



# The Horned Lark

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

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## From the President's Pen

By Matt Gearheart

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Greetings KOS friends -

I've just returned from a whirlwind tour of birding across Kansas, with the primary focus in the southwestern part of the state. If you've been reading the 'Top 5 Secrets to Birding in Southwest Kansas' by Jeff Calhoun in the latest issues of the Horned Lark, you can understand the appeal, and Jeff was an excellent guide (the full article is at: <http://birdinginkansas.com/SWKansas.pdf>). This excursion had a few goals in mind: 1) Reconnect with birding friends while escaping the everyday bustle of life, 2) Explore some scenic areas of Kansas looking for birds and 3) Get Nic Allen his lifer Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

We awoke early on a Saturday in late March to a brisk 12°F cold front. However, the sky was calm and clear as the eastern edge of the world began to glow over the frosty prairie (you can just about see the curvature of the Earth in parts of SW Kansas!). Yipping and howling coyote sounds echoed in the silence as melodic Western Meadowlarks sang their first calls of the day. Then, as if on cue, we began to hear the nearby magical 'popping' and 'cackling' of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Soon a female arrived, driving the competitive males completely insane. We enjoyed this show for quite a while: the spectacle of

the male birds dancing, booming and fighting for her attention, before she ran off in the grass, apparently unimpressed. We then retreated back to the warm car. Obviously the cooler temperatures had no effect on these bird's daily ritual.

The rest of the weekend encompassed many stops at various SW Kansas oases, including sewage lagoons, playa lakes, cemeteries, city parks and even feed lots. We racked up quite an impressive species list of birds, but also found quite a few neat mammals, such as Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope and Swift Fox. A definite trip highlight was discovering a migratory flock of Long-Billed Curlews. We counted 188 of them foraging in the alfalfa fields, restocking for the next part of their journey.

The moral of the story: Southwest Kansas has many unique and serene areas to explore, you often have it completely to yourself, there are always new things to find, and it is hard to beat a prairie sunrise or sunset. Enjoy the birds and share the time with your friends.

Hope to see you soon at the Spring Meeting in Arkansas City or elsewhere in Kansas discovering new birds.

-Matt

# From the Keyboard

By the Editor

What a struggle! For some reason getting this edition together was like birthing an elephant. An early spring kept me wanting to be birding. Other distractions (work really is a four letter word you know!) kept me hopping and then there was basketball and pre-season baseball... Ultimately it was the desire for spring migration that helped me realize that I really needed to get this done NOW!!!!

Spring migration is slowly creeping upon us. Swallows are returning, phoebes are here and the first warblers are just being reported. Spring migration means spring KOS meeting/field trip. Details are in the last few pages of this newsletter. If you haven't already registered online, get it done today! Max Thompson and Gene Young have placed us in a great location in extreme south central Kansas at Camp Horizon. Google Earth is a great resource and I was looking at Camp Horizon the other day. Wow! A great bunch of woods not far from the Arkansas River. The place just screams "migrants"! Spring meetings are a great time to gather with friends and bird. What more can you want from life? AND Bob Gress will be doing a program after the Saturday evening meal on "Wildlife Down Under". The first time I saw Bob give a program I swore he had only be talking for ten minutes but it had been over an hour. You will be swept away by the photos and his commentary to another world. Clear your calendar and come to Camp Horizon in May.

On page 9 you will find a very interesting book review by Eugene Young. Book reviews are usually published in the *KOS Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* editor and I felt, however, that this review may be better suited to the *Horned Lark*. After reading Gene's review, the book is now on my "must get" book list (which seems to grow longer every month.)

I have the good fortune(?) to currently wear several hats for KOS. Some folks would say I'm crazy, and they may be right. But when you have a passion for something, anything, you always find the time to make it happen. Starting on the opposite page to this is an article about the Kansas Bird Records Committee, what they do and why, and a copy of the recently updated Review List. Records Committees around the country are often the target of, shall we say, less than flattering comments. Records Committees have a tough job of trying to maintain scientific integrity in bird sightings. You see, birding is one of those awkward areas where hobby, passion, and science all intersect. Sometimes that intersection turns into a head on collision. I've had records accepted and not accepted by the KBRC. I've had records accepted and not accepted in other states. But even records that may not be accepted are maintained in the archives and hold value for future researchers. It's important to remember that if your record isn't accepted, the Records Committee is not saying that you didn't see the bird, there simply wasn't enough evidence to accept it at this time. Please take a good look at the review list, have a great spring, and hopefully I will see you in Arkansas City in May! -Chuck



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# Kansas Bird Records Committee Review List

The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is officially appointed by the KOS Board to serve several critical functions. They are to evaluate reports of rare or unusual bird sightings, maintain an archive of those reports, publish the results of their deliberations on those bird records, keep an up to date checklist of birds of Kansas, add credibility and scientific acceptance of the records and establish standards of observation and reporting. If you ask any of the 36 men and women who have served on the KBRC since its formal organization in 1990, it is a tireless and thankless job!

Obviously, any bird not on the current KOS checklist that is seen in the state needs to be reported. The KBRC acted on and added three new species to the state checklist in 2015. It was a highly unusual year! But a great deal of what they do is trying to gather more information on rare or difficult to identify species. To help you know what records the KBRC would like to review, they maintain a "Review List". Some species need to be documented anywhere within the state. Other species are annually expected in some areas of the state (Black Vultures in southeast Kansas) but if they show up elsewhere, they need to be documented.

Recently, new opportunities have arisen where birders can report their sightings. Facebook and eBird are being heavily utilized by many more birders than belong to KOS. (We need to be reaching out to those birders and encouraging them to join KOS, by the way!) But it also creates a real challenge to maintaining a solid core of information that the KBRC needs to carry out their function. These venues are regularly monitored, by KBRC members, for sightings of interest. In some cases excellent definitive photos are available to document these rarities. In other cases far greater detail is needed to provide for evaluation. Venues for reporting rarities to the KBRC include paper submission or an online web form. In coming months a simplified reporting form will become available for those sightings with high quality photos. Information on the KBRC Review List as well as links to the web based rare bird report form can be found at the [KS BIRDS.ORG](http://www.ksbirds.org) website. The review list is at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrervulist.html> and information on the KBRD and records of past actions: [http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/kos\\_kbrc.htm](http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/kos_kbrc.htm) links to the report form are there also. Following is a list of the species on the KBRC Review List and if followed by a geographical designation, it indicates where in the state the KBRC **does not** need

documentation for sightings. On the Review List webpage there are links to maps that show where sightings do not need to be documented.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck  
 Eurasian Wigeon  
 American Black Duck East of US 183  
 Mottled Duck Barton & Stafford counties  
 Garganey  
 Tufted Duck  
 King Eider  
 Common Eider  
 Harlequin Duck  
 Ruffed Grouse  
 Sharp-tailed Grouse  
 Yellow-billed Loon  
 American Flamingo  
 Wood Stork  
 Magnificent Frigatebird  
 Anhinga  
 Reddish Egret  
 Roseate Spoonbill  
 Black Vulture SE Kansas  
 Swallow-tailed Kite  
 White-tailed Kite  
 Northern Goshawk  
 Harris's Hawk  
 Gray Hawk  
 Purple Gallinule  
 Common Crane  
 Wilson's Plover  
 Mountain Plover Western two tiers of counties  
 Spotted Redshank  
 Eskimo Curlew  
 Hudsonian Godwit (fall sightings)  
 Ruff  
 Curlew Sandpiper  
 Red-necked Stint  
 Purple Sandpiper  
 White-rumped Sandpiper (fall sightings)  
 Pomarine Jaeger  
 Parasitic Jaeger  
 Long-tailed Jaeger  
 Long-billed Murrelet  
 Black-legged Kittiwake  
 Black-headed Gull  
 Little Gull  
 Ross's Gull  
 Mew Gull  
 Iceland Gull  
 Glaucous-winged Gull  
 Gull-billed Tern  
 Arctic Tern  
 Black Skimmer  
 Band-tailed Pigeon  
 Common Ground-Dove  
 Groove-billed Ani

Flammulated Owl	
Western Screech-Owl	Morton County
Lesser Nighthawk	
White-throated Swift	
Green Violetear	
Magnificent Hummingbird	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	SW Kansas
Anna's Hummingbird	
Costa's Hummingbird	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	West of I135/US81
Allen's Hummingbird	
Calliope Hummingbird	West of I135/US81
Broad-billed Hummingbird	
Williamson's Sapsucker	
Red-naped Sapsucker	Western two tiers of counties
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Morton County
American Three-toed Woodpecker	
Crested Caracara	
Gyr Falcon	
Western Wood-Pewee	West of US281
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	East of I135/US81
Hammond's Flycatcher	
Gray Flycatcher	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Morton County
Black Phoebe	
Vermilion Flycatcher	Morton County
Ash-throated Flycatcher	SW and west central Kansas
Great Kiskadee	
Piratic Flycatcher	
Cassin's Kingbird	Western two tiers of counties
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	
Black-capped Vireo	
Gray Vireo	
Plumbeous Vireo	
Cassin's Vireo	
Pinyon Jay	
Steller's Jay	
Western Scrub-Jay	SW Kansas
Mexican Jay	
Clark's Nutcracker	
Chihuahuan Raven	
Common Raven	
Violet-green Swallow	Western two tiers of counties
Cave Swallow	
Mountain Chickadee	SW Kansas
Juniper Titmouse	
Bushtit	SW Kansas
Pygmy Nuthatch	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	
Canyon Wren	
Pacific Wren	
Winter Wren	East of K23
Northern Wheatear	
Western Bluebird	
Curve-billed Thrasher	SW Kansas
Sage Thrasher	Morton County
Phainopepla	
Blue-winged Warbler	Eastern two tiers of counties
Swainson's Warbler	
Virginia's Warbler	Morton County
Connecticut Warbler	
MacGillivray's Warbler	West of I135/US81
Cape May Warbler	East of I135/US81
Cerulean Warbler	Eastern three tiers of counties
Blackpoll Warbler (fall)	
Prairie Warbler	Eastern tier of counties
Black-throated Gray Warbler	West of I135/US81
Townsend's Warbler	West of US183
Hermit Warbler	
Painted Redstart	
Canyon Towhee	
Bachman's Sparrow	
Brewer's Sparrow	Western two tiers of counties
Black-throated Sparrow	
Sagebrush Sparrow	
Hepatic Tanager	
Pyrrhuloxia	
Hooded Oriole	
Scott's Oriole	
Brambling	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	
Pine Grosbeak	
Cassin's Finch	SW Kansas
Lesser Goldfinch	SW Kansas

*Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary*

### Errata

Several errors unfortunately crept into the December issue of the Horned Lark, all the fault of the editor.

1. The membership renewal form on the back page suffered from a formatting snafu that had the inappropriate rates on the wrong lines. The correct version of that is on the last page of this issue.
2. The Birding Roundup was for the Summer season, June through August, NOT the Winter Season.

The electronic version of the December issue can be found on line and has had these errors corrected. The index is found at: [http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/HOLA\\_archive.html](http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/HOLA_archive.html)

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# Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2015

## (Sep – Nov ) Chuck Otte, compiler

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One of the real challenges in preparing this report is determining what is noteworthy. What is a vagrant, what is an early arrival or a late departure, or what constitutes an unusually large number? I spend a lot of time consulting *Birds of Kansas* for arrival and departure dates; I look at range maps and county dot maps and reflect over the changing landscape of Kansas bird populations over the last 20 or 30 years.

Species that would have made this list 20 years ago are now expected annually and no longer noteworthy. Several that come to mind include Lesser and Great Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull and White-winged Dove. What were once considered vagrants are now common enough to not even be mentioned in some seasons. From November through February, the three mentioned gull species are going to be somewhere in the state just about every day.

Then comes the question of what is an early arrival or a late departure. While *Birds of Kansas* has a great deal of information on those arrival and departure dates, it is becoming fairly obvious that they are in a state of transition due to climate change, an ever accumulating wealth of information, or both. Fall departure dates for many species can be greatly influenced by weather patterns. 2015, just like 2014, saw extended warm weather in the fall and this led to many shorebird species lingering well past historic average and late departure dates. In spite of these challenges, we try to record sightings of interest that may be beneficial to future ornithologists.

Certain waterfowl species are noteworthy whenever they are reported in Kansas. All three scoter species and Long-tailed Ducks certainly fall into this category. Long-tailed Ducks appeared, as expected, in November and were a signal of numerous sightings that would occur on through the winter months. Red-throated and Pacific Loons also made a good showing in the latter part of the season.

As already mentioned, many species lingered well into the season in the absence of adverse weather that would normally "encourage" them to move on south. White-rumped Sandpipers, generally considered a rare fall inland migrant, continued a trend of more and more fall sightings with well documented reports from Baker Wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms and Kyle Marsh. Lesser and Great Black-backed Gull only seem to be noteworthy if they occur outside of the expected November through February period nowadays.

A very observant Rob Penner, on an early morning passage through Cheyenne Bottoms in early October, noted an unusual looking bird very close to the roadway and was fortunate to be able to snap a photo with his cell phone. While he suspected what he had just seen, he wasn't able to confirm it until later that evening. What he had seen was the second state record Long-billed Murrelet. Because he had photographed the bird, he was able to provide physical evidence with his report to the Kansas Bird Records Committee, thus allowing the Long-billed Murrelet to be removed from the hypothetical list on the Kansas checklist.

Our final comments have to do with ravens. Common Ravens were very well documented in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Kansas. But by 1930 they were considered extirpated from the state and most raven sightings from the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Kansas appear to have been the Chihuahuan Raven. Subsequent studies found them nesting in nearly two dozen western and southwestern Kansas counties. In 2006 Common Ravens were documented as attempting to nest in Morton County and have successfully nested since then. Now it appears that Common Ravens are becoming the more common of the two and Chihuahuan Ravens have become less common. As birders visit southwestern Kansas, they need to take great care in raven observations and identification.

Thank you to everyone who reports and contributes sightings for this report. Please forward any noteworthy sightings to me at [otte2@cox.net](mailto:otte2@cox.net) or mail to 613 Tamerisk Dr., Junction City, KS 66441.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
American Black Duck	2 in mixed flock at MDC	Linn	11/28	MG
Surf Scoter	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/22	MG
Surf Scoter	3 at McPherson SFL	McPherson	11/1	HA
White-winged Scoter	1 at Gardner Lake	Johnson	11/20	RW
White-winged Scoter	1 at Outlet Park, Melvern Lake	Osage	11/21	JM
Black Scoter	1 at Cheney State Park	Kingman	11/14	AM, JMi, ByM
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Lake Parsons	Neosho	11/7	ABu
Long-tailed Duck	1 at CBWMA	Barton	11/24	MR
Red-throated Loon	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/6	GP
Red-throated Loon	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/22	mob
Pacific Loon	1 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/14	MR
Pacific Loon	1 at Tuttle Creek, west shore	Riley	11/19	JL

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pacific Loon	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/22	mob
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Harvey County East Lake	Harvey	11/20	GF
<u>Western Grebe</u>	1 quite easterly at Warnock Lake	Atchison	11/16	DM
Western Grebe	1 easterly at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/22	mob
Western Grebe	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	11/30	DMi
Clark's Grebe	1 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/14	MR
Great Egret	2 at Harvey County East Lake	Harvey	10/31	GF
Great Egret	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	11/13	LR
Great Egret	5 at Augusta City Lake	Butler	11/21	KG
White-faced Ibis	1 near Anthony	Harper	11/1	CE
White-faced Ibis	20 on a small playa	Stafford	11/20	MR
White-faced Ibis	2 at Warnock Lake	Atchison	11/23	DM
Black Vulture	<u>11</u> circling with Turkey Vultures, ScP	Cherokee	9/7	JR
Osprey	1 late at Shawnee SFL	Shawnee	11/20	RM
Swallow-tailed Kite	First seen August 28, continuing	Barber	9/6	BJ, EY, MT
Mississippi Kite	1 quite late, south of Manhattan	Riley	10/01	JRo
Mississippi Kite	1 juvenile photographed at Dyck Arboretum	Harvey	10/3	KP
Northern Goshawk	1 immature on fence post	Pratt	10/9	MR
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 westerly at CBWMA	Barton	10/25	DLt, JL, BS
Swainson's Hawk	1 juvenile, late, possibly injured but flying	Neosho	11/14	ABu
Golden Eagle	1 easterly at Pony Creek Lake	Brown	11/10	CMo, SN, LVZ
Sora	1 late at KCPL wetlands	Johnson	11/3	MW
Sandhill Crane	2 somewhat early at QNWR	Stafford	9/26	DH
Sandhill Crane	<u>11,000</u> east of Garden City	Finney	11/2	SSh, TS
	This is a high number this far west.			
Whooping Crane	2 at QNWR – first of season	Stafford	10/16	BJ
	Sightings continued through 11/10			
Whooping Crane	3 at Wilson Wildlife Area	Russell	11/8	MR
	Three still present 11/15, unknown if same birds or not.			
Whooping Crane	4 at Cheney Reservoir near river entrance	Reno	11/14	AM and others
Whooping Crane	3 at Big Bend area of Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	11/22	KDWPT
Whooping Crane	3 at Milford Lake Wetlands	Clay	11/25	KDWPT
	Stayed through December 13 <sup>th</sup> when they were observed taking flight and heading southwest			
Black-necked Stilt	1 quite late at CBWMA	Barton	10/25	JL, BS
	Still present 10/27			
American Avocet	<u>1,604</u> at QNWR	Stafford	10/6	BJ
American Avocet	29 at CBWMA	Barton	11/24	MR
Black-bellied Plover	5 at CBWMA	Barton	11/24	MR
American Golden-Plover	1 at QNWR	Stafford	11/14	mob
	1 still present on 11/19			
Snowy Plover	2 rather late CBWMA	Barton	10/3	LO, GP, DS
	At least 2 still present 10/22			
Snowy Plover	19 at QNWR, possibly young of year	Stafford	10/11	JL
	Several still present on 10/25			
Solitary Sandpiper	2 at QNWR	Stafford	10/25	DLt, JL, BS
Greater Yellowlegs	Several on Toronto Lake mudflats	Woodson	10/24	PJ
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 at QNWR	Stafford	11/14	mob
Upland Sandpiper	1 heard calling overhead	Reno	9/24	AM
Marbled Godwit	1 at CBWMA	Barton	10/25	DLt, JL, BS
White-rumped Sandpiper	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	9/7	JCo, JK, GP
White-rumped Sandpiper	Up to 4 at CBWMA	Barton	10/7	LO, GP, DS
	1 still present on 10/10			
White-rumped Sandpiper	6 at Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	10/11	JK
<u>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</u>	2 south of Cunningham	Kingman	9/19	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at WTP in southern part of county	Ford	10/1	JC
Long-billed Dowitcher	50 at feed lot wastewater ponds	Finney	10/17	SSh, TS
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 at QNWR	Stafford	11/20	PC
<u>American Woodcock</u>	1 in urban yard, Garden City	Finney	11/30	SSh, TS

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Wilson's Phalarope	4 at CBWMA	Barton	10/7	LO, GP, DS
Wilson's Phalarope	1 at QNWR	Stafford	10/20	ZP
	1 still present on 11/19, apparently injured			
Wilson's Phalarope	1 at CBWMA	Barton	10/25	DLt, JL, BS
Red-necked Phalarope	a late report of 1 at Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	8/28	JK
Red-necked Phalarope	6 at QNWR	Stafford	9/6	DW
	2 still present on 9/9			
Red Phalarope	1 photographed at QNWR	Stafford	9/9	DgH
<u>Long-billed Murrelet</u>	1 at CBWMA, KBRC #2015-28	Barton	10/6	RP
	This bird was photographed and the report accepted by the KBRC. Because this bird was photographed it is now removed from the hypothetical list.			
Little Gull	1 juvenile, CBWMA, KBRC #2015-29	Barton	10/7	NV
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Tuttle Creek Reservoir, west shore	Riley	9/12	JL
	Continuing on 10/03			
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at CBWMA	Barton	10/21	GP
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 2 <sup>nd</sup> winter bird at Clinton Lake	Douglas	10/28	JCo, BWo
<u>Common Ground-Dove</u>	1 photographed in Topeka KBRC #2015-31	Shawnee	10/24	RH
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Cherokee Moon motocross trail	Ellsworth	10/02	DK
Chuck-will's-widow	1 calling at Riverfront Park, Lawrence	Douglas	9/24	ZA
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 rather late bird in Garden City	Finney	10/3	TS, SSh
Black-chinned Hummingbird	2 at feeders in Garden City	Finney	10/3	TS, SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	immature male at feeder	Reno	9/2	JMi
Calliope Hummingbird	immature female at feeders,	Haskell	9/11	MR, RP
Acadian Flycatcher	1 singing along Nine-Mile Creek	Leavenworth	9/6	JS
Hammond's Flycatcher	1 in residential yard, Satanta	Haskell	9/11	MR, RP
Dusky Flycatcher	1 at Elkhart Shelterbelt	Morton	9/13	MR, RP
Vermilion Flycatcher	1 photographed west of Chanute	Neosho	10/11	SB
Cassin's Vireo	1 at Elkhart Cemetery/Shelterbelt	Morton	9/13	JM, MR, RP
Philadelphia Vireo	1 along Salt Creek	Reno	9/19	JMi
Fish Crow	2 at Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	10/13	MMH
Fish Crow	Mixed flock with vocalizations, Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	10/17	KSa
Chihuahuan Raven	1 at CNG	Morton	9/12	JM
Chihuahuan Raven	2 in flight, calling at Elkhart Shelterbelt	Morton	9/19	NV
Common Raven	1 overhead, calling at Elkhart Shelterbelt	Morton	9/13	MR, RP
Tree Swallow	3 at Pony Creek Lake	Nemaha	10/30	DM
Tree Swallow	2 at Lake Parsons	Neosho	10/30	ABu
Barn Swallow	1 late bird at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/14	AM, ByM, JMi
Cave Swallow	2 at SCM	Sumner	9/6	MT, EY
Cave Swallow	1 immature at Elkhart WTP	Morton	9/12	MR, RP
Rock Wren	1 easterly at Jeffrey Energy Center	Pottawatomie	10/16	BrM
House Wren	1 at Tuttle Creek Dam, somewhat late	Riley	11/7	JRo
Townsend's Solitaire	1 easterly at Milford Lake	Geary	11/21	ML, mob
Sage Thrasher	1 at Western Crossing, CNG	Morton	9/11	JM
Chestnut-collared Longspur	"Hundreds" in open county	Pratt	11/11	SS
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	1 imm female in residential yard, Satanta	Haskell	9/11	RP, MR
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Lakewood Park, Salina	Saline	11/5	DK
Orange-crowned Warbler	2 at Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	11/7	KG
American Redstart	1 adult male at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	10/3	SM
Northern Parula	1 in Lenexa yard	Johnson	10/5	MG
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 basic plumage male, Rocky Ford area	Riley	9/7	JL
Pine Warbler	1 KSU Ag Research Station, Hays	Ellis	9/26	NA, MG, NV
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 somewhat late in Lawrence	Douglas	10/27	KL
Yellow-breasted Chat	1 extreme SW part of county	Leavenworth	9/30	GP
Yellow-breasted Chat	1 at Elm Creek Lake	Bourbon	10/1	ABu
Chipping Sparrow	1 at rural residence	Reno	11/10	AM
Chipping Sparrow	1 at backyard birdfeeder	Johnson	11/10	DB
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	1 at Sheridan SFL	Sheridan	9/26	NA, MG, NV

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 at Eisenhower State Park	Osage	10/24	JK
Summer Tanager	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/11	DL, KS
Summer Tanager	1 at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	10/15	JR
Blue Grosbeak	1 somewhat late, Carnahan Cove	Pottawatomie	9/27	DR
Blue Grosbeak	1 somewhat late, Irish Creek	Reno	9/30	AM
Bobolink	1 below Clinton Dam	Douglas	10/14	MMH
Common Grackle	20,000 near Quinby	Finney	10/25	SSh, TS
Red Crossbill	6 flying over and calling, KSU Exp. Station	Ellis	11/20	MR

**Locations and notes:** CBWMA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, CNG - Cimarron National Grasslands, imm – immature, KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee, KCPL – Kansas City Power and Light, MDC - Marais des Cygnes Area, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, ScP - Schermerhorn Park, SCM - Slate Creek Marsh, SFL – State Fishing Lake, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds, Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.

**Observers:** Nic Allen, Ze Ander, Henry Armknecht, Dawn Bayless, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Sheryl Busse, Jeff Calhoun, Paul Cook, Jacob Cooper (JCo), Corey Entriken, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg, Doug Hommert (DgH), Dan Hoobler, Ralph Hoover, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism personnel (KDWPT), Jon King, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Dan Larson, David Lautenbach (DLt), Jonathan Lautenbach, Kevin Leonard, Brandon Magette (BrM), Jim Malcom, Russel Mauzy, Mick McHugh (MMH), Don Merz, Steve Mesick, Andrew Miller, Bryant Miller (ByM), Dave Miller (DMi), Joseph Miller (JMi), Carol Morgan (CMo), Sue Newland, Lisa Owens, Rob Penner, Galen Pittman, Ken Pitts, Zak Pohlen, Jennifer Rader, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Lois Rockhill, John Row (JRo), Kim Sain (KSa), David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, John Schukman, Kylee Sharp, Max Thompson, Nick Varvel, Mary Wilcox, Dave Williams, Bennet Wong (BWo), Rodney Wright, Eugene Young, Linda Vidosh-Zempel (LVZ), mob – multiple observers



**LEFT:** Thirteen-year-old Eric Perez counting a male Downy Woodpecker in the Shane yard for the Garden City Winter Bird Count on 1 JAN 16. Photo by Irma Ailon.

The photo to the left was submitted by Tom Shane and I thank him for sharing it. First of all it shows a young teenager enjoying birds. I started birding at a very young age and was fortunate that I had friends who also enjoyed birds. But that was in an era when birding wasn't "cool". I still have those friends and while they aren't birders to the extent that I am, they do still enjoy birds. I am excited when I see teenagers, and even younger, out enjoying birds. So the question that I ask all of you is; do we encourage youth to be birders? Do we welcome youth at our bird walks? Do we go out of our way to invite others that don't look like we do to join in on our birding activities? The future isn't us, it's in those youth. If we don't get them excited about birding, and nature, why are they going to care about conserving it? Volunteer your time to talk to a youth group about birds. Take them birding and let them catch the excitement of birds. They are our future and it is up to us to train them to appreciate the wildlife!

*Chuck*



# The Eponym Dictionary of Birds (Book Review)

By Eugene A. Young\*

*The Eponym Dictionary of Bird Names* by Bo Beolens, Michael Watkins, Michael Grayson (2014, 624 pages, \$86.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-4729-0573-4, Bloomsbury Publishing, London).

Most Kansas birders have come across a Baird's Sandpiper, and if you are lucky enough maybe even a Baird's Sparrow. Perhaps, you've come across a Wilson's Warbler or a Wilson's Phalarope! And if you are inquisitive, you probably wonder, "Where did those names come from?" Without getting into much detail about taxonomy, most bird watchers know that the American Ornithologists' Union lists birds based on evolutionary relationships, but more importantly, each species is given a unique common name and scientific name. And some of these species have common names, scientific names, or both associated with some human name. These are eponyms, the topic of this interesting book.

I don't think this is intended as a bedside read, at least not for me. But, it is a must-have if you ever wondered who was Baird or Wilson. And that is the value of this book, it provides the novice bird watcher, advanced birdwatcher, and ornithologists, an opportunity to learn how some of our favorite birds received their name.

Which gets me back to Baird. The sandpiper and sparrow that were named in honor of Baird are for Spencer Fullerton Baird, who besides being an early ornithologist served as Assistant Secretary and then Secretary of the Smithsonian (1878). He wrote "Catalogue of North American Birds" (1858) and became friends with John James Audubon (p46). As you might expect, the warbler and phalarope are named after Alexander Wilson, considered the "Father of American Ornithology" (p604). The history and connections between various ornithologists is what makes this book fun to read. As an example, you get some interesting history concerning Wilson. He was born in Scotland, was a poet, and was imprisoned for writing "satiric verses lampooning" manufacturers during a labor dispute. He emigrated to the U.S. after his release (1794) and became friends with William Bartram (a naturalist and botanist). Eventually, this led to the production of seven volumes of "American Ornithology" with two additional volumes edited and published after his untimely death due to dysentery.

I decided to take a peek into how this book might be of interest to Kansans. From Shane's treatise on Kansas Ornithology I selected some ornithologists and looked for eponyms of interest (2012, Shane, T. G.

A Two-Hundred Year History of Ornithology, Avian Biology, Bird Watching, and Birding in Kansas [1810–2010]. *Zea E-Books*. Book 12. Online: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/12>). The following are examples of a few ornithologists who played a role in developing our understanding of the avifauna of Kansas and the type of information provided within this unique history book.

Two of the early explorers in Kansas were Lewis and Clark. Captain Meriwether Lewis had the Lewis's Woodpecker named after him. Interestingly, the holotype for this species was collected in 1805 near Helena, Montana, and is housed at Harvard, and "may be the only bird specimen left from that expedition." President Thomas Jefferson chose Meriwether to lead the expedition, he was his private secretary at the time, but also well respected for his scientific prowess (p331). Captain William Clark had the Clark's Nutcracker named after him. Clark collected the bird, had it sent to President Jefferson, who sent it to Wilson for description, who named it after Clark. Clark went on to become Governor of the Missouri Territory (p121).

Both the genus, *Sayornis* and the Say's Phoebe is named after Thomas Say who was a prominent entomologist of the time (late 1700's and early 1800's). James William Abert had Abert's Towhee named for him. He was an early explorer who ventured westward through to New Mexico. Eventually he went on to teach English literature at the University of Missouri (p14). Hammond's Flycatcher, a rare visitor to western Kansas, was named after Dr. William Alexander Hammond, "a physician, naturalist and soldier." He collected on the Pacific Railroad Survey for the US National Museum. He eventually became a professor of Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Maryland. He collected bird specimens for Baird (p240).

From the University of Kansas (KU) lineage, there is Professor Robert Morrow Mengel for which a subspecies of nightjar was named in his honor: Silky-tailed Nightjar ssp. *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus mengeli* (p376). Current KU Collections Manager and renowned ornithologist, Mark B. Robbins had the Ecuadorian Tapaculo named after him, *Scytalopus robbinsi*. Robbins has made over 40 foreign expeditions where he's recorded thousands of avian vocalizations (p471).

Many older bird watchers know of "Doc" Sutton (George Miksch Sutton), for his artwork and extensive field work in Oklahoma, but he also was Charles Ely's mentor and professor at the University of Oklahoma.

Many subspecies have been named in Sutton's honor, and possible one of the most famous hybrids bears his name as well, Sutton's Warbler (*Parula americana* x *Dendroica dominica*, p541). Charles Adelbert Ely, had a subspecies of Pygmy Nuthatch named in his honor by A. R. Phillips, *Sitta pygmaea elii* (p175). Some of us are familiar with the recent naming of the Sierra Madre Ground Warbler (*Robsonius thompsoni*) by ornithologists at KU (Hosner *et al.* 2013. Phylogeography of the *Robsonius* Ground-Warblers [Passeriformes: Locustellidae] Reveals an Undescribed Species from Northeastern Luzon, Philippines. Condor 115[3]:630-639) in honor of Max C. Thompson, but did you know he also has a subspecies of pitta named in honor of him too, Red-bellied Pitta (*Erythropitta erythrogaster thompsoni*). Some of you might be interested to know he collected birds in the Hawaiian Islands and Philippines, Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Australasia with collections deposited at KU, Smithsonian Institute, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, and American Museum of Natural History, "providing an invaluable resource for the ornithological community" (p555).

The book contains a "Sources and Acknowledgements" section (one page) and a brief "Introduction" (p7-10) which explains the organization and abbreviations used in the text. Like any dictionary, it's in alphabetical order. There is a one page "Addenda" at end and a three page "References." The cost can be prohibitive for some,

but if you are interested in learning about the eponyms along with some history, it should be worth it. It's lacking in citations, and often citations have to be looked up in other sources. For example the Hosner *et al.* (2013) citation used to highlight the naming of the ground warbler under Thompson (p555) isn't in the "References" section. Perhaps, this was done to save space, considering the book covers species of the world, thus the citations would be lengthy. Another flaw, some of the details within the history may be erroneous. For example, under Thompson (p555) it indicates he has a Ph.D. thesis from Ohio State University (OSU) in Horticulture. Thompson did attend OSU and completed graduate coursework, but didn't complete a Ph.D. dissertation (Thompson pers. comm.). It also indicated the he co-authored *Birds of Kansas* (1998-2011). In actuality, he co-authored the *Birds in Kansas Volumes I and II* in 1989 and 1992 respectively, and the *Birds of Kansas* was published in 2011.

This is a good reference book. It has great appeal for public libraries as a resource, ornithologist should find value in it, and bird watchers might be interested in learning about the history of ornithology by examining some of their favorite named birds.

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## 479<sup>th</sup> Species Added to Kansas Checklist

On December 23rd, Dave Klema and Brent Galliard were birding the Wilson Lake area. Sunset was approaching rapidly when they saw a sandpiper-like shorebird in the northernmost part of Minooka Park. Fortune was smiling upon them as they both had cameras with them and in the fading light they managed to snap a bunch of photos. First of all, sandpiper-like shorebirds on the 23rd of December just aren't that common. And shorebirds in Kansas at anytime with legs carrying a strong orangish coloration are even less common. Before the evening had passed into Christmas Eve day, they had contacted Mike Rader who sent photos to your *Horned Lark* editor/KSBIRDS.ORG webmaster who posted them online so everyone could share in the 479<sup>th</sup> Kansas checklist species, Purple Sandpiper. A KBRC rare bird report was filed, #2015-34, which was subsequently accepted by the KBRC. Purple Sandpiper

has been long expected, and was well documented with Dave and Brent's photos!



# Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

## How does it work, what does it accomplish?

To know what birds show up in a state, even somewhat regularly, is fairly easy to determine. You place a lot of birders across the state, collect their observations and start plotting what birds are where and when. We do it all the time. We use Christmas Bird Counts to know what birds are present in December and early January. We use field trip lists. Nowadays we can even use eBird reports.

But what about breeding birds? Is that species present in June because it was a late migrant or because it was actually breeding. What about that mid-August record? Was it an early migrant or a breeding individual that never left? Are there more American Robins breeding today than 10, 20 or 30 years ago or fewer?

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS), conducted annually by volunteers and managed by the US Geological Survey through the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center since the 1960s, have really been our only systematic measure of breeding birds. However, the BBS is designed to measure population trends and has limitations for other purposes. They are restricted to the month of June, on a very specific route, run in the same direction every year. If there are nightjars present and breeding at the end of the route, which you will arrive at around 9:30 in the morning, you'll never know it because they will have quit vocalizing by the time you get there.

These limitations are what a Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) is designed to address. While surveys are still locked in to a specific area, surveyors have the option of visiting that location numerous times during the breeding season, even over multiple years. The flexibility is there to go out early in the season to find Great Horned Owls, or back out in August to look for Sedge Wrens. In the original Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas (KBBAT), and the preliminary plan for KBBAT-2, the survey areas were 5 km x 5 km squares (or basically 3 x 3 mile squares). These were laid out across the state in a set pattern. There were 746 blocks and an additional 36 special blocks placed in critical or unique habitat areas that were missed in the ordered layout of the 746 standard blocks. For statistical analysis reasons, we expect to use these same blocks in KBBAT-2

The BBS is somewhat an presence/absence survey. Is a species present and if so, how many? We make inference from year to year if numbers are increasing or decreasing based on the numbers

observed. With a BBA you are moving beyond presence/absence and you are looking for proof of breeding at various levels. Potentially breeding species are assigned different categories falling into possible, probable and confirmed breeding. What qualifies for each can even depend on the species. Obviously a nest with eggs or young is the highest level of confirmed breeding. On the other hand, the mere presence of a species within expected breeding dates would only qualify as a possible breeding species.

Each breeding species in the state is assigned "safe dates" when nesting would be expected. These dates only apply to possible and probable categories as confirmed nesting stands on its own regardless of "safe dates". The dates used in the first KBBAT were set by Dr. John Zimmerman. These dates are being re-evaluated and some tweaking of them will be done.

In the first KBBAT there was no effort made to collect data on abundance. When you look at the results you don't know if you had one Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the block, or a dozen. An effort will probably be made to determine abundance in some fashion.

Now comes the big question: "So what?" What are we going to accomplish with this multi-year project? If you do not have the book, *Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, by Busby and Zimmerman, you need to get it (published in 2001 by the University Press of Kansas). When the first KBBAT was being conducted and analyzed we learned a lot about birds in Kansas. Species like Cooper's Hawk and Cedar Waxwing were found nesting in the state far more than we thought. Painted Buntings were found in far more locations than we ever knew before.

KBBAT-2 will also turn up some changes. Eurasian Collared Dove and White-winged Dove weren't found for the first Atlas. Species like Mississippi Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl will probably be found nesting in more locations. We will be able to compare the results from KBBAT-2 to the first KBBAT and start to see trends. Exciting things will be found. We are still a year or two away from starting data collection, but it isn't too early to start getting your eyes and ears tuned up to start watching birds as opposed to bird watching!

*Chuck Otte*



**Official Nomination Form  
2016 Kansas Ornithological Society  
Avian Conservationist of the Year**

*The Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award 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, research and/or education within the State of Kansas. This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting.*

**NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

*Nomination Form*

To make a nomination, send this form with attachments to: Robert L. Penner, 593 NE 130 Avenue, Ellinwood, KS 67526 or to [rpenner@tnc.org](mailto:rpenner@tnc.org)

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Attach a typewritten description of no more than two pages, both sides of paper may be used, giving a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished. Past and current achievements, organization membership or any other information the nominator feels pertinent will be considered.



**Official Nomination Form  
2016 Kansas Ornithological Society  
Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award**

The Boyd Award is given to a member(s) of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), usually each year, for outstanding contributions and service to the society. The Boyd Award is in recognition of the contributions of Dr. Ivan Boyd who was a KOS Founder, Charter Member, and the first president of KOS. He was also a Bulletin Editor and helped start the Baldwin Christmas Bird Count in 1942, which is the longest running CBC in the state.

Nominations should provide a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. Contributions could include such things as number and years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the Bulletin or Horned Lark, number of CBC's compiled, and years of membership; this is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the society may be provided. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive an award. The Board may select more than one recipient each year or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year.

**NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

**Nomination Form**

To make a nomination send this form with attachments to Matt Gearheart, 20714 Crickett Lane, Lenexa, KS 66220 or email to [mgearheart@designwithinsight.com](mailto:mgearheart@designwithinsight.com)

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Attach a typewritten description of no more than two pages, both sides of paper may be used, giving a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished for KOS. Contributions could include such things as number and years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the Bulletin or Horned Lark, number of CBC's compiled, and years of membership; this is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the society may be provided.

# KOS SPRING MEETING

## Camp Horizon, Arkansas City, Kansas

### May 6 - 8, 2016

Online registration at <http://ksbirds.org/>

Make plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in southern Kansas, May 6-8, 2016. Camp Horizon sits east of Arkansas City in a nicely wooded area just north of the Arkansas River and about 2.5 miles north of Oklahoma. This is a very birdy location!

**Directions to the camp** - Starting from the intersection of the Highway 77 bypass and Madison Avenue, drive 3.2 miles on Madison Avenue, which becomes 292nd Road. At the fork, turn right (south) onto 296th Road. Drive 2.4 miles. Turn right (south) onto Horizon Drive at the sign and go 1 mile to camp entrance. It is well marked and shouldn't be a problem. Check in at the Welcome Center at the camp. Address is 30811 Horizon Drive, Arkansas City.

**Friday evening:** We will have a casual meet and greet with snacks at Camp Horizon from 6-8 p.m.

**Saturday May, 7th:** After all-day field trips, we will have our evening meal at the Camp. Possible field trips include Slate Creek Marsh, Kaw Wildlife Area, Cowley State Fishing Lake and maybe even some forays into Oklahoma!

Note: Saturday lunch is to be on your own. Trip leaders will provide snack/lunch stops along the way; though options may be limited.

**Saturday evening:** After the dinner at Camp Horizon, Bob Gress will present a program titled, "Wildlife Down Under". Like all of Bob's programs, it will be amazing!

**Sunday:** After a ½ day of birding, we'll have a box lunch compilation (sub sandwiches, veggie option available – please indicate your desire for this option on the registration form) of the birds seen on all the field trips. Location to be announced.

**Accommodations:** There are three options for accommodations. The following options and prices are for both nights lodging and include Saturday and Sunday breakfast and the Saturday evening dinner.

**Renewal Lodge** - This lodge houses 2 to 4 people per room and bedding is supplied. There are a limited number of rooms so first come first served. Indicate who you will be rooming with. We will not do room assignments – you must tell us. **Once Renewal Lodge is filled, subsequent reservations will be switched to Cedars and a refund will be issued for the difference. We will notify you of this.**

**Cedars Lodges** – This is more traditional camp housing and you will need to bring your own bedding.

**Tent camping** – modern shower house nearby.

If you are staying off-site, we do have a meal package with two breakfasts and Saturday dinner so you can dine with the rest of the attendees at the camp. You will also need to order a Sunday lunch for the compilation, or bring your own lunch.

It is recommended that you plan to stay at the camp as motel options in the area will be limited due to the Kansas Sampler that is occurring in nearby Winfield this same weekend.

**Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 6 – 8, 2016  
Camp Horizon, Arkansas City, Kansas**

I (we) plan to attend the 2016 KOS spring meeting

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Registration Fee</b>	\$15/person	_____	\$_____
<b><u>Housing options - choose one - includes Saturday and Sunday Breakfast and Saturday dinner.</u></b>	Cost (total for both nights)		
<b>Renewal Lodge</b> (2 to 4 per room, bedding supplied) limited number of rooms. Indicate below who you are rooming with. <i>If Renewal fills your reservation will be move to Cedars.</i>	\$90/person	_____	\$_____
<b>Cedars</b> (larger more open style, bring your own bedding)	\$64/person	_____	\$_____
<b>Tent Camping</b>	\$41/person	_____	\$_____
<b><u>Meal choices</u></b>			
Sunday lunch (sub sandwiches)	\$8.50/person	_____	\$_____
<b>Meal Package for those staying off-site</b> – includes Saturday breakfast and dinner and Sunday breakfast.	\$20/person	_____	\$_____
<b>Total Amount Due</b> (Checks payable to KOS)			\$_____

Number of persons in party: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations/requests (from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations received after April 20th 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 2016 KOS spring meeting.

Signatures

Date

