



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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From the President's Pen

By Nic Allen

Throughout my bird watching career I have been blessed with great mentors. Once I had that initial interest there were always people ready and willing to help kindle that hobby into a truly rewarding passion.

I met Mike Stoakes on one of my very first bird walks. He was immediately a huge encouragement and a wealth of information on birds, always happy and eager to help me with my bird identification. Mike also taught me how to lead bird walks and pass on my knowledge to others.

Mark Land has been another valued mentor. I was lucky enough to live about a block from Mark and would frequently go on long day trips or meet in the mornings for migration walks. It was amazing sitting with him at a Great Backyard Bird Count event, learning to analyze birds more thoroughly. I gained a great appreciation for the value of digging into reference materials from Mark.

Lastly, my mentor and now great friend Matt Gearheart was kind enough to haul me out on my first trip to Morton County and introduce me to the wormhole of county listing. Matt has always been there to answer my questions, encourage,

and guide me throughout my development in the birding community. It is now truly humbling to follow him and all of the KOS presidents that have come before me.

Mentorship is a crucial part to any successful organization or passion. How can you be a mentor today? Perhaps it is leading a local bird walk, helping someone know good places for birds, or which resources are the best for identification. These days, with the rise in social media, having gentle responses to new birders and their questions can be just the encouragement they need to get involved and keep learning. When we take time to mentor others, we can continue growing as a thriving community.

- Nic

**Spring Meeting
May 5 - 7, 2017
Pittsburg, Kansas**

Meeting information and registration details on pages 10 & 11 and online at KSBIRDS.ORG

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

This winter has been cruel. Not so much in the brutal nature of winters past, but in the fact that so much of the weather has been quite nice. Abnormally warm weather in winter months merely makes us want spring, and the returning birds, be they migrants or nesting species, to return. But instant gratification isn't really gratification. To really enjoy spring migration you must first suffer through winter, regardless of how much above, or below, average the temperatures may be.

Jenn Rader has been working hard for several months getting the spring meeting lined up. My very first spring meeting was in 1991 and it was held in Pittsburg. I can still remember so many of the folks that we met there and even some of the birds that we saw: looking at a lifer Solitary Vireo (now known as a Blue-headed Vireo) as David Seibel described the pertinent identification points to consider.

Birding in southeast Kansas can be like stepping into another realm. Virtually all of the Ozark Plateau and the Cherokee Lowlands physiographic regions that exist in the state are in those corner four counties. The topography, the plant life and the birds can be different than what you'll find anywhere else in the state. Get your registration sent off and motel reservations made! I look forward to seeing you there!

It sometimes feels like the world is exploding around us. When I attended my first KOS meeting in Pittsburg in 1991, about the only sources of Kansas birding information were the newsletter and Bulletin from KOS and the Rare Bird Alert hotline. There was that brand new two volume set of books, *Birds in Kansas* by Thompson and Ely, and some older books as well, but that was pretty well the sum total of where you could find out much of anything about birds and birding in Kansas.

KOS is still here and in my opinion, as relevant as ever. *Birds in Kansas* was joined, twenty years later, by *Birds of Kansas*. You can join an internet discussion list on Kansas birds. You can join a Facebook page dedicated to Kansas birds. You can visit a website known as eBird and join hundreds of other birders who record their bird sightings there. While we have all these digital, virtual, electronic ways to connect with other birders, though, birding is still a REAL activity. We go out into the field and we watch, study, photograph living breathing creatures. It's not a virtual activity, it's reality.

Which is where I feel that KOS still has an important place. We are organized to help get birders together and to help them learn. I've had people ask WHY they should join KOS? They can get everything they need on the internet. But what they can't get "on the internet" is the sense of community. That real group that understands birds and Kansas, who get together twice a year for the purpose of sharing information about birds in Kansas. So next time you're with some other birders, start asking them how many belong to KOS. And if they don't belong, give them a gentle nudge, to join the flock! - Chuck



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2016 Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

John M. Schukman

Nominated and presented by Tom Shane.

We would like to honor a friend of many and an active long time Kansas Ornithological Society member, Mr. John M. Schukman.

John has been a member of our society for 42 years, joining KOS in 1975. John started his ornithology career assisting the Fort Hays State University Ornithology classes in 1973. He then taught the 1975 summer ornithology course while Dr. Charles Ely was on sabbatical in Mexico. As a graduate student, John started his field work during the summer of 1973 and he received his master's degree in the fall of 1974 at FHSU; his thesis topic was the comparative ecology of the two common phoebes of Kansas.

He participated on his first Christmas Bird Count in Ellis County in December of 1973 and compiled this count in 1974 with some assistance from Dr. Gerald Tomanek, then president of the university. He started the Leavenworth-Atchison CBC in December of 1988, which he has compiled every year since. John also ran his first Breeding Bird Survey routes in 1975: Ellis, Logan, and Phillipsburg, after helping Dr. Ely during previous years. When additional routes were begun in 2000, John began running the Severance route, which he continues to this day. John completed more than 10 blocks for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project during the 1990's. He also established a special KBBAT block he named Weston Bend in Leavenworth County, where he found breeding evidence on 120 species, more than was found for any other atlas block for the entire project.

John has served on the KOS Board as director (two terms), vice-president, and as president in 2000. He is currently the chairman of the KOS Research Fund Committee, on the advisory board of the KU Natural History Museum/Biodiversity Institute, and on the Audubon of Kansas Board of Trustees. He has published a number of papers in the KOS Bulletin and has

presented many papers at the annual KOS meeting as well as at national ornithological meetings, primarily on phoebes.

John was the senior author for the Say's Phoebe species account, published in 1998, for the Birds of North America project sponsored by The American Ornithologists' Union, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. John was also the senior author for a paper in the May 2011 issue of the Condor on the breeding contact zone of Say's and Eastern phoebes. John is indeed the world's expert on the Say's Phoebe.

Thank you, John for making the Kansas Ornithological Society a better organization.



John (right) receiving his Boyd Award from Tom Shane. *Photo by Linda Schukman*

The Importance of Bird Records

by Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

Recently, photos of over-wintering Black-crowned Night-herons in Wichita on the Kansas Birding Facebook page prompted a flurry of exchanges and comments leading to an un-asked question: Are bird populations changing in the state of Kansas?

We can answer this question by breaking it down into two separate issues. First, are bird populations in the state changing? The second question is why are populations changing. The answer to the former is yes. The latter is likely the result of many factors.

Part of understanding the latter, and possibly the bigger challenge in all of this, (the confounding issue if you look at it like a statistician) is the changing dynamics in the observer base. The basic concept here being, are bird populations changing, or do we just have more birders with better optics (including cameras) and more detailed field guides and mobile devices thus an increase in seeing and reporting on their bird sightings. This is where the seeking answers becomes quite complex!

Prior to say, 1960, there were likely less than 100 observers in the state routinely making and sharing observations. And the sharing of those observations was often a challenge. Many records from that time still exist out there buried in notebooks within boxes in people's attics. In the 1960s and 1970s there were a growing number of birders and ornithologists sharing information, but in all reality, still probably under 200. Old copies of the Kansas Ornithological Society's *Bulletin* and *Horned Lark* reveal a growing interest and reporting of bird sightings across the state through regular reports and Christmas Bird Count reports. Early *Bulletins* contained numerous sighting records. New county records were published in the *Horned Lark* as well as other "sightings of interest". Marvin Schwilling, Max Thompson and Charles Ely kept many of the records in those days (on paper in three ring binders, notebooks, and 3 x 5 cards). Thompson and Ely would later pull as many records, as they could find, to help in the writing of *Birds in Kansas* (2 volumes, 1989 and 1992). But I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

In 1987, Scott Seltman started compiling a seasonal birding roundup for the *Horned Lark*. Scott's aim was simply to report birds that were, out of place spatially or temporally. The "Roundup" con-

tinues to this day (there have been six compilers of the Roundup over the years, myself on a second term.) During this time period there was also a telephone answering machine called the "Rare Bird Alert". Scott Seltman was instrumental in getting this up to a very high level of professionalism where it was run out of his house. Subsequently, Gene Young ran the RBA hosted by Southwestern College and it was around for well over ten years. Birders would call in to hear if there were any rare birds being observed and report any birds that they were seeing. Oft times the report would be updated weekly but if a lot of sightings were being reported or a "super rarity" was around, this might be updated daily.

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas, with field data collection from 1992 - 1997 added greatly to our knowledge of Kansas' bird distributions but somewhat limited in nature since most of the field work occurred in the breeding season - mainly April thru August. Keep in mind, up until about this time, we are still talking about 200 to 300 observers covering the entire state of Kansas annually.

By the mid 1990s many birders were getting cell phones so they now have the ability to report from the field to the rare bird hotline in real time. In 1996 the KSBIRD-L internet listserve gets started. Membership is less than 200 in the first few years but grows steadily. A birder in the field could call someone who was at their computer and a rare sighting could be reported on the internet in nearly real time. (Okay all of those of you under the age of about 30, you can stop laughing now! You truly have no idea what it was like.) It wasn't too much longer until KSBIRD-L basically put the RBA telephone hotline out of business.

In 2001 the first complete set of county checklists were made public based on all the information that could be gathered at the time. Not too long after that, county listing became THE thing. Birders were suddenly traveling, regularly, to locations that they likely had not birded before. Just for a point of reference: the first set of county checklists contained 23,519 county species (one species in one county - American Robin in all 105 counties tallies as 105 county species). As of the last update (September 2016), the county checklists contained 28,688 county species, an increase of over 5,000 county species!

Can you see how this is progressing? Now let's keep adding in to all of this rapidly expanding communication puzzle. Roughly ten years ago, eBird started rolling along, although if you go back that far, you are primarily going to find records put in by folks who were transferring sightings from other programs. About five years ago eBird records really started to increase. I have no idea how many people put in data on eBird for Kansas, but as of mid-February 2017, eBird statistics show that over 138,000 checklists have been submitted from Kansas. At about the same time, the Kansas Birding Facebook page started to take off. There is a propensity for people, often new birders, to post photos here, partly because they can, and partly because they are asking for help in identifying a bird. But it is an additional source of bird records.

So, now we have about 320 KOS members, about 670 people on KSBIRD-L, over 1800 on the Kansas Birding Facebook page, and I have no idea how many individuals posting checklists on eBird.

It's time to get this discussion back to the original question. *Birds of Kansas* hit the bookstores in May of 2011. Look at the explosion of records since then. There is a website <http://birdsofkansas.com/> where there is a page that shows what species have been added to which counties since the book was published. Seven new species have been added to the state's checklist since the publication of *Birds of Kansas*. I should also add that there

was a lot of information on many species that we simply didn't have room to include in the book.

We know that bird populations and bird dynamics in the state are changing. How much of this is due to REAL change, such as climate change, and how much of it is due to increasing numbers of records of bird sightings? That becomes a challenge to sift through. If we find decreasing numbers of some species, and we are, then that is very real because if populations were stable, we should be seeing no change or increasing reports due to the increasing numbers of observers.

Not one form of reporting bird sightings fits all people for various reasons. There are quite a few of us who do follow these sightings and try to make sense of it all. We also suspect certain things (like wintering Black-crowned Night-herons) but have previously had too little data to PROVE it. We are slowly getting that data together. In the meantime, Kansas is a big state with relatively few birders in many parts of it. There are still a great number of holes in our data that will only be filled over time.

Bird records are ultimately extremely important: all the records from all sources. We continue to build new databases, literally daily, yet at the same time old records are uncovered and they too bring to light new and useful information. Whatever form of record keeping you choose to use is great. Just as long as that information is shared and doesn't disappear into a notebook, within a box, in an attic.

KOS Trivia

KOS has been around for almost 70 years! We have an amazing amount of history with much of it found in the pages of our quarterly *Bulletin* and *Horned Lark*. But were you aware that all past issues of the *Horned Lark*, as well as past issues of the *Bulletin* (more than two years old) can be found on the <http://ksbirds.org/> website? When you go to the KSBIRDS home page, the quickest way to the KOS information is to click on the image of the Horned Lark.

If you click on "Publications" you will go to the page: http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_pubs.html which has links to an index page for each publication. Curious as to who have been officers of KOS over the years? At the bottom of the officers page is a link to http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/KOS%20Officers,_1950_to_present.htm which is a large table of all the officers since the start of KOS. Curious about when and where spring and fall meetings have been held? Go to the Meeting Information page and click on the link at the top of the page. It'll take you to <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/KOSMeetingsHistory.htm> where there are also links to the compiled checklist of the birds seen at each meeting, when the list could be found. Looking for something but can't find it? Contact Chuck at otte2@cox.net. If it's on the web page, he can tell you where. If it isn't there, he'll try to find it!

Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2016

(Aug – Nov) Chuck Otte, compiler

For the second fall season in a row, summer apparently didn't know when to leave. Record and near record warm temperatures washed across the state for most of the season causing many species to linger far later than even recent late records. Sightings that would have been noteworthy in past years were lost in a sea of late departures. But even as species were reluctant to leave, some species appeared earlier than normal. Certainly not a tidal wave of records, but noticeable numbers of Common Mergansers, normally one of our latest arriving waterfowl species, showed up in scattered numbers well ahead of normal.

Wet conditions in western Kansas earlier in the year lingered well into the season. Playas that had filled up earlier in the year held water through the fall season allowing for many new county records or records well west of what would be expected normal migration corridors. Shorebirds lingered, and lingered, and lingered longer as if they were trying to decide whether to migrate further south or gamble that they might make it through the winter alive.

The renovated Baker Wetlands are providing some intriguing habitat and even more intriguing records. Whether due to the wet conditions, the available habitat, the warm fall or some other unknown factor, many species were being found late into the season including waterfowl, rails, wrens and sparrows. It will continue to be interesting to watch this development in the seasons and years ahead.

The bane of many a birder is that wonderful family Laridae, gulls and terns. Few families of birds have seen as much confusion and apparent changes of populations and ranges over the past quarter of a century than have gulls. Yet it brings up the continuing conundrum of whether gull populations are expanding and changing or whether we simply have more birders, with better field guides, and better optics, including cameras, spending more time looking at gulls so as to better discern which species are present, where and when. Yet if the latter was the only cause, we should be seeing the same phenomenon in other bird families as well, but we aren't. There seems to be a disproportionate amount of intriguing sightings within the gull family leading to the conclusion that the gull situation is in flux. Adding to the mystery are the ongoing studies, research and debates regarding hybrids, subspecies and species. I suspect we may all be dead and gone before this puzzle is finally put together.

A Black Vulture in southeastern Russell County was well west of expected range and well documented with photographs. The apparently increasing in range Swallow-tailed Kite made three appearances in the state all within a two week period. A Lewis's Woodpecker arrived in Pottawatomie County right around Thanksgiving and lingered for nearly a month giving many birders a great opportunity to view this rare visitor to the state!

Passerine species were somewhat poorly represented in the fall roundup. A Western Wood-Pewee easterly in Reno County was well documented with a video capturing its distinctive call. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were somewhat westerly in Geary and Reno counties. Ravens continue to provide a perplexing puzzle with the once regular Chihuahuan Ravens now virtually absent from the state being replaced by the previously extirpated Common Ravens, which were the dominant raven species in the 19th century!

Cave Swallows made a strong showing in the state in August and September with several sightings being reported and a few fortunately submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee. Morton County had its share of good sightings as well. A Canyon Wren was found at Point of Rocks. A Canyon Towhee was seen at the Tunnerville Work Station. A few days later, back at Point of Rocks, another Canyon Towhee was found which lingered long enough for a photo.

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 at QNWR	Stafford	8/27	JZ
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Pair on playa northeast of Montezuma	Gray	9/4	MG, WCT
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 at Sedgwick County Park	Sedgwick	9/20	KG
	Still present 9/27			
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 at Timber Grove Lakes	Sedgwick	11/8	BG
	Video footage showed this to be a different bird than above			
Ross's Goose	2 at Deerfield Feeders	Kearny	10/2	MR
Redhead	Continuing female at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	8/1	RB
Ring-necked Duck	1 female and 3 juveniles, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	8/4	JAM
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	2 at Camp Wood lake	Chase	10/16	DG, DRa
Surf Scoter	1 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	10/23	MR
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	1 at Mission Lake	Brown	11/8	DM

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Black Scoter</u>	1 at Lyon SFL	Lyon	10/25	KG
Black Scoter	3 off the face of Tuttle Creek Dam	Riley	11/24	BSa
Black Scoter	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/25	GP
Long-tailed Duck	1 at CBWA	Barton	11/6	SS
Common Ground-Dove	1 in Winfield along city street Still present, 8/17	Cowley	8/13	MT
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 in Quinter	Gove	8/14	NV
White-winged Dove	44 near the zoo in Great Bend	Barton	9/3	RG
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 late at Camp Wood	Chase	10/16	DG, DRa
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 somewhat late at Wilson Lake	Russell	9/27	DK
Common Nighthawk	<u>300+</u> migrants at Milford Lake Dam area	Geary	8/25	DA
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 female in Lakin	Kearny	9/10	JC
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2 still present in Shane's yard	Finney	9/22	SSh, TS
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 immature at feeder in Arkansas City	Cowley	9/1	EY
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 imm. female in Kensington	Smith	9/7	MR
Calliope Hummingbird	immature or female in Garden City Continuing Calliope sightings through 8/30	Finney	8/1	SSh, TS
Calliope Hummingbird	1 in Dodge City Continuing Calliope sightings through 9/5	Ford	8/14	WCT
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 immature at feeder in Arkansas City	Cowley	9/1	EY
Calliope Hummingbird	1 female at Seltman residence NW of Larned	Pawnee	9/16	SS
<u>King Rail</u>	1 at Lost Marsh	Neosho	11/5	ABu
American Coot	<u>10,000</u> at QNWR, Wildlife Drive	Stafford	10/2	EY
Sandhill Crane	18 flying overhead, easterly	Shawnee	11/2	JM
Sandhill Crane	4 flying overhead at TGPP, easterly	Chase	11/13	JL
Sandhill Crane	8 overhead from Manhattan	Riley	11/23	JRo
Sandhill Crane	Group flying overhead at Clinton SP	Douglas	11/25	GP
Whooping Crane	2 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR 6 on 10/28, 10 on 11/3, 12 on 11/9, 7 on 11/11, <u>40</u> the morning of 11/12, 7 on 11/13 4 on 11/15, 21 on 11/17, 9 on 11/21, 2 on 11/25	Stafford	10/24	BJ
Black-bellied Plover	1 on playa	Pratt	8/31	SS
Snowy Plover	1 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	11/12	JL
Red Knot	1 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	10/8	MR
Sanderling	3 on playas	Pratt	9/1	SS
<u>Sanderling</u>	1 on playa east of Montezuma	Gray	9/4	MG
<u>Sanderling</u>	at Sublette WTP	Haskell	9/11	HA, JC, JR
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4 on playa west of Dodge City	Ford	9/4	MG, JC, WCT
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2 on playa west of Minneola	Clark	9/4	MG, JC, WCT
<u>Short-billed Dowitcher</u>	1 on playa west of Minneola	Clark	9/4	MG, JC, WCT
Long-billed Dowitcher	14 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	11/29	MR
Spotted Sandpiper	1 late at Rock Ford	Riley	11/5	BSa
Lesser Yellowlegs	4 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	11/29	MR
Red-necked Phalarope	2 at QNWR 1 still present on 9/2, 16 present on 10/5, 2 still present on	Stafford	8/1	TM
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 imm. at Pomona Lake	Osage	10/17	
Sabine's Gull	1 at Big Salt Marsh, QNWR Still present 10/2, 3 present 10/9	Stafford	11/11	DA, SN
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	1 at Marion Reservoir with photos, KBRC	Stafford	9/20	BJ
Black-headed Gull	1 adult at Pomona Lake, KBRC	Marion	10/15	TE
Little Gull	1 at Pomona Lake, KBRC	Osage	11/11	WCT, SN
Little Gull	1 at CBWA, KBRC	Barton	11/4	MGo, ML, KE
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1 at Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	8/5	JVK
Laughing Gull	1 first winter bird at Marion Res	Marion	10/16	m.ob.
Laughing Gull	1 at Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/12	MT, EY
Laughing Gull	1 at KSU Cattle Research Unit, Manhattan	Riley	11/27	SSc, TSc
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at CBWA Pool 4A Still present 9/24	Barton	8/30	KG, TE

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Perry Lake Still present 10/1	Jefferson	9/16	KC, DPe
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Big Salt marsh, QNWR Still present 10/5	Stafford	10/2	PJ, KG
Red-throated Loon	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	10/15	m.ob.
Pacific Loon	4 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/8	GP
Pacific Loon	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Kingman	11/13	KG
Pacific Loon	1 at Tuttle Creek	Pottawatomie	11/29	MGo
Common Loon	<u>23</u> at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/11	MR
Common Tern	2 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	8/3	GP
Common Tern	1 at Neosho WA	Neosho	8/5	ABu
Brown Pelican	1 sub-adult at CBWA	Barton	8/13	JK, MRo
Great Egret	Several at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	11/30	m.ob.
Great Egret	1 at CBWA	Barton	11/21	MW
Tricolored Heron	1 at CBWA Still present 9/23	Barton	9/8	GC
White Ibis	Juvenile in Unit G, MDC	Linn	8/12	KC
<u>Black Vulture</u>	2 1½ miles west of county line on Hwy 166	Sumner	10/6	EY
<u>Black Vulture</u>	South of the town of Wilson, KBRC	Russell/Ellsworth	10/30	DK, MR
Turkey Vulture	Single bird, late	Douglas	11/19	LZ
<u>Swallow-tailed Kite</u>	1 on Ft. Riley, KBRC Likely same bird seen near Milford Lake	Geary	8/24	JKt
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 soaring around S Pflumm and S 151 st	Johnson	9/4	DP
<u>Swallow-tailed Kite</u>	1 near Towanda, video, KBRC	Butler	9/7	BB
<u>Mississippi Kite</u>	Pair nesting in Beloit	Mitchell	8/8	JN
Northern Goshawk	1 seen flying over Tuttle Creek Dam	Riley	9/17	JL
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 imm. in shelterbelt near Elkhart cemetery	Morton	9/11	MR
Golden Eagle	1 imm. west of Junction City	Geary	11/10	CO
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u>	1 at Pottawatomie SFL #2 This bird remained until late into December and was seen by dozens of birders.	Pottawatomie	11/26	LM
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 at Middle Spring, CNG Still present 9/23	Morton	9/17	CE
<u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>	1 northwest of Belvidere	Kiowa	8/7	JL
Western Wood-Pewee	1 near Arlington, easterly, KBRC	Reno	8/13	AM
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 on Walla Walla Rd Still present and vocalizing 8/30	Geary	8/25	DA
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 along Salt Creek	Reno	9/3	AM, JMi
Hammond's Flycatcher	1 at CNG Tunnerville work station, KBRC	Morton	9/23	WCT
Northern Shrike	1 at 20 th Rd NW	Coffey	11/25	MGo, JH
Plumbeous Vireo	1 at St. Francis Golf Course	Cheyenne	9/11	SM, NM
Philadelphia Vireo	1 on Walla Walla Rd	Geary	8/25	DA
Philadelphia Vireo	1 at Ottawa SFL	Ottawa	8/25	DA
Common Raven	1 at Middle Spring, CNG Still present 9/25	Morton	9/3	WCT
Common Raven	2 at Patti Canyon	Morton	9/11	MR
Common Raven	1 near Tribune	Greeley	11/2	WCT
Purple Martin	<u>30,000</u> in Wichita roost in Old Town	Sedgwick	8/13	MP
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<u>4,200</u> at Erie WTP	Neosho	9/30	ABu
Cave Swallow	1 adult and 2 juveniles, SCWA, KBRC	Sumner	8/4	MT, EY
Cave Swallow	1 at CBWA	Barton	8/12	JK
Cave Swallow	1 juvenile at QNWR, KBRC	Stafford	8/12	MR
Cave Swallow	1 at Elkhart WTP	Morton	9/11	MR, JM
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1 at John Redmond Res	Coffey	10/16	m.ob.
Canyon Wren	1 at Point of Rocks, CNG, KBRC	Morton	9/22	WCT
<u>Sedge Wren</u>	2 south of Trousdale	Edwards	9/30	PJ, KG, NA, MG
Townsend's Solitaire	at least 3 in Jetmore Cemetery	Hodgeman	9/30	PJ

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Brown Memorial Park	Dickinson	10/22	JP
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 at Perry Lake Public Use Area	Jefferson	9/11	MMH, MGo
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 north of Garden City	Finney	8/13	SSh, TS
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at Grant Co Feeders	Grant	10/11	LL
Lesser Goldfinch	1 near Arlington, KBRC	Reno	8/13	AM
Evening Grosbeak	3 at St. Francis Golf Course	Cheyenne	9/16	SM, DD, NM
Snow Bunting	3 at QNWR 1 present on 11/29	Stafford	11/12	DA
<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	1 on Oregon Trail Nature Park	Pottawatomie	9/3	DH
Blackburnian Warbler	1 in urban yard, Lenexa, early	Johnson	8/13	MG
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	10/19	MMH
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at CNG picnic area	Morton	9/11	MR
<u>Le Conte's Sparrow</u>	Lakeview Playa, westerly	Meade	10/17	TS, SSh
Summer Tanager	1 female, Clear Creek, westerly	Ellsworth	8/6	DK
Summer Tanager	1 female, westerly and late	Saline	11/1	KK
Canyon Towhee	1 at CNG Tunnerville work station, KBRC	Morton	9/23	WCT
Canyon Towhee	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton	9/25	WCT
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 female at Pittman residence, easterly	Leavenworth	9/10	GP
Baltimore Oriole	male in Frazier Park, Ulysses, westerly	Grant	8/10	BN

Locations and notes: CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, imm. – immature, 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, TGPP - Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, WA – Wildlife Area, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds, ***Underlined species name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.***

Observers: Danny Akers, Nic Allen, Henry Armknecht, Roger Boyd, Bob Broyles, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Jeff Calhoun, Kathy Carroll, Glenn Caspers, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), David Dowell, Kathy Ellis, Corey Entriken, Tom Ewert, Matt Gearheart, Daniel George, Malcom Gold (MGo), Rob Graham, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Jennifer Hammett, Dan Hoobler, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Jeff Keating (JKt), Jon King, Dave Klema, Kaleb Kroeker, Mark Land, Larry Langstaff, Jonathan Lautenbach, Travis Mahan, Jim Malcom, Mick McHugh (MMH), Don Merz, Andrew Miller, Joseph Miller (JMi), Steve Mlodinow, Jo-Ann Moore (JAM), Nick Moore, Lynette Mueller, Sue Newland, Jay Newton, Bob Nieman, Chuck Otte, Jess Painter, Michael Pearce, Diane Persons (DPe), Don Pinkston, Galen Pittman, Jennifer Rader, Mike Rader, Devii Rao (DRa), Mark Robbins (MRo), John Row (JRo), Brett Sandercock (BSa), Sam Schermerhorn (SSc), Tom Schermerhorn (TSc), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Max Thompson, Jonathan Vande Kopple, Nick Varvel, Mary Wilcox, Eugene Young, John Zempel, Linda Zempel, m.ob. – multiple observers

Spring Meeting Compilation Guidelines

On the next two pages you will find information about the 2017 KOS Spring Meeting being held in southeast Kansas, headquartered in Pittsburg. Get your hotel reservations made and send in your registration! If you've never been to a spring meeting it can be summed up in one word: BIRDING! The entirety of the weekend is devoted to birding field trips. You will bird until you see and hear birds when you close your eyes or try to go to sleep. Spring meetings are a fun time!

On Sunday noon we will have a box lunch at Riverside Park in Oswego. At the end of lunch we have the field trip species list compilation. During the weekend, we will have large boards with county checklists taped to them where we can keep a running tally of which species were seen in which county. But the compilation, after Sunday lunch, is always a fun time. This year, however, we have some guidelines for everyone to abide by. We will only count species seen in Cherokee, Crawford, Neosho, and Labette counties from 3:00 p.m. on Friday through 1 p.m. on Sunday. If you see that Swallow-tailed Kite at 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Neosho county on the way home, too bad! (But please call me and keep it in sight until I get there!) Chuck Otte will again be "the keeper of the lists". If you have any questions, ask Chuck!

KOS SPRING MEETING

Pittsburg & Galena, Kansas

May 5 - 7, 2017

Online registration at <http://ksbirds.org/> with payment through **PayPal**

Make plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in southeastern Kansas, May 5-7, 2017. The southeast corner of Kansas is an amazing area encompassing three physiographic regions of Kansas: the Ozark Plateau, the Cherokee Lowlands, and the Osage Cuestas. These areas have fascinating plant life, topography and of course, bird life!

Headquarters - While there are many places to stay in the area, the headquarters hotel will be the Regency Inn and Suites in Pittsburg. Other lodging venues are listed below.

Friday evening: We will have a casual meet and greet with snacks and refreshments at the Southeast Kansas Nature Center, 3511 S Main Street in Galena, which will be open from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Night birding in the area is an option! Please note that parking is limited right at the Nature Center. Please consider parking down the hill and walking up to the Nature Center.

Saturday Field Trips: All day field trips will focus on Crawford, Cherokee, Labette and Neosho counties. Meet in the Regency Inn parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Note: Saturday lunch is on your own. Trip leaders will provide snack/lunch stops along the way; though options may be limited.

Saturday Evening: The evening meal will be Dutch treat at Pichler's Chicken Annie's, 1271 S 220th St. in Pittsburg, gathering at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday: Meet in the Regency Inn parking lot at 6:30 a.m. for field trips. After a ½ day of birding, we'll have a box lunch compilation (sandwiches, veggie option available – please indicate your desire for this option on the registration form) of the birds seen on all the field trips. We will meet at Riverside Park in Oswego, N Oregon St and Riverside Park Drive, northeast corner of town, at noon.

Accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Regency Inn and Suites**, 4023 Parkview Dr., Pittsburg, KS 66762, 620-232-2800. Be sure to mention the KOS block for the \$69.99/night room rate. The room block expires April 21st. There are a lot of activities going on in the area this time of year so make your reservations early.

Other housing options include:

Comfort Inn and Suites, 4009 Parkview Dr., Pittsburg, KS, 620-231-8800

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 4011 Parkview Dr., Pittsburg, KS, 620-231-1177

Baxter Inn, 2451 Military Ave, Baxter Springs, KS 66713, 620-856-2106

Mined Land Wildlife Area Cabins, \$70/night, <http://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Southeast/Mined-Land/Cabins>. The two cabins listed below can be reserved at the KDWPT website listed above.

Coal Ridge Cabin, 10366 NW Lawton Rd, Columbus, KS 66725

Mine 19 Cabin, 10338 NW Lawton Rd, Columbus, KS 66725

Big Brutus has tent camping and RV parking. http://www.bigbrutus.org/visitor_center.html

There are many hotel options in Joplin which is about 10 miles from the Southeast Kansas Nature Center.

Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 5 – 7, 2017 Pittsburg & Galena, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2017 KOS spring meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	\$15/person	_____	\$ _____
Sunday lunch (sandwiches)	\$11/person	_____	\$ _____
Surcharge for payment received after April 20 th	\$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)			\$ _____
<i>Or pay online via PayPal - http://tinyurl.com/KOSMeeting</i>			

Number of persons in party: _____

Special needs or requests: _____

Registrations received after April 20th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.

Please mail completed registration with full payment to:

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

e-mail: maxt@cox.net

In submitting this registration form I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2017 KOS spring meeting. *(Registering on line, or submission of this form electronically indicates your acceptance of these conditions.)*

Signatures

Date

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

Alert!!!!!!!!!!

If you have not renewed your KOS Membership, this will be the last newsletter that you receive. Can't remember if you renewed? Contact Membership Development Coordinator Patty Marlett at pmarlett@cox.net

Support Kansas Ornithological Society Inc.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)

Help Wanted: The Council Grove Reservoir Corps of Engineers Office is looking for volunteers to lead hikes or interpretive programs this summer. Contact Mieko.G.Alley@usace.army.mil if you're interested!

Have you considered including KOS in your estate? Contact Treasurer Max Thompson for details on how to make this happen.