



# The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

Fall, 2013

Vol. 40, No. 3

## President's message

We all owe the Topeka committee many thanks for organizing and hosting our fall 2013 KOS meetings and events. The welcome we received was warm and friendly, the Washburn facilities were great, and the Friday evening food and hospitality were superb. Thank you very much. Without trip leaders, we have no field trips – thank you trip leaders. Thanks also to the committees, officers, and others involved in one capacity or another in conducting business, presenting awards, etc. Dr. Seibel's presentation was both educational and entertaining. It's particularly exciting that this meeting included a youth component. Hopefully this is something that will continue at future events.

Thank you also to everyone who presented a paper, coached a student, took the time to write a nomination for the Boyd and Conservationist awards, or brought photos or video for the Birdwatcher's hour. The paper sessions and Birdwatcher's hour make fall meetings a special event.

One problem with KOS events is that they are too soon over and we all head home to various parts of Kansas. Several of us will fondly remember the impromptu extension of KOS Fall 2013 as we were able to see the Kiskadee at McPherson State Lake – after Carolyn Schwab relocated it for us. Sharing a good bird sighting with friends always makes it more enjoyable and memorable.

Just a few days after arriving home in Osborne, we had a flock of 60 or so vultures soaring over our yard. Debby and I spent an hour just enjoying their antics as they gathered prior to going to roost.

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

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Their flight looked like a choreographed ballet including seemingly effortless soaring in the wind, milling back and forth, catching invisible eddies, rising and sinking, disappearing over the tree line then suddenly reappearing again. Compared to the laborious flight of passing Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, and American Robins, it looks like they are playing some sort of game. They are able to fly in close formation or strike out on solo sorties, only to catch the wind and return to take a spot in the ranks. Their constant movement made getting an accurate count almost impossible.

## From the Keyboard By the Editor

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My favorite part of putting the *Horned Lark* together is going through past issues, and deciding what to put into this issue. I've found that it connects me to people. This season, I thought that Chuck Otte's description of the future of birding was appropriate. He was right about a lot of how technology would change birding, but it's interesting to see how much of what is common place now wasn't even imagined—like digital field guides or a newsletter editor able to compile a newsletter from Germany. Many members will find the old number for the KOS rare bird alert to bring back memories. I had the chance to sit down with Bob Gress at the fall meeting to discuss the photography aspect the making of *Birds of Kansas* which was enlightening.

Recently, in a class on national defense policy, I was able to mention the KOS and talk about how science is done by professionals. There was some debate about the validity of climate change and scientist's ability to be objective. I disagreed quite emphatically and described the professional ethic that I've seen modeled by this year's award recipients and the papers presented by graduate students. Then I talked about the power of scientific publishing and our own bulletin. That is one of things I appreciate about the KOS—getting the chance to bird with people I consider heroes of science. So a big thanks to the KOS for taking the time to help school an amateur birder. If you are looking for some cheap German accommodations don't forget to write. What we have in Kansas will be harder to find I'm sure.



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# KOS Fall Meeting Compiled List Sept 28-29, Topeka, Kansas

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Here is the list of birds (106) seen at the KOS meeting over the weekend. Thanks go to all the leaders and participants who helped locate birds.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Bobwhite  
Wild Turkey  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American White Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Sora  
American Coot  
Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Least Sandpiper  
Franklin's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Common Nighthawk

Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-peewee  
Eastern Phoebe  
SAY'S PHOEBE  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren

House Wren  
Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Eurasian Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Tennessee Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Pine Warbler



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# 2013 Fall KOS Board Meeting, September 21, Topeka, KS (Washburn University)

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Present: Henry Armknecht, Greg Farley, Matt Gearheart, Patty Marlett, Terry Mannell, Max Thompson, Janeen Walters, Lisa Weeks, Mark Van Horn, Gene Young

Absent: Nic Allen, Don Kazmaier, Chuck Otte, Curtis Wolf

- I. Henry called the meeting to order at 12:03
- II. Treasurer's Report – Terry; Financial Committee Report – Max/Terry
  - a. Terry presented a handout --“Income and Expense Summary 1/1/13 to 9/18/13 & Balance Sheet 1/1/13 to 6/30/13”
  - b. Max noted that we recently moved the investment account from RCB to Baxter & Associates. We can offer direction if we want to change how the investments are made.
    - i. Mark Van Horn commented that a 1% fee can be substantial compounded over the years.
  - c. Henry thanked Terry for his service and we welcomed Max into the role as our next treasurer.
- III. Membership Report – Patty
  - a. Patty presented the Membership Report as of 9/20/13. To date, 292 members are paid up (down 32 since 2012). Some of those are the young members who were sponsored last year.
  - b. Discussion regarding adding an online payment option with PayPal.
    - i. Gene said that OSU just added that option; he'll report relevant information to Patty so she can consider how we might proceed.
- IV. *Bulletin* Editor Report –Gene
  - a. Gene reported that the KOS *Bulletin* page count has been on the upswing lately.
  - b. Gene suggested that we might need a 15-year index near the end of 2014. Max and Gene will take this on.
  - c. CBC – we are working on forms to improve data entry. Tried online submission last year, with mixed success (anyone see my deciphering tools?)
    - i. Light discussion about why we wouldn't simply use eBird to manage the CBC counts. No conclusive decisions.
- V. *Horned Lark* Editor Report – Mark
  - a. Moved from a “month” to “season” publication date.
  - b. Brief discussion of costs; no changes are immediately planned.
  - c. In general, we like the historical section Mark added.
  - d. While Mark is moving soon to Germany, he agreed to continue editing the newsletter; we are all thankful for his efforts.
- VI. Fall 2013 Meeting

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- a. Comping the student presenters' banquet tickets seems to have had a positive impact as all of them are staying for dinner tonight.
  - VII. Combine OOS and KOS Bulletin
    - a. Discussed the possibility of combining the Kansas Ornithological Bulletin with the Oklahoma Ornithological Society Bulletin.
      - i. While generally favored, we agree that it will be problematic for libraries and that it likely requires a change to the by-laws.
      - ii. Gene agreed to present it to OOS at the next meeting.
  - VIII. Strategic Planning – Mark
    - a. Draft sent to board July 24; no comments received. How do we preserve the past and move forward with work changes?
      - i. Proposal – all board members are involved in the plan. Before winter board meeting, suggest we all write out our personal vision for the future of KOS.
      - ii. We need a local champion.
      - iii. We likely need to commit to some extra time to tackle this, otherwise it will likely languish.
      - iv. Proposed that we can tackle it at a winter board meeting if it is our primary focus; may need to schedule a little more time than usual.
      - v. Greg's perspective is that KOS is a unique blending of professional and amateurs not found in other organizations.
  - IX. New Business
    - a. Gregg Friesen is still receiving extra copies of HOLA and The Bulletin. Patty will check with him.
      - 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. Meeting location for Spring 2014-is Rock Springs Camp.
    - c. Meeting location for Fall 2014 is still open.
  - X. Adjourn-we noticed that it was almost time for BirdWatchers' Hour and nobody wanted to miss Bob Gress' photos, so we all bolted from the room simultaneously. I'm sure someone muttered something about a motion to adjourn.

~Minutes Submitted by Lisa Weeks, KOS Business Manager

# 2013 Fall KOS General Business Meeting, September 21, Topeka KS (Washburn University)

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2013 Fall KOS General Business Meeting  
September 21, 2013  
Topeka, KS (Washburn University)

- I. Henry and Matt opened the meeting.
- II. Patty presented the Membership Report as of 9/20/13. To date, 292 members are paid up (down 32 since 2012). Please renew your membership.
- III. Terry presented the Treasurer's Report.
  - a. We moved investments valued at \$163,336
  - b. Please join as a contributing member because a basic membership does not cover all the costs associated with your newsletter, etc.
- IV. Mike Radar, spoke for the KOS Nomination Committee. The slate of candidates is listed in the program and we'll vote this afternoon.  
President - Henry Armknecht  
VP - Matt Gearheart  
Corresponding Secretary - Curtis Wolf  
Membership Development Coordinator - Patty Marlett  
Treasurer - Max Thompson  
At-Large Board Members - Art Nonhof & Jon Vande Kopple  
Business Manager - Lisa Weeks  
Editor, The Bulletin - Eugene Young  
Editor, The Horned Lark - Mark Van Horn (will continue to serve remotely)

Chuck Otte stay on the Board as Past President and the terms of At-Large Board Members Janeen Walters and Nic Allen do not expire

- V. Lisa made an appeal to visit the merchandise table to buy shirts and checklists. Also to stop by for free brochures and checklists to share with nature centers and other places of interest.
- VI. Gene requested manuscripts for The Bulletin next year.
- VII. Mark announced the next HOLA will likely be published around the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October.
- VIII. Mike Radar advised that Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is sponsoring a Big Year (did you see those snazzy hats?). This year, the event didn't start until April; watch for a January 1, 2014 start for the next one.

Continued after lunch

- IX. Voted on the slate of candidates for the KOS board. Terry Mannell motioned that we cease nominations and that we cast a unanimous ballot. Somebody second it. Motion was passed.



# 65th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society Paper Abstracts

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## **Regional Variation in Nest Success of Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Kansas and Colorado** - Joseph Lautenbach\* and Reid Plumb, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

Lesser prairie-chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) are found within three distinct landscapes within Kansas and eastern Colorado. Concurrent evaluation of nest success trends across the northern portion of the species' range of lesser prairie-chickens will provide insight into trends within each landscape. We captured and fitted 70 adult females with satellite and VHF transmitters in 2013. A total of 50 nests were found. In Colorado, 4 nests were found in CRP (2) and sand sagebrush prairie (2); 50% hatched. We found 20 nests in grazed pastures of native grasslands of south-central Kansas, of which 8 were successful, 9 were depredated, 2 were abandoned, and 1 was trampled; an apparent nest success of 40.0%. There were 29 nests located in CRP (12) and grazed pastures of native grassland (17) of northwest Kansas; 7 nests were successful, 16 were depredated, 2 nests were abandoned, and 2 nests were trampled, with an apparent nest success of 25.0%. Apparent nest success across all study areas was 39.8%. Differences in habitat, management, and regional environmental conditions have an impact on nest success across the northern portion of the lesser prairie-chicken's range.

## **Insights into the Origins and Diversification of the Philippine Avifauna** – Peter A. Hosner\*, Carl H. Oliveros, Robin M. Jones, Robert G. Moyle, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas

Since 2006, the ornithology division at the University of Kansas has been involved in an intensive effort to survey the vertebrates of the Philippine archipelago. The Philippines hosts high diversity and endemism, yet its avifauna has received relatively little attention from modern systematists. New data from these expeditions, including DNA sequence data, have allowed us to assess species limits, phylogenetic relationships, and historical biogeography in several diverse Philippine bird groups. Similar to findings in other tropical areas, our studies show that avian species diversity has been severely underestimated, and that endemism and *in situ* diversification are far greater than appreciated. New insights from DNA sequence data also challenge the long-held view that ocean depth partitions are the main factor in limiting distributions. Confirming earlier views, the avifauna of Palawan appears to be largely derived from the Greater Sunda Islands (Borneo, Sumatra, Java) rather than the oceanic Philippines, although deep genetic divergences separate some Borneo and Palawan sister taxa.

## **Effects of Grazing Treatments on Nest Success of Wet Meadow Breeding Birds at Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, Barton County, KS**

Clinton J. Helms\*, Jordana J. LaFantasie, Greg H. Farley, Robert L. Penner II. Fort Hays State University, Department of Biological Sciences

Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve (CBP) contains approximately 8,000 acres (~3,237 hectares) of wet meadow habitat that is being managed to provide quality habitat for breeding birds through the use of adaptive grazing techniques. Due to the imperiled status of grassland birds, an emphasis has been placed on managing for this particular group at CBP. When not entirely inundated with water, CBP, combined with the grazing management plan, can potentially provide high-quality nesting habitat for numerous grassland birds by creating a mosaic of vegetation height and vegetation density. To examine the potential effectiveness of this management plan, I investigated the effects of adaptive rotational grazing treatments versus traditional season-long grazing treatments on common CBP grassland nesting species (e.g., grasshopper sparrow [*Ammodramus savannarum*], dickcissel [*Spiza americana*], western meadowlark [*Sturnella neglecta*], and eastern meadowlark [*Sturnella magna*]) and attempted to determine if any significant trends could be inferred at the treatment-level scale.

# 65th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society Paper Abstracts (cont)

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Specifically, I looked at avian abundance and avian nest success by employing point-count surveys and nest searching/monitoring techniques. Preliminary results suggest a greater occurrence of nests in random rotational grazing treatments compared to season-long grazing treatments.

## **The Irruptive Movement of Snowy Owls (*Bubo Scandiacus*) into Kansas and Missouri During the Winter Of 2011-2012** - Mark B. Robbins\* and Chuck Otte, Ornithology Division, University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and K-State Research and Extension

Unprecedented documentation of a major Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) irruption during the winter of 2011-2012 resulted in a minimum of 154 and 67 reports in Kansas and Missouri, respectively. Of the 125 reports where age could be determined, 82% were hatching year birds, whereas 18% were at least a year old. Of 24 birds that were salvaged, all but three were very emaciated.

## **Occupancy of Grassland Birds in State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Program Enrollment Fields in Kansas** - Alaina D. Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Lance B. McNew<sup>2</sup>, Brett K. Sandercock<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Division of Biology, Kansas State University, <sup>2</sup>Dept. of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey, Anchorage, AK

Grassland bird populations have experienced significant declines worldwide as habitat has decreased due to urbanization and conversion to agriculture. Several components of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) specifically target wildlife enhancement and aim to mitigate the current decline in grassland bird populations. The newest CRP program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), was designed to restore vital habitat for high priority wildlife throughout the United States. Our objective was to assess the effects of the SAFE program on grassland bird occupancy in Kansas. We monitored tracts of land enrolled in the SAFE program to estimate abundance, diversity, and relative use by sensitive species of grassland birds. Our study was conducted in 7 counties in the Smoky and Flint Hills ecoregions. We surveyed 68 SAFE fields and 29 fields enrolled in other types of CRP. We modeled occupancy for 8 grassland bird species of interest in Kansas. We modeled the effects of field size and habitat type (enrolled in SAFE or other CRP type) on probability of occupancy for each species. For Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), patch size was the best predictor of occupancy based on  $\Delta AIC_c$  and model weights. Probability of occupancy increased as patch size increased. Since field size is positively related to probability of occupancy for several species of conservation concern, we recommend a contiguous enrollment of SAFE fields whenever possible.

## **Predictive Habitat Modeling of Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) on the Island of Saba using GIS and Remote Sensing** – Will Chatfield-Taylor\*, Adrian Delnevo, Department of Geography, University of Kansas

The island of Saba in the Dutch Antilles hosts the largest colony of Audubon's Shearwater in the West Indies. However, due to a combination of their nocturnal nesting behavior and preference for the unapproachable cliffs around the island, the extent of their nesting is unknown. Using a combination of python-based GIS programming and remote sensing, I have created a way to predicatively model where the shearwaters nest on the island. The presence of shearwater nesting is measured by the location of nocturnal calling. Using this presence-only data, a recursive GIS-based analysis program compares the slope of the cliffs where presence has been recorded, and cliffs where it has not and determines the statistically significant minimum slope preferred by the shearwaters. Aspect data from these sites is added to the analysis, as is percent vegetation



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cover derived from a satellite image of Saba. The data is combined to produce a map of where on the island the three variables coincide, representing suitable habitat for Audubon's Shearwater. A habitat suitability index (HSI) for these areas is then created using a suite of python-based GIS programs. An HSI denotes the relative suitability of the predicted habitat areas for each individual pixel.

### **Breeding Season Movements of Adult Female Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Kansas and Colorado**

- Reid T. Plumb\* and J. Lautenbach, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, D. A. Haukos, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Kansas State University, J. C. Pitman, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, J. K. Augustine, Dept. Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Ohio State Univ. at Lima, Lima, K. J. Oxenrider, Dept. Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Ohio State Univ., D. Dahlgren, Dept. of Wildland Resources, Utah State University

After peaking in the mid-1970s, populations of Lesser Prairie-Chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) have declined during the past two decades, increasing conservation concern for the species. Information on seasonal movements is lacking in its northern range and yet is a necessary prerequisite to conservation planning and management. The goal of this study was to measure movement patterns during the breeding season for each of the three populations in the northern range of the species. Females were trapped during 2013 and fitted with either a 12-15-g VHF bib-style transmitter or a 22-g model 100 GPS Platform Transmitting Terminal (PTT) using a rump-style harness. Positions of marked individuals were taken either by triangulation of VHF transmitters or by GPS positions from PTT's. Female movements varied throughout the breeding period with larger movements occurring during the pre-nesting and post-nesting periods than the nesting period. Large movements occurred after the loss of a nest or brood and before re-nesting. Mean distances moved from lek-of-capture to nest sites in Kansas were within estimates reported in other portions of its range. Determining patterns and quantifying movements to indicate their spatial needs during the breeding period is paramount in directing conservation actions for lesser prairie-chickens.

### **Bird Occupancy and Nesting Success in Relation to Habitat Structure in the Cross Timbers Oak Savanna of Kansas** - Nathan S. Holoubek\* and William E. Jensen, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University

Oak savanna, once widespread across central North America, has functionally vanished from most of its range, commonly due to fire suppression and subsequent afforestation. Our objective was to quantify avian habitat associations and nest success across a gradient from open-canopy oak savanna to closed-canopy, afforested conditions in the Cross Timbers region of southeastern Kansas during the typical songbird breeding season. Species-specific site occupancy probabilities and daily nest survival rate were modeled against vegetative variables along the habitat gradient. Occupancy for 16 species was strongly associated with vegetative variables, such as landscape-level tree cover and point-count-scale tree density, canopy cover, and shrub density. Savanna-associated species included Northern Bobwhite, Bewick's Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Orchard Oriole. Arboreal habitat structure had less of an effect on daily nest survival rate. Daily nest survival showed positive trends with increasing shrub density for Brown Thrasher and Northern Mockingbird. Daily nest survival of Mourning Dove was negatively, but weakly, associated with increasing canopy cover. There were no habitat effects on Yellow-billed Cuckoo daily nest survival. Several of the species we found to be associated with savanna are of conservation concern in Midwestern states. Local occurrences of these species might benefit from reductions in tree density within otherwise closed-canopy forest.

# 65th Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society Paper Abstracts (cont)

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*Bram H.F. Verheijen\*, David A. Rintoul and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University*

Many songbird species in the United States are declining in population numbers. Ongoing declines are thought to be related to habitat loss caused by land-use change, agricultural intensification, and habitat fragmentation. Adult survival is the demographic parameter that often contributes most to population change of songbirds, especially in declining populations, and is therefore important to estimate when constructing population matrix models. Understanding adult survival and site fidelity of declining species will form the basis for further ecological research and conservation efforts. Unfortunately, adult survival estimates are lacking in many songbird species. In this study, we analysed mark-recapture encounter histories of seventeen species of songbirds that were collected during a fourteen year mist netting effort at the Ft. Riley Military Reserve in the northeast of Kansas, USA. We estimated apparent adult survival ( $\Phi$ ) and detection probability ( $p$ ) for both male and female songbirds of all species and related variation in estimates to breeding habitat and residency status. We found that apparent survival was higher in males for most species, but detection probability did not differ between sexes. Songbirds breeding in shrubs had a higher apparent survival than species breeding in forests, which could be due to low abundance and patchiness of shrubs as breeding habitat. This study provides the first apparent survival estimates for seven species of songbirds, which can be used to improve current population matrixes. In addition, this study will improve our understanding of songbird demography and will benefit conservation efforts in the future.

## **KOS 2013 Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award** **Submitted by Dan Larson and Tom Shane**

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Roger L. Boyd has been a near lifelong resident and ornithologist of Kansas. He was very fortunate to have parents with diverse biological interests and backgrounds ranging from birds to plants. He not only had the opportunity to grow up in an academic environment since his father, Ivan, was a professor at Baker University, but the active Baldwin Bird Club with their group of active bird banders was also an additional plus in his very unique days as a young student preparing for college.

Roger joined the Kansas Ornithological Society in 1962 while still in high school. His attendance of KOS meetings and field trips with his father, Ivan, and his mother, Margaret, after the society's founding in 1949 makes Roger the longest attending KOS member at this date. Roger and his wife, Jan, rarely miss a meeting.

Roger received his Bachelor's from Baker University in 1969, his Master's at Emporia State University in 1972 and his Ph.D. from Colorado State University in 1976. He became a faculty member at Baker University in 1976.

Roger is a Life Member of KOS and has held offices of Director, Vice President and President. He also served on the Kansas Bird Records Committee for 12 years. He was active in the National Audubon Society both in Fort Collins, CO and at Lawrence, KS holding office of Vice President at both locations. He was also a Vice President of the Western Bird Banding Association. Most recently, he has been a Research Associate in Orni-

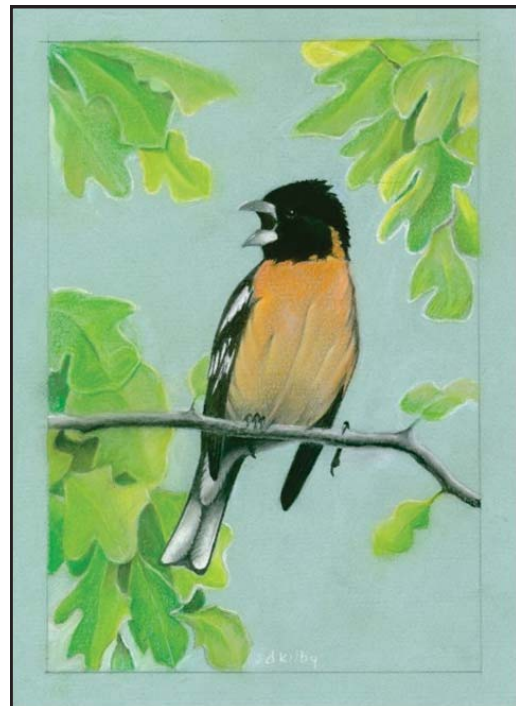
*(Continued on page 34)*

## Gorgeous KOS shirts by local artists!

Two t-shirts are available this holiday season to delight your friends and family! The Virginia Rail by Bob Regier and the Black-headed Grosbeak by Dan Kilby. Virginia Rail shirts come in long and short sleeves, on a natural background. Black-headed Grosbeak shirts are short sleeves on a stone blue background. Both are \$12 each which includes standard mailing in the lower 48. Email Business Manager, Lisa Weeks at [lisafweeks@gmail.com](mailto:lisafweeks@gmail.com) to check size availability and arrange for postal delivery or free pick-up in the Lawrence area.

### Shop our KOS online store

Design your own KOS products with just a few clicks! Choose three KOS art designs and add them to a sweatshirt, insulated mug, cap, tote bag, mousepad or more. Make it your own by adding customized text or more graphics. Go to <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds/gifts> to get started now!



# Kansas Spring season roundup

Jon King, compiler

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## Summary

Simply put, the spring of 2013 was a late and dry. Temperatures were well below average during much of the period and vegetative growth was generally 1-2 weeks behind “average” this season according to Chuck Otte. Though there were quite a few weather induced migratory events this season, two winter storms deserve special mention. Weather.com names winter storms now, so those names will be used for convenience. Winter storm Zeus brought cold temperatures and snow to Kansas on April 23. In the east and central part of the state observers reported grounded shorebirds at several locations; Cheyenne Bottoms produced 110 Willets that day even though it was basically dry. While Zeus was interesting, winter storm Achilles was perhaps the event of the spring. Achilles dumped over an inch of snow on parts of northeast Kansas and farther west in central Kansas, it grounded exceptional concentrations of birds on May 1 and May 2. In the east, concentrations of grounded migrants were minor at best. On May 1 Jon Van de Kopple and Scott Seltman reported large numbers of grounded birds to KSBIRDS-L. Then on May 2, Seltman stated “I had about 2000 migrants on the north side of Camp Aldrich. Mostly sparrows but also RB Grosbeak, numerous Baltimore Orioles, RH Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Says Phoebe. Lots of kingbirds”. Around Quivira that same day (5/2), Mike Rader reported 300+ Black-necked Stilts along with numerous *Spizella* and Kingbirds. Then on May 3, Rader reported hundreds and hundreds of sparrows in the Russell County area, with Clay-colored dominant followed by Lark and Chipping.

As one may expect with cold weather, migration was delayed with a few exceptions. Browsing the species accounts, late records and late concentrations are listed for everything from ducks to finches. Late concentrations of dabbling ducks were present at Quivira in the final days of May while impressive quantities of Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers remained in east Kansas woodlands into middle May. While the northerly winds and cold retained Yellow-rumps, they also concentrated some of the more sought after species for a brief time. From ~5/8 – 5/12, birding for warblers was generally good in the east; Wyandotte County Lake was the most rewarding site to see warblers this spring with 22 species there on May 8 (MA) and 24 species there May 12 (ER,JKi). On May 13 however, strong southerly winds took over and several observers in northeast Kansas noted an exodus of warblers, sparrows, and other lingering migrants. From May 13 onwards, there were few notable concentrations of neotropical migrants reported.

Aside from the cold weather and delayed migration, drought continued in Kansas with severity once again increasing westward. As stated previously Cheyenne Bottoms was almost entirely dry while Quivira was very dry in the beginning of the period. However, drought meant excellent shorebirding at Kansas reservoirs including Cheney, Wilson, Melvern, and Clinton; shorebird concentrations at Cheney and Wilson were particularly impressive. In central Kansas, Snowy Plovers responded; small numbers appeared at many central Kansas reservoirs where not typically seen. While shorebirding typically takes place near water, spring burns in the Flint Hills often attract upland shorebirds. This was a poor year in the Flint Hills for birds like as Golden-Plover or Buff-breasted Sandpiper as few ranchers burnt their pastures given the dry conditions.

Also worth noting are winter finches. Following the finch incursion during the previous winter, Crossbills, Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks were still encountered early in the period. Pine Siskins were relatively common in May and some remained into June as often happens following strong flights. While Red Crossbill reports had largely tapered off during the preceding January, a resurgence in sightings during May and June indicated a return flight was underway. Other trends worth noting were the abundance of Swainson’s Hawks in eastern Kansas, the increasing number of April and May Lesser Black-backed Gull records, numerous Fish Crow sightings in the Kansas River drainage, and the scarcity of many common sparrows in east Kansas. Regarding KOS activities, Pete Janzen organized a highly successful spring meeting in Norton this year with 203



species recorded; the most ever recorded at a KOS meeting. Notable rarities this season included Pacific Loon (in spring), Swallow-tailed Kite, Barrow's Goldeneye, Mew Gull, Ash-throated Flycatcher in central Kansas, and Black-throated Sparrow.

## Species Accounts

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 1 at Clinton L. 4/16 (GP), 1 was well-photographed in Overland Park 4/16-25 (NA 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Late (past 5/1 only) sightings included 1 in Reno 5/3 (BM), 1 at the Bazine WTP 5/10 (NA,JG,MG), 9 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/11 (BS), and 1 in Olathe 5/12 (JOI).

**Snow Goose:** Late (past 5/1 only) sightings included 2 in Ulysses 5/3 (SG,KH), 2 at Waconda L. 5/10 (JWd), 6 at Lovewell SP 6/10 (JWd), 8 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/12 (JR), 1 seen from Hwy. 56 (Stevens) 5/17 (JC), 1 on the Harper NAMC 5/27 (ES 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Ross's Goose:** Late: 1 in Norton 5/12 (CM).

**Cackling Goose:** Late: 1 at Quivira 5/9 (MU), 1 at Sheridan SFL 5/9 (GC) with photo, 1 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/11 (BS).

**Trumpeter Swan:** High Count: 13 in Olathe 3/16 (ML). Late: 1 at Neosho WA 5/10 (AB) with photo.

**Wood Duck:** High Count: In w. KS 50 at Webster Res. 3/16 (JC,JVK), in e. KS 70 at Colbenz Marsh (Douglas) 4/3 (JH).

**Gadwall:** Late Concentration: 280 at Marais des Cygnes WA Unit G 5/8 (JKi), 110 at Big Salt Marsh 5/31 (MR).

**Gadwall x Mallard:** 1 drake at Spring Hill WTP (Johnson) 3/16 (NV).

**American Wigeon:** High Count: 500 at Webster Res. 3/30 (JVK). Late Concentration: 52 at Winfield City L. 5/7 (MT), 120 at Big Salt Marsh 5/24 and 75 there 5/31 (both MR).

**Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal:** 1 drake photographed at River Pond SP 4/13 (EMt).

**Cinnamon Teal:** In e. KS where rare, 9 reported. The following were drakes unless otherwise noted: 1 at Neosho WA 3/22 (AB), 1 at Mined Land WA 3/22 (CTh) with photo, 1 at the Baker Wetlands 4/11-13 (AMe 2<sup>nd</sup>) with an additional sighting 4/30 (MA), 1 at John Redmond Res. 4/14 (JM), 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/27 (MM), 1 at the Republican R. (Geary) 4/30 (JK), 2 (drake + hen) at Slate Creek Wetlands 4/13 (TB,GY).

**Northern Pintail:** High Count: 20,000 at Quivira 3/8 (BJ).

**Green-winged Teal:** High Count: 10,000 at John Redmond Res. 4/20 (NA,MG).

**Canvasback:** High Count: 156 at Augusta City L. 3/3 (KG), 70+ at L. Vaquero (Shawnee) 3/7 (JH). Canvasback numbers reported in the Sedgwick area are gradually increasing per Kevin Groeneweg and Pete Janzen.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Late: 6 at Clinton L. 5/10 (MM), 2 at the Liberal WTP (JC), 2 at the Elkhart WTP 5/19 (JC), 5 at Quivira 5/25 (JC). 2 pair + 1 female at Quivira 5/24 (MR).

**Greater Scaup:** Less frequently reported in w. KS: sightings there were 1 at Antelope L. 3/11 (HA), 1 at Scott L. 4/12 (SS), 2 at the Hugoton WTP 4/19 (JC,RW,TE,WE), 2 at the Elkhart WTP 4/20 (JC,RW,TE,WE), 1 at the Johnson City WTP 4/21 (JC). High Count: 30 at Butler SFL 3/13 (JC). Late: 1 at Big Salt Marsh 5/24 (MR).

**Lesser Scaup:** Late reports (past 5/15 only) in Clark, Ford, Kingman, Miami, Rooks, Stafford, Sumner, and Washington with up to 16 at Quivira 5/31 (JWi).

**Surf Scoter:** 1 female at Wilson L. 4/6 (MA,PH).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 at Wilson L. 3/6 (DK).

**Common Goldeneye:** Late: 1 at Tuttle Creek Res. 5/8 (ER,HT), 1 at Jewell SFL 5/9 (JWd), 1 at the Smith Center WTP 5/12 (MR), 1 at Wilson WA 5/25 (MR).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 male at Melvern L. 3/17 (JM). KBRC lists 22 records of the species in Kansas (Land 2012).

**Hooded Merganser:** Late: 2 at Quivira 5/22 (SC) with photo, 1 at Plainville L. (Rooks) 5/28 (JVK), 4 at the Baker Wetlands 5/29 – 6/7 (BAS,NV) with photo.

**Common Merganser:** Late: 2 at the Tuttle Tubes (Riley) 5/4 (FS) with 1 remaining at Rocky Ford FA 5/30 (GW); continuing around the Tuttle/Rocky Ford area into Jun.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Late (past 5/15 only): 1 at Rocky Ford FA 5/17 (BS,GW), 1 at Clinton L. 5/22 (GP).

**Scaled Quail:** 3 near the River Rd. (Hamilton) 4/21 (JC,TE).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Reported in Anderson, Barton, Chase, Ellsworth, Geary, Gove, Graham, Greenwood, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, Osage, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Trego, Saline, Shawnee, Smith, and Wallace. High Count: 21 at Fort Riley (Riley) 4/2 (MD,SP), 22 on the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 4/4 (GW), 20 in Greenwood 4/5 (AE).

**Lesser Prairie-Chicken:** Reported in Clark, Comanche, Gove, Ford, Kiowa, Hodgeman, Morton, Ness, and Wallace. High Count: 59 in Comanche 4/7 (JnL,JsL,KVV), 36 in Kiowa 4/30 (JnL,JsL,KVV).

**Greater x Lesser Prairie-Chicken:** Approximately five of 64 male Prairie-Chickens captured as part of a Prairie-Chicken study in northwest KS were hybrids; these hybrids were encountered in southwest Gove and central Logan (Reid Plumb).

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 basic plumaged bird photographed at Clinton L. 4/17 (JKi); presumably grounded during cold snap with strong north winds.

**Pacific Loon:** 1 at River Pond SP/Tuttle Creek Res. 4/27 – 5/6 (JR) with photo. 1 at Kirwin Res. 5/11-12 (mo). These represent Kansas' second and third spring records.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** High Count: 105 at the Marais des Cygnes WA Unit G 5/8 (JKi).

**Horned Grebe:** High Count: 28 Shawnee Mission Park 4/25 (NV); a good count for the park and Johnson which lacks large reservoirs.

**Eared Grebe:** 9 at Shawnee Mission Park 4/25 (NV); also a good count for Johnson.

**Western Grebe:** 1 at Clinton L. 4/24 (GP).

**Clark's Grebe:** 1 at the Elkhart WTP 3/29 – 4/1 (DW) with photo later by (BH), 1 at Scott L. 4/12 (SS), 1 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/12 (JC,TE,JVK).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** 10+ individuals at 7 locations: 1 at Webster Res. 3/11-16 (JVK), 1 at Jeffrey Energy Center 4/5-10 (BMa), 1 at Rooks SFL 4/7-15 (JVK), 1 at the Tuttle Tubes 4/9 (DR), 1 at Oak Park 5/7-8 (PG), 3 at Slate Creek Wetlands 4/28 (MT,GY). Sightings at John Redmond Res. were 4/14-22 (JM) with 2 4/20 (MG,NA).

**Least Bittern:** Only report was 1 Wilson WA 5/25 (MR); this is Rader's first in north-central KS despite many years birding there.

**Tricolored Heron:** 1 near Oak Park (Wichita) 4/12-14 (BMc,TMc) with photos following, 1 at the Baker Wetlands 5/12 (WCT) and later seen flying over s. Lawrence 5/13 (CT).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Early: 1 at Bradley Fair (Wichita) 3/23 (CM).

**Glossy Ibis:** 3 individuals minimum: 1 at Quivira 4/22 – 5/20 (JC), 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/25 – 5/8 (SA,CH), 1 at the Baker Wetlands 5/11 (JKi,ER) and 5/20 (MA). Multiple individuals may have been present at some of these locations.

**White-faced Ibis:** High Count for e. KS: 49 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/28 (SA,CH).

**Glossy x White-faced Ibis:** 1 at Quivira 4/28 (ML,JL); probable sighting.

**Black Vulture:** 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/4 (MM) and 4 at Elk City L. 5/4 (AB) were beyond the species expected range. Reported from 4 locations in Cherokee 3/31 – 5/29 (mo) where expected.

**Osprey:** Early: 1 at L. Afton 3/1 (PG).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** 1 seen soaring from Ruth Ann Dr. & Fairway Dr. in Dodge City 4/29 (JC).

**Mississippi Kite:** Rare: 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/20 (MM,GP), 1 flying over University of Kansas 5/19 (MA).



**Bald Eagle:** Adult attending nest along Pawnee Cr. (*Finney*) 4/27 (SS), 2 (1 adult) at Arkalon Park 5/19 (JC) with photo.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Rare breeder in nw. Kansas: Active nest at Ag. Research Center (*Colby*) 5/10 (PJ). Active nest in the Elkhart shelterbelt 5/3 (TC,DW).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Uncommon to fairly common migrant in northeast Kansas, though exceptional numbers present this spring in east Kansas: 60 at the Baker Wetlands 4/12 (JKi) during a spring burn, 30 at Payless Pond (*Shawnee*) 4/14 (JH,JWs), 28 at Ashland Bottoms (*Riley*) 4/19 (JR), 52 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/20 (MM), 31 at Fancy Creek SP 4/20 (ER). High Count: 100+ at Lockard Rd. & Murre Rd. (*Saline*) 5/2 (KF). Of the 60 reported at the Baker Wetlands 4/12, 5 were intermediate morphs and 2 were dark/intermediate morphs.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 "Krider's" at Fancy Creek SP 4/20 (ER).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** Easterly: 1 at Rocky Ford FA 3/30 (DR).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Late: Past 4/18, lone birds reported from *Doniphan, Elk, Ford, Geary, Graham, Reno, Saline, and Sheridan*. Latest: 1 in *Graham* and 1 in *Sheridan*, both 4/27 (HA,JVK).

**Black Rail:** 1 singing in *Stafford*, away from the usual location northwest of Big Salt Marsh 5/17 (JnL,JsL,KVV).

**Virginia Rail:** High Count: 16+ at the Baker Wetlands 5/12 (AP).

**Sandhill Crane:** High Count: 50,000 at Quivira 3/15 (BJ). Easterly: 7 flying over Washburn Rural School 3/8 (JWs), 3 at the Baker Wetlands 4/4 (JWa). Late (after 5/1 only): 1 at Rooks SFL 5/6 (JVK), 27 in *Wichita* 5/8 (SS), 3 at Antelope County Park 5/10 (MR), 24 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/10 (GC), 2 soaring overhead at the 71<sup>st</sup> St. Canoe Launch 5/12 (JN).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Early: 1 at Quivira 4/2 (MR), 1 at the Baker Wetlands 4/10 (MA), and 1 at Melvern L. 4/14 (JM), 2 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 4/21 (KG).

**American Golden-Plover:** Western-most was 1 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/10 (HA,SS).

**Snowy Plover:** Snowy Plover showed up a handful of central Kansas lakes and reservoirs this spring (Table 1).

**Piping Plover:** Reported 4/16 – 5/30 from *Douglas, Norton, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Rooks, Russell, and Stafford*. Highest Counts: 8 at Webster Res. 4/24 (JVK), 11 at Quivira 5/15 (JC), 5+ in *Norton* 5/10 (SS).

**Mountain Plover:** Four reports from *Morton* and *Stanton* 4/8 – 5/11. High Count: 5 near North Fork Cimarron R. 5/11 (*Morton*) (JM).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Easterly: 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area (*Linn*) 4/29 – 5/5 (RR), 8 in *Clay* 5/3 (CW). Northerly: 1 at the Oakley WTP 5/9 (KG,PJ). There are no breeding records from nw. KS, though breeding is occasional in *Chase, Perkins, Phelps, and Adams* Counties in NE per Ross Silcock. High Count: 300+ at Big Salt Marsh 5/2 (MR) grounded during winter storm Achilles.

**American Avocet:** Early: 2 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 3/15 (KG,MR). High Counts: 275 Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 4/21 (KG,PJ), 430 Wilson WA 5/4 (JKi,MA). In comparison, Quivira only produced 128 on 4/16 (BJ).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Early: 1 photographed at the Arkansas R. near Derby 3/11 (JC).

**Willet:** Early: 1 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 4/7 (PJ). Late: 2 at Wilson WA 5/25 (MR). High Count: 110 were grounded at Cheyenne Bottoms 4/23 (RP) during winter storm Zeus.

**Upland Sandpiper:** High Count: 50 in a *Reno* alfalfa field 4/23 (AM,BM,JMi).

**Whimbrel:** Eight reports 4/21 – 5/23 from *Clark, Norton, Reno, Riley, Russell, and Sumner*. High Count: 11 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 5/17 (AM,BM). One photographed at a Fort Riley (*Riley*) Prairie-Chicken lek was surprising 5/23 (JS).

**Long-billed Curlew:** Reports from *Barton, Comanche, Gray, Finney, Hamilton, Hodgeman, Morton, Stafford, and Stevens*. Early: 1 at Horsethief Res. 3/14 (MU). High Count: South of the Arkansas R. 1,460 were in *Finney* and 130 were in *Gray* 4/4 (JC). Elsewhere 40 at the Rolla WTP 4/9 (JC,RW,TE,WE) and 40 along the River Rd. (*Hamilton*) 4/19 (JC,TE).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Westerly: 1 in *Ulysses* 5/8 (SG,KH). High Count: 72 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 4/21 (KG,PJ).

**Marbled Godwit:** East of the Flint Hills where semi-rare, reported 4/20 – 5/12 at five locations in *Douglas*, *Jackson*, and *Osage*. High Counts: 35+ at Milford L. (*Clay*) 4/13 (CO), 39 at Quivira 4/27 (JnL,JsL, KVV), 31 at Wilson WA 5/4 (JKi,MA), and in e. KS 15 at Melvern L. 4/20 (MG,NA).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Reported 5/2-27 from *Douglas*, *Ellsworth*, *Jackson*, *Norton*, *Russell*, *Stafford*, and *Sumner*. High Count: 4 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/12 (MG,NV).

**Least Sandpiper:** Early: 5 at Winfield City L. 3/10 (GY,MT), 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 3/16 (KG,MR,WAS).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Though Cheyenne Bottoms was dry, 270 were grounded 4/23 (RP) during winter storm Zeus.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Early: 2 at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT,GY) with 4 there 3/13 (JC), 2 at Butler SFL 3/13 (JC).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Four reported 5/14-20 from *Douglas*, *Greenwood*, *Rooks*, and *Sumner*. High Count: 35 in *Greenwood* 5/17 (AE).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Reported 5/1-25 from *Douglas*, *Ellsworth*, *Rooks*, *Sheridan*, *Stafford*, *Sumner*, and *Washington*. High Count: 6 at Quivira 5/10 (MG,NA).

**Wilson's Snipe:** High Count: 40 at the Baker Wetlands 4/11 (JKi) grounded during a period of cold, northerly winds.

**American Woodcock:** Westerly: 1 in *Kingman* 3/11 (MP). High Count: 12 at Shawnee SFL 3/27 (JWs).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Early: 2 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 4/7 (PJ). High Count: 1,700 at a cattle yard pond (*Ford*) 5/13 (JC), 1,400+ at Big Salt Marsh 5/20 (MR).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Reported 5/9-25 from *Ellsworth*, *Lane*, *Morton*, *Reno*, *Rooks*, *Stafford*, and *Washington*. Easterly: 2 at the Linn WTP (*Washington*) 5/15 (DT). High Count: 25 at the Dighton WTP 5/22 (SS), 12 at the Wilson WTP 5/9 (MR).

**Laughing Gull:** Alternate plumaged adults: 1 photographed s. of Tuttle Creek Res. 4/30 (AE,ER), 1 at Webster Res. 5/11 (JG,MG,NA,NV).

**Franklin's Gull:** Early: 2 at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT,GY), 3 at Rocky Ford FA 3/11 (BS). High Count: 5,000 at River Pond SP 4/9 (ER) and Kanopolis L. 4/27 (KG), 9,000 at Clinton L. 4/17 (JK) during a strong cold front. While the species is abundant in fall, counts of unusually high during spring.

**Mew Gull:** Adult photographed in "Big Ditch" near Hydraulic St. (*Sedgwick*) 3/12 (JC). KBRC lists 11 records for the species in Kansas (Land 2012).

**California Gull:** 2 alternate adults at Winfield City L. 3/10 (GY,MT).

**Thayer's Gull:** Adult at Clinton L. 3/2 (MA,PH).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 3 (adult, 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle) at Clinton L. 3/2 (MA,PH) with an adult last seen there 4/19 (MA,PH), 1 adult photographed at River Pond SP (*Pottawatomie*) 4/24 (BS), 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/10-12 (mo) with photo.

**Glaucous Gull:** 1 at Clinton L. 3/2-30 (MA,PH); multiple individuals may have been present.

**Least Tern:** Away from *Stafford*, reported 5/11-26 from *Miami*, *Pottawatomie*, and *Wabaunsee*.

**Caspian Tern:** High Count: 8 at Heritage Park (*Johnson*) 5/11 (CY,GYe).

**Black Tern:** High Counts: 300 at Webster Res. 5/16 (JVK), 140 at Big Salt Marsh 5/31 (MR).

**Common Tern:** Reported 5/4-20 from *Clark*, *Norton*, *Osage*, *Phillips*, *Pottawatomie*, and *Rooks*. High Count: 2 at Webster Res. 5/20 (JVK).

**Forster's Tern:** High Counts: 50 at Neosho WA 4/19 (AB), 62 at River Pond SP (*Pottawatomie*) 5/1 (MD), 85 at La Cygne L. 5/5 (NV,RR,WE).

**White-winged Dove:** Four reports from different parts of *Sedgwick*, where previously rare; Nesting confirmed at Gress residence (*Wichita*) 4/14 (BG), with 6 in Valley Center 3/11 (SSo). Easterly: Singles in Muscotah ~3/16 (AS), *Pottawatomie* 4/24 (BMa) and Topeka 5/2 (JH).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Early: 1 photographed at L. Parsons 4/25 (AB). Elsewhere five individuals reported 5/5-23 in *Greenwood*, *Johnson*, and *Wyandotte*.

**Burrowing Owl:** Easterly: Two flushed from probable badger hole at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 5/9 (MH), with mating photographed in following days.

**Short-eared Owl:** Late: 1 at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 5/10 (MH).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 1 at Webster WA 3/1 (JVK).

**Whip-poor-will:** Westerly: 1 singing at Anthony L. (*Harper*) 5/12 (ES).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** Easterly: 1 male at a *Pratt* feeder 4/29 – 5/12 (MR). In *Morton* where expected, 1 male at Middle Spring 5/9 (JM), 1 female type in Elkhart 5/18 (JC).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Early: 1 at *Quivira* 5/5 (BJ), 1 at *Burcham Park* 5/8 (BA).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 7 individuals 5/12-26; Lone birds reported in *Cherokee, Douglas, Jefferson, Johnson, Miami, Neosho, Wyandotte*.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1 at Willow L. near Tuttle Creek Res. 5/14 (BS,GW) was westerly.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Western-most: 1 singing at *Harvey County West Park* 5/25 (EM).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Early: 1 calling at the *Marais des Cygnes WA* 5/4 (CH)

**Least Flycatcher:** High Counts: 21 at *Wyandotte County L.* 5/12 (ER,JKi), 23 in n. *Douglas* 5/12 (MRo), 35 at *Oak Park (Wichita)* 5/8 (KG) which were likely grounded by thunderstorms the night before.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Westerly: 2 at *Arkalon Park* 5/19 (JC) with nest building observed.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** Easterly: 1 heard at *Arkalon Park* 5/19 (JC). One photographed on 170<sup>th</sup> Rd. (btwn 70<sup>th</sup> & 80<sup>th</sup>) in *Stafford* 5/2 (SS); few records away from southwest Kansas. Sighted during winter storm *Achilles* with fallout conditions in central Kansas that day.

**Cassin's Kingbird:** 1 along *Ladder Cr. n. of Marienthal (Wichita)* 4/26 (SS). 1 in *Elkhart* 5/17 (JC) where more expected.

**Eastern Kingbird:** High Counts: 34 on *Kill Cr. at 35<sup>th</sup> St. (Johnson)* 5/4 (JWi).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** High Count: ~35 on *River Rd. btwn Coolidge & Kendall (Hamilton)* 4/21 (JC,TE).

**Northern Shrike:** Late: 1 at Willow L. near Tuttle Creek Res. 3/30 (BS), 1 at Webster Res. (JVK) 3/30 with photo.

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 near the *Arkansas R. (Sedgwick)* 3/30 (JC,WAS), 2 at the 71<sup>st</sup> St. Canoe Launch 4/13 (AW).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Westerly: 1 in *Ness City* 5/10 (NA,MG,JG), 1 in *Elkhart* 5/18 (JC).

**Plumbeous Vireo:** 1 in *Elkhart* 5/3 (DW,TC), 1 at the *Cimarron NG* 5/9 (JM).

**Black-billed Magpie:** 1 seen from *US 50 (Stafford)* 5/5 (DKz,SS).

**Fish Crow:** Extralimital reports from *Butler, Douglas, Geary, Johnson, Morris, Pottawatomie, Riley, and Wyandotte*. The species continues expanding its range in Kansas and this spring the species appeared in numbers never before recorded along the Kansas River drainage. Numbers were down in *Sedgwick* with a maximum of 20 there 4/6 (JC) according to *Jeff Calhoun*. Nest building was observed in *Lawrence* 5/18 (KS).

**Common Raven:** 1 along *Rd. 2 (Morton)*, 1 at the *Turnerville Work Station* 4/20 (both JC,TE,RW,WE). 5+ in active nest (*Morton*) 5/3 (DW,TC). 2 at the *Turnerville Work Station* 5/3 (TC) – 5/9 (JM).

**Purple Martin:** Early: 1 at the *Mallonee residence (Wichita)* 3/14 (DM,LM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Past 5/10 singles in *Douglas, Johnson, Kiowa, Riley, and Sherman* with latest at the *Goodland Cem.* 5/15 (HA).

**Carolina Wren:** Westerly: 1 at *Scott L.* 4/12 (SS).

**Sedge Wren:** Westerly: 1 singing in *Norton* 5/10 (PJ 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** High Count: 40 in the *Marais des Cygnes area* 4/20 (MM), 65 at *Rocky Ford FA* 4/28 (BS,ER,FS,GW).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Late: 1 in *Leoti* 4/26 (SS), 1 at 1<sup>st</sup> territorial capitol (*Geary*) 5/2 (JK).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** High Count: 42 in the *Marais des Cygnes area* 4/24 (MM). Late: 1 at *Salt Cr. (Reno)* 5/24 (AM,BM,JMi).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Easterly: 1 at *Tuttle Creek Res. (Riley)* 3/3 (DR), 1 at the 71<sup>st</sup> St. Canoe Launch 3/30 (KVB). Late: 1 at the *Northwest Ag. Research Center (Colby)* 5/10 (PJ).

**Veery:** 13+ individuals; Reports in *Cherokee, Harper, Johnson, Kiowa, Linn, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wa-baunsee, and Wyandotte*. High Count: 2 at Salt Cr. (Reno) 5/23 (JMi).

**Swainson's Thrush:** High Count: 35 at Quivira 5/13 (AM,BM,MMi). Ted Cable reported fallout of Swainson's Thrushes 5/4 with 30 in the Elkhart shelterbelt alone (DW,TC).

**Wood Thrush:** West-most: 1 at Quivira 5/25 (WE).

**Curve-billed Thrasher:** 2 at the Cimarron NG 4/20 (JC,RW,TE,WE), continuing birds at the Hugoton Cem. with 2 there 4/19 (JC,RW,TE,WE).

**American Pipit:** High Count: 150 at Konza Prairie 4/20 (ER), 150 in Reno 4/22 (AM).

**Cedar Waxwing:** High Count: 3,500 – 4,000 at Southwestern College (Winfield) 3/10 (GY,MT), 550 in *Stafford* 5/5 (DKz,SS).

**Lapland Longspur:** Late Concentration: 75 Cheyenne Bottoms Nature Conservancy Property 4/6 (MA,PH). Late: 1 *Reno* 4/24 (JMi).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** High Count: 200 in *Scott* 3/28 (SS). L: 2 in central *Reno* 4/28 (AM,JMi), 1 in *Scott* 5/21 (SS).

**Smith's Longspur:** High Count: 48 in southwest *Douglas* 4/7 (JKi).

**McCown's Longspur:** 1 male at Cheyenne Bottoms Nature Conservancy property 4/6 with flock of Lapland Longspurs (MA,PH), 1 in *Reno* 4/10 (AM,BM) with photo.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 at Oak Park 4/16 (KVB), 1 in Elkhart 5/3 (DW,TC), 1 in *Cowley* (GY,KG,mo), 1 at the Baker Wetlands 5/6-8 (DWI), 1 at Gardner L. (*Johnson*) 5/7 (RW), 1 at Irish Cr. (AM,JMi), 1 heard singing at Perry L. 5/9 (MR), 1 at Nelson Isl. 5/10 (HAI,CY), 1 at Lone Star L. (*Douglas*) 5/11 (PW).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 at Nelson Isl. 5/5 (MG), 1 at Fort Leavenworth 5/6 (JWd), 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 5/7 (MM), 1 at Wyandotte County L. 5/8-9 (MA), 1 at Hillsdale L. 5/12 (RR).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Unusually numerous this spring. High Counts: 3 at Naismith Valley Park (Lawrence) 5/10 (JKi), 3 in north *Douglas* 5/10 (MRo).

**Tennessee Warbler:** High Count: 17 at Marais des Cygnes WA Unit G 5/8 (JKi).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Late Concentration: 17 at the Baker Wetlands 5/7 (MA), 16 at Naismith Valley Park 5/10 (JKi), 15 at Wyandotte County L. 5/12 (ER,JKi), 24 in north *Douglas* 5/12 (MRo). Late: 1 in *Ellis* 5/23 (GF).

**Nashville Warbler:** High Count: 29 at Wyandotte County L. 5/12 (ER,JKi).

**Northern Parula:** Westerly: 1 at Sheridan WA 4/27 (JVK), 1 in *Kiowa* 5/1 (JnL,JsL,KVV), 1 at Ford SFL 5/2 (JC) with photo, 1 in Ulysses 5/8 (KH,SG), 1 at Quivira 5/25 (WE), 1 at Kingman SFL 5/26 (TE). High Count: 22 at Wyandotte County L. 5/8 (MA).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** High Count: 5 at the Overland Park Arboretum 5/9 (RR,RW).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Westerly: 1 in *Reno* 5/13 (AM). High Count: 3 at the Tuttle Tubes area 5/13 (FS) with photo, 3 in north *Douglas* 5/13 (MRo).

**Cape May Warbler:** 1 male at the Rintoul residence (*Riley*) 5/14 (DR), 1 male at Clinton L. 5/10 (GP,MM). 1 adult male at Wyandotte County L. 5/12 (ER,JKi) with photo; defending feeding territory.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle):** Late Concentrations: 300 in the Marais des Cygnes area 5/4 (CH), 80 at Nelson Isl. (*Johnson*) 5/5 (NV), 65 at Shawnee Mission Park 5/6 (TS), 78 at the Baker Wetlands 5/7 (MA), 55 at Burcham Park 5/9 (MA), 80 at Wyandotte County L. 5/12 (ER,JKi), 31 in northeast *Douglas* 5/12 (MRo). Late: 1 at the Turnerville Work Station 5/18 (JC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's):** Easterly: 1 at Pratt County L. 4/24 (MR), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 5/3 (TS), 1 at Rocky Ford FA 5/1-5 (DR), 1 at Cecil Best Birding Trail (*Riley*) 5/4 (ER).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle x Audubon's):** 1 at the CNG Recreation Area 4/20 (JC,RW,TE,WE), 1 female at Quivira 5/11 (AM,JMi) with photo, 1 in *Riley* 5/8 (ER).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Westerly: 1 at Tunnel Mill Dam (*Cowley*) 4/12 (JD), 1 at Milford L. gathering pond area 4/14 (CO), 1 at River Pond SP 4/21 (DR), 1 at Cecil Best Birding Trail 4/28 – 5/1 (GW). All of these birds were reported singing.



**Townsend's Warbler:** 1 at Buckner Valley Park 4/28 – 5/8 (Hodgeman) with photo, 1 at the Goodland Cem. 5/15 (HA).

**Hooded Warbler:** 1 at the North Fork Cimarron R. 5/11 (JM), 1 at the Turnerville Work Center 5/3 (TC).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** West-most: 1 at the KDWPT Headquarters (Pratt) 5/2 (JnL,JsL, KVV), 1 at Quivira's Migrant's Mile 5/17 (JnL,JsL).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1 in Elkhart 5/8 (JM).

**Wilson's Warbler:** Late: 1 at Quivira 5/31 (JWi).

**Green-tailed Towhee:** 2 at the Turnerville Work Station 5/3 (DW,TC) with 1 there 5/9 (JM), 1 in south-west *Sheridan* 5/10 (SS).

**Eastern Towhee:** Westerly: 1 at Wilson L. 4/24 – 5/4 (DK) with at least two individuals present, 1 at Ford SFL 4/27 (CC), 1 near Ford-Bucklin Rd. (Ford) 4/27 (JC), 1 at the Turnerville Work Center 5/3 (DW,TC), 1 in Stockton 5/4 (JVK), 1 in *Barton* 5/11 (BZ), 1 at Antelope L. 5/10 (MR).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** 1 in *Barber* 4/13 (JC) with photo, 1 singing at Clark SFL 5/20 (JC) with photo and video.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** Easterly: 1 in the southwest corner of *Stafford* 5/5 (DKz,SS).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Excellent concentrations in the central Kansas area: 250 seen over 2 miles in *Ellsworth* 5/3 (MR), 400 along upper Cedar Cr. (*Russell*) 5/3 (MR), 700 in *Stafford* 5/5 (DKz,SS) with 300 in one flock, and 300+ in *Sheridan* 5/10 (SS).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 1 singing at the Medicine Lodge Cem. 5/31 (MT).

**Brewer's Sparrow:** 1 singing at the Turnerville Work Center 5/3 (DW,TC), 2 at the N. Fork Cimarron R. 5/11 (JM), 1 at Oberlin-Sappa SP 5/11 (DL,MR).

**Black-throated Sparrow:** 1 at the Turnerville Work Center 5/3 (DW,TC). KBRC lists 9 records for the state (Land 2012).

**Lark Bunting:** 32 at Quivira 5/11 (NAMC) made a good count that far east. Easterly: 1 northwest of Linn (*Washington*) ~5/16 (DT), 2 (male + female) Mill Ave. s. of Belvue (*Pottawatomie*) 5/20 (BMa), 1 at Ashland Bottoms (*Riley*) 5/28 (JR); the latter is the observer's 2<sup>nd</sup> sighting there in 26 years.

**Baird's Sparrow:** 1 at Cecil Best Birding Trail 4/28 (GW), 2 in *Kiowa* 5/10 (JnL,JsL,KVV) with photo.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** 1 at the Baker Wetlands 5/12 (AP).

**Fox Sparrow:** Late: 1 at Quivira 5/2 (MR).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Late: 1 at Rooks SFL 5/1 (JVK), 1 at Fort Leavenworth uplands 5/5 (DWI), 1 in the Topeka area 5/13 (MPI).

**Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged):** 1 at the Seltman residence (*Pawnee*) 3/12 (SS).

**Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed):** 1 at Quivira 5/11 (AM,BM,JMi,MMi) with photo.

**Summer Tanager:** Westerly sightings: 1 in *Reno* 4/20 (AM,BM,JMi), 1 in Dodge City 5/4 (MU) with photo, another in *Reno* 5/6 (AM,BM), 1 in *Ellis* 5/7 (TM), 1 at the KDWPT Headquarters (MR 2<sup>nd</sup>), 1 at Buffalo Bill Park (Hoxie) 5/10 (PJ), 1 in *Osborne* 5/17 (HA), 1 at Quivira 5/25 (WE). A female photographed in Elkhart 5/4 (DW,TC) resembled the southwestern *P. r. cooperi*.

**Scarlet Tanager:** Westerly: 1 1<sup>st</sup> spr. male in Elkhart 5/17 (JC), with photo, 1 female at the Norton City Park 5/10 (PJ 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Western Tanager:** 1 male in *Leoti* 5/8 (SS) with photo, 1 at the CNG campground 5/9 (JM), 2 in Elkhart 5/18 (JC).

**Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak:** 1 at Rooks SFL 5/9-15 with 2 there 9/22, 1 in *Kiowa* 5/14 (JnL,JsL,KVV).

**Lazuli Bunting:** Reported from 15+ separate location in east KS where a rare/regular: 1 male at Rocky Ford FA 5/1 (BB) with photo, 1 near the *Douglas/Franklin* line 5/2 (BA 2<sup>nd</sup>), 1 at the Green Recreation trails (Pratt) 5/3 (BBa), 1 adult male at Marais des Cygnes WA 5/4 (CH), 1 male Pittman residence (*Leavenworth*) 5/4 (GP), 1 male in northeast *Douglas* 5/5 (MZ,PZ), 1 female in *Shawnee* 5/6-12 (GC), 1 male at Linear Trail

5/6 (BS), 1 male at Atchison SFL 5/7 (MR 2<sup>nd</sup>), a second sighting at Rocky Ford FA 5/7 (DR), 4 males at the KDWPT headquarters (Pratt) 5/10 (MR 2<sup>nd</sup>), 1 male at Burcham Park (*Douglas*) 5/10 (BA), 2 males Brown's Park (Abilene) 5/11 (DH), 1 male at Osage Nature Trail (*Harvey*) 5/12 (CS), 1 male at the Cable residence (*Riley*) 5/12 (TC), 1 male along Bronco Rd. (*Chautauqua*) 5/23 (MR).

**Painted Bunting:** Westerly: Singing male photographed in Elkhart 5/17 with two singing males there 5/19 (both JC).

**Bobolink:** High Count: 75 along Hwy. 73 (*Leavenworth*) 5/11 (DWI). West-most: 7 at Keith Sebellius Res. 5/11 (NV).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Westerly: 1 in *Scott* 4/6 (SS).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** High Counts: 350+ at Kiowa SFL 4/16 (MR), 300 in Dodge City 4/27 (MU).

**Rusty Blackbird:** High Counts: 50 along McDowell Rd. (*Geary*) 3/3 (JnL,JsL), 40 at Kill Creek Park 3/28 (GYe,NV). West-most: "small-group" near/in *Ellis* 3/2 (TM), 1 at Webster Res. 3/7 (JVK). Late: 3 in the Marais des Cygnes area 4/25 (CH,SA), 1 singing male at the Baker Wetlands 4/28 (JKi).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Late: "small flock" in *Sheridan* 5/10 (SS), 1 in *Comanche* 5/20 (JnL,JsL, KVV).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Early: 1 at Heritage Park (*Johnson*) 4/7 (NV).

**Purple Finch:** West-most: 2 in Newton 3/30 (KG).

**Red Crossbill:** 14 at Wilson L. 3/6 (DK), 30 at Southwestern College (Winfield) 3/25 with 22 there 5/21 (both MT) continuing from fall, 4 large-billed individuals at L. Sherwood (*Shawnee*) 4/28 (CMo) with photo, 1 immature male Abilene 5/2 (DH), 2 in *Cherokee* 5/2 (LB) with photo, 4 in Dodge City 5/7 (JC), a report of birds continuing from winter at the Finney residence (Winfield) 5/9 (MT), 3 (2 male, 1 female) 5/25 in *Marion* (LD).

**Red Crossbill (type 3):** 2 males at the Russell Cem. 5/4 (MA,JKi) with photo and recording, probable type 3 flyover in Wilson (*Ellsworth*) 5/3 (MR).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 at the Seltman residence (*Pawnee*) 3/6 (SS), 1 female at Allen's feeder (Prairie Village) 5/8 (NA).

**Common Redpoll:** 1 in Westwood (*Johnson*) 3/27 (MK), 1 continuing from winter at Pittman residence (*Leavenworth*) 3/14 (GP), and up to 9 individuals at 159<sup>th</sup> St. & Claire Rd. (*Johnson*) 3/2-3 (JWi).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 at the Hansen residence (*Shawnee*) 3/8 (JH) with photo, 1 in Newton 3/30 (KG) continuing from winter, 1 male at a Winfield feeder 5/10 (MT 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Other Information:** County names are italicized. Observer(s) listed are the first to report a bird, or the last to report a bird in the case of late records. All sightings included in this report were obtained from the KSBIRDS-L listserv or eBird.org.

**Some Abbreviations:** Second hand (2<sup>nd</sup>), cemetery (Cem.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), fishing area (FA), island (Isl.), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), lake (L.), North American Migration Count (NAMC), reservoir (Res.), river (R.), state fishing lake (SFL), state park (SP), wildlife area (WA), sewage pond/water treatment plant (WTP)

**Observers:** Andrew Burnett (AB), Amy Erikson (AE), Andrew Miller (AM), Ashley Meagher (AMe), Alexi Powell (AP), Al Schirmacher (AS), Art Wiegand (AW), Bob Antonio (BA), Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Brett Budach (BB), Brian Bartels (BBa), Bob Gress (BG), Bill Hill (BH), Barry Jones (BJ), Bryant Miller (BM), Brandon Magette (BMa), Billie McDavitt (BMc), Brett Sandercock (BS), Brian Zinke (BZ), Cameron Carver (CC), Chris Hobbs (CH), Cheryl Miller (CM), Carol Morgan (CMo), Chuck Otte (CO), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Chris Taylor (CT), Caleb Thyer (CTh), Calvin Wohler (CW), Craig Yerby (CY), David Haight (DH), Dan Larson (DL), Don Mallonee (DM), Dave Klema (DK), Don Kazamaier (DKz), Dave Rintoul (DR), Dan Thalman (DT), Dave Wiggins (DW), Dave Williams (DWI), Ethan Maynard (EM), Erik Maatta (EMt), Ed-



ward Raynor (ER), Eddie Stegall (ES), Frank Stetler (FS), Glenn Caspers (GC), Gregg Farley (GF), Galen Pittman (GP), Ginger Winder (GW), Gene Young (GY), Greyson Yerby (GYe), Henry Armknecht (HA), Houston Alexander (HA), Hannah Tetreault (HT), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Jane Doris (JD), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jeff Keating (JK), Jon King (JKi), Jack Landes (JL), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Jim Malcom (JM), Joseph Miller (JMi), John Northrup (JN), Jeff Olsen (JOI), John Row (JR), Joanna Sblendorio (JS), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Jim Walton (JWa), Jimmy Woodard (JWd), Jeff Witters (JWi), Janeen Walters (JWs), Kat Farres (KF), Kevin Groeneweg (KG), Kellye Hart (KH), Kim Sain (KS), Kurt Van Boening (KVB), Kevin Van de Vusse (KVV), Lawana Binns (LB), Lloyd Davies (LD), Linda Mallonee (LM), Michael Andersen (MA), Michael Dreibelbis (MD), Matt Gearheart (MG), Mark Herse (MH), Mark Land (ML), Mick McHugh (MM), Myron Miller (MMi), multiple observers (mo), Michael Pearce (MP), Mary Plinsky (MPI), Mike Rader (MR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Max Thompson (MT), Mike Umscheid (MU), Molly Zahn (MZ), Nic Allen (NA), Nick Varvel (NV), Paul Griffin (PG), Pete Hosner (PH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Peter Zahn (PZ), Robert Penner (RP), Robert Reed (RR), Rodney Wright (RW), Steve Addinall (SA), Stan Chapman (SC), Sam Guy (SG), Stephanie Prevost (SP), Scott Seltman (SS), Steve Sorenson (SSo), Tim Barksdale (TB), Ted Cable (TC), Tom Ewert (TE), Terry Mannell (TM), Tom McDavitt (TMc), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Wayne Elder (WE).

Table 1. Snowy Plover Sightings: Mar. - May 2013

| Site            | County   | Dates       | Peak Count | Peak Date   | Observer(s)  |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Clark SFL       | Clark    | 4/14 - 4/22 | 1          | 4/14 - 4/22 | JC,GP        |
| Dodge City WTP  | Ford     | 4/27        | 1          | 4/27        | JC           |
| Horsethief Res. | Hodgeman | 4/28        | 1          | 4/28        | JC           |
| ?               | Norton   | 5/10        | 10+        | 5/10        | SS           |
| Cheney Res.     | Reno     | 4/7 - 4/21  | 6          | 4/7         | JC,KG,PJ     |
| Crampton pond   | Reno     | 3/28 - 3/29 | 1          | 3/28, 3/29  | AM,BM        |
| Webster Res.    | Rooks    | 5/18 - 5/30 | 6          | 5/30        | JVK          |
| Wilson WA       | Russell  | 4/29 - 5/25 | 6          | 5/4         | MA,JKi,DK,MR |
| Quivira NWR     | Stafford | 3/28 - 5/20 | 50+        | 3/30, 5/13  | mo           |

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**Correction:** In the August – November 2012 seasonal summary I stated that Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived earlier than usual at the Shane Residence (*Finney*) when the species actually arrived later than usual. Thanks to Tom Shane for pointing that out.

# Kansas Summer season roundup

Jon King, compiler

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## Summary

Drought conditions continued this summer with severe drought in the west while milder drought in the east. Temperatures were generally above average in the west though temperatures in northeast Kansas were generally cooler than average. Dry conditions resulted in parched wetlands and receding shorelines along many reservoirs. Marsh bird numbers remained low at many locales and species such as American Bittern and Common Gallinule were not reported during the period. Shorebird habitat was excellent at many drying reservoirs though shorebird numbers were not impressive anywhere, not even at Quivira. Cheyenne Bottoms remained dry throughout the period.

Low water at Cheney Reservoir enabled Snowy Plovers to breed away from traditional *Barton* and *Stafford* locations this summer. Perhaps responding to dry conditions, Cassin's Sparrows made a modest incursion into central Kansas, and Lark Buntings moved into Kansas in numbers. Following the 2012-13 winter finch invasion, small numbers of Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin remained early in the period. Rarities included a Brown Pelican at Quivira, a Cave Swallow at the Dighton sewage ponds, and a Western Wood-Pewee in Edwards County.

## Species Accounts

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Out-of-season: 1 in *Ellsworth* 6/6-7 (DK).

**Snow Goose:** Out-of-season: 2 at the Dodge City WTP 7/22 with 3 there 7/24 (JC), 1 at the Kinsley WTP 6/15 (JC,KG).

**Mottled Duck:** 1 at Big Salt Marsh 6/15 (NG,JKi,JnL,JsL) with 2 there 7/15 (JnL,JsL). These are the first sightings since 2011; the species was not reported in Kansas during the extreme drought of 2012. A distant, dark-bodied, Mallard-like duck was at Webster Res. 6/7 (JVK).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Late concentration: 200 at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 6/2 (PJ)

**Cinnamon Teal:** Drake at Quivira 6/2 (BJ) with 2 drakes there 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG), 1 at the Elkhart WTP 6/8 (GP).

**Northern Shoveler:** Drake and hen at Rocky Ford FA 6/2 (BS), 1 at the Pomona WTP (*Franklin*) 6/4 (NV). Rare during summer in east Kansas.

**Green-winged Teal:** 1 at the Baker Wetlands 7/17 – 8/25 (NG,JKi). Rare during summer in east Kansas.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Out-of-season: 1 at Rooks SFL 6/6 (JVK), 1 at Quivira 6/7 (EM), 1 at the Alma WTP 6/8 (NV,BAS), 1 at Hillsdale L. 7/28 (NV), adult male at the Johnson County WTP 6/7 – 7/7 (JC,MG).

**Greater Scaup:** Out-of-season: 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 6/1 (MG,NV), 2 females at Quivira 6/2 (BJ).

**Lesser Scaup:** Out-of-season: 3 at the Baker Wetlands 6/2-7 (RB,DL), 2 at Rooks SFL 6/2-30 (JVK), ~12 at Quivira 6/2 (BJ) with 8 there 6/20 (EM), 2 at the Johnson Co. WTP 6/7 (JC,MG) with an adult male continuing to 7/7 (MG), 1 at Kingman SFL 6/15 (JMi), 1 at the Liberal WTP 6/25 (JC), 1 at the Dighton WTP 7/7 (JC,KG), 1 drake at the Cimarron WTP 7/19 (JC).

**Common Goldeneye:** Out-of-season: 1 at Wilson L. 6/4 (DK).

**Common Merganser:** Out-of-season: 1 at Rocky Ford FA lingering to 6/15 (LM) and continuing from early May, 1 at Milford L. (*Geary*) 6/22 (CO,DB,m.o.).

**Hooded Merganser:** 1 in Sedgwick 6/4 (JC), 1 at Shawnee SFL 6/8 (GC,CM,TAS), 1 at Coldwater L. 6/9 (PJ), 3 at Rooks SFL 6/10 (JVK), 1 at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 6/23 (JM), 1 in Meade 6/30 (NG). Unseasonal during summer away from the eastern edge of Kansas.

**Common Loon:** Out-of-season: 5 at Milford L. (Geary) 6/22 (DB,CO,m.o.), 1 at Melvern L. 6/23 (HH) with photo, 3 at the Jeffrey Energy Center 7/7 (DG,DH,DL,BM).

**Western Grebe:** 1 was in Stevens 6/2 (KH,SG).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** 1 in the Marais des Cygnes area 6/20 (MM), adult at Little Salt Marsh 7/19 (MR).

**American White Pelican:** Late concentrations: 201 at Tuttle Creek Res. 6/1 (DB), 530 at Cheney Res. (Reno) 6/2 (PJ).

**Brown Pelican:** Single bird at Little Salt Marsh 5/21 (BJ); photos. KBRC has accepted 16 records thus far (Land 2012).

**Least Bittern:** 1 at the Baker Wetlands 6/2 (JKi), 1 at Lewis Young Park (Miami) 6/10 (NV). These were the only reports.

**Glossy Ibis:** 1 at Rooks SFL 6/2 (JVK), 1 at Big Salt Marsh 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG).

**White-faced Ibis:** 325 at Big Salt Marsh 7/23 (MR) was the highest count this season.

**Osprey:** 1 at Webster Res. 7/22 (JVK) was early.

**Mississippi Kite:** 1 in southern Rooks 6/8 (JVK), another at the Baker Wetlands 6/8 (JSb,MD,TA). This species is still rare in Rooks according to Jon Van de Kopple, and is a rare/regular overshoot in Douglas. **Bald Eagle:** Breeding confirmed at Arkalon Park with single adult and three fledglings sighted 6/25 (JC); photos.

**Northern Harrier:** 1 on the Severance BBS (Atchison or Doniphan) 6/1 (JS). Rare during summer in northeast Kansas.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1 at Fort Riley's Wildcat Tributary 6/10 (JK), adult near McDowell Cr. (Riley) 7/2 (ER). Only additional reports were five Johnson records.

**Swainson's Hawk:** Easterly: 1 near Gardner (Johnson) 7/31 (TA).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** Easterly: 1 immature at Rocky Ford 6/1 (BS).

**Golden Eagle:** 1 in Kearney 6/26 (NG).

**Black Rail:** 2 at Quivira's Richardson Tract as usual 6/9 (ER), 1 singing and another growling from a different Stafford location that is near Quivira 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG).

**King Rail:** 1 at Big Salt Marsh 7/3 (MR) was the only reported.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Highest Count: 169 on the Quivira shorebird survey 7/16 (BJ).

**American Avocet:** Highest Count: 475 on the Quivira shorebird survey 7/16 (BJ).

**American Golden-Plover:** Late: 1 in Saline 6/4 (KF) with photo.

**Black-bellied Plover:** Presumably early: 1 at Webster Res. 7/22 (JVK).

**Piping Plover:** Several over-summering at Webster Res. 6/8 – 8/14 (JVK) with photos; highest count there was 4 on 7/14. 1 female performing distraction display 7/29.

**Snowy Plover:** Snowy Plovers showed up at several central Kansas reservoirs during the spring of 2013 where exposed shoreline was abundant and water levels remained low. Some of these plovers remained in summer and bred. Snowy Plovers were present throughout the period at Webster Res. with a maximum of 5 adults and 2 juveniles 7/22 (JVK); it was unclear whether or not the young could fly. At Cheney Res. a maximum of 12 were present with a nest holding three eggs and an additional egg 6/30 (KG,PJ,WAS). Elsewhere, 1 was at Slate Creek Wetlands 7/1 (GY,MT), and the highest count was 109 on the Quivira shorebird survey 7/16 (BJ).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Out-of-season: 1 in Seward 6/2 (KH,SG), 2 at Big Salt Marsh 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Out-of-season: 2 at the Baker Wetlands 6/2-8 (JKi), 4 at Webster Res. 6/8 (JVK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Out-of-season: One with injured leg at Big Salt Marsh 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 3 at Webster Res. 6/17 (JVK), 37 on the Quivira shorebird survey 7/16 (BJ).

**Western Sandpiper:** Out-of-season: 1 with an injured leg at a cattle yard in Ford 6/15 (JC).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Out-of-season: 3 at Big Salt Marsh 6/15 (JKi,JnL,JsL,NG), 1 at Clark SFL 6/16 (JC,KG).

**Least Tern:** Sightings away from Quivira or the Sedgwick area: 1 at the Baker Wetlands 6/7 (DL,RB), 1 at Tuttle Creek Res. 6/7 (JR), 1 at Webster Res. 6/7 (JVK), 7 at Jeffrey Energy Center 7/17 (CM).

**Caspian Tern:** Out-of-season: 1 at Cheney Res. (Reno) 6/30 (KG,PJ,WAS).

**Black Tern:** Unusually large numbers present in early June; higher counts included 275 at Big Salt Marsh 6/8 (ER) and 100 at Webster Res. 6/7 (JVK). Similarly late concentrations were present in northwest Missouri according to Mark Robbins.

**Inca Dove:** 1 singing at Meade SP 6/18 (NG).

**White-winged Dove:** Away from well-established populations sightings included 1 at Fort Riley 6/2 (MD), 1 in Muscotah 6/11 (AS), 1 in El Dorado 6/25 (AN), 1 at Mission L. (Brown) 7/2 (AS), 3 in Jackson 7/5 (AS), 1 in Clay Center 7/20 (CW), and 1 in Olathe 7/29 (MC).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Reports at 8 locales in Clark, Harvey, Lyon, Reno, and Riley. West-most: 1 on the Ashland BBS (Clark) 6/7 (GP).

**Greater Roadrunner:** 1 photographed at Cimarron R. near the Colorado border 7/16 (JC).

**Burrowing Owl:** Two adults that were photographed mating at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve the preceding spring had a three week chick ~7/15 (MH). This was only the second recent breeding record from the Flint Hills; in 2006 the species bred in Geary per Chuck Otte.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Westerly: 1 on the Kanopolis BBS 6/12 (MR) which is new for this route per Mike Rader.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Minimum of 4 individuals appeared; sightings in Cowley, Ellis, and Ford. The earliest was an adult male in Sumner 7/21 (MT 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Calliope Hummingbird:** Adult male at the Beaver Creek Ranch (Rawlins) ~7/26 (AH), 1 male in Hays 7/28 (EF), 2 individuals in Larned 7/28 including an adult female (DKz).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Latest migrant: 1 at the Baker Wetlands 6/1 (BA,BSt).

**Western Wood-Pewee:** 1 calling near the Kinsley River Rd. ~ 1 mile east of Hwy 83 (Edwards) 6/15 (JC,KG); audio recording. Kansas' all-time eastern-most record per Max Thompson.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Breeding continues at Echo Cliff Park; minimum of 2 present with sightings 6/22 – 7/11 (m.o.). 1 at Fort Riley 6/11 (JK) was westerly.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Latest migrants: 4 at the Baker Wetlands 6/1 (BA,BSt,JKi), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 6/1 (MM).

**Willow Flycatcher:** 1 on territory at the Baker Wetlands 6/1 (BA,BSt) where last seen 6/8 (CF,JC,JKi,MG), 1 singing in central Reno 6/6 (JMi), 1 on the Trading Post BBS (Linn) 6/15 (MG), 8-10 at Benedictine Bottoms (Atchison) 7/31 (AS) with many vocalizing.

**Least Flycatcher:** Late migrants: 1 at the Baker Wetlands 6/1 (BA,BSt), 1 singing at NESA (Jefferson) 6/4 (JKi). First of fall: 1 in the Elkhart shelterbelt 7/20 (JC), another in west Lawrence 7/20 (JKi) arriving with a strong cold front.

**Say's Phoebe:** Easterly: 1 at Jeep Rd. & I-70 (Dickinson) 7/17 (NA).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Especially numerous on the Gray BBS 6/3 (SS) with 25 recorded.

**White-eyed Vireo:** West-most: 1 along the Arkansas R. near Derby (Sedgwick) 7/14 (JC).

**Bell's Vireo:** Highest Count: 25+ Benedictine Bottoms 7/31 (AS).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** In west Kansas, reported in Clark, Ellis, Graham, Kiowa, Osborne, Pratt, Rooks, Rush, Scott, and Stafford. High counts there were 6 at Lemon Park 6/18 (JC) and 4 at Big Cr. (Hays) 7/3-18 (TM).

**Chihuahuan Raven:** 1 near the Cimarron R. in Seward 6/25 (JC).

**Purple Martin:** 5,000+ attending the Via Christi roost in Wichita 7/21 (KG).

**Cliff Swallow:** Post-breeding groups with 1,000+ at Slate Creek Wetlands 7/1 (MT,GY), 5,000+ at Big Salt Marsh 7/3 (MR).

**Cave Swallow:** 1 at the Dighton WTP 7/7 (JC,KG); photographed. KBRC has accepted 7 records thus far, though many reports have not been submitted to KBRC.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Westerly: 1 at Meade SP 6/25 (NG).

**Carolina Wren:** Westerly: 1 at Scott SP 7/7 (JC,KG).

**Wood Thrush:** West-most: 1 singing near the Republican R. (*Republic*) 7/6 (PW).

**Curve-billed Thrasher:** Continuing at the Hugoton Cem. with 2 reported 6/2 (KH,SG).

**Ovenbird:** Westerly: 1 at Fort Riley 6/11 (JK).

**Black-and-White Warbler:** West-most: 1 singing in Derby 7/4-14 (JC).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Westerly: 1 singing in Belvidere (*Kiowa*) 6/12 (JnL,JsL).

**Northern Parula:** Westerly: 1 singing at Lemon Park (Pratt) 6/18 (JC); audio recording.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Late: 1 singing in east Lawrence 6/7 (MZ,PZ).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Late: Singing male in central (*Reno*) 6/5 (JMi), male at Shawnee SFL 6/30 (HA).

**Eastern Towhee:** 1 singing at Belvidere (*Kiowa*) 6/22 (BS,JnL,JsL).

**Spotted x Eastern Towhee:** Hybrid male and probable hybrid female at Rooks SFL with three juveniles 7/29 (JVK); photos.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** 1 at Clark SFL 6/16 (JC,KG); continuing from May.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** Cassin's Sparrows made a modest incursion into central Kansas this summer. Sightings east of the species typical range included a minimum of 3 individuals at Quivira between 6/9-15 (BJ,JKi,JnL,JsL,NG), a "couple" at Cheyenne Bottoms 6/10 (RP), and 1 on the Kanopolis BBS 6/12 (MR). The species was not reported east of the typical range in July.

**Chipping Sparrow:** This species is now expected in central Kansas and was reported in *Barber, Ellis, Ellsworth, Osborne,* and *Rooks* this summer. High count in central Kansas: 22 at the KSU Ag. Research Center (Hays) 7/20 (MR) including a streaked juvenile.

**Lark Bunting:** Lark Buntings made a significant incursion into Kansas this summer. Higher counts included 17 in west *Osborne* 6/4 (JVK), 22 in *Rooks* 6/8 (JVK), 27 on the Grigston BBS (*Finney/Scott*) 6/9 (JC), 75 in *Pawnee* 7/2 (JVK), and 81 on the Rexford BBS (*Sheridan*) 6/8 (DHk). 20 recorded on 6 Hays BBS stops 6/8, was Elmer Fink's highest count there in 20 years; 2-3 birds is typical on this route. Easterly: 1 near Kenbro (*Greenwood*) continuing from spring 6/3 (AE), 1 in *Riley* 6/30 (JR).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Westerly: 3 on the Kanopolis BBS 6/12 (MR).

**Summer Tanager:** West-most: A territorial male at Harvey County West Park 6/1-14 (PJ); Pete Janzen says this is representative of the continued westward expansion of the species breeding range along south-central Kansas drainages.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Westerly: Immature male at Salt Cr. (*Reno*) 7/3 (JMi), singing adult male in southern *Kiowa* 6/15 (JnL,JsL).

**Lazuli x Indigo Bunting:** Male paired with female Indigo Bunting in central *Reno* 6/1-4 (JMi); photos of male and egg. Nest placed in Osage Orange ~3 ft. above ground, containing single egg.

**Painted Bunting:** Active range expansion in Kansas. Adult male singing in Elkhart 7/20 (JC); Elkhart hosted two singing males during May 2013 and an adult male was singing at Middle Spring in June 2012. Observers should watch for breeding in *Morton* and other southwest Kansas counties. The species continues at Quivira with two males on territory this season (BJ), up to seven were noted along the Arkansas R. near Derby 6/4 (JC). 1 at Wilson SP 6/7 (DK).

**Bobolink:** 1 on the Severance BBS (*Atchison or Doniphan*) 6/1 (JS), 1 in west *Atchison* 6/25 (JH), 2 at Sac and Fox Wetland (*Brown*) 6/19 and 7/2 (DM).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 2 at Sac and Fox Wetland (*Brown*) 7/2 (DM). Seldom reported in northeast Kansas during summer, though the species breeds nearby at Squaw Creek NWR.

**Red Crossbill:** 5 large-billed individuals visiting the Seltman feeders (*Pawnee*) 6/3 (SS), report of a flyover (1 individual) in central *Reno* 6/4 (JMi), adult male at Meade City Park 6/15 (JC,KG).

**Pine Siskin:** Following a strong flight during the 2012-13 fall/winter seasons, small numbers of siskins lingered early in the summer period. Sightings: 1 in Shawnee 6/1 (JP,JMc) with photos, 1 at the Gearheart resi-



dence (Shawnee) 6/1 with another there 7/6 (JG, MG), 1 in northeast *Leavenworth* 6/9 (JB), 1 in Edwards 6/15 (JC, KG). Siskins at a feeder in west *Johnson* 6/1-16 included a maximum of 11 there 6/4 (DBa).

Abbreviations: second-hand (2<sup>nd</sup>), breeding bird survey (BBS), cemetery (Cem.), creek (Cr.), highway (Hwy.) fishing area (FA), Kansas bird records committee (KBRC), lake (L.), national wildlife refuge (NWR), road (Rd.), reservoir (Res.), state fishing lake (SFL), state park (SP), sewage pond or water treatment plant (WTP),

Other Information: County names are italicized. Observer(s) listed are the first to report a bird, or the last to report a bird in the case of late records. All sightings included in this report were obtained from the KSBIRDS-L listserv or eBird.org.

Observers: Amy Erickson (AE), Alison Hill (AH), Atcha Nolan (AN), Al Schirmacher (AS), Bob Antonio (BA), Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Barry Jones (BJ), Brandon Magette (BM), Brett Sandercock (BS), Bill Staples (BSt), Chris Fagyal (CF), Carol Morgan (CM), Chuck Otte (CO), Calvin Wohler (CW), Doris Burnett (DB), Dawn Bayless (DBa), Dan Gish (DG), Dan Hoobler (DH), Dave Hawksworth (DHk), Dave Klema (DK), Don Kazamaier (DKz), Don Merz (DM), Dan Larson (DL), Elmer Fink (EF), Ethan Maynard (EM), Ed Raynor (ER), Glenn Caspers (GC), Galen Pittman (GP), Gene Young (GY), Henry Armknecht (HA), Hugh Huggins (HH), John Bollin (JB), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jeff Keating (JK), Jon King (JKi), Jim Malcom (JM), John McConnell (JMc), Joseph Miller (JMi), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joanne Parker (JP), John Row (JR), John Schukman (JS), Joanna Sblendorio (JSb), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Kat Fares (KF), Kevin Groeneweg (KG), Kellye Hart (KH), Lynette Muller (LM), Mark Corder (MC), Michael Dreibelbis (MD), Matt Gearheart (MG), Mark Herse (MH), multiple observers (m.o.), Mick McHugh (MM), Mike Rader (MR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Max Thompson (MT), Molly Zahn (MZ), Nic Allen (NA), Neil Gilbert (NG), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Janzen (PJ), Peter Zahn (PZ), Phil Wedge (PW), Roger Boyd (RB), Robert Penner (RP), Sam Guy (SG), Scott Seltman (SS), Tony Andresen (TA), Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Terry Mannell (TM), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS)

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# Avian Conservationist of the Year

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**FORT HAYS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

*Forward thinking. World ready.*

Award Committee  
Avian Conservationist of the Year  
Kansas Ornithological Society

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dear Fellow Members,

13 June 2013

I am honored to nominate Dr. Elmer Finck, Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences at Fort Hays State University, for this prestigious award. During his 35 years working as a biologist in Kansas, Elmer has made - and continues to make - impressive contributions in the areas of basic and applied research, publication, professional editing and leadership, and undergraduate and graduate student education in his areas of expertise. The following highlights reflect aspects of his career at Kansas State University as a graduate student and postdoctoral researcher, Emporia State as a faculty member, and Fort Hays State as department chair.

Elmer has conducted extensive research in ornithology and wildlife biology in the state, specifically studies on grassland birds, mammals and other aspects of prairie ecology. He has published in a wide variety of respected professional journals, providing novel contributions to our understanding of an ecosystem central to the Kansas ethos. A closer look at his professional history reveals a classically trained ecologist; his academic background includes degrees in mathematics, plant ecology and avian ecology. The majority of contemporary university biologists usually have a far more limited range of academic experiences, and, one could argue, a proportionately limited perspective. Among Elmer's strengths is an ability to see the importance of within species details and small-scale interactions, while simultaneously understanding how seemingly minute pieces connect to produce systems-level phenomena.

His time in Kansas started with novel work on behavioral adaptations of prairie-nesting and oldfield nesting Dickcissels, under the guidance of John Zimmerman, and published in the *Wilson Bulletin* and our own *Bulletin*. After a successful introduction to Konza Prairie, Elmer stayed at K-State as the scientist overseeing vertebrate data collection for the Long Term Ecosystem Research program. In addition to investigating the effects of fire and abiotic changes on birds and mammals, he took additional time to mentor the next generation of prairie researchers in that program.

While in his formal academic positions at two state universities, he advised over 35 masters' theses, and is currently the major professor for 10 additional graduate students. Not only is this an impressively large number given the effort involved with successful advising, the

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

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**1963**

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--

## ATTENDED A. B. A. CONVENTION

**1973**

Dr. and Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Baldwin City, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pressgrove, Osawatomie, attended the American Birding Association meeting at Kenmare, North Dakota June 14-17, 1973.

This was the first annual convention of this four-year-old organization which has as its purpose the enjoyment of bird study and scientific research. Many prominent ornithologists were in attendance and on the program. Roger T. Peterson was the banquet speaker and Chandler Robbins showed his film "Hawaiian Seabirds" one evening.

Scheduled during the four day period were field tours of the Des Lacs and Lostwood National Wildlife Refuges and a trip to the north unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These day-long trips by bus caravan included nesting areas of birds, many of which are seen in Kansas only during migration and others were special species of that area. Species included: western grebe, tree swallow, species of ducks, sharp-tailed grouse, Baird, LeConte's and sharp-tailed sparrows, McCown's and Chestnut collared longspur, Hungarian partridge, short and long-billed marsh Wrens and others.

**1973**

## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Kansas was represented six times in the "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals" for the United States for the last Christmas bird count, according to the April 1973 issue of "American Birds."

Manhattan made the list with 534 Bob-white and 4042 Tree Sparrows, Great Bend with 945 Harris Sparrows, Hays with six Ferruginous Hawks and 5868 Lapland Longspurs, and Dodge City with 320 Smith's Longspurs.

In the "Summary of All-time Highest Counts" Baldwin was listed with eight Harlan's hawks in 1959 (a four-way tie), Hays with 17 Prairie Falcons in 1959, Udall with 2190 Harris Sparrows in 1968, Great Bend with 27,332 Lapland Longspurs in 1971, and Quivera with 3,000 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in 1961.

1973 Fall Field Trip Held at Cheyenne Bottoms September 22-23.

The 1973 fall field trip of K.O.S. on September 22 and 23 at Cheyenne Bottoms set a new record with 136 species reported. Previous high had been 133, also at Cheyenne in 1970.

Four species were reported for the first time on a field trip. They were Piping Plover, Say's Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, and Baird's Sparrow.

One hundred fifteen persons signed the attendance register.

As the accumulation of our nesting data has greatly increased over the past several years (we now have some 200,000 nest-record cards on file) we have been frequently asked if we could supply nesting records for certain areas, particularly for wildlife refuges and states. We are now able to supply breeding data for geographical areas on a limited basis. Our current procedure is that all cards for species for which we have more than 1000 records are continually updated and stored on magnetic tapes. A list of these species is given below. We are now in a position to answer requests for data on these major species for particular areas at a fixed cost for the computer time, and an additional charge for the number of lines printed and on the number of cards punched. The computer time is independent of the number of records printed, although it decreases with the number of species searched. The charge for the print-out is directly related to the number of records. Recently, we supplied all the Michigan records of these major species to a researcher for a cost of \$26.00. This amount was roughly divided equally between computer time and print-out, a total of some 3,500 records.

Other species, with less than a thousand records, are edited but not punched until a need for analysis arrives. One reason for this is that it is relatively more expensive to punch and store information for many small species than for a few large species. Second, it is possible to get information on small numbers of species to the researcher at reasonable speed either by punching the data, or when the species has less than 100 records, by xeroxing.

We can supply duplicate computer decks with accompanying lists of codes to any individual wanting his own records if you will notify us when sending in your completed nest-record cards before they are filed in the whole data bank.

# 1983

## T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The business manager still has T-shirts in small, medium and large. A new order just went to the printer so we should have xtra large around September 1. We will be selling them at the KOS meeting at Emporia. If you want one by mail, send \$5 plus \$1 postage to Max C. Thompson, 1704 E. 9th, Winfield, KS 67156.



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

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## 1983

### KOS Member Biographies

In the April 1982 issue of the KOS Newsletter 9(2):8, Dr. Ely requested short biographies of KOS members. Presented below is the first of what I hope will be many biographies of KOS members. Let us get to know one another.

Elmer J. Finck

### A Birder's Profile

My interest in nature began with Boy Scouts; camping, nature walks, hiking, and merit badge studies. I became an Eagle Scout in 1965. This interest in nature led to a B.S. in Biology from Missouri Western State College in 1973. I started work on a Masters in Zoology at Northwest Missouri State College in Maryville but finances forced an end to my continuing education.

In 1975 my wife was expecting our first child. Also I had a job unrelated to biology. I felt a need to get back to nature not only for myself, but to be able to answer my child's questions. It was then that I noticed a couple of birds in my back yard that I had never noticed before. I bought the field guide to Birds of North America by Golden Press and identified my first two lifers; a Downy Woodpecker and a Mockingbird. I joined the Audubon Society and went on a field trip with the Burrough's group from Kansas City. When we found 70 some species I was hooked body and soul.

My first year was both exciting and frustrating. Bird identification was not easy and I made my share of mistakes. With work, practice and 8 years experience (it only took four to get my B.S.) I feel I have become a pretty good birder. I have taken birding trips to Texas, Arizona, Colorado (4 times), Minnesota (3 times), not to mention all my local trips to places like Quivira N.W.R. and Cheyenne Bottoms, Marais des Cygnes, Van Meter, John Redmond, Schell Osage, Squaw Creek and many others many times. According to the New A.B.A. Checklist my Life List now stands at 408 and one of my main goals in life is to someday be in the 700 Club of birders.

I am a Life Member of the National Wildlife Federation, also a regular member of National Audubon, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and the American Birding Association. I am a local member of Burrough's Nature Club, Baldwin Bird Club, The Denver Field Ornithologists, Huachuca (Arizona), Audubon Society, and the K.O.S. I also subscribe to American Birds. My love of nature in general and birds in particular should be obvious. I am also Compiler for the Olathe Christmas Count. Keep your eyes open if you're birding any of the hot spots in Kansas and you'll probably see me some day. I'll be more than happy to share notes and talk about birds.

Good Birding,

Steve Crawford

# 1993

## Thank You, Dave Rintoul

As many of you are probably aware by now, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission decided in a 6-1 vote at their August 11 Commission meeting to have a Sandhill Crane season in Kansas this year. The season will run from November 6 through January 2 and will be limited to an area in south central/southwest Kansas that just happens to include Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira NWR.

What many of you may not know is that Dave Rintoul spent a lot of time and effort trying to convince the KDWP Commission that we don't need a Sandhill Crane season in Kansas. Although we weren't able to stop the proposal from becoming reality, we want to thank Dave for all the time and energy he spent on the effort and to encourage him and all of you to keep fighting for the rights of wildlife in Kansas!

## DO YOU ENJOY THE HOTLINE?

There's no doubt that a lot of us use the KOS Rare Bird Alert on a fairly regular basis. That's what makes it work! We go birding, we call in our good birds, Scott posts them on the Hotline, and we all go back out looking for more good birds, or the birds that someone else has seen.

But just like everything else it costs to keep this service going. There's phone line charges, plus the expense of keeping the occasionally temperamental answering machines answering and talking. So far donations to the Hotline Fund have been able to cover most of the costs associated with the Hotline. Oh, you didn't know there was a Hotline Fund? Well, it may not be called exactly that, but I'm an editor not a treasurer.

Anyway, if you are one of those who use it on a regular basis (like I do) then why not help support it. Go ahead and post reports about good birds you've seen while birding. More than likely not everything you post will make it onto the report, but it helps us know what's going on around the state. Secondly, show how much you appreciate the Hotline and pull out your checkbook and send a donation marked **KOS Hotline to: Rose Fritz, KOS Treasurer, 1816 Cypress Lane, Newton, KS 67114.**

By the way we're not the only state that has a Rare Bird Alert. In fact there are many Hotlines around the country. If you are interested in a particular location and what hotlines are available give me a call or drop me a line and I'll let you know what's available in that area.

**DON'T FORGET TO CALL THE KOS RARE BIRD ALERT!**

**You Saw A What?!!!!!!!!**

**913/372-5499**

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

## Technology and Birding

by Chuck Otte

# 1993

This interest of ours, birdwatching, is a fairly young one as activities go. Prior to Roger Tory Peterson's first field guide in the 1930's there were very few true "birdwatchers." In fact, a great deal of the "birding" was done with a dead bird in hand. With the advent of better optics and the first really useful field guide, this has really changed.

The past 50 years has shown major leaps in birding as in many other facets of life: better and better optics, improved field guides, more field guides, even "group specific" field guides with marvelous color plates. With all that has happened during the past 10 years with electronics, though, one really has to wonder what the next 50 years, or even the next 10 years have to offer!

### MAXIMUM "CYBER-BIRDING"

Consider the following hypothetical situation. It's mid-September 1998 - I'm birdwatching south of Junction City when I notice a black bird dropping out of a brush pile into the grass, then back up into the brush pile. It doesn't move like a grackle or blackbird, and closer examination reveal it to be, yes, a Groove-billed Ani. The first one in Kansas in 6 years.

I spend a few more minutes observing the Ani and scribble a few notes on my digital notepad, which I then hook up to my laptop computer, which digests the information and stores it in my word processor. While this is happening I pull out my digital camera with zoom lens and shoot about 20 shots of the Ani. Wanting to make sure that others can find the location, I pull out my Global Positioning System unit and get my location to within 20 feet.

Next, I pick up my cellular phone and call the KOS Hotline to report the find and exact location so Scott can get it posted so others can find it. Then I pick up my computer, hook it into the cellular phone and fax the information to Scott along with a simple map. With that done, I can pull the diskette out of the camera, pop it in the computer and view the pictures I just took and select the one that looks the best. Finally, I dial up the Kansas Birders Computer Bulletin Board, via my laptop computer and cellular phone, and post this information in the recent findings category along with the picture that I just took. As word spreads of the sighting, others can dial up the bulletin board to find not only the details of the sighting, but to view a picture of the bird as well.

Back to 1993. As far fetched as this scenario may sound, all of the technology and gadgets that I described exist today! Some isn't inexpensive, and some still needs some improvement, but it exists (that is with the exception of the Kansas Birders Computer Bulletin Board, but I'm working on that!).

There's no doubt that technology has changed not only our lives, but our birdwatching as well. Technological improvements have allowed binoculars and spotting scopes to improve in power and clarity. The models available today are superior even to those we could purchase 10 to 15 years ago. The prices have maintained or, in many cases, decreased, allowing someone with even a modest budget to have quality optics.

Improved tape recorders, digital recorders and better microphones have allowed us to obtain better and better reproduction of bird songs. Improvements in printing and color plate reproduction have allowed us to have many reasonably priced field guides of a quality we could only dream of several years ago.

### BIRDER BEEPERS

Common telephone answering machines are employed all over the country for rare bird alerts, allowing birders in an area the chance to find out very rapidly of rare sightings. In Finland and other parts of Europe, birders have employed advances in communication technology allowing birders (or twitchers as they are called in Europe) to literally stay up to the minute with rare sightings.

Around 200 people participate in a pager system that utilizes text pagers. Most of Finland can be reached by this system. When someone finds a good bird it is called in and immediately put out on the pager. Messages can be up to 400 characters long and the pager holds approximately 40 of the most recent messages for retrieval. So if Rader and Seltman were birding at Quivira and found a Tricolored Heron they could call it in immediately and within 5 minutes all "subscribing" birders in the state would know what bird was seen when and where.

Birders subscribing to this system pay an annual fee of around \$37 plus the price of the pager, which runs approximately \$340. Britain and Holland have similar systems and Sweden has one in the works.



When Dave Rintoul was gathering information to work against the Sandhill Crane season as well as on the Great Blue Herons vs. speed boats discussion at Tuttle Creek Dam back in May, he was able to put out a request for information across BirdChat and receive input from all over the US as well as overseas.

The other major component of the NBHC is the transcription of various rare bird alert hotlines from across the country. Individuals transcribe the hotlines from their area and post these in BirdEast, BirdCntr (BirdCenter), or BirdWest. One can subscribe to these just like to BirdChat. I regularly transcribe the KOS Rare Bird Alert and post this to BirdCntr. When I was getting ready to go to New

I'm sure most of you have heard of computer bulletin boards. These are simply a single computer set up so that anyone can call in and exchange messages, information or computer files/programs. These have often been fairly simple, localized and organized with a specific interest. There are several birding bulletin boards out there which I have phoned in to, but unless you are on one of the big commercial systems like CompuServe or America-On-Line, etc. these bulletin boards are fairly localized.

55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society  
*Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas*  
October 3-5, 2003  
Details on page 13  
Motel information on page 14  
Registration form page 15  
Call for Papers page 16

The beauty of all this technology is that you don't have to be a techno-wizard to enjoy birdwatching. You will probably still benefit from many of the advances whether you are an active user or not. We plan to keep *Horned Lark* readers up to date on new advances of interest. But we also plan to keep things interesting for those of you who don't really care about computers, LAN's and modems! Isn't birding wonderful!

*Be watching for more installments of  
Technology and Birding  
by Chuck Otte*

# 2003

## KANSAS SPRING SEASON ROUNDUP

March 1, 2003 through May 31, 2003

*By Lloyd Moore*

The reporting period had some interesting birds and some mild weather through the end of May. Several observers in western Kansas reported a less than stellar warbler migration, again, and even in eastern Kansas, warbler migration was probably best described as average.

An Anhinga put in an unexpected appearance in Leavenworth much to the delight of some of the birders attending the KOS Spring Field Trip.

Black Vultures were being seen almost regularly in Cherokee county creating much discussion of whether this is the start of an "invasion" of this species as a Kansas breeder.

Shorebird numbers were anywhere

from good to incredible, depending on the day and the location. Several hundred Ruddy Turnstones were reported from Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. Wilson's Phalarope numbers at Quivira were estimated in excess of 20,000 in early May.

An Arctic Tern was reported from Quivira. If documentation is submitted and accepted it would only be the second record for Kansas.

We've come to expect good hummingbird records from western Kansas in the late summer period, but a Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbird were somewhat unexpected April sightings in the western portion of the state.

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker continued to be reported from the Stockdale area of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Western jays were still being reported from western Kansas well into April.

Thanks once again to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site <http://www.ksbirds.org> or regular mail to Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

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(Continued from page 10)

thology at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. He has also compiled the longest running Christmas Bird Count, the Baldwin count which was started in 1942, for the last three decades.

Roger has followed in his father's footsteps as the Director of the Baker University Natural Areas. The Baker Wetlands near Lawrence have become one of the most important as well as one of the most popular birding destinations for many KOS members.

Except for diverting his research to a Passerine, the Horned Lark, for several years for his Ph.D. topic at Colorado State University, he has primarily concentrated and published on endangered water birds such as Snowy Plover, Piping Plover and the Least Tern. His water bird papers have been published in the *KOS Bulletin*, the *Journal of Field Ornithology* and the *Wilson Bulletin*. He has published a dozen papers and notes in the *KOS Bulletin* plus coauthored a number of Winter Bird Count summaries in the March addition with Calvin Cink. Roger and Calvin have also published many Winter Bird Population Studies in *American Birds*.

The Boyd family has indeed become The First Family of KOS, and Roger deserves this award, "The Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Award" named after his father, for his many contributions to the society.



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## An interview with the authors of *Birds of Kansas: third of a series*

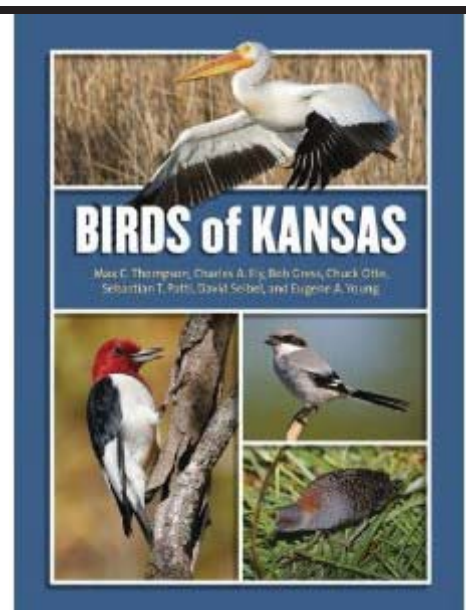
On September 21, 2013 at the KOS fall meeting I had the opportunity to interview Bob Gress about the photography in *Birds of Kansas*.

**The Horned Lark (HOLA):** What was your role in *Birds of Kansas*?

**BG:** I was responsible for all the pictures in the book. I guess Max asked me to do it because he knew I was organized enough to get it done. We, the co-authors and I, decided that there were so many advances in photography, that so many people were taking good pictures, that we would open up the book to submissions from all photographers. Any Kansans and non-Kansans who wanted to submit a photograph could. We gave Kansans priority in the first go around and if we did not get a suitable picture then we opened it up to non-Kansans. We filled the majority of the pictures though from photographers in Kansas.

**HOLA:** Can describe the process and the way you all went about getting pictures and then deciding which would go in the book?

**BG:** My job was to solicit photographs (these were mostly digital but not entirely), to take the qualified entries and then get them ready for the selection process. I organized them by species, and eliminated the obvious ones that had no chance of being selected or that were misidentified. Now there were some pictures, that were misidentified and we straightened it out and put them in the right category. There were still quite a few slides that needed to be scanned. Especially for the harder to photograph species.



Thirty years ago there were only a handful of us seriously taking pictures of birds in Kansas. The number us shooting with quality telephoto lenses was really limited. But in recent years both those numbers have just gone crazy. Now there's lots of big glass around and a lot of good cameras and a lot of people that are just shooting amazing stuff. So what I wanted to do was include these people in *Birds of Kansas* so that they had ownership and were able to contribute. I was also interested in contributing but I didn't want to stick my pictures in first and then ask other people to contribute. So one of things that we did was allow submissions from everybody, and then judge them without a name attached. All the photos were selected by the committee of co-authors on the project and all the photo selections were made without knowing whose photo it was.

We had a number of people who were just thrilled to get an image in the book. And everyone got paid the same amount which was you got a picture in the book, you got a free book.

This was a labor of love for people who had a passion for birds. If we were to redo the book today, the number of images and the quality of images would soar. The book hasn't been out that long. It tells a little bit about what's happening with bird photography not just in Kansas but across the country. A lot of people are getting excited about capturing their birds on digital images. And there is some really good stuff coming out of this.

**HOLA:** When did you all start this?

**BG:** Well I knew how hard it was going to be to get all the birds covered so I actually started immediately and I worked pretty steady on it all the way through. The first round of submissions I got back to the photographers about what was still needed, told them what was still needed then they had another year to fill out that list. Then when that year was over, I went to professional photographers I knew around the country to finish out the final species. The final surge was for about fifteen species, species that had only been seen once in Kansas like the marbled murrelet. We had to go elsewhere to get some of those exceptionally rare species filled in.

**HOLA:** What got you started in photographing birds?

**BG:** I started back in the 1970's. What got me started was that originally I was a hunter and interested in natural history. Once I picked up a camera there was never a closed season and I was interested in the sparrows and overlooked species, the rats and the mice and the small stuff. Not just the big stuff. And working on this book reminded me that people are focused on the big stuff. Cranes and eagles, that kind of thing. But the number of people who capture pictures of sparrows and fly catchers was significantly reduced. There are certainly more people now. The number of people taking these pictures now is much more. It's encouraging. There are a lot more people using their photography to promote birds and that's what's important.

**HOLA:** What's been the big change that's allowed people to do more of this kind of work?

**BG:** Digital Cameras for the one thing. Digital technology has so surpassed the film technology. The saturation, depth of field, the quality has made marked improvement. Composition and capture is still important, the right foreground and background and the right action.

**HOLA:** What kind of equipment is used?

**BG:** The vast majority of pictures in the book are shot with super-telephoto lenses and 35mm SLR digital cameras. People with 400mm, 500mm, and 600mm those are the photographers capable of reaching out to a bird to get enough resolution to hold together on the page. A lot of the images that were selected used just that extra touch of fill flash to bring out the details.

**HOLA:** So what other books did you work on?

**BG:** I've been involved in providing photos for over fifty books. I started back in 1990 with *Kansas Wildlife and Wetlands*. Pete Janzen and I did *Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots*. Before that I did *Faces of the Great Plains*. I've worked with University Press on a variety of other book projects before this one.



# News from KOS members

Fourteen Topeka birders went to the Audubon of Kansas Hutton Sanctuary in north-central Nebraska the last weekend of May. We spent three days birding with Ron Klataske. Best species included sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, lark bunting, Virginia rail, scarlet tanager, bobolink, ovenbird, and sandhill crane. Everyone got lifers. Topeka Audubon Society highly recommends the Hutton Sanctuary.



Sept. 8, 2013

Lawrence Herbert, Jenn Rader, Linda Phipps, Carleen Herbert, Mark Herbert.

We counted the chimney swifts going to roost at the Liberty School, Galena Kansas. 790 was our total. County time from 7:22 pm to 8:15 pm. We reported this on the chimney swift website.

## 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:

Max C. Thompson  
1729 E. 11th Ave.  
Winfield, KS 67156

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