



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

June 2011

Vol. 38, No. 2

President's message

I have to start off with a big thank you to Max Thompson, Scott Seltman, Ted Cable and Mike Rader for all their hard work to make the spring KOS meeting so successful. What a great time and what a great turnout! More than 65 birders attended all or part of the weekend in Morton County. Great birding, great companionship and great memories help us realize what being a KOS member is all about. Be sure to check further inside the Horned Lark for the final species compilation list. I'm not sure how the organizers arranged to get a Painted Redstart into the county for Friday, but those of us who got to see it really appreciated it!

The excellent turnout for the spring meeting is a testament to the growing interest in this passion we all have. It was exciting that several of the

spring meeting attendees were not KOS members. I say exciting because we have several new potential members. The interest and fascination in birds and birding continues to grow. Some pundits feel that organizations like KOS are doomed because people can find all the information they need on the Internet. I disagree. Yes, there is a lot of information on the Internet and some of it is even accurate and useful. But where on the Internet are you going to find the kind of camaraderie that we saw during the weekend in Elkhart? Where can you find the kind of learning environment that we have when we get together for a spring or fall meeting? I dare anyone to experience Morton County on the Internet.

The Internet can be a great source of information. But our
(continued on page 2)

From the field



A cooperative Smith's Longspur allowed photographs at close range near Cheney Reservoir in mid-January. See more interesting records in the winter roundup beginning on page 4. © Mike Heaney, 2011.

President's message, *cont.*

passion for birds is not a "virtual" passion, it is visceral. It is from our heart, it is from our soul. It is your hands on the binoculars, your feet on the ground, the wind in your face. It's a Painted Redstart twittering in the branches of a Siberian Elm, it's a Common Raven flying low over your head in the morning wind giving that low croaking call. It's something that you can't get off the computer screen or from the ear buds buried in your ears. We all know birders who aren't members of KOS. They are missing a great deal. All they need is that personal invitation to get them involved. Be that catalyst!

With spring migration pretty much behind us, we turn our attention to summer birding. I know some birders bemoan the summer doldrums, but I don't believe in it. Some of us are busy doing Breeding Bird Surveys during June and by the time you get into late July, it's time to be looking for fall migration beginning with hummingbirds and shorebirds. Summer doldrums? Not in my book! Until the next time we gather, I'll be looking for you in the field!

Chuck Otte

President

Award nominations sought

Avian Conservationist of the Year

Nominations for the Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation through the management or preservation of habitats, education or research. The accomplishment should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation and/or education within the state of Kansas. Nominations will be accepted until July 1.

To make a nomination, send a typed description of no more than two pages, giving a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished. Send the nominations to Robert L. Penner, 593 NE 130 Avenue, Ellinwood, KS 67526, or to rpenner@tnc.org.

Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

The Kansas Ornithological Society recognizes one of its members with this award for outstanding contributions and service to the society. Nominations for the award should be submitted to the KOS president and include a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS.

The nomination deadline is August 1. Provide a typed description of no more than two pages and give specific examples of contributions to KOS the nominee has made. Include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Send nominations to Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 or e-mail to otte2@cox.net.

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<http://www.ksbirds.org/>

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Spring KOS species compilation list

Participants in the KOS spring meeting saw or heard the following 170 species in Morton, Stanton, Stevens or Grant counties during the spring meeting, May 6-8, 2011.

Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Redhead
 Ruddy Duck
 Scaled Quail
 Northern Bobwhite
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Lesser Prairie-Chicken
 Wild Turkey
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 Great Blue Heron
 Snowy Egret
 Black-crowned
 Night-Heron
 White-faced Ibis
 Turkey Vulture
 Mississippi Kite
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Ferruginous Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 American Kestrel
 Prairie Falcon
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Mountain Plover
 Black-necked Stilt
 American Avocet

Spotted Sandpiper
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Upland Sandpiper
 Whimbrel
 Long-billed Curlew
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Franklin's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 White-winged Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Inca Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Barn Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Common Poorwill
 Chimney Swift
 Black-chinned
 Hummingbird
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Ladder-backed
 Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Western Wood-Pewee
 Willow Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Dusky Flycatcher
 Say's Phoebe
 Ash-throated Flycatcher
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Cassin's Kingbird
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Loggerhead Shrike
 White-eyed Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo
 Plumbeous Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 Black-billed Magpie
 Chihuahuan Raven
 Common Raven
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 Northern Rough-winged
 Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Rock Wren
 Canyon Wren
 House Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Curve-billed Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Black-throated Blue
 Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green
 Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart



Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Painted Redstart
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Green-tailed Towhee
 Spotted Towhee
 Cassin's Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Lark Bunting
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Summer Tanager
 Western Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Indigo Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Bullock's Oriole
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow
 Under review by Kansas
 Bird Records Committee:
 Cassin's Vireo

Kansas winter season roundup

December 1 – February 28, 2011

Mark Corder, compiler

In terms of gulls, this winter reprises the 2008-2009 winter with the notable exception of there being no Ross's Gull. Ross's Gulls were reliably reported in states to the north, but despite some reservoir watching, no Ross's was reported. California and Lesser Black-backed gulls were reported from four counties, Thayer's from five, Glaucous from three, and one to two Mew Gulls made appearances at the LaFarge sandpit in Wichita.

Swan reports continue to be on the increase in the state. There are more than 250 swans in the data (with some probable duplicates). Observers reported 34 birds in three flocks from Shawnee County that later ramped up to as many as 53 individuals seen the next day in the same general area.

Notable waterfowl species include two Brant reported from Harvey and Sedgwick counties. A real oddity was a single Wood Duck reported in mid-December on the Olathe Christmas Bird Count. An unprecedented number of Gadwall was reported with an incredible total of 78 birds seen on the Fall River CBC in late December. Topping that are nearly 6,200 Northern Pintail cumulatively reported on the Great Backyard Bird Counts in mid-February—pretty impressive for a species that is considered to be a local winter resident. Canvasbacks were not to be left behind with more than 60 birds reported during the period. Also seen were two White-winged Scoters, a single Long-tailed Duck, one Barrow's Goldeneye, a solitary Bufflehead, and more than the usual number of winter Ruddy Ducks.

An American Bittern at Cheyenne Bottoms in mid-January has to be among the more bizarre observations of the period. Probably on a near par include Seltman's early December report of 160 White-faced Ibis at Cheyenne Bottoms, two late-December Turkey Vultures, an American Woodcock in mid-December and an Osprey in late January.

Merlin and Prairie Falcon reports were above the norm contrasted to other raptor sightings, which were



A surprise for the winter roundup was an American Woodcock found by Paul Griffin in Oak Park, Wichita. Matt Gearheart found another on March 6 in Olathe and was able to take close photographs. © Matt Gearheart, 2011.

relatively meager compared to previous years. After several years of absence, a Common Ground-Dove made its way into Barber County along with two Greater Roadrunners. They were reported on the Red Hills CBC in early January.

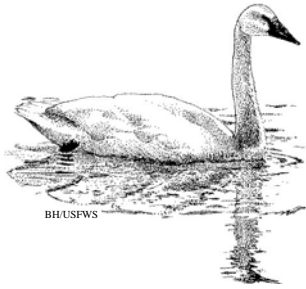
The sole hummingbird reported for the period was an immature Rufous coming to a Hays residence in early December. Other near-stunning reports include sixteen Snow Buntings from the Waconda CBC, a single Golden-crowned Sparrow in the Garden City area, a Common Redpoll from Derby, the overall number of American Robins, and two Evening Grosbeaks.


Considering the conditions, the bird reports in terms of variety and numbers were quite good. Thanks again to all who reported during the period.

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

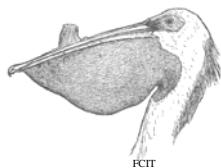
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<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Brant</u> <D>	1, pond, Schwab residence	Harvey	1/2,7	CS
<D>	1, small pond, I-135, Exit 22	Sedgwick	1/7	LL
Geese (5 species)	115,000+, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
Trumpeter Swan	2, Horsethief Canyon Reservoir	<u>Hodgeman</u>	12/1	BS
	3, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	12/2	RR
	3 ad., 1 imm., lake	McPherson	12/4	TW
	5, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	12/13	RR
	2, pond, Schwab residence	Harvey	12/13	CS
	7, Lake Quivira	<u>Johnson</u>	12/14	MCo
	5, Rocky Ford area	Pottawatomie	12/15-16	DL
	5, (same birds), Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/18	m:obs
	Unreported number, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	3, near Hamilton	Greenwood	12/27	MG
	5, Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28	CMo
	34, three flocks, near Rossville	Shawnee	1/8	DM
	1, perhaps more, Hamilton lagoon	Greenwood	1/10	KB (rep.)
	14, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	1/12	CH
	5, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	1/13	DD
	5, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	1/16	JDo
	4, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/16	PJ
	11, near Elwood	Doniphan	1/17	DC
	4, Bismark Lake, north of Lawrence	Douglas	1/19	JK
	3, Horsethief Canyon Reservoir	<u>Hodgeman</u>	1/28	BS, JD
	12, south of Erie	Neosho	2/6	RT,JT
	6, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	2/9	MT
	1, K-7 & Fairmount Road	Leavenworth	2/14	DWi
	3, Horsethief Canyon Reservoir	<u>Hodgeman</u>	2/19	PJ,KG
<D>	5, Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	2/22-23	MPI,KMc
	4, near 199th & Lackman Road	<u>Johnson</u>	2/24	JW,DCo
Tundra Swan	2, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/3	MR
	11, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/5	SS
	1, Olathe CBC	Johnson	12/18	DW (rep.)
	2, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
	5, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	2/23	CM
	3, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/30	BJ
	6, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	2/18	BJ
Swan (sp.)	8, near Baker Wetlands	Douglas	12/17	BBu (rep.)
	4, west of Rossville	Shawnee	12/22	BM
	53, west of Rossville	Shawnee	1/9	B&AM
	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	2/3	PJ
	3, near Midland Junction	Douglas	2/14	BCI
Wood Duck	1, Olathe CBC	Johnson	<u>12/18</u>	DW (rep.)
Gadwall	7, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	10, Olathe CBC	Johnson	12/18	DW (rep.)
	9, Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	12/26	JR
	6, River Pond State Park	Pottawatomie	12/26	JR



Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Gadwall 	1, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/26	JB
	<u>78</u> , Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	1/1	SS
	Unreported number, Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	1/1	TC
	10, Holton CBC	Jackson	1/5	DL (rep.)
	4, Tuttle Creek Lake outlet tubes	Riley	1/8	ER,TC,HT
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwck	1/16	PJ
	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
	Unreported number, Newton	Harvey	1/22	GF
<u>American Black Duck</u>	2, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/26	JB
	<u>5</u> , Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/28	JW
	1, Mined Land CBC	Cherokee	1/1	RT
	1, Hillsdale Lake	Miami	2/21	ML,CK,SH
Blue-winged Teal	1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	<u>12/16</u>	RP (rep.)
Northern Pintail	<u>150+</u> , Parsons CBC	Labette	12/23	RM
	2, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/26	JB
	Unreported number, main lake	Wyandotte	12/28	JW
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	12/29	RR
	<u>20</u> , one flock, + others, Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/31	MP
	Small flock, Twin Lakes, Wichita	Sedgwick	1/1	PJ
	20+, Larned environs	Pawnee	1/1	SS
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake outlet tubes	Riley	1/8	ER,TC,HT
	<u>6,188</u> , Great Backyard Bird Count	statewide	2/18-21	m:obs
Canvasback	1, Olathe CBC	Johnson	12/18	DW (rep.)
	12, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
	6, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	10+, Larned environs	Pawnee	1/1	SS
	1, Webster Reservoir CBC	Rooks	1/5	MR,SS
	<u>25</u> , LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/6	PJ
	8, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
	Unreported number, Newton	Harvey	1/22	GF
	Unreported number, Wichita	Sedgwick	1/31	TE
Redhead	9, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	1, Olathe CBC	Johnson	12/18	DW (rep.)
	3, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/16	PJ
	Unreported number, Newton	Harvey	1/22	GF
Greater Scaup	<u>20</u> , LaFarge sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/1</u>	PJ
<u>White-winged Scoter</u>	1, Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/24	DL
	1, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	1/1	MG (rep.)
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
Bufflehead	1, Jetmore City Lake	<u>Hodgeman</u>	2/19	PJ,KG

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/18	CM (rep.)
Hooded Merganser	<u>450</u> , single flock, Toronto Lake	Woodson	12/27	PJ,JN
Ruddy Duck	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	1, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/26	JB
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	12/27	CM,MG
	Unreported number, main lake	Wyandotte	12/28	JW
	1, Pony Creek Lake	Brown	12/29	RR
	1, Webster Reservoir CBC	Rooks	1/5	MR,SS
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/11,16	PJ
	4, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	2 leks + 15 flying, south of Haviland	Kiowa	2/19	PJ,KG
<u>Pacific Loon</u>	1, Minooka boat ramp, Wilson Lake	Russell	12/5	MR
Common Loon	1, Horsethief Canyon Reservoir	<u>Hodgeman</u>	12/1	BS
	<u>13</u> , Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
Pied-billed Grebe	1, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/26	JB
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	12/27	CM,MG
	Unreported number, main lake	Wyandotte	12/28	JW
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/1	SS
	3, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/16	PJ
	4, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
Horned Grebe	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	<u>1/11</u>	PJ
Eared Grebe	1, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
Western Grebe	1, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
American White Pelican	1, Rocky Ford area	Pottawatomie	12/15	DR
	2, Rocky Ford area	Pottawatomie	12/16	JR
	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	1, Lakewood Park, Salina	Saline	12/24	KF
	1, Toronto Lake	Woodson	12/27	PJ,JN
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Pine Bay sandpit	Sedgwick	<u>1/9</u>	JC
	1, Arkansas River sandbar	Sedgwick	<u>1/22</u>	JC
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake outlet tubes	Riley	<u>2/11</u>	GR
American Bittern	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>1/17</u>	RG
Great Egret	1, Twin Lakes, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>12/1</u>	PG
	1, K-96 pond	Sedgwick	<u>12/6</u>	JC
	1, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	<u>12/18</u>	CM (rep.)
	1, I-135 drainage canal, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/3</u>	MT
White-faced Ibis	<u>160</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/5</u>	SS




Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Turkey Vulture	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	<u>12/18</u>	GP (rep.)
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	<u>12/27</u>	DL (rep.)
Osprey	1, south of Twin Lakes, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/31</u>	PG
Bald Eagle	Increasing numbers, multiple sites <u>132</u> , Great Backyard Bird Count	statewide statewide	Dec.-Feb. 2/18-21	m:obs m:obs
Northern Harrier	<u>16</u> , field, northwest of Globe	Douglas	<u>1/6</u>	JK
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 imm., Rintoul residence	Riley	12/23	DR
	1, Sutton residence, Dodge City	Ford	12/26	BS
	1, (same bird?), Dodge City	Ford	12/27	MR, JR
	1 imm., Pawnee Rock	Barton	1/14	MR
	1, TNC land, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/18	RP
Ferruginous Hawk	1, rural area	Ellis	1/1	TM, SG
	Small numbers	Morton	1/2	GF, EF
	1, TNC land, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/18	RP
	Scattered sightings, usually singles	statewide	Dec.-Feb.	m:obs
Rough-legged Hawk	Small number	Morton	1/2	GF, EF
	Scattered sightings, usually singles	statewide	Dec.-Feb.	m:obs
	6, Kiowa County rural areas	Kiowa	2/19	PJ, KG
Golden Eagle	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/18	D&KK
	1, rural area	Ellis	1/1	TM, SG
	1, Webster Reservoir CBC	Rooks	1/5	MR, SS
	2, soaring south of Ellis	Ellis	1/29	G&CP
	9, Great Backyard Bird Count	statewide	2/18-21	m:obs
Merlin	1, Royer residence	Brown	12/6	RR
	1, KSU Beef Unit	Riley	12/12	JR
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	1, Olathe CBC	Johnson	12/18	DW (rep.)
	1, f., 125th Street	Harvey & Sedgwick	12/27	CM
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	3, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/2	PJ (rep.)
	1, near Elwood	Doniphan	1/3	DC
	1, Holton CBC	Jackson	1/5	DL (rep.)
	1, rural area	Kingman	1/15	KG
	1, rural area	Barton	1/16	SS
	1, f., 85th & Rock Road	Sedgwick	1/17	CM
	1, "Waco" area, Wichita	Sedgwick	1/18	JC, TR
	1, Lake Afton	Sedgwick	1/18	MG
	1, Ashland Bottoms	Riley	1/21	JR
	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	2/3	PJ
	1, Twin Lakes	Sedgwick	2/4	PG
	1, east of Hays	Ellis	2/4	MR
	1, TNC land, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/18	RP
1, rural area	Finney	2/19	PJ, KG	
1, rural area	Hodgeman	2/19	PJ, KG	




<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Peregrine Falcon	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/17	B&NB
	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	1, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway	Johnson	1/2	MCo
	1, I-635 bridge, Kansas River	Johnson & Wyandotte	2/23	CH
Prairie Falcon	1, <u>Denison Avenue</u> , Manhattan	Riley	12/16	DR
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	1, rural area, Toronto Lake	Greenwood	12/27	PJ,JN
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	1/1	SS
	1, north of Willborton	Morton	1/2	GF, EF
	2, northwest of Globe	Douglas	1/6	JK
	1, west of Red Rocks & Highway K-17	Kingman	1/15	HG,SG
	1, rural area	Stafford	1/16	SS
	2, rural area	Barton	1/16	SS
	2, over Seltman residence, Larned	Pawnee	1/24	SS
	1, Wellington Lake	Sumner	1/27	MG
	1, near <u>Claflin Avenue</u> , Manhattan	Riley	2/10	LJ
	1, flyby, Miller farm	Harvey	2/18	CM
	1, rural area	Kiowa	2/19	PJ,KG
	1, rural area	Edwards	2/19	PJ,KG
	1, rural area	Finney	2/27	TS,SSh
Virginia Rail	5, Wilson Lake CBC	Ellis	12/19	MR (rep.)
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	1/1	SS
Sandhill Crane	<u>12,225</u> , Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/2	PJ (rep.)
Greater Yellowlegs	1, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	<u>1/2</u>	MG (rep.)
	5, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	<u>2/18</u>	BJ
American Woodcock	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>12/14</u>	PG
<u>Mew Gull</u>	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/11	PJ
	2, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
<u>California Gull</u>	1, Manhattan CBC	Pottawatomie	12/18	DR (rep.)
	1, 2nd cycle, Waconda Reservoir	Osborne	12/23	HA
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake Reservoir	Riley	1/1	TC
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/27	DMu
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/17	B&NB
	1, 1st cycle, Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/28	HA (rep.)
	2, Tuttle Creek Lake Reservoir	Riley	1/1	TC
	1, 1st cycle, Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	1/2	ER
	1 ad., Clinton Lake	Douglas	1/5	JK
	1, dark, 1st winter, Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	1/8	ER,TC,HT
	1 imm., Perry Lake	Jefferson	2/21	MG
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake outlet tubes	Riley	2/26	ER
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	1, 3rd cycle, Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/28	HA (rep.)



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1, Clinton Lake	Douglas	1/5	JK
	1 possible, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/6	PJ
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake outlet tubes	Riley	1/8	ER,TC,HT
	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/8	KG,JK
	1, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/17	LL
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	2, Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/28	HA (rep.)
	1, Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	1/1	TC
	1, 1st cycle, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	1/8	KG,JK
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<u>2,168</u> , Garden City CBC	Finney	1/2	TS (rep.)
White-winged Dove	1, Row residence, Manhattan	Riley	12/5	JR,DR
	<u>143</u> , Shane residence	Finney	12/22	TS
	6-9, Row residence, Manhattan	Riley	12/22-26	JR,DR
Inca Dove	<u>11</u> , Garden City residence	Finney	1/2	TS (rep.)
<u>Common Ground-Dove</u> <D>	1, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/2	PJ (rep.)
<u>Greater Roadrunner</u>	1, Great Bend	Barton	<u>12/24-1/1</u>	RG
	2, Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/2</u>	PJ (rep.)
	1, Brunson residence	Pratt	<u>1/13</u>	KB
Short-eared Owl 	1, rural area	Saline	12/12	KF (rep.)
	1, rural area	Ottawa	12/13	KR
	1, rural area, Toronto Lake	Greenwood	12/27	PJ,JN
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	2, Stove & McGavran Roads	Ottawa	1/2	KF
	1, northwest of Globe	Douglas	1/6	JK
	1, north of Marion	Marion	1/13	RT
	1, along Limestone Road	Ottawa	2/2	KR
	1, north of Derby	Sedgwick	2/10	JC
	1, southern rural area	Leavenworth	2/11	SR
	1, near Melvern, 278 Road	Osage	2/21	ML,CK,SH
	4, Shawnee County Lake	Shawnee	2/21	DL,JH
	Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm., Hays residence	Ellis	<u>12/1-5</u>
Belted Kingfisher	2, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	12/28	CH
	3, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, near Dupree Road	Doniphan	1/17	DC
	1, near DeSoto	Johnson	1/17	JW
	1, back roads	Nemaha	<u>2/11</u>	RR
Hairy Woodpecker	<u>16</u> , rural environs, Toronto Lake	multiple	12/27	PJ,JN
	<u>18</u> , Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1, possible, west of Yoder	Reno	<u>1/14</u>	JQ (rep.)
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1, Jeffery Energy Center	Pottawatomie	12/16	BM
	2, north of Hardtner	Barber	1/9	LLo

Species	Number and location	County	Date	Observer(s)
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1, along Marsh Road, Quivira NWR	Stafford	1/27	BJ
	1, 9 miles northwest of Larned	Pawnee	2/5	SS
<u>Raven</u> (sp.)	5, near Greenwich	<u>Harvey</u>	2/4	LL
<u>Bushtit</u>	7, Garden City	Finney	1/15	TS (rep.)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Good numbers, multiple sites	statewide	Dec.-Feb.	m:obs
Rock Wren	1, Wilson Lake CBC	<u>Russell</u>	12/19	MR (rep.)
Bewick's Wren	1 possible, Craig residence	Sedgwick	<u>2/9</u>	DCr
Winter Wren	1, Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/14	MR (rep.)
	5, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	5, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
	2, Ernie Miller Nature Park	Johnson	12/27	JW
	1, Pawnee Prairie Park	Sedgwick	12/27	CM,MG
	1, Miller farm	Harvey	12/27	CM
	2, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	1/1	SS
	1, Holton CBC	Jackson	1/5	DL (rep.)
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	1/10	JW
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	1/15	ML
	1, rural area	Lyon	1/19	DL
	1, Kidron Creek, North Newton	Harvey	1/22	GF
	1, Hart residence, Ulysses	Grant	2/11	KH
Marsh Wren	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	<u>12/10</u>	MR
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/10</u>	MR
	5, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	<u>12/16</u>	RP (rep.)
	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	<u>12/18</u>	GP (rep.)
	2, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	<u>12/18</u>	D&KK
	1, Mined Land CBC	Cherokee	<u>1/1</u>	RT
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1, Shane residence	Finney	<u>1/10</u>	TS
	1, Crane Park	Sedgwick	<u>1/12</u>	JC
	1, Gregory residence, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/14</u>	HG
	Unreported number, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	<u>1/16</u>	PJ
<u>Mountain Bluebird</u>	143, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/2	PJ (rep.)
Townsend's Solitaire	1, near Calhoun residence	Sedgwick	12/6,28	JC
	1, Weinbrenner residence	McPherson	12/13	TW
	2, Hart residence, Ulysses	Grant	12/29	KH
	1, rural area	Ellis	1/1	TM,SG
	1, Webster Reservoir CBC	Rooks	1/5	MR,SS
	1, Seltman residence, Larned	Pawne	1/23	SS
	1, Jetmore cemetery	Hodgeman	2/19	PJ,KG
Hermit Thrush	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	12/5	SS
	1, Calhoun residence	Sedgwick	12/12	JC



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
 Hermit Thrush	1, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/14	PG
	3, Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	12/14	MR (rep.)
	2, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	5, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/18	CM (rep.)
	<u>12</u> , Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18	GP (rep.)
	2, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	12/19	MR (rep.)
	1, Ernie Miller Nature Park	Johnson	12/27	JW
	1, rural area, Toronto Lake	Woodson	12/27	PJ,JN
	1, rural area, Toronto Lake	Wilson	12/27	PJ,JN
	1, Pawnee Prairie Park	Sedgwick	12/27	CM,MG
	2, Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/2	PJ (rep.)
	1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	Stafford	1/8	PJ
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	1/9	MS
	1, Kanopolis Lake CBC	Ellsworth	1/9	ER (rep.)
	1, Overland Park Arboretum	Johnson	1/15	ML
	1, May residence, north of Topeka	Shawnee	2/19	B&AM
	American Robin	<u>Unusually abundant numbers</u> <u>100,000</u> (estimate), Clinton Lake <u>7,62</u> , Great Backyard Bird Count	statewide Douglas statewide	Dec.- Feb. 1/18 2/18-21
Gray Catbird	1, Broyles residence	Butler	<u>1/31</u>	BB
American Pipit	2, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge 1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC 1, unit F-South	Stafford Barton Linn	12/5 <u>12/16</u> <u>12/16</u>	SS RP (rep.) MC
Cedar Waxwing	<u>750</u> +/- Southwestern College	Cowley	2/24	MT
Lapland Longspur	<u>30,000</u> +, rural environs	Pawnee	1/1	SS
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Small flock, near lek 2, Meade State Park	Kiowa Meade	2/19 2/28	PJ,KG MR
Smith's Longspur	1, Mayfield & Parallel roads	Reno	1/15	KG,MH,CM
<u>Snow Bunting</u>	2, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge 1, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge <u>16</u> , Waconda CBC 3, Cheyenne Bottoms 1, near airport, north Lawrence area 2, rural area	Stafford Stafford Mitchell Stafford Douglas Pratt	12/18 12/21-30 12/28 12/29 1/13 1/13	D&KK BJ HA (rep.) RP GP MR
Orange-crowned Warbler	1, Rogers residence, Wichita 1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Sedgwick Barton	12/6 <u>12/16</u>	BR RP (rep.)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	124, Toronto Lake CBC Record numbers, combined CBCs	multiple statewide	12/27 Dec.-Jan.	PJ,JM m:obs
Spotted Towhee	1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
Chipping Sparrow	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	<u>12/18</u>	GP (rep.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Chipping Sparrow	1 imm., Topeka residence	Shawnee	<u>12/24</u>	JH
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	<u>1/17</u>	ML
Clay-colored Sparrow	15, rural area, Mullinville	Kiowa	<u>1/15</u>	BS,JD
Field Sparrow	1, Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	Barton	12/16	RP (rep.)
	3, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	1, rural area	Johnson	<u>1/17</u>	JW
Vesper Sparrow	1, Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	<u>12/14</u>	MR (rep.)
Savannah Sparrow	1, Miller farm	Harvey	<u>12/27</u>	CM
	1, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	<u>12/27</u>	DL (rep.)
	2, rural area, Mullinville	Kiowa	<u>1/15</u>	BS,JD
	1, rural area	Johnson	<u>1/17</u>	JW
	Small number, Wellington Lake	Sumner	<u>1/27</u>	MG
	Small number, Gearhart residence	Johnson	<u>2/1</u>	MG
LeConte's Sparrow	1, Broyles' feeders	Butler	<u>2/2</u>	BB
	1, Quivira NWR CBC	Stafford	<u>12/14</u>	MR (rep.)
Swamp Sparrow	1, near Calhoun residence	Douglas	<u>12/18</u>	GP (rep.)
	1, Lawrence CBC	Douglas	<u>1/17</u>	JK
	1, near Globe	Douglas	<u>1/17</u>	JK
Swamp Sparrow	1, near Calhoun residence	Sedgwick	<u>12/2</u>	JC
	2, Wilson Lake CBC	Russell	<u>12/19</u>	MR (rep.)
	1, Hansen residence	Shawnee	<u>1/16</u>	JH
	1, Shunga Park, Topeka	Shawnee	<u>1/16</u>	JH
	1, History Museum, Topeka	Shawnee	<u>1/16,2/4</u>	JH
	1, Wellington Lake area	Sumner	<u>1/27</u>	MG
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	1, "the barn," near Garden City	Finney	2/11	MO
Brewer's Blackbird	A "flock," Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/28	HA (rep.)
	800, Fall River CBC	Greenwood	12/27	DL (rep.)
	200, Mined Land CBC	Cherokee	1/1	RM
	300+, Wellington Lake area	Sumner	1/27	MG
Great-tailed Grackle	5,000, Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/18	CM (rep.)
	3,500, along South Meridian Avenue	Sedgwick	1/8	JC
Purple Finch	Good numbers, various locations	statewide	Dec.-Feb.	m:obs
	<u>22</u> , Williams' residence feeders	Leavenworth	2/1	DWi
<u>Common Redpoll</u>	1, Derby/Belle Plaine Winter Count	Sedgwick	1/9	JC (rep.)
Pine Siskin	Good numbers, various locations	statewide	Dec.-Feb.	m:obs
	<u>50</u> , Greensburg residence	Kiowa	2/19	PJ,KG
	<u>100</u> +, feeders	Cowley	2/21	MT
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	1, Weinbrenner residence	McPherson	12/19	TW
	1, Campbell residence	Finney	1/16	BC

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.), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), female (f.), immature (imm.), Kansas State University (KSU), multiple observers (m:obs), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), reporting (rep.), species (sp.).

Observers: Henry Armknecht, Bill and Nancy Beard (B&NB), John Bollin, Bob Broyles, Ken Brunson, Bill Busby (BBu), Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Barb Campbell, Donna Chance, Barbara Clauson (BCI), David Conrad (DCo), Mike Cooper (MCo), Mark Corder, Dennice Craig (DCr), Donna Daugherty, Joyce Davis, Jane Doris (JDo), Tom Ewert, Kat Farres, Erick Friesen, Gregg

Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Rob Graham, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Jeff Hansen, Sharon Hatten, Mike Heaney, Craig Hensley, Jon King, Pete Janzen, Dan Larson, Lowell Johnson, Barry Jones, Donnie and Kathy Kazmaier (D&KK), Christine Klein, Dan Larson, Larry Londagin, Linda Loomis (LLo), Brandon Magette, Terry Mannell, Robert Mangile, Brad and Andrea May (B&AM), Kathy McDowell, Debra McKee, Cheryl Miller, Carol Morgan (CMo), Dan Mulhern (DMu), Jim Nickel, Marie Osterbuhr, Michael Pearce, Robert Penner, Mary Plinsky (MPl), Galen

Pittman, George and Carole Probasco (G&CP), Jane Queal, Jennifer Rader, Mike Rader, EJ Raynor, Gerald Reeck, Dave Rintoul, Steve Roels, Ben Rogers, Travis Ross, Diane Row, John Row, Kathie Roy, Rosella Royer, Carolyn Schwab, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Sara Shane (SSh), Jim Shroyer, Mike Stokes, Bill Sutton, Max Thompson, Hannah Tetreault, Jane Tucker, Rick Tucker, Tristan Weibrenner, Don Weiss, Dave Williams (DWi), Jeff Witters.

KOS winter board meeting, February 26, 2011

Present: Chuck Otte, Patty Marlett, Terry Mannell, Lisa Weeks, Jon Bollin, Bill Jensen, Gregg Friesen, Cheryl Miller.

Absent: Max Thompson, Gene Young, Nancy Leo, Henry Armknecht.

Meeting called to order at 10:14 a.m. by President Chuck Otte at Geary County Extension Office, Junction City.

Correspondence: No issues noted.

Minutes: No issues noted. Terry moved to accept the minutes. There was a second and no discussion. Minutes approved.

Officer and committee reports

Treasurer: Terry Mannell reported on the income and expense summary. Investments are up enough to where our general fund is now sus-

taining. Note that last spring's meeting financing helped by making money. Dues of \$35 do not match the \$46 dollar cost of memberships. Invested life memberships cover the difference. Jon moved to accept the report; it was seconded and approved by voice vote. A comment came up about getting the signature card updated for writing checks. Terry will pursue this.

Finance Committee: Max was not present but Chuck noted and circulated the report from RCB Bank Trust.

Corresponding Secretary: Records are in order and maintained by the secretary.

Membership Coordinator: Patty attached her report, again noting the ongoing issue with a decline in membership. Currently we are at the

level we were last year. Patty noted that the Oklahoma Ornithological Society allows members to use PayPal to pay their dues and this might help with getting payments in. Past memberships stay current until the spring meeting.

Business Manager Report: Lisa Weeks reported and will give more information later.

Bulletin Editor: Gene sent an e-mail. The March issue is behind schedule and will be late and will affect timing of the mailing. Cheryl noted that the spring meeting rooms are only held until the first of April and suggested we do separate mailings and include meeting material in the March issue. Gene has one article for the June Bulletin which will likely include the KBRC report.

(continued page 15)

Horned Lark Editor: The final proof for the March issue is at the printer. There was some discussion on material to submit for the Horned Lark in order to keep up interest of a wide range of readers. We could also have ads in the HOLA if someone wanted them there. Part of the issue involves the goal of the HOLA. Discussion noted that the roundup appeals to a group of members but likely not to others. Adding material would broaden the appeal.



Kansas Bird Record Committee: Max Thompson sent a report. The committee voted on one past record and did not change the decision (declining to see adequate evidence to support the record). This group elects its own members and officers which are approved by the board. They have worked to bring in new members who include Terry Mannell and Nic Allen. Aaron Mitchell was re-appointed as an alternate to the board. The KOS board needs to approve the selections. Mark Robbins was selected as the new chair. There is a move to have a balance of academic members and field ornithologists and a range of individuals around the state. Gregg moved to accept the selection of members; it was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Web Page: The group working on this project is still focused. Chuck noted bandwidth use with a spike on the day the Snow Bunting photos were posted. If broken links are found, let Chuck know and he will fix them. Note that www.birdinginkansas.com pages are still coming in.

Old Business

Terry noted a birding PowerPoint project being worked on by Gregg and Chuck. This would allow birding

programs for members who are asked to do presentations around the state.

New Business

Lisa shared the new membership brochure which is at the printer now. These need to be distributed. Lisa will bring these to the spring meeting and they can be sent out. Jon has a list of nature centers and outdoor stores along with societies. We printed 1,000 brochures on the first printing. Terry suggested a post to the KS-BIRDS listerv to get information into pages of the local papers. The brochures can also go to colleges and universities and could be uploaded to the Web page. Bill suggested putting them in public libraries. Lisa also noted that merchandise is being sold online though a site called Zazzle. Some of the items are not perfect and we will need to work with the organization doing the printing. Also, Lisa noted that shipping was a bit high. A plus is that they do allow us to do our own design work. Matt Gearheart is working on a special shirt design for the spring meeting. There are an excessive number of XXX Large t-shirts in our current stock.

KOS Corporate Registered Agent: Terry Mannell got us back on track for 501(c)3 status. We need to have a “registered agent” who can be notified if there is any legal action. Terry will go online to change it from Eugene Lewis, who has unknown to us and likely Gene, served in this role for the past 20 years. The regulations imply that the treasurer is the registered agent. Terry also noted that KOS has a DUNS number (needed if we were to get a grant).

Spring 2011 meeting: Details are on the website and on the newsletter. Lisa confirmed that it is on the normal dates in May (starting Friday night the 6th this year). Noted a ques-

tion on meals with finger food Friday night and a banquet on Saturday. Motel rooms are only held until the 1st of April.

The fall meeting is set for September 27th at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center. Saturday activities are planned for the Wetlands Education Center and there is some concern about space (but it should work). Lisa noted that there will be some individuals that might want to be out birding and not go paper sessions. Chuck and others will take up this issue. Chuck and others have been in touch with Ted Floyd about coming to the meeting to give a presentation at the banquet and lead field trips. Cost issues need to be addressed and Chuck will send out information when he has more. Ted has our dates on our calendar.

Future meetings: We need to think about locations for future meetings. The website has a list of past meeting locations. Again, the goal of selecting locations is to meet at diverse spots in the state.

Other items for discussion: membership development and membership services. Terry discussed the idea of a “birding card” to leave at restaurants. Chuck stated that in the bylaws there is an opportunity for local chapters. A number of things like bird walks are also an option. The group also noted the need to post options for birders on the listserv. Cheryl reported there was no registration deadline in the Horned Lark for the spring meeting (we will work on this as the restaurant likely needs a set number of people). Lisa has many old checklists and will bring them to meetings or given them to nature centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gregg Friesen, Corresponding Secretary.

The proper use of playback in birding

By David Sibley

Ed note: This spring, David Sibley wrote a thoughtful and instructive blog post about the use of sound recordings to attract birds. He kindly agreed to allow the following excerpt. The complete article is online at www.sibleyguides.com. This copyrighted material was accessed May 21, 2011 and appears here with his permission.

Respect for the birds

To be really effective, playback requires just as much care and “field-craft” as any other birding technique. You need to be aware of, and sensitive to, the habits and behavior of the bird you are trying to lure.

Plan carefully and understand your quarry so that you can guess where the bird is, or where it is likely to be. If you have already heard it or seen it, consider those locations when deciding where to play audio. You must be in (or very near) the bird’s territory to get a useful response.

Choose your spot and set the stage –

Visualize the scenario of the bird coming into view. How will it approach the recording, and where will it sit so that you can see it? You should play the recording from a location that offers the bird a comfortable approach through its preferred habitat, and also has openings, edges, and/or prominent perches where it will come into view. Many playback efforts are unsuccessful either because the bird will not cross unsuitable habitat, or because dense vegetation allows it to approach closely while remaining hidden.

Begin by playing the recording quietly for just a few seconds – for example just two or three songs, then stop, watch, and listen.

Use short snippets – If there is any response, try very short snippets of song after that, even stopping the recording after half of a normal song, to try to tease the bird into the open without posing a serious challenge to its self-esteem.

Watch for a response – If there is no obvious response after 30-60 seconds, play another 15-30 seconds of sound. Remember that the bird may respond by approaching silently, or by guarding its



mate, so a lack of song is not necessarily a lack of response, and you can assume that you are being watched. Watch the vegetation carefully on all sides for an approach, and also watch and listen for a response from neighboring males.

Remain calm – If you still don’t detect any response, play the recording again, watch and wait, and repeat. But don’t keep this up longer than about five minutes, and resist the urge to finish with a prolonged, loud barrage of song.

Check back later – Many birds will remain silent in the immediate aftermath of the playback, and then begin singing vigorously minutes later. Males in other territories might monitor the playback, and the challenge to their neighbor, and also be stimulated to sing minutes later. If you can wait around, or circle back to check on the area after 10 to 30 minutes, you may find that the desired response to playback is occurring then.