



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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Mark A. Corder © Courting red-bellied woodpeckers, from house in southern Johnson County, Feb 2015.

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

I know Spring is close when the first Field Larks start to dance over freshly plowed fields and sing for a mate. It is a good feeling to know that soon it will be warm and green and millions of birds will launch off from the tropics bound north. The Wood Storks are returning to the farm just outside the gate where I work. They are beautiful, big winged, white birds, similar in flight and gist to the majestic spirals of pelicans. Soon they will be dotted across the hay fields and starting their families on the tops of barns.

For this edition had great help from the KS Bird Listserv and KOS in getting pictures. The number and quality of good bird shots is really very high. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the HOLA. ~MVH

COOPER'S HAWKS

By Elizabeth Schultz

Their shrieking defies the skies and defines our days. Posted at the top of a blasted pine, the pair of hawks start early in the morning, screeching hunger distress from the night's long abstinence, a warning to sparrows and warblers below, or, simply, their imperious pleasure in commanding such a perch and such perfect talons. And then they careen, whiz-banging through the air, slicing it into geometry, aerial skateboarders, transforming the woods into asphalt jungle.

And suddenly two are four, quadrupling the slamming, the overhead screaming, and then they are gone, leaving us ambushed by silence.

HUMMING BIRDS

By Elizabeth Schultz

As compact as walnuts, they tuck their feet in and set their wings to whirring out of sight. Poised for a sip, they'll let you see an eye, small as a honeysuckle seed, but garden-variety metaphors are elusive when I try envisioning the impeccable arrangement of the humming bird's interior: bones, lungs, minute palpitating heart.



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The Eagle's Roost—message from the President

By Matt Gearheart

Greeting KOS friends,

As I type this salutation, winter's grip is still holding strong with fresh snow outside and relentless cold temperatures. Though this makes for some quite enjoyable backyard feeder watching... or for the more intrepid, you may bundle up and go look for rare gulls at the local river, lake or sewage pond-- it does make one pine for the warmer climes and Tanagers and Warblers. Despite the winter wonderland outside, there are hints of the changing season- Cardinals, Carolina Wrens and Tufted Titmice are boastfully singing, Red-Bellied Woodpeckers are investigating tree cavities and Snow Geese are on the move overhead. March Madness is well underway.

Today I'm enjoying the backyard birds and catching up on a little cyber-birding after being more intrepid yesterday studying gulls. It seems like a good day to read about Noah Stycker's latest adventures on his world-wide big year quest, *Birding Without Borders*: <http://www.audubon.org/features/birding-without-borders>. Noah has already amassed a huge list of birds traveling thru South America. It is fun to bird vicariously through his blog seeing a sample of the huge diversity of birdlife in the world. This is similar in part to the 2011 film, *The Big Year*, (based on the non-fiction book *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession*, by Mark Obmascik) where three intense birders compete in a quest to see as many birds as possible in North America in one calendar year. As the majority of us do not have the time, funds or endurance to make such a journey, there does exist a local friendly competition for Kansas, where birders can try to find as many birds as possible in one year in Kansas. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) hosts the event and will even give prizes to the top listers in youth, adult and senior categories. For more information, or to sign up go here: <http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2015-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year>



Barred-Owl, photo by Dave Rintoul.

Pondering about all the unique and different birds these bold birders are finding, I am reminded about what a great diversity of avian life can be found just within the borders of the state of Kansas. Being centralized between migration flyways, amongst several geographic habitats, and with huge saltmarshes for both nesting and stop-over migrants, what could be better? I'm already feeling warmer thinking about Kansas spring migrants. Hope to see many of you in early May exploring Kansas birdlife near Scott City for our KOS spring meeting.

Good birding,
-Matt Gearheart

Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2014 (Sep-Nov)

Chuck Otte, compiler

Before we start in on the sightings for the fall season I think it behooves us to look back at a little history of the Birding Roundup.

In the early days of KOS, and the KOS Newsletter (now known as the Horned Lark), there were regular reports submitted by various KOS members of seasonal sightings from their part of the state, or perhaps Marvin Schwilling or Chuck Ely would have a list of new county records that had been submitted to them. It wasn't until the April 1987 issue of the Newsletter that Scott Seltman formalized this reporting in the form of a seasonal summary, now called the Birding Roundup.

There have been seven compilers of this report, one of us on his second time around! The list of these compilers and the years that they served follows: Scott Seltman, 1987 – 1992; Chuck Otte, 1993 – 1997; Chris Hobbs, 1997; Pete Janzen, 1998 – 2000; Lloyd Moore, 2001 – 2004; Mark Corder, 2004 – 2012; Jon King, 2012 – 2014; and now I have taken it back over again.

If you talk with anyone on that list they will tell you how much work it is to track and create this report. In the first years, Scott was also running the telephone based Rare Bird Alert (how many folks remember that?) so many of the sightings came from that, or from conversations or letters that Scott received from birders across the state. In the mid 1990's, the Kansas Birding Listserv (KSBIRD-L) was started, which signaled the end of the telephone based RBA, and sightings were gleaned from the postings there. Fast forward to 2015 and sightings are gleaned from KSBIRD-L, from eBird reports, from the Kansas Birding Facebook page, and still from emails or letters that are sent to the compiler.

The compiler then must sort through all the various records to determine what is noteworthy. It's an inexact science/art. Noteworthy sightings will be missed and some birders will be disappointed when a sighting that they feel noteworthy is not included.

We aim to report birds that are out of their normal range or period of occurrence, i.e. early or late reports. We try to report new county records and unusually large numbers of birds based on time or location. We try to report on birds that are becoming more common or even less common. We refer to *Birds of Kansas*, Thompson, et. al., 2011, as a reference for many of these sightings. The compiler also discusses sightings with other experienced birders around the state as to whether a certain sighting in a certain location at a certain time of year is noteworthy or not. If you ever have any questions about why something was or wasn't included, please drop me an email at otte2@cox.net. Now on to the birds!

The fall season stayed warmer than average later than normal. Then it turned off cold with a vengeance towards the end of the period. The unusually warm weather seems to have kept many species, especially shorebirds and waterbirds in the state longer than normal. Red Knots stayed well into October with one lingering into early November.

Trumpeter Swans used to be rare bird alert worthy material, and now are becoming common in central and eastern Kansas in the fall and winter season. They hit the state in good numbers in early November with very good numbers becoming annual in the Kansas River valley area near Silver Lake. Perhaps more noteworthy were the Tundra Swans seen at Neosho Wildlife Area with as many as five adults and three juveniles being seen into early December.

Over the years, the Mute Swan has created a bit of a conundrum. While there are now documented breeding feral Mute Swans in the eastern US, to the point of being a nuisance, most states in the Great Plains have not yet accepted them as official species. The Mute Swan is a European species that is commonly kept in zoos, parks, and by waterfowl fanciers. Many owners of these swans do not keep them in a flightless state or contained and they then take off, literally. Mute Swan is not on the KOS list and the Kansas Bird Records

Committee (KBRC) has yet to act on any Mute Swan records due to the difficulty in proving provenance of the birds. However, we realize that at some point KBRC may have to consider the issue and the need to start tracking sightings of Mute Swans. To that end, a Mute Swan report form has been created on the KSBIRDS.ORG website. It's a quick form that won't take very long to fill out. The form is located at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/MuteSwanReport.html>, the page is also linked from the KSBIRDS.ORG home page.

Ducks seemed to have been about average for the season. All three scoter species and a few Long-tailed Ducks made appearances across the state. American Black Ducks were perhaps somewhat more numerous than recent fall seasons.

An intriguing brief view of a jaeger at Tuttle Creek was just long enough to cause excitement, but too short to be identified to species. Sabine's Gulls again showed up in a few locations across the state. Lesser Black-backed Gulls appear to be increasing in the state as evidenced by four separate reports in November.

In Finney County, Tom and Sara Shane hosted a good assortment of hummingbirds well into September. In early November they reported an amazing 124 White-winged Doves in their yard. This is another species that over the past 25 years has exploded across the state.

Corvids continue to be of interest. Chihuahuan Ravens were reported twice during the period in Morton County. Fish Crows lingered well into October in southeast Kansas.

Sprague's Pipits were recorded for five new county records scattered all over the state. Scott Seltman reported over 30 following his tractor while performing field work in Barton County.

The fourth Painted Redstart sighting for the state, pending acceptance by the KBRC, was seen and photographed in Ellsworth county on the seemingly impossible late date of October 24th. A Summer Tanager lingered late into the season in Johnson County, well seen and photographed by numerous birders. Finally, those erratic and nomadic winter finches started popping up around the state. Purple Finches were already reported in late September, a Cassin's Finch was well seen in Finney County in November, Red Crossbills in Johnson and Ellsworth County and the always sought after Evening Grosbeak showed up in early November at a Ulysses birdbath!

Please forward any noteworthy sightings to me at otte2@cox.net or mailed to 613 Tamerisk Dr., Junction City, KS 66441.

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Snow Goose	An apparent early migrant at QNWR	Stafford	9/7	SO
Trumpeter Swan	2 near Silver Lake	Shawnee	11/14	BrM
<i>In recent years this area has held good numbers of wintering swans.</i>				
Trumpeter Swan	4 on Davis and 35 th west of Silver Lake	Shawnee	11/16	DH
Trumpeter Swan	16 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/16	MR
Trumpeter Swan	4 at Webster Wildlife Area	Rooks	11/18	MZ
Tundra Swan	1 at Neosho Wildlife Area	Neosho	11/12	Abu
<i>On 12/13 Abu had five adults and three juveniles present here.</i>				
American Black Duck	1 with mixed flock at SMP	Johnson	11/11	ML
American Black Duck	1 in Jeffrey Energy Center refuge	Pottawatomie	11/12	BrM
American Black Duck	1 at John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	11/12	MMH
American Black Duck	1 at Bismark Lake	Douglas	11/15	GP
American Black Duck	1 at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	11/19	MS
<i>Still present, 11/23</i>				
Surf Scoter	1 at Lake Parsons	Neosho	10/11	Abu
Surf Scoter	1 at Otoe Area of Wilson Lake	Russell	10/24	DK
White-winged Scoter	1 off dam at Clinton Reservoir	Douglas	10/27	KS
Black Scoter	1 at Linn County power lake	Linn	11/5	MMH

Black Scoter	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/22	ML, mob	
Long-tailed Duck	1 imm at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/7	MR	
Long-tailed Duck	1 imm near Minnoka Park boat ramp	Russell	11/27	MR	
Red-breasted Merganser	M/F at La Cygne Lake, early report	Linn	9/27	RW	
Red-breasted Merganser	4 at QNWR	Stafford	10/13	MH	
Ruddy Duck	Female with 9 downy young – CBWMA	Barton	10/3	CW	
Scaled Quail	Flock of 50 on River Road	Hamilton	11/19	SS	
Pacific Loon	1 ad, 1 juv at Wilson Lake's Lucas Park	Russell	11/2	ER	
	<i>Two still present on 11/16 – MR; 1 present on 11/21 – MR</i>				
Pacific Loon	1 on west side of Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	11/5	ER	
	<i>Still present on 11/9</i>				
Pacific Loon	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/7	GP	
<u>Common Loon</u>	1 seen at "Sam's Pond" near Syracuse	Hamilton	11/19	SS	
Pied-billed Grebe	Multiple nests with eggs and young, CBWMA, very late nesting attempts	Barton	9/25	MR fide	
Pied-billed Grebe	34 at Lake Concannon	Finney	9/21	TS, SSh	
<u>Western Grebe</u>	1 seen at Lake Parsons	Neosho		11/1	ABu
<u>Western Grebe</u>	1 seen at Fall River Reservoir	Greenwood	11/22	TE	
Clark's Grebe	1 at Wilson Lake with a Western Grebe	Russell	11/2	MR	
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/22	ML, mob	
Great Egret	1 at Twin Lakes	Sedgwick	11/15	PJ	
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	1 at Banner Creek Reservoir	Jackson	9/13	AS, DM	
Snowy Egret	1 lingering individual at Vic's Lake	Sedgwick	11/20	LLo	
White Ibis	1 imm at Pratt Fish Hatchery	Pratt	9/11	MR	
	<i>Seen by several observers through September 16.</i>				
Black Vulture	2 at SEK Nature Center	Cherokee	11/8	JR	
Turkey Vulture	1 at Corinth Hills, Prairie Village	Johnson	11/5	RW	
Turkey Vulture	1 at Tuttle Creek overlook	Riley	11/5	NS	
Turkey Vulture	1 near Salina feeding on road kill	Saline	11/5	MR	
Turkey Vulture	1 in Mission Hills	Johnson	11/6	MMH	
Turkey Vulture	1 flying north of Peabody	Marion	11/8	CB	
Mississippi Kite	1 at KCPL Wetlands	Johnson	9/27	JM	
Mississippi Kite	1 imm in Garden City	Finney	10/3	TS	
Mississippi Kite	1 late bird soaring over Hutchinson	Reno	10/24	KF	
Mississippi Kite	1 late bird soaring over Wichita	Sedgwick	11/9	GS	
Northern Goshawk	1 at rural farmstead	Reno	11/30	JM	
Broad-winged Hawk	1 at farmstead, late and westerly	Gray	10/27	SS	
Swainson's Hawk	1 rather late	Kiowa	10/16	JL	
Golden Eagle	1 overhead at Clinton Lake	Douglas	10/8	MMH	
Yellow Rail	1 flushed from field below Clinton Lake	Douglas	10/11	JK	
Common Gallinule	2 at Banner Creek Lake	Jackson		10/7	DM
Whooping Crane	4A, 1J, BSM-QNWR	Stafford	10/27	BJ	
Whooping Crane	4 in a field 1/2 mile west of county line	Stafford	11/5	MP	
	<i>Two groups were reported passing overhead on 11/6 – 4A, 1J in one group, 9A in 2nd group.</i>				
Whooping Crane	4A, 1J at NW corner of BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/7	BJ	
Whooping Crane	2A headed south, BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/12	BJ	
Whooping Crane	2A, 1J at Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area	Trego	11/23	KH	

Black-necked Stilt	1 in Pool IA, CBWMA	Barton	10/28	JRo
<u>American Avocet</u>	49 at Iola WTP	Allen	10/27	Abu
American Avocet	7 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	11/7	RB
<u>American Avocet</u>	Lingering group at Elk City Lake	Montgomery	11/8	PJ, TE
American Avocet	1 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/14	MR
American Avocet	3 at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/14	GCu
Snowy Plover	2 very late birds at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/14	MR
Spotted Sandpiper	1 at water treatment pond, Johnson City	Stanton		10/1 LL
Spotted Sandpiper	1 at Scott State Park	Scott	10/3	JK
Spotted Sandpiper	1 at Kanopolis State Park	Ellsworth	10/5	JM
Spotted Sandpiper	1 NE of Garden City	Finney	10/12	TS, SSh
Spotted Sandpiper	Sandplum Campground, Kanopolis	Ellsworth	10/16	JCo
Greater Yellowlegs	2 rather late at BSM-QNWR	Stafford	11/14	MR
Willet	1 at QNWR	Stafford	10/4	ML
	<i>2 were reported by Barry Jones on 10/7 at QNWR, 1 still present on 11/9</i>			
Willet	1 at Melvern Lake, Coeur d'Alene Park	Osage	10/25	GC
Upland Sandpiper	2 in flight, calling	Reno	10/2	AM
Long-billed Curlew	1 late NE of Garden City	Finney	9/21	TS, SSh
Hudsonian Godwit	An unusual fall migrant at QNWR	Stafford	9/11	DM
Red Knot	2 in the inner pond at QNWR	Stafford	10/3	ML, PSJ, NL
	<i>Still present and photographed on 10/18 – MS, 1 seen by several observers on 10-19</i>			
Red Knot	1 still present and photographed, very late	Stafford	11/9	DS
Stilt Sandpiper	4 NE of Garden City	Finney	10/19	TS, SSh
Least Sandpiper	1 late individual at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	11/16	RB
Red-necked Phalarope	1, 13 miles SE of Garden City	Finney	9/28	TS, SSh
Red-necked Phalarope	5 juveniles at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	Stafford	10/11	MS
	<i>Seen by many observers for several days following.</i>			
Jaeger sp.	1 unidentified to species at Tuttle Creek	RL/PT	10/12	ER
Sabine's Gull	2 at QNWR Big Salt Marsh	Stafford	9/22	MMC
Sabine's Gull	1 maybe 2 at Jeffrey Energy Center lakes	Pottawatomie	11/9	DH
<u>Bonaparte's Gull</u>	1 at Iola WTP	Allen	10/27	ABu
<u>Bonaparte's Gull</u>	2 at Ulysses WTP	Grant	11/14	MG
Bonaparte's Gull	475+ at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/16	MR
Laughing Gull	1 adult with Franklin's Gulls at QNWR	Stafford	9/12	MR
Laughing Gull	1 immature at CBWMA	Barton	9/22	JCC
California Gull	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/15	AM, ByM, JM
California Gull	1 at CBWMA	Barton	11/18	SS
California Gull	1 adult at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/26	EY, MT
Thayer's Gull	1 first cycle at Perry Lake	Jefferson	10/29	MMH
	<i>The same or a different Thayer's Gull was still present on 11/10</i>			
Thayer's Gull	1 at CBWMA	Barton	11/18	SS
Thayer's Gull	1 first cycle at Lucas Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/21	MR
Thayer's Gull	1 first cycle on sandpit	Reno	11/18	AM
	<i>Still present 11/24</i>			
Glaucous Gull	1 at Wilson Lake just off the dam	Russell	11/2	ER
	<i>One still present (DK) on 11/10. Possibly the same bird.</i>			
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 adult at sandpit west of Hutchinson	Reno	11/7	JM, ByM
	<i>2 present on 11/9, possibly one of the same birds still present on 11/24</i>			

Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 adult at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/7	MMH	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 imm at Jeffrey Energy Center lakes	Pottawatomie	11/9	AS	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Lake Olathe	Johnson	11/28	TSw, JW	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 well seen in Independence	Montgomery	10/4	LP	
White-winged Dove	<u>124</u> in Shane yard, Garden City	Finney	11/3	TS	
Snowy Owl	1 along US 400 just east of Beaumont	Greenwood	11/25	DW	
Common Nighthawk	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/24	ML	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Imm female at feeder, Garden City	Finney	10/5	TS, SSh	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 female at feeder	Johnson	10/20	JP	
<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u>	In Hays residential yard	Ellis	9/21	EF	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 imm male in Garden City	Finney	9/4	TS, SSh	
<i>This bird continued through 9/22</i>					
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	adult female at feeder	Haskell	9/14	MR	
Rufous Hummingbird	1 immature male last of season	Garden City	Finney	9/16	TS, SSh
Calliope Hummingbird	1 immature, last of season, Garden City	Finney	9/23	TS, SSh	
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 at CNG Middle Spring	Morton	11/15	mob	
Pileated Woodpecker	1 heard calling at State Fishing Lake	Ottawa	10/5	KOS	
Pileated Woodpecker	1 in area where 2 were seen nesting earlier	Stafford	11/6	AA	
<i>This is the furthest west confirmed nesting and continues the westward expansion of this species.</i>					
<u>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</u>	1 at Crystal Lake in Garnett	Anderson	9/14	NV	
Say's Phoebe	1 lingering individual, seen several days	Reno	10/4	JM	
Say's Phoebe	1 at QNWR	Stafford	10/7	BJ	
<u>Cassin's Kingbird</u>	1 bird south of Monument Rocks	Gove	9/20	JC	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Leavenworth	9/29	GP	
Blue-headed Vireo	1 in Western Hills subdivision	Riley	11/3	JRo	
Blue-headed Vireo	1 rural area SW of Hutchinson	Reno	11/21	AM	
Philadelphia Vireo	1 westerly bird at KDWPT headquarters	Pratt	9/10	MR	
Northern Shrike	1 imm – early	Sedgwick	10/18	MTh	
Fish Crow	2 adults, one imm, somewhat late	Neosho	9/27	Abu	
Fish Crow	2 at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	10/17	JR	
Fish Crow	2 at Iola WTP	Allen	10/24	ABu	
Chihuahuan Raven	2 birds seen flying and vocalizing	Morton	9/13	MR	
Chihuahuan Raven	2 just north of Elkhart	Morton	11/25	CWd	
Common Raven	2 birds flying with Red-tailed Hawk	Morton	9/13	MR	
Purple Martin	1 from Johnson Co, circling with gulls	Johnson	10/12	CE	
Violet-green Swallow	Elkhart WTP	Morton	9/13	MR	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	35 on power lines, Erie WTP	Neosho	10/25	ABu	
Bank Swallow	1 rather late, well described	Johnson	10/5	CE	
Barn Swallow	Over <u>650</u> staging at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	10/19	KG	
Mountain Chickadee	1 north of Garden City	Finney	11/6	MPR	
Rock Wren	1 easterly at Jeffrey Energy Center	Pottawatomie	10/8	BrM	
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet</u>	Single bird in Hugoton alley	Stevens	11/16	MG	
<u>Hermit Thrush</u>	3 at Mount Hope Cemetery	Allen	10/24	Abu	
Gray Catbird	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	10/25	AW	
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 on fencepost southeast part of county	Stanton	10/7	LL	
Brown Thrasher	1 in SW corner of county	Leavenworth	10/27	GP	
Brown Thrasher	1 at Cheney State Park	Kingman	11/16	TE	
Brown Thrasher	1 Small Lakes Rd, Lenexa	Johnson	10/29	DS	

Brown Thrasher	I SW of Hutchinson	Reno	11/27	AM	
<u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	In pasture with mixed flock	Neosho	9/7	KMD, MP	
<u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	I at Kanopolis State Park	Ellsworth	10/4	NV, NS	
<u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	Field just west of Muscotah	Atchison	10/11	AS	
<u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	6 in northeast part of county	Finney	10/12	SSh	
<u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	I in pasture, central part of county	Clark	10/14	JL	
Sprague's Pipit	30+ in field, SW part of county	Barton	10/25	SS	
Smith's Longspurs	20, Maple Hill Rd and Turkey Creek Rd	Wabaunsee	11/16	DH	
Snow Bunting	I at QNWR	Stafford	11/9	DS	
<i>Continuing 11/14 - MR</i>					
Snow Bunting	I flying overhead, SE part of county	Kiowa	11/10	JL	
Snow Bunting	Several present near Larkinburg	Atchison	11/11	NSc	
<u>Ovenbird</u>	In mixed flock with other warblers	Neosho	9/7	KMD, MP	
Golden-winged Warbler	Adult male in Oak Park	Sedgwick	9/26	PG	
Bay-breasted Warbler	A westerly report from Elkhart WTP	Morton	9/13	MR	
Kentucky Warbler	Heard vocalizing in Manhattan	Riley	10/1	NS	
<u>Painted Redstart</u>	I adult male Smoky Hill River (photo)	Ellsworth	10/16	DK	
<u>Cassin's Sparrow</u>	I near Cedar Bluff overlook	Trego	9/29	DWi	
Lark Sparrow	I at Middle Spring, CNG	Morton	10/17	DA	
Summer Tanager	I adult female, Carnahan Creek	Pottawatomie	10/12	ER, mob	
Summer Tanager	I at Leawood residence	Johnson	10/25	CE	
Summer Tanager	I very late bird at SMP, with photos	Johnson	11/17	ML	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	female at rural farmstead near Mayetta	Jackson	10/18	MH	
Indigo Bunting	I female at Mill Creek SW	Johnson	11/9	PA	
Painted Bunting	Adult female, somewhat late sighting	Pottawatomie	9/20	AB	
Dickcissel	I female below Clinton Lake dam	Douglas	10/17	TA	
Eastern Meadowlark	I near Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	11/26	CWd	
<u>Rusty Blackbird</u>	I female in northern part of county	Stevens	11/16	MG	
Orchard Oriole	I female along Irish Creek	Reno	10/1	AM	
Purple Finch	Male with House Finches, early arrival	Ford	9/22	DA	
Cassin's Finch	Female or immature male, Garden City	Finney	11/23	TS, SSh	
Red Crossbill	I male in pine trees, Overland Park	Johnson	10/15	CK	
Red Crossbill	I flyover at Wilson Cemetery	Ellsworth	11/21	MR	
Evening Grosbeak	2 in Ulysses at a bird bath	Grant	11/2	SG	

Locations and notes: BSM-QNWR – Big Salt Marsh, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, CBWMA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, KCPL – Kansas City Power & Light, KDWPT – Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, mob – multiple observers, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, SMP – Shawnee Mission Park, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds. Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number (650) indicates a high number for location/time of year.

Observers: Danny Akers, Tony Andresen, Aaron Austin, Patricia Ayres, Aaron Balogh, Christian Becker, Andrew Burnett (Abu), Roger Boyd, Jeff Calhoun, Glenn Caspers, Judith Collins (JCo), Jacob C. Cooper (JCC), Ginny Culver (GCu), Corey Entriken, Tom Ewert, Kat Farres, Elmer Finck, Matt Gearheart, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Mike Harding, Kent Hensley, Dan Hoobler, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Jon King, Carla Kjellander, Dave Klema, KOS Fall Meeting (KOS), Mark Land, Larry Langstaff, Jonathan Lautenbach, Nancy Leo, Larry Londagin (LLO), Brandon Magette (BrM), John Mallery, Mike McCloy (MMC), Kathy

McDowell (MMD), Mick McHugh (MMH), Don Merz, Andrew Miller, Joseph Miller, Bryant Miller (ByM), Sarah Ogden, Joanne Parker, Michael Pearce, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Lewis Pond, Jenn Rader, Mike Rader, Mike & Pam Ramsey, Edward Raynor, John Row (JRo), Brett Sandercock, Al Schirmacher, Nate Schirmacher (NSc), David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Kylee Sharp, Nate Shipley, Pat St. John, Mike Stewart, Terry Swope (TSw), Greg Stuhlsatz, Max Thompson, Mabel Thurmon (MTh), Nick Varvel, Art Weigand, Dave Welfelt, David Willard (DWi), Jeff Witters, Curtis Wolf, Chris Wood (CWd), Rodney Wright, Eugene Young, Michael Zajic, mob – multiple observers.



Pileated Woodpecker, John Bosnak, Overland Park, KS.



Townsend's Solitaire, Dec 2014. Copyright © by McConnell Family Pictures, <http://www.macjohn.us>

Shorebird Migration Counts, Summer/Fall '14

Tom Shane, compiler

Shorebird notes: The above table reports shorebird counts primarily made on playa lakes northeast of Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. The initial count on 6 July included Lowe Lake, 3 miles north of Holcomb, KS, and the counts made on 16 and 23 August included playas north of Ingalls in Gray County. Most Finney County counts included numerous playas in a 90 square mile area bordered by Rock Pit Rd. on the north, Little Mennonite Rd. on the east, US 50 and Pole Line Rd. on the south, and Farmland Rd. on the west. Counts lasted about two hours. The main census area received about 5 inches of rain scattered through the first 3 weeks of June. During the last week of June, the area received two heavy rains totaling 5 to 7 inches. The area received about 3 inches of rain in each of the following months of July, Aug. and Sept. significantly recharging many of the playas, while Oct. received a little less than 2 inches. This was the first time in 25 years that some playas were present for shorebird stopovers during the entire summer/fall migration period, making this data set unique.

A 1963 late summer Finney County summer census was made by John Davis. "John A. Davis. 1964. A survey of migratory shorebirds and water conditions of the Finney Basin near Garden City, Kansas. MS thesis Fort Hays Kansas St. College." We attempt here to make only a comparison of the extreme differences in the shorebird populations 51 years later without attempting to make some very complicated standardization procedures. Davis counted shorebirds on 4 large, mostly permanent lakes associated with the Finney – Scott Basin north and west of Garden City. These lakes rarely hold water today. He made 28 counts compared to our 20, started a week earlier in June, but stopped mid-September and recorded 17 species compared to our 25 species. The Davis total shorebird count was fivefold comparing our 2014 census to his counts of 1963 with a ratio of 5,785 to 25,270 shorebirds.

A **Black-necked Stilt** pair was seen with 4 fledglings until the end of August. This was the fourth breeding record of the species for Finney County. The **American Avocet** numbers were far less in 2014 compared to 1963, 778 to 3,765. No nesting was observed for this species, but it has often nested in previous summers. We observed no **Snowy Plovers** while Davis recorded 160. There were considerably more **Killdeer** this year with 1,776 in 2014 compared to 329 in 1963. We located 27 **Solitary Sandpipers** compared to none observed by Davis. **Lesser Yellowlegs** numbers were far fewer in 2014 with a ratio of 338 to 3026. The 2014 sample of **Greater Yellowlegs** was just 108 more than Davis' total. We located 65 **Upland Sandpipers**, usually foraging 10 to 100 feet from the water's edge in grass; however, Davis recorded none.

The permanent lakes of the sixties apparently provided stopover sites for **Long-billed Curlews**, as they do today in the Panhandle of Texas, when Davis located 448 compared to our 3 curlews. Peep sandpipers were all fewer this year, except for the **Pectoral Sandpiper**, than 51 years ago with 2014:1963 ratios of: **Baird's Sandpiper** 892:4,287, **Least Sandpiper** 514:785, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 16:515, and **Western Sandpiper** 2:1,150. **Long-billed Dowitchers** were fewer with 41 in 2014 compared to 795 in 1963. The largest decline occurred with observations of 1,012 **Wilson's Phalaropes** in 2014 compared to 9,333 in 1963.

The recent droughts may possibly be a factor in lower shorebird numbers observed if migration routes have been altered due to lack of water for many years. This also parallels far fewer songbirds observed in recent years for western Kansas. The difference in lake sizes, depths and permanence is certainly a factor along with 8 fewer census days by our efforts. However, there is no doubt that migrant shorebird numbers are far fewer today than they were 51 years ago on the High Plains of western Kansas.

SUMMARY OF 2014 SUMMER/FALL PLAYA LAKES SHOREBIRD MIGRATION COUNTS IN FINNEY & GRAY COUNTIES, KANSAS.

THOMAS G. SHANE, SARA J. SHANE, JEFF E. CALHOUN AND DAN L. LASHELLE.

DATE	6	11	13	26	16	18	23	25	28	13	14	21	28	3	5	12	19	21	26	31	SPECIES	
MONTH	JULY <	>	JULY	AUG <	>	AUG	SEPT <	>	SEPT	OCT <	>	SEPT	OCT <	>	OCT	>	OCT	>	OCT	>	OCT	TOTAL
Black-necked Stilt	1	4	4	7	6	6															34	
American Avocet	13	50	44	55	71	150	94	40	20	20	25	3	130	48	7	5	2		1		778	
Black-bellied Plover							2	1				2				2	2				9	
American Golden-Plover									1												1	
Killdeer	32	15	57	30	283	333	46	216	30	25	25	70	114	221	21	115	1	132			1766	
Spotted Sandpiper		3	2	2	3	2	9	8	5	1	1					1					37	
Solitary Sandpiper			4	4	5	8		2	2			1	1								27	
Willet			1																		1	
Greater Yellowlegs	1	4	4	43	4	56	5	9	5	15	11	12	3	11	9	10	17				215	
Lesser Yellowlegs	17	2	2			208	7	6	20	20	4	36	1	7	3	2	3				338	
Upland Sandpiper	17	2	4	15	12	3	12														65	
Long-billed Curlew							2			1											3	
Marbled Godwit									1												1	
Stilt Sandpiper							1		10						4						15	
Sanderling											1			1							2	
Dunlin																			1		1	
Baird's Sandpiper				25	86	320	399	41	2	1	1	13	3		1						892	
Least Sandpiper			4	2	22	20	83	3	20	10	6	8	9	1	70	50	206				514	
Pectoral Sandpiper																4	8				12	
Semipalmated Sandpiper			4	2	1	5	3		1												16	
Western Sandpiper										1			1								2	
Long-billed Dowitcher			1				1	10	2	13	3	11									41	
Wilson's Snipe							1	1													2	
Wilson's Phalarope	7	2	10	10	175	24	651	38	30	25	30	10									1012	
Red-necked Phalarope													1								1	
DAILY TOTAL	88	72	140	148	692	881	1563	386	111	139	129	107	303	81	246	57	209	65	368	0	5785	

2015 Spring KOS Board Meeting

January 24, 2015

Wichita, KS

Present: Matt Gearheart, Robert Penner, Curtis Wolf, Patty Marlett, Max Thompson, Lisa Weeks, Gene Young, Cheryl Miller, Art Nonhof, Jennifer Rader, Henry Armknecht,
Absent: Mark Van Horn and Jeff Calhoun

- I. Matt called the meeting to order at 10:02am
- II. President's Report—Matt
 - a. Note to make sure all board member contact info is current on website and for required state reports.
 - b. Approval of minutes from Fall meeting. Gene moved to approve the minutes emailed out by Curtis. 2nd by Lisa. Motion passed.
- III. Vice President Report—Robert
 - a. The Avian Conservationist of the Year call for nominations has been sent out.
 - b. Update on Wings 'N' Wetlands Festival—Curtis gave an update on the planning and schedule. Although WNW Festival is not a formal KOS function, many KOS members are involved. 2015 Festival is scheduled for April 24-25 in Great Bend. The Festival is being run under Kansas Birding Festival, Inc this year. Brief discussion on how KOS can promote its organization. There was mention of having a membership brochure available.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Max Thompson (Handout provided-KOS Balance Sheet)
 - a. Max presented a handout --“Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet 1/24/2015” listing all fund balances as well as a listing of incomes and expenses and noted that KOS is in good shape financially. Total Assets are \$250,293, and include the investment fund (\$185,987), Checking Acct (\$8,306), Dingus Land (\$56,000). Other Fund balances include Endowment (\$91,767), Life Memberships (\$40,840), Book Royalties (\$37,579), Dingus Fund (\$9,847), and Student Research Fund (\$5,954).
 - b. Max noted that we have funds to do work on Dingus Area if we want. Dingus Area was listed on agenda later, but discussion ensued. Matt noted he contacted Bill Busby, who has a new sign. Matt noted several people have expressed interest in helping when it gets warmer. Matt also noted that there are several people who have an interest in the Dingus Area. He noted that he would begin steps to appoint an ad hoc committee to watch and care for the Dingus Area. Patty asked if there was any mention of the Dingus Area on the KOS website or Facebook site. All thought this was a good idea, and Cheryl instantly linked the Dingus Area map available on the naturalkansas.org website. Henry noted that he would like to see us start using the Dingus Area for more educational purposes.
 - c. Cheryl-motion to approve the Treasurer's report. 2nd by Henry. Motion passed.
- V. Membership Report—Patty
 - a. Patty presented a handout “Kansas Ornithological Society Membership Report as of 1/21/15” and noted 317 members. 2015 membership dues are trailing in.

- b. Max asked about our Exchanges (of which there are 14), which go to KU library. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that this was something that we should check on periodically to see if we are still getting exchanges from all of these.
- c. Patty noted that Greg Friesen has been archiving 10 copies of the HOLA and is wondering if he needs to continue doing this. The consensus was that he did not need to do this, since we have electronic versions.
- d. Patty also said she has been asked if we publish a regular membership directory? And if we should look into this? The consensus was it was not worthwhile.
- e. Henry asked the age-old question of “what are the benefits of someone joining the KOS?” Discussion led to ways of recruiting members, various web sites Kansas bird information is posted to (i.e. KOS, Kansa Birding Facebook site, etc.), and discussion of a digital Bulletin/HOLA. Max agreed that the digital Bulletin/HOLA was something we probably need to look into soon.

VI. PayPal Implementation—Lisa

- a. Lisa reported the PayPal option for renewing memberships is up and going as of Jan. 23. There is now a button on the KOS website where one can pay for their membership online.

VII. KOS Bulletin Report – Gene Young

- a. Gene reported that the December Bulletin was done in November and will be sent out with the HOLA. The March issue will include the CBC data as usual. He also noted that he has received a couple manuscripts which are in review.
- b. Update on Combining KOS and OOS Bulletins
 - i. Gene said he was meeting with the OOS Board next weekend and would set up a meeting with the KOS subcommittee to discuss plans further.

VIII. *Horned Lark* Report

- a. Mark was not present as he is still stationed overseas.
- b. Matt noted that we need to get the Spring issue done as soon as possible, so that the Spring meeting information can get into members hands in a timely manner.
- c. Discussion by the group to keep eyes and ears open for a new HOLA editor. It is a very demanding and important job. Cheryl has asked a couple individuals but has not had any luck securing anyone. It was discussed that we might publicize the need for a new editor in upcoming issues and on the Facebook site.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Spring meeting—Scott City, May 1-3, 2015. Matt reported that there is no committee chair at this point but several individuals are willing to help (Jeff Calhoun, Pete Janzen, etc.). Matt has contacted the Best Western in Scott City. Matt and Lisa will work on getting a registration form and setting prices. Henry asked about the possibility of using PayPal for registration, and all agreed this might be a good idea. There was also discussion about a catered meal for Saturday evening as usual. No one was even sure if there were any available caterers in Scott City. This will need to be researched further.
- b. Fall Meeting—Curtis reported that he contacted Bill Jensen at Emporia State, and they are willing to host if we can't find any other location. Art reported that Garden City is also willing to host. Discussion was that if the Spring meeting was being held in the West, it might be a good idea to have the Fall meeting in the East. Gene and Rob suggested that we go with Em-

poria for this year and Garden City in 2016. Gene made this motion, 2nd by Max. Motion passed. Curtis will contact Bill about arrangements.

- c. Future meetings—Discussion then was directed at future meetings, since there appears to be several people interested in hosting. Max reported that there is an open invitation for a Spring meeting at Winfield/Ark City. Curtis made a motion to hold the 2016 Spring meeting at Winfield/Ark City. 2nd by Lisa. Motion passed. Max noted that since Art offered Garden City to host a Fall meeting, maybe we should hold the 2016 Fall meeting there. Max made that motion. 2nd by Henry. Motion passed. Upcoming meeting schedule is: Spring 2015-Scott City; Fall 2015-Emporia; Spring 2016-Winfield/Ark City; Fall 2016-Garden City

X. Old Business

- a. Merchandise Sales—Lisa reported that the CBC shirt sales were pretty small. Lisa will continue to promote KOS sales on the Zazzle site. She thought that we should look at a new KOS ball cap and asked for suggestions. Cheryl noted she likes the adjustable strap on hats. Jenn also noted that she would like to see a winter hat or beanie.
- b. Other Old Business—Matt shared a report from Chuck Otte. He said the website domain/hosting fee has been renewed for 3 years. Chuck also has updated the link on the website for the Boyd Award, and is seeking nominations. Chuck also noted that he currently represents KOS on the KS Nongame Advisory Council and is willing to stay on if no one else wants to do this.

XI. New Business

- a. Review of KOS Bylaws—Matt suggested that it is a good idea to occasionally take a look at the Bylaws and note any revisions that need to be made for future meetings. It was noted that there is a link to the Bylaws on the KOS website.

- XII. Adjourn—Motion to adjourn made by Cheryl, 2nd by Patty. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm.

~Respectfully submitted by Curtis Wolf, KOS Corresponding Secretary

Kansas 2014 CBC Shirts

CBC Participants

You'll be the envy of other Kansas CBC participants when you saunter in wearing this new design.

Available on the front or back of t-shirts (short or long sleeves), sweatshirts, and fleece. Simply place your order at <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds>



Gifts

Other KOS designs are available on the Zazzle website. Any of the designs would make great holiday gifts for the birders in your life.



Order and pay for merchandise directly through the KOS Zazzle store. You may choose where to ship the items. Visit <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds>.



KOS SPRING MEETING: Scott City, Kansas

Make plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in Western Kansas, **May 1-3, 2015**. We've planned a great weekend of birding. We will base out of Scott City, which is located about half way between Oakley and Garden City. Scott Lake State Park lies just north of town and is listed in National Geographic Traveler as one of the top 50 state parks in the U.S., with its oasis like setting located in the picturesque Ladder Creek Canyon.

Major birding destinations for the field trips will include the Scott Lake State Park, views of the unique Monument Rocks, plus trips led by birding experts to Garden City, Wichita & Greeley Counties and Lane & Ness Counties. County listing fans will have a fine time and it is expected that many new all-time county records will be recorded in this seldom-birded area.

Friday evening we will have a casual meet and greet with snacks at the breakfast lobby of the Best Western in Scott City 6-8pm.

Saturday May, 2nd after all-day field trips, will be the banquet at the First United [Methodist Church](#) (412 South College Street, Scott City, KS 67871), where we will have a catered meal served including: Homemade Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Tossed Salad, Dessert and Tea & Coffee. Note: Saturday lunch is to be on your own. Trip leaders will provide snack/lunch stops along the way; though options may be limited.

Sunday after a ½ day of birding, we'll have a box lunch compilation of the birds seen on all the field trips. Location TBD.

Accommodations:

Best Western El-Quartelejo Inn & Suites, 1610 South Main Street, Scott City, KS 67871. (620) 872-7373. 20 rooms have been blocked out with these discounted KOS rates:

King \$89.99/night, Double-Queen \$94.99/night.
They include free breakfast at 6am.

Note: These rates will be available until April 17th and could increase after this date.

Camp Christy

320 Camp Christy Drive, Scott City, KS 67871

Contact Danielle Massaglia, Camp Manager at 785-365-9399 for group lodging possibilities.

Other accommodations may be found in town upon individual's preferences.

**Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 1 – 3, 2015
Scott City, Kansas**

I (we) plan to attend the 2015 KOS spring meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee $\$15.00 \times \underline{\quad} = \$ \underline{\quad}$

High school, college and graduate students are exempt from the registration fee.

Saturday Banquet (includes 20% gratuity) $\$22.00 \times \underline{\quad} = \$ \underline{\quad}$

Sunday Box Lunch $\$9.00 \times \underline{\quad} = \$ \underline{\quad}$

Surcharge for payment received after April 17 $\$10.00 \times \underline{\quad} = \$ \underline{\quad}$

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) $\$ \underline{\quad}$

Number of persons in party: _____

Accommodations comments/requests (if any) _____

Registrations received after April 17th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.

Please mail completed registration with full payment to:

Max Thompson 1729 E. 11th Ave., Winfield, KS 67156 e-mail: maxt@cox.net

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 2015 KOS spring meeting.

Signatures _____

Date _____



Yellow-rumped Warbler, John Bosnak, Overland Park, KS.

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1965

A LETTER FROM BEN KING TO THE HEDGED (JANUARY 1, 1965)

[MANY MEMBERS OF THE K.O.S. REMEMBER BEN KING, THE BRIGHT, YOUNG BIRD-WATCHING PROTEGE OF HAROLD HEDGES OF LAKE QUIVIRA, KANSAS. FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF LETTER DESCRIBING HIS LATEST ADVENTURES. MARY LOUISE MYERS, WHO SENT THE LETTER TO K.O.S., ENCLOSED HIS ADDRESS. PERHAPS SOME OF THE MEMBERS WHO KNEW HIM MAY WANT TO DROP HIM A FEW LINES:

BEN KING
SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH LAB.
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA U.S.A. 96346]

"WE SPENT 35 DAYS DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, DRIVING, BIRDING AND BANDING ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE THAI PORTION OF THE MALAY PENINSULA. THE WORLD IS CERTAINLY GETTING LESS WILD; MORE THAN HALF THE DISTANCE IS COVERED ON AN ASPHALT ROAD. HOWEVER, IT STILL HAS ITS MUDHOLES AND BRIDGES MADE UP OF TWO LOGS, ETC. THERE ARE STILL MAGNIFICENT AREAS OF JUNGLE. WE CAUGHT THE EXTREMELY RARE MALAYAN HONEYGUIDE ON THIS TRIP. I ALSO SHOT A PAIR OF SWIFTTLETS PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN FROM THAILAND.

"IN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER, I FLEW TO HONG KONG TO ATTEND THE ASIAN SECTION MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIRD PRESERVATION. AFTER THAT I FLEW TO TAIPEI, TAIWAN FOR A MEETING OF THE ASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS WHO ARE COOPERATING IN THIS BIRD-BANDING PROGRAM.

"WE SPENT OCTOBER ON OUR FIRST REAL EXPEDITION. WE WERE ON DOI INTHANEN, THAILAND'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN FROM 28 OCTOBER TO 27 DECEMBER. IT TOOK THREE DAYS OF WALKING TO REACH THE 5700' LEVEL, AND WE HAD 50 PORTERS AND FIVE ELEPHANTS CARRY OUR EQUIPMENT IN. WE CAMPED AT 5700' FOR NEARLY THREE WEEKS, AND THEN CAMPED ON THE SUMMIT (8400') FOR TWO WEEKS, AND THEN WORKED OUR WAY DOWN, CAMPING AT 4800', 3900', 2600', AND 1800'. WE FOUND TIGER TRACKS SEVERAL TIMES NEAR OUR CAMP. FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER WE HAD GRILLED COBRA. IT WAS A SMALL ONE, ONLY FIVE FEET LONG, AND THERE WASN'T MUCH MEAT, BUT IT WAS QUITE GOOD. THE LARGEST COBRA KNOWN FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS 18 FEET.

"WE ADDED THREE SPECIES TO THE THAI LIST THIS TIME: A FINCH FROM THE HIMALAYAS, A ROBIN FROM CHINA, AND THE STEPPE EAGLE. WE GOT SEVERAL OTHER BIRDS, NOT YET IDENTIFIED, WHICH MAY BE NEW FOR THAILAND, AND DOZENS OF SPECIES THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DOCUMENTED BY BUT A FEW SKINS. WE Banded 4300 BIRDS. WE CAUGHT THE BIRDS WITH MIST NETS, USING BETWEEN 175 AND 200 NETS (MOSTLY 40 FOOT NETS) WHICH COMBINED TO MAKE OVER A MILE OF MIST NETS. WE ORIGINALLY HAD HOPED TO KEEP EIGHT EXTRA WORKERS TO HELP WITH THE NETTING FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP, BUT THIS NUMBER RANGED FROM 3 TO 10 IN ONE WEEK AND ACTUALLY GOT DOWN TO ONE ON ONE OCCASION. IF NOT WATCHED, OUR HELPERS ATE THE NETTED BIRDS.

"NOT COUNTING MANY SPECIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED, WE RECORDED 260 SPECIES ON THE TRIP. MY TOTAL THAI LIST FOR THE YEAR IS ABOUT 450-500. DR. JOE MARSHALL ACCOMPANIED US FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF OUR MOUNTAIN TRIP. HE IS GOOD TO WORK WITH, AND I AM LEARNING A LOT FROM HIM. WE SHARE AN OFFICE IN BANGKOK. DR. MARSHALL IS STUDYING BIRD-BORNE VIRUSES.

1975

Endangered and Threatened Species:

The new legislature is in session and one of the items to be considered in this session will be a bill to establish a program for protection of endangered and threatened species in Kansas. Write to your state legislators urging them to support a strong bill and particularly to appropriate sufficient funds for a program of research and management. The list of endangered and threatened birds in Kansas will be published in the very near future in the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science.

Dingus Natural Area: At the December Board Meeting, action was taken to approve a five year lease of the Dingus Natural Area from the Nature Conservancy. We are now in the process of getting the final arrangements made. A committee to plan the management and use of this area is being appointed. I hope all KOS members will take the opportunity to visit this new KOS project when arrangements have been completed.

Dear KOS:

I am currently writing a guide to the birds of Arkansas City and the surrounding area (southern Cowley County, Kansas) and need dates of unusual sightings. If you have any records of birds seen within a fifteen mile radius of Arkansas City during the past ten years (1964-1974), please send me a list as soon as possible, with the date and specific location of each sighting.

David Seibel, 601 North 3rd, Arkansas City, Kansas 67015

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1995

Is Your Landscape "For the Birds?"

Part V - Spring Planting Time

(Part V of an ongoing series)

by Chuck Otte

In the September issue of the *Horned Lark* I talked about plant material that homeowners may want to use to attract birds to their yards. I wanted to follow up in this spring season with some additional plant species to consider, as well as a few other thoughts.

Many birds are attracted to landscape and garden plants. Just as a bird feeder or a bird bath in and of itself is not a guarantee of attracting birds, appropriate plants are not guaranteed to always attract birds. BUT, if you *combine* feeders, water, habitat, structures and plants, you will eventually have success. Be aware, though, that what attracts birds will also attract other forms of wildlife, so be prepared! Be very careful in landscapes where you are attracting wildlife of pesticide use. Use only as a last resort, and then use the safest material available. Consider using things like insecticidal soap, BT, etc. Remember that birds are often predators of insect pests and if you are patient they MAY take care of the problem without too much loss of plant material.

Following are some groups of plants and species I would consider planting for wildlife in Kansas.

Annuals - Amaranthus, Bachelor Button, Calendula, California Poppy, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Gloriosa Daisy, Annual Ornamental Grasses (Quaking Grass, etc.), Marigold, Pinks, Portulaca, Sunflower, Zinnia.

Perennials - Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Goldenrod, Globe Thistle (*Echinacea* spp.

including purple coneflower), Grasses (include the natives i.e. the blustems, switchgrass and indiagrass), Dianthus, Scabiosa, sedums (especially the Stonecrops), Statice, Sunflower.

Woody Species - Shrubs - Aromatic Sumac, Boxwood and Holly (in protected locations), Dogwoods, Elderberry, Euonymus (Wintercreeper and Winged Euonymus, a.k.a. Burning Bush), Honeysuckle, Juniper, Mugo Pine, Privet, Pyracantha, Rose, Sumac spp., Viburnum, Witchhazel, Yew.

Small Trees - Japanese Maple, Crab Apple, Apple, Hawthorn, Amur Maple, Cherry and Plum (edible and ornamental, all prunus spp. are good. This includes such things as wild plum and choke cherry), Mountain Ash.

Medium/Tall Trees - Maple spp., Pine, Hackberry, Elm, Mulberry, Oak

Vines - Bittersweet, English Ivy, Grape, Honeysuckle, Trumpet Vine, Virginia Creeper.

Plants that attract Hummingbirds (also orioles) - Trumpet Vine, Catalpa, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coralberry, Weigela, Nicotiana, Petunia, Salvia, Hollyhock, Columbine, Delphinium, Foxglove, Gentian, Gladiolus, Daylily, Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon), Liatris, Tiger Lily, Penstemon, Phlox, Sweet William, Snap Dragon, Larkspur.

There are a number of good birding areas in and around Pratt, site of the 2005 KOS spring meeting. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Headquarters, the 100-year-old Fish Hatchery and Pratt County Lake comprise one set of wellknown birding sites located within the Ninnescah River complex. Another is Isabel Wetlands, adjacent to K-42 in the southeast corner of Pratt County. Lemon Park and Greenlawn Cemetery in the city of Pratt offer more birding opportunities. Also, there are numerous bridge crossings along the Ninnescah River, both east and west of Pratt. These are associated with private lands, but provide excellent birding opportunities throughout the year. However, there are two prime birding areas in the northwest part of the county worthy of your attention—the 1,200-acre Texas Lake Wildlife Management Area and the 6,000-acre Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Management Area. While these sites are only four or five miles apart, they are quite different. Texas Lake is a terminal basin receiving most of its runoff water from a large watershed to the southwest, and lies in what A. W. Küchler described as Bluestem-Grama mixed prairie. The Pratt Sandhills are located at the southern edge of what Küchler called the AndropogonCalamovilfa Sand Prairies. Careful observers will see the transition from mixed prairie to sand prairie immediately north of the Texas Lake site. KDWP acquired the bulk of the Texas Lake property in the mid-1970s and the majority of the Pratt Sandhills WMA in 1969. Texas Lake includes wetland units and grassland. Staff manage the grassland with periodic burning and removal of volunteer cottonwood and elm trees. Farmers owned what is now Pratt Sandhills WMA in the early 20th century, and many land parcels were wind-eroded during the 1930s. To suppress the erosion, land owners planted many eastwest shelter belts and reseeded the area to native grasses. In addition to the grasslands, ephemeral wetlands occur, but they are rarely present for more than a few weeks. Birders may access both areas from U.S.-54, 13 and 14 miles west of Pratt. The Texas Lake turnoff is well-marked at SW 130th Avenue. The access to Pratt Sandhills is obvious at SW 140th Avenue, one mile further west. Birding at Texas Lake provides opportunities to view most species of dabbling ducks and shorebirds. In season you might find Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalaropes, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpipers, American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, as well as all the peeps. Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite and Ringnecked Pheasants are common in the area. Sandhill Cranes and Canada Geese frequently roost on the property or on adjacent private lands in both spring and fall. Approximately halfway between the Texas Lake and Sandhills properties you will find a large prairie dog town on private land. It is viewable from the road and is on the east side of NW 140th Avenue. The dog town usually hosts one or two broods of Burrowing Owls. You might see Upland Sandpipers, too. The Pratt Sandhills still has a remnant population of Lesser Prairie Chickens, but no consistent leks have been located in recent years. Greater Roadrunners are occasionally in this area, and Wild Turkeys, Northern Bobwhite and Ringnecked Pheasants are common. The native prairie habitat, interspersed with shelter belts, red cedar and shrubby species (primarily sand plum) is home to a variety of birds in season including Bell's Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Spotted Towhee, Dicksissel, Orchard Oriole, Sprague's Pipit, Black-billed Magpie and Grasshopper, Lark, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows. Short-eared Owls are commonly found in the late fall and winter. The township roads through both the Texas Lake and Pratt Sandhills sites have limited maintenance. Travel with 2WD vehicles may be difficult in periods of extremely wet weather.



The Ulysses, Kansas CBC participants finished with lunch and are ready to return to the field to try and top the morning Western Scrub Jay and Curve-billed Thrasher; from left to right: Shelley Hampton, Jeff Trotman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Mike Rader, Irma Ailon, Jeff Calhoun, and Galen Pittman; photo by Tom Shane.

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