



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

Fall, 2014

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A Roseatte Spoonbill near Wichita and a Little Gull at Quivira were spotted and identified this August. Photos to the left copyright by Bob Gress, used with permission. (www.BirdsInFocus.com) The photo below from Bryant Miller.



In this Issue

From the Keyboard.....	2
Celia Markam.....	3
Roundup.....	4
KOS Perspectives: The news in Spring, across five decades.....	14
Fall Meeting of the KOS.....	20
Nominations and Call for Papers.....	23
Past President of KOS dies.....	16
Renew your membership.....	16

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

It's a beautiful time of year now, this approach to September and Fall migration. The weather is still hot but it won't be for long. The birding was good this summer with a Hooded Oriole, now a Little Gull and Roseate Spoonbill to add to State records and people's lists.

The annual Fall meeting of the KOS is this October. My first introduction to the KOS was the Fall meeting back in 2012. It was my first chance to meet and see the people who you get to know about on the listserv and I encourage anyone who can make it to go and support KOS and the students who will make their presentations this Fall.

Henry Armknecht sends these greetings:

"All KOS members and anyone interested in birds or birding are encouraged to come to the Fall KOS meetings in Salina. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends, spend time with some birding friends, learn more about the mission and work of the KOS, hear paper presentations, become more involved in KOS, and even do a little birding. Matt Gearhart has agreed to run for president. If he is elected he will do a great job. I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Debby and I have recently moved to Hays. I am employed by the public schools and she is working at Dillon's. I am also returning to school at FHSU to work toward certification to teach Special Education. We will be quite busy, but I still hope to be able to get away for KOS functions, Christmas Counts, and even some casual birding from time to time."

This is the last round-up that Jon King is doing. It takes a tremendous amount of work and attention to detail to do that every three months. I think Jon does the bulk of the work on the HOLA really, because most of the pages are his work. From anyone who's been able to see their name on the list of observers, thanks for all you do Jon.



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Celia Markum

July 9, 1917- April 8, 2014

Celia was born July 9, 1917, in Kansas City, Mo., and died on April 8, 2014, in Harlingen, Texas. Celia Ellen Miller was the adopted daughter of John Thomas Miller and Leona Frances Jordan Miller. She grew up in Junction City, graduated from Junction City High School in 1935, and lived there most of her life.

In the 1950s, she took leadership roles with the Girl Scouts and insisted that scouting be available to all girls in the community. She was a PTA president. She was a member of the Ladies Reading Club and a supporter of the Junction City Little Theater.

Celia enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling with her husband. Celia spent summers at Eagle Lake, Ontario and frequently wintered in Marathon, Fla. There were many RV trips with the Konza Campers. As well as two tours of Europe, a trip to Africa, and one to the South Pacific.

Celia loved seeing birds and photographing them. Celia joined KOS in 1955 and became a Life Member. She was an active board member and served as the society's second female president from 1970 to 1972. Celia helped start the Junction City Christmas Bird Count in 1958 and served as an early compiler and organizer of this count. In 2005 she was presented the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd award for life time contributions to KOS.

She also was a member of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, during this time, the body charged with policy-making responsibility for the management of the state's parks and refuges. She took a strongly informed interest in re-establishing populations of deer and wild turkeys in the state.

Celia's personality was complex and variegated with a broad range of interests. Her skills were in so many areas. She loved books and reading. She did beautiful knitting and sewed hundreds of stuffed toys for church fundraisers. She loved good clothes and fine dining. Her photography was at a professional level, and she was sought as a presenter of informative programs for many local organizations. She was an expert shot with a rifle or shotgun. She understood boats and water, where to find fish; and what to do with them when they were caught. She learned to read marine charts, repaired outboard motors, and made the family feel safe in any kind of weather. Even in her later years she was still an active participant in the Junction City Christmas Bird Count especially enjoying the opportunity to bird with John Zimmerman!

She encouraged her daughters to become independent, educated, and active. She had high expectations and held to a "no-whining allowed" parenting philosophy. She never flinched from unpleasant tasks like cleaning fish and game, and taught others to do the same.

She was loved and respected by several generations of extended, family and a wide circle of friends. Nieces, nephews, grand and great-grandchildren appreciated her enthusiasm, her strength of character, her love of fun and parties and picnics.

She leaves two daughters, Francis Lee Brede and Mary Lynn White; four grandchildren, Emilie Howe Muramoto, Charles Howe, Katherine Trechter Alfaro, and Samuel Trechter; seven great -grandchildren, Penny Fredericks Bums, Monica Fredericks, Albert Howe, Philip Howe, Jordan Howe, Maria Alfaro, and Jeremy Alfaro; and two great-great-grandchildren, Dean and Tyler Burns. She was predeceased by three husbands, Leroy Markum; Ralph White, father of daughter, Mary, and Ralph Filby, father of daughter, Lee.

At Celia's request, memorial gifts may be made to the Kansas Ornithological Society, c/o Max Thompson, Treasurer, 1729 East 11th Avenue, Winfield, KS67156

Kansas Spring 2014 Summary

Jon King, compiler

Statewide, temperatures were 3.7°F below average in March, and in far eastern Kansas as much as 4-6°F below average. April and May temperatures however, were near normal across much of the state (*High Plains Regional Climate Data Center*). During March, the prolonged wintery weather resulted in several impressive waterfowl and gull concentrations, some carrying over from February, and others most likely resulting from impeded waterfowl migration. Such concentrations were noted at L. Parsons, Neosho WA, Marion Res., Quivira, Cheyenne Bottoms, Winfield City L., and perhaps others.

The long-standing drought continued throughout this spring. Drought severity ranged from abnormally dry (D1) in the northeast, to extreme drought (D3) in the western part of the state (*US Drought Monitor*). Marsh birds were accordingly scarce this spring, with species such as Virginia Rail, King Rail, and Least Bittern reported in below average numbers.

Shorebirding however, seemed about average this year with good habitat at Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira, and several central Kansas reservoirs. Snowy Plovers once again took advantage of low water levels at central Kansas reservoirs and appeared outside of traditional *Barton* and *Stafford* locations, but not the extent seen in spring of 2013. Spring shorebirding in far eastern Kansas is generally less impressive than central Kansas and Neosho WA, which was drained for maintenance, was especially noteworthy. Several unusually high counts for eastern Kansas were recorded here, as was a Snowy Plover well east of traditional locations.

In recent years, Kansas birding has acquired an increasingly southern flavor as south-central and southeastern species appear farther north, farther west, or in greater numbers. This year the trend was exemplified by Neotropical Cormorant, Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, Pileated Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, and Painted Bunting to name a few. Other trends worth mentioning include ongoing expansion of Common Raven in southwest Kansas where formerly common Chihuahuan Ravens are declining, a good migration for both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, and a poor spring for irruptives such as Red-breasted Nuthatch and winter finches. Also of interest, Rufous and other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are becoming regular spring visitors in the southern Great Plains, exemplified this year by two Rufous Hummingbird reports and a possible Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Every season, there are always a few cooperative birds, which are successfully chased by many birders. This spring, popular chases included a Brown Pelican in *Riley/Pottawatomie*, Surf Scoters in *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, Whooping Cranes in *Marion*, and a first state record Hooded Oriole in *Douglas*. Other highlights included second state records of Gray Vireo and Hepatic Tanager in *Morton*, both with physical evidence removing these two species from the hypothetical list pending KBRC acceptance. The most interesting birds of the season, to the author at least, were a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler from *Hamilton* and a probable Black-throated Green x Townsend's Warbler in *Johnson*. The former is possibly only the second record of that hybrid east of the Rocky Mountains. However, the event of the season was the 11th of May in *Morton*. In addition to the previously mentioned Hepatic Tanager, observers discovered 20 species of warbler, including over 100 MacGillivray's!

Greater White-fronted Goose: Leftovers in *Barton*, *Harvey*, *Neosho*, and *Russell* during May.

Snow Goose: Excellent numbers in northeast and north-central Kansas during early Mar: 750,000 at Lovewell Res. (HA), 1,000,000+ at Waconda L. ~3/8 according to KDWP which sets a record for this location (HA). Leftovers in *Atchison*, *Barton*, *Brown*, *Ford*, *Neosho*, *Rooks*, and *Russell* during May.

Ross's Goose: Highest count: 5,000+ white geese at CBWA 3/12 (SS) were mostly Ross'. Two injured birds at Dodge City WTP 4/27 (JC) were late.

Tundra Swan: Reported 3/16-28 at Quivira with max. of 9 there 3/25 (BJ). Not reported elsewhere.

Trumpeter Swan: Late: 1 imm. in ne Reno 4/5 (AM,BM,ph.)

Mute Swan: One ad. continuing at Neosho WA 12/27 – 3/9 (AB-ph) was associating with Trumpeter Swans. Suspected “wild” birds are increasingly reported n MO, e NE, and even the CO Front Range in recent years (*North American Birds*, vol. 62-67).

American Black Duck: One at Yancy Rd. (*Linn*) 8 Mar (MG,NA) was the only reported.

Cinnamon Teal: Easterly: 1 m. at Neosho WA 11-12 Apr (AB-ph), 1 m. at Hillsdale L. 17 Apr (JW,MLo,NV-ph). Highest counts: 5 m. at CBWA 4/14 (SF), 5 (3 m., 2 f.) at Quivira 4/29 (ABo).

Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: Single drakes at L. Wabaunsee 5 Apr (DLS-ph), CBWA 4/14 (SF-ph), Rocky Ford SFA 16 Apr (FS-ph).

Northern Pintail: Highest Count: 35,000 at Quivira 3/7 (BJ).

Green-winged Teal: Highest Count: 5,000 at MDCWA 3/8 (NA, MG).

Canvasback: A good count for ne KS, 100 were at L. Vaquero (*Shawnee*) 3/1 (JH).

Ring-necked Duck: Late: 2 (1 m., 1 f.) at Hain SFL (*Ford*) 5/24 (JC-ph), 2 m. at Quivira 5/25 (AM,BM,MM).

Lesser Scaup: Leftovers after 5/15 in *Barton, Hamilton, Hodgeman, Neosho, Riley, and Stafford*.

Surf Scoter: One f. at Lone Star L. (*Douglas*) 3/29 – 4/12 (GP,m.ob,ph.), 3 at Perry L. 4/16 with 4 (1 ad. m., 1 imm. m., 2 f.) there 4/17-19 (Sl, m.ob,ph.).

Black Scoter: Two f. at Quivira 3/27-28 (SS).

Long-tailed Duck: One at WYCL 12/26 – 4/11 was continuing from winter (last seen MG-ph).

Bufflehead: A f. or imm. at Quivira 5/17-18 (AM,BJ,BM) was late.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: One f. visited Winfield City L. 3/9 (MT), which was new for this location (MT).

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser: One ad. m. at Lone Star L. (*Douglas*) 4/7 (NV-ph).

Hooded Merganser: Late for c KS: 2 at Hain SFL (*Ford*) 5/24 (JC-ph), 1 at Quivira 5/22-24 (MR), 1 at CBWA 5/25 (BG). Highest count: 310 at Neosho WA 3/5 (AB).

Common Merganser: Late: 1 at Geary SFL 5/3 (CM,DL), 3 (1 ad. m., 2 f.) at Rocky Ford SFA 5/13-23 (EW-ph), 2 (1 ad. m., 1 f.) at MDC 5/20 (MGo,NV). Highest count: 10,000+ at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT).

Red-breasted Merganser: One at Syracuse Sand Dunes Park (*Hamilton*) 5/13 (TM) was unusual in the “wasteland” as Jeff Calhoun would say.

Scaled Quail: Three individuals in *Morton* 5/7-9 (DW,JMa,MR,TC) and 2 in *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC) were the only reported.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Highest counts: 40 near Beverly (*Lincoln*) 3/24 (TD), 29 in n *Butler* 3/6 (DH).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken: Highest counts: 35 in ne *Comanche* 3/4 (JnL), 26 in c *Clark* 4/12 (EWa), 25 in *Gray* 5/2 (SS).

Eared Grebe: Highest counts: 122 at CBWA 4/30 (RR,WE), 60 at Webster Res. 4/21 (JVK), 40 at the Liberal WTP 5/2 (JC,KG,RR,WE).

Neotropic Cormorant: Another good spring for this bird with minimum of 10 individuals reported. Reports at CBWA as usual 4/18 – 5/27 (m.ob) with maximum of 4 ad. there 4/30 (ABo-ph). Elsewhere: 1 fly-over at SCWA 3/21 (MT) was fairly early, 1 at Hillsdale L. 4/6 (NV), 1 imm. at JEC 5/8 (BMA-ph), 1 imm. in sw Reno 5/15 (AM,BM)-ph, 1 in *Linn* 5/24 (JRe), and 1 visited Neosho WA 5/25 (AB).

Double-crested Cormorant: Highest count: 3,000 – 4,000 at Waconda L. 3/17 (HA).

Brown Pelican: A well-chased, 1st spring imm. visited the Rocky Ford and Tuttle Creek area (*Pottawatomie and Riley*) 4/20 – 5/20 (BS-ph).

American Bittern: Lateish: 2 at L. Lenexa 5/26 (NA).

Least Bittern: Only report: 1 at CBWA 5/27-30 (NV).

Green Heron: Early: 1 at Neosho WA 4/6 (AB-ph).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 in c Wichita at the Arkansas R. 3/5 (DH-ph) is likely KS’s all-time earliest arrival. Normal dates of occurrence in Sedgwick are 4/4 – 10/12 (*Janzen 2007, The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir*).

Glossy Ibis: One at CBWA 5/1 (ML) and 1 at Quivira 5/7 (MR) were expected. Elsewhere: 2 at SCWA 5/4 (MT) and 1 at Hain SFL (Ford) 5/23 (JC-ph).

Glossy x White-faced Ibis: 1 at CBWA 5/1 (ML). This hybrid is very likely underreported in KS.

White-faced Ibis: Peak count of 700 *Plegadis* at Quivira 5/11 with 650 of these identified as White-faced (JnL,JsL).

Black Vulture: Increasingly likely in se KS during spring. During the past decade expected only in *Cherokee*, so singles in *Chautauqua* near Peru and Hart's Mill 4/12 (KG-WAS) and 2 at Neosho WA 4/12 (AB-ph) were noteworthy. Even farther away, one near the Deffenbaugh Landfill 5/9 (MG) was *Johnson's* second (MT), following a 7 May 2006 sighting.

Osprey: Early: 1 near Caney R. (*Chautauqua*) 3/17 (JC,NV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Range expanding to w along s-c KS drainages. Sporadic during recent years in *Pratt* (MR) with 1 at KDWPT 4/22 (MR) this year.

Broad-winged Hawk: Early: 1 in *Elk* 3/25 (RP). A minimum of 10 individuals passed through the w ½ of KS 4/25 – 5/24.

Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's): A possible sighting in *Riley* 5/11 (BS). Insufficient looks to eliminate Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's x Eastern).

Rough-legged Hawk: Latest: 1 in *Hodgeman* 4/15 (SS), 1 at Baker Wetlands 4/16 (DL,RB) missing 4-5 primaries.

Black Rail: unreported.

Yellow Rail: One flushed by tractor at Baker Wetlands 4/22 (RB).

King Rail: Only report: 1 at Quivira 5/5 (GC).

Common Gallinule: One at Hillsdale L. 5/11 (NV) was a *Miami* first, and the first sighting since 2012.

Sandhill Crane: Highest count: 40,000 at Quivira 3/12 (MR). Late: 1 in c *Reno* 5/14 (AM,BM,ph.) and 1 in sw *Reno* 5/5 (AM,BM,ph.) were "lesser" Sandhill Cranes. A group of 30 flying north near *Mayetta (Jackson)* 3/15 (MHa) was a good count so far east.

Whooping Crane: Highest count: 18 in *Stafford* 4/3 (SS). Sightings away from *Barton* and *Stafford* are rare, such as the 9 well-chased individuals in *Marion* 3/23-29 (JMs,m.ob,ph.), 7 near *Larned (Pawnee)* 4/3 (SS), 2 elsewhere in *Pawnee* and *Rush* 4/3-6 (SS (rep.)), and 2 at a *Kiowa* farm pond 4/12 (JC).

Black-necked Stilt: Slightly rare but increasingly regular spring visitor in e KS. Sightings there: 1 in *Linn* 4/18 (MMh), 1 at *Neosho WA* 5/9-10 (MS,m.ob-ph), 3 different *Riley* sightings 5/11-13 (m.ob-ph), and 1 in *Clay* 4/25 (m.ob).

Snowy Plover: Snowy Plovers appeared at several c KS localities away from traditional *Barton* and *Stafford* breeding areas, but not quite to the extent seen in 2013. Such sightings included 1 in *Sumner* 4/16 (DS), 2 in c *Reno* 4/10 – 5/10 (AM,BM,JM,MM)-ph, 1 at the *Elkhart WTP* 5/7 (GC,JMa), 2 at *Webster Res.* 5/25 (JVK), and sightings at *Wilson L. (Russell)* 4/6 – 5/18 with a maximum of 5 there 5/18 (MR). Another at *Neosho WA* 5/4-5 (AB-ph) was an excellent sighting east of the Flint Hills. For reference, there are only five records in Missouri away from the nw corner of the state (*showme-birds.com*, 16 Jul 2014).

Piping Plover: Away from *Barton* and *Stafford*, 4 sightings of 6 individuals 4/20 – 5/8 in *Douglas*, *Osage*, *Rooks*, and *Russell*.

Mountain Plover: Two sightings of 4 individuals in *Morton* 4/4 – 5/7 (m.ob).

Spotted Sandpiper: This season 31 visited the *Leoti WTP* 5/10 (JC,PJ) and 82 visited the *Elkhart WTP* 5/10 (TC et al.). The previous high count in *Morton* was 25 on 20 May 2002 (*Cable and Seltman, 2011, Birds of the Cimarron National Grassland*). Concentrations of this magnitude are probably more likely in w part of the state (JK,PJ).

Whimbrel: Reported 4/17 – 5/21 in *Barton*, *Lane*, *Miami*, *Neosho*, *Osage*, *Rooks*, *Sherman*, *Stafford*, and *Sumner*.

Long-billed Curlew: Slightly easterly: 1 in c Reno 3/31 (AM-ph), 6 in sw Reno 4/6 (JM). Highest counts s of the Arkansas R. as is usual: 43 in w Ford 4/5 (JC), 200 s of Cimarron in Gray 4/9 (SS). Data were not available from Garden City.

Hudsonian Godwit: The 230 at Neosho WA 5/5 (AB) was an excellent count e of the Flint Hills where spring high counts during the past 10 years are 18, 20, 23, and 26 (*eBird*; *The Horned Lark* vol. 31-40).

Marbled Godwit: Rare and regular e of Flint Hills. Sightings there: 1 at Melvern L. 5/4 (JMa), 4 at Hillsdale L. 5/10 (ML), and 3 at Neosho WA 5/10 (AB,DC,MG,NV).

Red Knot: Two at CBWA 5/15 (RP).

Ruddy Turnstone: Only reports in Barton and Stafford from 5/17-22. Highest count: 5 at Quivira 5/17 (AM, BJ, BM, Joseph Miller).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Highest count: 293 in Greenwood 5/7 (RP) including individual flocks of 55, 80, and 103.

Western Sandpiper: Rare but regular e of Flint Hills in spring migration with 1 at Melvern L. 5/5 (JMa). High count: 10 at CBWA 5/11 (JnL, JsL) among 850 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Reported 4/25 – 5/24 from 11 counties. Three confirmed vocally at CBWA 4/25 and one confirmed vocally at Milford L. (Clay) 4/25 (MR) were the only Apr. sightings. West-most: 1 at Ford SFL 5/13 (JC). Highest count: 60 at CBWA 5/1 (ML) – some identified vocally, others visually.

Herring Gull: Late: 1 at Melvern L. 5/4 (JMa). Highest count: 579 at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT) during the early Mar. cold snap.

Thayer's Gull: Only sighting: 1 ad. at SMP 3/4 (ML).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Four sightings of 5 individuals 3/1-17 (m.ob) from Barton, Cowley, Douglas, and Reno.

Glaucous Gull: Only sighting: 1 at L. Quivira (Johnson) 3/24-26 (RW).

Least Tern: Three reports away from traditional Barton and Stafford locations: 1 in Wichita 5/15 (TE), 2 at JEC 5/13 (BMa), 1 at Wilson L. (Lincoln) 5/21 (DK). There are hardly any nw KS records (*Birds of Kansas*, *eBird*).

Black Tern: Highest counts: 1,200 at CBWA 5/17 (MR), 517 at Tuttle Cr. Res. (Riley) 5/17 (ER,TC).

Common Tern: Early: 1 ad. at Wilson L. (Russell) 4/20 (MR), 2 (1 ad.) at Neosho WA 4/24 (AB-ph). Otherwise 6 reports of 8 individuals 5/2-22 from Atchison, Douglas, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley.

Black-billed Cuckoo: A good showing with 8 reports of 8 individuals 5/7-27 from Douglas, Geary, Harvey, Leavenworth, Neosho, Russell, Shawnee, Woodson, and Wyandotte. During the second half of May, Black-billed Cuckoo frequency was 1.2, as opposed to 0.45, the 10-year average during the last week of May (*eBird*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A good showing this spring. During the second-half of May, the frequency of Yellow-billed Cuckoo was 24.1, compared to the 10-year average of 16.4 at that time (*eBird*).

Greater Roadrunner: Northernish sightings: 1 in c Reno 4/12-16 (AM,BM,JM)-ph, 1 in s Reno 4/21 (AM-ph), 2 in a cottonwood-lined canyon in s Stafford 5/10 (AA) with courtship noted, 1 in Edwards 4/4 (JC), 3 sightings of 4 individuals in Ford (JC), and 1 near Goddard (Sedgwick) 5/26 (AS), and 1 in se Rush 3/20 (SS). Roadrunners became low-density residents n to Rush in the past decade with nesting suspected there (SS).

Snowy Owl: Only sighting: 1 at CBWA to 3/21 (m.ob), likely continuing from winter.

Long-eared Owl: Only report: 1 in Pawnee 3/20 (SS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: West-most sightings in Comanche, Ford, and Russell.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: In Elkhart, minimum of 2 present 5/3-11 (m.ob-ph) with m. and f. in courtship 5/11 (TC et al.-ph). This species has probably nested in Morton before (*Cable and Seltman 2011*, *Birds of the Cimarron National Grassland*).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Possible: Norma Conover saw and heard a “whistling” and “trilling” hummingbird in Satanta (*Haskell*) 5/24 (MR (rep.)).

Rufous Hummingbird: One imm. f. 5/23-24 in c *Reno* (AM, BM)-ph, 1 ad. f. in Dodge City 5/7-8 (JC-ph). This species, and other *Selasphorus* are typically not expected during spring on the southern plains, but sightings are becoming more frequent there (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 3).

Red-naped Sapsucker: One ad. f. at CNG Middle Spring 5/10-11 (TC et al.-ph).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker: Singles seen in *Morton*, as expected.

Pileated Woodpecker: Westward expansion continues with one at Clear Cr. (*Ellsworth*) 3/9 – 4/5 (DK-ph) and a pair nesting in a small cottonwood-lined canyon in s *Stafford* 5/10 (AA-ph). The latter would be KS’ west-most breeding record (*Thompson et al.*, 2011, *Birds of Kansas*).

Merlin: Late: One at Cross Timbers SP (*Woodson*) 5/10 (CMi).

Western Wood-Pewee: Three reports of 8+ singing individuals in *Morton* 5/10-17, where expected, with a high count of six in Elkhart 5/11 (JC,NS,MR). In contrast only one singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported in *Morton* this spring 5/29 (NV). A Western Wood-Pewee singing at Ford SFL 5/18 (JC) was the east-most.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Eight or more individuals reported in e KS 5/13-26 from *Cherokee*, *Douglas*, *Johnson*, *Leavenworth*, and *Shawnee*.

Willow Flycatcher: Earliest arrivals were singing birds in *Geary* 5/3 (MR) and *Johnson* 5/5 (MGo).

Alder Flycatcher: West-most: One at Ford SFL 5/24 (JC).

Gray Flycatcher: This spring, one visited the CNG Turnerville Work Center 5/10 (TC et al.-ph).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Aside from expected *Morton* sightings, one showed up in s *Meade* 5/2 (KG,JC,RR,WE).

Cassin’s Kingbird: Three reports of four individuals in *Hamilton* and *Morton*, 5/4-10.

Northern Shrike: Late: One at Rocky Ford SFA 4/1 (BS,JnL,m.ob).

White-eyed Vireo: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/10 (MR).

Gray Vireo: One in Elkhart 5/10 (TC et al.-ph). Kansas’s second record.

Cassin’s Vireo: Reported in Elkhart on 5/3 (JC et al.-ph) and 5/11-12 (TC et al.-ph).

Plumbeous Vireo: Reported at in *Morton* from 5/4 – 17 with at least three individuals present (m.ob-ph).

Blue-headed Vireo: Westerly: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/7 (JMa) and another in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Philadelphia Vireo: Highest count: Seven in the MDC area 5/13 (MMh). In western Kansas, minimum of seven individuals 5/11-27 in *Ford*, *Gove*, *Rooks*, *Morton*.

Western Scrub-Jay: One at Finney Game Refuge 4/15 (JC-ph).

Black-billed Magpie: East-most reports from *Rooks*, *Lincoln*, *Pawnee*, and *Kiowa*. Highest count: 6 near *Victoria* (*Ellis*) 3/9 (AL).

Fish Crow: As in 2013, Fish Crow moved into the Kansas R. drainage in record numbers. Sightings in Kansas R. counties fell between 3/26 – 5/25, with 6 reports in *Johnson*, 2 in *Wyandotte*, 2 in *Douglas*, 4 in *Riley*, and none from *Shawnee*. Earliest arrival: 1 in *Cherokee* 3/11 (JRa).

Common Raven: Nesting continues in *Morton* with 2 ad. and 2 imm. near the CNG Work Center 5/10 (TC et al.). Elsewhere: 1 heard at CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (JC, JVK, KG), 1 along the Arkansas R. in w *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC).

Chihuahuan Raven: One report from *Morton* was not substantiated.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Generally scarce, following a poor winter for the species.

Marsh Wren (Interior West): Two at Arkalon Park 4/5 (JC). There are few KS records, but this subspecies group is probably an uncommon migrant in w KS. See Colorado eBird for more information.

Carolina Wren: West-most: 3 along the Arkansas R. s of *Syracuse* (*Hamilton*) 5/17 (JC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Early: One at Pomona L. 3/9 (DMc,RM).

Townsend’s Solitaire: Easterly: One in *Lenexa* 3/30 (JG,MG).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: West-most sightings were singles at Lemon Park (Pratt) 5/15 (MR) and Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Wood Thrush: One at Rooks SFL 5/28 (JVK).

Curve-billed Thrasher: The resident birds at the Hugoton Cem. continue (m.ob), and two at Finney Game Refuge 4/5 – 5/17 (JC-ph) are suspected of nesting.

Cedar Waxwing: Highest count: 802 in c *Douglas* 5/19 (JCo).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Easterly: Six at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 4/6 (BB-ph).

Ovenbird: In w KS, 7 individuals reported 5/9-17 (m.ob).

Worm-eating Warbler: One at SMP 5/14 (MG,ML) was the only e KS sighting. Westerly: Three in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Northern Waterthrush: Minimum of 11 individuals in west half of Kansas 5/7–17.

Blue-winged Warbler: Singles at Lone Star Rd. (*Wyandotte*) 5/4 (MMh), SMP 4/29 – 5/2 (ML), and Overland Park 5/16 (DCo).

Golden-winged Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/11 (TC et al.).

Black-and-White Warbler: Minimum of three individuals in the western half of Kansas 4/17 – 5/11.

Tennessee Warbler: Highest count: 115 at WYCL 5/18 (ER,MG).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Highest count: 30 at Oak Park (*Wichita*) 4/26 (AW).

Virginia's Warbler: One in Elkhart 5/4 (JC,JVK,KG,ph.) with two there 5/11 (JC et al.).

MacGillivray's Warbler: An earth-shattering 100+ were detected in *Morton* 5/11 (WCT et al.), alongside 20 species of warbler. A minimum of 50 was reported in Elkhart alone that day (JC et al.).

Mourning Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

American Redstart: Minimum of nine individuals in the western half of Kansas 5/7-17.

Cape May Warbler: One ad. m. at *Quivira* 5/17 (AM,BJ,BM,MM,ph.).

Cerulean Warbler: One in *Atchison* 5/14 (DM).

Northern Parula: A minimum of 10 individuals in the western half of the state, 4/27 - 5/21.

Magnolia Warbler: Highest count: 12 in the MDC area 5/13 (MMh). Westerly: Five individuals in the western half of KS, reported 5/10-28 from *Morton*, *Russell*, *Stafford*, and *Wichita*.

Yellow Warbler: Highest count: 60 in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Nine or more individuals in the west half of KS 5/9-17.

Blackpoll Warbler: Highest count: 20 at Tunnel Mill Dam (*Winfield*) 5/15 (MT).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Westerly: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/13 (TM-ph).

Pine Warbler: One at SMP 5/14 (MG,ML).

Prairie Warbler: Westerly: One at CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (TC et al.).

Palm Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/2 (JVK).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's): Easterly: Two at Rocky Ford SFA 4/30 (BS) with one remaining 5/1 (EW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle x Audubon's): One at Clark SFL 5/1 (JC,KG,RR,WE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Westerly: One at Rocky Ford SFA 4/18 (DR) and probably another in Manhattan 4/28-30 (JsL,m.ob-ph), 1 at Tunnel Mill Dam (*Winfield*) 5/15 (MT).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: One at CNG K27 picnic area 5/11 (TC et al.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Westerly: One in Garden City 5/16 (SF) and another in Elkhart 5/4 (JC,JVK,KG).

Townsend's Warbler: Three or more individuals in *Morton* 5/3-11 (m.ob).

Townsend's x Hermit Warbler: One f. on Arkansas R. s of Syracuse in *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC-ph). There are fewer records of this hybrid east of the Rocky Mountains than Hermit Warbler, and the only other record I could find was an individual from Jones Beach, NY (*eBird.org*).

Townsend's x Black-throated Green Warbler: Probable m. at Shawnee Mission Park 4/30 (TS-ph), with photo evaluation by Kimball Garrett. Just last year, this species was photographed in *Baca*, Colorado.

Hooded Warbler: Singles at Pomona L. 5/4 (JMa), Heritage Park 5/14 (JWi), WYCL 5/18 (ER,MG,NV), and Lone Star Rd. (Wyandotte) 5/29 (MS).

Western Tanager: Five or more individuals in Morton 5/4-12 (m.ob) and one at Scott SP 5/8 (MHu,SSa).

Hepatic Tanager: One in Elkhart 5/11 (JC,WCT-ph) is Kansas' second record, and the first with physical evidence. In eastern Colorado spring birds are detected north and east of the breeding range once every two or three years, sometimes as far north as Lincoln, CO (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 3; eBird.org).

Summer Tanager: Five or more individuals in the western half of Kansas, 4/21 – 5/17.

Scarlet Tanager: Westerly: Singles in Garden City 5/15 (SF) and Elkhart 5/2-4 (m.ob-ph).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Easterly: Singles at Oak Park (Wichita) 5/15-16 (CVB), Milford L. 5/3 (BMa,MR), and Manhattan 5/5-6 (LI,m.ob-ph).

Lazuli Bunting: An annual rarity in eastern KS, with sightings there from 5/3-26 in Butler, Douglas, Geary, Linn, Shawnee, and Riley.

Painted Bunting: Sightings slightly beyond the species established range this spring included two at Wilson L. (Russell) 5/20 (DK-ph), one in Ness 5/9 (PJ), one at Buckner Valley Park (Hodgeman) 5/17 (JC), two in Ford 5/14-18 (JC-ph). A territorial individual was in Elkhart 5/11 (m.ob) into Jun, where the species likely breeds now.

Eastern Towhee: West-most: 1 at Quivira 5/15-18 (NV).

Spotted x Eastern Towhee: 1 in c Reno 4/5 (AM-ph), 1 f. at Quivira 5/6 (JM).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Only report: 2 at CNG Point of Rocks 3/26 (AB) with 1 remaining 3/29 (JC).

Cassin's Sparrow: One at Quivira 5/21 (GP) may indicate an easterly push during the breeding season to come.

Brewer's Sparrow: 7 individuals in Morton 5/3-13 (m.ob) as usual, and 1 at Finney Game Refuge 5/15 (NV).

Lark Bunting: Slightly easterly: 3 sightings of 5 individuals in c Reno 5/13-24 (AM,BM,JM).

Baird's Sparrow: One singing at a prairie chicken lek in ne Comanche 4/26 (DLt,JnL).

Henslow's Sparrow: Highest count: 11 netted at Konza Prairie 5/14 (FS).

Nelson's Sparrow: Only report: 1 at Hillsdale L. 5/16 (NV-ph).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Late: 1 at Buckner Valley Park 5/23 (JC), 1 at Jetmore City L. 5/23 (JC).

White-crowned Sparrow (Dark-lored): Two in Goodland 5/11, 1 at Elkhart WTP 5/13 (both TM). Timing of dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow observations on the high plains suggests these are eastern *Z. l. leucophrys*, rather than mountain *Z. l. oriantha* (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 1).

Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged): One at a c Reno feeder 3/13 (AM), likely continuing from winter.

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed): 1 in n Pawnee and s Rush 4/15 (SF-ph). In Colorado, this subspecies is usually detected earlier fall and later in spring on the eastern plains than other subspecies (*North American Birds*, vol. 66 no. 1).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One at Sac and Fox Wetlands (Brown) 3/12 was early for ne KS (DM). Highest count: 1,100 at CBWA 4/2 (GM).

Rusty Blackbird: At Buckner Valley Park, 47 there on 3/9 (JC) was a good count in w KS.

Brewer's Blackbird: Highest count: 4,000 on recently burnt pasture in c Reno 4/17 (JM). Latest sightings: 1 in c Reno 5/8 (AM-ph), 2 at Ashland Bottoms (Riley) 5/5 (JR) with 1 remaining there 5/8.

Hooded Oriole: First state record at a nw Douglas feeder 5/1-9 (KM). Recall that the first NE Hooded Oriole was seen just last year at a feeder in w NE.

Lesser Goldfinch: Singles in Morton at the CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (TC et al.) and Middle Spring 5/11 (JC). One at a se Russell feeder 5/12 (DK) was more surprising – there are few n-c KS reports.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 in Newton 3/4-30 (CS).

Table 1. Shorebird High Counts

Species	Count	Date	Location	Observer(s)
American Avocet	840	27-Apr	Quivira	DLt,JnL,JsL
American Golden-Plover	598	15-Apr	<i>Greenwood</i>	RP
Snowy Plover	158	27-Apr	Quivira	JnL
Semipalmated Plover	46	8-May	Neosho WA	AB
Piping Plover	12	12-Apr	Quivira	ABy,EW,EWa
Spotted Sandpiper	31	10-May	Leoti WTP	JC,PJ
Spotted Sandpiper	82	10-May	Elkhart WTP	TC et al.
Greater Yellowlegs	165	12-Apr	CBWA	RP
Willet	50	1-May	Quivira	ML
Upland Sandpiper	63	7-May	<i>Greenwood</i>	RP
Whimbrel	15	5-May	Quivira	MR
Hudsonian Godwit	250	1-May	Quivira	ML
Marbled Godwit	108	30-Apr	Quivira	Abo
Stilt Sandpiper	4,860	15-May	CBWA	RP
Sanderling	64	14-May	CB area	TM
Dunlin	30	16-18-May	Neosho WA	AB
Baird's Sandpiper	9,150	12-Apr	CBWA	RP
White-rumped Sandpiper	2,500	17-May	CBWA	MR
Dowitcher sp.	8,950	2-May	CBWA	RP
Wilson's Snipe	50	30-Mar	SCW	MT
Wilson's Phalarope	21,650	2-May	CBWA	RP
Wilson's Phalarope	2,774	4-May	SCW	MT
Wilson's Phalarope	8,850	18-May	Quivira	JnL,JsL

Some Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), Cemetery (Cem.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC), Lake (L.), Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (MDC), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira), photo (ph), River (R.), Reservoir (Res.), Slate Creek wetlands (SCW), State Fishing Area (SFA), State Fishing Lake (SFL), Shawnee Mission Park (SMP), State Park (SP), Wildlife Area (WA), water treatment ponds (WTP), Wyandotte County Lake (WYCL)

Observers: Aaron Austin (AA), Andrew Burnett (AB), Aaron Boone (ABo), Alice Boyle (ABy), Anthony Luna (AL), Andrew Miller (AM), Ashley Stillwell (AS), Art Weigand (AW), Brett Budach (BB), Byron Grauerholz (BG), Barry Jones (BJ), Bryant Miller (BM), Brandon Magette (BMa), Brett Sandercock (BS), Carol Morgan

(CM), Cheryl Miller (CMi), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Curt Van Boening (CVB), Dena Berquist (DBe), Devin Couture (DC), Dan Cowell (DCo), Dave Klema (DK), Dan Larson (DL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), David Lautenbach (DLt), Don Merz (DM), Debra McKee (DMc), Dave Rintoul (DR), David Seibel (DS), Emily Weiser (EW), Frank Stetler (FS), Glenn Caspers (GC), George Mayfield (GM), Galen Pittman (GP), Henry Armknecht (HA), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Jacob Cooper (JCo), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jon King (JK), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Joseph Miller (JM), Jim Malcom (JMa), Jim Mason (JMs), John Row (JR), Jenn Rader (JRa), Janet Reynolds (JRe), Jim Walton (JW), Jeff Witters (JWi), Jon Van de Kopple (JVK), Kathy McDowell (KM), Liza Ira (LI), Matt Gearheart (MG), Malcom Gold (MGo), Mike Harding (MH), Mike Hudson (MHu), Mark Land (ML), Mick Louis (MLo), Myron Miller (MM), Mick McHugh (MMh), multiple observers (m.ob), Mike Rader (MR), Mike Stewart (MS), Max Thompson (MT), Nic Allen (NA), Nate Shipley (NS), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Janzen (PJ), Roger Boyd (RB), Russell Mauzy (RM), Robert Penner (RP), Rodney Wright (RW), Sean Fitzgerald (SF), Susan Iverson (SI), Scott Seltman (SS), Shelly Sanders (SSa), Tom Ewert (TE), Travis Mahan (TM), Terry Swope (TS)

Nine e KS counties			Six e CO counties		
Species	Peak Freq.	To-tals	Species	Peak Freq.	To-tals
Yellow Warbler	49.795	4,085	Yellow Warbler	50.968	1
		12,92			523
Yellow-rumped Warbler	43.717	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	44.516	1
Tennessee Warbler	39.652	3,846	Common Yellowthroat	31.29	974
					130
Northern Parula	34.221	3,827	Orange-crowned Warbler	28.387	0
Nashville Warbler	34.016	2,646	Yellow-breasted Chat	18.065	188
Orange-crowned Warbler	28.273	2,046	Wilson's Warbler	17.996	522
Common Yellowthroat	27.869	2,392	MacGillivray's Warbler	15.161	196
American Redstart	26.772	1,255	Northern Waterthrush	9.647	209
Black-and-White Warbler	20.708	1,005	American Redstart	8.065	150
Blackpoll Warbler	20.697	828	Blackpoll Warbler	7.05	125
Wilson's Warbler	19.57	597	Ovenbird	6.308	87
Kentucky Warbler	17.623	1,025	Northern Parula	4.824	68
Louisiana Waterthrush	16.701	1,245	Nashville Warbler	4.453	63
Chestnut-sided Warbler	12.91	408	Virginia's Warbler	4.267	66
Magnolia Warbler	10.451	260	Tennessee Warbler	4.194	64
Ovenbird	9.016	253	Black-and-White Warbler	3.656	77
Prothonotary Warbler	8.661	657	Worm-eating Warbler	3.525	41
Yellow-throated Warbler	8.382	605	Magnolia Warbler	3.226	33
Mourning Warbler	7.874	123	Hooded Warbler	2.783	44
Northern Waterthrush	7.345	215	Townsend's Warbler	2.366	23
Blackburnian Warbler	6.865	157	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2.226	27
Palm Warbler	6.549	189	Palm Warbler	1.505	18
Golden-winged Warbler	6.455	136	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1.299	19
Black-throated Green Warbler	4.918	148	Black-throated Green Warbler	1.113	10
Yellow-breasted Chat	4.068	134	Cerulean Warbler	1.113	14
Canada Warbler	2.887	58	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1.075	14

Table 2. Spring Warblers: East Kansas vs East Colorado

Nine e KS counties			Six e CO counties		
Species	Peak Freq.	Totals	Species	Peak Freq.	Totals
Bay-breasted Warbler	1.434	26	Bay-breasted Warbler	0.968	9
Blue-winged Warbler	1.062	29	Golden-winged Warbler	0.742	15
Cape May Warbler	0.615	12	Blue-winged Warbler	0.645	18
Pine Warbler	0.535	11	Yellow-throated Warbler	0.645	9
Worm-eating Warbler	0.531	11	Blackburnian Warbler	0.643	12
Hooded Warbler	0.525	10	Mourning Warbler	0.371	4
Cerulean Warbler	0.354	11	Prairie Warbler	0.322	8
Prairie Warbler	0.178	2	Prothonotary Warbler	0.322	6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0.102	2	Pine Warbler	0.215	4
Virginia's Warbler	0	1	Swainson's Warbler	0.215	5
Connecticut Warbler	0	2	Kentucky Warbler	0.19	7
			Lucy's Warbler	0	1
			Louisiana Waterthrush	0	2
			Canada Warbler	0	1
			Connecticut Warbler	0	1

Data from *eBird.org*. Frequency is the number of checklists reporting a species (i.e. all checklists frequency of 100), and peak frequency refers to the maximum frequency attained. Totals refers to the sum of all individuals of a species on all checklists. Keep in mind that rare species are chased which alters frequency and totals. Data from *eBird.org*. Frequency is the number of checklists reporting a species (i.e. all checklists frequency of 100), and peak frequency refers to the maximum frequency attained. Totals refers to the sum of all individuals of a species on all checklists. Keep in mind that rare species are chased which alters frequency and totals.



Pictures courtesy of Lowell Johnson.



KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1964

AFTER THE BIG FREEZE OF MARCH, 1960, CAROLINA WRENS PRACTICALLY DISAPEARED FROM THE KC AREA. THEY WERE NEARLY AS COMPLETELY DOWNED AS THEY WERE IN 1939. HOWEVER, REPORTS FROM DAWSON AT SWOPE PARK CAMP (KC, MO.) AND MYERS AT TOWANYAK (JOHNSON CO., KANSAS) INDICATE A COMEBACK IN 1964. ANOTHER CONSPICUOUS UPWARD POPULATION TREND IS THAT OF THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. THE SCISSOR-TAIL FIRST APPEARED IN THE KC AREA ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO; WERNING SAW ONE IN EASTERN JACKSON CO., Mo., AT THAT TIME. THE FIRST NESTING RECORD WAS DEAN COLE'S FOR 95th AND RENNER IN NORTHEASTERN JOHNSON CO., KANSAS, IN 1954. ANOTHER NEST FOR 1954 WAS FOUND AT LEE SUMMIT, MO., AND TODAY SEVERAL ARE FOUND EACH YEAR IN BOTH KANSAS AND MISSOURI. [PAST PRESIDENT ELIZABETH COLE WANTS TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRENDS IN NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE SCISSOR-TAIL AROUND KANSAS CITY, SO ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SPECIES WILL BE USEFUL TO HER. HER ADDRESS IS 5535 RENNER ROAD, SHAWNEE, KANSAS.] TED ANDERSON SAW A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER IN DONIPHAN CO. MAY 29, AS DID DEAN COLE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 25 (NE JOHNSON CO., KANSAS) ANDERSON ALSO SAW A SINGING MALE OVENBIRD IN DONIPHAN CO. ON MAY 27. MYERS HAD A LEAST AND ACADIAN FLYCATCHER AND SWAINSON THRUSH UP TILL MAY 28, WHEN THEY ALSO SAW AN OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. LARGE FLOCKS OF GRACKLES CAME TO CAMP TOWANYAK MAY 24-28, SEEMINGLY TO WORK OVER LARGE NUMBERS OF 17 YEAR LOCUSTS THAT BEGAN TO HATCH OUT ON MAY 22. THEY ALSO RECORDED A WESTERN, KINGBIRD AT CAMP ON JUNE 27 AND A SCISSOR-TAIL ON JULY 19. MYRTLE WARBLERS SHOWED UP ON AUGUST 15, AND A CHESTNUT-SIDED WAS SEEN AUGUST 17. A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER WAS SEEN ON SEPTEMBER 3, AT THE KU NATURAL HISTORY RESERVATION NEAR LAWRENCE.--ELIZABETH COLE

THE 82ND STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION MET AT KU FROM AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 3. ABOUT 300 PERSONS REGISTERED FORMALLY; 52 PAPERS WERE READ AT SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS HELD AT THE KANSAS UNION MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY. THE BREWSTER MEDAL, DESIGNATING SUPERIOR WORK IN AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, WAS AWARDED TO DR. HERBERT FRIEDMANN, DIRECTOR OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM, FOR HIS EXCELLENT, LONG-TERM STUDIES ON THE PARASITIC COWBIRDS. MANY MEMBERS OF KOS WERE IN ATTENDANCE AND MADE SOLID CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING.

1974

Highest Counts 1973—Kansas was represented only three times in the "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals" for the 1973 Christmas Bird Count as listed in the April 1974 issue of American Birds. Emporia had the most Tree Sparrows with 7324, Udall the most Harris' Sparrows with 1188, and Hays the most Lapland Longspurs with 6585. Last year Kansas registered highest on six species.

SHRIKE DISTRIBUTION CHRISTMAS 1973

Jean H. Schulenberg

The Northern Shrike has always been a likely candidate for the Kansas Christmas Bird Count. A few sharp-eyed people located one for the Topeka count last year, which represents one of four sighted on Christmas Bird Counts during the last 12 years in Kansas. One other bird was sighted at Wichita in 1971 and two were found in Morton County in 1963.

I proceeded to use the 1973 data in American Birds, Vol. 28, No. 2, to plot the distribution of both shrike species for Kansas and surrounding states. The numbers on the accompanying map represent the number of shrikes per 100 party hours for each count. The interesting point about the distribution of both species here is the fairly consistent 200 mile wide hiatus.

Only two counts in Kansas did not report shrikes in 1973, Goodland and Hays. Goodland, a new count, has no previous years for comparison. Hays seems to get a Loggerhead Shrike about half the time; 1973-0, 1972-1, 1971-1, 1970-1, 1969-2, 1968-0, 1967-0, 1966-0, 1964-0, 1962-1. The only other counts made in western Kansas the last 12 years all reported Loggerhead Shrikes; 1967 Cheyenne Co.-1, 1967 Wallace Co.-3, 1963 Morton Co.-4.

The interesting count as far as Kansas is concerned in 1973 is just over the state line at Bonny Reservoir, Colorado. Five Northern Shrikes were located in 55 party hours. This undoubtedly presents the western Kansas birders with a fairly good challenge of following all shrikes until a positive identification is made. Most Kansas counts are at least 300 miles from the normal winter range of the Northern Shrike. However, the people at Hays, Dodge City and Goodland (and we hope in the future to have counts at Scott City, Bucklin, Bloom, Weskan, Quinter, Hoxie, Colby and LaCrosse) have always got a fair chance of turning up a Northern Shrike.



KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1984

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS"

The Kansas Audubon Council and Kansas Wildlife Federation are sponsoring "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS", a one-day conference at Great Bend on Saturday, Sept. 22. Conference participants will learn about Colorado's impact on the Arkansas River, what water supplies exist above and below ground around Great Bend, what the state water plan will mean to wildlife and wildlife habitat in Kansas, and why Cheyenne Bottoms is so vital. Persons from Kansas Fish and Game will explain in detail the problems confronting the Bottoms, and propose some alternatives to improve the situation.

Highlighting the program is Lynn Greenwalt, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until dismissed by James Watt; he'll talk about Cheyenne Bottoms from a national perspective. Legislators Ron Fox and Joe Norvel will give insights into how the legislature works, and how to be effective in working with the legislature.

Other events surrounding "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS" will be a Friday evening film fest for those who arrive early, and a Sunday morning field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge for those who stay over. A Saturday afternoon tour of the Bottoms and the diversion dam on the Ark River will be scheduled if enough people are interested.

Registration is \$3.00 per person. There are limited camping facilities available nearby; a list of Great Bend motels and prices will be returned with your registration confirmation. We wildlife enthusiasts have an opportunity to speak out for one of our favorite areas, and if we don't do it, who will? Please plan to attend "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS" -- and

WHY I BIRD

1994

Several months ago there was an interesting conversation occurring on BirdChat--that big birders gab session existing in the virtual reality known as the Internet. It concerned birders who were avid listers (to the point of obsession) and whether they bird for the pleasure of birding or merely to get one more species on their life list, etc., etc. As happens with these ongoing conversations, they sometimes go on for entirely too long and such was the case with this one. Everything that needed to be said had probably been said 4 or 5 times. After about a week it came to an end when fellow birder and Birdchatter Carol Schumacher from Winona, Minnesota (southeast Minnesota on the Mississippi River) posted the following eloquent bit of verse. Carol graciously granted permission for it to be reproduced here.

Why I Bird

by Carol Schumacher

reprinted with permission of the author

I don't bird to list but I list
I don't bird to submit Seasonal Reports and
Nest Records but I do
I don't bird to chase but I do enjoy seeing birds I've never
seen before and those I've never seen before
I bird to challenge my eyes, ears, spirit and perspective
I bird to add my observations to the big picture
I bird for the exercise....I much prefer walking
I bird for the rhythm of the seasons that I've come to tune
to, and that represent seasons of my spirit too
I bird for the spiritual sense that requires me to slow down,
be quiet with to enjoy
I bird to be in the stunning river bluffs that are
the cradle of Winona
I bird for peak experiences...I never know what this day
will bring...but I'll never forget the first nest I
documented and the awe of watching the female
Broadwing blend with her nest
I bird for the connections and dear friends I've made
I bird for the sheer excitement that the first record Curlew
Sandpiper allowed me to express (first in MN)
I bird for the joy of standing in poison ivy watching a
stunning male Prothonotary feed three virtually
hidden gray young and alternately sing
I bird to see all the parts of Minnesota and the
diversity of this state
I bird to see the world...what an excuse to see Costa Rica,
Manzanillo, all the places I've never been
I bird...an uncommon love I share with all I can,
helping them connect with a world of knowledge
unknown to them

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

Most of us have probably seen some of the announcements regarding the recent mammoth undertaking by the American Ornithologists Union and the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia, to produce "The Birds of North America." Most of us have probably already determined that the price of this wonderful resource is out of our reach. Fear not! Bill Busby of the Kansas Biological Survey recently wrote me with the following wonderful news. Bill writes, "I would like to announce in the newsletter that the Kansas Natural Heritage Program is receiving The Birds of North America. This publication will consist of profiles (biographies) for each of the roughly 700 breeding species in the United States and Canada. Profiles for each species are published as they are completed; I have received about 100 profiles so far and they estimate all will be finished over the next 10 years."

The biographies were donated to all State Natural Heritage Programs to be used in conservation planning. They will also be available to KOS members. Anyone interested should contact: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey. The University of Kansas.

I have had occasion to see one of the species accounts. It was well written and with more detail than I could have imagined! Thank you Bill for that good news!

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

Lesser Prairie-Chickens

by John Rakestraw

2004

One of my favorite Kansas birds, Lesser Prairie-Chickens are small grouse native to sand-sage prairies and Shinnery Oak rangelands of the southern Great Plains. They differ from the Greater Prairie-Chicken by their paler plumage, plum-colored vocal sacks, bubbling call, and more aggressive behavior on their leks.

Most people view Lesser Prairie-Chickens during the birds' spring courtship rituals. Male prairie-chickens gather to vie for dominance and to attract the attention of passing females. But some people feel that sitting in a blind has a "canned" quality to it, so they prefer to find the birds away from the leks. During autumn and winter, Lesser Prairie-Chickens can be seen flying into grain fields to feed at dawn and dusk.

Viewing Lesser Prairie-Chickens has become increasingly difficult over the past few decades, not because of the birds' elusive nature, but because of a steady decline in the species' population.

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, these birds were abundant, with single flocks of several thousand being reported feeding in grain fields adjacent to the birds' prairie habitat. Market hunting and poaching during this period, followed by the "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s dealt major blows to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken population. Since that time, more and more of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken's habitat has been converted to farmland and altered to promote cattle grazing. Biologists estimate that the species' occupied range has decreased by at least 78 percent since 1963 and by 92 percent since the 1800s. The birds that remain are in small isolated populations in southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, the Oklahoma Panhandle, western Texas, and eastern New Mexico. As the space between pockets of good habitat grow larger, it becomes less likely that the birds will be able to re-colonize parts of their former range and maintain sufficient genetic diversity. There have been at least 12 attempts to reintroduce Lesser Prairie-Chickens to areas of their former range, but all have failed.

In the past, intensive agriculture and cattle grazing have been the most common causes of habitat degradation and fragmentation. But oil and gas exploration and development continue to expand within the bird's range. Within the last decade, commercial wind-power facilities have appeared in increasing numbers. Prairie-Chickens show a strong avoidance of tall structures such as utility poles and wind turbines.

As areas of habitat continue to shrink, Lesser Prairie-Chickens face new threats from other bird species. In western Kansas, Lesser Prairie-Chickens have recently hybridized with Greater Prairie-Chickens. When a bird's population is dangerously low, hybridization further weakens the gene pool. Introduced Ring-necked Pheasants compete with Lesser Prairie-Chickens for food and nesting territories. Pheasants are known to disrupt the nesting of Greater Prairie-Chickens by laying their eggs in prairie-chickens' nests. This parasitism has recently been documented in Lesser Prairie-Chicken nests.

Most birders travel to the Cimarron National Grasslands to find Lesser Prairie-Chickens, but this species can be found at scattered sites throughout the southwestern third of Kansas. The birds may be expanding their range slightly northward. When I lived in Kansas, my favorite site was the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area, but lek counts in 2002 and 2003 did not find any birds there.

I encourage you to seek out Lesser Prairie-Chickens whenever you can, even if you don't "need" them for your state list. When traveling to find these birds, tell every gas station attendant, motel clerk, and waitress why you are there. Offer private landowners a few dollars for the privilege of viewing these birds on their land. The more the public becomes aware of the plight of these birds and of the financial benefits of protecting them, the better the chances that Lesser Prairie-Chickens will survive their current decline.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

2004

White-winged Doves

by Helen Hands

With so many species declining in numbers and with ranges that are contracting, it's unusual to hear about a species whose numbers are increasing and whose range is expanding. That's the case with the White-winged Dove and other species in the Columbiformes. Historically, a bird of Mexico and the southwestern portion of the U.S., according to Lloyd Moore's compilation (<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/wwdo.htm>), there were 56 White-winged Dove records in 27 Kansas counties through August 2003 (plus at least three additional records in two new counties since then).

Actually, there are four breeding populations of White-winged Dove and not all are doing equally well. The Western population (in California, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico) is decreasing in both numbers and range, although in some areas numbers have remained stable. Little is known about the Upper Big Bend population whose range is much smaller than the other populations. The breeding ranges of the Mexican Highland and Eastern (southern half of Texas, northeastern Mexico, and Florida) populations have expanded northward. White-winged Dove that have been sighted recently in Kansas are most likely from the Eastern population.

As late as 1980, most White-winged Dove in the Texas portion of the Eastern population nested in the Lower Rio Grande River Valley. During the 1980s, some freezes and a 4-year drought devastated citrus orchards, where approximately 50% of the White-winged Dove nested. Consequently, numbers of White-winged Dove declined, but then White-winged Dove numbers in south-central Texas, near San Antonio, started increasing. Over 200,000 breeding White-winged Dove were estimated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in San Antonio in 1990. By 2001, the breeding population in San Antonio had reached nearly 1.1 million with an additional 285,000 in Austin. During 1990-2001, the breeding population was higher in south-central Texas, mostly in urban areas, than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Breeding Bird Survey data corroborate the Texas surveys. White-winged Dove increased in Florida (23.6%), Texas (10.8%), New Mexico (22.0%), California (9.1%), but declined in Arizona (-1.7%) during 1980-2003.

The wintering range of White-winged Dove has also increased as shown by Christmas Bird Count data, (<http://www.birdsource.org/features/doves/doves.html#map2>). Historically, White-winged Dove wintered in Mexico and

other countries in Central America. By the 1990s, White-winged Dove commonly wintered in central Texas and there was even a record as far north as Morton County, Kansas.

White-winged Dove are an interesting example of a bird species that can adapt to human-caused changes in habitat, as long as the changes are not too severe. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, White-winged Dove populations increased when native brush habitats were first being converted to irrigated grain farming in the early 1900s. However, as more native brush was converted to agriculture and urbanization, White-winged Dove populations declined. When citrus production was introduced in the 1940s, White-winged Dove started to depend on citrus trees for nesting. However, then White-winged Dove populations became susceptible to occasional declines due to freezes that killed citrus trees.

In the past 15 years, White-winged Dove have been successful nesting in urban areas in Texas, but urbanization and suburbanization in Arizona have been detrimental. The key for White-winged Dove being able to adapt to habitat changes seems to be to retain a good mix of woody vegetation for nesting and grain production for foraging. Urban areas with woody vegetation (as well as bird feeders, lawn sprinklers, and bird baths) apparently provide nesting areas with less nest predation where White-winged Dove can produce more young than rural areas. In addition, the warmer temperatures and bird feeders in urban areas allow White-winged Dove to remain during winter, rather than face the hazards of migration.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
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Reasons why you should attend the fall KOS meeting!

- * A chance to meet other birders who share your passion.
- * Listen to great presentations by students and members.
- * Birding Field Trips
- * The Birdwatcher's Hour
- * Presentation of the Best Birds of the Year!
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Guest banquet speaker Jon Dunn
- * The Resolutions
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Because it's just fun!!

66th Meeting of the KOS

Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas

October 3-5, 2014

Join KOS members for a weekend of paper presentations and birding in central Kansas.

Fall Meeting Program

Call for Papers

Registration Information (PDF)

Registration Form Only (PDF)

Map of Kansas Wesleyan Campus

Sorry - no online registration option.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 3

6:00-9:00 p.m. — Registration and informal reception at Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge, Lakewood Dr, 250, Salina, KS.

Directions: Located in Salina's Lakewood Park, with access from North or Iron Streets. (Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge is east of Orscheln Farm & Home store and Lakewood Middle School.) There is no road access to Lakewood Park from the east or west.

Saturday, October 4 (*Detailed Saturday Schedule*)

8:00 a.m. — Registration and refreshments at Sams Hall of Fine Arts on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus. Main Entry is on the east side of the building.

9:00 a.m. — Welcome and paper session in Fitzpatrick Theater in the Sams Hall of Fine Arts.

11:00 a.m. — Business meeting.

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. — Lunch on your own. Board will meet at a location on Kansas Wesleyan University to be announced.

1:30–2:30 p.m. — Birdwatchers' Hour.

2:30–4:00 p.m. — Paper session. Silent auction ends.

4:00–4:30 p.m. — Business meeting.

6:00–9:00 p.m. — Banquet, awards and speaker at the Salina Country Club, 2101 East Country Club Road. Salina, KS. Directions: Drive east on Iron Ave. (the former Marymount College will be on your left), turn left onto Marymount Road and drive one block north to the Salina Country Club. Turn left off Marymount Road and go up the hill. Park in upper parking lot. Our after dinner speaker will be Al Batt. Al is from Minnesota and is a regular columnist for Bird Watchers Digest. Al is a birder and conservationist and has a great sense of humor. Anyone who reads one of his regular columns will want to hear him in person!

Sunday, October 5

7:00 a.m.—Half-day field trip locations will include areas around Salina and possibly reaching out to include Ottawa and Ellsworth Counties. We will meet at the Lakewood Middle School's south parking area to car-pool for field trips. Lakewood Middle School is east of Orscheln Farm and Home Store on North Ohio. Turn east on Circle Drive immediately on the south side of Orschelns - this will lead to the entry to the school parking lot. Lakewood Middle School is immediately west of the Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge.

11:30 a.m.—Lunch and compilation at outdoor covered shelter about a block south of Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge in Lakewood Park. In case of inclement weather, the compilation will be moved indoors to the Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge.

Lodging in Salina:

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at two hotels which are located near each other. Please note that there is a large multi-state conference scheduled to take place in Salina the same weekend as the KOS Fall Meeting. One of the hotels in which we wanted to reserve rooms was nearly sold out by the first week of April. Your reservation must be made by the cut-off date specified by each hotel to ensure you have a room at the group rate. **Call NOW!!!!**

Comfort Suites

715 W. Schilling (I-135) 785-404-6944

Group block (all king rooms, no smoking)

Must make reservation by Thursday, September 4, 2014 to get an \$89 (single) rate and a room.

Ask for the “Kansas Ornithological Society group block.”

Best Western Plus

745 W. Schilling Road 785-493-9800

Group block (all double queen rooms) under “Kansas Ornithologists Bird Watchers.”

Must make reservation by Sept. 27, 2014 to get an \$82.95 rate and a room!

Dining

Plenty of restaurants may be found in Salina, especially south on South 9th Street.

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$25. The Saturday evening banquet is \$28. The Sunday box lunch is \$8. Registration fee is waived for students 25 and under. Registrations must be received by September 26th to be included in meal counts. No refunds for cancellations after September 26th.

The registration form may be found on the next page or on the KOS website at <http://ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2014/Fall2014RegForm.pdf> . All participants must sign the liability release in order to participate in any portion of this meeting.

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

Max Thompson

1729 E 11th Ave,

Winfield, KS 67156

Silent auction

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. Suitable donations include birding-themed equipment, field guides, bird houses, bird baths and optics. All proceeds go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

Best Bird of the Year

Nomination for unusual or rare birds observed since September 30, 2013.

Please send your nominations to Eugene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand. PO Box 310, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; or EUGENE.YOUNG@noc.edu. Be sure to include the species, location and name(s) of the observer(s).

**Registration Form KOS Fall Meeting
October 3 - 5, 2014 Salina, Kansas**

**Registrations will be accepted through September 26.
Payments for meals are non-refundable after September 26.**

I (we) plan to attend the 2014 KOS Fall meeting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee \$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____
(Waived for students 25 and under)

Saturday Banquet \$28.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Payment for banquet must be received by 9/26

Sunday Box Lunch \$ 8.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Payment for lunch must be received by 9/26

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) **\$ _____**
(No refund for cancellations after September 26)

Number of persons in party: _____

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

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

Signatures Date

Signatures Date



Nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year

The Kansas Ornithological Society's is seeking nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year Award which is given to an individual for making significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education. Nominations should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation, through the management or preservation of habitats, education or research. A nominee may be any professional, volunteer, educator or other person that has accomplished significant contributions in any of the areas listed. The nominee does not have to be a member of KOS, but the nominator must be a current member of KOS. The accomplishment should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation and/or education within the State of Kansas. Please consider nominating someone this year, we have a lot of great people doing some amazing things in the world of bird conservation. For a copy of the nomination form and a list of past winners visit. <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/AvianConservationist.html>

This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting.

Robert L. Penner II
Cheyenne Bottoms
& Avian Programs Manager
rpenner@tnc.org
(620) 786-4745

The Nature Conservancy
593 NE 130 Avenue
Ellinwood, KS 67526

KOS Call for papers

The Kansas Ornithology Society is inviting you and your students to attend or participate in our fall meeting. The KOS fall meeting traditionally features papers given by scientists, students, and birders. The Fall 2014 Meeting will be held at Kansas Wesleyan University (<http://www.kwu.edu/campus-map>) in Salina on October 3-5, 2014. Paper presentations are on Saturday, October 4th. Details are included below. More information about KOS is available at the web site:http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2014/2014_KOS_Fall.htm This site also includes the call for papers.

We have waived the registration fee for students 25 and under. KOS also sponsors some student research projects by providing funding. Details are available at <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/StuResearch.html>. This fund supports student members attending Kansas schools. We want to encourage studies investigating the scientific aspects of birds found in Kansas (study area not limited to Kansas). Awards are for one year with grants ranging from \$100-\$750.

Please forward this information to any staff or students who may be interested. Also, please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information.

Thank You,
Matt Gearheart
Kansas Ornithology Society

Past President of the KOS—Dr. J Walker Butin, 91, dies

Dr. James Walker Butin, 91, died Thursday, August 7, 2014. He was born Friday, July 13, 1923 in Fredonia, KS and moved with his parents, Dr. James A. and Mrs. Berenice Walker Butin to nearby Chanute in 1926. Upon graduation from Chanute Senior High School in 1940, Walker was awarded a Summerfield Scholarship to the University of Kansas, graduating in 1944 with a degree in Zoology. He earned his MD from KU in 1947, followed by a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He married the former Betty Belle Launder in 1949, and the two moved to Wichita to begin his medical practice at the Wichita Clinic. After Betty Belle's death in 1981, Walker married the former Patricia (Lanning) Guinan in 1984. He often shared with his children how much both of his marriages brought him deep joy. His children remember him as patient, gentle and full of wisdom. In addition to his family, Walker was especially passionate about bird watching, music, his college fraternity, the practice of medicine, and his faith in God. Bird watching was a life-long hobby of Walker's. A co-founder of the Wichita Audubon Society (1954), he received a meritorious service award in May of 2014 for his enthusiastic support. Walker was a past president of the Kansas Ornithological Society. His love of nature was contagious, and he was intentional about sharing his love of God's creation with his children and grandchildren. Favorite places included Chaplin Nature Center, near Arkansas City, the Lake of the Ozarks in MO, Grand Lake in Oklahoma, a Beaver Lake home in Arkansas, and a treasured historic pine cabin near Pikes Peak in CO.

-See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansas/obituary.aspx?n=james-walker-butin&pid=172032644&fhid=4860#sthash.ZxoBinDI.dpuf>

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