



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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President's message

What does birding do for us?

By any measure, the spring KOS meeting in Norton was a great success. As it turned out, it came at a stressful time for me. My father was deathly ill at the time – and had been for several months. By the time of the KOS spring meeting, I was worn out. Spending time with friends and enjoying nature was just the medicine I needed.

One highlight was when my good friends Mike Rader and Scott Seltman found a beautiful male Blackburnian Warbler –. It was my first in Kansas. and a year ago in Maine, was my 600th ABA species.

I went straight from Norton to see dad in Goodland on Sunday afternoon. When I left, I knew dad's time was short, and I had probably heard his voice for the last time.

On the way home from Goodland, I made a quick stop at Antelope Lake in Graham County. It was intended more as a mental health break than a birding stop. Almost the first bird I saw was a Blackburnian Warbler. The afternoon sun was at my back, the bird was low in a small tree, close, and possibly the most beautiful thing I have ever seen while birding. He was feeding actively and going nowhere. I was able to watch him as long as I needed - consuming a healing dose of medicine for my soul.

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President's message *(cont.)*

My father passed on May 23 and the Blackburnian Warbler will be associated with my memory of the last time I heard my dad say "I love you." to me.

On the KSBIRD List Serve, Sacie Lambertson asked why we count birds. That is a simple question that is not so simple to answer. Why do we count birds? Why observe them? Why even care about birds? The answers differ for each of us. For each of us the answer can change from location to location, day to day, hour to hour, or even from minute to minute and bird to bird.

One of the beauties of the Kansas Ornithological Society is that its membership has a good balance of scientists, citizen scientists, and hobby birders. We each have our reasons. Sometimes we are aware of the answers and sometimes we are not.



In Memoriam

Effie Louise Edwards, 85, passed away on 20 May 2013 at Blackhawk Assisted Living in Spring Hill, KS. Effie and her husband Charles were long time members of the Kansas Ornithological Society. Effie joined the society in 1955 and was a life member. They attended most meetings in their younger years. Effie was known for her bubbly personality. She was sure to lighten up a conversation with her enthusiasm for birds. They frequently wintered in Florida but were usually back in time for the spring meetings. They attended most field trips, then in the fall. Effie will be missed by her friends and family. Memorial contributions were requested to be sent to the Kansas Ornithological Society.

Max C. Thompson



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KOS Spring Meeting Roundup

The Spring, 2012 KOS meeting was based in Norton, Kansas and about 60 people attended. Good weather was experienced for the entire weekend. The field trips ranged over 5 counties in Kansas and one in Nebraska. The broad coverage area partially explains the impressive 203 species that were found, but in Norton County alone 174 species were found over three days. By county, the totals were: Decatur — 112, Graham - 118, Harlan (NE) - 104, Norton - 173, Phillips - 134, Rooks – 115, and Sheridan - 112. There were at least 32 all-time new county records recorded. Norton County and the public lands surrounding Sebelius Reservoir provided exceptional birding. Several waterfowl species usually absent from Kansas by May were still present, along with a late flock of Sandhill Cranes. Shorebird diversity was excellent at Norton with 28 species of plovers and sandpipers. A trip to Harlan County Lake in Nebraska also produced good shore birding. Warbler diversity was average at best with 12 species found, but Blackburnian Warbler in two counties is certainly noteworthy this far west.

Here are a few specific comments on some of the most notable finds:

Pacific Loon - 1 at Kirwin (Phillips Co.) on May 11.

Sebelius shorebirds - 28 species, 9 of which were new county records. Whimbrel and Ruddy Turnstone (both May 12) were probably the "best" finds.

Laughing Gull - 1 adult at Webster (Rooks Co.) on May 11

Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 molting to 2d year plumage at Sebelius (Norton Co.) May 10 & 11

Sedge Wren - singing birds at Harlan Co. Reservoir (NE) May 11 and Sebelius (Norton Co.) May 10.

Green-tailed Towhee - 1 in abandoned farmstead near Angelus, (Sheridan Co.) May 10. photographed.

Brewer's Sparrow - 1 in Decatur Co. May 11

Scarlet Tanager - 1 female at city park in Norton, May 10

Summer Tanager - 1 male at Buffalo Bill Park in Hoxie (Sheridan Co.) on May 10.

I think all who attended were pleased with the weekend. Northwest Kansas has a lot of untapped birding potential, and I think this trip served to illustrate that. We'll have to do it again sometime.

Thanks one more time to all who assisted in the planning and implementation.



Lark Sparrow, Sebelius Reservoir, Eric Maatta

KOS Spring Meeting Compiled List May 10-12, Norton, Kansas

Species	Decatur	Graham	Harlan	Norton	Phillips	Rooks	Sheridan
Greater White-fronted Goose				X			
Snow Goose	X		X	X			
Ross's Goose				X			
Cackling Goose				X			
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck		X	X	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	X	X		X	X	X	X
American Wigeon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mallard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Pintail				X		X	
Green-winged Teal	X		X	X	X	X	X
Redhead	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Duck		X		X	X	X	
Lesser Scaup	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bufflehead					X	X	
Red-breasted Merganser				X			
Ruddy Duck	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Bobwhite	X	X		X	X	X	
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X		X	X	X	X
Greater Prairie-Chicken				X			
Wild Turkey	X	X		X	X	X	X
Pacific Loon					X		
Common Loon					X		
Pied-billed Grebe		X		X	X	X	X
Horned Grebe			X				
Eared Grebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Western Grebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clark's Grebe				X			
Double-crested Cormorant		X	X	X	X	X	X
American White Pelican		X	X	X	X	X	
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Egret			X				
Cattle Egret					X		
Green Heron		X		X			
Black-crowned Night-Heron	X New	X		X	X		
White-Faced Ibis	X			X	X		
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Osprey		X		X	X	X	
Mississippi Kite				X New			
Bald Eagle			X	X	X	X	
Northern Harrier	X	X		X	X	X	X
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X						X
Cooper's Hawk				X	X	X	X
Broad-winged Hawk			X	X New			
Swainson's Hawk		X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Species	Decatur	Graham	Harlan	Norton	Phillips	Rooks	Sheridan
Ferruginous Hawk				X			
Virginia Rail				X			
American Coot	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sandhill Crane		X		X			
Black-bellied Plover				X New	X	X	
American Golden-Plover				X New			
Semipalmated Plover	X New		X	X New		X	
Piping Plover				X New			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Avocet	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper			X	X			
Greater Yellowlegs			X	X			
Willet	X		X	X New	X		X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Upland Sandpiper				X			
Long-billed Curlew			X				
Whimbrel				X New			
Long-billed Curlew			X				
Hudsonian Godwit				X New			
Marbled Godwit				X	X	X	
Ruddy Turnstone				X New			
Sanderling	X			X	X	X	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Western Sandpiper	X New			X New			
Least Sandpiper	X	X		X	X		X
White-rumped Sandpiper	X			X			
Baird's Sandpiper	X	X		X			
Pectoral Sandpiper	X			X			
Stilt Sandpiper	X		X	X	X	X	
Short-billed Dowitcher			X			X	X New
Long-billed Dowitcher	X			X	X		
Wilson's Snipe				X			
Wilson's Phalarope	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-necked Phalarope				X	X		
Bonaparte's Gull			X	X	X		
Laughing Gull						X New	
Franklin's Gull		X	X	X			
Ring-billed Gull		X	X	X	X	X	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				X New			
Black Tern	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Tern					X		
Forster's Tern	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rock Pigeon	X	X		X	X	X	X
Eurasian Collared-Dove	X	X	X	X	X		X
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barn Owl	X			X			
Eastern Screech-Owl	X	X		X			X
Great Horned Owl	X			X	X	X	X

KOS Spring Meeting Compiled List May 10-12, Norton, Kansas

Species	Decatur	Graham	Harlan	Norton	Phillips	Rooks	Sheridan
Burrowing Owl				X			
Common Nighthawk				X		X	
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belted Kingfisher	X	X		X		X	X
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X		X	X	X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X		X
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Kestrel	X	X		X	X	X	X
Peregrine Falcon				X		X	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				X New			
Eastern Wood-Pewee		X New		X	X		
Willow Flycatcher							X New
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Phoebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Say's Phoebe	X	X		X	X		X
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Western Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				X			
Loggerhead Shrike	X			X	X		X
Bell's Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo		X			X	X	
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-billed Magpie			X	X	X	X	
American Crow	X	X		X	X	X	X
Horned Lark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Martin	X	X		X	X		X
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X	X		X
Bank Swallow		X	X	X	X		X
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X		
Red-breasted Nuthatch				X			X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rock Wren	X						
Carolina Wren				X New			
House Wren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sedge Wren			X	X New			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				X			
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swainson's Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hermit Thrush							X
American Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Species	Decatur	Graham	Harlan	Norton	Phillips	Rooks	Sheridan
Northern Mockingbird		X				X	X
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
European Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Pipit				X			
Cedar Waxwing		X	X	X		X	X
Northern Waterthrush		X					X
Orange-crowned Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nashville Warbler				X New			
Common Yellowthroat		X	X	X	X		X
American Redstart					X		
Magnolia Warbler				X			
Blackburnian Warbler		X New		X New			
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blackpoll Warbler			X				X
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wilson's Warbler				X			
Yellow-breasted Chat			X		X		
Green-tailed Towhee							X
Spotted Towhee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Towhee		X New					
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brewer's Sparrow	X New						
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow		X		X	X	X	
Lark Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lark Bunting				X	X	X	X
Savannah Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grasshopper Sparrow				X	X	X	X
Song Sparrow		X					
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X		X	X	X	X
White-throated Sparrow	X			X New	X		X
Harris's Sparrow	X	X		X	X	X	X
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Summer Tanager							X New
Scarlet Tanager				X New			
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			X		X	X	
Black-headed Grosbeak	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Grosbeak		X		X		X	X
Lazuli Bunting			X		X New	X	
Indigo Bunting	X			X	X	X	
Dickcissel		X		X	X		
Bobolink				X New			
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark		X			X		
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird		X		X	X		X
Brewer's Blackbird							X
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great-tailed Grackle	X				X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Finch	X	X	X	X	X		X
Pine Siskin	X	X	X	X			X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

The eBirder—advice from the Kansas eBird team by E.J. Raynor

The geographic location of Kansas in the center of the contiguous United States provides Kansas birders with the opportunity to observe species of the eastern and western halves of the country. However, this opportunity is not limited to full species because eastern and western representatives of “subspecies” frequently occur in Kansas as well. The occurrence patterns of several of these “subspecies” are not well defined in Kansas and eBirders can improve this situation (eBird 2013). Moreover, a recent ongoing effort to genetically “barcode” all organisms (Hebert et al. 2003) requires a better understanding of “subspecies” occurrence patterns in order to decide whether “subspecies” deserve to be split into separate species. Below are descriptions of two subspecies only weakly differentiated by plumage that have the potential to be a part of future decisions made by taxonomic committees.



Solitary Sandpiper - *Tringa solitaria*

The Solitary Sandpiper is the only tree-nesting shorebird that breeds in the North American boreal forest. The breeding range of this sandpiper extends from Labrador to western Alaska and is observed as a low-density migrant in both spring and fall in Kansas. Two subspecies have long been recognized in the Solitary Sandpiper; with nominate *solitaria* being the eastern representative, breeding from southeastern Yukon Territory southward and eastward, and *cinnamomea* the western one, breeding from northeast Manitoba northward and westward to western Alaska (Pyle 2008). Unfortunately, the ornithological and birding literatures make little mention of the two subspecies, and few birders have paid attention to their respective occurrence patterns.

How to identify the Solitary Sandpiper subspecies

The juveniles are easiest to identify, and appear in Kansas during fall migration where they usually start arriving in early August as opposed to adults which can arrive as early as early July. Individuals of the nominate, eastern subspecies *solitaria* display white spots, while the western *cinnamomea* show buff spots. After correctly determining the age of individuals to juvenile, one may be able to discern white or buff spots on the upperparts if the bird is observed in “good” lighting. Also, intergrades do occur so be aware that all juvenile Solitary Sandpipers cannot be identified to subspecies. Some juveniles may show buffy spots on the wing coverts while exhibiting obviously white spots on the mantle or vice versa, so caution in assigning them to subspecies is suggested. Only juveniles with unambiguous buff or obvious white spots should be compartmentalized to subspecies. Adults of both subspecies display white spots but difficult to observe features such as lores color and primary 10 shaft and web color can be differentiated by experts or through review of excellent photographs taken in appropriate lighting (see Leukering 2010). Little is known about vocal differences between *solitaria* and *cinnamomea* but attention should be paid to the sharp *pik* alarm that it gives from the ground to whether consistent differences do exist.

Warbling Vireo – *Vireo gilvus*

Several widespread North American species with east/west vocal forms meet on the Great Plains including Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Warbling Vireo. All three members of this song-diversity group occur in Kansas but we focus this section of the article on the Warbling Vireo. The nominate, eastern *gilvus* and

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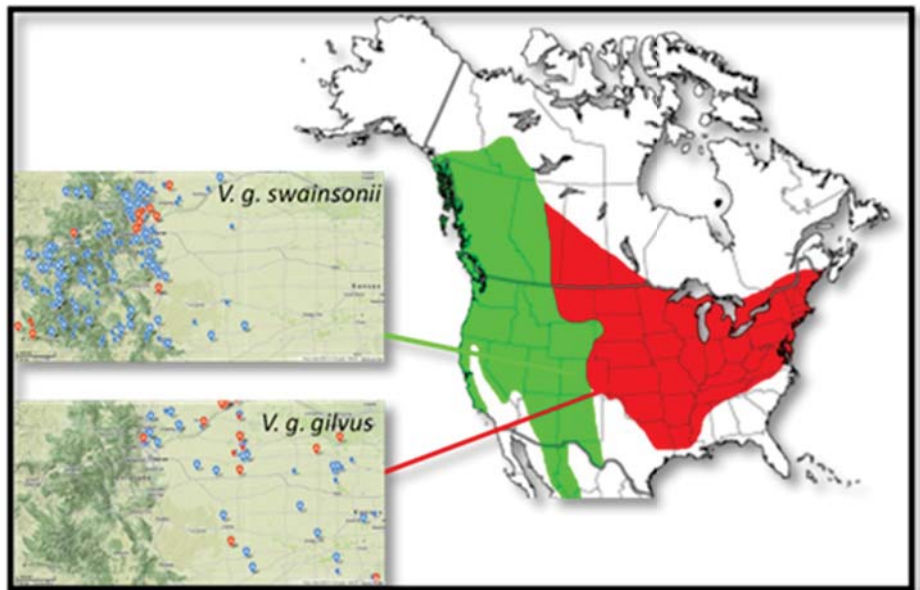
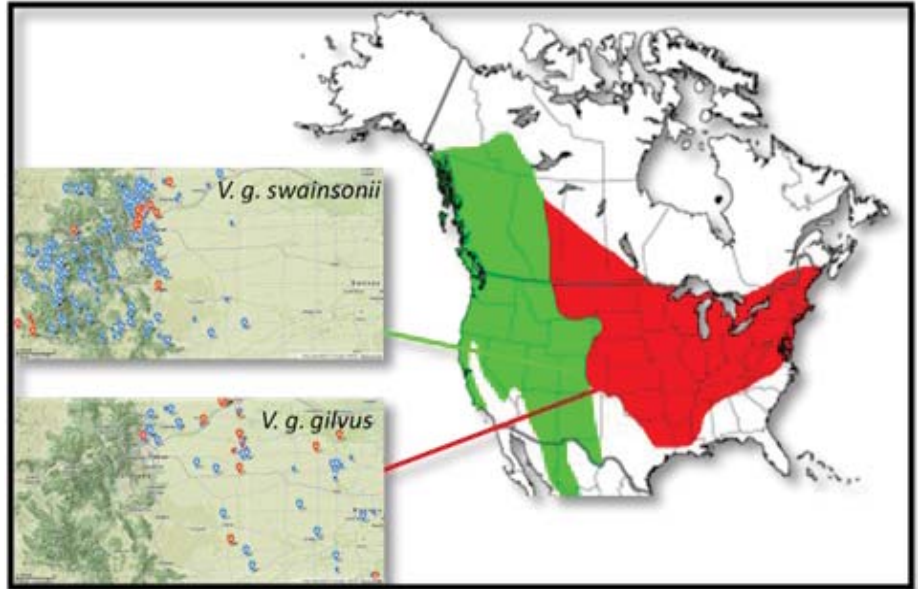
the western *swainsonii* may represent two species with song being the best way to identify them (Fig. 1). Although guides such as Alderfer (2005) depict eastern and western-types with seemingly separate plumage, we caution observers in making these identification calls and instead urge observers to hold out unless vocalizations are heard well.

How to identify the Warbling Vireo subspecies by song

“If I could see it I would seize it and squeeze it until it squirts” is a common transcription of the eastern-type of Warbling Vireo’s vocalization. This pleasant caroling song that rolls along, often ending in an emphatic higher note is what gave the bird its name. The song phrases range from 2.5 to 3.5 seconds long, and are

composed of a series of rich whistles that are slightly modulated. Specific to the eastern-type of Warbling Vireo is that most of the initial notes are near the same pitch, with a few higher notes thrown in towards the end of the song. For sonograms of the two subspecies of the Warbling Vireo see Andrew Spencer’s helpful article: <http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/3667>.

Eastern and Western Warbling Vireo songs differ in pitch. Most western-type songs tend to have more high pitched notes, which are placed more evenly throughout the song, breaking up the rhythm, and making this type sounding less sing-songy or “Warbly” than the song of the eastern-type of Warbling Vireo. Instead of a series of low, caroling notes. The song of the western-type gives a jumbled and less structured feel, with an overall higher pitch. Detecting the difference in sound takes a bit of practice. Because intergrades do occur we urge caution in subspecific assignment. Little is known about the Warbling Vireo besides the songs being fairly well differentiated. We do know breeding Warbling Vireos singing on the eastern plains of Colorado not far from the foothills are typically of the eastern type, while those from the foothills west are of the western type (Spencer 2012). In addition, eastern-type Warbling Vireos occupy lower elevations, whereas western-type Warbling Vireos replace them at higher elevations of the Black Hills of South Dakota. We urge observers to pay attention to Warbling Vireos



because confirming a subspecies identification of this species somewhere in Kansas will be beneficial to our understanding of this potential split's occurrence patterns and distribution.

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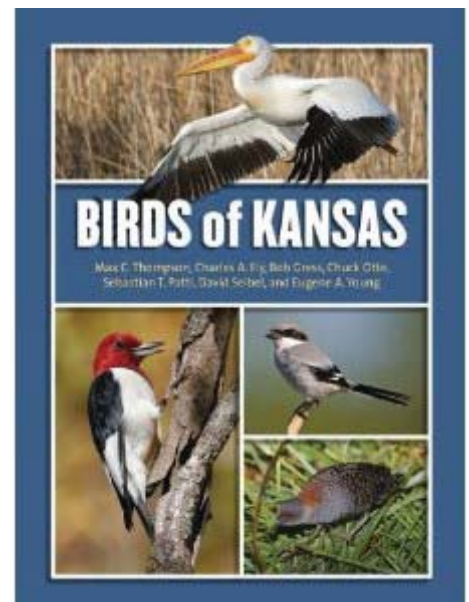
An interview with the authors of Birds of Kansas: second of a four part series

In part two of the four part series on the making of Birds of Kansas, 2011 (BoK), the focus is on the databases and records used. Max Thompson (MT) Charles Ely (CE) Chuck Otte (CO) Mark Van Horn (HOLA)

HOLA: In the preface to *Birds of Kansas* you all mention a number of private databases kept by the authors. Can you all describe these databases and how they were started?

MT: I have records back into the 1800's and for some records there are no dates. In all, there are about 50,000 records in my database. My database is based on Access and includes data for number seen, breeding status, the observer, localities, county, and a reliability code. So unlike Ely's records mine are queriable and can be searched, but Ely has records that exist nowhere else and so both sources were essential to completing the picture of bird distribution in Kansas.

CE: I started my database in about 1960 when I was in Hays. I had individual note books by county and I kept it up to date with the published literature and with what ever people sent me such as museum specimens, or eggs. There are several hundred thousand records but I have no idea how large it is exactly. I kept my records updated until 1998. Eventually I digitized my records using Word. It's not a modern database and is difficult to work with because it's not searchable like Max's database. I'd



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rate the basic data for my database as high, but would rate it low for ease of use.

MT: When Chuck and I started there were no databases at all. Anything that we captured was gleaned from books and telephone calls, and with whatever people sent you in the mail, and your own personal observations. In fifty years it's changed from pencil and paper notebooks to computer databases and from the rare bird alert over a hotline to the listserv and twitter.

CE: People would send you data back in those days. People who knew something about the work being done on bird distribution in Kansas would pass you information and connect you with others who were making checklists or keeping track of birds. If we'd only had the internet and cell phones back then; I shudder to think about the birds we missed because it just took days and days to find out about them.

HOLA: What information goes into these databases?

MT: It includes what you would normally think of for bird reports such as the species and sub-species information, number observed, breeding evidence, location, and who made the report. For instance, Winfield Lake has a code so I can see all bird reports for that location by observer or time. Each report also has a reliability index of from 1-5 which is based on the evidence provided for the reports and the reputation of the person who provided them. There are many avian programs today that provide a data basing function similar to what the Access database does.

CE: I had notebooks of records per species in Kansas and would include arrival and departure dates, late and early dates, documented breeding records, relative abundance, and banding information from Hays. Sometimes I'd have some buried source from a museum in the 1960s since back then there were no specimen databases, you had to go look tray by tray until you found what you were looking for. What we would do is take information from my database and then combine that information with Max's. If Max couldn't find something in his database he'd contact me and I'd be able to find it because I had information never collected anywhere else. There were a lot of bits and pieces of information which hadn't been published, such as the

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Kansas winter season roundup

December 1 – February 28

Temperatures were above average early in the winter season and remained this way for much of the period. Fewer reservoirs froze and large reservoirs in eastern Kansas, such as Clinton Lake, remained ice free most of the winter. Waterbird counts were especially high as the milder conditions allowed larger numbers of birds to linger or over-winter, while numbers of many half-hardy passerines were also above normal. Kansas birders were not disappointed by gulls with good numbers of many rarer species. Lastly, irruptive northern passerines invaded the state in force with strong turnouts of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin. The author believes this winter's best birds were Iceland Gull (2), Great Black-backed Gull (2), Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Pratt, and a type 5 Red Crossbill. Of these records, Iceland Gull is the only species with fewer than 10 state records.



Barrow's Goldeneye, Kevin Groeneweg, Sedgewick County Park.

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Fall waterfowl migration was still evident in early December with notable reports including: 85 Red-breasted Merganser and a Black Scoter at Melvern L. 12/9 (MG,BAS), and another Black Scoter at Cheney Res. 12/2 (KG). As strong southerly winds swept across much of Kansas in late January, northward waterfowl migration was evident by 1/27. At Quivira NWR Barry Jones reported goose migration was underway 2/7 with 10,050 Greater White-fronted, 101,000 Snow, and 31,500 Cackling Goose reported along with 5050 Northern Pintails and 15,500 Mallards. Diving duck migration was strong by late February and notable counts included 1500 Redhead at Wilson L. 2/28 (MR) and 180 Red-breasted Merganser at Melvern L. 2/17 (JM); the latter appears to be Kansas' all-time high count.

This season's highest count of Ross' Goose comes from Webster Res. with 1,000 there 1/22 (JVK), while a Snow x Ross' Goose near Globe in Douglas 2/26 (JK) and a Snow x Canada Goose 12/2 at the Marquette WTP (PJ) were the only hybrid geese reported. Trumpeter Swan were mainly reported during January and February with 169+ reported from 29+ locations; 33 near Rossville 1/9 (JH) was the largest single count.

10 Tundra Swan visited Kansas with reports of four on the Wilson L. CBC 12/16, four at Webster Res. 2/5 (JVK), and two at Clark SFL 2/17 (JC). Additionally 38+ Swan sp. were reported from 5 locations. Wood Ducks were unusually frequent in Kansas' northern parts this winter with several remaining in western Kansas as well, while 50+ at Wichita's Twin Lakes 1/1 (PJ) was an excellent January count. Birders found 7 American Black Duck in 6 eastern-Kansas locations 12/16 – 1/9 with a westerly individual on the Waconda L. CBC 12/27. Perhaps one of the more common waterfowl hybrids in Kansas, Marais des Cygnes WA hosted a male Gadwall x Mallard 12/16 (JK).

State-wide 16 Blue-winged Teal were reported throughout the winter as were 98+ Greater Scaup at 20+ locations. Wilson L. hosted large numbers of Common Goldeneye this year with 6,500 2/28 (MR) and 7,500 2/15 (MR): The latter may be an all-time high count per *Birds of Kansas*. Wichita hosted an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye yet again with sightings at Sedgwick Co. Park 1/20 – 1/27 (PG), and a brief appearance at Cheney Res. 2/2 (KG). Hooded Merganser flocks of 450+ at Kanopolis L. 12/2 (PJ), and 512 on the Waconda L. CBC 12/27 were excessive, and may represent all-time high counts per *Birds of Kansas*. Common Mergansers were abundant in central Kansas as well with 11,750 on the Waconda L. CBC 12/27 and 20,000 at Cheney Res. 1/6 (PJ). Scoters this winter included four White-winged Scoter at Wilson L. (DKI) with one there 1/20 (JK,MRo), alongside the previously mentioned Black Scoters. Long-tailed Duck were reported from Wilson L. 12/23 – 2/16 with four observed 1/20 (JK,MRo) and 2/15 (MR). Elsewhere an adult male and female appeared at L. Afton 12/29 (PG), singles visited Perry L. 1/4 (JK) and Clinton L. 1/20 (MZ,PZ), and Jim Malcom saw four at Melvern L. 2/17.

An adult Red-throated Loon 12/4 – 12/5 (SS) at the Larned Sandpit was exceptional given the location, and likely a fall migrant. Good numbers of Loons and Grebes lingered in early winter, though only one Common Loon and three Horned Grebe remained in January and February (Table 1). Rare grebes included Red-necked Grebes at La Cygne L. 12/2 (MC,JS) and Wilson L. 12/16 (Wilson L. CBC), along with a Clark's



Great White Pelicans, Mike Andersen, Bloomington Park, Clinton Lake, Douglas County, February 23, 2013.

Grebe at Wilson L. 12/16 (Wilson L. CBC). Wichita CBC participants recorded 371 Double-crested Cormorant 12/15 and 267 remained at the La Farge Sandpit 1/6 (PJ) which may be Kansas' all-time highest winter count. American White Pelican were abundant as well (Table 1). At Clinton L., observers saw 72 during the Lawrence CBC 12/15, saw 131 there 2/2 (JK) and a shocking 451 there 2/23 (MA) likely represent spring migrants. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron in Newton 12/15 – 1/6 (GF) was one of Kansas' latest records.

Four winter and/or early-spring Turkey Vultures included singles at Pomona L. 2/2 (TP), Tuttle Creek Res. 2/8 (RK 2nd hand), near Rosalia in *Butler* 2/14 (CS), and in *Cherokee* 2/18 (LB). 142 Bald Eagles sitting on a partially frozen Tuttle Creek Res. 12/30 (TC) was this season's highest count. An immature Northern Goshawk was reported from Dodge City 2/4 (JC). Red-shouldered Hawk populations in Kansas are growing and Kansas CBCs recorded 71 individuals: 69 were reported last year and 28 is the average since 2000 (Young and Thompson 2013). The Linn CBC alone produced 17 individuals 12/16 and two vocal adults lingered for the Red Hills CBC 12/29 as they did last winter (PJ). Observers reported three "Kridler's" Red-tailed Hawk;



Lesser Black-backed Gull, first-cycle, Mike Andersen, North of Kansas River, Wyandotte County, February 16, 2013.

Singles appeared 12/3 at Cheyenne Bottoms (RP), 1/13 near Kanopolis Res. (BS), and 2/8 at KCPL wetlands (RW). A leucistic Red-tailed Hawk continues near Maize with reports 12/22 – 1/20 (SSi, where it was seen the previous four winters (SSi). Light morph "Harlan's" Hawks are seldom reported and likely overlooked: Mark Land saw one in Lawrence 2/2. To the envy of many birders, a dark morph Ferruginous Hawk was seen in *Seward* 1/25 (SG, KH). On 12/3 a 16 mile drive through the Cheyenne Bottoms area, including TNC property, yielded 43 Northern Harriers and an astonishing **81** Rough-legged Hawk (RP), including a number of dark morph birds. Such large numbers did not linger, and only 34 remained on the Cheyenne Bottoms CBC 12/18. Though the causes of the concentration are unknown, some were thinking it was a migratory event, as suggested by the ephemeral nature of this concentration.

However, crippling drought throughout the area, coupled with strong rodent populations at Cheyenne Bottoms (EF) may have played a part in this occurrence. A Golden Eagle north of Emporia (probably *Lyon*) 12/15 (MC) was easterly.

9 Virginia Rail were counted on four Kansas CBCs, and a Sora appeared on the Wilson L. CBC 12/16 (Table 1). While large numbers of Sandhill Crane increasingly winter in south-central Kansas, relatively few were encountered this year, possibly due to drought conditions (Young and Thompson 2013). On 1/27, Sandhill Cranes were noted in northward migration in *Reno* as strong southerly winds swept across much of the state. Thereafter, multiple observers reported northbound cranes with numbers building into February. By 2/7 5,000 were present at Quivira NWR (BJ) and 10,000 were there 2/17 – 2/18 (BJ). Sandhill Cranes are rare migrants in far eastern Kansas, where one resided near 135th & Gardner in *Johnson* 12/27 – 1/14 (JW). Five species of shorebird were present this winter, and Kansas CBCs reported good numbers of Killdeer with 113 counted, as well as 15 Wilson's Snipe (Young and Thompson 2013). More unusual were 15 Greater Yellowlegs 12/15 – 1/26, and 27 Least Sandpipers 12/15 – 2/26 (Table 1). Killdeer's spring migration appeared to be underway by 2/19, with a handful of observers reporting newly arrived Killdeers. The first American

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Woodcock were noted calling in *Douglas* 2/12 (BBu) and *Jefferson* 2/17 (GP). No others were reported until March, likely due to unusually cold weather in late February.

This winter was apparently good for gulls in Kansas based largely on previous winter's *Round-Ups*. 10 species were recorded with rarities including Franklin's (2), California (2), Thayer's (18+), "Kumlien's" Iceland (2), Lesser Black-backed (20+), Glaucous (13+), and Great Black-backed (2) (Table 2). With the very mild December, excellent numbers of Bonaparte's Gull lingered into the CBC period where 303 on the Manhattan CBC 12/15 and 300 on the Arkansas City CBC 12/22 were the highest counts. Most of these Bonaparte's Gull disappeared by January, and all January and February sightings are listed in Table 2. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are increasingly common in Kansas: 20+ individuals were likely the most ever recorded in Kansas during a season. This winter's best gulls were undoubtedly two "**Kumlien's**" **Iceland Gulls**; a 1st/2nd cycle at Cheney Res. 1/26 (PJ,WAS) and an adult seen in the Nelson Isl. Area 2/2 – 2/16 (CH,JW,m.obs.). Not far behind were two **Great Black-backed Gulls**. A single 3rd cycle individual discovered at JEC 12/21 (BM), apparently followed the Kansas R. downstream to Perry L. 1/3 (JK), and Clinton L. 2/2 – 2/23 (ML). Another adult-like bird was present at Winfield City L. 1/12 (TE,KG,PJ). The KBRC has accepted 9 Iceland Gull records and 12 Great Black-backed Gull records thus far.

White-winged Doves are increasingly seen during winter and away from western and central Kansas. In south-central Kansas three separate individuals appeared in Wichita 1/2 – 2/20 (HG,PG,BMc,TMc), as did another in Hesston 12/20 (EM), while Max Thompson observed the first winter White-winged Dove in his Winfield yard 2/4, which had all its toes. Elsewhere in eastern Kansas four appeared in McPherson (DSc), as did one in Clay Center 12/7 (CW), and nine in Manhattan 1/21 (JR): Nine may be an all time high count for Riley Co. A Western Screech-Owl was discovered at the Boy Scout Area of the Cimarron NG 12/29 (TMi,JWo). This record and another from the Boy Scout Area in 2003 are Kansas' eastern-most. Following last winter's historic Snowy Owl invasion, three were reported;

one in *Rooks* 12/8 (ZH), another in *Ellsworth* 12/25 (BW), and another near Manhattan (DB 3rd hand). Northern Saw-Whet Owl is highly elusive, though four were coaxed into song during February, with two near Tuttle Creek Res. (TC 2nd hand), and singles at Cedar Bluff Res. 2/16 (JC) and Melvern L. 2/23 (NA,MG,NV). Recent surveys in northwest Missouri demonstrate this species is far more common than previously thought (Mark Robbins pers. comm.). A Rufous Hummingbird photographed near L. Shawnee (CM) persisted 12/7 – 2/13 or later. A **Ladder-backed Woodpecker** in *Pratt* 1/26 (MR) was one of very few records away from southwestern Kansas, and this bird had been around before Christmas in 2012. A Pileated Woodpecker at the Cunningham Wetland in *Kingman* and *Pratt* 1/16 (PJ) was slightly westerly and a Peregrine Falcon was in Topeka once again with sightings 12/20 and 2/8 (JM).

Two Eastern Phoebe on the Red Hills CBC 12/19 marks the fourth of the last five years were this species has been recorded there (PJ). Northern Shrike was unusually common this winter, with 37 recorded on Kansas CBCs: 15 is the average since 1995 (Young and Thompson 2013). Eight individuals appeared south and east of the species' expected range, with an adult in *Linn* 12/16 (JK,MM) the farthest out of range (Table



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4). Observers reported a Pinyon Jay on the Garden City CBC 12/30, and Jeff Calhoun encountered single Western Scrub-Jays just west of Ingalls on the Arkansas R. 12/22, and near Point of Rocks on the Cimarron NG 2/9. A Purple Martin arrived at the Mallonee residence in Wichita 12/21 (DMa,LMa), just in time for a winter storm; this is one of Kansas' earliest records. Red-breasted Nuthatch irrupted the preceding fall, and Kansas CBCs recorded 444 Red-breasted Nuthatches. 33 Red-breasted Nuthatch at KSU's Ag. Research Center in Hays 12/23 (JK,MRo) was the highest single-party count this season: These birds were feeding primarily on Arborvitae seeds. Rock Wren is thought to over-winter and an individual at Quivira's Little Salt Marsh continuing from 9/23 - 3/28 (m. obs.) serves as confirmation. Craig Yerby photographed an easterly individual on the rip-rap at Miami SFL 1/15 - 1/27. 10 Bewick's Wren on the Red Hills CBC 12/29 was the second highest tally for the count (PJ). Sedge Wren is mentioned in only one of the last seven Round-ups; three were discovered this winter (Table 3). 48+ Marsh Wrens were counted throughout the state this winter, with a high count of 8 on the Red Hills CBC 12/29. Mountain Bluebirds were fairly scarce this winter, while Townsend's Solitaire was unusually common. High counts included 22 on the Jetmore CBC 12/23, 26 on the Wilson Lake CBC 12/16, and an outstanding 47 on the Scott Lake CBC 12/26 and singles at the 71st. St. Canoe Launch near Derby 12/27 - 12/30 (JC) and Carnahan Cove 1/20 (DR) were easterly. 300,000 Lapland Longspur feeding in a recently harvested black oil sunflower field in northwest *Thomas* 1/20 (SS) must

have been an incredible sight: Seltman said it had been several years since he'd seen such a large flock. One Snow Bunting continued at Quivira NWR's Big Salt Marsh 11/8 - 12/17 (BJ).

A Lark Sparrow in *Morton* 12/30 (SK,SS) is one of Kansas' very few winter records and is the 2nd winter record for *Morton*. A Swamp Sparrow lingering at Frazier Park in Ulysses 12/7 (SG,KH) was westerly in December. Harris's Sparrow numbers were above average this winter: 1,175 were recorded on the Slate Creek CBC 12/19, as were 2,110 on the Udall/Winfield CBC 12/26. "Pink-sided" Junco are rare and regular winter visitors in eastern Kansas, where several birds overwintered at Mark Robbins's residence, with up to three recorded there 12/28 (MRo), and a single at Wyandotte Co. Lake 12/31 (JK). Four "White



Lesser Black-backed Gull, first-cycle, Mike Andersen, North of Kansas River, Wyandotte County, February 16, 2013.

-winged" Junco reported in central Kansas included singles at Wilson L. 12/23 (JK,MRo), *Reno* 12/25 - 1/7 (AM,JM), the KSU Ag. Research Center in Hays 1/20 (JK,MRo), and *Pawnee* 1/27 (SS). This seems like a good year for this subspecies in central Kansas, though few sources address its status there.

Larger Rusty Blackbird flocks this season included 83 at Shawnee Mission Park 12/12 (ML), and 200 at Webster Res. 1/23 (JVK). 2000 Brewer's Blackbird at a feedlot lagoon in *Ford* 12/8 (JC) was this season's highest count. Large numbers of Great-tailed Grackle now overwinter in southern Kansas, where counts of 2,592 on the Derby/Belle Plaine CBC 12/30, and 2,773 on the Garden City CBC 12/30 were recorded. However, 1,100 at the Russell WTP 12/24 (JK,MRo) were northerly considering the number of birds present.

This winter most irruptive finch species invaded the northern United States in force - Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin were the most prominent invaders in Kansas. Red Crossbills continued in Kansas, first appearing in late July 2012. 127+ Red Crossbills in 14+ locations consisted mainly of type 2s with 67+ recorded. This prominence of type 2s among recorded Crossbills (92) suggests most Kansas Crossbills

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Table I. Aquatic Birds—Summary of northerly occurrences or unusually large concentrations of species typically wintering farther south.

Species	#	Date(s)	Location	County	Obs(s)
Greater White-fronted goose	10050	2/7	Quivira NWR	Stafford	BJ
Snow Goose	130650	12/15	John Redmond CBC	N/A	N/A
Snow Goose	130000	12/27	Waconda L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Snow Goose	12250	1/5	Webster CBC	N/A	N/A
Snow Goose	101000	2/7	Quivira NWR	Stafford	BJ
Ross's Goose	430	1/5	Webster CBC	N/A	N/A
Ross's Goose	1000	1/22	Webster Res.	Rooks	JVK
Cackling Goose	6271	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Cackling Goose	2802	12/26	Udall/Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
Cackling Goose	2470	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
Cackling Goose	9100	1/3	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT
Cackling Goose	1250	1/5	Webster CBC	N/A	N/A
Cackling Goose	31500	2/7	Quivira NWR	Stafford	BJ
Canada Goose	27332	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
Canada Goose	20008	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Canada Goose	27332	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
Canada Goose	7500	1/5	Webster CBC	Rooks	N/A
Wood Duck	20	2/8	Finnup Park Zoo	Finney	JC
Wood Duck	76	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Wood Duck	35	12/30	Garden City CBC	N/A	N/A
Wood Duck	50+	1/1	Twin L.	Sedgwick	PJ
Gadwall	662	12/16	Linn CBC	N/A	N/A
Gadwall	347	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	360	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	242	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	115	12/30	Garden City CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	80	1/3	Perry L.	Jefferson	JK
American Wigeon	82	1/3	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT
Blue-winged Teal	2	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Blue-winged Teal	4	12/16	Emporia CBC	N/A	N/A
Blue-winged Teal	2	12/16	Perry L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Blue-winged Teal	1	12/29	Salina CBC	N/A	N/A
Blue-winged Teal	2	1/29	Ulysses	Grant	KH
Blue-winged Teal	1	2/9	Nelson Isl.	Johnson	RR
Blue-winged Teal	2	2/10	N/A	Reno	AM,MMi
Blue-winged Teal	2	2/24	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT

Northern Pintail	750	12/14	Quivira CBC	N/A	N/A
Northern Pintail	567	12/16	Linn CBC	N/A	N/A
Northern Pintail	5050	2/7	Quivira NWR	Stafford	BJ
Green-winged Teal	225	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Green-winged Teal	5000	12/16	Mairais des Cygnes WA	Linn	JK
Canvasback	110	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Canvasback	56	1/9	Fort Riley CBC	N/A	N/A
Redhead	206	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Redhead	1500	2/28	Wilson L. Derby/Belle Plaine	Russell	MR
Ring-necked Duck	307	12/30	CBC	N/A	N/A
Ring-necked Duck	280	1/27	Nelson Isl.	Johnson	MG,ML
Greater Scaup	20	2/13	Melvern L.	Osage	MM
Lesser Scaup	501	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Hooded Merganser	450+	12/2	Kanopolis L.	Ellsworth	PJ
Hooded Merganser	270	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Hooded Merganser	512	12/27	Waconda L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Red-breasted Merganser	85	12/8	Melvern L.	Osage	MG,BAS
Red-breasted Merganser	21	2/8	Hillsdale L.	Miami	NV,GYe
Red-breasted Merganser	180	2/17	Melvern L.	Osage	JM
Bufflehead	58	12/15	Topeka CBC	N/A	N/A
Bufflehead	69	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Common Loon	17	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Common Loon	32	N/A	all CBCs	N/A	N/A
Common Loon	1	1/1	Melvern L.	Osage	JM
Pied-billed Grebe	54	12/16	Linn CBC	N/A	N/A
Horned Grebe	12	N/A	all CBCs	N/A	N/A
Horned Grebe	1	12/31 - 1/7	Wyandotte Co. L.	Wyandotte Kingman/	JK
Horned Grebe	1	2/2	Cheney Res.	Reno	KG,JL,ER
Horned Grebe	1	2/12	Webster Res.	Rooks	JVK
Eared Grebe	1	12/2	Lyon SFL	Lyon	MG
Eared Grebe	1	12/8	Jetmore L.	Hodgeman	JC
Eared Grebe	9	12/23	Hillsdale L.	Miami	BB
Western Grebe	3	12/4	Webster Res.	Rooks	JVK
Western Grebe	8	12/10	Wilson L.	Russell	MR
Western Grebe	7	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Clark's Grebe	2	12/10	Wilson L.	Russell	MR
Double-crested Cormo- rant	134	12/15	John Redmond CBC	N/A	N/A
Double-crested Cormo- rant	371	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
American White Pelican	72	12/15	Lawrence CBC	N/A	N/A
American White Pelican	100	12/15	Parsons CBC	N/A	N/A
American White Pelican	51	12/16	Perry L. CBC	N/A	N/A
American White Pelican	51	12/30	Junction City CBC	N/A	N/A

American White Pelican	51	12/30	Junction City CBC Derby/Belle Plaine	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	242	12/30	CBC Derby/Belle Plaine	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	242	12/30	CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	115	12/30	Garden City CBC	N/A	N/A
American Wigeon	80	1/3	Perry L.	Jefferson	JK
American Wigeon	82	1/3	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT
American White Pelican	60	1/27	Cheney Res.	Reno	JC
American White Pelican	60	2/18	N/A	Cherokee	LB
American White Pelican	90	2/2	Cheney Res.	N/A	KG
American White Pelican	131	2/2	Clinton L.	Douglas	JK
American White Pelican	453	2/23	Clinton L.	Douglas	MA
American White Pelican	50	2/24	River Pond SP	N/A	JR
American White Pelican	58	2/24	Tuttle Creek Res.	Riley	BS
Black-crowned Night- Heron	1	12/15 - 1/6	Newton	Harvey	GF
Virginia Rail	4	12/14	Quivira CBC	N/A	N/A
Virginia Rail	1	12/19	Slate Creek CBC	N/A	N/A
Virginia Rail	1	12/18	St. Francis CBC	N/A	N/A
Virginia Rail	3	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Sora	1	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
American Coot	950+	12/16	Wilson L. CBC	N/A	N/A
American Coot	750+	2/14	Wilson L.	Russell	MR
Sandhill Crane	~60	12/11	Salina	Saline	KF
Sandhill Crane	111	12/16	Wilson Lake CBC 135th & Gardner Rd.	N/A	N/A
Sandhill Crane	1	12/27		Johnson	JW
Killdeer	15	12/19	Slate Creek CBC Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A
Killdeer	26	12/30		N/A	N/A
Killdeer	12	1/1	Arkansas R.	Sedgwick	JC
Greater Yellowlegs	2	15-Dec	Parsons CBC	N/A	N/A
Greater Yellowlegs	2	19-Dec	Slate Creek CBC	N/A	N/A
Greater Yellowlegs	1	21-Dec	Hillsdale L.	Miami	N/A
Greater Yellowlegs	1	26-Dec	Udall/Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
Greater Yellowlegs	1-9(9)	12/30 - 1/26	Arkansas R.	Sedgwick	JC
Least Sandpiper	7	15-Dec	Lawrence CBC	N/A	N/A
Least Sandpiper	10	19-Dec	Slate Creek CBC 71st St. Canoe	N/A	N/A
Least Sandpiper	6-9(9)	12/27 - 1/1	Launch	Sedgwick	JC
Least Sandpiper	1-2(2)	1/1 - 2/26	Clinton L.	Douglas	JK NA, MG,
Least Sandpiper	1	23-Jan	Melvorn L.	Osage	NV

Table 2. Notable Gull Sightings

Species	Range of # reported over dates (min. # per location)	Date(s)	Location	County	Initial Observer(s)	Age(s)
Bonaparte's Gull	200+	12/2	Kanopolis L.	Ellsworth	PJ	
Bonaparte's Gull	85+	12/2	Melvorn L.	Osage	MG	
Bonaparte's Gull	80+	12/10	Wilson L.	Russell	MR	
Bonaparte's Gull	303	12/15	Manhattan CBC	N/A	N/A	
Bonaparte's Gull	60	12/15	John Redmond CBC	N/A	N/A	
Bonaparte's Gull	43	12/16	La Cygne L.	Linn	JK,MM	
Bonaparte's Gull	46	12/16	Perry Lake CBC	N/A	N/A	
Bonaparte's Gull	300	12/22	Arkansas City CBC	N/A	N/A	
Bonaparte's Gull	47	12/28	Fall River CBC	N/A	N/A	
Bonaparte's Gull	1	1/5	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT,GY	
Bonaparte's Gull	1	1/6	Tuttle Tubes	Riley	DR	
Bonaparte's Gull	2	1/27	Miami SFL	Miami	MM,GP	
Bonaparte's Gull	99	2/2	Baxter Springs WTP	Cherokee	NV,ERe	
Bonaparte's Gull	2	2/16 - 2/23	Hillsdale L.	Miami	JW	
Franklin's Gull	1	12/16	Milford L.	Clay	BS	
Franklin's Gull	1	12/20	JW res.	Johnson	JW	
Franklin's Gull	1-2(2)	1/28 - 2/16	Nelson Isl. Area	Johnson/Wyandotte	m. obs	
California Gull	1	1/6	La Farge Sandpit	Sedgwick	PJ	
California Gull	1	1/5	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT,GY	
Herring Gull	360	2/2	Cheney Res.	Kingman	ER,KG,JL	
Thayer's Gull	4	12/27	Waconda L.	Mitchell	JB,ER	
Thayer's Gull	1(2)	1/1 - 2/26	Clinton L.	Douglas	JK	Ad., 1st
Thayer's Gull	1	1/1 - 1/4	Perry L.	Jefferson	GP	1st
Thayer's Gull	1	1/4	Tuttle Tubes	Riley	BS	2nd
Thayer's Gull	1	1/26	Cheney Res.	Reno	KG,PJ,WAS	Ad.
Thayer's Gull	1	1/27	Melvorn L.	Osage	JM	

Thayer's Gull	1-4(4)	1/27	Nelson Isl. area Cheney	Johnson	CH,m.ob.	Ad.(2), 1st (2)
Thayer's Gull	1-3(3)	2/2	Res.	Reno	KG,JL,ER	Ad.(2), 1st
Thayer's Gull	1	2/8	Hillsdale L. Cheney	Miami	NV,GYe	
Iceland Gull (Kumlien's)	1	1/26	Res.	Reno	KG,PJ,WAS	~1st
Iceland Gull (Kumlien's)	1	2/2 - 2/16	Nelson Isl. Area	Johnson/ Wyandotte	CH,JW,m. obs	Ad.
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1(3)	12/26 - 2/5	Clinton L.	Douglas	JK	Ad.,3rd, 1st
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1	1/3	Perry L. Winfield	Jefferson	JK	3rd
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1-2(2)	1/5 - 1/12	City L. Tuttle	Cowley	GY,MT	
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1	1/6	Tubes Cheney	Riley	TC	1st
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1-2(3)	1/26 - 2/2	Res.	Kingman/Reno	PJ,KG,WAS	Ad.(2), 1st
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1-4(4)	1/27 - 2/16	Nelson Isl. area	Johnson	m. obs.	Ad.,3rd (2), 1st
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1	2/5 - 2/9	JEC	Pottawatomie	BM	Ad.
Lesser Black- backed Gull	1-4(5)	2/16 - 2/17	Perry L. John Red- mond Res. Wilson L.	Jefferson	ML,BAS	(3),3rd,2nd
Glaucous Gull	1-2(2)	12/9 - 1/26	Coffey		MG,BAS	1st(2)
Glaucous Gull	1	12/16	CBC	N/A	N/A	imm.
Glaucous Gull	1	12/23 - 1/20	Tuttle Creek Res.	Pottawatomie	TC,	
Glaucous Gull	1	12/26 - 2/23	Clinton L, Waconda L.	Douglas	JK	1st
Glaucous Gull	1	12/27	Cheney	Mitchell	JB,ER	
Glaucous Gull	1,2	1/26 - 2/2	Res.	Reno	PJ,WAS,	1st/2nd(2)
Glaucous Gull	1-4(5)	1/27 - 2/13	Nelson Isl. Area	Johnson/ Wyandotte	m. obs	Ad., 1st(4)
Great Black- backed Gull	1	12/21 - 12/25	JEC	Pottawatomie	BM	3rd
Great Black- backed Gull	1	1/3	Perry L.	Jefferson	JK	3rd
Great Black- backed Gull	1	2/2 - 2/23	Clinton L.	Douglas	ML	3rd
Great Black- backed Gull	1	1/12	Winfield City L.	Cowley	TE,KG,PJ	near Ad.

Table 3. Northerly Passerine Occurrences

Species	#	Date(s)	Location	County	Observer(s)
Eastern Phoebe	1	12/29	El Dorado CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Phoebe	1	12/15	John Redmond CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Phoebe	1	12/21	Hesston	Harvey	MR
Eastern Phoebe	2	12/29	Red Hills CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Phoebe	1	12/29	Sawyer CBC	N/A	N/A
Rock Wren	1	9/23 - 3/28	Quivira NWR	Stafford	m. obs
Rock Wren	1	12/29	Cimarron NG CBC	N/A	N/A
Rock Wren	1	1/15 - 1/27	Miami SFL	Miami	CY
Rock Wren	1	1/16	N/A	Ford	JC
Bewick's Wren	1	12/16	School Cr. area	Geary	BS,ER
Bewick's Wren	1	12/16	Linn CBC	Linn	JK,MM
Bewick's Wren	1	12/16	Curtis Cr. area	Geary	BS
Sedge Wren	1	12/2 - 12/15	Quivira NWR	Stafford	AM,BM,MMi
Sedge Wren	1	12/15	Manhattan CBC	N/A	ER
Sedge Wren	2	1/16	Cunningham Wet-land	Kingman	PJ
Brown Thrasher	1	1/1	SE Mined Lands CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	12/16	Udall/Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	12/16	Perry L. CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	2	12/25	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	12/25	John Redmond CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	12/28	Cheyenne Bottoms CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	12/29	Cimarron NG CBC	N/A	N/A
Brown Thrasher	1	1/1	Wakeeney	Trego	SD
Brown Thrasher	1	1/2	Stockton	Rooks	JVK
Brown Thrasher	1	1/1	TC res.	Riley	TC
American Pipit	5	12/1	Hillsdale L.	Miami	JW
American Pipit	20+	12/8	feedlot	Ford	JC
American Pipit	1	12/9	Winfield City L.	Cowley	MT
American Pipit	2	12/15	Parsons CBC	N/A	N/A
American Pipit	4	12/26	Udall/Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
American Pipit	1	2/23	Clinton L.	Douglas	MA
Smith's Longspur	140+	12/2	Lyon SFL	Lyon	MG
Smith's Longspur	50	2/2	Lyon SFL	Lyon	JC,RR
Smith's Longspur	25	2/12	John Redmond Res.	Coffey	MM
Smith's Longspur	1	2/15	West lola	Allen	TCn
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	12/16	Wilson Lake CBC	N/A	N/A
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	12/16	Udall/Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	12/15	Manhattan CBC	N/A	N/A

Orange-crowned Warbler	1	12/22	Arkansas City CBC	N/A	N/A
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	2/15	Elk City Res.	Montgomery	RT
"Audubon's" Warbler	2	12/23	Jetmore CBC	N/A	N/A
"Audubon's" Warbler	2	12/30	Garden City CBC	N/A	N/A
"Audubon's" Warbler	1	2/2	Webster WA	Rooks	JVK
Common Yellowthroat	1	12/15 - 12/16	Wilson L. CBC Benedictine Bottoms CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	1	12/23	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	1	12/15	Wichita CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	1	12/16	Bonner Springs CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	1	12/16	Wakefield CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	4	12/29	Salina CBC	N/A	N/A
Eastern Towhee	1	1/7 - 2/1	AM,BM res.	Reno	AM,BM,MY
Eastern Towhee	1	1/29 - 2/25	GP res.	Leavenworth	GP
Eastern Towhee	1	2/17	Oak Park	Sedgwick	PG
Lark Sparrow	1	12/30	N/A	Morton	SK,SS
Le Conte's Sparrow	2	12/29	Red Hills CBC	N/A	N/A
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	~12/12	N/A	Bourbon	DKe

Table 4. Irruptives: Northern Shrike, Winter Finches

Species (type)	#	Date(s)	Location	County	Observer (s)
Northern Shrike	1	12/15	Lawrence CBC	Douglas	N/A
Northern Shrike	1	12/17 - 2/9	Shawnee SFL	Shawnee	BMa
Northern Shrike	1	1/1	SW LV Co.	Leavenworth	GP
Northern Shrike	1	1/6	Council Grove L.	Morris	BS
Northern Shrike	1	1/15	N/A	Lyon	GP
Northern Shrike	1	12/16	Linn CBC	Linn	JK,MM
Northern Shrike	1	12/19	Slate Creek CBC	N/A	N/A
Northern Shrike	1	12/30	Derby/Belle Plaine CBC	N/A	N/A

Purple Finch	24+	1/27	Overland Park Ar-	Johnson	DSt
Red Crossbill	1	1/20	borteam	Rawlins	SS
Red Crossbill	4	12/17	Atwood	Pottawatomie	DB
Red Crossbill	13	1/26	SS res.	Reno	WAS
Red Crossbill (2)	8	1/13 - 2/21	Cheney Res.	Ford	JC
Red Crossbill	2	12/20	Dodge City	Johnson	CH
Red Crossbill			CH res.		
(2,3,5)	1-31	12/23 - 2/9	KSU Ag. Research	Ellis	m. obs
Red Crossbill	8	2/2	Center	Johnson	NL
Red Crossbill	4	1/14	NL res.	Russell	MR
Red Crossbill	1	1/16 - 2/6	Russell Cem.	Shawnee	JH
Red Crossbill (2)	27-35	12/15 - 1/12	JH res.	Cowley	m. obs
Red Crossbill	1	12/9	Winfield	Cowley	MT
Red Crossbill	13	12/19	Winfield City L.	N/A	N/A
Red Crossbill	2	12/30	Slate Creek CBC	N/A	N/A
Red Crossbill (2)	2	1/29	Garden City CBC	Johnson	CH
Red Crossbill (2)	16	12/23	St. Joseph Cem.	Russell	JK,Mro
Red Crossbill	4	1/4	Wilson L.	N/A	N/A
White-winged			Lakin CBC		
Crossbill	1	12/20	Olathe	Johnson	BB
White-winged					
Crossbill	1	12/18 - 12/19	Dodge City	Ford	MU
White-winged					
Crossbill	1	12/23	Holton	Jackson	CM
White-winged					
Crossbill	1	12/30 - 1/10	Winfield	Cowley	MT
White-winged					
Crossbill	1	2/16	Colony	Andersen	CB
Common Redpoll	1	2/15	Larned	Pawnee	DK
Common Redpoll	1	2/16	Lawrence	Douglas	KM
Common Redpoll	1	1/6 - 1/7	private res.	Johnson	m. obs
Common Redpoll	1	2/15	Larned	Pawnee	DK
Common Redpoll	1	2/16	Lawrence	Douglas	KM
Common Redpoll	1	2/14	MH res.	Jackson	MH
Common Redpoll	3	1/13	N/A	Osage	GC,JM,MV
Common Redpoll	2	12/22	Cimarron	Gray	H,NV
Common Redpoll	30	1/2	Concannon WA	Finney	N/A
Common Redpoll	2	2/17	Fancy Creek SP	Riley	N/A
Common Redpoll	2	12/26 - 1/21	Lakewood Park	Saline	LM
Common Redpoll	3	2/16	SS res.	Pawnee	JP
Common Redpoll	1	1/3 - 3/14	GP res.	Leavenworth	SS
Common Redpoll	1	12/2	Shawnee SFL	Shawnee	GP
Common Redpoll	3	12/15	Topeka CBC	N/A	JR
Common Redpoll	4	12/15	Winfield CBC	N/A	N/A
Common Redpoll	1	2/23	N/A	Reno	N/A
Common Redpoll					JMi

Pine Siskin	120	12/15	W 59th Ave.	Riley	ER
Pine Siskin	108	12/24	NA res.	Johnson	NA
Pine Siskin	111	12/30	Milford L.	Geary	BS
Pine Siskin	107	1/6	Ford SFL	Ford	JC
Evening Grosbeak	1	12/16 - 3/30	N/A	Harvey	CS (2nd hand)

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Museum of Natural History
The University of Kansas, Lawrence

Number 1
October 5, 1963

The fall meeting of the KOS for 1963 was held at Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Phillips Co., on September 29. We felt that there was a good turnout of members, in view of the distance that had to be traveled by most.

This is the first of the Newsletters to appear and the editors would like to invite all of you to send in your notes and news for the November number before October 25. The Newsletter will appear in January, February, April, May, October and November. Without your notes and news, we will not have much to put out so send them in today. --Max C. Thompson, Assistant Editor--

Again it is that time of year when the right conditions are occasionally present to cause migrating birds to crash into TV towers and into cellometers at airports. The KANU radio tower at Lawrence (recently raised to 600') took a toll of eight birds on September 25. L. B. (Buck) Carson checked the towers at Topeka and found only one dead Yellow Warbler at the WIBW TV tower but upon checking the newer and higher tower at Maple Hill, 16 miles west of Topeka, they found 50

dead birds of at least 20 species. Some of the birds were badly decomposed. The Lawrence and Topeka tower kills this year added several birds to the list of those that have hit towers in Kansas. You people who live near TV towers, such as Hutchinson and Wichita, have a ready source of migration data and should take advantage of it. The only specimen record of the Connecticut Warbler from Kansas was taken in the big kill at Topeka in 1954. The Museum of Natural History at KU would be happy to hear about any large kills as soon as possible after it happens so that the birds can be processed before decomposition.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LAWRENCE

The annual meeting was held at Lawrence on April 28-29. Paper sessions were on Saturday and field trips on Sunday. It was the 25th anniversary of the society. Minutes of the meeting will appear in a future issue of the Newsletter.

The field trips on Sunday found a delayed migration with only 112 species being seen. This was close to the lowest number ever seen on a spring count by the KOS.

This spring has also brought several notable nesting records. On about 8 May, an adult Carolina Wren with three fledglings was seen on the Bethel College campus, and have been seen many times since. Wood Ducks are probably nesting at Harvey Co. Park and just south of the Sand Prairie Natural History Reservation, although these are unconfirmed by actual nest records. Wood Thrushes have been seen at Harvey Co. Park as recently as 16 June and may be nesting there. The abundance of water this spring has brought an increase of water-bird nesting activities to the area. For the first time we have confirmed nest records of Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, and Pied-billed Grebes on the reservation. American Bittern are also probably nesting just west of the Sand Prairie Reservation, but this is also unconfirmed.

ALASKA PIPELINE BILL

This week and the next could be extremely crucial as far as future fuel supply in the midwest is concerned. On July 9 the United States Senate begins consideration of Senate Bill S. 1081, the rights-of-way bill. If passed as it stands, this measure will permit construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline. Conservationists are recommending an amendment to the bill that would permit study of the Canadian route. Many environmentalists believe that there is time enough to permit a study of the Canadian route, since construction for either route is estimated to involve about the same amount of time.

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA

ITHACA, N.Y. -- The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia are co-sponsoring a series of natural history safaris to Kenya.

The aim of the expeditions is to explore the ecology and culture of East Africa, including the remarkable birdlife of this part of the African continent. Although the safaris are designed for members of the two institutions, others are welcome as well. Three departures are scheduled during November and December of 1983, and each trip will last 21 days.

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



KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CHECK LIST BIRDS OF KANSAS

1983

The new KOS checklist is now available with all of the new AOU name changes and changes of sequence. Copies may be ordered from the Business Manager, 1704 East 9th St., Winfield, Kansas 67156. The following prices are in affect:

1--.30¢
10--1.50
25--3.00
50--4.00
100--6.00

During the summer months, please allow three weeks for delivery.

THE MORE YOU BUY THE CHEAPER THEY GET!!!!!!

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June 1992

Vol. 19, No. 2

RECYCLED PAPER

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Spring 1992 Meeting Attendance and Highlights

The joint meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society and the Colorado Field Ornithologists held in St. Francis, Kansas and Bonny Reservoir, Colorado May 8-10 was a success despite unfavorable weather and light attendance. Saturday the wind gusted from the South at approximately 50 mph, blowing in dust and tumbleweeds but few rare birds. The Saturday evening cookout had to be replaced by supper in a restaurant in St. Francis because of the potential for prairie fires. But some hardy campers spend both nights in tents at the reservoir despite wind, broken tent poles and later, rain.

The group found 121 species with highlights such as Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler and Painted Bunting. Some members birding on the way to and from the meeting found a few interesting birds including Hermit Thrush in Thomas Co., Red Crossbill in Cheyenne Co. and Virginia's Warbler in Scott County.

Early Arrival

Snowy Plover seen on 16 April 1983 at River Pond State Park, Pottawatomie County.

Lowell Johnson

First County Record

Wood Duck collected in Morton County 11 November 1979. Specimen housed at Cameron University Museum in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Jack D. Tyler

New County Records For Cloud County

Pied-billed Grebe 26 April 1983
American Avocet 26 April 1983

Robert D. Wood

Dove Banding

by Helen Hands

This July, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will join 25 other states across the country in a mourning dove banding program. The objectives of this banding program are to determine harvest rates, estimate annual survival rates, provide information on the geographical distribution of the harvest, and develop and refine techniques for a future operational dove-banding program. The first three objectives are essential for understanding the effects of annual hunting regulations on mourning dove populations.

I understand that not all KOS members support dove hunting and very few KOS members hunt doves. At this point, some may be thinking, "They've been hunting doves all these years and they still don't know how dove hunting affects dove populations." Well, that's not quite correct. A large nationwide dove banding study was conducted during 1967-75. Results from this study indicated that dove hunting accounted for 21-25% of the annual mortality in the western and eastern parts of the country and 10-11% of the annual mortality in the central part of the country. Thus, most dove mortality was due to weather, disease, and predation.

In a perfect world where money and personnel for wildlife management and surveys were not limiting, dove banding would have continued on an annual basis like population and harvest surveys. However, dove banding is a very time-consuming and expensive project if enough doves are to be banded to get accurate estimates of harvest and survival rates. Administrators and biologists in state and federal agencies had a hard time justifying the maintenance of a banding program for such an abundant and widely distributed species. During the past 7 years as long-term declines of 0.4 to 2.5% have persisted throughout the country (most severely in the western states, Kansas dove populations have remained stable), there has been renewed interest in starting another banding program.

The current banding program is slated to last 3 years and cost about \$900,000, most of that labor and fuel costs. Given that dove hunting generates about \$5-7 million per year in Pittman-Robertson excise taxes used by states for management of game and nongame animals, this seems like a worthwhile investment. We plan to band about 77,000 doves nationwide, including 2,700 in Kansas. One advantage of banding game birds

is that their band recovery rates (about 1.1%) are higher than for nongame birds (e.g., 0.087% for white-crowned sparrow).

Trapping will occur in July and August. Although different states may use different traps, most doves will be caught in wire cage traps with funnels. Traps will be placed in areas with little or no vegetation frequented by doves. Trap sites will include gravel parking areas and closed roads, crop fields, and pastures. Doves will be baited into traps with seeds, primarily proso millet and black oil sunflowers.

Traps will be checked regularly to limit heat stress. Captured birds will be carefully removed. All doves will be banded with standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal bands and aged using feather replacement on the wing. Adult birds will be sexed using plumage color patterns. The progression of the primary feather molt will also be recorded.

The success of this study depends on the reporting of banded birds. If you find a banded mourning dove, please report it to the Bird Banding Lab by calling 1-800-327-BAND or online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Helenh@wp.state.ks.us*

..continued from page 4

Leica Trinivod 10x25	(1)
Nikon 10x50	(1)
Nikon Egret 8x40	(1)
Bausch & Lomb Custom 10x40	(1)
Bausch & Lomb Discoverer 7x42	(1)
Bushnell Wide View 7x18	(1)
Bushnell WA 10x50	(1)
Bushnell Powerview 8x32	(1)
Bushnell Glasseson 10x50	(1)
Bushnell Custom 8x36	(1)
Bushnell Birder 8x42	(1)
Alderblick 8x42	(1)
Fujinon 8x42	(1)
Minolta Aactiva 8x25	(1)
Minolta Compact II 10x25	(1)
Orion Savannah 8x42	(1)
Opticron BGA 10x42	(1)
Brunton 8x25	(1)

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL FALL KOS MEETING

September 20-22, in Topeka

The capital city is in Shawnee County. The Friday evening social gathering and the Saturday events will be at Washburn University. We will be meeting in the recently renovated Stoffer Science Hall, and participants can view more than forty 120-year-old mounted bird specimens that remain from the Goss collection. The Saturday events include the presentation of student papers, the silent auction, member photo sharing, and the evening banquet. Sunday field trips will be to Baker Wetlands in Lawrence, Banner Creek Reservoir in Holton, Shawnee County State Fishing Lake, Melvorn Lake, and Topeka's famous Felker Park. Participants can buy a lunch for the noon compilation at Washburn University's Karlyle Woods.



KOS will be offering a youth conference on Saturday for birders age 12-16. A registration form is required. Contact Janeen Walters at janeenwalters@cox.net or check the KOS website.

Friday	7-10 pm	Meet & Greet & Snacks	Washburn University (17 th & Washburn)
Saturday	Morning /Afternoon	Student papers, Members share photos, Silent auction, Lunch on your own	
	6:00 pm	Dinner	University Union – Kansas Room
Sunday	6:30 am - noon	Half day field trips	University parking lot
	Noon	Lunch & compilation	Karlyle Woods –3440 NW BUTTON RD

HOTELS:

SLEEP INN SUITES 1024 SW WANAMAKER (785) 228-2500

Call and ask for the KOS group rates: 1 bed = \$79 2 beds = \$89 Suite (a king-sized bed and a pull out couch) = \$89. ROOMS WILL BE HELD AT THIS PRICE UNTIL AUGUST 21. Full hot buffet breakfast included, plus pool and hot tub.

BEST WESTERN	7000 SW FAIRLAWN	(785)228-2223
QUALITY INN	1240 WANAMAKER	(785)273-6969
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS	9 TH AND WANAMAKER	(785)228-9500
COMFORT SUITES	6213 SW 10 TH	(785)246-6777

Registration Form KOS Fall Meeting
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013 Topeka, Kansas

Registrations will be accepted through September 18, payment for meals and are non-refundable after September 18.

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee \$20.00 x ____ = \$ _____
(Waived for students 25 and under)

Saturday Banquet \$20.00 x ____ = \$ _____
Payment for banquet must be received by 9/18

Sunday Box Lunch \$ 8.00 x ____ = \$ _____
Payment for lunch must be received by 9/18

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) \$ _____
(No refund for cancellations after September 12)

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 fall meeting.

Signatures Date



banding reports from my time in Hays. The first time some of this was ever published was in BoK.

CO: My role in BoK started in 2007 when Max asked me about doing distribution maps. Prior to that in 2002-2003, I had worked on the county distribution maps for the KSBIRDS.org website. The baseline county dot maps pre-dated BoK by 6 or 7 years, but became the basis that the BoK maps were developed from. I relied on Max's database, the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas (KBBAT), as well as my collection of county checklists that people had sent me. When I started the Kansas county checklist project, I compiled all the species observations into county checklists, put them on about fifty CDs and handed them out at the Fall, 2001 KOS meeting and asked for sightings, and for people who had county checklists to send them to me. For the first two to three years, I got lots of input.

We decided to go with confirmed breeding records only so one of my tasks was to sort through the records and determine what was probable vs. what was confirmed. Max, Chuck and I spent a fair amount of time checking and corroborating those county records and breeding records. So we would look at what we knew compared to what everyone else thought. Sometimes there were minor differences with some of the other databases. Once you get past the 100th longitudinal line, things get sketchy because the data history isn't long and you have bits and pieces of information across time. But for about two years from 2009-2011, all of my spare time was spent on bird distribution maps which I didn't mind because it was fascinating work.



HOLA: What's in the future for these databases?

MT: The next BoK will be out on the internet where it can also be updated all the time. eBird won't become a replacement database because some people don't use it and there are concerns with reliability.

CE: Next one will be purely electronic. What is needed is the drive to write up something like Pete Janzen's *Birds of Sedgwick County* and Tom Flowers. We'll be doing birds of an area really.

CO: Birdsofkansas.com, get that stuff out on the internet. And the next KBBAT will be coming up in the near future so we'll be getting ready for that.

HOLA: How can birders contribute to the next Birds of Kansas?

MT: A lot more people used to read the birding literature back when we started. One of my disappointments is how little new people have read the old literature. You can go through the bird line and see that in the questions people ask. I would just ask people to look at those early issues of the Bulletin. There's a lot of information about birds in Kansas.

CE: Max is correct – become familiar with the literature and what is known and USE this to evaluate your current observations. Volunteer for ongoing projects like Breeding Bird Surveys & KBBAT and have projects – like recording the decrease in the numbers of a species at the end of the season before migration.

CO: So many questions can be answered by taking a look at species account in Birds of Kansas. Breeding records are a snapshot in time. Take the extra step, can we follow a bird to a nest and find proof of nesting. Take some photographs of birds brooding on a nest. Find nesting birds. Getting beyond county listing (which is a lot of fun) and taking it to the next step.

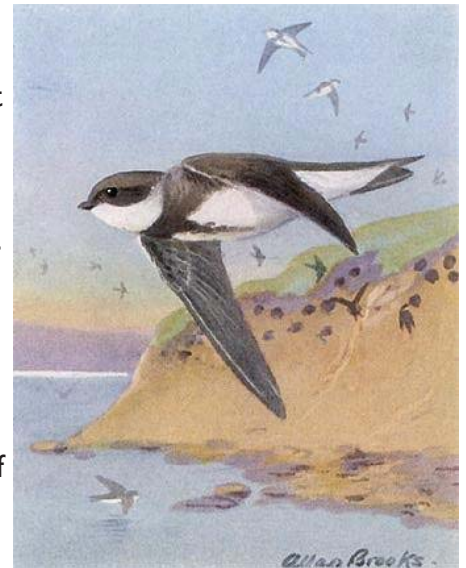
Kansas winter season roundup (cont)

December 1 – February 28

Jon King, compiler

(Continued from page 15)

originated in the mountain west, unlike the numerous type 3s invading the northeastern United States. While type 2s were dominant, a mixed flock at the KSU Ag. Research Center in Hays 12/23 contained 6 type 2, 24 type 3, and a single **type 5 Red Crossbill** (JK,MRo). Type 5 is found primarily in Lodgepole Pine and Engelmann Spruce forests in western North America, with only three to four prior records east of the Rocky Mtns. including singles in Missouri and Arkansas this winter. While Red Crossbill sightings tapered off considerably by February, the Common Redpoll invasion peaked in January and February with 57+ individuals noted at 16+ locations. Most encounters involved four or fewer individuals, though 30 were seen at Concannon WA 1/2 (Young and Thompson 2013). Pine Siskin was ubiquitous, and Kansas CBCs recorded 2662 Pine Siskin, with an average of 640 since 2000 (Young and Thompson 2013). Once again Max Thompson's feeders in Winfield produced astounding numbers of Siskins with Thompson reporting a large arrival 12/8 and subsequently 325 on 12/27 and 1/16.



Regarding other finches, Purple Finch numbers were slightly above average on Kansas CBCs, and the highest count was 24+ at the Overland Park Arboretum 1/27 (DS) (Young and Thompson 2013). White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak invaded the northeast in numbers, though only 4 White-winged Crossbill reached Kansas, along with an Evening Grosbeak in *Harvey* 1/16 – 3/30 or later (CS 2nd hand) (Table 4). In the not-so-irruptive category, a male “black-backed” Lesser Goldfinch continued in Garden City 2/8 at the Osterbuhr residence, which first visited in November 2012 (JC).

All records used in this report were obtained from the KSBIRDS-L listserv, and eBird. Only initial observers or reporters were mentioned with each sighting. At this time I'd like to thank everyone who made this report possible by reporting their sightings to KSBIRDS-L or eBird. Also I'd like to thank Pete Janzen and Mike Rader for their input regarding several records in this report.

Observers (93): Andrew Miller, Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Brett Budach, Bill Busby (BBu), Bryant Miller, Brandon Magette (BMa), Billie McDavitt (BMc), Brett Sandercock, Brad Williams, Cody Bain, Carol Morgan, Calvin Wohler, Craig Yerby, Don Kazamaier, Daniel Kerr (DKe), Dave Klema (DKI), Don Mallonee, Dave Rintoul, Debra Scarlet (DSc), David Seibel, Donald Stout (DSt), Elmer Fink, Ethan Maynard, Ed Raynor, Erik Reuter, Glenn Caspers, Galen Pittman, Gene Young, Greyson Yerby (GYe), Harry Gregory, John Bollin, Jeff Calhoun, Jeff Hansen, Jon King, Joseph Lautenbach, Jim Malcom, Joseph Miller (JMi), Judd Patterson, John Ritch, Jesse Salb, Jon Van de Kopple (JVK), Jeff Witters, Jimmy Woodward (JWo), Keith Brink, Kat Farres, Kevin Groeneweg, Kellye Hart, Kathy McDowell (KM), Kathy Miller (KMl), Lawanna Binns, Lynette Muller, Linda Mallonee (LMA), Lisa Owens, Mike Andersen, Mark Corder, Matt Gearheart, Mike Harding, Mark Land, Mick McHugh, Myron Miller (MMi), Michael Pearse, Mike Rader, Mark Robbins (MRo), Max Thompson, Mike Umscheid, Mark Van Horn (MVH), Michael Yutzy, Molly Zahn, Nick Varvel, Paul Griffin, Pete Janzen, Peter Zahn, Ron Klataske, Robert Penner, Robert Reed, Rick Tucker, Shawn Dash, Sam Guy, Steve Kingswood, Steve Seibel (SSi), Ted Cable, Tom Cannon (TCn), Tom Ewert, Tom McDavitt (TMc), Terry Mitchell (TMi),

(Continued on page 32)

Kansas winter season roundup (cont)

December 1 – February 28

Jon King, compiler

Tara Porter, Terry Swope, Tom Schermerhorn, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), William Sutton, Zach Hesler

Abbreviations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC), Lake (L.), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reservoir (Res.), River (R.), State Fishing Lake (SFL), State Park (SP), Wildlife Area (WA)

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