



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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From the President's Pen

By Matt Gearheart

Greeting KOS friends-

First and foremost, I must give a big thank you to Max Thompson and Gene Young for putting together an excellent Spring Meeting at Camp Horizon. The wet spring weather held off just enough for the group to have successful field trips and find many interesting birds. When arriving at the destination on Friday afternoon, and flushing a few Painted Buntings off the entrance road, I knew we were going to be in for a fun birding weekend, and it was indeed.

Birding always offers something new to see or discover. Stationing our Spring and Fall Meetings across our ecologically diverse state really increases our odds at making new discoveries and seeing new birds and scenery. The KOS board works hard to spread these out to different areas, but of course is always open to your ideas and suggestions. This is probably a good time to plug the upcoming Fall Meeting in Garden City on September 30th thru October 2nd. Be sure to mark your calendar and check www.ksbirds.org for more information and details.

As a birder becomes more experienced and seasoned in their life, sometimes we find we have to travel farther and farther to seek new birds for our lists and enjoyment. However, I have been proven time and again that this does not always hold true during migration. This past spring I found several new birds for my growing yard list (unexpected things like a fly-over American Bittern) and even a couple new county birds in my home county, Johnson. One day, I was literally

getting in my car to go speak to some young 4-H kids about birding, when my phone buzzed with news of a male Vermilion Flycatcher at Kill Creek Park in Olathe! Fortunately I had time to dash over there and see this brilliant gem! The bird proved to be a one-day-wonder, so the timing was in my favor, for once. However, the *crème de la crème* discovery happened to me one fine May morning and only within a couple miles of home.

I had decided this was a nice morning to walk at Lake Lenexa, before I had to head in to the office. Terry Swope had seen some really nice warblers there the day before. Upon opening my car door, I heard a familiar (yet also new) echoing bird call coming from the understory. My heart skipped a couple beats, then I started looking around for someone with an iPhone or CD player... nope not a soul to be seen. Honing in on the location of the singing, I literally ran around the path to get closer. Waiting patiently for the bird to sing again, I quietly peeked down a fisherman made path in the woods. A small bird popped up in the open and called again right in front of me - a Connecticut Warbler! Not only a very secretive skulker, high on the wish list, but a lifer to boot. I was up in the clouds the rest of the day.

I hope you make many new discoveries and great birding memories whether in Kansas or abroad. I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting or out in the field.

-Matt

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

I love KOS meetings. To me, a KOS spring or fall meeting is like a family reunion, only better, because you aren't really related to anyone! I need to echo Matt's thank you to Max and Gene for arranging the spring meeting. I'd always wanted to go to Camp Horizon and I wasn't disappointed. If you've never been to a KOS meeting, start making plans to head to southwest Kansas the end of September. The fall meeting will be in Garden City. If you've never birded that area, let's just say it's a different birding experience that you have to have!

Spring meeting details are still coming together but it looks like it will be somewhere in eastern Kansas. Which brings up the notion that future meeting locations are set in stone. The KOS Board welcomes members to step forward and say, "Hey, I'd like to host a KOS meeting in my part of Kansas." You show the initiative and we'll help you with the details!

I always laugh at the notion of the summer doldrums. I've always felt that the phrase summer doldrums must have been coined by migration/warbler snobs who felt that nothing else in birding mattered. Here's my break down on the so-called summer "slow season".

Memorial Day weekend to Fourth of July weekend. Wait for a decent morning to run your breeding bird survey route. Granted, that's a limited number of participants, but in another summer or two we'll have over 700 breeding bird atlas blocks to worry about, so start getting your breeding bird identification skills honed now.

There's lingering migrants, or what we generally feel are migrants, to find. A Whimbrel at Baker Wetlands in mid June was a good example of that. We don't go birding because of what we WILL see, we go birding for what we MIGHT see!

I don't like the phrase "fall migration". Southbound migration is much more appropriate because it starts in mid to late July with both shorebirds and hummingbirds. Those extra-limital sightings are what we live for as birders - come on!

About the same time that we've got the southbound migration getting under way we have post breeding dispersal of species nesting to the south of us. Laughing Gulls are perhaps the best example of this but storks, spoonbills and herons fall into this category as well. You've got to be out there because you never know when a Magnificent Frigatebird or that rare hummingbird is going to show up!

In my book, there is no slow season. The birding may get a bit more challenging. The weather may be a bit more uncomfortable, but what's the price of seeing a rarity? Get out there and start looking! It's going to be fall before we know it, and then colder weather, so enjoy summer while it's here. Juncos will be returning soon!

- Chuck



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Spring KOS Meeting Bird List

The following 162 species were seen in Cowley and Sumner Counties on May 6 - 8, 2016.

Canada Goose	Pectoral Sandpiper	House Wren
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	Short-billed Dowitcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Long-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Teal	Wilson's Phalarope	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Northern Shoveler	Franklin's Gull	Swainson's Thrush
Green-winged Teal	Caspian Tern	Wood Thrush
Redhead	Rock Pigeon	American Robin
Ruddy Duck	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Brown Thrasher
Northern Bobwhite	Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	European Starling
Wild Turkey	Greater Roadrunner	Cedar Waxwing
Pied-billed Grebe	Barn Owl	Louisiana Waterthrush
Eared Grebe	Eastern Screech-Owl	Northern Waterthrush
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	Black-and-white Warbler
American White Pelican	Barred Owl	Prothonotary Warbler
American Bittern	Common Nighthawk	Orange-crowned Warbler
Least Bittern	Common Poorwill	Nashville Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Chuck-will's-widow	Kentucky Warbler
Great Egret	Eastern Whip-poor-will	Common Yellowthroat
Snowy Egret	Chimney Swift	American Redstart
Cattle Egret	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Northern Parula
Green Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow Warbler
Black Vulture	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Osprey	Downy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Hairy Woodpecker	Clay-colored Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Northern Flicker	Field Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Pileated Woodpecker	Vesper Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Kestrel	Lark Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Savannah Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Acadian Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Least Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Swainson's Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Harris's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	White-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Western Kingbird	Summer Tanager
Sora	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Cardinal
American Coot	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Avocet	Loggerhead Shrike	Blue Grosbeak
Semipalmated Plover	White-eyed Vireo	Indigo Bunting
Killdeer	Bell's Vireo	Painted Bunting
Spotted Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Dickcissel
Solitary Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Bobolink
Greater Yellowlegs	Red-eyed Vireo	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Eastern Meadowlark
Upland Sandpiper	American Crow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Hudsonian Godwit	Fish Crow	Common Grackle
Stilt Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Great-tailed Grackle
Dunlin	Purple Martin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Baird's Sandpiper	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Orchard Oriole
Least Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
White-rumped Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	House Finch
	Carolina Chickadee	Pine Siskin
	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Sparrow

Why Document Rare Birds?

By Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

Twenty years ago, even just fifteen years ago, bird records went to one location, the state committee that oversaw bird records, often called the bird records committee. In cases of extreme rarities the checklist committee of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) or American Birding Association (ABA) might have also gotten involved in reviewing the record. There may have been a few other minor options, but the records committees pretty well had the final say on what birds were accepted to a state checklist. Information on rarities was circulated by word of mouth or telephone rare bird alerts that depended on an answering machine. It wasn't uncommon in those days for avid birders to call the rare bird alert a couple times a week - more often in migration.

Then came the internet, cell phones and smart phones. A rare bird could be called in while you were still watching it. If you saw a rare bird you called someone who was at a computer so that the sighting could be reported to the appropriate listserv. Then data networks became readily available across much of the state. A birder with an appropriate cell phone could send and receive emails from the field. Then along came eBird: citizen science and crowd sourcing of bird records. Reviewers "behind the curtain" decided which records were valid or not. Then Facebook took off and we have five times as many people on the Kansas Birding Facebook page as we have KOS members. Photos of birds are posted on Facebook that aren't reported anywhere else. Birders tick their lists on eBird but report it nowhere else. The era of fractured data has begun as birders chose their preferred method of reporting, or recording, their sightings.

Which begs the question of whether a bird records committee, and documenting rare birds is still needed.

Several of us recently went on a fact finding mission to track down whether one species should be on a county checklist and a breeding species on top of that. That issue still isn't settled but we're digging back through a hundred years worth of bird records. The challenge of determining the accuracy and validity of bird records is only going to become more challenging. Improvements in technology have made it more difficult, not less.

Now, more than ever, a central clearing house for bird records is needed. eBird defers to state committees on extreme rarities. Members of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) keep an eye on the KSBIRD-L listserv and the Kansas Birding Facebook page for rarities that need to be documented. Often the information in eBird or Facebook is inadequate to make a sound decision. If the observer is willing to provide more information, then a decision can be reached. But if an observer chooses, for perhaps "selfish" reasons, not to follow up, we're stuck with an incomplete assessment.

I've often said that birding is one of those avocations where hobby and science overlap and occasionally have a head-on collision. Many newer birders don't understand the need to document rarities. Information on bird distribution is becoming more and more crucial. eBird helps but still has its limits as well. Please, take the time to learn what species need documenting and then help us all out and document those rare sightings.

KOS Fall Meeting

September 30 - October 2, 2016

The fall meeting will be at the Garden City Community College in the Fouse Building. The Saturday night banquet will be in the Endowment Room on campus. As more details will become available they will be posted at ksbirds.org. The next issue of the Horned Lark (late August) will have full details and registration information!

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Kansas Birding Roundup, Winter 2016 (Dec – Feb) Chuck Otte, compiler

All it takes is a mild winter to load up the Roundup with all sorts of crazy sightings. Species that any normal winter would make the Birding Roundup don't even get mentioned. Species that rarely overwinter, overwintered in large numbers. Species were late to depart, early to return and some never left at all. Chipping Sparrow, a species that is not at all common in winter in Kansas, was well documented all through the winter in several locations and not just one or two birds, as many as a half dozen in a small flock!

Big storms moving through to our north in November moved cranes off course which resulted in unusual sightings all through the winter period. Three Whooping Cranes found in the Milford Lake wetlands just before Thanksgiving stayed until December 13th! While Sandhill Cranes wintering in the Red Hills is not uncommon, Sandhill Cranes wintering in the upper reaches of Tuttle Creek Reservoir are certainly noteworthy!

The winter of 2016 may well be remembered by birders as the winter of the sea ducks and grebes. The mild weather kept the large reservoirs open enough that many waterfowl species lingered through the entire winter. All three scoter species were well documented through central and eastern Kansas. Long-tailed Ducks apparently arrived in number and were documented at 6 different locations. Many stayed for weeks or longer. Two Long-tailed Ducks first found at Milford Lake at Christmas time lingered until the end of March with as many as four being seen in mid-January.

Horned, Red-necked, Eared, and Western Grebes persisted throughout the winter to the point that by the time February arrived, we just quit recording them. Any Red-necked Grebe is a noteworthy sighting in Kansas, but three made for an exceptional winter season.

Any shorebird in Kansas during the winter season tends to be noteworthy and several species stayed late or arrived back earlier than expected. Brent Galliard and Dave Klema were birding Wilson Lake late in the afternoon on December 23rd when they were surprised to find an odd looking shorebird. Fortune smiled on Brent and Dave and they were able to obtain several very good images of our 479th bird species for Kansas, Purple Sandpiper.

Enough Snowy Owls showed up around the state to afford many birders the opportunity to see this enigmatic ghost from the north. Northern Saw-whet Owl, a species that is often overlooked and sorely sought after, was found calling in Doniphan County late in February. Because of its diminutive stature and retiring nature, it is often missed. Many times they won't even start to vocalize until just before they head back north, sometime in February or early March.

With mild weather and lack of appreciable snowfall, it should be no surprise that Le Conte's Sparrows overwintered at Baker Wetlands. Nor should it be a surprise that a Dickcissel spent the winter visiting a feeder north of Lawrence. What was a surprise was a Black-throated Sparrow documented by Kevin Groeneweg on the Red Hills CBC. There are less than a dozen records of Black-throated Sparrow in Kansas.

Whether this is a fluke of a winter season, or a harbinger of climate change that we need to pay heed to, won't be known for some time yet. But it does bring home the importance of reporting these sightings and recording them for future researchers to try to make sense of.

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

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
American Black Duck	2 at MDC, Unit B	Linn	12/12	MGo, RTR, RW
American Black Duck	2 at MDC, Waterfowl area	Linn	12/12	RW
American Black Duck	1 female at CBWA	Barton	12/17	MR
American Black Duck	1 NE of Parsons	Neosho	1/9	ABu
American Black Duck	2 at Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	1/14	MMH
	Still present 1/29			
Surf Scoter	2 at Lake Wabaunsee	Wabaunsee	12/6	JRo
Surf Scoter	2 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	12/21	DMi
	Still present 1/29			
White-winged Scoter	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	12/1	MLo
White-winged Scoter	3 at John Redmond Reservoir Dam	Coffey	12/5	MG, NA
	Continuing, 12/18			
White-winged Scoter	2 at Lake Wabaunsee	Wabaunsee	1/16	SSc, TSc
	Still present 1/20			
Black Scoter	1 on pond north of Belvidere	Kiowa	12/6	MGo, mob
Black Scoter	1 female at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	2/1	KG

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Long-tailed Duck	2 at John Redmond Reservoir Dam Still present 1/16	Coffey	12/12	MG, mob
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Wilson Lake on CBC Still present 2/14	Russell	12/20	MR
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Milford State Park Marina As many as 4 (1 M, 3 F) were seen on 1/22. At least 2 continued into late March.	Geary	12/25	LM
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Wyandotte County Lake Still present 2/18	Wyandotte	1/21	ML, mob
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	2 on WTP Still present 2/26	Leavenworth	2/6	KCr
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Oswego WTP Still present 2/29	Labette	2/19	ABu
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	1/26	TB
Pacific Loon	2 at Perry Lake At least one still present 12/5	Jefferson	12/1	GP
Pacific Loon	1 at Wilson Lake on CBC Still present 1/3	Russell	12/20	MR
Pacific Loon	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	1/1	PW
Pacific Loon	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	1/23	MMH
Horned Grebe	1 at Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	12/24	BS
Horned Grebe	1 at Shawnee SFL	Shawnee	12/26	DMK
Horned Grebe	2 at Clinton Lake, Dam 3 present on 1/13	Douglas	12/27	KB
Horned Grebe	1 at Wilson Lake Still present 1/8	Russell	1/1	CF, MG
Horned Grebe	1 at Lake Shawnee Still present 1/30	Shawnee	12/30	RM
Horned Grebe	1 at LaFarge Sandpits, Wichita	Sedgwick	1/10	KG
Horned Grebe	Up to 5 at Melvern Lake Dam	Osage	1/16	CMo, JHu
Horned Grebe	1 at Lyon SFL	Lyon	1/16	SSc, TSc
Horned Grebe	1 at Lake Parsons	Neosho	1/18	ABu
Horned Grebe	10 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	1/30	BW, MGo
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Wyandotte County Lake Still present 12/12	Wyandotte	12/7	NA, mob
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Bloomington Beach, Clinton Lake	Douglas	1/5	NV, BW
Red-necked Grebe	1 at State Park Cove, Wilson Lake	Russell	1/6	DK
Eared Grebe	2 off the dam at Tuttle Creek Lake Thirteen seen on 12/18, at least one still present 12/24	Riley	12/12	JL, BS
Eared Grebe	1 at Clinton Lake Dam 2 present on 1/8	Douglas	1/3	GP, MMH
Eared Grebe	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	1/13	BW, NV
Western Grebe	Olathe Lake	Johnson	12/2	JW
Western Grebe	Shawnee Mission Park, Lenexa, continuing	Johnson	12/4	mob
Western Grebe	1 at Melvern Lake Continuing 12/12	Osage	12/9	JH
Western Grebe	1 at MDC	Linn	12/16	MMH, GP
Western Grebe	2 at Perry Lake Dam	Jefferson	12/24	GP
Western Grebe	1 at Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	1/9	DL, MF
Western Grebe	1 at La Cygne Lake Still present 2/5	Linn	1/29	MGo, BW, mob
Double-crested Cormorant	1,700 at LaFarge Sandpits	Sedgwick	2/20	PJ
American White Pelican	250 at Cheney Reservoir, large number for date	Reno	1/31	PJ
Black Vulture	2 along Arkansas River at Kaw Wildlife area	Cowley	1/29	JN
Osprey	1 lingering at Lyon SFL	Lyon	12/12	mob
Osprey	1 lingering, KDWPT, Pratt	Pratt	12/17	MR
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 in Elkhart on CBC, westerly	Morton	1/3	MT, EY
Ferruginous Hawk	1 quite easterly near Gardner Still present 2/7	Johnson	1/30	mob

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Virginia Rail	1 well heard	Lincoln	12/3	DK
	Probably same bird present on CBC 12/20			
Virginia Rail	1 near Arlington	Reno	1/16	JMi, AM
Sandhill Crane	20 easterly in flight over Lenexa	Johnson	12/1	JW
Sandhill Crane	6 on watershed Lake south of Winfield	Cowley	12/13	MT, EY
Sandhill Crane	450 on Quivira CBC	Stafford	12/15	MR
Sandhill Crane	7 photographed overhead near Tuttle Creek	Pottawatomie	1/30	ND
Sandhill Crane	Several groups moving north overhead	Barton	2/15	CW
Sandhill Crane	900+ northbound	Kingman	2/17	SS
Sandhill Crane	50 overhead in Topeka	Shawnee	2/21	JM
Whooping Crane	3 with 1 Sandhill Crane, Milford Lake	Clay		
	These birds were seen just before Thanksgiving and remained through		12/13	
American Avocet	1 lingering at QNWR	Stafford	12/3	BJ
	Still present for CBC, 12/15			
Spotted Sandpiper	1 at Rocky Ford SFA	Riley	1/1	KC
	Still present 2/10			
Greater Yellowlegs	4 quite late at QNWR	Stafford	12/21	BJ
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at pond	Cowley	12/26	KG
Greater Yellowlegs	1 on the Chikaskia River, early arrival	Harper	2/6	CE
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 late at CBWA	Barton	12/8	ABu
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 at QNWR	Stafford	2/21	JL
Dunlin	3 late at CBWA	Barton	12/8	ABu
Purple Sandpiper	1 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	12/23	BG, DK
	Bird was photographed and KBRC #2015-34 was accepted as a new state record.			
Baird's Sandpiper	3 at QNWR	Stafford	2/25	BJ
Least Sandpiper	1 at Neosho SFL	Neosho	1/3	ABu
Least Sandpiper	8 at CBWA	Barton	2/19	CW
American Woodcock	1 in Johnson County yard feeding on worms	Johnson	2/17	DL
American Woodcock	Displaying at Prairie Center	Johnson	2/19	mob
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 at Wilson Lake marina	Russell	12/20	MR
	Still present 12/29			
Bonaparte's Gull	1 at Curtis Creek area of Milford Lake	Geary	12/30	BS
Bonaparte's Gull	15 on Holton CBC	Jackson	12/31	CMo, SN, JaW
Bonaparte's Gull	4 at Melvern Lake	Osage	1/1	ML, JM
Bonaparte's Gull	1 at Rocky Ford SFA	Riley	1/1	KC
	2 present on 1/14			
Bonaparte's Gull	2 at Wilson Lake	Russell	1/2	AM, SN
Bonaparte's Gull	12 at Bloomington Park, Clinton Lake	Douglas	1/3	GP
Bonaparte's Gull	1 at River Pond State Park, Tuttle Creek	Pottawatomie	1/12	JRo
Bonaparte's Gull	1 at Lake Parsons	Neosho	1/13	ABu
Franklin's Gull	1 at Tuttle Creek River Pond	Pottawatomie	1/3	ER
	Possibly same bird at Rocky Ford and River Creek Pond on 1/13			
Franklin's Gull	1 at Toronto Lake	Woodson	1/23	ABu
California Gull	1 easterly at Perry Lake	Jefferson	1/25	JM
California Gull	1 easterly at La Cygne Lake	Linn	1/29	MMH
Iceland Gull	1 at Reno County Landfill	Reno	1/27	ABu
Glaucous Gull	1 immature at CBWA	Barton	12/17	SS
Glaucous Gull	1 first cycle, 1 adult W of Hutchinson	Reno	12/25	AM, JMi, ByM
	Large numbers of gulls were present in this area that encompasses the Reno County Landfill, Hoskinson Sand and Gravel and associated fields in this area. At least one still present 2/3			
Glaucous Gull	1 first cycle at Wilson Lake	Russell	1/17	MR
	Still present 2/10			
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 at Milford Lake	Geary	1/26	MHk
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 at Hell Creek Arm of Wilson Lake	Lincoln	2/12	DK
Snowy Owl	1 near Wilson Lake on CBC	Russell	12/20	DK, RS
	Still present 1/16			
Snowy Owl	1 at Little Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	12/21	BJ

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Long-eared Owl	7 at West Rolling Hills, Milford Lake	Geary	1/1	CO
Long-eared Owl	4 at Lyon SFL	Lyon	1/11	MG, mob
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1 calling near Wathena	Doniphan	2/23	AB, SF
Pileated Woodpecker	1 near Medicine Lodge, flying and calling	Barber	1/2	RTR, NV, BW
Eastern Phoebe	1 near Medicine Lodge, rather late	Barber	1/2	NV, BW, RTR
Eastern Phoebe	1 at Falcon and Willow Roads	Barber	1/5	MR
Eastern Phoebe	1 near Arlington	Reno	1/9	AM
Eastern Phoebe	1 early arrival, east of Chetopa	Cherokee	2/22	ABu
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1 at Atchison County Lake	Atchison	12/11	DM
Northern Shrike	1 at Warnock Lake	Atchison	1/2	GW
Northern Shrike	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	1/23	RW, JfW
Northern Shrike	1 at Melvern Lake, continued to 2/5	Osage	1/31	MMH
Tree Swallow	1 on Lawrence CBC at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	12/19	RB
Rock Wren	6 near Rock Town Cove, Wilson Lake	Russell	1/6	DK
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 quite late on Yoder CBC	Reno	12/17	AM
Townsend's Solitaire	1 continuing from November, Milford Lake	Geary	12/7	CMo, BrM
American Robin	<u>~10,000</u> in a field near Concordia	Cloud	2/11	ByS
Gray Catbird	1 at Chisholm Creek Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/12	KG
Still present 12/19				
Gray Catbird	2 at Seltman Farmstead	Pawnee	1/17	SS
Gray Catbird	1 near Arlington	Reno	1/23	AM
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at heated birdbath NE of Garden City	Finney	1/18	MRy
Brown Thrasher	1 in yard in Horton	Brown	1/18	JRe
Brown Thrasher	1 at State Park Cove, Wilson Lake	Russell	1/16	DK
Sprague's Pipit	1 somewhat late	Comanche	12/6	JL
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at residence in Johnson County	Johnson	12/21	BW
Second year in a row that an Orange-crowned Warbler has overwintered at this residence, still present 2/29				
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 on Wichita CBC	Sedgwick	12/19	PJ
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Lee Richardson Zoo	Finney	1/1	JC
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	1/3	DL, KS, RB
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 in Manhattan subdivision	Riley	1/6	JRo
Still present 2/5				
Common Yellowthroat	1 lingering at Sylvan Park – Wilson Lake	Russell	12/11	DK
Pine Warbler	1 at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	12/19	KG
Chipping Sparrow	Small flock at Oakwood Cemetery, Parsons	Labette	12/16	ABu
Chipping Sparrow	Five at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	12/19	KG
Chipping Sparrow	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	12/25	TSw
Chipping Sparrow	1 in SE Garden City	Finney	1/1	KG
Chipping Sparrow	2 near Medicine Lodge	Barber	1/2	KG
Chipping Sparrow	1 on Salt Creek	Reno	1/14	JMi
Chipping Sparrow	2 in backyard	Johnson	1/15	CE
Still present 2/25				
Chipping Sparrow	7 at Maple Grove Cemetery	Sedgwick	2/7	PJ
Vesper Sparrow	1 SW of Hartford	Lyon	1/11	MG, mob
Black-throated Sparrow	1 on Red Hills CBC, KBRC report filed	Barber	1/2	KG
Le Conte's Sparrow	6 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	12/12	DL
5 present on 1/31, 2 present on 2/28				
Le Conte's Sparrow	1 seen on 57 th Avenue	Kiowa	1/19	JL
Northern Cardinal	2 at Scott Lake SP, rare that far west	Scott	12/19	SSh, TS
Dickcissel	1 at feeder NE of Lawrence, quite late	Leavenworth	1/22	GP
Still present 2/28				
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	12/19	BS
Red Crossbill	1 in SE Garden City	Finney	1/1	JC, KG
Red Crossbill	1 female at feeder near Dodge City	Ford	1/9	MU
<u>Red Crossbill</u>	1 female at Bonner Springs feeders	Leavenworth	1/25	JAM
Still present 2/27				

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Common Redpoll	1 at cemetery in SW El Dorado	Butler	12/22	MH
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder in Wilson	Ellsworth	1/17	MR
Common Redpoll	1 at feeder in Garden City	Finney	2/15	SSh, TS
<u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	1 at feeder west of Salina	Saline	2/3	KK

Still present, 2/9

Locations and notes: CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, MDC - Marais des Cygnes Area, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, SFA – State Fishing Area, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds, *Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.*

Observers: Nic Allen, Kenneth Bader, Aaron Boone, Roger Boyd, Tom Breeden, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Jeff Calhoun, Kathy Carroll (KCr), Kevin Courtois, Nancy Davis, Corey Entriken, Chris Fagyal, Sean Fitzgerald, Michelle Folster, Matt Gearheart, Brent Gallart, Malcom Gold (MGo), Kevin Groeneweg, Jennifer Hammett, Mike Heaney, Mike Houck (MHk), Jason Huestis (JHu), Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Dave Klema, Kaleb Kroeker, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Jonathan Lautenbach, Mickey Louis (MLo), Brandon Magette (BrM), Jim Malcom, Russel Mauzy, Mick McHugh (MMH), Don Merz, Andrew Miller, Bryant Miller (ByM), Dave Miller (DMi), Joseph Miller (JMi), Debra McKee (DMK), Jo-Ann Moore (JAM), Carol Morgan (CMo), Lynette Muller, Sue Newland, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Mike Ramsey (MRy), Edward Raynor, Janet Rebant (JRe), Robert T Reed (RTR), John Row (JRo), Brett Sandercock, Sam Schermerhorn (SSc), Tom Schermerhorn (TSc), Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Kylee Sharp, Roger Shultz, Bryan Sorensen (ByS), Terry Swope (TSw), Max Thompson, Mike Umscheid, Nick Varvel, Janeen Walters (JaW), Jim Walton, Phil Wedge, Bryan White, Ginger Winder, Jeff Witters (JfW), Curtis Wolf, Rodney Wright, Eugene Young, mob – multiple observers

KOS Merchandise

It's always fun to sport your society's name on a t-shirt, sweat shirt even a coffee cup. Periodically KOS has produced special edition shirts, which have often sold out quickly. But through a marketing arrangement with Zazzle, we have certain items that are regularly available. You can access the online catalog of these items at: <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds>. We have a few other items, including Pete Janzen's book, *Birds of Sedgwick County*, available on our webpage. To see these items, visit: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/Merchandise.htm>



Just a few years ago White Ibis was on the KBRC Review List with less than 15 records in the state. While we are only up to about 20 total records, we've taken White Ibis off the Review List and we've managed at least one a year for the past three years. White Ibis are pretty distinctive to identify which is one of the reasons that it was removed from the Review List. But they are not yet so common that the presence of one doesn't garner our attention. This adult White Ibis spent several days at Cheyenne Bottoms and accommodated many Kansas birders in obtaining a lifer or a new state bird.

Photo by Rob Graham



Awards to be presented at KOS Fall Meeting

We have two awards that are presented each year at the KOS Fall Meeting. The full applications were in the March issue of the *Horned Lark* and can be found on line at the web addresses listed below. Both are linked from the KOS Projects page on the ksbirds.org webpage: http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_projects.html. The Avian Conservationist award can be given to anyone; they do not have to be a member of KOS. The Boyd Award recipient must be a KOS member. As awesome as both of these awards are, they require nominees. Let's be honest, people don't usually nominate themselves. We are rapidly approaching deadlines on these awards and we need YOU to think of qualified individuals and nominate them!

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. Nomination form can be found in the March issue of the *Horned Lark* or online at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/AvianConservationist.html>
NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JULY 1ST.

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. Nomination form can be found in the March issue of the *Horned Lark* or online at: <http://ksbirds.org/kos/BoydAward.htm>
NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AUGUST 1ST.

Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas

What qualifies as proof of breeding?

One question that I am routinely asked by birders is what qualifies as proof of breeding. Just about every summer someone will submit a breeding record for a species in a county for the county checklist. When they say they have a breeding record I immediately ask them why. What evidence do you have?

The mere presence of a male and female of a species in appropriate habitat in June or July does not qualify as a confirmed breeding record. Likewise, the presence of obvious juveniles (hatch year birds) doesn't always qualify as many juveniles can fly.

There is a fairly standardized set of criteria used for determining breeding. These criteria are broken into three categories: possible, probable and confirmed breeding. As you work your way through each category, each successive step represents a "higher level" of proof of breeding. In a perfect world every species observed would be in a confirmed breeding category. In reality this doesn't happen due to time constraints or the necessity of not overly stressing a bird by trying to find its nest. The breeding criteria are:

Criteria Used for Possible Breeding

Species observed or heard, (within safe dates) but not in appropriate habitat.

Species heard or seen in breeding habitat (within safe dates.)

Criteria Used for Probable Breeding

Seven singing males detected in one location on a single visit.

Pair seen (male & female together - not a flock).

Bird holding territory (exclude colonial nesters).

Courtship or copulation.

Visiting probable nesting site.

Agitated behavior or anxiety call (not intentionally provoked).

Nest building by wrens or woodpeckers.

Criteria Used for Confirmed Breeding

Nest building (by all except wrens and woodpeckers).

Physiological evidence of breeding based on brood patch.

Distraction display or injury feigning.

Used nest or eggshells found.

Recently fledged young, including precocial young out of nest.

Adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating nesting.

Adult carrying fecal sac.

Adult seen carrying food for young.

Nest with egg(s).

Nest with young seen or heard.

You'll notice that wrens and woodpeckers have a slightly different criteria due to their use of dummy nests.

Often it takes multiple trips to a block over a period of time to move a species from possible to probable to confirmed. It may take a considerable amount of time sleuthing to find where a nest may be located. Sometimes the law of diminishing returns comes in to play and you just have to settle with a species being left as a probable breeder.

You will notice within the criteria categories the use of the term "safe dates". We all know that not all species nest at the same time of year. Great Horned Owls nest in mid to late winter. American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing don't start nesting until June.

Dr. John Zimmerman established fairly conservative safe dates for the original KBBAT. Those dates are being re-evaluated to see if they still hold or if some adjustments are needed for some species. We also have some species now nesting in the state that were not here in the first KBBAT and safe dates will need to be determined for those species. The list of safe dates used in the first KBBAT can be viewed on line at:

<http://kbbat.org/SafeDates.htm>

There is still a lot of planning and organization that needs to go on before we are ready to sign up volunteers. A determination of how to handle the volumes of data will need to be made as well as how we are going to pay for all of this. We will continue to keep you informed of progress as well as additional steps involved in atlasng.

Chuck Otte

KOS Membership

____ New Member

____ Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ___ Student | \$5 |
| ___ Individual | \$20 |
| ___ Family | \$25 |
| ___ Sustaining Individual | \$30 |
| ___ Sustaining Family | \$35 |
| ___ Contributing | \$45 or more |
| ___ Life Member | \$300 (or two consecutive annual payments of \$150) |



Please remit check or money order, payable to KOS, and mail this form and your dues payment to:

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

Name

Daytime phone or email

Address

City

State

Zip Code

WANTED!

PREFERABLY ALIVE!

KOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

At the fall KOS Meeting in Garden City, we will need several new KOS officers and board members. It will be time to elect a new Vice President and two new board members. Each of these folks normally serve a two year term. We will also have some other important positions to fill as those who have so diligently filled these roles for several years have chosen not to run for re-election. We will need a new Membership Development Coordinator and a Business Manager. You can talk to those currently holding those positions (Patty Marlett and Lisa Weeks) to get an understanding of what they do. **AND** we also are still looking for someone to serve at the *Horned Lark* editor. Chuck won't do this forever! If you are interested in any of these positions, do not hesitate to contact any of the board members (Page 2!)