults was less than random male-female pairings ($r = -0.01$, $P = 0.05$) and multiple paternity was common (90% of the broods). Further, within two generations of re-introduction, genetic

diversity tended to increase (chicks: $HO = 0.41$, parents: $HO = 0.37$, $P = 0.10$). We hypothesize that multiple paternity and kin avoidance has evolved in Rock Ptarmigan as a mechanism to cope with an insular existence characterized by prolonged geographic isolation and small population size. In the future, to facilitate successful management, conservation, and establishment of evolutionarily stable populations, we recommend that translocation and management efforts devise conservation strategies that include specific population genetic goals as part of their objectives.

Effects of habitat management practices on breeding habitat use of Eastern Black Rails in Kansas. *Stephanie A. Kane** and *Greg H. Farley*, *Fort Hays State University.*

Two subspecies of Black Rail occur in the United States, and have rarely been studied on their breeding grounds; of the two, the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*) is the least studied. Eastern Black Rail are known to breed at several locations in Kansas, and are most often observed at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira NWR). The refuge utilizes two techniques, prescribed burning and haying, to manage vegetation in the wet-meadow habitat that the rails typically

occupy. Few studies have investigated the effect of prescribed burning on Black Rail populations, and little information is available on the habitat of inland populations. We conducted call playback surveys in accordance with the National Marsh Bird Survey Program's protocol for four rail species at Quivira NWR in the summers of 2009 and 2010. Results were compared with historical prescribed burn data to assess if burning had an effect on Black Rail presence. Vegetation surveys were also conducted throughout areas where rails responded during playback surveys. Results indicate that birds will return to suitable habitat within one month of a burn, and will continue to inhabit areas burned two years prior to surveying; canopy cover analysis indicated the birds were most often detected in wet sedge meadows dominated by *Eleocharis* species. Open sedge-meadows with lower water levels appear to be preferred sites. A mixture of thatch and less densely vegetated areas may represent the mosaic of habitat necessary for successful reproduction.



Adaptive Extended Phenotype: Structure and Shape of Nests Reflects Local

Wind Conditions in the Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*. Eunbi Kwon*, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*; Sang-im Lee, *Institute of Advanced Machinery and Design, Biomimetic Engineering Laboratory, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea*; and Jae Chun Choe, *Division of Ecoscience, Ewha Women's University, Seoul, Korea*

Black-billed magpies build their nests in tall trees and many pairs start nest building in January or February in Korea. The strength and direction of prevailing winds in late winter may affect the structural stability and microclimate of the nests. To minimize losses of nests and young, magpies may streamline and orient nests so that the direction of the longest horizontal axis matches wind direction at the locality. We measured morphological characteristics of 89 magpie nests at four localities with different wind conditions (maximum wind speed range: 61.2 - 167.4 km/hr). At all sites, nests were streamlined and oriented toward the direction of the strongest wind. The density and thickness of nest walls were greater at locations with stronger wind. In addition, we found that the body condition of nestling magpies was positively correlated with 1) the degree of streamlining and 2) the content of fabric material used for cup lining (N = 51 nestlings in 16 nests). Our results suggest that Black-billed Magpies optimize both the architecture and

orientation of their nests to maintain structural stability and appropriate microclimate in the nest environment.

Tern Reproductive Success and Breeding Habitat Requirements on Barrier Islands. Edward J. Raynor*, Aaron R. Pierce, *Department of Biological Sciences, Nicholls State University*; Cecilia Leumas and Frank C. Rohwer, *School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center*.

Louisiana's barrier islands rival all other breeding habitat types in colonial waterbird density. However, this habitat is subject to degradation from wave energy and reduced accretion from the human-altered Mississippi River system. In response to these effects, there has been considerable restoration efforts focused on barrier islands, but little evaluation of their success in regard to habitat functions. Specifically, the Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge (IDBIR) in Terrebonne Parish, which consists of Wine, Trinity, Whiskey, and Raccoon Islands, is a major waterbird rookery that has experienced substantial restoration through sediment applications, rock breakwater installations, vegetative planting, and sand fencing efforts under the CWPPRA program. The majority of restored areas on IDBIR are not used by nesting waterbirds, yet suitable nesting habitat appears to be available. To determine nesting habitat requirements of colonial waterbirds, we measured a suite

of potentially important habitat characteristics for hatching success and colony formation of two abundant ground-nesting species, Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maxima*) and Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) in 2008 and 2009. Habitat characteristics were also measured at apparently suitable yet inactive sites to determine potential differences between active and inactive habitats through discriminant analysis. Discriminant analysis revealed suitable nesting habitat was available on some inactive sites. Understanding the use of restored barrier islands by waterbirds and their nesting habitat requirements will help improve implementation and planning of future coastal restoration projects.

Stopover dynamics of migratory songbirds: A twenty-two-year study in northern California. Gina Barton* and Brett K.

Sandercock, *Division of Biology, Kansas State University*

Climate change has impacted seasonal phenology and geographic distributions of plants and animals. For migratory birds, ecological mismatches between movements and environmental conditions may negatively affect population viability. Climate conditions have sometimes been found to be associated with shifts in



migration timing, but, few studies have assessed whether stopover duration is shifting or associated with climate conditions. To assess spring and fall migration timing of five migratory songbirds, we used a 22-year mark-recapture dataset of songbirds in northern California. Preliminary results showed that autumn median arrival dates of Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) and Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) are delayed by about one day per two years ($p < 0.05$). No species show significant shifts in spring median arrival dates. Future analyses will look at changes in stopover duration over time and if weather covariates (i.e., hemispheric and local) are associated with annual variations in arrival dates and stopover duration.

Investigation of song dialects in alpine-breeding birds. *Anthony C. Dalisio**, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University; *William E. Jensen*, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University; and *Timothy H. Parker*, Department of Biology, Whitman College

Song dialects have been well documented among isolated bird populations. Natural fragmentation of bird populations among elevationally-restricted life zones could promote dialect formation. We are investigating dialect patterns among populations of songbird species isolated across alpine life zones in the Rocky Mountains of

North America. In 2010 we recorded songs of American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens alticola*), Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) and White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*) across 6 mountain ranges in Colorado. We digitally recorded songs and used spectrographic cross-correlation (SPCC) to calculate time-frequency similarity coefficients from pair-wise comparisons of song phrases among birds. Dialects per species were considered evident if mean, within-site song similarity was greater than pair-wise similarity between birds across all sites. We also used Pearson correlation to determine if song similarity among paired sites was related to distance between sites (range: 34–189 km). Within-site song similarity was greater than mean, across-site similarity for 4 of 6 populations in the American Pipit, 2 of 4 populations in the Wilson's Warbler and, 4 of 5 populations in the White-crowned Sparrow. Song similarity between sites was not related to between-site distance in the American Pipit or the White-crowned Sparrow, but increased with distance between sites in the Wilson's Warbler, contrary to prediction. Further sampling will determine if dialect divergence among sites is a function of decay in song



similarity with distance or isolation of cultural units.

Patterns of Henslow's Sparrow territories in restored grasslands of west-central Missouri.

*Levi Jaster**, *William Jensen*, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University; and *Andrew Forbes*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Grasslands in the Midwest are being restored with native warm-season grasses and exotic cool-season grasses. In Missouri, these restorations are, in part, targeted for improving habitat for the state-endangered Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Other grassland species, such as Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), also use these plantings but to an unknown extent. Here we report on patterns in the distribution and size of breeding Henslow's Sparrow territories between warm and cool season grasslands in west-central Missouri. We mist-netted and color-banded Henslow's Sparrows from May to August 2010 across three conservation areas that had similar proportions of warm- (50.1%) and cool-season (49.9%) grass fields. We captured and banded 42 Henslow's Sparrows, including 37 adults and 5 juveniles. Resighting of color-banded males allowed us to estimate boundaries of 19 territories. Five territories occurred in warm-season grass fields and 14 in cool-season grass fields, demonstrating that habitat use was disproportionate to habitat

availability. There was a significant ($P < 0.05$) difference in territory size between habitats, where territories in warm-season grass fields (mean = 0.53 ha \pm 0.09 SE) were larger than territories in cool-season grass fields (mean = 0.30 ha \pm 0.06 SE). This observation is consistent with the prediction of the elastic disc hypothesis, where territory size is predicted to decrease as territory density increases. Henslow's Sparrows appeared to prefer cool-season grasslands over warm-season grasslands, although other habitat characteristics may have influenced habitat use.

Experimental harvest reveals thresholds of compensatory mortality in Willow Ptarmigan.

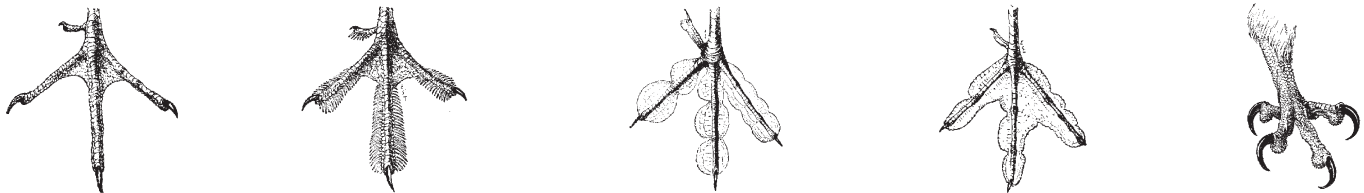
Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, and Erlend B. Nilsen, Henrik Brøseth, and*

Hans Chr. Pedersen, Terrestrial Division, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim, Norway

A central question in wildlife management is whether harvest is additive to natural losses or offset by compensatory survival. We tested the effects of experimental harvest on survival of Willow Ptarmigan in a 3-year experiment on a 122 km² study area in central Norway. Five hunting estates were randomly assigned to harvest treatments of 0%, 15% or 30%, and survival rates of 193 radio-marked birds were monitored for 269 bird-years. Annual survival of ptarmigan was highest under 0% harvest (0.54), intermediate at 15% harvest (0.47), and lowest at 30% harvest (0.30). Cause-specific mortality rates showed that hunting mortality increased linearly across the harvest treatments (0%: 0.08, 15%: 0.27, 30%: 0.42). In contrast, natural

mortality rates were highest without hunting (0%: 0.38) and lower under harvest (15-30%: 0.25-0.28). Cause-specific hazard functions indicated that risk of natural mortality was greatest during early fall and late spring, which coincided with periods of juvenile dispersal, territorial activity, and raptor migration. Partial compensation for harvest mortality was 30% across all treatments, with evidence of thresholds in compensatory survival. The implications for ptarmigan management are that hunting mortality is more likely to be additive during late autumn or if proportional harvest rates are >15%.

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 one-half of a point. Congratulations to Andrew J. Gregory (photo at right) for his paper, "Kin avoidance and multiple paternity in a recently translocated island population of Rock Ptarmigan." A graduate student at Kansas State University, the abstract for

his paper appears on page 11.



Kansas Ornithological Society meeting minutes, 2010

General Membership

Meeting, October 9, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park.

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Leo (president) at 10:05 a.m.

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

President: Chuck Otte; **Vice**

President: Henry Armknecht;

Secretary: Gregg Friesen;

Treasurer: Terry Manell;

Membership Secretary: Patty

Marlett; **Business Manager:** Lisa

Weeks; **Bulletin Editor:** Eugene

Young; **Horned Lark Editor:**

Cheryl Miller; **Past President:**

Nancy Leo; **Board Members:** Bill

Jensen, Michael Andersen, John

Bolin III and Rick Tucker.

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

III. The reports from committees included the following:

Horned Lark: Cheryl Miller was not yet present but it is noted that submissions for the Horned Lark (December issue) are due November 1.

Membership: Patty Marlett was not in attendance but the report submitted noted membership is down from 299 to 284 from 2009 to 2010.

Treasurer: Terry Mannell presented (see attachment). The current checking account balance stands at \$6,365.00 with investments at \$129,563.73. This is up from last year primarily due to a stronger market for investments. Terry noted that the Home National Bank where our accounts are housed was recently purchased but operations in terms of our accounts will not change.

Business Manager: Lisa

Weeks announced the printing of a new checklist (first update since 2003) with 472 species.

Chuck Otte noted work on the website included moving to a new server with significantly more storage space and a significant reduction in costs. Ongoing work on the website is planned with input welcomed.

Mike Rader reported on the spring meeting to be held in Elkhart, May 6-8, 2011. More information will be available as plans are put in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

Board Meeting, October 9, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park.

Present: Michael Andersen, Mike Rader, Nancy Leo, Terry Manell, Bill Busby, Robert Penner, Henry Armknecht, Lisa Weeks, Cheryl Miller, John Schukman, Chuck Otte, Gregg Friesen and Max Thompson.

Absent: Patty Marlett, Gene Young.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Nancy Leo.

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

Committee reports were as follows:

Horned Lark: Cheryl Miller described her frustration with the new printer driver put in place by Northwest Printers and the issues with getting proofs back in a

timely/easy manner. She is hoping this issue is resolved with time.

Bulletin: Gene Young was absent and not able to give a report.

Membership: Patty Marlett was absent. Her report (sent in advance) noted the drop in membership mentioned earlier in the day (see morning minutes). She did fairly well with holding onto members with email reminders and follow up letters and will work do to this again this coming year (last year her time was limited doing this). It is thought that the new brochure will help in this area.

Treasurer: Terry Mannell reported. He noted the drop in dues resulting from a drop in membership. Funding of the "Birds of Kansas" book is in place with the transfer of a rather substantial fund of money to help in this area. The printing of the checklist cost a little less than \$700. Terry noted that the spring meeting showed a gain of over \$1,200 in part as we had more attendees than planned. Terry also noted that investments are doing well. See the addendum for more details on financial issues.

Business Manager: Lisa Weeks reported. She discussed the results from the survey about the spring meeting noting there is a wide variety of interests and preferences in lodging and trips (see addendum). She also noted that we will soon have a new merchandising option through a website that will print our emblem on a variety of items. Lisa asked for help with marketing ideas and with getting a new design for a T-shirt. Various ideas were discussed around the issues of recruiting new members and a focus on recruiting younger members. Chuck Otte will head up an ad hoc committee to

look at both fundraising and recruiting.

Conservation Committee:

Bill Busby reported on the Lesser Prairie-Chicken decision noting the move to not list the bird. He noted that most on the committee felt the bird was in trouble but decided against listing for a variety of reasons (the issue was more complex than one would assume). In the end, the split decision to “not list” was seen as a way to mitigate what could be other forces working against the bird. Threats are seen as multiple in nature with some mitigating issues also noted (one of which is the Natural Resource Conservation Service putting money into CRP programming to look at conservation options.) Chuck Otte moved to write a response to KDWP with regards to the petition outcome. The petition passed on a voice vote with Mike Rader abstaining (Mike Rader abstained from any discussion on this topic).

Finance: Max Thompson noted starting the year with \$119,000, with the accounts up to \$129,000 at present. The cash account is at \$7,000. The market has done well since July in particular.

Student Research: John Schukman presented on this topic. He notes funds are strong for support of projects and the cap on funding could be increased in part as we do not get a lot of requests for funds (the priority for funds is the study of Kansas birds). Income for the fund continues to come from the Silent Auction. The organization still asks that recipients of funds present the results of their research in some way to KOS (by paper or presentation). Terry Mannell moved to increase the ceiling on funding to \$750 per request. The motion was seconded and passed on

a voice vote.

Northeast Kansas Upland Bird Project: This involves a study of upland bird issues and is made up of a rather wide variety of groups statewide with sponsorship by the Glacial Hills Group. Reference the handout provided. Of note is that much support for the program in terms of input comes from KOS members. Joining would demand no formal obligation but would allow formal affiliation with a wide variety of hunting and conservation groups in the state. There is no financial obligation for joining. Cheryl Miller moved to join the group formally with the motion seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Spring meeting: Mike Rader commented on the spring meeting plan for Elkhart.

Fall 2011 meeting: This will be discussed more at the meeting later in the afternoon.

Request for books: Pete Janzen has asked to buy copies of “The Birds of Sedgwick County” at a reduced cost. The assumption was that a cost to Pete (the author) would be about a dollar a book. Max Thompson moved to allow Pete to have a box of books for free, noting that KOS has more than recovered its cost on the book. The motion received a second and passed on a voice vote.

New business: Cheryl relayed a message from Pete Janzen stating that he received an official letter from the United States Post Office regarding postal Permit Imprint 297. It will expire at the end of October. We agreed to allow the permit to lapse as any future mailings can be sent using the imprint of the vendor we hire to mail our materials. Lisa Weeks noted she received the hard copy from the post office, forwarded from Pete Janzen, and noted there is no action needed on

our part to allow the permit to lapse. The board agreed to allow the permit to lapse.

Nancy Leo moved to close the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

General Membership Meeting, October 9, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park.

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m. by Nancy Leo, president.

Sale items: Lisa Weeks noted that a few items remain for sale. She also noted the survey from the spring meeting and welcomed feedback from others at any level.

Conservation Committee: Note the denial of the petition to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Ken Brunson commented on the work done on the issue and felt the seven member group focused on the task in a fair manner that took into account many of the complex issues at hand. He did apologize on the behalf of KDWP for the manner in which the decision was communicated to KOS and other petitioners. Others noted that the decision and discussion took into account more than the biological considerations of the bird.

Slate of officers: The list of officers presented in the morning session was again reviewed (see minutes from the morning meeting). Max Thompson moved to accept and approve the slate for officer positions in the KOS. The motion received a second and was passed by voice vote.

Adjournment: Nancy Leo moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

Board meeting, May 15, 2010, rural Tipton.

President Nancy Leo called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Present: Nancy Leo, Chuck Otte, Patty Marlett, Mike Rader, Lisa Weeks, Terry Mannell and Cheryl Miller. Absent: Max Thompson, Michael Andersen, Gene Young, Bill Jensen and Henry Armknecht.

Fall meeting: The fall meeting of KOS will be October 8 and 9 at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park. The banquet program will be presented by Tim Barksdale.

Brochure: Lisa Weeks and Matt Gearheart put together the new brochure for the organization. Lisa asked for some input on locations for the brochure to be distributed. The brochure will refer people to the website of the organization for specific membership information. Terry Mannell's name will be listed as a contact person with some information rather generic in nature to avoid dating the brochure.

Subscriptions: Terry Mannell noted a need to have a letter to libraries to deal with lost or "not delivered" copies of the bulletin. Another issue is foreign delivery which costs more than the membership rate, and the cost of mailing these likely needs to prompt a rate increase for these subscriptions.

Spring meeting: The Spring meeting needs to take into account Wings and Wetlands, April 29, 30, and May 1. It was noted from the current meeting that members like the accommodations that help keep the group organized.

Kansas Wildscape: Jennifer Rader is working with the Kansas Wildscape program and is asking for contributions to help this program work. The board decided to pass the hat at the meal in the evening for personal donations.

Adjournment: At 7:03 p.m.

Patty Marlett moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and the motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

Board Email Transactions,
October 2009 to October 2010.

•Chuck Otte noted that due to our not-for-profit status Hutchinson Community College could not charge us for the use of their facility at the 2009 fall meeting. This savings of \$80 put our profit for the meeting at between \$300-400.

•The deaths of members Henry Fitch and Phil Menninger were noted. Phil Menninger was thought to have been a charter member. Ida Mabel Willis was also noted to have died at the age of 102 (member of KOS).

•A note on hospitality issues raised awareness of the need to be more welcoming at meetings. This prompted good discussion on the nature of meetings and interaction with members and guests and the need to be aware of how we approach others.

•A new cover for the Horned Lark was introduced with members feeling it looked good but needed to more clearly identify it as a publication of the Kansas Ornithological Society.

•To avoid conflicting with NASCAR for hotel beds the fall KOS meeting was moved to the second weekend of October 2010.

•Nancy Leo proposed having Tim Barksdale give the banquet presentation at the fall meeting in Overland Park. She proposed a payment \$500 with a general consensus that this was okay as long as the meeting remained self-supporting.

•Lisa Weeks noted a need to update the printed state checklist (last done in 2003). There was

discussion about simply pulling the material from the webpage (current checklist) to get this to the printer. Additional discussion focused on the field checklist that includes a variety of more common birds in a format to allow a tally in several rows. Support was given to not print this checklist with some uncertainty as to its origins.

•Of note was the rejection of the proposal to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as endangered in the state (by the KDWP).

•Ken Brunson was nominated for the Avian Conservationist of the Year Award and the board voted to approve giving this award to Ken.

•Mike Rader, after much discussion, agreed to help put together the 2011 Spring KOS meeting the second weekend of May (avoiding Wings and Wetlands and most graduations in the state). He has asked Scott Seltman to help with this task. The event will be held in Elkhart. Talk of a joint meeting with the Oklahoma group was put tabled with some inclination to not go that route.

•The board chose Jean Schulenberg for the 2010 Ivan Boyd Award.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of October 2010. Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

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.

It's time to renew your KOS membership!

New Member Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Family	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$45 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$300 (or two consecutive annual payments of \$150)



Please remit check or money order, payable to KOS, and mail this form and your dues payment to:

Terry Mannell
218 Northridge Dr.
Hays, KS 67601

Name Daytime phone or e-mail

Address City State Zip Code

Ten best birds of the year

During the fall KOS banquet, Max Thompson presented the following birds as best of the year, October 2009-September 2010.

1. Williamson's Sapsucker, October 9, Garden City, Finney County. Tom and Sara Shane;

2. Williamson's Sapsucker, December 5, Wilson State Park, Russell County. Dave Klema;

3. Magnificent Frigatebird, September 14, Clinton Lake, Douglas County. Michael Andersen, Pete Hosner and Jonathan King;



4. Eurasian Wigeon, March 7, Wichita, Sedgwick County. Larry Londagin;

5. Gray Flycatcher, September 5, K-27 campground, Morton County. Dave Williams, Matt Gearheart, Mark Land, Nic Allen, Kevin Groeneweg, Jeff Calhoun and E.J. Raynor;

6. Anna's Hummingbird, August 31, Garden City, Finney County. Tom and Sara Shane;

7. Ruff, April 23, Wichita, Sedgwick County. Jay Newton;

8. Ruff, May 7, Slate Creek Wetlands, Sumner County. Kevin Groeneweg, Shawn Silliman and Gene Young;

9. Whooping Cranes, April 1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Stafford County. Mike Rader reported 76 birds;

10. Brown Pelican, June 29, Pony Creek Lake, Brown County. Rosella Royer; May 12, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Stafford County. Barry Jones.