



# The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

December, 2019

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## From the President's Pen

By Cheryl Miller

Since August, a lone Rock Pigeon has been hanging outside of the anthropology building on the WSU campus. Mostly white, with some rusty brown markings, the bird has gathered a lot of attention by people who frequently pass through the area.

In addition to putting out food offerings (ranging from cornflakes to what appears to be quality birdseed), people have also named the bird: Dug (anthropology students); Sunny (by The Sunflower newspaper staff); Columba (yours truly). The bird appears healthy, but no one has seen it fly or associate with another pigeon.

Some of you may be wondering why I'm writing about an introduced species that can be a nuisance.

It's because it has gotten the attention of people otherwise preoccupied with a major focus of their lives: coursework, personal commitments or work duties.

It's because passersby have taken notice of a bird they don't know much about and are curious to learn more.

It's because it's brought people together who otherwise may not have much in common.

Isn't that what birding is about?

I doubt that a Rock Pigeon would ever be the species that hooked someone on birding, but I'd hate to squelch their interest in noticing a common species acting abnormally or differently than expected. How many of us have patiently answered questions about what birds line up by the thousands on utility wires each fall? Or which are those with long tails and glossy plumages that are always in Walmart

or Dillon's parking lots? Or why male goldfinches disappear at the end of the summer?

Columba has also served another purpose: getting people to ask thoughtful questions, form ideas and seek answers. That's something else birding encourages us to do.

My hope is that Columba will find and join a flock of pigeons that regularly hangs out on campus. In the meantime, perhaps Columba's presence will continue to encourage campus community members to cultivate an interest in other birds around them.

- Cheryl



# From the Keyboard

By the Editor

I have to start by thanking Pete and the entire Wichita crew for putting together a great fall/annual meeting. Also a big thank you to everyone, especially the students, who presented papers during the session on Saturday. It's always exciting and encouraging to see the ongoing research and results of research being done on birds not just in Kansas but around the world as well.

Without a doubt, the highlight for me, even above the birding, is the time spent with birding friends, both new and old. Some of the discussions are about birds and birding, some about family and some about whatever topic comes up. In a world that seems to be becoming increasingly "virtual", it's nice to see people face to face!

The Christmas Bird Count season is underway signaling that another year has rapidly drawn to its conclusion and a new year will begin. For many birders that means time to tally up the old and reset the lists for a new year, 2020.

This has been a different year for Jaye and I. We are in the process of moving north of Junction City to the farm where she grew up. The past year has been spent working on the farmhouse in preparation for this move. For everyone who has ever been involved in one of these activities you know how one thing invariably leads to another, and another, and another... well, you get the idea! Which is to say, that a lot of time that I might have normally spent birding, have been spent at the farmhouse. The year's bird list reflects this!

We always knew we'd move out to the farm at some point. While I haven't been looking forward to "the move", I am excited to be out in the country and for Jaye, she's moving "home". Over the years, with all the time spent at the farm, we've developed a pretty good bird list there already. Jaye's mother would routinely call about some bird at the feeders or bird bath that she wasn't certain about, which occasionally led to a quick trip to check it out.

Memorable over the years have been all three bunting species in the yard (Painteds nest up the road and in the pasture), Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and many enjoyable warbler species! The "one that got away" is perhaps the most memorable. Jaye and I were sitting in the Atlanta airport, one January afternoon, waiting for our flight to Panama for two weeks of birding. Jaye called her mother, before we left the country, and her mother perfectly described a Varied Thrush at the bird bath. Whether it truly was or just an abnormal robin, I'll never know, but I will be keeping the bird bath filled just in case!

Please take a moment to send in your dues if you haven't already. You can send in a check the old fashioned way or go online and securely pay through PayPal. Also, while you're on page 16, be sure to check out the 2020 KOS meetings. I hope you all are having a wonderful holiday season and I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

- Chuck



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# KOS 2019 Fall Meeting Compiled Field Trip List

Field trips to Butler, Elk, Greenwood, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Reno, and Sedgwick, counties

137 species

(see [http://ksbirds.org/kos/2019\\_Fall\\_Meeting\\_bird\\_list\\_by\\_county.htm](http://ksbirds.org/kos/2019_Fall_Meeting_bird_list_by_county.htm) for county details)

Greater White-fronted Goose	Osprey	Eastern Bluebird
Cackling Goose	Northern Harrier	American Robin
Canada Goose	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Gray Catbird
Wood Duck	Cooper's Hawk	Brown Thrasher
Blue-winged Teal	Bald Eagle	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Shoveler	Mississippi Kite	European Starling
Gadwall	Red-shouldered Hawk	Cedar Wawing
Mallard	Broad-winged Hawk	House Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Swainson's Hawk	American Pipit
Ruddy Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	House Finch
Northern Bobwhite	Great Horned Owl	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Pheasant	Barred Owl	American Goldfinch
Wild Turkey	Belted Kingfisher	Grasshopper Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-headed Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Clay-colored Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Field Sparrow
White-winged Dove	Downy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Dove	Hairy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Northern Flicker	White-throated Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Pileated Woodpecker	Vesper Sparrow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Kestrel	Savannah Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Song Sparrow
Sora	Least Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
American Coot	Eastern Phoebe	Swamp Sparrow
Sandhill Crane	Loggerhead Shrike	Spotted Towhee
Killdeer	Blue-headed Vireo	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Least Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Eastern Meadowlark
Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Franklin's Gull	Horned Lark	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Tree Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Herring Gull	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Tennessee Warbler
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Barn Swallow	Orange-crowned Warbler
Forster's Tern	Cliff Swallow	Nashville Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Carolina Chickadee	Mourning Warbler
American White Pelican	Black-capped Chickadee	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart
Great Egret	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler
Snowy Egret	House Wren	Palm Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Winter Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Green Heron	Sedge Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Marsh Wren	Summer Tanager
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Carolina Wren	Northern Cardinal
White-faced Ibis	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Indigo Bunting
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Dickcissel

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 5, 2019**

### **Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas**

The Kansas Ornithological Society held its 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting at the Sedgwick County Zoo and Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, October 4 – 6, 2019. There were 80 registered attendees. Fifteen papers were presented in the Saturday Paper's Session. Ted Floyd with the American Birding Association presented an enjoyable evening program on the fall and rise of field ornithology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sunday morning field trips went to various areas primarily around Sedgwick County. Field trips were also conducted on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> for those early arriving members who wanted to bird in the counties around Sedgwick County. Approximately 20 members attended the pre-annual meeting county listing field trips. After a box lunch and field trip list compilation at the Great Plains Nature Center, KOS members headed home.

#### **Morning Business Session**

The meeting was called to order at 11:41 a.m. by President Cheryl Miller.

**Gene Young moved to accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting, which had been printed in the March 2019 Horned Lark. The motion was seconded by Chuck Otte and passed unanimously.**

**Officer Reports** – The following officers had reports for the membership.

**Secretary** – Chuck Otte reported that minutes are printed in the Horned Lark usually the issue after a meeting occurs. If anyone wants a copy of minutes they should contact him.

**Treasurer** – Max Thompson reported that the society is doing okay financially. Investment account is volatile right now but doing well overall.

**Business Manager** – Malcolm Gold indicated that he had items for sale in the lobby of the Cargill Learning Center including 2020 calendars. He asked that if anyone has any ideas for products to let him know!

**Bulletin Editor** – Gene Young asked all the presenters to consider taking their papers and writing them up for the *Bulletin*. We need articles! Right now he has one article for September and one for December.

**Newsletter Editor/Webmaster** – Chuck asked Christmas Bird Count compilers to please start sending him details for their counts so he could get them posted on the web. That page would go live in mid-November. He also reminded everyone that all past issues of the Horned Lark were available online and copies of *The Bulletin* that were more than two years old were also online.

**Nomination Committee:** Malcom Gold reported the following slate was being presented for consideration. President – Cheryl Miller, Vice President – Jenn Rader, Secretary – Chuck Otte, Treasurer – Max Thompson, Membership Development Coordinator – Jeff Calhoun, Board Member – Kylee Sharp and Kurt Meier, Business Manager – Malcolm Gold, Editor, *Bulletin* - Eugene Young, Editor, Horned Lark – Chuck Otte. Malcolm also indicated that the Board Member terms of David Rintoul and Nick Varvel continued for another year and did not need to be voted on. Immediate Past President Nic Allen had indicated that he needed to step down from that role. The most recent Past President before Nic, Matt Gearheart, will therefore move back into that position for another year.

Cheryl said that nominations from the floor and voting on the slate would be done in the afternoon business meeting session.

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# 2019 KOS Avian Conservationist Award

## William H. "Bill" Busby

*Nominated by John Schukman*

Bill's interests center on the ecology and conservation of natural systems in the Great Plains. Areas of emphasis include vertebrate ecology and habitat relationships, bird population monitoring, biodiversity assessment, conservation planning and natural areas management.

His efforts have covered the state from the tallgrass prairie in Andersen County, the forests of Fort Leavenworth, the short-grass prairie/badlands of the Smoky Valley, to the sagebrush of the southwest.

One of Dr. Busby's most significant contributions is undoubtedly the role he played as architect of the expansion of the Baldwin Woods Forest Preserve. Through his dedication and vision Bill engaged his long-term professional network, forged new alliances, secured funding, and brought to bear his scientific expertise to double the size of this unit of the University of Kansas Field Station. The Preserve is important habitat for many forest breeding birds and other wildlife. Bill continues his leadership in the area by developing land management plans, leading field trips to school groups and the general public, and working with partners to secure additional parcels critical to the integrity of the Preserve.

Bill is widely recognized as one of the state's preeminent zoologists, with areas of specialization including animal ecology, conservation biology, and ornithology. His research program includes studies of a wide variety of invertebrates (insects, mussels, crustaceans) and vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) in Kansas and the Great Plains. Bill is the coauthor of two books, "An Illustrated Guide to Endangered and Threatened Species in Kansas" and "Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas", and nearly 20 peer-reviewed papers and 36 technical reports. He routinely provides counsel to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as conservation organizations, on a variety of non-game wildlife and grassland conservation issues. His expertise has helped shape environmental legislation, public policy, and conservation initiatives in Kansas and the grassland biome of North America.

Bill has served KOS as conservation committee chair, board member, and corresponding secretary. He was co-leader of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project. He has also coordinated the USGS Breeding Bird Survey for the state since 1991 as well as conducted individual BBS routes.

Bill has recently retired from the Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) after serving for nearly 30 years.

Bill has been the KBS contact on Kansas Forest Legacy project to expand KU Field Station in southern Douglas County, 2009. He has served on the Kansas Nongame

Wildlife Advisory Council. He has been the recipient, Imagination and Place Environmental Award for Public Service, Lawrence 2006-2012. He is a member, Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species Task Force 1989-present. Bill also serves as a field trip leader and presenter for many events and organizations (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, Symphony in the Flint Hills, KU Wheat State Whirlwind Tour, Lawrence Public Schools, Wings-n-Wetlands, Kansas Herpetological Society, Lawrence Arts Center, Audubon Society)

### **Selected Publications**

Powell, F.L.A. and Busby, W. H. 2013. Effects of grassland management on breeding birds at the western edge of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem in Kansas. *Natural Areas Journal* 33(2):130-138.

Busby, W. H., W. Kettle, J. Delisle, R. Moranz, S. Roels, V. Salisbury. 2010. Monitoring and habitat management for species of greatest conservation need: Anderson County Prairie Preserve. Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS Report No. 164:99 pp.

Kindscher, K., W.H. Busby, R. Craft, J.M. Delisle, C.C. Freeman, H. Kilroy, Q. Long, H. Loring, R. Moranz, and F.J. Norman. 2010. A natural areas inventory of Anderson and Linn Counties in Kansas. Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS, Open-File Report No. 158.

Busby, W. H. 2009. Lesser prairie-chicken listing update. *The Horned Lark* 36(4):3.

Kettle, W.D., S. Ashworth, and W. H. Busby. 2009. Prairie Restoration and Outreach in Eastern Kansas II: # 2007-0032-000. Final grant report to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Washington, D.C.),

Busby, W. H. 2008. Climate change and Great Plains birds. *The Horned Lark* 35(2):3.

Houts, M., R.D. Rodgers, R.D. Applegate, W. H. Busby. 2008. Using local knowledge and remote sensing to map known and potential prairie-chicken distribution in Kansas. *Prairie Naturalist* 40(3/4):87-93.

Busby, W. H., J.L. Zimmerman. 2001. The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas. The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas. Lawrence, KS:University Press of Kansas. 466 pp.

# Kansas Birding Roundup, Summer 2019, (June – July) Chuck Otte, compiler

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This is the report of the summer birding season in Kansas, June and July. The summer season, some may call it the breeding season, is brief and rapidly wedged in between northbound and southbound migration with the two migrations occasionally overlapping right through the summer season. The summer season can be slow, some birders even call it boring, but it can still hold many surprises.

A good number of waterfowl lingered well into the season. There are often lone sightings of ducks or geese that should have left but haven't. Sometimes it is obvious that these individuals can't fly due to injury, other times it is suspected. Some species that usually migrate also have confirmed breeding records in Kansas when the conditions are right. A wet spring season provided conditions that were likely encouraging to many waterfowl to delay their departure, or to spend the season in Kansas, possibly breeding. Many of these sightings for the summer season were well into western Kansas away from the typical areas where we'd expect to see them in the summer season.

The wet conditions also encouraged shorebirds to linger and certainly allowed for overlap of the north and southbound migrations. Lingered individuals may well be second year birds who simply aren't breeding yet. Early migrants are often adult birds that didn't nest or who had a nest destroyed or predated. Gull sightings, especially in June are not that common in Kansas. By even early July, though, we have southbound birds, as well as post breeding dispersal from coastal species, showing up in the state.

Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills are all nomadic species that will summer in Kansas and occasionally nest in the state. Determining breeding records for any of these species can be a challenge unless they are found at the nest or obvious recent fledglings still being attended by adults. The Pygmy Nuthatch seen and photographed in Hamilton County in June is not one of those nomadic species expected to be seen in the state. Virtually all Kansas records of this montane species are from the fall and winter season with one record each for April and May. I could find no past summer records of this species in Kansas.

Any report marked as having been turned in to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) 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@twinvalley.net](mailto:cotte@twinvalley.net) or mailed to 11319 Dundon Rd, Milford KS 66514. *(Please note new email and postal address.)*

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2 at pond in Pittsburg	Crawford	6/27	CG
Snow Goose	7 at Lake McKinney, late	Kearny	6/25	CS
Cinnamon Teal	1 at Hamilton SFL	Hamilton	6/30	TSM
Northern Shoveler	Late for western Kansas, Hamilton SFL Still present 6/30	Hamilton	6/11	TL, VR
Northern Shoveler	2 late southeast of Isabel	Barber	6/22	ZP
Northern Shoveler	2 at Johnson City WTP Still present 7/31	Stanton	6/25	TL
Northern Pintail	2 late southeast of Isabel	Barber	6/22	ZP
Redhead	5 late at Hamilton SFL Still present 6/30	Hamilton	6/24	CS, SSh
Redhead	2 at Johnson City WTP	Stanton	6/25	TL
Bufflehead	1 very late, 73 <sup>rd</sup> Rd Lake Still present 6/26	Kiowa	6/19	HA, JC

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Hooded Merganser	Late for western Kansas, Hamilton SFL	Hamilton	6/11	TL, VR
Hooded Merganser	Late for western Kansas, Herron Playa WA	Ford	6/14	JC
Hooded Merganser	1 on playa near Wellsford	Kiowa	6/19	HA, JC
Hooded Merganser	1 southeast of Isabel	Barber	6/22	ZP
Hooded Merganser	1 north of Garden City	Finney	6/23	CS
Red-breasted Merganser	3 at Herron Playa WA, late	Ford	6/04	CMM
Ruddy Duck	Late for western Kansas, Hamilton SFL Still present 6/24	Hamilton	6/11	TL, VR
Pied-billed Grebe	5 lingering at Hamilton SFL Still present 6/30	Hamilton	6/24	CS, SSh
Greater Roadrunner	1 just west of Oakley	<u>Logan</u>	7/14	MiL
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 adult male at Elkhart cemetery/windbreak	Morton	7/01	TSM
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeder in Dodge City	Ford	7/30	JC
King Rail	2 calling along Burma Road near Smolan	<u>Saline</u>	7/03	AS
Hudsonian Godwit	3 at QNWR, somewhat late	Stafford	6/20	JMh
Least Sandpiper	5 at Cheney SP, East Shore	Reno	7/04	JBi
White-rumped Sandpiper	3 somewhat late at QNWR	Stafford	6/21	JMh
White-rumped Sandpiper	5 near Hoisington	Barton	7/04	MB
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 near Copeland	Haskell	6/24	WJK
Greater Yellowlegs	1 near Ingalls	Gray	6/28	WJK
Wilson's Phalarope	1 female lingering at Hamilton SFL	Hamilton	6/24	CS
Ring-billed Gull	1 at Lake McKinney (rare June gull record)	Kearny	6/25	CS
Least Tern	1 at Nemaha WA	Nemaha	6/19	TE
Least Tern	1 southeast of Isabel	Barber	6/22	ZP
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Old Herington City Lake	<u>Dickinson</u>	6/07	KC, DP
Double-crested Cormorant	Adults feeding young in nest	Herington Lake Dickinson*	6/07	KC, DP
American Bittern	1 at marsh north of Bazine	<u>Ness</u>	7/26	JC, MGo
Tricolored Heron	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms WA	Barton	7/27	MGo
Black Vulture	2 well described near LeCompton	Douglas	6/06	MC
Mississippi Kite	Adult carrying food to young in nest	Cheyenne*	7/03	MK
Peregrine Falcon	1 in east Wichita	Stafford	6/30	HA
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at pond west of Medicine Lodge, KBRC	Barber	7/06	HA, JC
Least Flycatcher	1 slightly early	Ness	7/26	JC, MGo
White-eyed Vireo	1 at KDWPT Headquarters	Pratt	7/01	MR, KC
Fish Crow	3 in north Hutchinson	Reno	7/02	AM
Chihuahuan Raven	2 near Hugoton	Stevens	7/25	JC, MGo
Chihuahuan Raven	8 near Colorado border	Hamilton	7/31	TL
Cave Swallow	3 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	6/22	MT
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at feeders in Dodge City	Ford	7/10	CMM
Pygmy Nuthatch	1 Hamilton SFL, rare summer record	Hamilton	6/11	TL, VR
Sedge Wren	1 lingering near Mount Hope	Reno	6/08	PJ
Sedge Wren	1 at marsh south of Medicine Lodge	Barber	7/06	HA, JC
Sedge Wren	1 at McPherson Valley Wetlands WA	McPherson	7/08	JC

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Marsh Wren	1 at Ft Leavenworth bottomlands	Leavenworth	7/29	JS
Sage Thrasher	1 southeast of St. Francis,	Cheyenne	6/22	MK
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 southeast of St. Francis, KBRC	Cheyenne	6/22	MK
Red Crossbill	1 coming to feeder in St. Marys	Pottawatomie	7/16	BrM
Pine Siskin	1 still coming to feeder in Hays	Ellis	6/10	HA
Pine Siskin	1 lingering at Lake Coldwater	Comanche	6/19	HA, JC
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at feeder in Manhattan Still present 7/30	Riley	7/07	CL
Harris's Sparrow	1 photographed in Wichita	Sedgwick	7/15	MxM
White-throated Sparrow	1 well described, in Topeka	Shawnee	7/07	RC
Bobolink	3 singing in pasture on Hanson Ranch	<u>Logan</u>	6/01	DSh
Bronzed Cowbird	1 at Arkalon Park Still present 7/25	Seward	6/28	RK
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at MDC Unit G	Linn	7/31	MGo, JMy, MMH
Kentucky Warbler	1 at McPherson SFL	<u>McPherson</u>	7/09	JC
Black-throated Green Warbler	2 early migrants	Johnson	7/28	MG
Northern Cardinal	1 at K-27 Park, not common in this area	Hamilton	6/30	WJK
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Westerly and late	Comanche	6/19	HA, JC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Westerly and late, Thompson Creek Rd	Kiowa	6/19	HA, JC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Westerly summer record, Walnut Creek	Rush	7/26	HA, JC, MGo

**Locations and notes:** KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee report filed, MDC – Marais des Cygnes, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, 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. County name followed by an asterisk (\*) indicates a new confirmed breeding record.**

**Observers - Individuals:** Henry Armknecht, Michael Bader, Jeremy Birket, (JBi), Jeff Calhoun, Randy Carman, Kathy Carroll, Marcia Clouser, Tom Ewert, Chad Gardner, Matt Gearheart, Malcolm Gold (MGo), Pete Janzen, Will Jaremko-Wright (WJK), Mark Keller, Ray Kennedy, Chris Lake, Tony Leukering, Micky Louis (MiL), Brandon Magette (BrM), Terry & Sam Mannell (TSM), Mick McHugh (MMH), Christi McMillen (CMM), Andrew Miller, Max Miller (MxM), Jeffrey Mollenhauer (JMh), Joseph Mosley (JMy), Diane Persons, Zach Poland, Mike Rader, Van Remsen, John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Abuti Sechaba, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Doug Shoffner (DSh), Max Thompson



Dr. Charles Ely (left) and John Schukman discuss birds and ornithological history (and possibly moths) during the Friday night social of the Kansas Ornithological Society's Annual Meeting, October 4, 2019 at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita.

Dr. Ely was at Ft. Hays State University (FHSU) from 1960 to 1995. John was a student at FHSU from 1969 to 1975 earning both his BS and MS while there with Dr. Ely as his advisor.

*photo by Pete Janzen*

# Kansas Ornithological Society - Top 10 Birds

October 2018 - September 2019

Compiled by Eugene Young

*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!*

## Honorable Mention:

**Brant** - Sylvan Grove Water Treatment ponds (Lincoln Co.) on 2 February 2019 seen by Henry Armknecht and Jeff Calhoun.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** - Kanopolis Lake (Russell County) 17 December 2018 by Kaleb Kroeker.

**Canyon Towhee** – Point of Rocks, Morton County, 31 August 2019 by Dan Broers, Tom Ewert, Jeff Calhou, Kathy Carroll, Diane Pearsons, and Malcolm Gold.

## TOP 10

**10. Bushtit** – Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, 15 December 2018, by Jeff Calhoun.

**9. Little Gull** - found by Dan Broers and Malcolm Gold at Cheyenne Bottoms (Barton County) on 2 September 2019. Seen by many observers that day and a few days after.

**8. Wood Stork** – observed and photographed by Dave Duncan in Lindsborg (McPherson County), 27-28 March 2019.

**7. Black Vulture** - photographed by Dave Klema flying high overhead at the Anna's Hummingbird location at Novotny's residence in Russell County on 29 August 2019.

**6. Connecticut Warbler** - found by Dave Klema and Roger Schultz on the west side of Ellsworth (Ellsworth County) on 11 May 2019. Observed by Scott Seltman later in the day.

**5. Anna's Hummingbird** - rural Russell County - first seen by Dave Klema at the Don Novotny residence on 23 August 2019. Identified by Mike Rader on 24 August. Presumably, the same bird was still being seen, well into November but had moved a half

mile to the east to Dave Klema's residence. It was been seen by over 40 birders.

**4. Long-tailed Jaeger** - found by Dan Broers and Malcolm Gold at Cheyenne Bottoms (Barton County) on 2 September 2019. Immature bird that was seen by many observers on the day of discovery. An immature and an adult were observed on 7 September 2019 at El Dorado Reservoir (Butler County) by Curt VanBoening, Dee Dunlap, and Tom Ewert. Initially, VanBoening and Dunlap had a jaeger on 5 September, and thought there were possibly two. A couple days later the adult and immature were found and photographed.

**3. Bronzed Cowbird** – observed by Ray Kennedy at Arkalon Park (Seward County, where they occurred last year) on 28 June 2019.

**2. Bar-headed Goose** – found by Andrew Burnett at the Neosho Wildlife Area (Neosho County) on 20 April 2019. Though the bird is not on the KOS list, the individual acted wild.

**1. Eurasian Wigeon** – observed by David Tønnesen, in Kearny County on 8 March 2019, and photographed, finally removing it off the hypothetical list.

Thank you local committee for hosting the Fall 2019 meeting in Wichita. You did a great job!  
-KOS President Cheryl Miller

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# Fall KOS meeting paper abstracts

(Presenter indicated by \* following name)

**Does cattle grazing affect bird densities in CRP grasslands?** Benjamin S. Wilson<sup>1\*</sup>, William E. Jensen<sup>1</sup>, Gregory R. Houseman<sup>2</sup>, Mary Liz Jameson<sup>2</sup>, and Molly M. Reichenborn<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, 1 Kellogg Cir, Emporia, KS 66801, <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, KS 67260.

Grassland bird populations have declined across North America, presumably due to the conversion of contiguous grassland to cropland. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has restored grassland habitat and had demonstrable effects in benefitting grassland bird populations. However, cattle grazing as a management option in CRP is currently restricted, despite the important role that large herbivores play in grassland ecosystems. Conservative grazing may increase spatial heterogeneity and plant diversity, which might attract higher densities of some grassland bird species. Our objective was to determine how experimental cattle grazing affects species-specific densities of grassland birds on CRP grasslands. We modeled densities of five songbird species from distance sampling along line transects in 108 CRP fields across the longitudinal extent of Kansas during the 2017-2019 breeding seasons. Half of the 108 fields were grazed by cattle during the growing seasons of 2017 and 2018 and rested from grazing in 2019. We ran separate model sets for mesic eastern versus arid western Kansas for each species. Although densities varied for some species between CRP planting types (CP2 versus CP25), grazing had no substantial effects on densities of grassland songbird species included in our study. This suggests that conservative stocking of cattle as a mid-contract management option might not detrimentally affect bird densities in Kansas CRP grasslands.

**The Development of a Flyway-scale Shorebird Conservation Initiative for the Midcontinental Americas.** Robert L. Penner II (\*) *The Nature Conservancy.*

The midcontinent regions of North and South America provide critical breeding, migration stopover and nonbreeding habitat for numerous resident and migra-

tory shorebirds. Fifty-five percent of 45 shorebird populations using the midcontinent region of Canada and the United States demonstrate long-term declines, whereas only 9% show increases. Despite the clear conservation needs of a suite of shorebird species using habitats in the midcontinent regions of North and South America, a comprehensive, strategic framework for shorebird conservation is lacking. As part of an overall conservation initiative, the development of a strategic framework will provide an integrated approach for guiding management and conservation actions throughout the Midcontinental Americas Flyway, which will complement conservation initiatives developed in the Atlantic and Pacific Americas Flyways and complete a comprehensive approach to shorebird conservation in the Americas. The location of Kansas in the Central Flyway and because we have two Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Sites and one Landscape of Hemispheric Importance, we are in a unique position to play a major role in shorebird conservation on an international scale. In this presentation I will discuss the development of the flyway scale shorebird conservation initiative along with the potential for a Flint Hills Shorebird Initiative and how members of KOS may be of assistance.

**Shelterbelt Characteristics that Influence Bird Species Richness.** Katya Frank\* and Rob Channell, *Fort Hays State University Department of Biological Sciences.*

On the Great Plains, shelterbelts consist of one or more rows of trees and are used to protect farmsteads from the elements. Shelterbelts are also used by birds for migration, shelter, food resources, and nesting. I hypothesized that shelterbelt characteristics would influence bird species richness. I conducted point-count surveys to record species at 25 shelterbelts in Rooks and Russell counties in Kansas. I conducted my study between April and July 2018. I measured shelterbelt characteristics including tree type, diameter at breast-height, percent canopy cover, percent foliage cover, plant growth form, litter depth, understory visual obstruction, surrounding habitat, distance to road, distance to water, distance to nearest group of trees, shelterbelt area, and shelterbelt perimeter. I recorded 54 species occurring at shelterbelts. The

shelterbelt with the highest species richness (n=25) and lowest species richness (n=6) were located near Webster reservoir. The relationship between species richness and shelterbelt characteristics were calculated using multiple regression. Size of the shelterbelt, visual obstruction, median proportion of forbs, and shrubs had significant relationships with species richness. This study could be used to help landowners and range managers design shelterbelts to attract particular species of birds to meet management objectives.

**Inspiring students to become citizen scientists and community conservationists through the eBird Project: A course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE).** Karin R. Gastreich, *Department of Biology, Avila University.*

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird project (<http://ebird.org>) provides an array of technology tools and online resources that facilitate biodiversity education through birding. Using these tools, I have designed a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) where students consider factors that affect avian diversity across different habitats in the urban landscape of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Students collaborate with each other in the design of a field-based research project. They then implement their field investigation using tools such as eBird and Merlin Bird ID. The module has been integrated into an upper-level conservation biology course and a course on experimental design. I give an overview of the eBird CURE module, including approaches to teaching students how to use eBird and Merlin Bird ID, activities for experimental design and data analysis, and options for final reports. I also discuss challenges encountered during module implementation and adaptations to meet these challenges. Many students I work with do not have birding experience before participating in my courses. According to course assessments and student evaluations, the eBird CURE module successfully increased awareness of biodiversity concepts while inspiring students to participate in citizen science, including the eBird Project, beyond the course. Birds are excellent model organisms for connecting students to their home environment and inspiring interest in conservation at multiple scales. The eBird CURE module can also serve as a model for similar biodiversity education initiatives based on other citizen science platforms.

**An updated status report on the Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) in Western Kansas.**

Erica L Clark\*, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, Medhavi Ambardar, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, William J Stark, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas.

The Ferruginous Hawk is the largest Buteo species occurring in Kansas. They occur in grasslands, nesting along bluffs, buttes, rock outcrops and some isolated trees. In Kansas, the Ferruginous Hawk is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Tier II. A previous study on Ferruginous Hawk nesting in Kansas during the years of 1979 to 1987, with sporadic nest visits from the 1990s to 2000, revealed that the most productive nest sites were in infrequently visited areas. These sites were also inaccessible to predators, placed on rocky ledges and the surrounding landscape composed of over 50% rangeland. We revisited 68 of the 120 historic nest sites in the summer of 2019. We contacted landowners with a historic nest site on their property to ask for access. When a nest was found we flew a drone above the nest to determine if it was active or inactive. During flight, photographs were captured of the nest contents, including eggs/chicks, and videos were obtained of surrounding habitat for later analysis and site comparison. Of the 68 sites 9 (or 13%) were active and averaged two chicks each. These sites were all placed on rocky ledges or columns. The findings of this study will be used by KDWPT to determine the best conservation practices for the persistence of the Ferruginous Hawk, with landowners playing a key role via their rangeland management practices.

**The quest to document the avifauna of the tropical lowland rainforests of West Africa: A Liberian Experience.**

*Benedictus Freeman*<sup>1\*</sup>, *Luis Antonio Sánchez González*<sup>2</sup>, *Marco Ortiz*<sup>2</sup>, *Mark Robbins*<sup>1</sup>, and *A. Townsend Peterson*<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 USA,* <sup>2</sup>*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México City, México.*

Biodiversity is a crucial element of the natural heritage and natural resources of the Earth, and yet remains poorly inventoried and under-described in many parts of the world. This knowledge gap is particularly acute in tropical regions, where biodiversity is concentrated. The challenges involved in filling this gap are many, including basic inventory, description, analysis, and interpretation. Here, we present field notes from our recent expedition to Liberia

(May-July 2019) in a quest to document and assemble comprehensive series of modern tissue samples of birds from sites across Liberia. We anticipate that our work will generate data that will be used to develop phylogeographic studies of birds that occur in Liberia to re-examine species limits in key sets of taxa, to provide a new view of species diversity and endemism in the country and in far West Africa more generally.

**Responses of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) to a novel object and influences on fitness-related traits.** Medhavi Ambaradar (\*), Leslie A. Watson, Chloe M. Musgrove, Annie D. Hinds, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University.

Individual birds vary in their reactions to their local environment and these reactions can have strong fitness consequences. One way in which birds react to their environment is by being bold. Bold individuals may gain a fitness advantage as they are more likely to explore new territories, seek mates, and defend offspring against predators. Alternatively, boldness may incur costs as bold individuals may engage in more risky behaviors. Boldness occurs along a gradient that varies from very bold individuals to shy (non-bold) individuals. A common way to test boldness is by measuring an individual's response to a novel object in their local environment. Using House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*), we tested the hypothesis that adult boldness increase fitness. We used the response of adult wrens to a novel object (a small, yellow rubber duck) as a proxy for boldness. When nestlings were between 7 and 9 days old, we conducted a novel object trial. During the trial, we placed the rubber duck on top of the nest box. We then recorded the latency to land on the nest box and the latency to enter the nest box for both males and females over a total trial period of 30 minutes. We compared male and female responses to the novel object with two measures of reproductive success: nestling mass at fledging, and the number of offspring fledged. Our findings will be discussed in relation to evolutionary consequences of bold behavior.

**Nestling condition of a grassland bird not associated with food availability in restored grasslands.**

Heather M. Kraus<sup>1\*</sup>, William E. Jensen<sup>1</sup>, Mary-Liz Jameson<sup>2</sup>, W. Alice Boyle<sup>3</sup>, Greg R. Houseman<sup>2</sup>, and Molly M. Reichenborn<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, 1 Kellogg Circle, Emporia KS 66801, <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount St.,

Wichita KS 67260, <sup>3</sup>Division of Biology, Kansas State University, 116 Ackert Hall, Manhattan KS 66506

Grassland bird populations have experienced steep declines, necessitating understanding of factors affecting their reproductive success, which might include food availability. Grasslands are highly variable environments and such variation affects the diversity and abundance of arthropods, which constitute the diet for most nestling grassland birds. Higher arthropod abundance might allow greater parental provisioning of nestlings and, consequently, improved nestling condition and survival. However, few studies have tested the effects of variable food availability on nestling condition in grassland birds. We examined Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nestling condition in relation to abundance of arthropod prey across restored grassland sites that varied in management history (e.g., seed mixes, grazing regime) in Kansas. Despite much variation among fields in orthopteran (0.007 – 3.405 g) and total arthropod (0.091 – 3.601 g) biomass, this variation was unrelated to management history and no measure of nestling condition showed clear relationships with field-level variation in either biomass measure. Instead, brood size explained some variation in nestling condition with nestlings in larger broods generally having lower mass than those in smaller broods ( $\beta = -0.60$ , 95% CI: -0.85, -0.35 for mass-tarsus residuals). Arthropod biomass was not a strong predictor of nestling condition, perhaps because parents can compensate for food limitation in their nesting territories. Our results suggest that metrics of Dickcissel nestling condition known to affect post-fledging survival may not be affected by spatial variation in food availability, at least in some years. Our work is consistent with classic ideas regarding lack of food limitation to birds breeding in grasslands.

**The Effects of Vegetation Characteristics on the Nesting Success and Breeding Behavior of a Desert-Specialist, the Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*).** Miriam Reynaldo, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, John Mark Simmons, University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology.

Breeding season, generally occurring mid-spring to late-summer, is a crucial time of year for songbirds and well documented across many species. However, for the Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) there is a gap in knowledge of this species' breeding characteristics. In a past breeding bird survey, Scott's Orioles have shown a strong tie with tall, tree-like yuccas such *Yucca torreyi* and *Yucca eleta* exclusively

nesting in these species. However, in our study area on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (Sevilleta NWR), the two common species, *Yucca baccata* and *Yucca glauca*, are too small to provide a nesting location for orioles thus resulting in the sole use of *Juniperus monosperma*. To better understand nest tree selection habits of Scott's Orioles, we located and monitored nests of 20 breeding pairs and took various vegetation measurements of nest trees and surrounding area. Furthermore, using substantial historical data collected from Sevilleta NWR, we compared these characteristics to those of resident Gray Vireos (*Vireo vicinior*), as well as, random juniper data points. It was concluded that Scott's Orioles select for a specific range of nest tree density (concealment), tree height, and tree width when selecting a nesting site. Furthermore, non-statistically significant trends were detected for several nest tree characteristics such as junipers per hectare around nest tree, juniper width, and nest height from ground in relation to nesting success. Additionally, we documented many aspects of the oriole's natural history including female song, double brooding, and possible Brown-headed Cowbirds brood parasitism. We hope to provide a baseline for future research regarding nesting Scott's Orioles in New Mexico as well as other portions of their range.

**Mate quality in male American Kestrels: early results from a nest box-breeding population in eastern Kansas.** Cordy L. Wesonig\* and Scott A. Kimball, Department of Biology and Chemistry, Baker University.

In the sexually dichromatic American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), the female can drive sexual selection by pairing with males with preferred phenotypes. Therefore, characterizing male phenotypes in mated pairs may suggest which male traits might indicate qualities important for successfully rearing offspring. As is typical for many groups of birds, female Kestrels are more cryptic in their coloration while males are more conspicuous. Specifically, male tail coloration may advertise mate quality due the conspicuous rufous coloration and high contrast combination of a sub-terminal black band and terminal white band. Previous research has suggested that black band width is correlated with paternal care. In this study, we investigated whether the black sub-terminal tail band width was correlated with other indicators of mate quality, such as feather growth bar width, scaled mass index, and prey delivery rates. We collected data on eight pairs of American Kestrels over the course of

two breeding seasons in eastern Kansas. Preliminary results suggest no relationship between the black sub-terminal tail band width and these other variables, but continuing research may still provide insights into the mechanics of mate selection though sexual dichromatism in American Kestrels.

**Song Comparison of Geographically Isolated *Zosterops rendovae* White-eyes.** Isaac Rush<sup>1\*</sup>, Reuben Tako<sup>2</sup>, Edna Toriah<sup>2</sup>, Lucas Dicecco<sup>1</sup>, Luke Klicka<sup>1</sup>, Rob Moyle<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Biodiversity Institute -Ornithology Division, University of Kansas, <sup>2</sup>Solomon Islands National University.

The family Zosteropidae is a relatively young and species rich clade with one of the highest diversification rates estimated for a vertebrate lineage. The family has rapidly diversified across a broad geographic area including the Old-World Tropics and temperate Asia but some of the most striking patterns of diversification have occurred on island archipelagos. In particular, are the white eye populations of Western Province within the Solomon Island archipelago. Despite short distances and shallow channels separating many of the Western Province islands a total of 7 white-eye taxa have been described. In fact, the species *Zosterops rendovae* and *Zosterops teteparius* are the only known species pair to have differentiated between the islands of Rendova and Tetepari. The two species are easily identified in the field by their belly plumage. In 1998, Jared Diamond described the song of *Z. teteparius* as faster than all other white-eyes in Western Province and that it was strikingly different from the songs of *Z. rendovae*. However, Diamond's analysis was based on his vast experience with bird song and did not include a quantitative approach. Therefore, after collecting recordings for both *Z. rendovae* and *Z. teteparius* this past summer, we evaluate the divergence of bird song for a unique species pair between Rendova and Tetepari.

**The effect of distance to edge on songbird nest predation in temperate deciduous forests of eastern Kansas.** Kasey B. Oehlert\* and Scott A. Kimball, Department of Biology and Chemistry, Baker University.

Nest predation due to fragmentation of forests has led to population declines in over 56% of all bird species. Nearly 80% of all bird nest failures are caused by nest predation along the forest edge. In this study, we investigated the effect of distance to the forest edge on nest predation. We conducted a 25-day experiment in which we recorded nest predation at artificial nests

placed 0m, 15m, and 30m from the forest edge at the Baldwin Woods Forest Preserve in Baldwin City, Kansas. The nests located along the forest edge were depredated earlier in the experiment than the nests further in the forest. There was no difference in predation between nests placed at 15m and 30m. These results suggest that increased fragmentation could lead to accelerated songbird population declines due to predation, a growing concern as forest fragmentation continues to increase with urbanization, road construction, and other human activity.

**Rapid Diversification of the *Todiramphus* Kingfishers.** *Devon A. DeRaad\**, *Robert G. Moyle.* *Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, University of Kansas.*

The *Todiramphus* Kingfishers, which are distributed throughout Melanesia, represent one of the most rapid avian radiations studied to date. The canonical model of avian speciation posits that a single panmictic population becomes geographically and genetically isolated, evolving isolating mechanisms over millions of years, which prevent lineage collapse upon secondary contact. *Todiramphus* provides a challenge to this framework, with previous molecular work showing over a dozen currently recognized species evolving within the past 500-750K years, maintaining complex patterns of secondary sympatry. Here, we focus on a seven species ingroup within *Todiramphus*, which contains multiple independent evolutions of secondary sympatry between recently diverged sister taxa. We densely resampled these seven species using reduced-representation genomic sequencing, generating 335,901 genome-wide loci across 57 samples. From these loci, we called 124,685 Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms, which we used to infer phylogeny and investigate population structure within each of these groups. We find a surprising lack of genome-wide gene-flow between sympatric, recently diverged groups, implying the rapid evolution of genetic isolating mechanisms across *Todiramphus*.

**Niche overlap in the Smoky Hills, Kansas: temporal and spatial relationships of Say's (*Sayornis saya*) and Eastern (*S. phoebe*) Phoebe.** *John Schukman,* *14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048*

The Great Plains of central North America provide opportunities for pairs of closely related species that replace each other from east to west to approach spatially and form contact zones or hybrid zones. The Say's (*Sayornis saya*) and Eastern (*S. phoebe*) Phoebe overlap across much of the central and northern Great Plains where their breeding ranges reach their respective eastern and western range limits. Previous study showed

that Say's Phoebes nested in open country with sparse or no surrounding woodland, whereas Eastern Phoebe nests were primarily along woodland streams but also at nine sites in more open country where Say's Phoebes had nested, the last report in the spring of 2019. Modeling of bioclimatic variables in the contact zone showed the niche space of the Eastern Phoebe embedded more into that of Say's Phoebe than the converse. Plans are to assess nest site occupancy in 2020 and beyond, and in light of climate change how the balance between the earlier nesting Eastern Phoebe and the xeric-adapted Say's Phoebe might shift in coming decades. A request that phoebe observations in Ellis County, Kansas be posted as a site-specific single entry in eBird for future use.

**Birding for turtles: an opportunity to make significant contributions to herpetology (when the birding gets slow in the afternoon).** *Alexis F. L. A. Powell\**, *Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University;* and *Kylee Moon Sharp, Science Department, De Soto High School.*

Herpetologists, both amateur and professional, have done an outstanding job mapping occurrences of terrestrial and wetlands-dwelling amphibians and reptiles. By contrast, distributions of strictly riverine species are poorly known. Based upon our experience studying map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.) in rivers of eastern Kansas over the past three years, we contend that birders, not herpetologists, are best prepared to discover and document these species. We found that visual survey techniques borrowed from birding were far more effective than methods typically employed by herpetologists, such as hand capture and live-trapping. For example, the Northern Map Turtle (*G. geographica*), a threatened species in Kansas, was known in 1911–1952 from 9 specimens collected at 8 locations, went unrecorded 1953–1989, was rediscovered in 1990–1991 through extensive trapping that yielded 10 individuals at 7 locations, went unrecorded 1992–2016 excepting a few unvouchered sightings, and was found again in 2017–2019 with another laborious trapping survey that yielded 8 individuals at 8 locations. In fall 2018, we decided to try using birding methods to detect river turtles while they were basking or swimming. Thus far, via a comparatively modest and sporadic effort, we have found 62 Northern Map Turtles at 35 locations (including several new county records) and have logged many important records of other species, all documented with photographs for museum archives. Birders are uniquely well-prepared to contribute to this endeavor because they already have well-honed visual search skills, own the necessary equipment (binoculars, spotting scope), and may be acquainted with digiscoping.

- continued from page 4

**Research Committee:** John Schukman reported that one student is currently being supported by KOS, Lucas Diccio from the Biodiversity Institute - Ornithology Division, University of Kansas.

With no further business to be conducted **Max Thompson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Mannell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** President Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

### **Afternoon Business Session**

President Cheryl Miller called the meeting to order at 4:26 p.m.

**Election of the Board:** The slate of officers/board members from the nominating committee that was presented in the morning session was reviewed. President Miller asked for any nominations from the floor. **Terry Mannell moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the presented slate. The motion was seconded by Dan Larson and passed unanimously.**

President Miller asked if there was any other business that needed to come before the membership. There was none.

**Announcements:** President Miller announced that the Spring KOS Field Trips would be at Concordia, May 1 – 3, 2020. Mike Rader and Chuck Otte are the local committee co-chairs. The Fall Meeting would be at Benedictine College in Atchison October 2 – 4, 2020. Dr. Virginia Winder will be leading the local committee.

Max Thompson reminded everyone that 2020 dues could be paid at any time. Dues can be paid online at [ksbirds.org](http://ksbirds.org) using PayPal and made it very quick and easy.

**Seeing no further business, President Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.**

Chuck Otte  
KOS Corresponding Secretary

### **Best Student Paper Awards From KOS Fall Meeting**

Every year at the fall KOS Meeting many of the presented papers are from college students both undergraduate and graduate. A team of judges, led by John Schukman, evaluate the presentations and select the best presented paper. If there are enough student papers presented awards will be given in both the undergraduate and graduate divisions. This year the winners were Cordy Wesonig from Baker for the undergraduate division and Heather M. Kraus from Emporia for the graduate division. Cordy and Heather each received \$50 and a one year membership to KOS. Additionally any student (high school through graduate school) have their registration fee waived if they attend the meeting!

There are many good bits of research going on in Kansas - some formal, some informal but they would all make great papers for a future meeting. Additionally, many of the presented papers would make excellent *Bulletin* articles for future issues. Please contact Gene Young if you are interested in possibly submitted an article to the *Bulletin* for publishing.

