



# The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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## President's message

How amazing are birds? I recently read reports that scientists have discovered a rare form of matter in the eye of a chicken. The news report states "Never before seen in biology, a state of matter called "disordered hyperuniformity" has been discovered in the eye of a chicken.

This arrangement of particles appears disorganized over small distances but has a hidden order that allows material to behave like both a crystal and a liquid." As a former chemistry and biology teacher, I have to admit that I had never heard of "disordered hyperuniformity." I have heard of chickens. In fact, the feral Red Jungle Fowl were among the most interesting birds I saw in Hawaii.

All of this leads me to wonder, do Prairie Chickens also have "disordered hyperuniformity" in their eyes? It seems that quail, turkeys, and pheasants are also likely candidates to exhibit "disordered hyperuniformity." What about Cardinals, Bluebirds, and Grasshopper Sparrows? There are so many questions and so little time.

It is true that I often bird with the purpose of counting another bird on my life list, adding to my county lists, or just to see if I can identify a bird before Jon. But, at the root of my interest in birding is an insatiable curiosity about life. That is why Jennifer Raider is one of my favorite people to bird with. Not only is she an excellent birder, but I also have the opportunity to learn about the plants and invertebrates we encounter.

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

Scott Seltman is a walking encyclopedia and history lesson. Time spent with Scott allows me to become a better birder. It also offers the chance to learn the history of birds and birders in Kansas, across the nation, and even internationally (and to know that I will never come close to the skills of many Kansas birders). If time allows, he also can catch me up on Greek history, agricultural practices, or probably even disordered hyperuniformity.

I have mentioned but two of the many Kansas birders who always make my day brighter. Spending time with any of them offers a person the opportunity to learn about birds and birding – and the natural world around us. Come to spring KOS in Junction City and you will have the opportunity to see a beautiful part of Kansas, bird during the heart of spring migration, spend time with some interesting people who also happen to be great birders, and feed your curiosity.

## From the Keyboard By the Editor

One of the most efficient ways to be happier is to bird with others. I've been slowly reading political scientist Robert Putnam's book "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community." His fundamental claim is that American's involvement in social activities, measured by participation in club meetings and events, volunteering, regular church attendance, and even newspaper readership has been decreasing since the 1960's and this has led to a decline of social capital across the United States. One key impact of this trend, he argues, is a decline in health and happiness. He presents a graph showing the tremendous impact of regular club attendance on an individual's happiness (accounting for other confounding factors such as income, education level, and race). The results of a monthly club meeting has the same impact on happiness as having a college degree or is the equivalent of a doubling in your income. To bird alone is good but to go a birding with a buddy once a month is better.



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# KOS Spring Meeting in Junction City, Kansas

## May 2 – 4, 2014

The 2014 KOS Spring meeting returns to the Flint Hills for some truly spectacular birding. Birding in multiple ecosystems awaits the birder in the northern Flint Hills. Milford Lake and the wetlands north of Wakefield hold the possibility of shorebirds and waterbirds and a great deal of accessible land in Geary, Dickinson and Clay counties awaits birders. To the south lies Council Grove Reservoir in Morris County. Field trips to Ft. Riley (photo ID required for admittance) can take you into some phenomenal old growth riparian deciduous timber. Additional birding locations include Geary State Fishing Lake, Herington Reservoirs and Walla Walla Road. Saturday night there will be an excursion to listen for nightjars and owls.

The Hampton Inn will be the headquarter hotel with a housing block guaranteed through April 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of \$81 for a double (request KOS block). This includes hot and cold breakfast items and bagged to go options as well. Breakfast will be starting at 5:30 a.m. to make sure you are fueled up, caffeinated up and ready to go for a day's worth of birding! Field trips will depart from the parking lots at the Hampton Inn. There are numerous other housing options in the area – several are listed below. Camping information is available on request or at the CVB website listed below.

Saturday evening meal will be at Cox Brothers BBQ <http://www.coxbbq.com/>. Order off the menu (meal cost not included in your registration). Sunday's box lunch and compilation will be in the outlet area (Shelter #11, the only one in the outlet area) of Milford Lake. Jaye and Chuck Otte are your hosts for this year's spring meeting so feel free to contact them if you have any questions [otte2@cox.net](mailto:otte2@cox.net).

### **Agenda**

- Friday: 7 – 10 pm Meet, greet and socialize in the meeting room at Hampton Inn, 1039 South Washington, Junction City, right off I-70 at Exit 296.
- Saturday: 6:30 am Field Trips depart from the parking lots at Hampton Inn.  
Saturday noon: Lunch on your own  
Saturday: 7:00 pm Meet at Cox Brothers BBQ for dinner, 812 East Chestnut, Junction City (nightjar and owling follow)
- Sunday: 6:30 am Field Trips depart from the parking lots at Hampton Inn.  
Sunday noon: Box lunch and compilation at Milford Lake Outlet Area , Shelter #11 (only shelter in the outlet area!)

### **Housing:**

- Hampton Inn 1039 South Washington, Junction City, 785-579-6950 (Exit 296)
- Holiday Inn Express 120 N East Street, Junction City, 785-762-4200 (Exit 298)
- Comfort Inn 221 East Ash Street, Junction City, 785-579-5787 (Exit 298)
- Candlewood Suites 100 S Hammons Drive, Junction City, 785-238-1454 (Exit 298)

Additional lodging listed at Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau website <http://www.junctioncity.org/>

# Registration Form

## KOS Spring Meeting

### May 2 – 4, 2014 Junction City, Kansas

Registrations will be accepted through April 25<sup>th</sup>; however payment for Sunday box lunch **MUST** be received by April 21<sup>st</sup> to insure you have a box lunch.

I (we) plan to attend the 2014 KOS Spring meeting:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (cell preferred) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sunday box lunch  $\$8.00 \times$  \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Payment for lunch must be received by April 21)*

**Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed registration form with payment to:  
**Max Thompson, 1729 E 11th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156**

In submitting this registration I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2014 spring meeting.

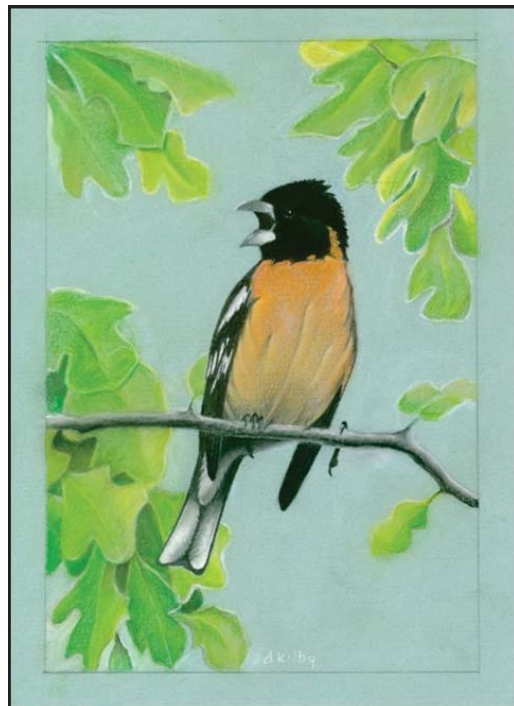
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatures \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 2013 Fall season roundup

Jon King, compiler

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The fall of 2013 was warm and dry, with drought severity increasing westward. Western Kansas received very limited coverage this fall as is typical, and the hummingbird and passerine migrations were poor there. In east and central Kansas rare loons, ducks, and gulls made a decent to good showing, while passerine migration was very poor. In contrast to last fall, irruptive species (i.e. Red-breasted Nuthatch, winter finches) were scarce. Notable rarities this season included White Ibis, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Gray Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Cave Swallow, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

**Snow Goose:** Likely over-summering: 1 white phase at Kirwin NWR 8/7 (JVK) with injured wing, 1 blue phase at Deerfield sewage ponds (Kearney) 9/1 (JC, TE, KG).

**Cackling Goose:** Though common, this species distribution in Kansas is not well established. Peak counts were 15,000 at BSM 11/9 (JnL, JsL, BS) and in the east, 3,100 at Tuttle Creek Res. (Riley) 11/23 (TC, ER).

**Tundra Swan:** Seen at Quivira 11/12-29 with peak count of 10 on 11/23 (JVK). Elsewhere 1 ad. in w. Sedgwick 11/27 (JC).

**Cinnamon Teal:** Fall migration in Kansas is not well understood given the cryptic nature of fall plumages. Sightings: 2 reported in n Reno 8/3 (AM, BM), 1 at BSM 8/31 (AM, BM, MM).

**Greater Scaup:** Peak count: 40 at LaFarge sandpits 11/17 (PJ).

**Lesser Scaup:** Early or over-summering: 1 at the Cimarron sewage ponds (Gray) 8/9 (JC).

**Surf Scoter:** Four reports of 5 individuals: 2 at Keith Sebellius Res. 10/19 including an ad. male (JVK), 1 at Hillsdale L. 10/26 (NA, MG, ML), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/31 (TS), and 1 ad. female at Perry L. 11/16 (SS).

**White-winged Scoter:** Two reports: 1 at Melvern L. 11/17 (JMa), 1 imm. at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/22 (MR).

**Black Scoter:** Six reports of 9 individuals: 1 at L. Afton 10/28 (KG), 3 at L. Shawnee 10/31 (JH), 1 at Perry L. 11/1 (GP), 1 at Clinton L. 11/10 (MA), 1 at Hillsdale L. (DC, JcT), and 2 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/24 (JC, MR).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Five reports of 6 individuals: 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/7 (NV, GYe), 1 at BSM 11/10 (JsL, BS), 1 female at Kinsley sandpit (Kearney) 11/10 (JC), 1 at Webster Res. 11/24 (JVK), 1 imm. male and 1 imm. female at Cheney Res. (Reno) 11/24 (KG, PJ) with 1 remaining 12/1, and 1 at Kanopolis L. 11/26 (JcI).

**Hooded Merganser:** This species is rare but regular during summer in c Kansas. Sightings there included 1 at BSM 8/3 (JnL, JsL) and 1 at a playa in sw Ford 8/24 (JC, MU).

**Scaled Quail:** Infrequently reported in recent years. In w Morton, 20 were reported at a homestead 9/14 (TC, MR, MRc, DW).

**Lesser Prairie-Chicken:** Numerous sightings in Kiowa and Comanche due to ongoing research with a high count of 45 in Comanche 10/5 (JnL, JsL). Aside from research-related sightings in the Red Hills, birders did not report any of this species.

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 at Perry L. 11/2 (MMh, GP).

**Pacific Loon:** Four reports: 1 at Perry L. 11/3 (GP, MMh), 1 at Clinton L. 11/8-10 (GP), 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/8-9 (NV, mo), and 1 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/15-27 (MR).

**Common Loon:** Several were over-summering at Milford L. (Geary) through early Aug with up to 3 on 8/7 (DM).

**Horned Grebe:** Early: 1 at L. Shawnee 9/22 (MG, mo) and 1 at the Sublette sewage ponds (Gray) 9/22 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Two reports: 1 at L. Wabaunsee 10/19 (DL) and 1 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/22-30 (MR).

**Western Grebe:** Unusually common e of the Flint Hills this fall. Sightings in far e KS: 2 at Clinton Lake 10/20-26 (mo), 1 at L. Fort Scott 10/31 (MG), 1 at Wyandotte County L. 11/1 (JB), 1 Shawnee SFL 11/9-11 (JMc, JP), 2 11/10 at Melvern L. (JMa), and 1-2 present 11/19-26 at Banner Creek L. (NV, GYe). At Hillsdale L. sightings were 10/25 – 11/9 a maximum of 3 seen 11/8 (NV, CY). Statewide peak count was 10 at Keith Sebellius Res. 10/19 (JVK).

**Clark's Grebe:** 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 10/20 (MR).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** Singles at John Redmond Res. 8/3 (NA, CF, MG) and 11/30 (MG).

**American Bittern:** Late: 2 at BSM 11/12 (AM, BM, JM).

**Great Egret:** Late: 1 at Coleman Industrial Pond (*Sedgwick*) 11/9 (JN) and 1 injured bird at BSM last seen 11/23 (JVK).

**Snowy Egret:** Peak count of 700 at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 9/8 (JMa).

**Tricolored Heron:** One at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 8/17 (AL, BG, NH).

**Green Heron:** Late: 1 in c Reno 11/16 (JM).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Late: 1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 11/25 (GC).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Late: 1 imm. at Slate Creek wetlands 10/12 (GY), 1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 11/14 (MR).

**White Ibis:** 1 imm. at Slate Creek wetlands 9/7-14 (GY).

**Glossy Ibis:** 1 at Quivira 8/7 (DM).

**White-faced Ibis:** 400 at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 10/26 (DWI, JW) were unusually numerous at such a date and 1 *Plegadis* sp. was at the Baker Wetlands 11/23 (JK) was late.

**Mississippi Kite:** Multiple individuals present at Felker / Shunga / Warren NA in Topeka 8/12 – 9/12 with up to 8 reported 9/4 (JH). This species is currently rare in Shawnee county.

**Northern Goshawk:** Possible sighting 10/13 in s Hesston (*Harvey*) (EM), 1 well described immature at Konza Prairie provided excellent looks 11/20 (ER).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Late: 1 imm. at Hillsdale L. 10/26 (NA, JG, MG).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Peak counts: 1,000 + congregating in disked wheat and recently harvested soybean fields in Saline (KF), 750+ in harvested soy fields s of Sylvan Grove (*Lincoln*) 10/4 (KBn, MR). Both of these include light and dark morphs. Elsewhere 180 in recently harvested soy fields in Ashland Bottoms (Riley) 10/10 (JR).

**Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's):** 1 at Lyon SFL 11/29 (KL).

**Golden Eagle:** 1 imm. near Paola 10/25 (NA, JG, MG).

**Yellow Rail:** One in Wichita's "Big Ditch" 10/6 (PJ).

**Whooping Crane:** Away from Barton and Stafford, 11 (9 ad., 2 imm.) were seen at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 11/10 (MR).

**American Golden-Plover:** Late: 1 at BSM 11/14 (JD).

**Snowy Plover:** Away from Barton and Stafford, 2 were at Webster Res. 8/9-14 (JVK), and 1 visited a w Sedgwick playa 8/22-28 (KG). Late: 4 at BSM 10/26 (JW, DWI).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Late: 6 at BSM 10/25 (MR) with 1 remaining there 10/29 (BJ), 1 at Hillsdale L. 10/27 (NV).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Late: 1 at Frazier Park (Ulysses) 10/25 (JC), 1 at Rocky Ford FA 11/8 (JsL, ER), 1 at the Wilson WTP (*Ellsworth*) 10/20 (MR).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Late: 1 at L. Parsons 10/25 (AB).

**Willet:** Late: 1 at Quivira 10/26 (JCI).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Late: 2 at BSM 11/22 (JnL).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 at BSM 8/3 (JnL, JsL).

**Marbled Godwit:** Rare in far e Kansas, especially in fall. Sightings there: 1 at Hillsdale L. 9/1 (MG, mo) and 1 at Clinton L. 9/20 (MG, JKi, ML). Late: 2 at BSM 10/26 (KG, mo).

**Red Knot:** 1 basic-plumaged individual at BSM 9/16 (GP).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Peak count: 75+ in 1 acre of cattail at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 9/16 (GP), with many more reported refuge-wide.

**Red Phalarope:** 1 at Hillsdale L. 8/31 – 9/1 (NV, CY, GYe).

**Sabine's Gull:** Historically Sabine's Gull sightings are concentrated in early fall, peaking in September. Most Kansas sightings have involved imm. birds. Interestingly, all sightings were in November this year and the majority of birds were adults. Sightings: 1 at Kirwin Res. 11/1-3 (JVK), 1 ad. at Clinton L. 11/8-10 (ML, TS), 2 ad. at Rocky Ford FA 11/6 (TC) with 3 ad. seen nearby at the KSU animal research facility on Purcell Rd. 11/9, and 1 imm. at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 11/10.

**Little Gull:** One imm. at Webster Res. 9/17 (JVK).

**Laughing Gull:** 1 imm. at Clinton L. 8/30 (JKi) with another imm. there 9/20 (MG, JKi, ML). 1 imm. at Perry L. 9/1 (JKi).

**California Gull:** 1 ad. 11/4 at Lovewell Res. (NAn).

**Thayer's Gull:** 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Hillsdale L. 10/25-27 (JCt), 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Clinton L. 11/30 (JKi).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 ad. at Perry L. 9/1 (JKi) and 10/21 (MMh), 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Clark SFL 11/8 (NA, JC, MG), 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Clinton L. 11/10 (JKi), and 1 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle there 11/30 (JKi).

**Forster's Tern:** Late: 3 at Clinton L. 10/26 (MA).

**Franklin's Gull:** Late: 3 at Nelson Isl. (Johnson) 11/24 (MA), 1 at Clinton L. 11/27 (JKi), and 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/29 (RR, NV).

**Herring Gull:** Early: 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at Clinton L. 8/30 – 9/1 (JKi).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Late: 1 at Rocky Ford FA 10/6 (ER, BS, FS).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1 female / imm. in Elkhart 9/14 (TC, MR, MRc).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** 1 ad. male 9/7 in Elkhart (GCa, JMa).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** 1 in *Johnson* 11/18 (KH) banded ~1 week prior.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** 1 ad. male in Hugoton 8/10 (MR).

**Calliope Hummingbird:** Ad. male and ad. female at Beaver Creek Ranch (*Rawlins*) 8/3 (AH), ad. male and imm. male in Elkhart 8/10 (MR), 1 ad. female in Larned 8/29 and another of unknown age and sex in Larned 9/4 (DKz).

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** One ad. male at CNG K27 picnic area 9/21 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Late: 1 at Konza Prairie 9/30 (ER), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/1 (ML).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Late: 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/9 (TS).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** West-most sightings were singles at Harvey County West Park 9/14 (AW) and a calling bird in c *Reno* 8/8 (JM).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** The species is rarely detected after the breeding season, though 1 was in the MDC area 9/13 (MMh).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Peak count: 9 vocal individuals at the Baker Wetlands 8/13 (MG, JKi, ML). The fall migration of this species in Kansas is poorly understood.

**Willow Flycatcher:** One calling at the KDWPT headquarters 9/17 (MR) may have been late.

**Least Flycatcher:** Late: 1 imm. in the MDC area 10/5 (MMh), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/5 (ML).

**Gray Flycatcher:** 1 photographed at the CNG Turnerville Work Center 9/21 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Cordilleran Flycatcher:** 1 seen and heard in se *Scott* 9/6 (SS).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Late: 1 at Milford L. (*Geary*) 10/16 (CO, mo). 1 at Rock Ford FA 11/6 (TC).

**Say's Phoebe:** One at McPherson SFL 9/28 (KB, RR, NV) was slightly easterly, 1 at the dam of Melvern L. 9/22 (GF, PJ, ML) was quite easterly. Peak count of 30 along Cimarron R. in *Morton* 9/15 (DW).

**Great Kiskadee:** A Great Kiskadee at McPherson SFL 9/15 – 11/24 (BHo) is Kansas' second. This species is an increasingly frequent vagrant on the s Great Plains.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Late: 1 at McPherson SFL 10/4 (JnL, JsL).

**Northern Shrike:** Out-of-range: 1 at Shawnee SFL 11/23 (DB, JMa, CM), 1 at Lyon SFL 11/30 (MG).

**Bell's Vireo:** Latest sighting: 1 singing at Konza Prairie 9/22 (JsL).



**Plumbeous Vireo:** 1 in Elkhart 9/15 (TC, MR, MRe, DW).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** In w Kansas, six reports of six individuals: reports from *Hamilton, Morton, Rooks,* and *Seward*. No Cassin's Vireos were reported this fall. Late: 1 in *Shawnee* 11/7 (JH).

**Western Scrub-Jay:** Two in Garden City 10/13 (LL).

**Fish Crow:** The post-breeding and fall migratory movements of Fish Crow in Kansas are not well understood and are likely changing. There were five reports in September: 2 at Neosho SFL 9/20 with 1 there 9/27 (AB), 40 in *Cherokee* 9/21 (AM, BM, JM). In *Arkansas City* 3 were reported 9/24 and the species was still present 9/27 (GY).

**Chihuahuan Raven:** Two at CNG Point of Rocks 9/14 (GP) were the only reported.

**Common Raven:** The "reappearance" of Common Raven in extreme sw Kansas continues. Sightings: 2 at CNG Turnerville Work Center 9/14 (TC, MR, MRe, DW), 4 9/14 nw of Elkhart (TC, MR, MRe, DW).

**Purple Martin:** In *Wichita*, 12,000 were estimated at the *Via Christi* roost 8/2 (MW, RW). A lesser-known roost was reported in *Dodge City* with an estimated 1,100 8/4 (JC).

**Cave Swallow:** One photographed at the *Liberal WTP* 8/17 (JC).

**Rock Wren:** One in *Harvey* 10/28 (CS) was slightly easterly.

**House Wren:** Late: 1 in c *Reno* 10/26 (AM, BM).

**Sedge Wren:** West-most: 1 s of *Cedar Cr. (Russell)* 8/18 (MR).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Easterly: 1 at *Lyon SFL* 11/30 (MG).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Difficult to find during fall migration in e Kansas. However, exactly 50 flight calls were heard moving overhead at *Hillsdale L.* ~30 min prior to sunrise 9/2 (JKi). Otherwise there were 6 sightings of 6 individuals in e Kansas from 9/2-21.

**Gray Catbird:** Late: 1 at *McDonald's* in *Dodge City* 10/25 (GB), 1 just s of *Larned* 10/31 (PJ, WAS).

**Brown Thrasher:** Late: 1 at *Lovewell Res.* 11/4 (NAN), 1 in c *Reno* 11/23 (AM, BM).

**Sprague's Pipit:** Late: 6 in se *Kiowa* 11/10 with an injured bird remaining and photographed 11/13 (JnL).

**Smith's Longspur:** Westerly: 1 flyover was reported in c *Reno* 11/25 (JM).

**Snow Bunting:** Two imm. reported: 1 in se *Kiowa* 11/12 (JnL) and 1 (possibly 3) at *Cheyenne Bottoms NC* property 11/25 (RP).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Seldom reported after the breeding season, although 1 was singing at *Konza Prairie* 8/23 (ER).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 32 in the MDC area 10/7 (MMh) was a good count for extreme e Kansas. Late: 1 at *Cheney Res. (Kingman)* 11/7 (TE).

**Mourning Warbler:** West-most: 1 banded at *Hays* 9/15 (GFa, BH), 1 in c *Reno* 9/17 (JM).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Late: 1 at *Overland Park Arboretum* 10/27 (BB), 1 at *Neosho WA* 11/1-9 (AB).

**Northern Parula:** West-most: 1 at *Quivira* 9/15 (BJ). Late: 1 imm. at *Northeast Community Park (Riley)* 11/14 (JsL, BS).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Westerly: 1 in *Elkhart* 9/15 (DW).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** West-most: 1 imm. at *McPherson SFL* 9/16 (TE).

**Pine Warbler:** Three reports: 1 in the MDC area 9/13 (MMh), 1 at *Arvoina Cem. (Osage)* 9/22-24 (GF, PJ, ML), 1 at *Prairie Dog SP* 10/11 (BJ).

**Canada Warbler:** Westerly: 1 banded in *Hays* 9/16 (GFa, BH), 1 in c *Reno* 9/16 (AM, BM).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Late: 1 in c *Reno* 10/1 (AM, BM).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** Photographed individual ~1 mi se of *Derby (Sedgwick)* 9/10 (MC).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** 1 continues at *Clark SFL* 8/1 (JC).

**Chipping Sparrow:** Late: 1 in c *Reno* 11/15 (JM), another in c *Reno* 11/20 (AM, BM), 1 at *Linear Trail (Riley)* 11/25 (BS).

**Brewer's Sparrow:** Two reports; Singles in *Morton* 9/13 (TC, MR, MRe) and 9/22 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Lark Sparrow:** Late: 1 9/30 near *Erie WTP (Neosho)* (AB).

**Summer Tanager:** West-most: 1 sw of *Lincoln (Lincoln)* 9/28 (MG, KG).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Westerly: 1 at Arkalon Park 9/20 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Western Tanager:** Easterly: 1 banded in Hays 9/15 (GF, BH).

**Painted Bunting:** This species range continues expanding in Kansas. Extralimital sightings: 1 ad. male in c Jackson 8/5 (MH) was northerly, 1 singing male at Elkhart 8/10 (MR) continues where the species probably breeds now.

**Dickcissel:** Late: 1 in w Geary 10/19 (CO, mo), 1 flyover moving w in c Reno 10/22 (JM).

**Orchard Oriole:** Latest sighting: 5 at Arkalon Park 9/20 (JC, JVK, NV).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Late: 1 ad. male in Wabaunsee 10/21 (BMa).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Unusually frequent in ne Kansas this fall with 6 sightings of 12 individuals there.

Sightings: 1 at Sac & Fox Wetlands (Brown) 8/15 (DM), 6 at Atchison SFL 9/5 (DM), singles at Clinton L. 9/1 and 9/11 (MA, JCo), 2 at Hillsdale L, and 1 at Shawnee SFL 11/23 (CM, mo).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Early: 1 female photographed in c Reno 9/29 (JM).

**Purple Finch:** Only 2 reports from eBird and KSBIRDS-L this season. Reports from Leavenworth and Riley with earliest sighting 11/24.

**Red Crossbill:** 1 heard in Elkhart 9/15 (MR), 1 type 2 flying over Fitch NHR (Douglas) 10/13 (MRo).

**Pine Siskin:** Scarce this season. Several Pine Siskin were sighted in Johnson during Jun and early Jul 2013 following an invasion winter. One visiting a w Johnson feeder 8/15+ (DBa) likely over-summered. Otherwise earliest arrivals were singles at Arkalon Park 10/12 (JC) and c Reno 10/21 (JM).

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), Big Salt Marsh (BSM), Cemetery (Cem.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Fishing Area (FA), Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), immature (imm.), lake (L.), Marais des Cygnes (MDC), Natural Area (NA), Natural History Reservation (NHR), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira), river (R.), Recreation Area (RA), reservoir (Res.), State Fishing Lake (SFL), Wildlife Area (WA),

Observers: Andrew Burnett (AB), Allison Hill (AH), Anthony Luna (AL), Andrew Miller (AM), Art Weigand (AW), Brett Budach (BB), Brian Gaston (BG), Bobby Higbert (BH), Bob Hoopes (BHo), Barry Jones (BJ), Bryant Miller (BM), Brandon Magette (BMa), Brett Sandercock (BS), Chris Faygal (CF), Carol Morgan (CM), Chuck Otte (CO), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Craig Yerby (CY), Diana Busey (DB), Dawn Bayless (DBa), Devin Couture (DC), Don Kazamaier (DKz), Dan LaShelle (DL), Don Merz (DM), Dave Wiggins (DW), Dave Williams (DWI), Ethan Maynard (EM), Ed Raynor (ER), Frank Stetler (FS), Grant Beauprez (GB), Ginny Culver (GC), Glenn Caspers (GCa), Greg Farley (GF), Galen Pittman (GP), Gene Young (GY), Greyson Yerby (GYe), John Bollin (JB), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Judith Collins (JCI), Jacob Cooper (JCo), Justin Couture (Jct), John Drummond (JD), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jeff Keating (JK), Jon King (JKi), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Joseph Miller (JM), Jim Malcom (JMa), John McConnell (JMc), John Northrup (JN), Joanne Parker (JP), John Row (JR), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Jim Walton (JW), Keith Brink (KB), Ken Brunson (KBn), Kat Farres (KF), Kevin Groeneweg (KG), Karen Holton (KH), Kevin Leonard (KL), Larry Langstaff (LL), Michael Andersen (MA), Mary Craig (MC), Matt Gearheart (MG), Mike Harding (MH), Mark Land (ML), Myron Miller (MM), Mick McHugh (MMh), multiple observers (mo), Mike Rader (MR), Mike Resch (MRe), Mark Robbins (MRo), Michael Woodruff (MW), Nic Allen (NA), Nancy Anderson (NAn), Nina Haro (NH), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Janzen (PJ), Robert Penner (RP), Robert Reed (RR), Roger Woodruff (RW), Scott Seltman (SS), Ted Cable (TC), Tom Ewert (TE), Terry Swope, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS)

### Haiku—by Al Schirmacher

#### **Tufted Titmouse**

Chickadee better  
known, others flashier; song  
still brings morning joy.

#### **Phoebe**

Rude, tipsy, lord of  
the flies; nevertheless your  
antics bring a smile

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

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# 1964

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus are now in Florida for the winter. They have spent most of 1963 traveling with a house trailer from Texas to Arizona to California to Kansas and to Florida. As of December 18, 1963, they had a year list of 429 species!

The secretary has received a letter from Charles A. Ely asking that he be replaced on the KOS Board because he will be away from his teaching duties at Fort Hays Kansas State College until the fall of 1965. He writes "I have taken a two year leave of absence from my teaching duties to accept a temporary position with the Smithsonian Institution. I am field director of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program in the Central Pacific and am having a very exciting time. We are studying the various species both on their breeding islands and also at sea with emphasis on distribution and ecology. Needless to say we are finding volumes of new information in this little worked area. After studying prairie birds it seems rather strange to be handling boobies, tropicbirds, frigates, shearwaters, petrels and the like." Dr. Ely's family has joined him in Honolulu.  
--Amelia Betts, Secretary--

We note sadly the death of Rachel Carson on April 14. Death always seems inappropriate, and it is especially so with Miss Carson, who had over the past several years assumed a real leadership of people interested in life and living. Her death is even more inopportune at present, for it seems that we are about to witness part of her work coming to fruition: persistent contamination of the Mississippi River basin is now so serious that legislation must be enacted to correct it. The profound ecologic imbalances in the Mississippi at present are a result of inordinately minute amounts of toxic chemicals in the water; that these compounds were even look for, much less found to be causally related to the incredible fish kills, is probably a direct result of the attention focussed on potential pesticide dangers by Miss Carson only two years ago.

We shall remember Miss Carson's abilities as artist and scientist, but we ought not forget her understanding of man's relationships—esthetic, moral, and humanitarian—toward the world in which he lives; it is this that gave her work its characteristic symmetry.--R.F.J.--

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

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## 1974

According to Max C. Thompson and Dr. Ely, they are making progress on their book, Birds of Kansas.

## 1984

### AOU SLIDE PRESENTATION ON KANSAS

The local committee is planning a slide show entitled "The Birds and Habitats of Kansas" in which they will show birds typically found in the outstanding habitats of Kansas and adjacent states. If you have excellent bird slides which might be appropriate, we would like to hear about them for possible uses as part of our program. Please write to Pamela Rasmussen and describe the slides. If they are slides we need, we will let you know. Do not send slides until you hear from us.

Our priorities are first to obtain quality slides of birds in the selected Kansas habitats listed below, and second, to obtain superior slides showing birds in other Kansas habitats. Finally, habitat shots without birds will help us introduce the various physiographic regions of the state. The areas we especially wish to show are:

- Cheyenne Bottoms
- Marais des Cygnes NWR
- Konza Prairie
- Red Hills area around Medicine Lodge
- Cimarron National Grassland (Morton County)
- Salt Plains NWR (Oklahoma)
- Squaw Creek NWR (Missouri)
- Gove County
- Trego County
- Baldwin Wood and other eastern forests
- and Quivira NWR.

We plan to show a few of the characteristic birds of each locality, especially those that would interest people from other areas. Below is a list of bird species for which we are particularly interested in obtaining good slides.

# 1994

## KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS

by Roy J. Beckemeyer

*The following young people have all made significant contributions to the preservation of the environment of Kansas and to the welfare of the avian fauna of the state. They are the first recipients of the KOS Young Naturalist Award; we hope they are the first of many.*

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**Amy Rintoul** is an active participant in bird censusing studies. She has participated in Christmas bird counts and has helped with three Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. In addition to her contributions to the documentation of the statistics of the avian population of Kansas, Amy also helps others to appreciate the beauties of our natural world by providing sketches which appear regularly in the "Prairie Falcon," the newsletter of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. Amy is 11 years old, resides in Manhattan, and attends Marlett Elementary School. She is the first recipient of the KOS Young Naturalist Award.

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**Marie and Aaron Weigel** have been working with the Prairie Raptor Project since they were toddlers. They participate in record-keeping, cage cleaning and repair, and medical treatment of injured birds--in other words, with the day-to-day operations of the project. (I'm sure they are now the envy of most KOS members, young and old!) But they also take part in the educational side of the project, including leading tours and telling the public about raptors and the part they play in the natural world. Marie is 15 and she attends Saline High School. Aaron is 12 and is a student at Brookville Grade School.

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**Jonathan Boyd** has accomplished many significant improvements at the Baker University Wetlands. He played a key role in the installation of 850 feet of boardwalk and 24 wood duck and 10 Canada goose nesting structures. He planted native grass seed and 100 oak seedlings, and rip-rapped dikes and culverts. He was also involved in building a quarter-mile nature trail at Ivan Boyd Woods. He has assisted his father in conducting Least Tern research, and has helped with 4 KBBAT blocks. Jonathan is also an Eagle Scout who has earned most of the merit badges related to natural history and the environment. He is 16 and attends Baldwin High School.

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**Aliah Seay** was a 12 year old 7th grader at Manhattan Middle School when she initiated a petition drive last year to halt drag boat races that might have endangered a heron rookery in River Pond. She took the petitions to the race's sponsors in Manhattan, and mailed copies to other race sponsors. Her fortitude and commitment to environmental activism is certainly a model for us all, young or old! It should be mentioned that Aliah's actions served as the inspiration for the initiation of the KOS Young Naturalist Award as a way to say thanks to young people who are working to preserve the environment.

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Please join me in thanking and congratulating these young people for their important contributions to the betterment of Kansas ornithology.

*(Editors Note - The KOS Young Naturalist Award is a new program that was discussed in the last issue of the Horned Lark. With the YNA we have an opportunity to recognize and encourage those youth who are making a positive environmental impact in the world around them. Refer to the December, 1993 issue of the Horned Lark for more information and an application form, or call Roy Beckemeyer at (316) 264-0049.)*



Photo courtesy of Jim Koelliker, Dec 14, 2013 as a part of the Manhattan CBC. Trumpeter Swan.

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

## Birding: A Reawakening *by Terry Mannell*

# 2004

The reasons for many of my life choices remain a mystery to me. This may be the case for many of us I presume. I guess, for the most, they seemed like good ideas at the time. Such was the case with our decision to become birders. I say ours because my wife, Sam, and I made the choice together. We had casually watched birds for many years, but never made the leap to trying to identify all of the little brown jobbers until May 5, 2003. No reason for that particular date either, I suppose, except that two, not before seen, LBJs showed up at the feeder.

I grew up in a family that hunted, fished, camped and spent most of our time in the outdoors. The outdoors was a large expanse of unknown with secrets waiting to be discovered by a Kansas boy. Summer found me, whenever I wasn't doing chores, at the creek close to our home. Occasionally my brother, Mark, and I fished; but, mostly we cooled off in the somewhat muddy water and searched for all things living including snakes, frogs, toads and other crawling things. I knew the names of the common birds such as cardinals, orioles, blue jays, thrashers and of course bobwhite quail. With so much to see and learn, I never got around to naming the little birds that usually were seen for only a fleeting moment.

My wife, on the other hand, grew up on a dairy farm. Farmers are surrounded by nature on a daily basis but it often goes unnoticed in the long days of just trying to make ends meet. So my wife, who had rarely traveled out of Kansas as a girl, was in for an eye opening experience when she married into a family of nature lovers. With the birth of our two sons her life quickly became centered around the outdoors. So following the traditions, I had learned from my grandpa and dad, we raised the boys to hunt, fish, camp and enjoy the outdoors. Family vacations were spent not at the Holiday Inn but, in a tent somewhere in the mountains of the west; one year South Dakota, another Wyoming and still another Montana.

However, children grow up and move away and the outdoors took a back seat to other activities we deemed more necessary. Sam and I still vacationed in the outdoors and I continued to fish, but without those questioning minds of our boys something seemed to be missing for me. Sam continued to look at nature with awe, but I had lost much of my enthusiasm. Maybe I just needed a new challenge.

So on May 5<sup>th</sup> I pulled out the "none to good bird book" we had and as a couple, Sam and I started studying those two new birds in the back yard. After many minutes of looking at the birds and referring to the book and, I might add, many times of changing our minds, we finally identified the birds as a Clay-colored and a White-crowned Sparrow. Of the one I am certain but, the Clay-colored still nags at me. I hope we get another chance for observation during migration this spring.

Identification gave way to keeping track of the birds we had seen and all of a sudden we have become listers in the vernacular of birders. So the last year has been one of reawakening. Sam and I try to go birding once a week if only to the stream that runs through town. We helped with two Christmas Bird Counts and spent 10 days birding in southern Texas. We no longer drive the highways or walk our dogs without looking for and trying to name the birds we see. Everywhere we go others are eager to help us, whether it is to take us birding or point us in the right direction. Thanks to birding we have fallen in love all over again with the outdoors and I again look at nature with the wonderment of that young boy in eastern Kansas.

### Bird Records Committee

The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) serves as a committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society with the expressed purpose of reviewing records of rare birds, maintaining those records and publishing an "official" list of the birds of Kansas. Periodically the KBRC updates the "Review List" or those birds that should be documented when they are seen in Kansas. The list is maintained on the Internet at:  
<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>  
If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of the review list and rare bird report form please contact the KBRC secretary, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 and he will provide you with printed copies of all this material.

# Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet

Max Thompson, Treasurer

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INVESTMENT FUND	ASSETS
CHECKING	\$176,519.30
SUBTOTAL	\$9,104.44
DINGUS LAND	\$185,623.74
TOTAL	\$56,000.00
	\$243,629.74

GENERAL FUND	LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES
ENDOWMENTS	\$14,499.78
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT	\$85,806.03
BOOK ROYALTY FUND	\$36,203.94
DINGUS NATURE AREA FUND	\$35,815.77
STUDENT RESEARCH FUND	\$9,532.04
DINGUS NATURE AREA LANDS	\$5,772.18
TOTAL	\$56,000.00
	\$243,629.74

The Dingus Nature Area is currently being carried on the books at the Linn County courthouse with a value of \$85,000.

There are no outstanding bills. The checking account does carry \$600 in life memberships which will be transferred to the investment fund. The Birds of Kansas royalty check should be arriving sometime this month. When it comes in, I will make the transfer to the investment company. The investment fund amount is the quarterly report ending December 31, 2013. I can assure the board this number is now lower with stock prices being what they are.

Max C. Thompson  
Treasurer

Photo courtesy of Bob Mangile, Pittsburg, KS.



# News from KOS members

We heard about Matt and Kevin's accomplishments last month and now it is official as their totals are all in. And now we have another who has reached being listable in all 105 Kansas counties. Jim Malcolm has now achieved this milestone with this months listing. Congratulations Jim and to all of you. Here is to many more accomplishments in the future.

Mark Land—Overland Park, KS

KOS remembers long time member and Topeka area birder Joanne Brier who passed January 31, 2014. She was a member of the State Wildflower Board, the Topeka Audubon Society and KOS.



Picture courtesy of Dallas Hewett, Black Crowned Night Heron, Keeper of the Plains, March 7, 2014

## 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

Name

Daytime phone or email

Address