



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

December, 2016

Vol. 43, No. 4

From the President's Pen

By Nic Allen

The world of birding has had a variety of characteristics for me throughout the years. I have had times where all I wanted to do was grow my life lists and feel the thrill of the chase. Other times my focus was mostly fixated on conservation. I am still passionate about these things, but recently I have also been thinking about how I can better pass on the joy and skill of birding to younger generations. How can I help youth discover and develop their own passion for nature and birds? It is amazing to see how my own children are wholeheartedly excited when a “black and white” bird lands on the feeder. It doesn’t matter that they don’t know it is a Black-capped Chickadee; we discover this together when we practice looking up our sighting in a field guide. The important thing is that they were noticing nature and starting to see that connection with how we all fit into our beautiful world. I get the same joy watching high school students show off their knowledge at their local and state ecology competitions. Some of the students know more than others, but all of them are learning something about the natural world around them, which in my book is invaluable. I remind them that by making an effort to learn, they already know more than the average person, and that is also an accomplishment.

As an organization, KOS and its members are in a great position to promote the value and enjoyment of nature, conservation, and birds to younger generations. This can be done through participating in local nature-focused programs for youth, giving gift KOS memberships to family members and neighbors, and contributing to the KOS scholarship opportunities that are already in place (<http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/StuResearch.html>). The most basic and effective way is to simply spread your joy and knowledge of nature to those around you. Finding opportunities to help a child find a bird, butterfly, or plant in a field guide, or giving that fun fact about a plant or animal they find fascinating can ignite a lifelong passion for nature as well. My challenge to you this coming year is to find times that you can share and educate youth with the passion I know you already have for our environment. Determine how you can share the excitement of identifying a bird, promote conservation in their neighborhood or school, or the joy of being outside. Until next time, get out and enjoy nature.

- Nic

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Wow! Can anyone tell me where 2016 went? It's kind of funny that I can track some of the time passages by the birds I saw. There was the Hooded Oriole in Manhattan the end of April, a bunch of birds at KOS Spring Meeting, the Lewis's Woodpecker in late November. But I suspect most birders keep track of time by the birds that they've seen.

I was returning from a trip to New England during the KOS Fall Meeting and feel like I'm really out of touch with my KOS Family! Since I wasn't able to acknowledge outgoing board members via the KOS Resolutions, let me address that here and now! Jennifer Rader and Jeff Calhoun - thank you for your time as directors. It worries me at the amount of white hair on some organizational boards I serve on. Your youthful vitality, fresh eyes and great ideas were always welcome. Don't be strangers as we will need your for future KOS projects!

Henry Armknecht quietly slips off the board as Matt Gearheart rolls into the position of Past President. I always enjoy any time I spend with Henry and KOS appreciates the steady hand that you used during your presidency. I'll admit to being prone to snap judgements and occasional rash decisions. I could always count on Henry to be a stabilizing counterbalance!

Matt - ya done good! Having served as president of KOS I know what those shoes are like and at the time that you take over the role of president you sometimes find yourself thinking, "what was I thinking?" But you find out that you have a good board to work with and everyone is there to help everyone else. I'm glad we've got your service for a while longer as you serve as Past-President!

Finally, Lisa Weeks. Quick - how long has Lisa been our Business Manager? Eight years! The position of Business Manager became official in 1982 and Lisa held that position longer than any other Business Manager that we've had. I had the privilege to work with Lisa in several of the roles that I have held or now hold within KOS and always found her to be delightful, witty and professional. While I will miss working with Lisa, I know we'll still get to go birding together from time to time!

Which takes us from past to present. We have several new members on the board and a few that we're bringing back on the board! Cheryl, Dan and Terry, it's good to be working with you again on the board. Kevin, I can't believe we've never had you serve on the KOS Board. It's about time! Nic, thank you for stepping up on short notice to fill a vacant slot. You're going to do fine and we're all here to support you. And to all the other board members that didn't change - thank you for your dependable support and service.

But the truth is that we serve at the membership's bidding. This is not the Board's organization, it's the member's organization. I think I can safely say that we all are humbled to be on the board and look forward to 2017!

-Chuck



Statement of non-profit status and copyright: The Kansas Ornithological Society is a 501(c) 3 organization created for the study, conservation and enjoyment of wild birds. The Horned Lark is the membership newsletter of the society and all material contained herein is copyrighted.

KOS Board of Directors

http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_officers.html

President

Nic Allen, Parkville, MO
kcbirder@gmail.com

Vice-President

Cheryl Miller
avian67226@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Chuck Otte, Junction City, KS
otte2@cox.net

Membership Development Coordinator

Patty Marlett, Wichita, KS
pmarlett@cox.net

Treasurer

Max Thompson, Winfield, KS
maxt@cox.net

Business Manager

Dan Larson Berryton, KS
birdkansa@gmail.com

Editor, KOS Bulletin

Gene Young, Arkansas City, KS
eugene.young@noc.edu
youngg6264@yahoo.com

Editor, The Horned Lark (interim)

Chuck Otte, Junction City, KS
otte2@cox.net

Past-President

Matt Gearheart, Lenexa, KS
mgearheart@designwithinsight.com

Directors at Large:

Barry Jones, Stafford, KS
barjones78@gmail.com

Alexis Powell, Emporia, KS
alveypowell@yahoo.com

Kevin Groeneweg, Wichita, KS
kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

Terry Mannell, Topeka, KS
terryman0405@gmail.com

Kansas Ornithological Society - Top 10 Birds

October 2015 - September 2016

Compiled by Eugene Young

Top 10

- 1. Purple Sandpiper:** 23 December 2015, Wilson Lake, Brent Galliard and Dave Klema, with photos; 1st state record.
- 2. Long-billed Murrelet:** 6 October 2015, CBWMA, Rob Penner; 2nd state record, documented with photo so removed from hypothetical status.
- 3. Hooded Oriole:** 26 April 2016, Manhattan, Riley County, Alice Boyle residence, seen by many, with photos; 2nd state record.
- 4. Canyon Wren:** 22 September 2016, Morton County, Point of Rocks, Will Chatfield-Taylor; tentatively 4th state record.
- 5. Canyon Towhee:** 23 September 2016, Morton County, Ag Work Station, Will Chatfield-Taylor; tentatively 10th state record.
- 6. Black-throated Sparrow:** 2 January 2016, Red Hills CBC, observed by Kevin Groeneweg. Few Kansas records, eastward location, 11th state record.
- 7. Common Ground-Dove** (2 records): 24-25 October 2015, Topeka, Shawnee County, reported by Ralph Hoover (with photos); and 13-17 September 2016 in Winfield, Cowley County, by Max Thompson and Bryon Rinke. Only about 20 state records.
- 8. Hammond's Flycatcher:** 23 September 2016; Morton County, at Ag Work Station, by Will Chatfield-Taylor about 20 state records.
- 9. Swallow-tailed Kite** outbreak (4 records): 22 June 2016 in Anderson County, Tom Cannon; 23 August 2016 in Geary County, observed by Jeff Keating and others; 4 September 2016 in Overland Park, Johnson County, by Don Pinkston; and 7 September 2016 in Butler County by Bob Broyles (photos).
- 10. Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** territorial male, 15-28 July 2016, Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, Tom and Sara Shane; new county record; only breeding known in Kansas is from Comanche County.

Honorable Mention (no particular order)

- Great Black-backed Gull** (2 records): juvenile on 27 January 2016, observed by Joseph Miller; and an adult on 30 January 2016, observed by Andrew Miller, both in Reno County.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** 10 March 2016, found by Brandon Magette. Many others went back and observed, east of Dodge City, Ford County, a westerly record.
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** 20-26 December 2015, Wilson SP, Russell County, Mike Rader.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** nesting 22 and 26 June 2016, adult feeding 4 fledglings in Garden City, Dan LaShelle, Tom and Sara Shane. First confirmed nesting in western Kansas. One of the few nesting records for Kansas.
- Calliope Hummingbird:** 6 September 2016, Arkansas City, Cowley County (new record), 2 observed with Ruby-throated and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at Mrs. Seibel residence, observed by Gene Young and Mrs. Seibel.
- Brown Pelican** (2 records): 13 August 2016, CBWMA, Barton County, Jon King, and 31 May 2016 Kingman County Lake by Andrew Miller. 20+ records now for Kansas.
- Vermillion Flycatcher** outbreak (several records): 11 October 2015, Neosho County, Sheryl Busse and Kristy Hughes (photos); 11 April 2016 in Johnson County by Rodney Wright (and others, with photos); 1 May 2016 in Hodgeman County by Jan Hansen; 9 May 2016 in Seward County by Glenn Caspers; and 10 May 2016 in Stanton County by Terry Mannell.
- American Woodcock:** Garden City, Shane yard, 30 November 2015, rare enough in western Kansas, let alone in a yard, observed by Sara and Tom Shane.

This is an annual, mainly for fun, listing. Some of these records are yet to be acted on by the Kansas Bird Records Committee and this list should not be construed to indicate confirmed records. In the meantime, enjoy!

What Is A Christmas Bird Count?

A Christmas Bird Count is an organized event where groups and individuals attempt to census as many bird species in a designated area (count circle) in a 24 hour period as they can. A count circle has a designated center and the circle extends out 7.5 miles from that center, thereby giving you a 15 mile diameter circle. There is an individual in charge, usually called a compiler, who organizes the event. They will determine areas (subsets) of the count circle and send "parties" out to count in those areas. Most counts start around dawn and go to sunset. A few hardy individuals may go out early in the morning or after sunset to try to count owls as well. Technically the "count day" lasts from midnight to midnight. Birds seen in the three days prior to the count and up to three days after the count, but not on count day, can also be included in the report. These are referred to as count week species.

During count day, parties will keep track of the hours they are birding as well as miles traveled. These are separated as hours and miles driving as well as hours and miles (or fractions thereof) walking. Parties try to count how many of each species are seen including subspecies such as yellow-shafted and red-shafted flickers, various junco subspecies, etc. In cases where closely related species (say Eastern and Western Meadowlarks) can not be differentiated, they are grouped together simply as "Sturnella sp." or for those distant specks in the middle of a large lake, "Duck sp." etc. At the end of the day, the compiler will gather all the sheets, either informally, or formally at a compilation (for counts that have compilations they are fun social events!) The compiler will then total up all the parties' results for the final results for that count. Normally these counts are conducted year after year with the count circle remaining stationary. This can result in long term data sets of great value. In Kansas we have some counts that have been running for over 60 years.

An additional option for participation is to serve as a "feeder watcher". If the weather is extra cold or you simply can't, or don't want to, get out and about, you can spend several hours during the day keeping track of the birds that visit your feeders. You simply tally what species are present and the most you see at any one time. If you looked out once and there were 3 juncos, you looked out later and there were 4 juncos, and the last time you looked out there were 6 juncos, then you would record 6 Dark-eyed Juncos.

Christmas Bird Counts were started in 1900 by ornithologist Frank M. Chapman as a non-lethal alternative to the traditional Christmas hunt. Nationwide, National Audubon Society (NAS) collects data on these counts and maintains a massive database. NAS has a good website (<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>) about Christmas Bird counts. For a count to be an official NAS count it has to be conducted between December 14 and January 5. In Kansas, the Kansas Ornithological Society also collects this data and publishes the results in the KOS *Bulletin's* March issue each year. KOS allows counts to be conducted a few days earlier and a few days later than NAS. About 60% of the Kansas CBCs are included in the national database.

In Kansas there are roughly 50 CBCs conducted every season. A listing is posted every year starting in mid November of where Christmas Bird Counts will be held, who is in charge, and how to get in touch with the compiler. If you go to the KOS Projects web page (http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_projects.html) and click on the link that says "Kansas CBCs..." it will take you to the current year's listing. This was updated throughout the month of November and will be updated through the count season in case of reschedules or cancellations due to weather.

In most cases, a birder can participate in a CBC by simply contacting the compiler and saying that they want to participate and then showing up at the designated place and time. Novices, and those who may not be familiar with the area will be teamed up with experienced counters. Some counts hit the area heavy in the morning and then sort of back off in the afternoon. Some only count until noon. Some count hard from before sunup to well after sunset. You need to visit with the compiler of the count to find out what is expected. In some counts you need to bring a sack lunch, in others the groups may meet at a restaurant or a central location for a communal meal (again, great socialization!) Each count is a little different but all counts are fun and worth the time. You need to be prepared for potentially cold weather and bring your binoculars, spotting scopes, bird books and other birding gear. Bundle up, bring refreshments (but temper those liquid refreshments with available restroom resources!) and be prepared to watch birds, count birds and have fun.

- Chuck Otte

Kansas Birding Roundup, Summer 2016

(June – July) Chuck Otte, compiler

Some might contend that the summer birding season should only be June and July. Northbound migration often lingers into June and southbound migration starts back up in July. But then we also have to take into account those stragglers that never decide to leave at all. Others might contend that we should stick with the meteorological summer season of June through August. For our purpose, we'll go with the former for several reasons. If you really want to know why, ask! (The Fall Seasonal Roundup will contain August through November.)

The season was a bit crazy, just like the weather! Western species easterly; eastern species westerly; migrants that migrated no further; what the heck is going on? It takes seasons like this to make us realize that birds don't read books; birds don't care about range maps; birds are going to react to weather, food and environment and make adjustments as needed or as they please!

Once again shorebirds lingered late, in spite of abnormally warm May and June temperatures. With many species of shorebirds starting southbound migration by mid to late July, there are frequently over summering non breeding individuals that remain in the state. Most likely due to excellent water conditions across most of the state, there were many species that were present all through the period. Northbound migrants, southbound migrants, I don't want to fly any further. Who knows? Not all the late/early reports are included below, but an attempt is made to show the species that were present. A Hudsonian Godwit apparently spending the summer at Cheyenne Bottoms is quite intriguing. Here is a species that migrates north through the plains, breeds in the Arctic, gathers on the southern shore of Hudson Bay in mid-summer and then essentially disappears until it shows up in South America in the fall. What was this one apparently healthy bird doing in Kansas through the month of July?

Sandhill Cranes were found in two different western Kansas counties. In both cases they appeared to be uninjured and in good health. Again, perhaps a reaction to the wet conditions, but recent breeding records in Nebraska may show that some Sandhill Cranes have decided that a trip to the Arctic Circle really isn't necessary.

Numerous waterfowl species are listed by Birds of Kansas as casual and localized breeders. It all depends on conditions. Many of these species were present well into June and even July, possibly encouraged by good water conditions in many parts of the state. Unless a brood is seen early, it's hard to know if they were breeding, or just staying in the state because of good water conditions. The "renovated" Baker Wetlands seemed to host a good selection of species that we would normally consider uncommon summer residents.

Several good warblers were found in eastern Kansas through the summer season. Eastern Kansas is on the fringe breeding area for several of these species, yet they are rarely reported during the summer season. Thanks to those who took the time to document these sightings. The same can be said for Vesper Sparrow. A common to abundant migrant, there are breeding records from extreme southwestern and northeastern Kansas. Not expected were sightings from the central part of the state. Likely another expression of the uncommon summer weather!

Thank you to everyone who reports and contributes sightings for this report. 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)
Cackling Goose	1 at QNWR, "a little larger than the coots"	Stafford	7/24	CM
Cinnamon Teal	2 on playa in east central part of county	Wallace	7/2	JC, KG, MGo
Northern Shoveler	1 female on Baker Wetlands survey	Douglas	6/26	RB
Redhead	2 on borrow pit, continuing	Shawnee	6/25	JHa
Common Goldeneye	1 late at Wilson WA	Russell	6/5	MR
Hooded Merganser	1 female or immature on Lenora WTP	Norton	7/3	JC
Ruddy Duck	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/27	DBo
Western Grebe	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	6/11	SSh, TS
Western Grebe	3 at CBWA (up to 9 had been reported)	Barton	6/27	MR
Greater Roadrunner	1 present, photos	Reno	6/26	JMi
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	At least 2 present since late April	Russell	6/27	DK
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 adult female in Larned	Pawnee	7/25	DKz
Rufous Hummingbird	1 present at Calhoun residence	Ford	7/14	JC
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at Schwab residence	Harvey	7/27	CS
Common Gallinule	1, Baker Wetlands, continuing	Douglas	6/3	PG
Sandhill Crane	1 at playa in east central part of county	Wallace	7/2	JC, KG, MGo
Sandhill Crane	1 on playa NW of Montezuma	Gray	7/24	WC

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Golden-Plover	1 at Baker Wetlands, somewhat late	Douglas	6/15	ABu
American Golden-Plover	1 SE of Waconda Lake	Mitchell	7/22	CGr
Piping Plover	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	7/13	KS
	Continuing 7/24			
<u>Piping Plover</u>	1 at Iola WTP	Allen	7/14	ABu
Whimbrel	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/12	m.ob.
	Continuing, 6/18			
Hudsonian Godwit	1 at CBWA, rare summer record	Barton	7/8	SN
	Same or different bird present and molting,		7/28	
Stilt Sandpiper	2 at CBWA	Barton	6/27	MR
Stilt Sandpiper	450 at CBWA	Barton	7/30	MR
Baird's Sandpiper	1 at QNWR	Stafford	6/24	MR
White-rumped Sandpiper	Flock of 17 at QNWR	Stafford	6/21	SL, MLo
	Continuing, 7/14 (1 reported)			
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/12	WCT
Solitary Sandpiper	1 at CBWA	Barton	6/27	MR
Greater Yellowlegs	2 at QNWR	Stafford	6/24	MR
Willet	1 at QNWR	Stafford	6/21	SL, MLo
	Continuing, 6/24			
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 on Baker Wetlands survey	Douglas	6/26	RB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 second summer bird, CBWA	Barton	7/3	MGo
	Continuing, 7/8			
Least Tern	2 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/16	RTR, NV, RW
Caspian Tern	2 at Perry Reservoir	Jefferson	6/22	DMu
Caspian Tern	2 at TCL	Riley	6/29	DB
Forster's Tern	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/19	JAM
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Neosho WA	Neosho	6/12	ABu
Brown Pelican	1 at Kingman SFL, continuing from 5/30	Kingman	6/4	m.ob.
American Bittern	1 at playa lake, west edge of range	Ford	7/29	JC
Osprey	1, Milford SP, uncommon summer record	Geary	6/22	GMG
Osprey	1, Barber SFL, uncommon summer record	Barber	6/24	BJ
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 reported near Greeley in flight	Anderson	6/22	TC
Northern Harrier	1 at Bismark Slough	Douglas	7/23	JK
	Northern Harriers are low density summer residents/nesting species, but rarely recorded			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 in non-adult plumage NW of Belvidere	Kiowa	7/21	JL
Short-eared Owl	1 – uncommon summer record	Kiowa	6/7	JL
<u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>	1 seen and heard	Kiowa	6/11	JL
Peregrine Falcon	1 flying over Arkansas City, early	Cowley	7/30	EY
Western Wood-Pewee	1 singing at Scott Lake	Scott	6/11	SSh, TS
	Still present and singing, 6/30			
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Lake Perry, rare summer resident	Jefferson	7/20	CMo
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 singing at Belle Plaine, westerly	Sumner	6/16	JC, RW
Tree Swallow	1 at Horse Thief Lake	Hodgeman	6/30	HA
Bank Swallow	750 near Claflin Dike, CBWA	Barton	7/30	MR
Cave Swallow	2 juveniles at SCWA (KBRC)	Sumner	7/26	MT, EY
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1 at QNWR, (KBRC)	Stafford	7/30	MR
Sedge Wren	1 at Konza Prairie – early if migrant	Riley	7/6	BV
Marsh Wren	2 late at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	6/16	MGo
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 westerly for time of year, Cedar Bluff SP	Trego	7/1	KG
Wood Thrush	1 singing, late for migrant	Sedgwick	6/16	JC
Cedar Waxwing	3, a secretive summer resident, Scott SP	Scott	7/2	JC, KG, MGo
Pine Siskin	1 at feeders	Pottawatomie	7/5	DB
Worm-eating Warbler	2 at MDC, photos	Linn	7/4	MMH
Black-and-white Warbler	1 singing individual	Sedgwick	6/19	JC, RW
Prairie Warbler	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	Leavenworth	7/16	JS
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 at MDC	Linn	7/25	MMH

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Wilson's Warbler	1 late in Lawrence	Douglas	6/20	PG
Eastern Towhee	1 somewhat westerly, Kanopolis BBS	Ellsworth	6/15	MR
Chipping Sparrow	Many at Belle Plaine cemetery	Sumner	6/16	JC, RW
Vesper Sparrow	1 an uncommon summer record	Ottawa	6/16	DKi
Vesper Sparrow	1 at Harvey County East Park	Harvey	7/16	KMD
Lark Bunting	1 male, easterly	Reno	6/29	JMi
Henslow's Sparrow	3 calling from hay meadow	Neosho	6/12	ABu
Summer Tanager	1 westerly along Clear Creek Continuing, 7/11	Ellsworth	6/5	DK
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 westerly on river crossing near Lenora	Norton	7/3	JC
Painted Bunting	1 first year male at Wilson WA	Russell	6/5	JR, MR
Painted Bunting	Singing male near QNWR, continuing	Stafford	6/25	MR
Bobolink	1 at Coblenz Marsh Clinton WA	Douglas	7/16	TAS
Western Meadowlark	1 singing, easterly summer record	Franklin	6/26	RTR, NV
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2, MDC easterly for season	Linn	7/9	JH, MGo
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1, Baker Wetlands, easterly	Douglas	7/11	MLO

Locations and notes: BBS – Breeding Bird Survey, CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee report filed, MDC – Marais des Cygnes Area, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, SCWA – Slate Creek Wetland Wildlife Area, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, TCL – Tuttle Creek Lake, WA – Wildlife Area, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds, *Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.*

Observers: Henry Armknecht, Roger Boyd, Dan Broers (DBo), Andrew Burnett (ABu), Doris Burnett, Jeff Calhoun, Tom Cannon, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Walt Cochran, Malcom Gold (MGo), Cory Gregory (CGr), Kevin Groeneweg, Peter Grund, Jennifer Hammett, Jeff Hansen (JHa), Barry Jones, Don Kazmaier (DKz), Diana Kinder (DKi), Jon King, Dave Klema, Jonathan Lautenbach, Sherry Leonardo, Matt Longabaugh (MLO), Mickey Louis (MLO), Kathy McDowell (KMD), Guy McGrane (GMG), Mick McHugh (MMH), Cheryl Miller, Joseph Miller (JMi), Jo-Ann Moore (JAM), Carol Morgan (CMo), Dan Mulhern (DMu), Sue Newland, Jennifer Rader, Mike Rader, Robert T. Reed (RTR), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Kylee Sharp, Max Thompson, Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Nick Varvel, Bram Verheijen, Rodney Wright, Eugene Young, m.ob. – multiple observers

Flint Hills Receive WHSRN Landscape Designation

This August, The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Hemispheric Council voted unanimously to approve the nomination of the Flint Hills, a 3.7 million acre tallgrass prairie landscape in Kansas and Oklahoma, as a WHSRN Landscape of Hemispheric Importance.

The Council created the “Landscape” category to accommodate vast areas, or a complex of areas, of importance to shorebirds where designating any one site therein is not feasible. The Flint Hills is the second area to receive the WHSRN landscape designation, joining the 3.9 million acre Rainwater Basin area in Nebraska which was designated in 2009.

Privately owned lands comprise the vast majority of the Flint Hills area with many enrolled in the various land conservation and restoration programs managed by the Federal, State and nongovernmental partners actively supporting the WHSRN designation.

The Flint Hills annually supports more the 134,800 shorebirds, including more than 30% of the global population of Buff-breasted Sandpiper and nearly 10% of the global population of American Golden-Plover. Upland Sandpipers and Killdeer also use the Flint Hills corridor extensively. The Flint Hills region has also been designated as a globally Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for supporting grassland nesting birds and migratory shorebirds.

KOS wishes to acknowledge the hard work of Dr. Robert Penner II and The Nature Conservancy's Kansas Chapter for taking the lead in submitting this nomination and working with landowners to make shorebirds and their habitats a priority. KOS recognizes the unique nature of the tallgrass prairie and the bird life that it supports and is glad to see it achieve this important recognition.

Breeding of Post Wintering Pine Siskins in a Garden City Neighborhood for the 2015-2016 Season

By Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane*

During invasion years, the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) is one of the most abundant species using the feeders at our central Garden City, KS yard. We reported on one invasion of Pine Siskin and subsequent nesting for the 2004 – 2005 winter and breeding season; (Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane. 2005. The 2004 – 2005 northern finch year at a Garden City feeding station, The Horned Lark Vol. 32(4): 15-16). The yard contains the same number of trees as reported in 2005 above, with the difference being eleven years of additional growth. Feeders and seed used were the same during 2015-2016 season, except a finch mix was used in some feeders with thistle seed used in the remaining feeders with the small ports. High counts of species observed in the yard for a given day are kept on a calendar.

Similar to 2004-2005, only single birds were observed on 7 October and 23 November 2015. Unlike the highest daily count records of 160 and 300 siskins in February and March of 2005, high counts of only 39 were observed on 18 May and 40 on 25 March of 2016. The Garden City Pine Siskin count for 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count was 124, compared to one siskin for the 2015-2016 count. The total Kansas Christmas Bird Count was 827 Pine Siskins in 2004-2005 compared to 277 for the 2015-2016 season. Most of the highest Pine Siskin counts for 2004-2005 occurred in Western Kansas, compared to central Kansas for the 2015-2016 season.

The first juvenile was observed on 28 May 2016 compared to 15 May in 2005. The highest juvenile Pine Siskin count was five on 24 and 29 June 2016 compared to 14 observed on 25 June 2005. The last adult siskin was observed on 19 June 2015, very close to the 2005 mid-June date. The last ju-

venile was observed on 12 August 2005 compared to 10 July during the 2016 breeding season. As with the 2005 juveniles, the 2016 feeding birds became very tame, allowing us to depart our front door and walk within five to six feet of the feeders. The major difference between the two seasons, other than the larger population in 2005, was the apparent earlier start of nesting, by around two weeks and the longer stay into August for 2005. This may be the result of the larger population and a greater array of nest initiation dates showing no synchrony.

There is a nice stand of pines and cedars three doors south of our yard in a large church yard which provides excellent nesting sites. In another season we did locate a Pine Siskin nest out near the end of a pine bough that extended west-southwest from the trunk about 15 feet up. Juvenile Pine Siskins are fairly easy to identify showing a wide wing bar at the tip of the greater coverts that is fresh and medium brown, compared with adults at that time of year which show a narrow and worn white wing bar.

See Shane and Shane (2005) above or at <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/newsletter/HL3204.pdf>, for the monthly results for the 2004-2005 season. Density of the Pine Siskins are given below for the 2015-2016 season. Month, (Mean, Range, No. of Observation Days): October, (1, 1-1, 1); November, (1, 1-1, 1); December, (0, 0-0, 0); January, (2, 1-5, 8); February, (12, 2-35, 9); March, (31, 25-40, 4); April, (18, 7-31, 6); May, (14, 1-39, 15); June, (4, 1-8, 27), and July, (2, 1-3, 9).

* 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846; or at tom.shane@sbcglobal.net

What Christmas Bird Counts are Near Me?

We are already into the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season, but we still have several to go. Kansas is blessed with a plethora of CBC's. While we don't guarantee that this is an all inclusive listing of Kansas CBC's, we do have most of the CBC's listed online at: <http://ksbirds.org/kos/2016CBC.htm>. Take a look, see what's close, contact the compiler and go have fun!

Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

(Presenter indicated by * following name)

Effects of Conspicuous Host Behaviors on Brood Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds

*Jordan N. Mahoney**, *Sarah J. Webb**, and *William E. Jensen*, *Emporia State University- Department of Biological Sciences*

Several factors might affect the ability of avian brood parasites to find host nests, including nesting behaviors of host females. We determined if there was a relationship between female Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) activity and brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). We had two alternate hypotheses: (1) more calls and movements by female Dickcissels attract cowbirds to their nests, or (2) more calls and movements by female Dickcissels distract cowbirds away from nests. Behavioral observations were made in the field by counting the calls and movements of female Dickcissels during the nest building, laying, and incubation stages. We also recorded vegetative concealment of nests, using a Robel pole, to include in our statistical models, as this variable might also affect the ability of female cowbirds to find nests. We found no relationship between female Dickcissel behaviors and parasitism probability or intensity (number of cowbird eggs per parasitized nest). We did find that nests with higher vegetative cover had a lower probability of parasitism. The lack of a relationship between parasitism by cowbirds and female Dickcissel behaviors suggests that host female behavior might not be an important cue for cowbirds in finding host nests; however, our sample size for nests with behavioral observations was small ($n = 24$). Vegetative concealment, however, has been commonly found to affect the parasitism of host nests by Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Landscape Context and Local Disturbance Drive Within-season Site Occupancy Dynamics of Henslow's Sparrows in Eastern Kansas

*Mark R. Herse**, *Kansas State University*; *Mike E. Estey*, *USFWS Habitat & Population Evaluation Team*; *W. Alice Boyle*, *Kansas State University*

Habitat selection is a fundamental process in animal ecology that influences individual fitness, population persistence, and species' risk of extinction.

Disentangling the roles of different environmental cues in driving animals' decisions to use some habitats and not others is critical to conserve wildlife in rapidly changing landscapes. One species for which we lack information on habitat selection behavior is the migratory Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henlsowii*), which breeds in undisturbed tallgrass prairies in Kansas. We conducted >10,000 repeat point-count surveys for Henslow's Sparrows in eastern Kansas in 2015 and 2016. We are using multi-season occupancy models that account for imperfect detection to model within-season occupancy dynamics relative to multi-scale measures of landscape and habitat heterogeneity. So far our results have shown that Henslow's Sparrows are rare and mobile within individual breeding seasons. During early season, adults only select sites that are undisturbed by fire and embedded within grasslands far larger than an individual territory. During mid to late season, birds tend to resettle in even larger grasslands, and will use sites previously disturbed by fire if vegetation has not been heavily grazed. Land managers should consider both landscape context and local disturbance when developing conservation plans aimed at developing and protecting habitats for Henslow's Sparrows and other declining grassland birds.

Effects of Tree Encroachment and Prescribed Fire on Lesser Prairie-chicken Space Use

*Jonathan Lautenbach**, *Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University*; *Joseph Lautenbach*, *Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie, MI*; *David Haukos*, *U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University*

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) is a species of prairie-grouse that has experienced a dramatic population decline during the past two decades. Reasons cited for these recent declines including invasive tree and shrub encroachment on native prairie as well as the loss of natural ecological drivers, including fire. We evaluated the response of

Lesser Prairie-Chicken space use and nest site selection in relation to tree encroachment. We found that Lesser Prairie-Chickens utilized areas with less than 2 trees per hectare with a cessation of use in areas with greater than 2 trees per hectare. Trees can be controlled through the use of prescribed fire. Little is known about how prescribed fire affects Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat and space use. We assessed vegetation characteristics and nest site selection across a landscape modified by fire and grazing in a patch-burn grazing system to assess the impacts of prescribed fire on Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat use. We found that patches greater-than-2-years post-fire had 2x taller vegetation than year-of-fire patches. In addition, year-of-fire patches had the greatest bare ground and litter whereas patches greater-than-2-years post-fire had the most grass cover and the least bare ground. Lesser Prairie-Chickens did not nest in year of fire patches, selecting nest sites in >2 year post-fire patches more than would be expected at random. These findings show that prescribed fire, when implemented in a patch-burn grazing system helps maintain Lesser Prairie-Chickens nesting habitat and therefore, may be a useful tool for controlling tree encroachment.

Grassland Birds and Season of Burn: Grassland Nesting Songbird Response to Sericea Lespedeza Control

*Sarah Ogden**, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University; *David A. Haukos*, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Cooperative Research Unit, Kansas State University; *KC Olson*, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Kansas State University; *Jonathan Alexander*, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Kansas State University

Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) is a warm season, invasive forb capable of reducing native grass and forb abundance in tall-grass prairie by up to 92%. Broad spectrum herbicides, spring prescribed fire, and cattle grazing are ineffective at controlling the invasion but our research suggests that summer fires reduce sericea whole plant mass, number of seeds produced, and seed mass by >95% in comparison to spring fires. In addition to the efficacy of summer fires to control the invasion, it is important to understand how these treatments affect the native wildlife communities. In 2015 and 2016, in a 50-ha sericea-invaded pasture in Geary

County, Kansas, point count surveys were conducted to estimate grassland bird density. Additionally, to determine nest survival rates, grassland songbird nests were located and monitored to nest failure or fledging. Estimates of grassland songbird density and daily nest survival in patches burned in spring, mid-summer, and late summer demonstrate that grassland nesting birds are not negatively affected by summer fires. Furthermore, canopy coverage by sericea lespedeza at nest sites is, on average, less than half of that at random points, highlighting the importance of controlling the invasion. The use of summer fire, therefore, is an appropriate means to achieve the goals of controlling the sericea lespedeza invasion in tall-grass prairie and conserving grassland songbird breeding habitat.

Cliff Swallow Wing Chord and Tail Length Variation Influenced by Elevation and Latitude

*Dylan J. Steffen**, *Jeffrey J. Carter*, Fort Hays State University, Department of Biological Sciences

A species' response to habitat modification may include anatomical, physiological, and behavioral adaptations, or potential population decline and possible extinction. The Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) has modified its behavior to use human-made structures as nesting sites. These sites frequently include overpasses or bridges, which increases the frequency of avian-vehicle collision. Recent research suggests there may be a strong selective pressure in populations of Cliff Swallow closely associated with roadways, with a negative trend in wing chord during a 30-year sampling period. Our study sought to determine potential shifts in wing chord and tail length in Cliff Swallow within a wider geographic and temporal area. Specimens from 16 states were borrowed from five museums and had collection dates between 1871 and 2014. Results indicate wing chord significantly increased with elevation and latitude ($p < 0.05$, $p < 0.001$, respectively), but did not vary significantly over time ($p > 0.05$). Tail length significantly increased with elevation ($p < 0.001$), but did not vary significantly over time or with latitude ($p > 0.05$). This variation in wing chord and tail length indicates that numerous factors influence Cliff Swallow morphology, and selective pressures may vary across a larger geographic range.

Rates of Morphological Evolution in New World Blackbirds (Icteridae) According to Their Biogeography and Mating System

Alexis F. L. A. Powell*, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University; F. Keith Barker, and Scott M. Lanyon, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota

Phenotypic diversity among closely related species can evolve as an outcome of adaptation via natural selection, sexual selection, or both, yet few studies have compared the relative importance of these avenues when accounting for macroevolutionary patterns. We endeavored to conduct such a study by assessing whether changes in natural selection (an expected consequence of intercontinental dispersal into a novel environment) or stronger sexual selection (as expected for polygynous versus monogamous species) better explain differences in rates of morphological evolution among New World blackbirds (Icteridae). We found little variation in evolutionary rate among the four major clades of blackbirds, but that they have differentially accumulated phenotypic disparity—e.g. both the meadowlarks and the orioles occupy smaller regions of morphospace than do either the grackles and allies or the caciques and oropendolas, despite their similar ages. Using finer scale phylogenetic comparative methods to model overall rates of morphological change on a molecular phylogeny of Icteridae, we found from measurements of external body proportions that oropendolas have undergone accelerated shape evolution. However, no broader correlations of external body measurements with either geography or mating system were significant. Analyses of skeletal measurements also suggest that mating system is not a good predictor of evolutionary rates, but those analyses strongly support the conclusion that lineages entering South America have evolved approximately 40% faster overall than lineages in North America. It seems that ecological diversification has had a stronger impact than have mating systems on rates of morphological evolution in blackbirds.

Back Issues

Back issues of the *Horned Lark* can be viewed online at: http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/HOLA_archive.html

Back issues of *The Bulletin* can be viewed online at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/bulletin/Bulletin.htm>

Seasonal Components of Survival in Migratory Upland Sandpipers

Brett K. Sandercock*, Kansas State University; Matilde Alfaro Universidad de la República, Uruguay; Ashley E. Casey, Kansas State University; Tony W. Mong, Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and Khara Strum, Audubon California

Conservation of migratory birds requires a better understanding of the seasonal components of demography in the annual cycle. Understanding seasonal patterns of demographic losses is important for identifying the ecological factors that limit population numbers, and the regulatory mechanisms that determine population dynamics. I report sex-specific estimates of survival for migratory Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) from a 9-year breeding study in Kansas and a 4-year nonbreeding study in Uruguay. Annual rates of apparent survival were estimated with mark-recapture models for live encounter data that controlled for imperfect detection and losses of transient individuals. Monitoring of radio-marked birds showed that seasonal survival was high during the breeding period in Kansas, and no losses were detected during the nonbreeding period in Uruguay. Combining annual estimates of survival with seasonal estimates for the stationary period indicates that most mortality occurs during migratory movements. Results from the demographic model successfully predict mass mortality events of Upland Sandpipers that regularly occur in the northern Andes of South America during fall migration. Migration is a risky period, and most demographic losses may occur during migration for shorebirds, songbirds, and other groups of birds. Models of seasonal demography can help to identify research needs, and to improve conservation planning in the future.

Effects of Habitat Heterogeneity on Survival and Movements of Fledgling Dickcissels.

Bram H.F. Verheijen* and B.K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

Many species of songbirds in North America have been declining in population numbers. Ongoing declines have been linked to habitat loss and fragmentation, and increased landscape homogeneity caused by agricultural intensification. To counter ongoing declines of grassland songbirds, we tested

the potential benefits of patch-burn grazing management, which creates high levels of heterogeneity in vegetative structure. Recent studies found that patch-burn grazing management increases bird diversity and nest survival in Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*), but the impacts on fledglings, and total reproductive output of grassland songbirds, have been largely ignored. Due to their limited initial movements, the survival of altricial young after fledging is likely influenced by local variation in habitat structure, food abundance, and predator pressure. To assess the effects of heterogeneity in vegetative structure on the survival and movements of fledgling Dickcissels, a species of conservation concern, we applied transmitters to 48 fledglings at five experimental units at Konza Prairie LTER, Kansas. We found a potential conflict between the nest and fledgling stage of Dickcissels. Although nest survival tended to be highest in treatments with low heterogeneity, fledglings showed high mortality and actively moved away from those treatments. Rangeland management could potentially affect predators of nests and fledglings in species-specific ways, potentially leading to life-stage specific responses to management in Dickcissels. Conflicts in habitat requirements among life-stages could have important implications for how we structure and evaluate conservation efforts. Moreover, a heterogeneous landscape could provide songbirds with a mosaic of habitats that could maximize both nest and fledgling survival.

Causes of Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) Density Variation: Parasitism, Cooperative Care, and Extra-pair Paternity

Sarah Winnicki, and Dr. W. Alice Boyle, Kansas State University*

In highly territorial species, spatial aggregation of competitors presents a conundrum. Territorial male Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*) in NE Kansas exhibit diverse breeding densities, and the implications of this variation is not known. We hypothesized that breeding density would affect nest success, brood parasitism, extra-pair paternity, and cooperative care. We predicted that increased density of breeding males around the nest would lead to (i) increased nest success (ii) increased brood parasitism, (iii) increased extra-pair paternity, and (iv) increased cooperative care. To test these

predictions, we located nests during two summers and mapped the nests' position relative to the location of the banded territorial males. We calculated male breeding density by counting the number of males within defined radii around each nest. We observed the nests, recording the presence of cowbird nestlings, the number, progress, and fate of sparrow eggs and nestlings, and the incidence of cooperative care. We extracted DNA from blood samples, and used microsatellites to calculate the proportion of each brood likely sired by extra-pair males. Though extra-pair paternity exists in the population and cooperative care occurs in the form of nest "help," these variables were not related to the density of males around the nests at any radius or in either year. However, nests with higher density were more likely to have reduced nest success and increased detrimental nest parasitism. Our results suggest that the high-density aggregation of Grasshopper Sparrows is not beneficial to their immediate fitness and fail to explain the persistence of this spatial distribution.

Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*): What's Next?

Eugene A. Young, Agriculture, Science, and Engineering, Northern Oklahoma College

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) has undergone a drastic reduction in range and population size since the early 1900s. This resulted in the species being listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on 10 April 2014. Subsequent litigation caused a Federal judge to vacate the listing on 1 September 2015. Herewith, I will provide a summary of the listing process and resulting court order, the current status of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as it relates to the ESA, with comments on its biological status, and the future of both the species and the act.



Kansas Ornithological Society
General Membership Business Meeting
October 1, 2016
Garden City Community College, Garden City, KS

Morning Business Session

The meeting was called to order at 11:27 a.m. by President Matt Gearheart.

Nomination Committee: Mike Rader, Nominating Committee chairman, presented the slate of officers for 2016/2017: President – Nic Allen; Vice President – Cheryl Miller; Corresponding Secretary – Chuck Otte; Treasurer – Max Thompson; Membership Development Coordinator – Patty Marlett; Business Manager – Dan Larson; *KOS Bulletin* Editor – Eugene Young; *Horned Lark* Editor – Chuck Otte; Past President – Matt Gearheart; Board Members – Kevin Groeneweg, Barry Jones, Terry Mannell, and Alexis Powell. The slate will be considered in the afternoon membership meeting.

Treasurer: Max Thompson presented the Treasurer's report. Max reported that this year we chose not to have a silent auction. Individuals wishing to donate to the student research fund were encouraged to contact Max directly.

Bulletin: Gene Young, *Bulletin* Editor, encouraged those submitting a species for consideration as a state or county record should consider also writing just a bit more to be considered for publication in the *Bulletin*.

Bird Records Committee: KBRC Chairman Gene Young presented an update on current status of submitted records.

Horned Lark: Lisa Weeks, on behalf of Chuck Otte, interim editor, asked Christmas Bird Count compilers to please start sending in details for their upcoming counts so they can be posted on the web at KSBIRDS.ORG.

Business Manager: Lisa Weeks, Business Manager, encouraged members to donate to the student research fund.

Membership: Patty sent in her report. Membership was basically stable.

Secretary: no report made since Chuck Otte was not present.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m..

Afternoon Business Session

President Matt Gearheart called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

Election of the Board: Matt reviewed the slate from the nominating committee and asked for any nominations from the floor. **Gregg Friesen moved to accept the slate of candidates as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Gress and passed unanimously.**

Max suggested that members tentatively mark the first weekend in May 2017 for the KOS Spring meeting with a general destination of SE Kansas.

Seeing no further business, Matt declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

The KOS Board met over lunch on October 1, 2016 at Garden City Community College.

President Matt Gearheart called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. Attendance: Matt Gearheart, Max Thompson, Alexis Powell, Henry Armknecht, Lisa Weeks, Eugene Young, and Jeff Calhoun. Also in attendance was incoming President Nic Allen.

President: Matt had no further report over what was said at the morning membership meeting.

Vice President: no report.

Treasurer's Report: Max distributed the KOS Balance Sheet as of January 1, 2016. He also distributed an investment fund account report showing a total value of \$183,530 as of September 26, 2016. Max asked our investment advisor to reduce our risk during this volatile market. The Dingus property is valued at \$240,140, however it is carried on the books at \$56,000.

A new sign will be posted to mark the Dingus property this fall.

Max asked for board members to audit the books. Henry and Nic planned to audit the books later in the day. *(Henry and Nic audited the KOS Financial Records later in the day and found expenses and receipts to be properly documented and in order.)*

Membership: Patty was not in attendance. Matt read Patty's report which she sent via email on September 29. "Membership is about steady. We had a larger than normal number of people who did not renew from last year, but half of them were students. For a couple of previous years we had individuals donating memberships for students, and I don't believe those gifts were repeated this last year so that may account for some of the drops. We have also lost three libraries in the last couple of years. Maybe they have heard about the online deal with EBSCO? One of them is in Germany, so it will probably save us money not to have to send that one. It seems like there have been a lot of new members joining this summer and fall - mostly through PayPal. I think having online payment has been really helpful." Student speakers are given free memberships for one year. Board members were reminded that all student paper presenters are given a one year free KOS Membership.

Appreciation was extended to Patty for agreeing to stay on an additional year. It was agreed that we need to spend the next year finding a membership chair to replace Patty.

Bulletin: Gene apologized for failing to write an obituary for Phil Menninger for inclusion in the Bulletin. He volunteered to write one.

EBSCO is the online location where the Bulletin is available. Gene made an excellent point about how important it is for us to help those who submit records to take the extra step to think about (and write up) why the new record is important. As always, he offered a helping hand to guide the author with helpful feedback.

Secretary: no report. Chuck was not in attendance. The winter board meeting minutes were not available for review.

Horned Lark: no report. Chuck was not in attendance.

Student Research Committee: Matt distributed John Schukman's report.

Business Manager: Lisa distributed a written report. Key points – Lisa and Dan Larson (incoming Business Manager) have spent initial time together. Lisa asked what the next steps or direction the board wished to take on current websites/activities? Some ideas are presented.

Upcoming meetings: Open discussion about spring and fall meeting locations. A motion was made and passed to hold the spring 2017 meeting be in SE KS. Someone will notify Jenn Rader. Fall 2017 may be at Benedictine College in Atchison. Spring 2018 may be in Dodge City. There has been previous discussion about Tabor College in Hillsboro as a future site.

KBRC: The committee plans to meet this winter.

New Business: It was suggested that a committee be appointed to help manage the process and timelines of the KOS Avian Conservation Award and the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd award. We were reminded that an organization may also be nominated as a recipient of the Avian Conservation Award.

Matt appointed a committee of Gene Young, Jenn Rader, Chuck Otte, Rob Penner, and the incoming president (Nic Allen). The committee will be notified and an effort to begin discussion of how to have this process work more efficiently. Matt or the committee will reach out to Rob Penner to discuss future funding of the conservation award.

Henry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Matt adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m. Lisa Weeks, Secretary pro-tem

KOS Spring Meeting 2017

The 2017 KOS Spring Meeting will be held in southeast Kansas May 5 - 7. Jenn Rader and the "Southeast Kansas KOS Krew" are still working out details but we'll likely headquarter out of Pittsburg and field trips could include locations within Crawford, Cherokee and Labette counties. Full details will be in the March 2017 Horned Lark, and at <http://ksbirds.org>.

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



The Scott Lake 2016 fall KOS field trip participants (L - R): Jo Cink, Calvin Cink, Dave Rintoul and Sara Shane, made the climb up the east face of Suicide Bluff to the territory of a Rufous-crowned Sparrow present a few months prior. He did not respond to the recorded calls. Regardless, it was a great hike with a beautiful view.

Photo by Tom Shane, 2 October 2016.