



# The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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## From the President's Pen

By Cheryl Miller

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Birds, who needs 'em?

Well, I do.

After finding out I was going to need extensive renovations to my home, I eagerly went with Wichita Audubon to deep south Texas in January. I wasn't looking forward to the warmer climate as much as I was to getting away and visiting old friends like Green Jays, Altamira Orioles and Crested Caracaras.

The colors, the songs, the habitats. Species next to impossible to find in Kansas. Knowing that neo-tropical migrants were on their way to Texas and would be in Kansas soon. It was heavenly.

It was soul restoring.

And it didn't hurt that I picked up five lifers, three more than I thought I would.

For as long as I can remember, birds have played an important role in my life. Northern Cardinals nested in the lilac bush outside my childhood bedroom window and Barn Swallows lived in the garage. As an adult, I look for birds constantly and am thrilled to show them to friends and acquaintances who are curious and want to know more.

This spring I'll be helping a biology student identify campus buildings where large numbers of birds die because of window collisions. Buildings identified as especially deadly will be used as pilot locations for anti-collision decals the student will develop. I am hopeful that this project will lead to better education on bird mortality due to window strikes and that our new campus industry partners will be open to the idea of trying to prevent these collisions.

As spring migration begins, I hope you'll consider ways to help protect birds. You can find many resources online with instructions on preventing window collisions at your home, as well as what to do when a bird hits a window. I recommend the American Bird Conservancy at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org).

I look forward to seeing you this spring in Concordia or elsewhere around the state.

- Cheryl



# From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Change. They say it's inevitable and that nobody likes it. Well, both parts of that are partially correct. And the older I get the better I understand both parts. Most everything changes. The world around us tomorrow will be different than the world around us today. Rocks erode, slowly. Trees grow, slowly. In the process of recently (still) moving to "the farm" we came across some photos of the farm from the early 1960s. It was amazing to see how few trees there were and how small they were. Many things change so slowly that we don't even notice them, until we can put the decades into perspective.

We change, again sometimes more slowly, or perhaps more quickly, than we want to acknowledge. I also came across photos of me from 25 years ago. Wow, where did that much younger version of me go? Yeah, he's still here, heavier, less hair, and what hair is left is definitely not as dark. But it's change none the less.

Organizations change, or they disappear and die. In the natural world species evolve, or they become extinct. I reckon the same thing can be said for organizations. You can be like dinosaurs and go extinct. Or you can try to be like virus or bacteria and adapt and move on. Evolution leads to a new version which may be a little like the previous version, or vastly different.

I belong, and have belonged, to numerous organizations, clubs, groups, call them what you like. Virtually all the groups I currently belong to are facing the same challenge. Do we evolve or go extinct?

Based on the year I was born I am a baby boomer, whether I like it or not. I'm not even sure what the generations following me are all called and it doesn't matter. I imagine that in some ways I'm like other baby boomers and I'd like to think that I'm also not like "them". It doesn't matter, change is happening. I'm not in the sunset of my life, geez at least I hope not, but I've likely had the majority of opportunities to impact the world around me. I need to focus on helping others make the most of their impact on the world around them. If I do a good job they will make a positive impact.

KOS is a baby boomer too having been officially formed in 1949. Will it still be here in another 70 years? I don't know, but if it is it will have evolved and changed. How will it have changed? If I knew the answer to that I could be rich advising organizations large and small.

The birders that are 30 and 40 years younger than this version look at the world differently than this model year does and want different things. I don't know what that is, and they may not know either. But that's okay. They need to decide what that organization looks like. The most important thing that I can do is get out of their way and facilitate the evolution that needs to happen.

No, this isn't Chuck announcing that he is retiring, stepping down, leaving the organization or anything like that. That is coming, but it isn't here yet. This is Chuck saying, "what do you want to do and how can I help?" Like many others, I like the comfort of consistency. Having just moved out of a home I lived in for 33 years, my consistency has been upset. But consistency be damned, change does need to happen. But which direction?

- Chuck



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**Kansas Ornithological Society  
Winter Board Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2020  
Otte Farm, Milford, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by President Cheryl Miller.

**Attendance:** Cheryl Miller, Jenn Rader, Chuck Otte, Jeff Calhoun, Max Thompson, Kylee Sharp, Eugene Young, Matt Gearheart and Malcolm Gold attended the meeting.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the KOS Annual Meeting and the KOS Fall Board Meeting had been emailed out for review. **Eugene Young moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Max handed out a treasurer's report as of December 31, 2019 and updated it to current status. Max commented that the Dingus Natural Area has to remain on our balance sheet at the value that it was when we took possession of the property even though the county records show it at several times that value on their books. KOS does not pay property tax on this property and can never sell it. Because of the purchase of some merchandise for resale inventory, slightly more money was spent in 2019 than was taken in for receipts. Max explained that the Society was still quite solvent. The research fund still has slightly over \$3,600 in it. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit. *(Any member wishing to see the detail of the treasurer's report may request it from the Treasurer.)*

**Vice President:** Jenn led a discussion on the Dingus property and passed out a sheet of points that needed to be discussed. The three most pertinent points were: that we needed to revise the very dated management plan, we likely needed to better define the boundaries of the property, and we needed to find someone who was willing to go down and check on the property more often than once a year. Several names were mentioned and Cheryl volunteered to contact them. Max presented some of the history of the property and how KOS came to acquire it. There was also discussion of a need to establish a list of species, all species (plants, animals, etc.) that had been identified on the property. Kansas Biological Survey had been doing some surveys of the area because of its unique history. Chuck said that in the coming months he would look through the secretary's historical records and try to scan anything of relevance to the Dingus Property so it would be available digitally.

Jenn also discussed some issues that came up with the fall meeting. It was felt that it was time to update the fall meeting planning document so future host sites would know what to expect as far too often the host committee is depending on "institutional memory" as to who does what. Once the document is updated it should be placed on the web. There was brief discussion of using technology like Google Drive or Dropbox to allow for easier collaboration on such documents.

Jenn further led a discussion of trying to increase membership and generational differences of what people look for in an organization. Many organizations are caught between generations and are struggling to know how to react. The question was raised as to what KOS does. It was felt that we needed to better publicize the Research Grants and the information that is learned from the projects these grants help fund. There was extensive discussion on several topics of how organizations change and how to generate and implement new ideas. No action was taken.

**Membership:** Jeff reviewed the membership breakdown by categories. He indicated that renewals were lagging but others indicated that this was common for early in the year. After a brief discussion **Max moved to**

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<p>Have you considered including KOS in your estate? Contact Treasurer Max Thompson for details on how to make this happen.</p>
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# Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2019, (August – November) Chuck Otte, compiler

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This is the report of the fall birding season in Kansas, August through November. The fall birding season starts in what many of us would consider the middle of summer. But even by late July, southbound migration is well under way. By the end of the fall season waterfowl migration, which marks the end of the migration season, has pretty well wrapped up. For the four full months between the two the birding can oscillate between boringly dead and insanely crazy.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue expanding around the state. Over 40 with many juveniles at a feed yard pond in Pratt County is a stunning number. Many long-time birders remember seeing numbers like this in south Texas in decades past and suspect that they will continue to be seen in larger numbers across the state.

Anna's Hummingbirds are not migratory in the same manner as all the other hummingbird species that breed in the US or Canada. So when one shows up in Kansas, there is often not a strong urge for them to move on which can result in birds staying in an area for an extended time. Kansas hosted not one, but two Anna's Hummingbirds this fall, for what will likely be the ninth and tenth state records. These birds endured some bitterly cold weather and while their fate is unknown, they made a lot of Kansas birders happy while they were here!

Nice weather lingered into October, truly right up to Halloween. Nice fall weather will always call many species to linger late, or expected migrants to arrive late. The nice weather came to a screaming halt with a big cold weather storm blowing through the end of October. This caught quite a few lingering migrants by surprise and necessitated a rapid exit. Such autumnal storms will also move long distance migrants out of their usual migration zones. For Kansas that meant that Sandhill Cranes wound up easterly of their usual corridor resulting in many sightings over eastern Kansas. Some high counts for eastern Kansas counties are included in this season's report.

This was a good fall for Sabine's Gulls. No less than ten different reports of at least 14 separate individuals made for some memorable gull watching for Kansas Birders. Toss in a Little Gull and some jaegers and it was a memorable season for vagrant seabirds!

While many species seemed to be lingering or arriving late, it seemed that many falcons were moving earlier than normal. Merlins especially seemed early but reports of Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, while not reflected below, seemed somewhat early as well.

Ravens: a challenge and a puzzle with more questions than answers. There were many records for both Chihuahuan and Common Ravens this fall season virtually all from Hamilton, Stanton, and Morton counties. Numerous records were turned in to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (thank you!) The ravens listed in this report are as reported but the final outcome may differ slightly once the KBRC has reviewed the records. While it can be frustrating trying to ID these closely related species, the KBRC does thank all of those who take the time to document them as we try to gain a better understanding of the distribution and occurrence of these species.

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	1 continuing at feedlot pond	Seward	8/03	KC, DP
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 with young at Great Bend Zoo pond	Barton	8/07	RG
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	~40 at Ward feedyard, many fledglings	Pawnee	9/01	BJ
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 at Warnock Lake	Atchison	9/07	DMz
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	adult leading 12 ducklings down Larned alley	Pawnee	9/08	fide SS
Redhead	1 early or summering, Johnson City WTP	Stanton	8/08	HA, JC
Ring-necked Duck	4 at Deerfield Feeders feedlot	Kearny	8/08	HA, JC
Ring-necked Duck	1 at QNWR	Stafford	8/09	MN

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Ring-necked Duck	1 at Neosho WA	Neosho	8/17	ABu
Ring-necked Duck	1 at Playa Lake	Sherman	8/20	NP
Surf Scoter	1 adult female at Lake Wabaunsee Still present 10/16	Wabaunsee	10/12	TSS
Surf Scoter	1 at Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	10/13	MGo
Surf Scoter	1 at Scott Lake	Scott	10/22	SSh
Surf Scoter	1 at Lake Quivira	Johnson	10/28	MC
Surf Scoter	3 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/04	CSr
Surf Scoter	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/08	MGo, MiL
Surf Scoter	1 on roadside ponds along US 59	Franklin	11/18	KC
Surf Scoter	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/24	KC
White-winged Scoter	1 at LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	11/30	MN
Black Scoter	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/16	TK, m.ob.
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Lake Quivira	Johnson	11/09	m.ob.
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Lake Afton	Sedgwick	11/15	MB
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Pony Creek Lake	Brown	11/24	KG, PJ, TE
Red-necked Grebe	1 at La Cygne Lake	Linn	11/30	KC
Western Grebe	1 easterly at Shawnee Mission Park Still present 10/31	Johnson	10/22	GC, m.ob.
Western Grebe	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/01	KC
Western Grebe	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/03	KC
Clark's Grebe	1 at CBWA	Barton	8/18	DMK, MP
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 male westerly in Elkhart	Morton	8/31	DB, MGo
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 westerly in Grinnell	<u>Gove</u>	9/29	CF
Anna's Hummingbird	1 imm male at feeders southwest of Wilson, Continuing 10/11 – in late Sept started being seen in town of Wilson,	KBRC <u>Russell</u>	8/23	DK, MR, m.ob.
Anna's Hummingbird	1 imm female at feeder in Ellsworth Last seen 11/15	Ellsworth	10/30	RS, DK
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeder in Hays	Ellis	10/01	HA
Yellow Rail	1 at Clinton Lake Model Airport Marsh	Douglas	10/20	MP, DMK
Sandhill Crane	19 flying overhead, Kill Creek Park	Johnson	11/02	JWi
Sandhill Crane	14 flying over northwest Lawrence	Douglas	11/05	KMD
Sandhill Crane	18 flying over Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/10	KC, DP, DB
Whooping Crane	<u>65</u> at QNWR	Barton	10/30	BJ
American Avocet	1 late at QNWR	Stafford	11/29	JBi
American Golden-Plover	1 at Steve Lloyd Wetlands	Clay	11/13	KC, DP
American Golden-Plover	1 at Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/23	MN
Marbled Godwit	1 late at CBWA	Barton	11/25	DB
Dunlin	1 near Lawrence Airport, early	Douglas	8/21	GP
American Woodcock	1, uncommon late summer record	Riley	9/06	MMY
Willet	3 late near Augusta	Butler	10/20	AN
Red-necked Phalarope	1 in flooded field southeast of St. Marys	Shawnee	9/09	DMK, MP
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at QNWR	Stafford	9/21	SH
Red-necked Phalarope	1 in playa near Wellsford	<u>Kiowa/Pratt</u>	10/19	HA, JC
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 imm at CBWA, KBRC	Barton	9/02	DB, MGo, m.ob.
Long-tailed Jaeger	2 at El Dorado Lake, KBRC	Butler	9/07	DD, CVB, TE
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 immature at CBWA Still present 11/03	Barton	10/25	MR

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Sabine's Gull	1 at Kirwin NWR	Phillips	9/04	HA
Sabine's Gull	1 adult at CBWA	Barton	9/08	RA, DT
Sabine's Gull	1 immature at CBWA	Barton	9/11	SS
Sabine's Gull	1 at QNWR	Stafford	9/14	AyM
	Continuing OR a second one, 10/20			
Sabine's Gull	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	9/20	MGo
Sabine's Gull	1 at Johnson City WTP	<u>Stanton</u>	9/21	TL
Sabine's Gull	1 at Clinton SP	Douglas	9/22	ABa, m.ob.
Sabine's Gull	4 at CBWA	Barton	10/13	m.ob.
Sabine's Gull	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	10/16	WCT
Sabine's Gull	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/08	MGo, MiL
Little Gull	1 juvenile at CBWA	Barton	9/02	DB, MGo, m.ob.
Herring Gull	1 early at CBWA	Barton	8/29	MGo
Herring Gull	1 early at Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	9/05	TE
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	9/08	TK
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Cheney SP	Kingman	10/04	LZ
Common Tern	1 early or lingering at CBWA	Barton	8/01	MGo, MiL, JM
Arctic Tern	1 at Cheney SP, KBRC	Reno	9/22	PJ
Pacific Loon	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	11/01	MMH
	Still present 11/09			
Pacific Loon	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/05	MP, m.ob.
Pacific Loon	1 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/17	MGo
Pacific Loon	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	11/24	MR
American White Pelican	17 at Johnson City WTP	<u>Stanton</u>	10/02	LL
Brown Pelican	1 at Lake McKinney	<u>Kearny</u>	10/05	KM
Great Egret	1 late at farm pond Edwardsville	Wyandotte	11/22	AIM
Great Egret	1 late at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/29	WC
Tri-colored Heron	1 at CBWA	Barton	8/10	JCA, MGo, JMy
	Still present 8/16			
Black Vulture	1 in flight southwest of Wilson	Russell	8/29	DK
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 near Milford Lake	Geary	8/07	JhK
	Was seen by numerous observers through 8/13			
Cooper's Hawk	1 early for western KS, Tribune	Greeley	8/01	TL
Barred Owl	1 calling at Atwood Lake	<u>Rawlins</u>	11/03	DMK, MP
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 at Hamilton SFL	<u>Hamilton</u>	9/22	HA
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 on state line west of Manter, KBRC	Stanton	8/08	HA, JC
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1 at Manter Dam RA	Stanton	9/01	JC, m.ob.
Merlin	1 early at CBWA	Barton	8/18	AH
Prairie Falcon	1 early northwest of Preston	Pratt	8/19	MR
Cassin's Kingbird	1 late southeast of Johnson City	Stanton	10/19	LL
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 late near Greenbush	Crawford	11/10	ABu
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 westerly at Sharon Springs City park	<u>Wallace</u>	9/22	TE, RW
Hammond's Flycatcher	1 at Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt, KBRC	Morton	9/14	AM
Dusky Flycatcher	1 at Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt	Morton	9/09	DT
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1 at Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt	Morton	9/09	DT
Bell's Vireo	1 at Leoti stormwater ponds	<u>Wichita</u>	8/30	MGo
Cassin's Vireo	1 at Hamilton SFL, KBRC	Hamilton	8/30	MGo

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Plumbeous Vireo	1 at Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt, KBRC	Morton	8/31	MGo, m.ob.
Fish Crow	1 flying over Mission Lake, calling	<u>Brown</u>	9/26	DMz
Chihuahuan Raven	3 near state line southwest of Syracuse, KBRC	Hamilton	08/08	HA, JC
Chihuahuan Raven	2 in northeastern part of county, KBRC	Hamilton	9/01	MGo, m.ob.
Chihuahuan Raven	1 at Elkhart Cemetery shelterbelt	Morton	9/09	DT
Chihuahuan Raven	2 at Manter Dam RA	Stanton	11/16	JC
Common Raven	1 in western part of county, KBRC	Stanton	9/01	MGo
Common Raven	6 in northeastern part of county, KBRC	Hamilton	9/01	MGo
Common Raven	2 at Middle Springs, CNG, KBRC	Morton	8/31	KC
Common Raven	1 at Hamilton SFL	Hamilton	9/23	TE, RW
Common Raven	2 feeding on road kill near Syracuse	Hamilton	9/23	TE, RW
Common Raven	1 in Elkhart	Morton	9/30	DMK, MP
Purple Martin	2 somewhat late in Arkansas City	Cowley	9/30	DS
Cliff Swallow	5 lingering west of Anthony	Harper	10/27	CE
Bushtit	7 at Scott SP, KBRC	Scott	11/24	KC, MGo, MiL
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at Dodge City feeders Still present 8/28	Ford	8/03	JC
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at Dodge City feeders Still present 8/30	Ford	8/09	CMM
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at Villa High Park, Colby	Thomas	8/26	TE
Sedge Wren	1 at Cedar Bluff SP	<u>Trego</u>	11/02	HA, JS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 somewhat late at Fall River Lake	Greenwood	10/04	KOS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 somewhat late near Piedmont	Elk	10/04	KOS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 late at Dyck Arboretum	Harvey	11/08	KP
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 late at Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/19	GL
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Solomon River, Alton	<u>Osborne</u>	10/22	HA
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 continuing near St. Francis Still present 8/20	Cheyenne	8/01	MK
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 in Ashland	<u>Clark</u>	8/09	HA
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 near St Francis	Cheyenne	10/13	CUBC
Sage Thrasher	1 at Hamilton SFL	<u>Hamilton</u>	9/23	TE, RW
Sage Thrasher	1 near St Francis	Cheyenne	10/13	CUBC
Bohemian Waxwing	1 heard at Scott Lake	Scott	11/22	TC
Red Crossbill	2 females at feeder	Shawnee	11/27	DA
Pine Siskin	1 at KDWPT Headquarters, Pratt	Pratt	8/01	MR
Lesser Goldfinch	1 continuing, Manhattan Still present 8/22	Riley	8/01	CL
Lesser Goldfinch	1 seen southeast of Bird City	Sherman	8/03	HA, DL
Lesser Goldfinch	1 seen southeast of Bird City	Cheyenne	8/03	HA, DL
Lesser Goldfinch	1 seen near Monument	<u>Logan</u>	11/24	KC, MGo, MiL
Snow Bunting	1 at QNWR	Barton	11/09	HA
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 late at Saline SFL	Saline	11/05	KK
Brewer's Sparrow	1 at Hamilton SFL	<u>Hamilton</u>	9/22	HA
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 at Wilson Lake Still present 11/01	Russell	10/26	DK
Baird's Sparrow	1 near CNG and Colorado state line	Morton	8/31	m.ob.
Canyon Towhee	1 at Point of Rocks CNG, KBRC Still present 11/27	Morton	9/01	DB, m.ob.
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 at Point of Rocks, CNG Still present 11/27	Morton	3/21	MN

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Green-tailed Towhee	1 in backyard, Garden City	Finney	9/22	SSh
Green-tailed Towhee	1 southeast of Johnson City	<u>Stanton</u>	10/09	LL
Eastern Towhee	1 westerly at No Name Park, Colby	<u>Thomas</u>	9/22	HA, TE, RW
Baltimore Oriole	1 somewhat late, Dodge City	Ford	10/23	CMM
Golden-winged Warbler	1 near Ellsworth	Ellsworth	9/07	DK
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Fitch Natural Heritage Reserve	Douglas	9/08	MZ
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Yancy Rd Mined Lands	Linn	9/26	MMH
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 early at Pittman residence	Leavenworth	9/01	GP
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 early at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	9/01	BWST
American Redstart	1 at Leoti stormwater ponds	<u>Wichita</u>	8/30	MGo
Northern Parula	1 late at Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/15	TSw
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 slightly early near Perry Lake	Jefferson	9/02	TSM
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2 in Garden City	Finney	10/09	SSh
Pine Warbler	1 in Cheney	<u>Kingman</u>	9/23	KMD, MP, CS
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 slightly early at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	8/18	StS, LS
Western Tanager	1 late in Grinnell	<u>Gove</u>	11/14	CF
Painted Bunting	1 along creek northeast of Smith Center	<u>Smith</u>	8/18	HA

**Locations and notes:** CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, imm. – immature, KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee report filed, KDWPT – Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, RA – Recreation 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. County name followed by an asterisk (\*) indicates a new confirmed breeding record.**

**Observers - Individuals:** Dallas Alexander, Ryan Andrews, Henry Armknecht, JC Avena (JCA), Michael Bader, Aaron Batterbee (ABa), Jeremy Birket, (JBi), Dan Broers, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Kathy Carroll, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), George Chiu, Walt Cochran, Michael Cooper, Dee Dunlap, Corey Entriken, Tom Ewert, Christopher Frick, Malcolm Gold (MGo), Rob Graham, Kevin Groeneweg, Steve Hofhine, Alec Hopping, Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Josh Keating (JhK), Mark Keller, Dave Klema, Thomas Koffel, Kaleb Krocker, Chris Lake, Larry Langstaff, Dan Larson, Gary Lechiliter, Tony Leukering, Micky Louis (MiL), John Mallery, Terry & Sam Mannell (TSM), Mark Mayfield (MMy), Kathy McDowell (KMD), Mick McHugh (MMH), Debra McKee (DMK), Christi McMillen (CMM), Kurtis Meier, Don Merz (DMz), Anthony Miller (AyM), Joseph Mosley (JMy), Alan Myers (AlM), Atcha Nolan, Mark Nolen, Diane Persons, Mark Pheasant, Nathan Pieplow, Galen Pittman, Ken Pitts, Marie Plinsky, Mike Rader, Tom & Sam Schermerhorn (TSS), Carl Schroeder (CSr), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Steve Seltman (StS), Roger Schultz, Sara Shane (SSh), Terry Swope (TSw), Logan Smith, David Tønnessen, Curt Van Boening (CVB), Jim Walton (JWa), Rodney Wedel, Jeff Witters (JWi), Molly Zahn, Linda Zempel **Groups:** BWST – Baker Wetlands Survey Team, CUBC – Colorado University Birding Club, KOS – KOS Fall Meeting Field Trips, m.ob. – many observers

## What's Missing?

Bird records. Many people think that with eBird we have the ability to gather all the information about birds and bird distribution we need. Unfortunately that isn't the case. I was recently working with some Shawnee County birders trying to confirm Red-shouldered Hawk as a breeding species for Shawnee County. We accomplished that task with a little bit of effort. Over the past 20 years we've really closed a lot of holes for sight records for many bird species across Kansas. Unfortunately breeding records are a bit more of a challenge. There are many, many species that we know breed in various Kansas counties. But we don't have confirmation. Knowing and being able to scientifically confirm are two different things. What does it take to confirm a breeding record? We use the standard breeding bird atlas definitions and you can view those at <http://kbbat.org/KBBATcriteria.htm>. If you can confirm a new breeding record (check the current county checklist to see if the species has an asterisk (\*) following it's name) email me ([cotte@twinvalleye.net](mailto:cotte@twinvalleye.net)) the species name, date, location and what criteria you observed. The county checklists can be found at: [https://www.ksbirds.org/checklist/checklist\\_index.htm](https://www.ksbirds.org/checklist/checklist_index.htm). Thank you!



*Continued from page 3*

**forward a bylaws change to the membership to vote on at the annual meeting to change “Membership Development Coordinator” back to “Membership Secretary” as it previously had been. Jeff seconded the motion and it passed 8 – 0.** Chuck said that he would prepare a formal notice showing where those changes would occur in the bylaws. This will be printed in the June and September Horned Lark issues to satisfy the requirement of notifying membership of proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Bulletin Editor:** Eugene explained that the December, 2019 *Bulletin* should have a 15-year index. Given the complexity of this task he decided to push it back so that the next index will be a 20-year index. The December 2019 and March 2020 issues will be mailed in June. There is a need for manuscripts. Many of the student papers presented at the fall meeting would make good papers for the *Bulletin*.

**Horned Lark Editor:** Chuck was working on the March issue in preparation for the spring meeting. He also briefly discussed his desire to hand off most of the website maintenance responsibilities within the next 5 years. He explained that some web items were lagging behind because he had been preoccupied with moving and hoped that this would be settling down soon so he could start to get caught up.

**Business Manager:** Malcom said that there had been about \$3000 in sales in 2019 mostly from the calendars. \$700 had been made with the new long-sleeved shirt. He was looking into reusable shopping bags/tote bags as they seem to be very popular right now. If anyone has any ideas for KOS merchandise please send those ideas to Malcom. The lip balm and lens cleaning clothes seemed to be popular but weren't good money makers.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Scholarship/Research Committee:** There had been one scholarship recently funded. \$743 was provided to Emily Ostrow who was studying Great Horned Owl subspecies contact zone in western Kansas. Several members expressed a desire to know more of how the funds are spent and the outcome from the research. Several board members indicated that they would talk to committee chair John Schukman about this.

**Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC):** Eugene said that the KBRC would be meeting in the afternoon. Terry Mannell would be reaching his term limit at the spring KOS meeting and would have to be replaced. Chuck explained that the KBRC forwards recommendations to the KOS Board for them to approve and this could be done via email. Options for new members were explained by Eugene.

**Conservation Committee:** No report

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Spring 2020 Meeting:** As Jenn had had to leave the meeting Chuck discussed the plans for the spring meeting. Mike Rader and Chuck had been taking the lead in the planning and organization. A block of rooms at the Regency Inn Motel in Concordia had been arranged. A gathering place for Friday evening was also secured as was a shelter house in the City Park for the Sunday compilation. Trip leaders were being secured and several members had indicated a willingness to help. Dates will be May 1 – 3.

**Fall 2020 Meeting:** Chuck had visited with Dr. Virginia Winder from Benedictine College and all early planning was on track for the Fall Meeting. Chuck said that he and Jenn would be working closely with Dr. Winder in the coming months to get all the details laid out.

**New Business:** *(New business discussion items had been moved to the Vice President's report slot to accommodate Jenn's need to depart early from the meeting.)*

Matt Gearheart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Chuck Otte  
Corresponding Secretary

# KOS SPRING MEETING

Concordia, Kansas

May 1 - 3, 2020

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

Make plans now to attend the KOS Spring Meeting in Concordia. We've never had a KOS meeting in Concordia although we have been close in Mitchell and Washington Counties. Field trips will focus on Cloud County locations as well as select locations in Ottawa, Mitchell, Jewell, and Republic Counties and possibly just over the line into Washington and Clay Counties.

**Headquarters:** Headquarters motel will be the Regency Inn in Concordia.

**Friday evening:** An informal gathering/registration will be at the Valley Rental Center, 803 Valley Street in Concordia, (this is the former Lincoln Elementary School), from 6:30 to about 8:30. While no formal check-in is held this will be a good time to meet up with old friends, meet new friends, enjoy some refreshments, and start deciding on which field trips you want to attend on Saturday.

**Saturday Field Trips:** Meet in the Regency Inn parking lot at 6:30. Attendees will join up with their groups to go out and spend the day birding. Saturday lunch is on your own and the trip leaders will provide snack and lunch stops, although options may be limited.

**Saturday Evening:** The evening meal will be Dutch treat at El Puerto Restaurant, 217 W 6th Street in Concordia.

**Sunday:** Meet in the Regency Inn parking lot at 6:30 a.m. for field trips. After a ½ day of birding, mainly closer to Concordia, 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 the Shelter House in the City Park, 11th and Washington in Concordia.

**Accommodations:** We have a block of 25 rooms for us at the Regency Inn in a combination of king (\$64.99 + tax), queen (\$58.99 + tax) and double queen (\$68.99 + tax.) The cut-off date for the block is April 21st. The Regency Inn is at 89 Lincoln Street in Concordia (north side of town on US Highway 81.) Call (785) 243-4545, and ask for the KOS Room Block.

Other motels in Concordia include Super 8, 1320 Lincoln St, US 81, (785) 243-4200 and Holiday Inn Express, 2175 Lincoln Street, US 81, (785) 243-2700. There are no room blocks at these two properties.

**Camping:** The city of Concordia has a campground on the south edge of town called the Airport Park Campground: [http://www.concordiak.org/departments/public\\_works/campground.php](http://www.concordiak.org/departments/public_works/campground.php). Additionally there are camping sites available at Lovewell and Glen Elder although those are both a distance from Concordia.

There are many interesting birding locations around north-central Kansas. We are working to provide some good opportunities with birders who have spent time in this part of the state. Some of the better known areas include Jamestown Marsh Wildlife area, Lovewell Reservoir and Wildlife Area, Glen Elder Reservoir, Ottawa State Fishing Lake, Jewell County State Lake, and many riparian woodlands along the Republican River and many smaller streams. This is yet another area of our great state that doesn't get the birding attention it deserves!

# Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 1 – 3, 2020 Concordia, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2020 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 21 <sup>st</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 21<sup>st</sup> will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.**  
**No registration refunds for cancellations after April 28<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 2020 KOS spring meeting. *(Registering on line, or submission of this form electronically indicates your acceptance of these conditions.)*

Signatures

Date

# KOS Membership

New Member       Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

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



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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming KOS Meetings!

### Fall Meeting, 2020

The KOS Fall Meeting will be held in Atchison, KS at Benedictine College on October 3 - 5, 2020. The last time KOS met in Atchison was 1955. We look forward to returning to Atchison and meeting on the Benedictine College campus. Dr. Virginia Winder will chair the local committee. Registration information will be in the September Horned Lark!

### Spring Meeting, 2021

The KOS Board tries to move the spring meeting around to different parts of the state. Spring of 2017 we were in Pittsburg in southeast Kansas. Spring of 2018 we were in Dodge City in southwest Kansas. Spring of 2019 we were in Ft. Scott in east central Kansas. This spring we are in Concordia in north-central Kansas. If you have an idea of some place in central, northwest or west central Kansas for next spring, contact a member of the board. But remember—if you make a suggestion you may be asked to help with the local committee!

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