



# The Horned Lark

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

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## President's message

I love Christmas Count Season. From the time I was quite small, I enjoyed the outdoors. When I was quite small, the neighbor called me Columbus because I was always out exploring. Through the years, I spent more than a few hours, days, and miles hunting and fishing. I have hunted and/or fished from coast to coast and in at least three foreign nations.

One of my memories is of trying to get a good night's sleep before the opening morning of a hunting or fishing season, or the opening morning of a new adventure out of state, out of the country, or even just out of the house. How many people do you know who have caught fish with a hook and line out of Jacob's Well AND the old goldfish pond by the greenhouses on the KSU campus?

Over the last few years, this same excitement has transferred to my birding adventures. A Christmas Bird Count brings the same expectation that formerly came from the start of a trip to fish for big pike in Canada. Each Christmas count is like every other - and uniquely different from all others.

What is so exciting about trying to count every bird within 7.5 miles of a chosen center point? For one, it is a challenge. For another, it is a chance to learn. And again, it is a chance to explore new territory, or revisit a few favorite birding spots. Certainly not least is the opportunity to bird with friends - new or not so new.

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## President's message *(cont.)*

Though every count is similar in terms of square miles covered and time spent, they are also as different as the sum of places you have been, weather you have experienced, and people you have met. I have participated in CBCs with over 100 participants and as few as one. I've birded Christmas Counts below zero and above 80 degrees, urban, rural, desert, marsh, forest, mountain, and prairie. Each has its pleasures - though I admit that anything above 60 degrees currently has more appeal than below zero.

I cannot emphasize enough that participating in Christmas counts is a great way to bird. As I type this, I have had the privilege of participating in eight counts so far this Christmas Count Season. I hope to do two more before the season ends.

Though Christmas Counts have a season, birding has no opening and closing. You can literally bird at any time of day and any time of year. Some may be more likely to provide an unexpected find, but all can be rewarding. If you have never gone night birding for owls or nightjars, for example, make an effort to do so at least once. If you are unsure how, ask. Someone in your area will be glad to take you and show you the ropes.

## Introducing The Editor, HOLA

I started serious birding at Fort Campbell, Kentucky after I redeployed from Afghanistan in April of 2011. That spring was when I chased the melody of my spark bird, the wood thrush and moved from watching birds at my feeder to chasing birds in the field. We moved to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in the summer. I crossed the state along I-70 in August, fell in love with the open spaces of the prairie (or at least what's left of it anyway) and birded in Rocky Mountain National Park, adding a rock ptarmigan to my life list after nearly stepping on one. By the winter of that year, I knew I needed help if I wanted to see and identify more birds. So in March, I discovered the KS-BIRD listserv and with it the Kansas Ornithological Society. I joined eBird and the American Birding Association, bought a subscription to the online birds of North America, and bought bird books to become a better birder. Looking for birding groups and fellow birders, I met John Schuckman of Leavenworth in April, and went on a Burroughs Audubon tour with my family to Squaw Creek NWR where we all saw our first shore birds. A few weeks later I made the pilgrimage to Quivira. By summer I was in love with Kansas birding and birders.

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## KOS Board of Directors

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

### President

Henry Armknecht,  
[armknecht@ruraltel.net](mailto:armknecht@ruraltel.net)

### Vice-President

Matt Gearheart,  
[mgearheart@designwithinsight.com](mailto:mgearheart@designwithinsight.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

Curtis Wolf, [cjwolf@fhsu.edu](mailto:cjwolf@fhsu.edu)

### Membership Development Coordinator

Patty Marlett, [pmarlett@cox.net](mailto:pmarlett@cox.net)

### Treasurer

Terry Mannell, 218 Northridge Drive, Hays, KS 67601;  
[terryman@ruraltel.net](mailto:terryman@ruraltel.net)

### Business Manager

Lisa Weeks, 208 Arizona Street, Lawrence KS 66049;  
[lisafweeks@gmail.com](mailto:lisafweeks@gmail.com)

### Editor, KOS Bulletin

Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand Ave., Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310;  
[eugene.young@north-ok.edu](mailto:eugene.young@north-ok.edu),  
[youngg6264@yahoo.com](mailto:youngg6264@yahoo.com)

### Editor, The Horned Lark

Mark Van Horn  
[mark.e.vanhorn@gmail.com](mailto:mark.e.vanhorn@gmail.com)

### Past-President

Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441; [otte2@cox.net](mailto:otte2@cox.net)

### Board Members:

Nic Allen, [tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net)  
Greg Farley, [gfalley@fhsu.edu](mailto:gfalley@fhsu.edu)  
Don Kazmaier, [dlknk@kans.com](mailto:dlknk@kans.com)  
Janeen Walters,  
[janeenwalters@cox.net](mailto:janeenwalters@cox.net)

# Why we need newsletters

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In October, 1963 the Kansas Ornithological Society mailed the first edition of the Horned Lark (HOLA) to its members. There were no pictures and it was hammered out on a typewriter. R.F. Johnson was collecting house sparrows in Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia; R.M. Mengel reported that the fishing in the montane west was only so-so. Work underway at the Kansas Museum of Natural History included behavioral studies of vireos, and the population ecology of eastern Phoebes. Max C. Thompson, who was the assistant editor of the HOLA, was working on the systemic position of the Bald-Headed Wood Shrike. The KOS was fourteen years old. The largest outlay for the society (then as it is now) was the newsletter and bulletin. Historically, newsletters provided individuals with similar interests the only way to communicate to every other member in a group. Through dues, members gained access to niche information. Communicating with members in a like-minded group across an entire state was outside people's means until just recently, when listserves and social media made the trafficking of words extremely cheap. Newsletters can seem antiquated and maybe even unnecessary, especially perhaps to those of us in the millennial generation. Why maintain newsletters now, in an age of cheap and near instantaneous communications?

In the constitution, as one of its purposes, the KOS is charged with publishing a newsletter. This charter I firmly endorse. While the page format may change over time or the publication become digital or content evolve—the newsletter is a critical part of membership and group identity.

Foremost of the benefits is the archival and historical nature of newsletter. Here is where part of our organizational history, the part outside of living memory is stored. Board meetings, finances, president's notes, editorials, birding hotspots, member profiles and even eulogies, are all found in the four issues a year. When I became editor, I made it a point to read this history, so went back through the past ten years worth of spring newsletters.

One of the most memorable stories was a beautiful eulogy Pete Janzen wrote in honor of Henry Pelzl, a member of KOS who was killed on the way to meet Max Thompson so that he could give part of his bird egg collection to the Kansas Natural History Museum. If it wasn't for the newsletter it's doubtful I would have ever met Henry Pelzl or learned about oology or learned that Pete is, besides a top notch birder, a good writer with a big heart. The newsletters serve the purpose of educating future board members and KOS presidents and members about who they're joining and what the organization is supposed to be about. This is why I've started a section in the Horned Lark that looks back on each decade of newsletters and samples a few articles.

Second, newsletters are official correspondence and carry more weight than an email. Newsletter writing isn't as timely as a post on a listserv because it is of a different purpose. Ideally, what goes into a newsletter is also better writing. It isn't supposed to be as easy or as rapid as a tweet or a post to facebook. What a newsletter lacks in immediacy it makes up for with refinement. The process of producing a newsletter itself has value. For example, Jon King's work (and it has to take hours) on the bird roundup from across Kansas makes him an expert on what was seen. Speaking for myself, I think it is encouraging to find your initials next to a sighting. Curtis Wolf's compilation of minutes during board meetings is of importance to members affected by the decisions of the board.

While pdf readers, iPads, and tablet PCs are altering the way people interact with "printed" text and doing it in ways whose implications aren't yet clearly understood, I firmly hold that newsletters themselves are a long way from becoming a casualty of the digital age.

# Kansas fall season roundup

August 1 – November 30

Jon King, compiler

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Aside from the occasional cold front, fall of 2012 was unusually warm and exceptionally dry, with drought severity increasing westward. Birding was accordingly unusual, and very entertaining. With increasingly mild falls, species linger longer and species with new all-time late departures this year included Common Tern, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and Summer Tanager. While birders are growing accustomed to later departures, early arrivals were particularly noticeable, especially among passerines. Birds such as Northern Shrike, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, and “Gray-headed” Junco had record early appearances this fall. In fall birders look forward to rare loons, sea ducks, and other inland sea birds – this year was more or less “normal” for those. Marsh birds however, were scarce with several notable absences and reduced numbers of many species. Traditional fall shorebird destinations such as Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms suffered severe water shortages, and Cheyenne Bottoms looked like a moonscape, but Quivira NWR produced some notable birds. While these traditional areas suffered, Kansas’ large reservoirs offered some of the best shorebird viewing opportunities in recent years. Several western migrants made notable easterly appearances this fall, including Ferruginous Hawk, Cassin’s Kingbird, Sage Thrasher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, MacGillivray’s Warbler, and Brewer’s Sparrow. Whether these occurrences are influenced by drought and a lack of food, wind patterns, both, or something else makes for interesting speculation. In the western part of the state, western hummingbirds made a strong appearance, with seven species accounted for. Several eastern warblers made strong appearances too, with a strong showing of Palm Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and an exceptional 24 Pine Warblers recorded! Sparrow numbers seemed low however. If you thought 2012 could not get any weirder, a winter finch invasion was underway with most species moving by the end of the period. Though most invaders were scarce, Kansans witnessed the strongest flight of Red Crossbill in many years, with a type 4 Red Crossbill recorded – potentially Kansas’ first. Other irruptives like Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin made strong flights this year too. Amongst all the action, Kansas’ best birds this fall were two Swallow-tailed Kites, an Anna’s Hummingbird, and a Costa’s Hummingbird.

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Webster Reservoir 8/10 – 8/16 (JVK), represents Kansas’ north-western-most record. Likely over-summering geese included a Greater White-fronted Goose at the Wilson WTP 8/19 – 9/8 (DK), four Snow Geese at Keith Sebelius Res. 8/11 (JVK), and one at Rocky Ford FA 8/25 (DM). Two Cackling Geese at Larned’s Sandpit 9/19 (PJ, WAS) were likely early migrants. Six Trumpeter Swans in Marshall 11/28 (DMu) were the only native swans reported. The origin of a Mute Swan at Tuttle Creek Res. 9/5 (DB) remains a mystery. Whether or not established populations of Mute Swan reach Kansas is not known.

2810 Gadwall at Clinton Lake 10/27 (MA) was a high for the location. Zero Mottled Duck were reported, likely reflecting drought conditions. Kansans recorded this species the past seven falls. Difficult to detect in fall, several Cinnamon Teal were reported; one at the Elkhart WTP 9/1 (DH), Quivira NWR 9/13 (BJ), Horsethief Res. (PJ,WAS) and two in Ford 9/2 (NA,JC,MG,WCT,JK). Early *Aythya* included one Canvasback at the Wilson WTP 9/8 (DK,MR), four Ring-necked Duck at the Sublette WTP 9/22 (JC), and a slightly early Greater Scaup at Scott Lake 10/18 (ST). Kansans reported 120+ Greater Scaup, 50 of them from LaFarge Sandpit 11/4 and 11/25 (PJ). Scoters were represented moderately with one immature Surf in Ford 10/21 (JC), two Blacks at Augusta City Lake 10/28 (KG), one Black at Marion Reservoir 10/28 (HA), a White-winged at Lake Wabaunsee 10/28 – 11/2 (DLs), and three White-winged at Wilson Lake 11/19 (DK). Single Long-tailed Ducks appeared at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 11/27 (DB) and the Elkhart WTP 11/17 (ER,HT), the latter Morton’s second.

Few birders have reported Scaled Quail in south-western Kansas recently, so a single in *Hamilton* 9/1 (DH) was noteworthy. 35 individual Greater Prairie-Chicken were tallied in *Barton, Lincoln, Mitchell, Riley, Rooks, and Stafford*, with only one Lesser Prairie-Chicken reported in *Kiowa*. After two years of excessive drought and an early harvest in 2012, Ring-necked Pheasant populations were significantly depressed.

A Red-throated Loon visited Perry Lake 11/14 (GP). Pacific Loon showed modestly with four individuals; two at Perry Lake 11/14 (GP), and singles at Wilson Lake 11/23 (BGa,DK,JRa,MR) and Webster Reservoir 11/29 (JVK). 210 Pied-billed Grebe 10/5 (JB) was the season's high. Several Horned Grebes arrived early: Two appeared at the Elkhart WTP 9/8 (JM), while singles were seen at Webster Res. 9/8 (JVK) and Clinton Lake 9/22 (JK). Eared Grebe peaked 9/13 at Webster Res. with 51 counted (JVK). Red-necked Grebe typically visit Kansas' larger reservoirs, like the long-staying bird at Wilson Lake 11/19 – 12/16 (DK,MR), making the single from Kiowa SFL 11/21 (SS) highly unusual. 50+ Western Grebe were encountered statewide, with a high of 18 at Webster Res. 10/25 (JVK), just shy of Kansas' high count. East of the Flint Hills where an annual rarity, seven were reported; one at Clinton Lake 10/3 (TB,MS,GY), two at Lake Shawnee 10/27 (CMo 2<sup>nd</sup> hand) where one remained 10/30 (JH), two at Pony Creek Lake 10/28 (RR), and two at Perry Lake 11/14 (GP). A single Clark's Grebe visited Wilson Lake 10/28 (MR), and three were at the Liberal WTP 11/1 (SG,KH).

Lone Neotropic Cormorants showed up at the Jeffrey Energy Center 9/27 (BM) and Waconda Lake 10/27 (JVK), while 4000 Double-crested Cormorant were estimated at Cheney Res. 11/4 (PJ,WAS). Notable for their absence were Least Bitterns – none were reported. Receding water levels in some Kansas reservoirs made excellent conditions for waders, with 250 Great Egret and 50 Snowy Egret at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 8/1 (TC,ER). A Green Heron at Lake Shawnee 11/1 (DM) was late and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the Ulysses WTP 9/1 (TE) was westerly. One Glossy Ibis was reported at Quivira NWR 8/26 (PB).

Significant congregations of Turkey Vulture involved 250 9/23 (JC) in *Ford* and 300 in *Topeka* 9/27 (DM). Two Osprey at Melvern Lake 11/3 (MA,JK) were slightly late. The most popular bird of the fall was undoubtedly the **Swallow-tailed Kite** residing in *Prairie Village* 8/12 – 9/2. Initially sighted by Robert McElwain while playing tennis, the bird was a lost one-observer wonder. Two weeks later, it reappeared at the Wild Bird Center in *Prairie Village* 8/27 (NA), where viewed and photographed by approximately 300 people. Another bird was reported second-hand near *Marion* 8/23 (GY). If accepted by KBRC, the *Johnson* and *Marion* birds represent 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> recent records of this former breeder, and new county records respectively. These sightings are among a handful extralimital records from mid-western states during fall 2012, including IA, IL, n. KY, and OH. Mississippi Kite have expanded northwards recently – three at KSU's North-west Agricultural Research Center 8/19 -9/1 (CK,JK) may have bred there and in individual in *Stockton* 8/7 (JVK) was northerly. The isolated breeding population established in *Johnson* continues with two adult and 15 juvenile noted 9/2 (DS).

Sight records of Northern Goshawk included an immature at NESAs 8/5 (GP), an adult in *Wichita* 11/1 (JN), an immature at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 11/4 (JR). Broad-winged Hawks are low-density migrants in Kansas' west, with 9 reports of 10 individuals 9/3 – 9/23. Whether a Swainson's Hawk in *Montgomery* 8/15 (PJ) was an early migrant, post-breeder, or a local breeder is uncertain. A flock of 600 Swainson's Hawk in *Stafford* 9/28 (MR) must have been spectacular, while 350+ in *Kiowa* 9/26 (SS) were notable. Three "Kriider's"



© Nicole Muchmore, SE Jefferson County, Kansas. Perry Lake bald eagle going fishing.



© Carol Morgan, this female Rufous Hummingbird wintered in Shawnee County. The owners of this bird feeder put a heat lamp beneath it to prevent freezing

Red-tailed Hawk were reported 10/14 – 11/18 in Barton, Douglas, and Lyon. Prompting much jealousy, a dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk was discovered in Stafford 10/26 (MR). While only a light-morph, a **Ferruginous Hawk** at Clinton Lake 11/11 (MA) was exceptional. This species has not been recorded in Douglas for 40+ years, despite better than average coverage (Galen Pittman pers. comm.). This record is one of several unusual eastern sightings this fall, with reports from LA, MS, TN, AR (several individuals). Likely reflecting drought conditions, reports of rails were few this fall, with zero Black, King, or Yellow reported. A Sora at Wilson Lake 11/4 (MR) was slightly late and four Virginia Rail lingered at Quivira NWR 11/9 (MR). 17,750 Sandhill Crane at Quivira NWR 11/5 (JB,ER,HT) was this season's highest count. Whooping Crane arrived 10/23, with three sighted at near the Post Rock Wind Farm (JA 2<sup>nd</sup> hand). Three that evening at Cheyenne Bottoms (RP)

were probably the same birds. Barry Jones reported 73 individual Whooping Cranes visiting Quivira NWR 11/1 – 11/28; 68 adults, 10 juveniles. The highest count was 19 at Quivira NWR 11/19 (MR). Not a single Common Gallinule was reported, probably due to dry conditions.

The season's highest count of Black-bellied Plover was 30 at Quivira NWR 9/19 (PJ,WAS). 42 American Golden-Plover at Melvern Lake 11/3 (MA,JK,NV) and a single at Hillsdale Lake 11/3 (ML) were slightly late, while 10 at Quivira NWR 11/9 (MR) were late. A Semipalmated Plover lingered at Quivira NWR 11/17 (JL,BS), just shy of Kansas' late date. Four individual Piping Plover were tallied; two at Clinton Lake 8/4 (JK), one there 9/1 (MA), and one at Slate Creek Wetlands 9/9 (MT,GY). 406 Killdeer at Slate Creek Wetlands 9/9 (MT,GY) was the season's high. While small numbers of Mountain Plover can be expected in south-west Kansas, 136 in Morton 9/1 (KG,WAS) made an excellent count – apparently Kansas' 4<sup>th</sup> highest. Two additional birds were found in Stanton 9/10 (JM), while seven individuals photographed in Ford 10/14 (JC) were easterly and late. Though increasing in the east, Black-necked Stilts are primarily encountered there in spring, so a single at Rocky Ford FA 8/26 (BS) and three at Hillsdale Lake 8/29 (JW) are quite notable. A single Spotted Sandpiper at John Redmond Reservoir 9/28 (NA,MG) was slightly late, and another at Cheyenne Bottoms 10/21 (RG) even more so. A Solitary Sandpiper lingered to 10/14 in Shawnee (DL). 15 Solitary Sandpiper at Hillsdale Lake 8/19 (NA,CF,MG) was the season's high. A Labor Day weekend journey through western Kansas turned up seven “western” *cinnamomea*, and two “eastern” *solitaria* Solitary Sandpipers (NA,WCT,MG,JK). Solitary Sandpiper subspecies are poorly understood in Kansas and observers are encouraged to document juvenile Solitary Sandpipers in their respective areas.

A lowly five Marbled Godwit were reported state-wide this fall with two easterly individuals at Clinton Lake 9/4 (MA) and another at John Redmond Res. 10/20 (WE,TR,NV,GYe), the latter quite late. Clinton Lake hosted the only Ruddy Turnstone 9/1 (MA). An adult Red Knot at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 8/19 (JL) was an excellent find. A Sanderling at Melvern Lake 11/3 (MA,JK) and was late, but a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper at Quivira NWR 11/18 (JL,BS) was exceptionally late. Though Western Sandpiper are more common during fall, eight at Clinton Lake 9/1 (MA) were notable for northeastern Kansas. KSU's Beef & Dairy Unit hosted 15 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/25 (DR,JR), a rare fall record if accepted by KBRC. Several Baird's Sandpiper were tardy; three at Clinton Lake 11/10 (ML), two at Quivira NWR 11/16 (MR), and two at Cheyenne Reservoir 11/24 (JC,CM). Four Stilt Sandpipers at Lake Wabaunsee 11/2 (ER) were late as well. Unusually large counts of Buff-breasted Sandpiper involved 152 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir 8/1 (TC,ER) and 121 in Sum-

ner 9/15 (GY). Birders reported four Short-billed Dowitcher this fall 8/8 – 8/25, all from eastern Kansas. A secretive species, few American Woodcock are reported in fall. Singles were reported in *Leavenworth* 11/4 (GP) and in a Great Bend yard 10/12 (GPi), the latter *Barton's* first. Two Red-necked Phalarope at Clinton Lake 9/1 (MA), marks the third consecutive fall Clinton Lake has recorded this species. 16+ were reported 9/1 – 9/29 from central and western Kansas.

An immature Sabine's Gull at Clinton Lake 10/27 – 11/21 was late and was Kansas' longest staying, while another at Marion Res. 10/28 (HA) was seen one day. A Bonaparte's Gull at Hillsdale Lake 9/1 (EL,ML) was early, and peak counts included 1000 at Clinton Lake 11/10 (JK,JW,NV) and 2000 at Tuttle Creek Res. 11/19 (JL). Laughing Gulls made a decent showing, with singles at Clinton Lake 7/22 – 8/8 (MA,JK), Tuttle Creek Reservoir 9/7 (TC), Geary SFL 9/15 (ML,BS), and El Dorado Lake 10/3 (GY). Accurately estimating quantities of Franklin's Gull on Kansas reservoirs remains a challenge, and notable estimates this year included 100,000 at Marion Reservoir 10/14 (CM), 150,000 at Clinton Lake 10/5 (MA) and up to 500,000 at Clinton Lake 10/3 (TB,MS,GY). An adult California Gull at El Dorado Lake 10/3 (GY) was the only reported, and a Herring Gull at Hillsdale Lake 9/1 (EL,ML) was nearly a month early. Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Cheney Reservoir 9/29 (KG), Clinton Lake 10/3 (TB,MS,GY), and Webster Reservoir 10/17 (JVK).



Away from central Kansas, Least Terns are notable. Such birds included two at Clinton Lake 8/5 (MA,m.obs), three at Clinton Lake 8/3 (NA,CF,MG). 12 Caspian Tern at Clinton Lake 9/13 (JK) was an unremarkable high and two at Hillsdale Lake 10/20 (MG,JW) were late. Eight Common Tern were reported statewide 8/15 – 11/17, with one photographed at Rocky Ford FA 10/20 (JR), lingering to 11/17 (GH) as Kansas' latest. 71 Forster's Tern at Clinton Lake 9/1 (MA) was the season's highest tally, and tardy Forster's included five at Clinton Lake 10/14 (ML), one at Clinton Lake 11/3 (MA,JK), and two at Cheney Reservoir 11/11 (PJ). The season's high count for Black Tern was 141, at Clinton Lake 8/25 (MA,JK).

196 Mourning Dove at Baker Wetlands 8/1 (RB,DL) is high for *Douglas*, but down from an exceptional 798 reported there 7/14. White-winged Doves continue their conquest of central and western Kansas, with occasional easterly or northerly strays expected. Examples were singles in *Shawnee* 10/21 (DL) and *Republic* 10/21 (MC), and two in *Clay Center* 10/24 (CW). White-winged Dove appears to be proliferating locally in *Salina* with 30 8/21 (BG), and in *McPherson* with 25 hunted 9/1 (MHe). A Greater Roadrunner in *Pawnee* 11/28 (SS) was northerly, though the species appears to be somewhat regular there.

Barred Owl is expanding westward, with two to Clark SFL 11/5 (JC,MU). A Burrowing Owl residing at Quivira NWR 9/9 – 9/22 (BJ) was the first in several years at Quivira NWR, where the species formerly bred. A Common Poorwill at Cimarron NG 11/27 (JC,ER,HT) was Kansas' 2<sup>nd</sup> latest apparently. A Whip-poor-will near Wilson 9/6 (DK) was westerly, while another in *Sedgwick* 10/7 (JC,CM) was late. The latter is Kansas' 3<sup>rd</sup> latest apparently and *Sedgwick's* first fall record, though this species' fall migration is poorly understood in Kansas. Large Chimney Swift roosts involved 1205 in *Galena* 9/9 (LH) and 5000 in *Topeka* 9/28 (JH).

Fall 2012 was excellent for western Hummingbirds, and the Shane's yard in Garden City hosted 51 individuals of seven species! Ruby-throated Hummingbird were unusually abundant at the Shane's with five reported 9/18 – 10/9 (SSh,TS) – individuals arrived earlier and departed later than usual (Tom Shane pers. comm.). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Shawnee* 10/13 (DL) was additionally late. 11+ sight records of Black-chinned Hummingbirds come from *Finney* and *Morton* 8/6 – 10/9. An immature female **Anna's Hummingbird** in the Shane's 10/4 – 10/6 (SSh,TS) is the Shane's 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kansas' 9<sup>th</sup> if accepted by KBRC. Even more impressive, an immature female **Costa's Hummingbird** visited the Shane's 10/26 – 10/29 (SSh,TS) – their 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kansas' 4<sup>th</sup> if accepted. *Selasphorus* visitors involved 18+ Broad-tailed Hummingbird, 22+ Calliope Hummingbird, and 33+ Rufous Hummingbird (table 1). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird at the Shane's 10/18 (SSh,TS) was Kansas' latest by almost three weeks. The reason(s) for 2012's impressive Hummingbird migra-

tion is not certain, but excessively dry conditions and scarcity of food away from feeders may have been important.

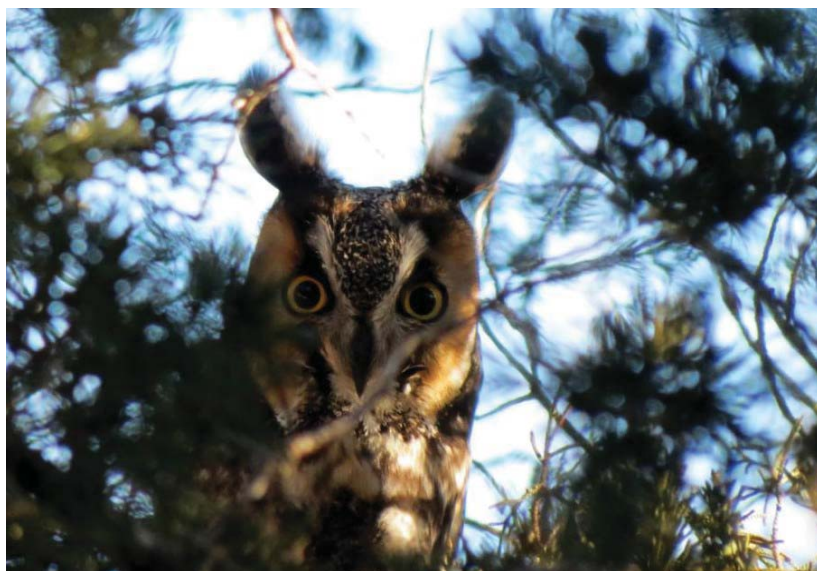
Two Ladder-backed Woodpecker on the Cimarron NG 11/17 (JC,ER,HT) were expected, while another at Arkalon Park 9/2 (DKi) was not. A Prairie Falcon at Quivira NWR 8/3 (NA,WCT,MG,JK) was slightly early, and another in Shawnee 10/20 (MG) was apparently the earliest record for eastern Kansas.

Wood-Pewees in far western Kansas included 14 Western Wood-Pewee 9/1 – 9/8, with only one Eastern Wood-Pewee reported 9/4 there. Seven Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported in eastern Kansas 8/26 – 9/19, with a single at Maple Grove Cemetery 9/15 (PJ) – a decent bird for *Sedgwick*. Acadian Flycatcher are seldom encountered after the breeding season, so two at the Overland Park Arboretum 9/8 (TR) were notable. Six Alder Flycatcher reported 8/4 – 8/26 in eastern Kansas were expected, though one at Cheney SWA 8/26 (PJ) is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> fall record for the *Sedgwick* area. Another at the Baker Wetlands 9/16 (JK) was later than expected, but timing of Alder Flycatcher's fall passage in Kansas is not well understood. Eight Willow Flycatcher were reported 8/3 – 9/8. Three Dusky Flycatcher were reported 9/1 – 9/8 in far western Kansas. A "Western" Flycatcher in Elkhart 9/1 (NA,WCT,MG,JK) awaits KBRC's decision. A Say's Phoebe in *Harvey* ~9/15 (CS) was slightly easterly, while an Eastern Phoebe at Hillsdale Lake 11/25 (TB) was tardy. Two Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Morton* 9/8 and 9/22 were the only reported. A **Cassin's Kingbird** at the Turnerville Work Center 9/8 (JM) was no surprise, but another in *Pawnee* 9/18 (SS) was excellent – central Kansas only has three prior records. 100 Eastern Kingbird at the Konza Prairie 8/25 (BB) was this season's highest count, and two at Shawnee Mission Park 9/26 (TSw) were late. The largest concentration of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher noted was 53 in *Sumner* 9/15 (GY).

An immature Northern Shrike in *Pawnee* 10/4 (SS,SSe) was Kansas' earliest by one day. Other singles at Scott Lake 11/19 (ST), Johnson City 11/19 (JC), *Stanton* 11/20 (HA), and Cheney SWA 11/21 (KG) were slightly early. A report from *Reno* 11/9 (AM,JMi) marks the normal distributional limit more or less. A singing Bell's Vireo in *Osage* 10/20 (WE,TR,NV,GYe) is Kansas' 2<sup>nd</sup> latest apparently. Of 16 Solitary Vireo reported in Kansas' western half, 13 of them were Blue-headed.

Single Plumbeous Vireos appeared at Scott Lake 9/3 (TE), and *Logan* 9/20 (PJ,WAS) and a Cassin's Vireo was photographed in *Tribune* 9/1 (NA,WCT,MG,JK). Warbling Vireo lingered at Clinton Lake 9/29 (JK,RW,TR,JW) and Blackhoof Park 10/13 (MG), the latter Kansas' latest. Overnight precipitation created fall-out like conditions in *Linn* 9/15, where 20 Warbling and 7 Philadelphia Vireo were tallied (MM). The latter may be a Kansas high count. 19 Philadelphias were reported state-wide, three in western Kansas; singles in *Marienthal* 9/20 (PJ,WAS), *Pawnee* 9/28 (SS), and *Ford* 9/30 (JC).

The largest Blue Jay flight noted, occurred at Konza Prairie 9/23 (ER) with 370. One Western Scrub-Jay appeared at Cimarron NG 9/1 (KG,WAS), with two there 11/17 (JC,ER,HT). Black-billed Magpies were reported east to *Pawnee* 9/9 (MHa) and Wilson Lake 10/28 (MR), where the species is still rare after West Nile Virus. 7500 American Crow at Black Vermillion Marsh 11/9 (JL) must have been an impressive sight. Four Chihuahuan Raven were reported from *Morton* and *Stevens* 9/1 – 9/8, while unidentified Ravens appeared on the Cimarron NG with five 10/19 (JC) and in *Hamilton* with two 11/17 (JC). Two Common Raven



**Long Eared Owl in Eastern Red Cedars at Lyon State Fishing Lake , © Nick Varvel.**



in Morton 9/22 – 10/20 (JC), were possibly the breeding pair from 2011. The annual St. Francis Purple Martin roost continues in Wichita, with 21,263+ tallied 8/11 (SSo) before Sorenson's clicker expired. Two **Cave Swallow** at the Elkhart WTP ~9/21, (CH,SP,MR,MT) were excellent finds – KBRC has accepted seven records thus-far.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was ubiquitous this fall to say the least, and 14 at the KSU Ag. Research Center 10/5 (JK) was the highest tally. A Rock Wren lingered at Quivira NWR 9/23 to the end of the period (SSc), while another in Osage 10/20 (WE,RR,TR,NV) was easterly and unexpected. A Winter Wren at Shawnee Mission Park 9/19 (ML) was slightly early, and west Kansas sightings entailed two at Clark SFL 11/10 – 11/15 (JC), and one in Seward 11/14 (SG,KH). 32 Sedge Wren at Clinton Lake 9/29 (JK,TR,,JW,RW) was the season's high count, while four at Quivira NWR 11/30 (MR) were tardy. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Elkhart 9/1 (KG,WAS) was slightly early. A Mountain Bluebird in Morton ~9/21 (CH,SP,MT,MR) was the earliest modern record. Good counts of Townsend's Solitaire included eight at Jetmore Cem. 11/3 (JC) and 13 in Ulysses 11/20 (SG,KH).

A Gray Catbird in Ogden 10/11 (CHo,HH) was late, though another in Bourbon 11/10 (TR) was Kansas' 2<sup>nd</sup> latest apparently. A **Sage Thrasher** photographed at Fort Riley 10/2 (JKe) was Kansas' eastern-most, and only the second for Kansas' eastern half. The Curve-billed Thrasher family continues at Hugoton's Cemetery with sightings 9/1 – 11/17.

Sprague's Pipit were reported 9/24 – 10/28, with two groups of 30 in Pawnee 10/8 and 10/28 (SS). Following a strong cold front in Reno 10/14, was a slightly early Lapland Longspur (JMi). 250+ Chestnut-collared Longspur in Pawnee (SS) 10/23 and 150 Smith's Longspur in Lyon 10/28 (DP,NP,JS) were this fall's high counts, and a Smith's at Kiowa SFL 11/21 (SS) was westerly. One Snow Bunting at Quivira's Big Salt Marsh 11/8 lingered to the end of the period (BJ), a Snow Bunting residing there during winter 2010-2011.

A single Blue-winged Warbler at Crawford SP 9/3 (MHo) was news. Slightly notable westward, lone Tennessee Warblers appeared in Arkalon Park 9/21 (JC) and Pawnee 9/27 (SS). An Orange-crowned Warbler 8/21 in Leavenworth (JB) was very early for eastern Kansas, while one at Clark SFL 8/25 (JC) was early for western Kansas. A seasonal high, 70 Orange-crowns were reported in Pawnee 9/27 (SS). A Northern Parula at Rooks SFA 8/28 (JVK) was westerly, and another at Marion Res. 10/20 (CM,WAS) was apparently Kansas' 2<sup>nd</sup> latest. Seven Chestnut-sided Warbler were reported 9/14 – 9/22, one of them westerly in Rooks 9/15 (JVK). 10 Magnolia Warbler reported 9/2 – 9/30, included westerly singles in Elkhart 9/2 (NA,WCT,MG,JK) and Edwards 9/7 (JM). Four Black-throated Blue Warblers made a strong showing, with singles at KSU 9/14 (BB), Quivira NWR 9/22 (BJ), Clay 10/5 (CW), and Maple Grove Cem. 10/6 (PJ). "Myrtle" Warblers at the Cimarron NG 9/2 (KG,WAS) and Clinton Lake 9/8 (MA,JK) were early, while an "Audubon's" Warbler in Russell 10/22 (DK) was easterly. Two "Audubon's x Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers at KSU's Northwest Agricultural Research Center 10/11 (JK) were the only reported. Intergrades are frequently reported on the high plains of Colorado and are likely overlooked in western Kansas. **Black-throated Gray Warbler** is very rare in central Kansas, like the bird in Larned 8/1 (DKa). 24+ Black-throated Green Warbler reported state-wide 8/18 – 10/16, included seven in Kansas' western half. Singles at Wilson 8/18 (MR) and Quivira NWR 8/19 (BJ) were possibly early, and another in Elkhart 9/1 (KG) was the western-most. Reports of Townsend's Warbler involved 10 individuals 9/1 – 9/21 in Kansas' far west. Three Blackburnian Warbler passed through 8/18 – 9/20, and one Russell Springs 9/20 (PJ,WAS) westerly. A Yellow-throated Warbler below the dam at Pomona Lake 9/23 (MJ) was slightly west of normal, though the species has expanded westward as a breeder.

Probably the most bizarre occurrence all season was a mind-blowing **24** Pine Warblers invading Kansas! Occurrences were spread across 13 counties from 8/31 – 10/20, approximately half of them in Kansas' western half – most sightings occur in east and central Kansas. The majority of sightings were singles, a few





© Kat Farres, Short-eared Owl

were doubles or triples, and four were encountered in Colby 9/1 (NA,WCT,MG,JK), setting Kansas' new high count. Per *Birds of Kansas*, most Pine Warbler in the state occur from mid-September to early October, so it is interesting 12 of these occurred before 9/10. The origin of the invaders is not clear, but the scarcity of records in the northern Great Plains coupled with the unusually early arrival may indicate these were southern birds, instead of migratory northern birds breeding in places like Minnesota. Palm Warbler numbers were elevated, with 22+ individuals, and noteworthy westerly singles in Pawnee 9/25 (SS), Reno 9/26 (AM,BMi), Harper 9/30 (MR), and three in Elkhart 9/21 (JC). Two Bay-breasted Warbler stopped in Leavenworth 9/14 (GP), and singles visited Rocky Ford FA 9/22 (ER) and Wyandotte County Lake 9/22 (MA). Part of a small

fallout, 10 Black-and-White Warbler were discovered in Linn 9/15 (MM), while five were seen in Kansas' western half 8/19 – 9/4. 17+ individual American Redstart passed through the Kansas' western half 8/18 – 9/21. A Worm-eating Warbler in Leavenworth 8/14 (JB) represents only the 9<sup>th</sup> fall record. The small, previously mentioned, fallout in Linn 9/15, produced 12 Ovenbird (MM), while five reports came from west and central Kansas 8/26 – 9/15. 10 Northern Waterthrush were reported 8/5 – 9/19, with one in Ulysses 9/2 (TE) the only from western Kansas. Two Northern Waterthrush at Clinton Lake were the earliest fall records; one was photographed at Bloomington Beach 8/5 (MA,JK) and a different individual visited the Wakarusa Causeway 8/8 (JK). 10 Mourning Warbler appeared state-wide 8/14 – 9/22, with westerly individuals in Rooks 8/31 (JVK), Cheney SWA 9/9 (TE,PJ), and Lane 9/22 (PJ,WAS), while an immature female photographed in Great Bend 8/14 (AFD) is Kansas' earliest fall record. Three MacGillivray's Warbler were reported with singles in Marienthal 9/20 (PJ) and Elkhart 9/22 (JC), while a female at Quivira NWR 9/22 (BJ) was easterly. 4 Common Yellowthroat at Baker Wetlands 9/16 (MA,JK) was a seasonal high, though not unusual. A Wilson's Warbler in Ulysses 8/17 (SG,KH), was slightly early. Eight Canada Warbler were reported 8/13 – 9/14, including westward singles at Salina 8/31 (DK), Garden City 9/3 (TE), and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center 9/14 (SSc). A Canada at Quivira NWR 8/19 (BJ) was westerly and early, while another at Shawnee Mission Park 8/13 (MH) was Kansas' earliest fall record.

A Green-tailed Towhee at the Turnerville Work Center 9/22 (CH,SP,MR,MT) provided the only record. Two Eastern Towhee at Webster Res. 10/5 (JVK) and one in Ellis 9/6 (TM) were westerly, the latter a county record despite Ellis' long history of bird-banding. A Spotted x Eastern Towhee at Shawnee Mission Park 10/6 (NV) was intriguing. An early arrival, one American Tree Sparrow appeared in Jackson 10/10 (MHa). 15 Chipping Sparrow were reported from central Kansas throughout August – many likely breeding or summering individuals. Singles in Ulysses 8/17 (SG,KH) and at the KSU Northwest Agricultural Research Center 8/19 (CK,JK) were especially far west in August. Several Clay-colored Sparrow arrived early: Singles appeared at Quivira NWR 8/19 (BJ), the KSU Agricultural Research Center 8/19 (SM,TM), and Hillsdale Lake 8/30 (NV). Brewer's Sparrow passed through far western Kansas as usual with five reported 9/8 – 9/22, but another in Pawnee 9/21 (SS) is one of few records from central Kansas. Lark Bunting are regular migrants east to Quivira NWR with sightings there 8/16 and 9/6 (BJ), but three in Reno 9/4 (JMc), and two at the Konza Prairie 9/7 (ER) were easterly. 124+ Le Conte's Sparrow were reported, with a bird in Ford 10/14 (JC) the western-most. The highest tally was 27 at Clinton Lake 9/30 (MA), down from 50+ reported here last October. 15+ Nelson's Sparrow passed through 9/24 – 11/9, with a slightly late individual at Quivira NWR 11/9

(MR). The highest count was five at Clinton Lake 10/6 (MA). A Fox Sparrow at Hillsdale Lake 9/23 (JW) was early, while another in Elkhart 11/17 (JC,ER,HT) was the western-most. A Song Sparrow at Webster Res. 8/17 (JVK) may have been a post-breeding dispersal from Nebraska or north-central Kansas. The highest tally of Swamp Sparrow was an un-impressive 42 at the Baker Wetlands 10/21 (JK). Notable anywhere in Kansas, a Gray-headed Junco showed up at Quivira NWR 10/1 (BJ) – Kansas’ earliest fall record by approximately three weeks.

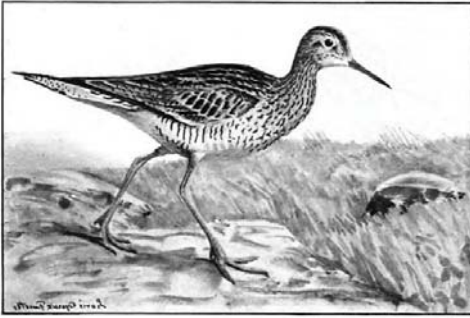
A Summer Tanager in Morton ~9/21 (CH,SP,MR,MT) was westerly. A Summer Tanager in *Pottawatomie* 10/20 (DB) was late, but another in Wichita 11/16 (BG) was Kansas’ latest. Western Tanager passed through *Finney* and *Morton* 9/8 – 9/22, with three individuals reported. Seven Black-headed Grosbeak 8/11 – 9/8 and 6+ Lazuli Bunting 8/26 – 9/20 were found in western Kansas. This season’s Indigo Bunting high count was 51 at the Baker Wetlands 9/23 (MA,JK) – hardly surprising. A Painted Bunting near Mulvane 9/23 (LHi,KVB) was late. The only Bobolink reported were 15+ individuals in *Douglas* 9/16 – 9/30. Rusty Blackbird has declined precipitously: Only 114 Rusty Blackbird were sighted, most of them in flocks of 50 at Shawnee SFL 11/23 (DM) and 40 at Hillsdale Lake 11/23 (JW).

Birders will remember 2012 as a major invasion year in the northern United States, as most winter finch species irrupted this fall. These northern invaders were concentrated in New England, while fewer in number throughout the Great Plains. Excepting Red Crossbill, Kansas received only a sampling of the abundance elsewhere. A Pine Grosbeak heard in Milford SP 10/14 (MR) is exceptional, as Pine Grosbeak sightings were mostly confined to northern MN and WI by November’s end. Purple Finch arrived in decent numbers and one in Manhattan 9/27 (BS) near record-early. A lone Cassin’s Finch visited the Turnerville Work Center ~9/21 (CH,SP,MR,MT) – one of the earliest fall records. By July 2012, Red Crossbill had invaded Kansas, continuing throughout

fall. 39+ reports involved 178+ Red Crossbill, in 23 Kansas counties (table 3). The vast majority went unidentified to type, but confirmed type 2 included 11 in Elkhart 9/22 (JC), and an Osborne bird 8/1 (HA). Two **type 4** recorded at the KSU Agricultural Research Station 11/11 (JVK) may be Kansas’ first of this predominately northwestern type. A small-billed bird at Maple Grove Cemetery 9/8 (TE,PJ) was likely type 3. During July 2012, type 2 Red Crossbill appeared in the Great Plains, moving into other mid-western areas as fall progressed. It is likely these birds originated in the mountain-west, unlike most Crossbills in the northern United States that were predominately type 3, and likely originated in the Pacific Northwest. Alongside numerous Reds, White-winged Crossbills arrived with 12+ in *Finney* (MRa,PR) and one in *Pottawatomie* 11/11 (DB). Single Common Redpolls on the Cimarron NG 11/17 (ER) and in *McPherson* 11/11 (DBr) were notable, though paltry considering ~180 individuals reported to ebird in Colorado during the fall. A Pine Siskin in Colby 8/19 (JK) was early, preceding a strong flight of the species.



© David Williams, Great Blacked Back Gull at Clinton Lake, February 3, 2013.



**Observers:** Andrew Miller, Art Wiegand, Brian Grauerholz, Brent Gal-  
liart (BGa), Barry Jones, Brandom Magette, Billie McDavitt (BMd), Brett  
Budach, Bryant Miller (BMi), Brett Sandercock, Chris Fagyal, Chris  
Hobbs, Carol Hoogheem (CHo), Cathy King, Cheryl Miller, Carol Mor-  
gan (CMo), Chuck Otte, Christopher Rogers, Carolyn Schwab, Calvin  
Wohler, Doris Burnett, David Brock (DBr), Dave Hawksworth, Dave  
Klema, Don Kazamaier (DKa), Dan Kilby (DKi), Dan McKee, Dan Mul-  
hurn (DMu), Dan Larson, Dan LaShelle (DLs), Devin Piepert, Diane  
Row, David Seibel, Eileen Land, Ed Raynor, Gregg Friesen, Gary Haden,

Galen Pittman, Gary Pinkall (GPi), Gary Richards, Gene Young, Greyson Yerby (GYe), Henry Armknecht,  
Hoogy Hoogheem, Hannat Tetreault, Jean Aycok, John Bollin, Jeff Calhoun, Jeff Hansen, Jon King, Jeff  
Keating (JKe), Joseph Lautenbach, Jim Malcom, Joseph Miller (JMi), Jeff McIntyre (JMc), Jon Northrup, Jaye  
Otte, John Row, Jennifer Rader (JRa), Justyn Stahl, Jon Van de Kopple (JVK), Jeff Witters, Kevin Groeneweg,  
Kellye Hart, Kurt Van Boening (KVB), Lawrence Herbert, Leon Hicks (LHi), Michael Andersen, Mark Corder,  
Matt Gearheart, Mike Hudson, Mike Harding (MHa), Mike Heaney (MHe), Margaret Hoyle (MHo), Mick  
McHugh, Mike Rader, Mike Ramsey (MRa), Mike Stoakes, Mark Shoupe (MSh), Max Thompson, Mike Um-  
scheid, Nic Allen, Nicole Desnoyers, NP, Nick Varvel, Peter Burke, Paul Griffin, Pete Janzen, Pat Ramsey,  
Roger Body, Rob McHenry (RbM), Rosa McHenry (RoM), Rob Graham, Robert Penner, Rosella Royer, Rod-  
ney Wright, Sam Guy, Sydney LaNeve, Sebasttian Patti, Scott Seltman, Scott Schmidt (SSc), Steven Seltman  
(SSe), Sarah Shane (SSh), Steve Sorenson (SSo), Steve Taylor, Tim Barksdale, Ted Cable, Tom Ewert, Terrell  
Giddens, Terry Mannell, Tom McDavitt (TMd), Trent Reed, Tom Shane, Terry Swope (TSw), Wichita Audu-  
bon Society (WAS), Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Wayne Elder

Abbreviations: cemetery (Cem.), Fishing Area (FA), John H. Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Kan-  
sas Birds Record Committee (KBRC), Kansas State University (KSU), reservoir (Res.), State Fishing Area  
(SFA), State Park (SP), State Wildlife Area (SWA), water treatment plant/sewage pond (WTP)

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Clarification (for Jun/Jul Round-up): 115°F in Hill City was the summer's highest temperature, not Kansas' all-  
time high.

# An interview with the authors of *Birds of Kansas*: first of a four part series

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## **HOLA: Why the *Birds of Kansas* (BoK) and what makes it significant?**

Max Thompson (MT): Kansas was one of the first states to have a bird book back in 1883. Charles Ely (CE) and I updated everything in 1989 and 1992. It was time to come out with a new one to compile all the data that had been accumulated since 1992. The book compiles most of the significant updates and information available at the time we wrote.

## **HOLA: When did work on BoK start?**

MT: The work actually started when the last one came out in 1992, when I started thinking about a new one. Getting all the data together and getting the authors to get their sections in took about 3 years to complete. I picked people with extensive knowledge of Kansas birds that were interested in helping to put it in writing. It took about 6 months to edit.

CE: I worked with George M. Sutton while he was doing work on *Oklahoma Birds*, so knew I wanted to work on a stat book. When I took the position at Fort Hays State University in the spring of 1960, I immediately started collecting data so my part started a long time ago.

## **HOLA: What was one of the biggest challenges?**

MT: Trying to make all the species accounts written by various people look like one.

CE: The biggest challenge was editing to a common style rather than 5 (actually 3). This took forever but worked pretty well. Also including as much data as possible much of it never before published.

## **HOLA: What were the key decisions that shaped the book and how did you all arrive at them?**

MT: We looked at a lot of state bird books and decided how we wanted to do this one. As the writing took place the format evolved.

CE: Max & I had too many restrictions on BoK, Thompson & Ely versions 1&2. We wanted full color, more history, more detailed data on distribution State wide, more facts, and results from all banding over the years. We think the results added credibility.

## **HOLA: How did you divide up who did what?**

MT: The book was divided into sections and each person took a section that they felt comfortable writing about. The sections then were all returned to Chuck Ely and me for editing.

## **HOLA: Can you briefly describe what went into writing the sections on Status, Habitat, Migration, Comments, Banding?**

MT: We had to reference published material but heavily relied on databases kept by Ely and myself. Recent publications like Janzen's *Birds of Sedgwick County* provided a lot of dates and information also. The publication is scientifically credible only by making sure the data is correct. Much of the information had not been compiled into one source since 1992.

CE: Max obtained a copy of the BBO banding file and I extracted the data for Kansas and put it into a usable form. Then Chuck Otte did the maps. Kansas banders helped a lot. Other than the overall quality of the book, I'm most proud of this section. I'm guessing that two things most readers under-appreciate is the amount of documented data to evaluate and the amount of time involved in putting it into print. The results show what can be done when birders of ALL types work together.

## Introducing The Editor, HOLA *(cont. from p. 2)*

Arizona got me interested in birds. My family and I were living on Fort Huachuca in a cute but drab, khaki colored, military bungalow. Our living room had two enormous windows facing the Huachuca Mountains which were no further away than an easy ten minute stroll. Hiking along Ramsey Canon one day I saw a notice about some obviously rare owl species. One afternoon during a family picnic I saw my first birders and wondered what they were looking at because I didn't see anything. During a balloon festival in April I almost asked someone with some state ornithological society windshield sticker what ornithology was but was too self-conscious to do so. Locals told us about this place in the mountains where you could go and see forty species of hummingbirds which sounded really cool but we never made it. I do at times regret not being more interested in birds when I was living in one of the premier destinations for birds and birders in the United States and yet, the place at least made me aware that there were people who looked for birds.



**The editor looking for his lifer marsh wren on his first group birding field trip. This trip was a Burroughs Audubon tour to Squaw Creek NWR in April, 2012.**

At the same time I was hiking through the Huachuca Mountains on the weekends, I was reading *On the Origin of Species*. My love of birds has its genesis in those pages when I came to understand and appreciate just how aesthetically majestic evolutionary biology is. I still feel overcome by Darwin's last words that—*There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.*

The Army moved us to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I inherited a good pair of binoculars and started to get hooked on birds. I placed bird feeders in our backyard underneath an oak tree and used my father's moldering 1966 edition of the *Birds of North America* to identify backyard birds. Dates and locations for any new species I annotated in the margins. When I deployed to Iraq as part of the surge in the fall of 2007, my favorite bird was the red-winged blackbird.

In 2009, I set my feeders up again, and my family watched ruby-throated hummingbirds outside our dining room window feeding from petunias and sugar-water. I stayed busy and deployed again, this time as part of the Afghanistan surge. The only birds I remember seeing were house sparrows and they weren't trash birds. When I came back it was spring and I sought out solitude and consolations from little patches of woods resplendent in emerald greens and ringing with the calls of birds. This was when I really started looking for birds intently—when I became a birder.

# KOS Perspectives: The news in Spring, across five decades

NUMBER 43

KOS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1972

## CHANDLER ROBBINS TO BE FEATURED BANQUET SPEAKER AT ANNUAL KOS CONVENTION IN HAYS IN APRIL

The well known ornithologist Chandler Robbins will be the featured banquet speaker at the annual KOS meeting to be held at Fort Hays State College, Hays on 29-30 April. Robbins is the author of the well known field guide, "Birds of North America". Chan works for the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and is headquartered at the Patuxent Research Refuge. He is the organizer of the breeding bird survey that has been running in Kansas now for the past few years. Those of us who know Chan will be looking forward to seeing him again and for those of you who don't, here is your chance to introduce yourselves and talk to him. Plan now to be at the convention.

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Advance registrations on the KOS African Safari, August 3-23 number six. We could use alot more people. The prices are now fixed at \$1850 for six persons, \$1795 for 10 persons and \$1550 for 15 persons. If you know anyone wanting to go to Africa, he doesn't have to be a KOS member to go. There was an increase in airfare on April 1 which boosted our projected costs. Anyone planning on going should write immediately. The deadline is May 1.

## KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Department of Biology, Southwestern College  
Winfield, KS 67156

Volume 10, No. 1  
April 1983

### EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Hi, my name is Elmer J. Finck, and I am the new Newsletter editor. As I expected, this first newsletter is rather short. Many of you probably have not received the word, that there is a new newsletter editor and there is probably some confusion as where to send material for publication. I thank those individuals who have contributed and hope more of you will contribute in the future. Your bird observation reports that you want included in the newsletter should be sent to me. After I see them, I will forward them to Dr. Ely at Fort Hays.

I welcome the announcement of field trips. If you are planning a field trip and would like other KOS members to join you, please send the information to me. Include in your information where the trip will be, when it will be, who organized it and who to contact, if members desire to attend. Upon returning from these field trips, send interesting sightings and a list of participants. Also, if you go on an outing and have recorded your sightings, please send them in to me. It is possible that there will be too much information to include in the newsletter, but the information that you send in will be useful to Dr. Ely for the Birds of Kansas book.

**DO SOMETHING WILD!**



**Mark your  
state income tax form for  
non-game wildlife conservation  
in Kansas**

# KOS Perspectives: The news in Spring, across five decades *(cont.)*

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613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March 1993

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## **BIRD OF SPECIAL INTEREST**, by Pete Janzen

One of the things that I like most about birding is the way you keep discovering surprises in unexpected places. This is especially true when the surprise is virtually in your own backyard, and you realize that it was probably there all along. A bird that epitomizes this for me is the LeConte's Sparrow. I would venture to guess that many of our members have not seen this bird. LeConte's has a sort of mystique. Many field guides use descriptions like "secretive" or "little known" when discussing this bird. Several years ago, while going through some old KOS newsletters from the early 1970's, I found a short article by Kenn Kaufman, who lived in Wichita at that time. In that article, he mentioned having found Monte's in several consecutive years in the large flood control canal known locally as the "Big Ditch."

Armed with this information, Joe Yoder and I ventured into the thick grasslands of the ditch on an October day in search of this bird. Standing in a huge patch of Johnson grass, I gave a spishing sound. Up from the matted grass jumped about 15 LeConte's Sparrows! Some of them were only a few feet away! I am always struck by the bright orange facial plumage of this species. On this occasion, they were very tame and allowed us to look them over at our leisure. I couldn't believe that I had overlooked a bird new to my life list for so many years. This part of the ditch is only a mile from my house. Later that day we also found a Sedge Wren in the ditch. As the years have passed, I have found LeConte's to be a regular migrant in October and November, in this area. Sedge Wrens seem to often be associated with them. They would probably be found there in the spring also, but the City of Wichita always mows the ditch in the winter, eliminating most of their favored habitat. LeConte's like sandy prairie areas, especially those with a wetland influence. Large stands of marsh grasses, surrounded by areas of sparser prairie grasses are the best places to seek them, at least in the Big Ditch. I am sure that they are a much more widespread migrant than we might currently be aware. Other reliable places to look for them are Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Sand Hills State Park, located near Hutchinson. This past fall, Bill Langley and others found good numbers of them in the prairies surrounding El Dorado Lake. You could probably find this species in suitable habitat anywhere in the eastern and central parts of Kansas. Thompson & Ely consider it an uncommon migrant, principally in April and October.

A few linger in the winter. They have been found on the Baldwin Christmas Bird Counts several times. So if you can't get away to Cheyenne Bottoms or Morton County, try birding the nearest wet meadow during migration. Maybe you will add the beautiful, enigmatic LeConte's Sparrow to your bird list.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Diane Seltman reported that 37 new members had joined KOS since October bringing the total membership to 479 (this includes approximately 100 1992 members who have not renewed yet for 1993). She will send reminders in March to those members who have not renewed for 1993. There are 112 fully paid life members and 15 partially paid. Galen Pittman stated that we presently print 500 copies of publications and with 479 members we might not have sufficient extra copies. He will increase the print run for March to 550 and then adjust it when we see how many members do not renew.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jim Mayhew presented an operations format for 1993 (see attachment B). Each Director will be responsible to relate to one of the four areas of operations - organizational, membership, finances and events. Last fall Jim toured the Dingus Natural Area with Marvin Schwilling, a representative from the Kansas Nature Conservancy. There are a number of improvements that need to be done. We also need to make other arrangements for oversight since Bob Weese has difficulty getting out to the natural area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that we help with surveying the new part of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge. However they did not fund this project. KOS has been asked to help with a bluebird trail from Iola to Humboldt. We have also been asked to contact people to write their Senators and Representatives to urge continued support of the Cheyenne Bottoms project. The Kansas Herpetological Society has asked KOS for help in opposing rattlesnake roundups in Kansas.

Jim would like to accomplish the following goals for 1993: *a)* accomplish the goals of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project; *b)* restore the Dingus Natural Area to its potential; *c)* maintain a balanced budget; *d)* respond to the needs of KOS members.

Jim has appointed the following committee chairs: **Conservation** - John Schukman; **Publicity** - Chris Hobbs; **Membership** - Roy Beckemeyer.

## From The Keyboard – by Chuck Otte, Editor HOLA

As I was putting this issue together I was changing the masthead (that's what you see at the top of this page. Changing Volume 29 to Volume 30 caused me to pause and I'm not sure why. I didn't make anything special out of the 25th Anniversary of the *Horned Lark*, and I imagine, therefore, that I won't do anything out of the ordinary for the 30th Anniversary. Well, other than call it to your attention here.

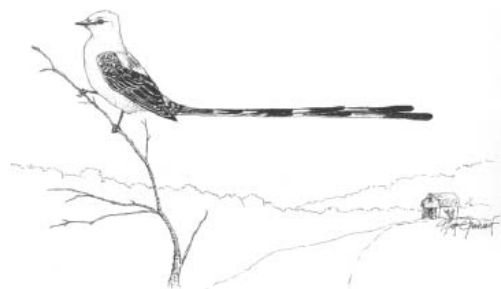
I don't have all the issues from all 30 years of the *Horned Lark*. Several years ago a dear friend, and past president of KOS, passed away and I was given all of his back issues of the *Horned Lark* and *The Bulletin*. While al-

## KDWP Forum Statewide Shorebird Survey--2002

We have completed the first year of the statewide shorebird survey. Over 50 people volunteered to survey 51 sites. As you may recall, I asked volunteers to select a site to conduct shorebird surveys. Sites should have potential to attract shorebirds and be convenient enough for volunteers to visit several times. I asked volunteers to count shorebirds at their sites twice monthly between March 16 and May 31 and July 1 through October 31. Frequent surveys are needed to describe migration chronology and are necessary to detect shorebird use of ephemeral habitats. Although it would be better to survey sites more frequently, perhaps as often as twice a week, it probably isn't feasible for many volunteers.

### Time To Pay Your 2003 Membership Dues

Annual KOS membership dues are payable January 1st of each year. A form to facilitate this activity is on Page 20. Please help save the Society postage fees and send in your dues without us sending you a special mailing. This will likely be the last mailing you receive if you do not pay your dues. If you haven't done this, DO IT NOW! Find the December Horned Lark and look for the yellow sheet of paper that was stuck in with that issue. Be sure to pay close attention to the information regarding the Membership Directory and if or how you wish to be listed. The KOS Membership Directory will be printed and distributed to KOS members only. This information WILL NOT be put on the web. Thank you for paying your 2003 dues!



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
By Matt Gearheart

# New Members to the KOS in 2012

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
McLean	Donna	Greeley	CO	Walters	Mary A	Norton	KS
Garrett	Ben	Abbyville	KS	Bain	Matt	Oakley	KS
Simmons	Debra	Burlington	KS	Yerby	Greyson	Olate	KS
Schall	Evelyn & Chuck	Derby	KS	Aust	Celesta	Olathe	KS
Nolan	Atcha & Michael	El Dorado	KS	Dahl	Wayne	Olathe	KS
Mills	David & Sharon	Fredonia	KS	DeHart	Stephen	Olathe	KS
		Ft. Leaven-					
Van Horn	Mark	worth	KS	Varvel	Nick	Olathe	KS
Wright	Rodney	Gardner	KS	Buckley	Thomas	Overland Park	KS
Rodden	Ruth	Holton	KS	Budach	Brett	Overland Park	KS
Clark	Mary	Hutchinson	KS	Curtis	Scott	Overland Park	KS
Entwistle	Andy	Lansing	KS	Olarian II	Peter	Overland Park	KS
Rader	Jennifer	Lawrence	KS	Yates	Audrey	Overland Park	KS
Sain	Kimberly	Lawrence	KS	Miller	Bryant	Partridge	KS
Taylor & Horowitz	Maureen & Chris	Lawrence	KS	Miller	Andrew	Partridge	KS
Boyle	Alice	Manhattan	KS	McNett	Mary	Piqua	KS
Hemby	A. J.	Manhattan	KS	Grabon	George	Salina	KS
Lautenbach	Joseph	Manhattan	KS	Smith	Madeline	Valley Center	KS
Manfield	Mark	Manhattan	KS	Davis	Evelyn L.	Wakarusa	KS
Parks	Eve	Manhattan	KS	Hamilton	Bayleigh	Wichita	KS
Rose	Susan	Manhattan	KS	Herold	Karl & Mary	Wichita	KS
Flowers	Emily	Meade	KS	Rishell	Sabine	Wichita	KS
Roy	David & Kathleen	Minneapolis	KS	Doris	Neta iJanelí	Winfield	KS
				Woodward &			
Miller	Joseph	Nickerson	KS	Varner	Jimmy & Nadine	Mustang	OK

## Kansas Ornithological Society 2013 Winter Board Meeting Minutes

~Minutes Submitted by Curtis Wolf, KOS Corresponding Secretary

Present: Henry Armknecht, Matt Gearheart, Curtis Wolf, Patty Marlett, Terry Mannell, Don Kazmaier, Janeen Walters, Nic Allen, Lisa Weeks, Mark Van Horn, Chuck Otte

Absent: Greg Farley, Gene Young

- I. Henry called the meeting to order at 10:02
- II. Review of the Agenda – The group added hospitality cards under unfinished business
- III. Minutes – Curtis emailed the minutes from the Fall 2012 meeting to the board. Terry moved to accept the minutes; Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

- IV. Treasurer's Report – Terry ; Financial Committee Report – Max/Terry
  - a. Terry presented a handout --“Income and Expense Summary 1/1/12 to 12/31/12 & Balance Sheet 1/1/12 to 12/31/12”
    - i. Terry noted that the report shows that our expenses are higher than income, but that is not totally true as transfers out of the checking account are counted as expenses.
    - ii. Terry also noted the investment fund has shown an increase this year
    - iii. Terry reported that in his opinion, KOS has a good reserve of funds if we need to transfer any funds for specific purposes
    - iv. Chuck moved to accept the financial report; Don 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed
  - b. There was discussion of how long financial records should be kept.
    - i. Terry noted that this will be his last year as treasurer and he has all financial records stored at his house. He would like to clean this up, but wanted advice on how long to keep records and what items have historical value. There are no regulations for how long financial records need to be kept. Henry recommended that Terry should keep records for 7 years and could go through and discard older records that are not significant. Any other significant items should be sent to Chuck to scan into archives.
  - c. It was noted that we should probably start getting the word out on the open treasurer position. It should be posted in the newsletter and Chuck and/or Mike Rader will pursue to fill the position as the nominating committee.
- V. VP Report – Matt had nothing specific to report. He is glad to be back on board.
  - a. Spring 2013 Meeting-Norton, Ks-May 10-12, 2013
    - i. Lisa has sent information/registration out on bird listserv
  - b. Fall 2013 Meeting – Matt/Nancy-Topeka, KS-September 20-22, 2013
    - i. Janeen sought advice about the youth programs she is organizing for the fall meeting. She asked if there are funds designated for the programs. It was suggested that some of these expenses should be included in the registration fee for the meeting. She also asked if the registration fee could be waived for youth. The Board all agreed registration could be waived. Meals and other extras would still probably need to be paid for.
- VI. Membership report – Patty
  - a. Patty reported that KOS has 324 members; Many of the member have renewed for this year, but some have not yet. Patty will start reminding members of renewal in a couple weeks.
  - b. Discussion of how to make renewals more efficient and easier for members and the treasurer. Also discussed when KOS should or should not send missed issues of the newsletter (Patty reported that typically March has been the deadline in the past). The Board discussed that we could encourage renewals at the Fall meeting. Online payments were also discussed.
  - c. Mark asked to post names of new members in HL. Patty will send him a list.
  - d. Patty noted that we did have quite a few student memberships that were comped this year and didn't know how many would renew. Terry said he will ensure that we can comp student memberships again this year assuming the students ask. There will be an article in the Horned Lark to encourage student memberships.
- VII. *Bulletin* Editor Report – Gene was absent but provided an email with his report
  - a. Gene reported that the March KOS Bulletin will be dedicated to CBCS.
  - b. He has material for June and September and needs material for December.
- VIII. *Horned Lark* Editor Report – Mark

- a. Request for digitized version of the *Horned Lark*
    - i. Mark noted that he is working on an editorial to address why newsletters are important, including archival benefits
    - ii. Discussion-do we need to send out the newsletter? Is the newsletter seen as a benefit to members? Mark suggested that we will probably move toward electronic version in the future. The Board discussed other considerations, such as digital may not be a cost savings (i.e. bulk postage/printing), elderly members, etc.
    - iii. Henry assigned Mark, Terry, and Patty to a task force to investigate the conversion to digital of HL
  - b. Mark reported that in general the format of the HL will remain the same
    - i. Mark mentioned he would like to add a history corner section from articles that were in the HL 40 years ago. All agreed this is a good idea. Terry suggested that we also could do a member profile. It was noted that this has been done before. Mark will need help if we want to do this.
  - c. Discussion-how do we make the HL more appealing to all the birders in KS?—Numerous suggestions were offered such as member profiles, birding hotspots, featured bird species, etc. It was concluded that the key will be Mark will need help from other “reporters” to make these ideas happen.
- IX. Business Manager’s report – Lisa—No report
- X. Student Scholarship Committee – John Schukman emailed a report to Henry
- a. John suggested that the submission date for proposals should be moved up to mid Jan or Feb 1. Terry moved to accept John’s proposal to change the submission date and to let John/Committee decide on the actual due date; Don 2<sup>nd</sup> –Motion passed
- XI. Conservation Committee report - Chuck
- a. Chuck reported that Gene is working on a public comment from the KOS to the USFWS in favor of list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species.
  - b. Discussion-Curtis suggested that it might be a good idea to be sure that we publicize stances KOS takes on certain conservation issues to the KOS membership.
  - c. Chuck reported that KDWPT may want to start a “Big Year” competition for Kansas so we may be seeing some info on this or other birding competitions. Chuck and Mike Rader have been in on these discussions with KDPWT.
- XII. Kansas Bird Records Committee – Chuck/Henry
- a. It was reported that the committee has not met. However there is a voting session going on. Elections are coming up and will be sent to Henry for approval by the KOS Board
- XIII. Unfinished Business
- a. Hospitality cards—Terry reported that we have a supply of the KOS Hospitality cards and that he will not have any more printed until we use these up.
- XIV. New Business
- a. Requests for KOS participation/endorsement
    - i. Henry reported he received an email from Susan Rose concerning a request for educational materials for her art show in Topeka. Chuck reported that he took care of this request.
  - b. Discussion-do we accept “advertising”? In order to keep KOS’s non-profit status, it was noted that advertisements are not acceptable; however, some items are considered “member services” such as classified ads, but there is currently no content for classified ads. It was concluded that KOS does not accept advertising.

- c. Discussion-review of KOS purpose and KOS Strategic planning. Mark posed the questions: "What makes KOS different from other groups? and "What is our plan for membership for our future?" Discussion followed. Terry noted the educational component and suggested we have not made concerted efforts for this purpose. Mark moved to have a Strategic Planning Committee established by the Fall 2013 KOS meeting; the committee will proceed to draft a 5-year strategic plan to be presented at the Winter 2014 KOS Board Meeting. Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
  - d. Meeting locations for 2014-Chuck is working on securing Rock Springs Camp for this meeting.
- XV. Adjourn-Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:11; Don 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed



**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.

## Kansas Ornithological Society

### Balance Sheet, 01/01/2012-12/31/2012

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#### Assets

Investment Fund	158,089.67
Checking	7,357.50
Sub Total	<u>165,447.17</u>
 Dingus Land	 <u>56,000.00</u>
 Total	 <b>221,447.17</b>

#### Liabilities and Fund Balances

General Fund	10,070.69
Endowments	77,042.31
Life Membership Account	30,937.38
Book Royalty Fund	32,160.13
Dingus Nature Area Fund	8,558.25
Dingus Nature Area Land	56,000.00
Student Research Fund	6,678.41
 Total	 <b>221,447.17</b>

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flint Hills Shorebird Survey

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The Nature Conservancy, with the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will conduct the second annual Flint Hills Shorebird Survey. The Flint Hills Region was divided into seventy-one, ten mile square grids located throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. Within each of these grids is a driving route. In order to collect the data needed to determine estimated populations of shorebirds passing through the Flint Hills during a given time period, all routes must be surveyed within the period of March 15 to May 20. Each route is randomly selected as to

what week it will be surveyed during the nine week period. The Nature Conservancy is seeking volunteers to assist in conducting these survey routes. Chances are fairly good that a volunteer could be assigned a route that is either close to their desired location or during a week that works best for them or both! Without the assistance of volunteers it will be my responsibility to complete the routes; so please consider helping. I will be happy to send you detailed information if you are interested in running a route. Contact Robert Penner at [rpenner@tnc.org](mailto:rpenner@tnc.org) or 620-786-4745.

## ***A review of Rare and Elusive Birds of North America, by Rosella Royer***

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*Rare and Elusive Birds of North America* by William Burt is a collection of his photographs from a 16-year period across the United States and Canada. The pictures are phenomenal and are accompanied by quotes from many prominent naturalists and authors. In fact, he received help in finding many of the nests and birds from other researchers.

The introduction is captivating. Families of birds included rails, sparrows, nightjars, warblers, and flycatchers. From the story behind each photograph it is apparent why they were included. This is a great read for everyone no matter the level of interest in birding. For the camera buff, there is a section on how he took pictures of the birds, detailing the camera and other equipment used.

Bird lovers will love *Rare and Elusive Birds* whether they watch feeder birds at home or go out looking for them. By its conclusion, the reader may share the concern of the author for the loss of the habitat these birds require for nesting and raising young. They might also want to put on waders and head out to the nearest bog or marsh. I could see myself doing that a “few” years ago.

# The eBirder—advice from the Kansas eBird team

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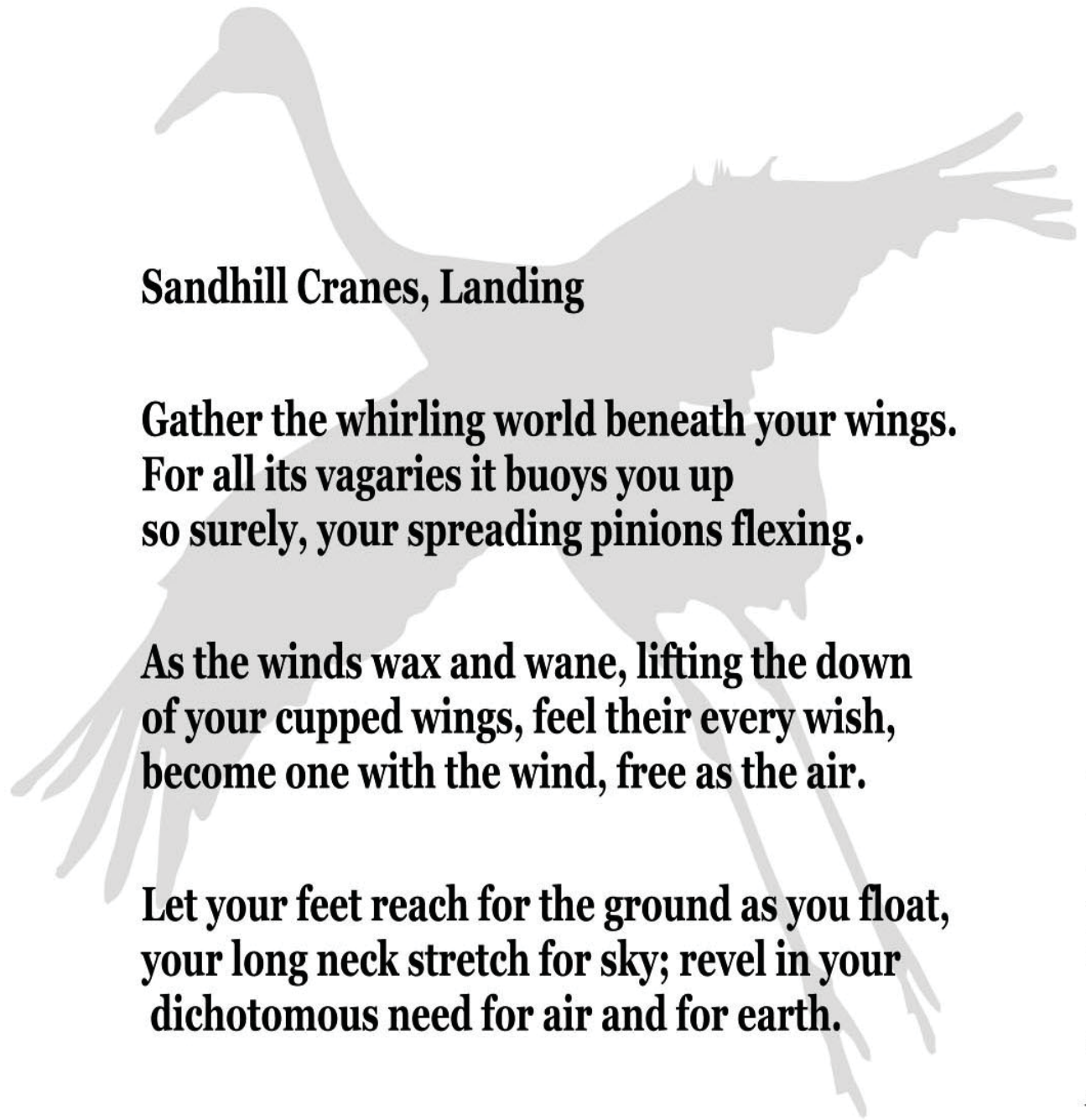
Let's face it; birders are a geographically and temporally biased group of people, with birding activity concentrated around urban centers with the exceptions of Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira, and Morton county. eBird data coverage is accordingly biased, and most of Kansas' eBird data coming from the last several years since the program has only recently gained popularity. With such sporadic coverage, using eBird to understand how bird occurrence is related to habitat, environmental, or landscape variables can be challenging. This is why selecting highly-specific locations is important when submitting data. As a continuously-updated geo-referenced database scientists can associate bird occurrences with said variables, making powerful predictive models for bird status and distribution across large geographic areas (Wood et al. 2011). Such models and predictions enhance the efforts of conservationists, ecologists, natural resource professionals, or other scientists studying or attempting to conserve birds and their habitats. By using specific locations, scientists are better able to associate occurrences with certain environmental features. Less precise locations such as a checklist submitted for Douglas County, or traveling count of 25 miles along Rice County back roads, may traverse many habitats, sampling a variety of birds. Lumping these observations into one checklist obscures the relationships between bird occurrences and their habitats.

By now some of you may be wondering what constitutes a “specific” location vs. a “general” one. Traveling counts less than five miles in length are generally useful in modeling bird and habitat relationships, and the more specific a location is, the better. Keep in mind that birders can plot locations anywhere on the map, reflecting their birding efforts as accurately as they want – birders are not just limited to “hotspots”. Sometimes a hotspot is too general, and birders are encouraged to create a nested location, such as “Cimarron NG—Middle Spring”. Please suggest these nested or sub-hotspots to hotspot editors (there is a box for this when selecting your location on the map). Submitting several smaller checklists can be time-consuming (less so with a birding partner and smartphone apps such as Bird Log). Should birders wish to use longer checklists it is understood and welcomed, but smaller checklists are more valuable.

While this article may sound biased towards scientists, realize that birders benefit from highly-specific locations too. eBird offers interactive range maps where observers can search for and click on a species sighting, and such maps are increasingly used in planning birding trips. For example, a birder building their Douglas County list may want to see a Rough-legged Hawk, usually found in southwestern Douglas County. If observers searched for Rough-legged Hawk observations using the species maps feature and clicked on a point that corresponded to a 0.8 mile traveling count near the town of Globe, it would put birders in just the right area to see the bird. Clicking on someone's 38 mile traveling count submitted for “Douglas” would not help the county lister. So whether you want to benefit birders, conservationists, or both, please consider breaking up longer birding efforts into smaller and more specific checklists that are less than five miles in length.

## References

Wood C, Sullivan B, Iliff M, Fink D, Kelling S (2011) eBird: Engaging Birders in Science and Conservation. *PLoS Biol* 9(12): e1001220. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001220



## **Sandhill Cranes, Landing**

**Gather the whirling world beneath your wings.  
For all its vagaries it buoys you up  
so surely, your spreading pinions flexing.**

**As the winds wax and wane, lifting the down  
of your cupped wings, feel their every wish,  
become one with the wind, free as the air.**

**Let your feet reach for the ground as you float,  
your long neck stretch for sky; revel in your  
dichotomous need for air and for earth.**

**Arch and stretch and funnel the flowing air  
earthward; take its energy for yourself.  
Gather the whirling world beneath your wings.**

Poem and Art by Roy Beckemeyer



# KOS Spring Meeting in Norton, Kansas May 10-12, 2013

Register now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in Norton (Norton County), Kansas **May 10-12, 2013**. Our home base is the Sleep Inn & Suite. Join us to renew old friendships and start new ones at our Friday night gathering, explore bird-watching opportunities with skilled trip leaders, and eat well at our catered meal Saturday evening.

Norton County is located near the Nebraska border in the High Plains region. This area of northwest Kansas is characterized by semi-arid, vast flatlands with short-grass prairie and scrub vegetation. Birding destinations nearby include Norton Wildlife Are, Kirwin NW, Webster Reservoir and Wildlife Are, Sappa Park in Oberli, Antelope Lake in Graham Count and possibly nearby Harlan Reservoir in Nebraska. For non-birding participants, Norton and the surrounding High Plain offers complete peace and relaxation. Check out the Norton County Historical Museum, Station 1 of the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Stagecoach Line, and the They Also Ran Gallery which features unsuccessful candidates for the presidency.

With early registration, you can enjoy all of our activities for only \$45.00. **Locations are listed for each event.**



Friday	7-10 pm	Meet & greet	Sleep Inn & Suites
Saturday	6:30 am	Field trips depart	Sleep Inn & Suites parking lot
	Lunch on your own		
	6:00 pm	BBQ Dinner	American Legion
Sunday	6:30 am - noon	Half day field trips	Various locations
	Noon	Lunch & compilation	Prairie Dog SP*

\*State Park pass required (daily or annual) OR carpool into lunch with a friend!  
To receive special rates, mention KOS and reserve your hotel before the date noted below.

Hotel Name	Room Price & Type	Address & Phone	Rate Ends
Sleep Inn and Suites	\$76.49 + tax double or king single	201 East Holme, Norton, KS, 67654 (785) 874-5151 Breakfast opens at 5:30 a.m. to accommodate our group	April 26
Hillcrest Motel	\$50.00 + tax double	606 West Holme, Norton, KS 67654 (785) 877-3343	
Brooks Motel	\$67.00 + tax double	Hwy 36 and 283, Norton, KS 67654 (785) 877-3381	
Prairie Dog State Park	4 cabins, over 200 sites.	13037 State Highway 261 Norton, KS 67654 Reserve a site online.	

**Registration Form**  
**KOS Spring Meeting**  
**May 10-12, 2013 Norton, Kansas**

**Registrations will be accepted through May 3; however, payment for meals  
MUST be received by April 22 and are non-refundable after April 22.**

I (we) plan to attend the 2013 KOS Spring meeting.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Waived for students 25 and under)*

Saturday Banquet (includes 20% gratuity) \$22.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Payment for banquet must be received by 4/22*

Sunday Box Lunch \$ 8.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Payment for lunch must be received by 4/22*

KOS Black-headed Grosbeak t-shirt \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Payment for shirts must be received by 4/22*

Choose size    XS    S    M    L    XL    XXL    XXXL

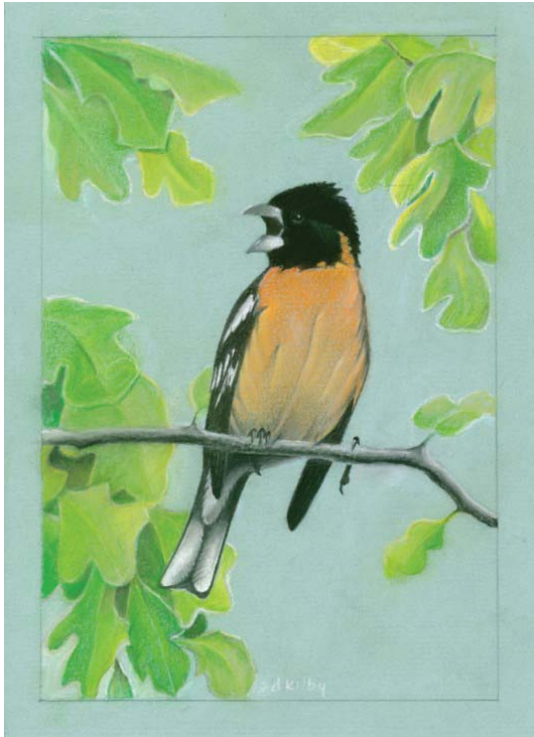
**Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)** **\$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
*(No refund for cancellations after April 22)*

Number of persons in party: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed registration with full payment to:  
**Terry Mannell, 218 Northridge Dr., Hays, KS 67601-1643**

In submitting this registration form I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2013 KOS Spring meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatures Date



## Order your new t-shirt today!

Kansas Ornithological Society is offering a new design to help you spruce up your spring wardrobe! For \$20.00 you can own a beautiful Black-headed Grosbeak short-sleeve t-shirt with art by Dan Kilby. Dan is a long-time KOS member and provided several shirt designs for us. This shirt is available in **limited quantities**, so pre-order by **April 22** to guarantee one is reserved for you!

### Kansas Ornithological Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

KOS Black-headed Grosbeak t-shirt                      \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Payment for shirts must be received by 4/22*

Choose size    XS    S    M    L    XL    XXL    XXXL

Please mail completed order form with full payment (checks payable to KOS) to:  
**Terry Mannell, 218 Northridge Dr., Hays, KS 67601-16**



# KOS Avian Conservationist of the Year Nominations Sought

The Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award is given to an individual for making significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education. Nominations should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation through the management or preservation of habitats, education or research. A nominee may be any professional, volunteer, educator or other person who has accomplished significant contributions in any of the areas listed. The nominee does not have to be a member of KOS, but the nominator must be a current member of KOS. The accomplishments should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation and/or education within the state of Kansas. This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted until July 1<sup>st</sup>. To make a nomination, send a typed description of no more than two pages and give a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished. Past and current achievements, organization membership or any other information the nominator feels pertinent will be considered. Nominators must include their name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Send the nominations to Robert L. Penner, 593 NE 130 Avenue, Ellinwood, KS 67526, or to rpenner@tnc.org.

## 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 email \_\_\_\_\_