



# *The Horned Lark*

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

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## **From the President's Pen**

**By Cheryl Miller**

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Twice in the last six months I've had the opportunity to view some of the study skins in the ornithology collection of the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas. Last October during KOS tours of the bird collection, doctoral student Lucas DiCicco opened a cabinet and pulled out a drawer holding Superb Bird-of-Paradise specimens. After the small group of us nodded appreciatively, he opened another cabinet and showed us a tray of Resplendent Quetzals, their long tails curled loosely in the trays.

Mark Robbins, collection manager, showed several species to the Kansas Bird Records Committee after its winter meeting in February. As our group had just discussed Chihuahuan and Common Ravens, he pulled out drawers of both species. A specimen of a Common Raven collected on Attu Island, Alaska was more than twice the size of one collected in the lower 48 states. He also showed us the drawer of Carolina Parakeets and handled a box that contained a complete skeleton of one of the species.

In both instances, I think most of us present—birders with various levels of experience—realized the significance and importance of each study skin in the collection, even with there being more than one skin for a species. The ability to compare skins, and to see the tag indicating where it was from and when it was collected, was not only interesting, but gave us an understanding of how birds can differ within the same species. And that was only from looking at them.

I just finished reading "The Feather Thief" by Kirk Wallace Johnson. He wrote an expansive book detailing the June 2009 theft of 299 study skins from the National History Museum at Tring, near London. The thief, Edwin Rist, was an American studying flute at the Royal Music Academy

and a world recognized fly tying champion. He was obsessed with obtaining the feathers described in Victorian-era fly tying "recipes." Many of these flies call for feathers from rare and endangered birds such as the Resplendent Quetzal.

Johnson tells an intriguing, well-written story with appeal to natural history buffs, scientists and fly tiers. He raises many questions of science, ethics and friendship. More importantly, he documents the considerable damage one person can carelessly wreak upon a broader community. The presiding judge in Rist's case characterized his theft as a "natural history disaster of world proportions."

How does all of this relate to KOS? Our mission statement includes the phrase "the study, conservation and enjoyment of wild birds." Without collections such as these in Lawrence and Tring, we are limited in the amount of study that can occur, particularly when it comes to tissue samples and DNA analysis. Multiple skins of the same species may seem redundant, but just as you and I are unique and important individuals, so are they.

I am grateful to work with a thoughtful, dedicated KOS board. We discussed a wide range of topics recently, ranging from our spring and fall meetings to managing Dingus Natural Area to giving commentary on the EPA's revised definition of "Waters of the United States." Thank you, board! I hope many members will join us for our meetings this year: May 10-12 in Fort Scott and Oct. 4-6 in Wichita. All are welcome, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

- Cheryl

# From the Keyboard

By the Editor

It's been a long winter; a really long winter. Birding time has been far less than I would prefer. Which essentially means less than 8 hours a day! There's a lot of reasons for that and none of them are important. But just like you I'm ready for every little hint that spring is on it's way. Most of the hints I look for are birds. Either sight or sound of birds returning to the area or starting to declare that the breeding season is nigh. Either one is sunshine on a cloudy day to my soul!

As I write this a massive storm system is moving through the state heading north. A similar storm over the ocean would likely be classified as a hurricane. Storms like this move birds. They move birds staging to migrate before they would normally migrate. They move birds that don't normally migrate. We call these storm assisted vagrants. They bring excitement to birders and I can't wait for a few days post storm to see what was brought in. Perhaps nothing. But we go birding not because of what we WILL see, we go birding for what we MIGHT see. That's where the excitement comes in.

Bald Eagles are in their nesting season. Like many other birders and biologists across the state, I help keep track of eagle nests. Last year Kansas had 137 documented active Bald Eagle nests, a record number. I have no reason to expect there to be any fewer this year. These are exciting times for Bald Eagles. They have moved from being an endangered species in the continental US to being moved off the endangered species list. The sight of a Bald Eagle soaring overhead still thrills my heart. Watching Bald Eagles feeding young at a nest, from a safe distance of course, is an amazing thing that I can watch for hours. Take some time to visit your favorite large reservoir as there is likely a nest there right now!

Prairie-chickens are also getting into the mood. Now that winter appears to finally be breaking, lek action is going to be really getting cranked up. Watching prairie-chickens (Greater or Lesser) on leks is something between hilarious and mesmerizing. If you've never seen it, you need to. Another amazing ritual of spring is the Sandhill Crane migration. Nebraska gets a lot of press for migrating cranes but many of those birds come right through Kansas. Numbers are winding down now as they move on to Nebraska and then points further north. But if you've never seen and heard, Sandhill Cranes in migration, put it on your list. It's something I've been observing since I was four years old and it stirs the soul with those ancient calls.

One last thing to put on your 2019 To-Do list is attend a KOS meeting. This issue holds the registration information for the Spring KOS meeting headquartered in Fort Scott/Bourbon County. The combination of gathering with other birders, new friends and old, and birding new and different areas is something else that stirs my soul. Plan to join us for this annual migration of birders. It'll do your birder spirit some good!

- Chuck



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**Official Nomination Form  
2019 Kansas Ornithological Society  
Avian Conservationist of the Year**

The Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award is given to an individual for making significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education. Nominations should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation, through the management or preservation of habitats, education or research. A nominee may be any professional, volunteer, educator or other person that has accomplished significant contributions in any of the areas listed. The nominee does not have to be a member of KOS, but the nominator must be a current member of KOS. The accomplishment should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation, research and/or education within the State of Kansas. This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting. More information can be found at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/AvianConservationist.html>

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

**Nomination Form**

**To make a nomination, send this form with attachments to:  
Bob Gress, 1409 W 35th N, Wichita KS, 67204 or to [bobgress@cox.net](mailto:bobgress@cox.net)**

Name of Nominee:

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Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

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

# Why County Listing?

## By Henry Armknecht

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I have been asked why I am so interested in county listing. The short answer is that it is fun and an excuse to explore Kansas.

Apparently the first time I submitted a list for inclusion in county listing was May 2001. I was a new birder who knew very little about Kansas or the birds that make it their home at one time or another. I was listable in only Mitchell County where I lived. Mike Rader had 154 Mitchell County species. I had 146 – many with Mike’s help.

When I submitted my first county list, Scott Seltman led statewide with 6515 out of 22802 documented county ticks in the state – the total of species in every county. Top ten listers in May of 2001:

6515	Scott Seltman
6120	Mike Rader
2734	Pete Janzen
2398	Dan Larson
2371	Galen Pittman
2210	Matt Gearheart
1928	Gregg Friesen
1583	Mick McHugh
1500	Chet Gresham
1487	Chuck Otte

I remember looking at the totals at the top of that list and thinking “Nobody will ever catch Scott or Mike.” Six thousand seemed like an insurmountable number. Now there are at least 20 birders with over 6,000 county ticks. Scott has more than doubled his total. One conversation that I had with Scott, about county listing, had a lasting impact on me. Scott told me that county listing provided an excuse to visit all parts of Kansas and made every bird observation relevant. Scott is an amazing birder and I will never have the skills or memory that he has, but he did provide inspiration to do more wandering around Kansas to look for new county birds.

As I have birded across Kansas one thing that has impressed me is that Kansas is beautiful. Not just some of the state, but all parts of the state. Different areas have different attractive features, but every county is beautiful. I grew up in Cheyenne County and remember wondering if I would ever get to see an oak tree. The forested and hilly eastern counties are wondrous to me because terrain and vegetation are so different from what I grew up with.

Western Kansas sometimes takes some understanding if you didn’t grow up there. The remoteness, quiet (when the wind isn’t blowing), and distant vistas are wonderful. One memory that is very Western Kansas is not a bird memory but points out how different it can be. I was on a Breeding Bird route with Jeff Calhoun in west central Kansas. We were in an agricultural area where there was nothing much taller than 6” for as far as we could see. We spotted a small animal in a bare field nearly ½ mile away and realized that it was a Swift Fox. I did my best imitation of a small rodent squeak and it looked at us. I squeaked again and it came running straight toward us. It came right by us at just a few feet and kept right on going.

As interesting as the places are the people that I have met as I wandered the state looking for birds. There is not enough room (or memory) to name everyone, but virtually every Kansas birder has at some time helped me with learning about birds as well as with finding new county birds for my lists. Some have located birds and shared them with me. Others have led or participated in field trips, attended KOS events, shared birding locations, or just birded with me in their home turf or areas we chose to explore together. In addition to birders, I have met farmers and ranchers, good Samaritans, law enforcement, etc. There are great people in all parts of Kansas.

The birds are the excuse for this wandering, looking, studying, counting, recording, and learning. When I started county listing, there were 21 counties where nobody had the 75 species it takes to be listable. It looked like a challenge to me. There were also quite a few counties with fewer than 200 documented species with Wichita County standing at only 117. A quick look at the existing county lists showed that there were a lot of birds that were out there and needed to be documented. That seemed like another challenge.

Through the years, I have helped document nearly 900 new ticks in at least 77 counties where they were not on the list in May 2001. There are now over 29,000 known county ticks so a lot of other birders have also wandered Kansas documenting new county sightings in the same time period.

Over time, there have been various goals that have pushed me toward higher listing totals. I mentioned two above. Another was to get listable in all 105 counties, then to push my total to 100, 125, and then at least 150 species in every county. One current goal is to observe at least 50% of the documented species in every county. I am less than 10 counties from meeting that goal. I have birded all 105 counties each year in 2016, 2017, and 2018. Maybe I will go for a 4-peat.

I have heard that some birders think county listing is too competitive. Everything in life is competitive. In fact, if a baby is not competitive (and curious) when it is born it will die. Each person chooses how they want to compete and feed their curiosity. Some measure the success by income, social status, etc. Birders tend to be competitive in wanting to learn more about birds, get better at finding and identifying them, getting better photos, share with others, etc. I don't see this competition as between birders as

much as I see it internal within each of us to be a better birder (however we choose to define it) this year than we were last year.

County listing has provided many opportunities for me to learn as a birder. I'm far advanced from where I was in May 2001, but I still don't consider myself to be among the best birders in Kansas. As one fellow birder told me – I was “not the best birder, just the one with the most gas.” My observation skills need to be better developed. I have a terrible aptitude for music including learning and remembering bird songs and calls. Kansas has some of the best birders in the nation. Get out and bird with them every opportunity you can even if you aren't a county lister.

Is county listing for everyone? No. Has it been a rewarding experience for me? Yes. I bird for fun and county listing is part of the fun. I hope to see each of you on the trail, at the lake, or wherever birds or birders are found.

*(Henry is a retired school teacher and lives in Hays. He is a KOS Board member and well known birder across the state. He enjoys sharing his passion for birds, nature, and learning with anyone and everyone!)*



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# Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2018, (August – November) Chuck Otte, compiler

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This is the report of the fall birding season in Kansas, August through November. Once again, it seemed that many summer residents and migrants lingered much further into the season than we have historically noted. Shorebirds and passerines led the list in their delayed departures. Sightings on dates that in previous years would have been noteworthy were very un-noteworthy by the sheer numbers that were still present. Space does not allow us to note all the potentially record late departures.

While no longer being reported during the later fall season, scoters continue to appear in good numbers. All three species along with Long-tailed Ducks were noted in October and November. Quite noteworthy is the 23 Black Scoters seen at Wilson Lake in late November. This appears to be the most scoters, of any species, seen at one location at the same time in recorded ornithological history for Kansas.

In recent years Sandhill Cranes have been seen in increasing numbers of eastern counties during migration. While this can often be accounted for by strong storms moving birds well east of traditional migration paths, there may be some widening of those traditional paths as well. Sandhill Cranes noted in Geary on 1 November and Riley on 2 November may be indicative of this trend.

Red-breasted Nuthatches started showing up early and in good numbers. While likely not to the levels seen in 1999, 2004, 2007, and 2012 (Otte, unpublished data) the numbers did appear to be higher than in the past few years. Contrarily, Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers appeared to be very low this season, perhaps the lowest since 2000 (Otte, unpublished data).

Fall warblers appeared to be in good numbers with several species arriving earlier than normal, somewhat in contrast to the reluctance that they showed to leave later on in the season. Both Blue-winged and Canada Warblers put in early showings and in good numbers. Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Common Yellowthroats seemed to be the most commonly recorded lingering fall warblers in late October, although Common Yellowthroats have periodically been recorded into December.

A growing concern is the failure of birders to file appropriate reports with the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) of species on the KBRC review list: <http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>. Numerous sightings were reported to eBird of species that are on the Review List that do not appear in this list simply because there were insufficient details to confirm the identification. Species are on the review list for a number of reasons (rarity, range expansion or contraction, conservation concerns, extralimital, challenging to identify, etc.) and the cooperation of all birders in adequately documenting these sightings would be greatly appreciated by the KBRC and ornithologists researching these species.

Any report marked as having been turned in to the Kansas Bird Records Committee should be considered tentative until review by the Committee is completed. Thank you to everyone who reports and contributes sightings for this report. Please forward any noteworthy sightings to me at [cotte@ksu.edu](mailto:cotte@ksu.edu) or mailed to 613 Tamerisk Dr., Junction City, KS 66441.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 continuing at I-70 Service Area Seen through 8/12	Leavenworth	8/01	m.ob.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Family group(s) near Larned	Pawnee	8/25	BAS
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 photographed at Lyons Ethanol Plant	Rice	9/28	fide MR
Cackling Goose	1 at Elkhart WTP, unusual early record	Morton	8/05	TL
Garganey	1 at Lake Wabaunsee	Wabaunsee	10/25	DLS
Northern Pintail	1 at farm pond northwest of Webster Res	Rooks	8/11	HA, KG
Black Scoter	23 at Lucas Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/30	DK
Common Merganser	1 somewhat early at Perry Lake	Jefferson	8/17	KC
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Tuttle Creek outlet River Ponds	Riley	11/07	LJ

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Western Grebe	1 at Perry Lake, easterly 2 present on 11/11	Jefferson	10/26	KC
Clark's Grebe	1 at Horse Thief Res. Early for a migrant	Hodgeman	8/24	MiL, MGo
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Cowley SFL, somewhat late	Cowley	9/26	HA
Greater Roadrunner	1 northeast of Hays KBRC	<u>Ellis</u>	8/21	JPf
White-throated Swift	1 at Smoky Hills Audubon Sanctuary, KBRC <u>Saline</u>		9/30	KK
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 along Plum Creek, westerly	Cheyenne	9/07	MK
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Satanta, westerly	Haskell	9/30	MR
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 in Garden City, westerly and late	Finney	10/16	SSh
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at feeder in Shawnee, late	Johnson	10/26	DBy
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 in Garden City, first of season	Finney	8/05	SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	1 adult female in Lenexa	Johnson	8/11	CH
Rufous Hummingbird	1 adult female in Leawood	Johnson	8/12	CE
Calliope Hummingbird	1 immature male south of Wilson	<u>Russell</u>	9/04	MR, DK
Yellow Rail	At least 2 at Concannon WA	Finney	10/01	BC
Yellow Rail	1 in Kill Creek Park	Johnson	10/04	RW <sub>r</sub>
Yellow Rail	1 at Clinton Lake model airplane field	Douglas	10/13	JW
Yellow Rail	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/23	RB
Common Gallinule	1 at Baker Wetlands Continuing bird	Douglas	8/01	KC, MaL
Whooping Crane	1 early migrant, QNWR	Stafford	10/05	CM
Whooping Crane	22 at QNWR	Stafford	10/20	BJ
Whooping Crane	22 at QNWR, 21 adults, 1 immature A total of 47 were seen during October, 104 total for the fall season	Stafford	11/01	BJ
American Avocet	<u>557</u> at QNWR	Stafford	8/23	BJ
Hudsonian Godwit	1 at QNWR, rare fall record	Stafford	10/26	SS, PB
Red Knot	2 adults at CBWA Seen through 8/05	Barton	8/02	TM
Little Stint	1 photographed at CBWA, KBRC	<u>Barton</u>	8/30	RP
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at playa, westerly	Wallace	9/14	JC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 at Satanta WTP, westerly	<u>Haskell</u>	9/21	KG
Western Sandpiper	1 at Antioch Marsh, easterly	Miami	8/04	m.ob.
Short-billed Dowitcher	2, old Herington City Lake	<u>Dickinson</u>	8/03	KG
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Antioch Marsh	Miami	9/08	MGo
Red-necked Phalarope	<u>8</u> at Scott City cemetery pond	Scott	9/28	TS
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Brown Wetlands, Hillsdale WA	Miami	10/06	WC, JW
Red-necked Phalarope	5 at QNWR	Stafford	10/12	MR
Red Phalarope	1 at QNWR	Stafford	10/03	MN
Parasitic Jaeger	1 at CBWA	Barton	9/03	ABa
Parasitic Jaeger	1 at Clinton Lake, KBRC Seen through 9/06	Douglas	9/03	DBo, m.ob.
Sabine's Gull	1 at QNWR Seen through 10/17	Stafford	10/12	MR
Laughing Gull	1 at Winfield City Lake, late	Cowley	10/07	MT
Laughing Gull	1 at Hillsdale SP	Miami	10/13	MGo, JT
California Gull	1 early, CBWA	Barton	8/02	TM
California Gull	1 at Cheney SP	Reno	8/19	AM

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Herring Gull	1 early at Perry Lake	Jefferson	8/17	KC
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at CBWA	Barton	8/26	MiL, MGo
Common Tern	1 at Lovewell Reservoir, early	Jewell	8/01	CS
Pacific Loon	1 at Minooka Park, Wilson Lake	Russell	11/10	MR
Common Loon	1 continuing bird at Perry Lake	Jefferson	8/02	HA
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Antioch Marsh, Hillsdale WA	Miami	8/05	MGo
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	10/10	KC, DP
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Twin Lakes, Wichita	Sedgwick	10/12	MN
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/21	DL
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/24	ML
Green Heron	1 late at Wild Horse Creek SFA	Graham	10/20	HA
White Ibis	1 adult at Lake McKinney	Kearny	9/21	KM
Black Vulture	1 near Hedville, KBRC	<u>Saline</u>	8/18	KK
Black Vulture	1 at Clinton Lake SP	Douglas	9/08	AP
Black Vulture	<u>30</u> at deer carcass near Riverton	Cherokee	10/16	JR
Osprey	1 at Clinton Lake Dam, late	Douglas	11/25	KC, DP
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 at Governor's Mansion, Topeka Last reported 9/05	Shawnee	8/28	SN, m.ob.
Golden Eagle	1 seen near Muscotah	Atchison	10/13	DMr
Northern Goshawk	1 adult northeast of St. George	Pottawatomie	11/08	DR
Mississippi Kite	<u>150</u> over Garden City	Finney	8/17	TS, SSh
Mississippi Kite	<u>581</u> in Winfield, likely peak of migration	Cowley	9/06	MT
Mississippi Kite	1 immature at Camp Horizon, late	Cowley	10/03	DS
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 along Coon Creek, westerly	<u>Ford</u>	9/03	CMM
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 south of Belleville	<u>Republic</u>	9/10	HA
Broad-winged Hawk	1 at Vineyard Park, Hays, early migrant	Ellis	8/07	NV
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1 calling at La Cygne Lake	Miami	10/20	ABa
Merlin	1 early at QNWR	Stafford	8/15	SS
Merlin	1 early at Tuttle Creek SP	Riley	8/25	DR
Prairie Falcon	1 adult near Hedville	Saline	8/02	KK
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2 late in Burcham Park, Lawrence	Douglas	10/18	PG
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 along Salt Creek, westerly	Reno	9/15	AM
Gray Flycatcher	1, Tunnerville Work Station, CNG, KBRC	Morton	9/22	AM
Philadelphia Vireo	1 northeast of Wayne	<u>Republic</u>	9/10	HA
Purple Martin	1 late in Leavenworth	Leavenworth	9/29	JS
Tree Swallow	2 late at Browning Lake	Doniphan	11/21	TJ
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 in Dodge City, early	Ford	8/11	JC
Brown Creeper	1 in Tribune City Park & Fairgrounds	<u>Greeley</u>	10/27	HA, JC
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 late, near Hedville	Saline	10/16	KK
Mountain Bluebird	1 south part of county near K-177	<u>Morris</u>	11/03	JBw
Wood Thrush	1 at Lyon SFL, late	Lyon	11/06	BW
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 southwest of Ulysses	Grant	10/02	LL
Sage Thrasher	1 near Nebraska state line, KBRC	Cheyenne	9/02	KE
Common Redpoll	2 at feeder near Linwood	Johnson	11/08	BH



<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Pine Siskin	1 at QNWR feeding with goldfinches	Stafford	8/13	MN
Smith's Longspur	2 in northcentral part of county, westerly	Comanche	11/11	JL
Smith's Longspur	3 QNWR, westerly	<u>Rice</u>	11/10	JBi, SH
Snow Bunting	1 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	11/20	JE
Spotted Towhee	1 early at Washington SFL	Washington	9/08	JC
Black-throated Sparrow	1 near Point of Rocks, KBRC	Morton	9/23	AM
Grasshopper Sparrow	2 late southeast corner of county	Kiowa	11/11	JL
LeConte's Sparrow	1 near Quinter	<u>Gove</u>	10/13	HA, JC
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Boicourt Area, few fall records, photo	Linn	8/17	MMH
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Indian Creek Trail	Johnson	8/29	WKH
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Roe Park	Johnson	9/16	WKH
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at SP, Perry Lake	Jefferson	8/30	MMH
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Neosho WA	Neosho	9/09	ABu
Blue-winged Warbler	1 near Hillsdale Res	Miami	9/09	MGo, KC, MiL
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Bernard Park, Lansing	Leavenworth	9/13	JS
Black-and-white Warbler	1 westerly and early at Ford SFL	Ford	8/19	JC
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 in Garden City, easterly and early	Finney	8/28	SSh
Cape May Warbler	1 northeast of Lawrence	Leavenworth	10/18	GP
Magnolia Warbler	1 at Hillsdale Lake, somewhat early	Miami	8/22	MMH
Prairie Warbler	1 at Hillsdale SP	Miami	9/08	MGo
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 at Hope Cemetery	Franklin	11/04	MGo
Canada Warbler	1 at Clinton WA, early migrant	Douglas	8/15	KC
Canada Warbler	1 at Perry Lake, early	Jefferson	8/20	MMH
Canada Warbler	1 at Lake Parsons, early	Neosho	8/21	ABu
Western Tanager	1 in Russell Springs	Logan	10/13	HA, JC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 late at rural residence near Spring Hill	Miami	11/22	KE
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 at Benedictine College Campus	<u>Atchison</u>	10/08	LW

**Locations and notes:** CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG - Cimarron National Grasslands, KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee report filed, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Res. – Reservoir, SFA – State Fishing Area, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, WA – Wildlife Area, WTP – Water Treatment Ponds. ***Underlined county name indicates new county record. Underlined number indicates an exceptionally high count.***

**Observers - Individuals:** Henry Armknecht, Aaron Batterbee (ABa), Dawn Bayless (DBy), Jeremy Birket, (JBi), Jayden Bowen (JBw), Roger Boyd, Dan Broers (DBo), Peter Burke, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Jeff Calhoun, Kathy Carroll, Brent Clark, Walter Cochran, Kelli Egbert, Jared Engelbert, Corey Entriken, Malcolm Gold (MGo), Kevin Groeneweg, Peter Grund, Bart Hall, Chris Hobbs, Steve Hofhine, Lowell Johnson, Barry Jones, Thomas Jones, Mark Keller, William Kirsch (WKH), Dave Klema, Kaleb Kroeker, Mark Land, Larry Langstaff, Dan LaShelle (DLS), Dan Larson, Jonathan Lautenbach, Tony Leukering, Matt Longabaugh (MaL), Micky Louis (MiL), Travis Mahan, Mick McHugh (MMH), Christi McMillen (CMM), Kurtis Meier, Don Merz (DMr), Andrew Miller, Carol Morgan, Sue Newland, Mark Nolen, Robert Penner, Diane Persons, Jody Pfannenstiel (JPf), Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Jenn Rader, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Max Thompson, Jarret Thurman, Nick Varvel, Lucas Wilson, Ben Wilson, Jeff Witters, Rodney Wright (RWr) ***Observers - Groups:*** BAS - Burroughs Audubon Society, m.ob. – multiple observers

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

# Kansas Ornithological Society

## General Membership Business Meeting

### October 6, 2018

#### University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

The Kansas Ornithological Society held its 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence October 5 – 7, 2018. There were 96 registered attendees. Fourteen papers were presented in the Saturday Paper's Session. Members in attendance gathered before the banquet for a group photo in front of Dyche Hall, just as those in attendance at the very first KOS Annual Meeting did on May 21, 1949. Bob Gress presented an informative and enjoyable evening program on "Wild Peru". Sunday morning field trips, with drizzle, fog and light rain, went to areas primarily around Douglas County tallying 134 species. After an enjoyable box lunch and field trip list compilation at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center, KOS members headed home.

#### **Morning Business Session**

The meeting was called to order at 11:57 a.m. by President Nic Allen

**Nomination Committee:** Matt Gearheart, Nominating Committee chairman, presented the slate of officers and board members for 2018/2019: President – Cheryl Miller; Vice President – Jenn Rader; Corresponding Secretary – Chuck Otte; Treasurer – Max Thompson; Membership Development Coordinator – Nic Allen; Business Manager – Dan Larson; KOS Bulletin Editor – Eugene Young; Horned Lark Editor – Chuck Otte; Board Members – Dave Rintoul and Nick Varvel. Matt also announced that the Board Member positions of Henry Armknecht and Rodney Wright do not expire and that Nic Allen will serve as Past-President. These last three positions are automatic and do not require a vote. President Allen announced that at the afternoon session the floor would be opened to nominations from the floor and a vote on the board members would be conducted at that time. Nic thanked those members and officers who were going off the board for their service and dedication.

**Research Committee:** John Schukman reported that in 2017 there had been no funding requests. But four funding requests had been received in 2018. John encouraged the students present to apply for research funds. They should contact John for information on how to apply. Funding requests are also open to the general membership.

**Bulletin:** Gene Young, *Bulletin* Editor, reported that the September issue was not in the mailing with the Newsletter but is now ready and will go out with the December mailing. Gene said that the research papers being presented would be good to write up and publish in the Bulletin and he was more than willing to help students and anyway prepare papers for publication.

**Horned Lark:** Chuck Otte, editor, encouraged anyone interested in being the Horned Lark editor to contact him for more details. He 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](http://KSBIRDS.ORG).

**Bird Records Committee:** Chairman of the KBRC, Gene Young, reported that the first round of voting on records submitted in 2018 had just wrapped up. From these records submitted Kansas has added a new species to its state list, the Bronzed Cowbird.

**Business Manager:** Dan Larson, Business Manager, informed the membership that he did have items available for sale at the meeting. He would be at the registration desk during breaks if anyone was interested in purchasing items.

**Membership:** Patty Marlett reported that membership was down slightly at 286. We seem to be losing students and library memberships. KOS has contracted with a service that provides our publications to subscribing members so probably accounts for the library membership losses. The core membership appears to be stable however.

**Secretary/Webmaster:** Chuck encouraged members to investigate the KSBIRDS.ORG website as there was a great deal of KOS history there as well as copies of our publications. He encouraged members that if they were looking for information on KOS or Kansas birds and couldn't find it on the website to contact him.

**Treasurer:** Max Thompson announced that KOS was in good financial position. The investments had been doing well so far in 2018.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Nic announced that the location of the 2019 Spring KOS Meeting/Field Trips was still being determined but would be somewhere in northeast or east central Kansas and would be May 10 – 12, 2019. The reason for being a week later was to avoid conflicting with the Wings 'N Wetlands event in Great Bend which had to move a week later than normal. The Fall 2019 KOS Meeting will be in Wichita October 4 – 6, 2019.

With no further business to be conducted, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

#### **Afternoon Business Session**

President Nic Allen called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

**Election of the Board:** Nic reviewed the slate of officers/board members from the nominating committee that was presented in the morning session and asked for any nominations from the floor. **Dan Larson withdrew his name from consideration and nominated Malcolm Gold for the position of Business Manager. Chuck Otte moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the presented slate. The motion was seconded by Gene Young and passed unanimously.**

Chuck Otte presented the proposed By-Laws changes which had been published earlier in the year in the *Horned Lark* and had been handed out at registration. Chuck explained that some of the changes were simply cleaning up antiquated verbiage and other changes were to reflect the way KOS now conducted business in light of new and emerging communication technologies. (copy of changes can be found in the March 2018 *Horned Lark*, <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/newsletter/HL4501.pdf>) **Chuck moved to accept the proposed By-Laws changes as presented. Henry Armknecht seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mike Rader explained that KOS had started sponsoring some of the scholarships for Kansas Eco-Meet competitive event and he thanked them for that support and for their overall support of environmental education in the state.

John Schukman and Nic Allen announced that Audubon of Kansas was holding a one day Crane Festival at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and was looking for volunteers to help. Interested parties were encouraged to contact John or Nic for more details.

KOS Treasurer presented a few more details on the KOS financials. While the checking account total seemed large, he explained that no bills for the current meeting had been paid yet. Much of the total assets of the society are in the investment account which had been doing well. Max further explained that our average membership fees don't really cover the "average" cost of membership but we were able to keep dues low by utilizing earnings from the investment account.

**Seeing no further business, Nic declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.**

## Fall Board Meeting

The KOS Board met over lunch on October 6, 2018 at Freddy's Restaurant in Lawrence.

President Nic Allen called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. Attendance: Nic Allen, Max Thompson, Kevin Groeneweg, Matt Gearheart, Dan Larson, Cheryl Miller, Patty Marlett, Henry Armknecht, Gene Young, and Chuck Otte.

Chuck had sent out the minutes from the winter board meeting held February 3, 2018. **Kevin moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Max seconded the motion and it passed 10 – 0.** Chuck had forgotten to bring a report of email business conducted during the year. He will update that list and it will be acted on at the winter board meeting.

**Committee Reports:** John Schukman had submitted a written report showing the students who had presented papers in 2017, those that were presenting in 2018 and the listing of those who had received research awards over the past year.

**Committee Appointments:** Nic appointed Patty, Matt and Dan to audit the treasurers records before the weekend was over. He then appointed the following Committee Chairs: John Schukman – Student Research, Bill Busby – Conservation, Dave Rintoul – Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council if he was willing to fill that role, if not Chuck would continue. Bob Gress will be the lead on the Avian Conservation Award as Rob Penner was stepping down from that position.

**Boyd Award:** Cheryl Miller moved to present the 2018 Boyd Award to Gregg Farley. The motion was seconded and passed 10 – 0.

**Treasurer's Report:** Max handed out a written treasurer's report. Max indicated that PayPal fees for the year were approximately \$200, but he felt that the ease that it provided for paying for dues, meeting registrations, etc. was well worth the expense. **Nic moved to accept the Treasurer's report and file it for audit. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**KBBAT:** Chuck and Gene explained that they had met with KDWPT about possible funding for a new atlas project. The meeting led to a realization that perhaps the direction that each group wanted to go with this project was not mutually beneficial. As a result of that and in part due to Gene and Chuck being quite busy with other activities, it was felt that KBBAT will be put on hold for the near term.

**Spring Meeting:** Although the date was set, the location was still up in the air. By consensus it was agreed that if details couldn't soon be worked out for a location in the Brown/Nemaha County area we probably needed to look at Linn/Miami county area.

**Other Business:** Nic explained that Audubon of Kansas (AOK) was holding a Crane Festival November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and that AOK was looking for sponsors and volunteers to help. After discussion it was determined that KOS probably didn't have an interest in being a sponsor but if Nic and John Schukman wanted to announce a call for volunteers at the afternoon business meeting that there was no problem with that from the Board.

**Seeing no further business that needed to be addressed Nic adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.**

**Chuck Otte**  
**KOS Secretary**



**Official Nomination Form  
2019 Kansas Ornithological Society  
Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award**

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

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

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

**Nomination Form**

To make a nomination send this form, with attachments, to Cheryl Miller, [avian67226@gmail.com](mailto:avian67226@gmail.com)

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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

# KOS SPRING MEETING

Fort Scott, Kansas

May 10 - 12, 2019

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

Make plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in Fort Scott, Kansas, May 10 - 12, 2019. KOS has never met in Bourbon County so this is “new” KOS country. Field trips will likely entail areas in Bourbon County, and surrounding counties including Linn County, home of KOS’s Dingus Property, an intriguing “untouched” tract of timber: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/Dingus/Dingus.htm>

**Headquarters:** Headquarter motel will be the Travelodge in Fort Scott. This is high school graduation time so attendees are encouraged to make reservations early.

**Friday evening:** An informal gathering is in the works. Keep checking the spring meeting web page for updates: [http://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2019/kos\\_2019\\_spring\\_meeting.htm](http://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2019/kos_2019_spring_meeting.htm)

**Saturday Field Trips:** Meet in the Travelodge parking lot at 6:30. Field trips are not yet finalized but it’s safe to say that they will head to locations in Bourbon and Linn counties and likely into Allen and Anderson Counties as well. 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 El Charro Restaurant, 2503 S Main St, Fort Scott at 6:30 p.m. This restaurant is across the parking lot from the Travelodge.

**Sunday:** Meet in the Travelodge parking lot at 6:30 a.m. for field trips. After a ½ day of birding, mainly closer to Fort Scott, we’ll have a box lunch (sandwiches, veggie option available – please indicate your desire for this option on the registration form) and compilation of the birds seen on all the field trips. The compilation will be in Shelter House #1 at Gunn Park, 1010 Park Ave on the west side of Fort Scott. To get there, get on Main Street in downtown Ft Scott, drive west on 8th Street to Heylman St. (a T in the road - turn left.) Drive south on Heylman to Park Ave and turn west into Gunn Park. Shelter House #1 is the first one just shortly after entering the park. A map of Gunn Park can be viewed at: [http://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2019/Gunn\\_Park.pdf](http://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2019/Gunn_Park.pdf)

**Alternative directions to Gunn Park:** From the hotel parking lot, turn right (north) on Main (Hwy 69). Turn left (west) on 23rd street. (Just before McDonalds). Follow 23rd street to the stop sign at Horton. (Fort Scott Community College John Deere Facility sits at that corner). Turn right (north) on Horton. Follow Horton to 9th Street. Turn left (west) on 9th Street, Go 2 blocks to stop sign on Burke Street. Turn left (south) on Burke Street 1 block. You will see a water tower & water treatment plant. Turn right (west) at water treatment plant and drive into the park.

**Accommodations:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Travelodge**, 2505 US-69, Fort Scott KS, 620-955-4283 (South side of Fort Scott). Be sure to mention the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) block. Rates have been quoted at \$69.24/\$80.78 room rate (1 bed/2 beds). The room block expires May 9th but don’t wait!

Other housing options can be viewed online at <https://visitfortscott.com/stay/>

**Camping:** Camping is also available at Gunn Park, 1010 Park Ave, Fort Scott, on the west side of Fort Scott. Gunn Park is a city park along the Marmaton River. To reserve a camping spot call Diane at City Hall, 620-223-3566. Camping spots are available for a nominal fee.

# Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 10 – 12, 2019 Fort Scott, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2019 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)	\$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Surcharge for payment received after April 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)			\$ _____
<i>Or pay online via PayPal -</i>			

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

Special needs or requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations received after April 30<sup>th</sup> will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.**  
**No registration refunds for cancellations after April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Please mail/email completed registration with full payment (even if paying online) 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 2019 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.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student               | \$5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual            | \$20   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                | \$25   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Individual | \$30   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Family     | \$35   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing          | \$45 or more   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member           | \$300 (or two consecutive<br>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

## KOS Fall Meeting

**October 4 - 6, 2019**

**Wichita, Kansas**

Annual Business Meeting

Presented Papers

Banquet

Networking

Birding

Plan now to attend and look for registration information in early August!

*Fall 2020 - October 2 - 4, 2020  
Benedictine College, Atchison*

## Dues are Due!

If you have not renewed your KOS Membership then this will be the last newsletter that you will receive!

There are several ways to renew your membership. Start by tearing off this page (or copying it) fill out the short little form above, write a check out to KOS and mail it all to Max Thompson (address on the form above.)

Or, go to [http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos\\_member.html](http://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_member.html) print out the page, fill it in and mail the form and your check to Max.

Last option, and perhaps the easiest, is to go to the link above and use the online option to renew and pay your dues with your PayPal account or your credit card.

Can't remember if you've paid your dues for 2019? Contact Nic Allen (see page 2) and ask!