



# The Horned Lark

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

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June, 2020

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## From the President's Pen

By Cheryl Miller

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Like millions of Americans, I was sent to work from home in mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic. During the 8 weeks I was home, I had a front row seat to the change from winter to spring. In addition to watching vegetation come back to life, I saw the daily parade of migration.

First came the Brown Thrashers and Purple Martins. Barn Swallows, Franklin's Gulls and Chimney Swifts soon followed. Yellow Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Baltimore Orioles and Mississippi Kites suddenly appeared.

As it got warmer, more people went outside. Birders got together to bird, but drove separately to locations and stood six feet apart.

And in New York City's Central Park, Christian Cooper, a man who wanted to enjoy spring migration, had, on the surface, an encounter many of us would consider mundane. He asked a woman, Amy Cooper, to put her dog on a leash.

Plot twist: He is black, she is white. He wanted to enjoy birds; she wanted her dog to run loose in the Ramble, a protected forested garden with meandering pathways and dense undergrowth. The area is clearly marked that dogs must be leashed.

The story received national attention. The encounter reminded me of Drew Lanham's powerful essay on birding while black, which you can read here: <https://lithub.com/birding-while-black/>. The Central Park incident spurred the creation of "Black Birders Week," a series of online events to celebrate and increase the visibility of black birders.

It also made me think of the number of times I've seen people of color at a birding event in Kansas: not many. It's usually been students giving papers or going on field trips at a KOS meeting. Other times it's been on a Wichita Audubon monthly bird walk.

I have a lot of questions, but not many answers. One thing is clear to me, though. As a white female birder, I have fewer safety concerns to consider than Christian Cooper or Drew Lanham. As birders, we are drawn together over our love of birds, but our ability to enjoy them without second guessing our personal security varies greatly.

This spring vaulted KOS into a departure from our usual plans to meet as a group and bird together. Thanks to Jeff Calhoun's creative ideas,

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# From the Keyboard

By the Editor

What a spring! I don't think anyone expected 2020 to take this very interesting twist and turn! Kudos to Jeff Calhoun and the KOS Board for figuring out how to have some sort of a spring gathering. Jeff wrote a nice article that you can find on Page 8 about the "Digital Spring Meeting" and the bird list starts on Page 10. A pretty good snapshot of the state of birds across the entire state of Kansas in early May.

My 2020 was going to start out different even without the pandemic, with our move to the farm. The pandemic simply gave Jaye and I more opportunities to stay home and enjoy the abundant bird life in rural Geary County near Milford Lake! I'm not retiring, yet, but moving to the farm will make the transition much easier in a few more years!

I have made a lot of friends in the birding circles over the years. I enjoy getting together with them to go birding, talking about birds or just talking and catching up with where their lives have taken them. The pandemic canceled our usual get together. Because of limits on gatherings I haven't started my monthly bird walks at Milford Lake yet, but hoping to be able to do that in July. The human species is a contact oriented species. We need to be able to shake hands, pat a friend on the back, give someone a hug. We are a caring species. We care about each other, we care about birds, we care about all species and the ecosystem that we coexist in.

That care needs to cross gender boundaries, cultural boundaries, nationality boundaries and racial boundaries. The capabilities of the digital technology we willingly embrace allow us to communicate around the world. I've made birding friends in other countries and on other continents. I've had the good fortune to bird in different countries on several continents. I have been welcomed with open arms by total strangers who don't look like me. We are all one race on this one planet. One race, the human race, one planet, Earth. We must take better care of each other AND the planet.

One of my objectives in my monthly bird walks, has always been to be inclusive for all who show up regardless of age, skill level, just regardless of anything. I strive to show those participants places to bird around Milford Lake that they may not know about. I try to provide a safe birding experience so that they don't have to be constantly looking over their shoulder.

As a white male birder growing up in Nebraska I never really gave much thought to having to look over my shoulder while birding. My biggest concerns were surprising a skunk or making sure I found all the ticks! Recent events have opened my eyes to the simple fact that many people can't bird that way. It's sad and it isn't right. We must all strive to take better care of each other and the planet. Be safe my friends.

- Chuck



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# Welcome New Members!

Jeff Calhoun

KOS Membership Development Coordinator

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was unable to get to a printer and post office to send welcome letters to new members this spring. We are glad to be welcoming a number of new members! On behalf of the KOS board, I want to welcome all of the new members of Kansas Ornithological Society! I hope you are enjoying your first Horned Lark and we are so pleased to have you join our organization! The Kansas Ornithological Society is made up of people at all levels of experience and knowledge of birds. Our main focus is to promote birding in the interest of educational and research advancement as well as individual, family, and group enjoyment. Whatever your desire, whether improving your birding skills or pursuing an educational interest, KOS has something to offer you! Stay tuned for information regarding our fall meeting in the September issue of the Horned Lark or on our website, [www.ksbirds.org](http://www.ksbirds.org).

If any members, new or old, have any questions about your KOS membership or ideas about improving KOS, please do not hesitate to let me know! In the meantime, please welcome the following new members!

Christi McMillen, Dodge City  
Melody Aiello, Rolling Meadows (IL)  
Craig Kroeker, Pawnee Rock  
Cassie Wells, Dodge City  
Logan Smith, Topeka  
Michael Williams, Lawrence  
Jera Wolke, Conway Springs  
Mark Ballinger, Clearwater  
Molly Zahn, Lawrence

Melanie Falcon, Lindsborg  
Keaton Leiker, Lindsborg  
Jonas Kern, Chase  
Curtis Schmidt, Hays  
Dave Linsenmeyer, Dodge City  
John Remmert, Wamego  
Jessica Blehm, Great Bend  
Denise Cameron, Emporia

*President's Pen—continued from Page 1*

members banded from their homes or within 20 miles of their residence May 2-3. We then met by Zoom twice to report what we'd seen across the state. The species list came in over 200.

We don't know yet what we'll be doing for the fall KOS meeting. Given the constantly fluctuating state of the virus and its impacts, it's difficult to predict what will happen. I'd like to hear from you. Would you be interested in meeting over Zoom and seeing the paper presentations? Would you rather do what we did for the spring meeting and forgo papers? Do you have other ideas? Please let me know at [avian67226@gmail.com](mailto:avian67226@gmail.com).

Despite our current difficulties, there are better days ahead. In the meantime, the birds are here for all of us to enjoy.

- Cheryl

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

# Kansas Birding Roundup, Winter, (December 2019 – February 2020) Chuck Otte, compiler

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This is the report of the winter birding season in Kansas, December through February. With the Farmer's Almanac predicting a rough and snowy winter I'm sure many Kansas birders entered the season with visions of northern finches and white owls in their dreams. None of the above occurred. A quick glance at this seasonal Roundup will show but one winter finch and no large white owls confirmed in the state.

Recent winters have given us some pretty impressive swan numbers (106 Trumpeter Swans in February of 2019, 207 Trumpeters in January of 2018.) This winter was not so impressive with 60 being the largest feeding flock reported. However, 45 Tundra Swans at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is a respectable count for this species.

Sandhill Cranes can be found wintering more and more commonly in the state especially in the south-central region. This winter a juvenile Whooping Crane spent the entire season at Quivira. The bird did not appear to be injured so one can only speculate if it became separated from its parents or merely found that it liked the company of our other crane species instead.

Gulls were nearly absent from the report this season. Greater and Lesser-blacked Gulls are now an expected winter commodity and are only really noteworthy outside of the season. Two Mew Gulls were the highlight of the winter gulls and would only represent the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> records of that species if accepted by the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC).

Black Vultures seem to be establishing some respectable winter population in southeast Kansas. Good numbers were seen through the season in Chautauqua and Cherokee Counties indicating that wintering groups are likely elsewhere as well in that region.

Several species were noticeable for lingering well into the season. Brown Thrashers occasionally over winter, probably every year but are often overlooked. This year they were reported well into the season as well as the far less regularly overwintering Gray Catbirds. Several warblers also lingered well into December as did House Wrens.

Two other notables for the season was the White-eyed Vireo near Waconda Lake in Mitchell County and a Lark Bunting in Pottawatomie County. Lark Buntings are expected winter residents in extreme southwest Kansas. Pottawatomie County is just a few hundred miles northeast of their expected range. White-eyed Vireos winter on the Gulf Coast and even their summer range in Kansas doesn't normally include extreme north-central Kansas!

A Chipping Sparrow in the winter season was once on the KBRC review list. Their overwintering numbers continue to increase and really are no longer noteworthy and are almost expected. The same can be said for Orange-crowned Warblers as well. These, and other species that have historically wintered just south of Kansas should be expected to be encountered more and more routinely in winter as the climate continues to warm.

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>
Trumpeter Swan	60 in field along Stranger Creek	Leavenworth	01/14	DW
Tundra Swan	45 at QNWR	Stafford	02/16	SS
Eurasian Wigeon	1 at CBWA	Barton	02/26	RP
American Black Duck	1 at Howard WTP	Elk	12/10	CS
American Black Duck	1 at farm pond 1 mile east of Howard WTP Possibly same bird as 12/10 at WTP?	Elk	12/13	MGo
American Black Duck	2 at Neosho WA Continuing 02/22	Neosho	12/13	KC, DP
American Black Duck	1 near Princeton	Franklin	12/21	MGo
American Black Duck	1 at Mined Lands area	Linn	12/22	MGo, TSw

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Surf Scoter	1 at Melvern Lake Dam Still present 02/19	Osage	02/08	KC, DP
White-winged Scoter	1 at Pomona Lake	Osage	12/07	KC, MGo
White-winged Scoter	1 at LaFarge Sandpits Continuing through 02/24	Sedgwick	12/13	TE, KG
White-winged Scoter	1 at Tuttle Dam Still present 12/20	Riley/Pottawatomie	12/13	JRw
White-winged Scoter	1 imm at Waconda Reservoir	Mitchell	01/24	SS
Black Scoter	1 at Wilson Lake Still present 12/12	Russell	12/08	MR
Black Scoter	1 at Melvern Lake Continuing through 01/20	Osage	01/03	CE
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/23	HA, MR
Long-tailed Duck	2 at Melvern Lake Continuing through 02/09	Osage	01/03	JMy
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Marion Reservoir	Marion	01/11	TB
Long-tailed Duck	1 at LaFarge Sandpits Continuing 01/26	Sedgwick	01/25	MN
Long-tailed Duck	1 at CBWA	Barton	02/26	RP
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 at Pomona Lake Still present 12/24	Osage	12/07	KC, MGo
Barrow's Goldeneye	2 at Melvern Lake Continuing through 02/09	Osage	01/05	KMD, MP
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 male at West Cheney Boat Ramp	Kingman	02/19	DZ
Horned Grebe	2 at Melvern Lake At least 1 still present 01/08	Osage	01/07	JH, MMH
Red-necked Grebe	1 at La Cygne Lake Continuing, 12/25, apparently same bird	Linn	11/30	KC
Eared Grebe	1 at Horse Thief Reservoir	Hodgeman	01/09	CMM
Western Grebe	1 easterly at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/03	MP
American Coot	51 at Hamilton SFL	Hamilton	01/02	KC, DP
Sandhill Crane	2 at Melvern Lake, early and easterly	Osage	02/21	CM, SN
American Avocet	1 lingering at QNWR Still present on 01/18	Stafford	12/03	DMo
Baird's Sandpiper	1 early at Kanopolis Lake	Ellsworth	02/16	DK
Least Sandpiper	1 late, south edge of La Cygne	Linn	12/06	KC, DP
American Woodcock	1 slightly early at Hillsdale WA	Miami	02/16	MGo
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at QNWR	Stafford	01/01	RP
Greater Yellowlegs	1 out of season, CBWA	Barton	01/24	JL
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at QNWR, Same bird as January??	Stafford	02/08	MN
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 adult at Melvern Lake Still present 01/15	Osage	01/06	KC, DP, m.ob.
Franklin's Gull	1 in breeding plumage at Reno Co Landfill	Reno	12/21	AyM
Mew Gull	1 adult at Melvern Lake, KBRC	Osage	01/10	MGo, JMy
Mew Gull	1 adult at Lake Quivira, KBRC This bird moved between Lake Quivira and Johnson Co WTP. Still present 02/07	Johnson	02/01	ML, KC, MGo
Glaucous Gull	1 at Lake Quivira	Johnson	02/01	KC, MGo, ML

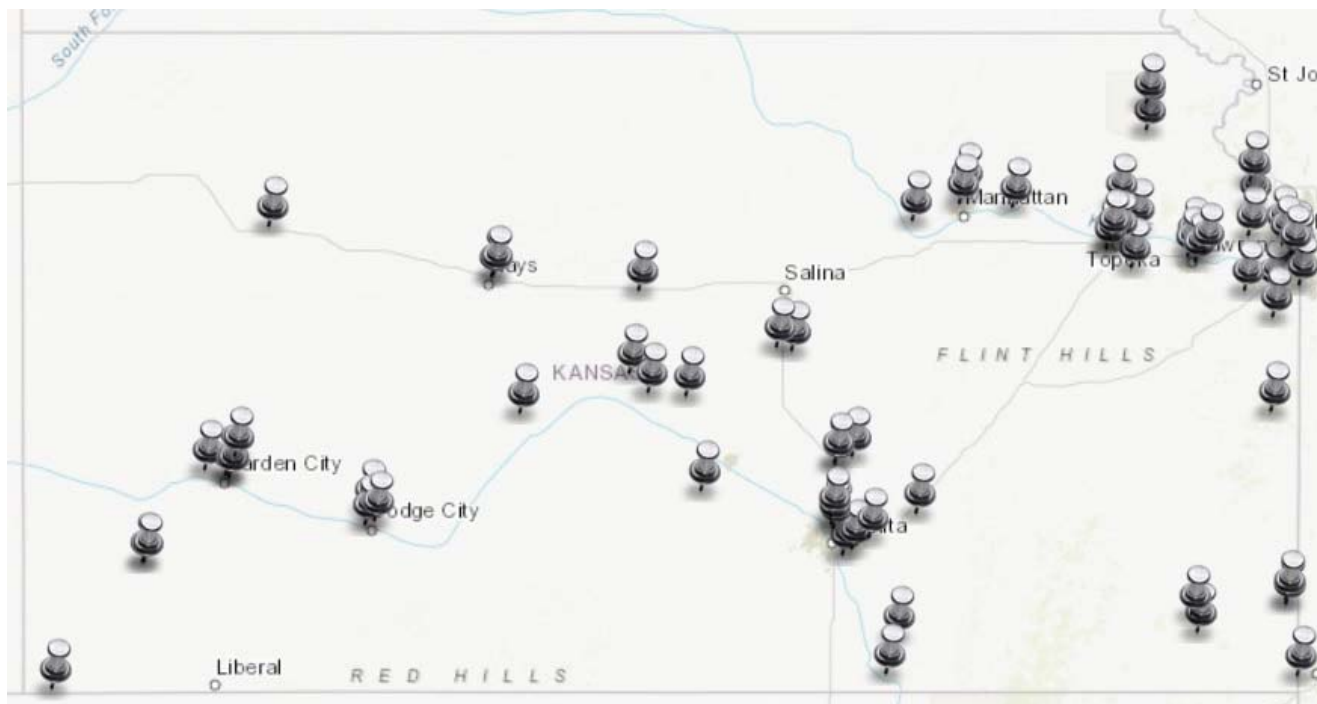
<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Pacific Loon	1 juvenile at Pomona Lake Still present 12/10	Osage	12/06	KC, MGo, m.ob.
Pacific Loon	1 at La Cygne Lake Likely same bird still present 01/14	Linn	12/26	GP
Great Egret	1 lingering at Sedgwick Co Zoo Continuing through 01/20	Sedgwick	12/18	JBi
Black Vulture	<u>20</u> along south side of Sedan 39 present at this location on 12/13 MGo	Chautauqua	12/10	CS, AN
Osprey	1 late at Chapin Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	12/03	SSb
Osprey	1 late or early at Linn County Park	Linn	01/09	RB
Golden Eagle	1 easterly near Garnett	Anderson	12/11	MGo
Northern Goshawk	1 adult female, SE Stevens County	Stevens	01/22	GL
Long-eared Owl	1 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/15	IP, MP
Long-eared Owl	1 SW of Wilson on Wilson CBC	Russell	01/09	DK
Long-eared Owl	1 near Harvey County West Park	Harvey	01/18	RP
Lewis's Woodpecker	1 just northeast of Elkhart on US56 Still present 01/04	Morton	12/26	BW
Eastern Phoebe	1 lingering northwest of Anthony	Harper	12/19	KG
Eastern Phoebe	1 north of Peru	Chautauqua	12/20	AN, CS
Eastern Phoebe	2 at Neosho WA	Neosho	12/21	ABu
Eastern Phoebe	1 at MDC WA	Linn	12/22	MGo, TSw
Northern Shrike	1 near Paola	Miami	01/22	RW
Northern Shrike	1 near Atchison, easterly	Atchison	02/23	MRb, JB
White-eyed Vireo	1 at Waconda Lake	<u>Mitchell</u>	12/23	MR, HA
Black-billed Magpie	1 on Kanopolis CBC, not common recently	Ellsworth	12/21	RP, MR
Common Raven	2 south of K51 just east of Colorado line	Morton	01/01	KC, DP
Bushtit	6 at Scott Lake	Scott	12/10	HA
Bushtit	4 in Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	12/26	BW
Rock Wren	1 at Lucas Park, Wilson Res.	Russell	12/04	DK, BG
House Wren	1 late on KU West Campus	Douglas	12/13	TK
House Wren	1 on Slate Creek CBC, NW region	Sumner	12/18	HA, DL
House Wren	1 in Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	12/27	RyW
House Wren	1 in Arkansas City, late	Cowley	01/05	DS
Sedge Wren	1 early at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	02/01	MKW
Gray Catbird	1 in Klema farmyard Continuing through 01/24	Russell	12/02	DK
Gray Catbird	1 at KU West Campus Continuing on 02/15	Douglas	12/10	TK
Gray Catbird	1 at Meade SP	Meade	01/03	TE, DL
Gray Catbird	1 in Dodge City, early or overwintering	Ford	02/05	CMM
Common Redpoll	2 in weed patch Blackwolf CBC	Ellsworth	01/12	ER, MR
Lark Bunting	1 west of Louisville	Pottawatomie	01/19	TSS
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Kill Creek Park	Johnson	02/15	JWi
LeConte's Sparrow	1 southwest of Hillsboro	Marion	02/25	LH
Canyon Towhee	3 at Point of Rocks, CNG 3 still present 01/25	Morton	01/03	MN
Eastern Towhee	1 SW Union Chapel Rd, westerly for season	Barber	01/04	DL
Eastern Towhee	1 in Abilene. Westerly for season	Dickinson	01/18	KK
Baltimore Oriole	1 quite late, Sedgwick Co Zoo	Sedgwick	12/11	JBi

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number and Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>
Common Yellowthroat	1 at Neosho WA Continuing 12/21	Neosho	12/20	ABu
Common Yellowthroat	2 near Medicine Lodge, late	Barber	01/04	PJ
Common Yellowthroat	1 at Baker Wetlands Still present 01/07	Douglas	01/06	RB
Pine Warbler	1 in rural yard southeast of Hoyt	<u>Jackson</u>	12/07	LZ
Summer Tanager	1 quite late at Perry SP	Jefferson	12/03	MP
Summer Tanager	1 adult female, Lake Quivira Apparently same bird present in area on 02/14	Johnson	12/27	MC
Dickcissel	1 lingering at Tuttle Creek WA	Pottawatomie	12/05	DR
Dickcissel	1 at Marlatt Memorial Park, Manhattan	Riley	12/15	MMY
Dickcissel	1 at Flint Hills NWR	Coffey	12/20	MG

**Locations and notes:** CBC – Christmas Bird Count, CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, imm. – immature, 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, Aaron Batterbee (ABa), Todd Becker, Jeremy Birket, (JBi), John Bollin, Roger Boyd, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Kathy Carroll, Michael Cooper, Corey Entriiken, Tom Ewert, Brent Galliard, Matt Gearheart, Malcolm Gold (MGo), Kevin Groeneweg, Jennifer Hammett, Lisa Hoffman, Pete Janzen, Dave Klema, Thomas Koffel, Kaleb Kroeker, Mark Land, Dan Larson, Jack Lefor, Guy Luneau, Mark Mayfield (MMY), Kathy McDowell (KMD), Mick McHugh (MMH), Christi McMillen (CMM), Anthony Miller (AyM), Debra Mootz (DMo), Carol Morgan, Joseph Mosley (JMy), Sue Newland, Atcha Nolan, Mark Nolen, Rob Penner, Diane Persons, Isaac Peterson, Mark Pheasant, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinksy, Ellen Rader, Jenn Rader, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Mark Robbins (MRb), John Row (JRw), Tom & Sam Schermerhorn (TSS), Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Steve Seibel (SSb), Scott Seltman, Terry Swope (TSw), Rodney Wright, Ray Wershler (RyW), Bryan White, Mary K. Wilcox (MKW), Dave Williams, Jeff Witters (JWi), Dennis Zehr, Linda Zempel **Groups:** m.ob. – many observers



Each pin represents the home of a birder that was participating in the KOS Digital Spring Meeting, May 2-3 2020. (See page 8.)

# KOS Digital Spring Meeting Recap

## By Jeff Calhoun

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In a Harvey County bakery on the first weekend of May, Gregg Friesen was enjoying a special indulgence on a birding trip. On this spring Saturday, it was an almond croissant. Elsewhere across Kansas, birders were out in force seeking spring migrants and newly arrived summer residents. But for this first weekend in May, the similarities would end for many birders who would otherwise be attending the KOS Spring meeting.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the much-anticipated Spring Meeting in Concordia was cancelled. Out of its ashes, the idea of a digital meeting was initiated. The idea was simple: instead of meeting together as a large group, Kansas birders were encouraged to go birding near their home areas on Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3. At the end of the weekend, a species list for these “socially distant field trips” would be compiled and memories would be shared. Participation was easier than ever, and 93 people played along with the ambitious idea one way or another. On these distant field trips, a mind-boggling 242 species were encountered in Kansas on the weekend!

The anecdotes from this digital meeting are obviously different than most spring meetings; nonetheless, they were memorable. Of course, there were birds doing the bizarre bird things we all enjoy. Jenn Rader (Galena) observed a Wood Duck harassing a Northern Mockingbird. John Schuckman (Leavenworth) saw a Peregrine Falcon three days earlier, and it was still present in the same spot so to be recorded on the weekend. Many birders found many first-of-year species, especially popular were the Bobolinks arriving for many of the eastern Kansas birders. People across the state were taking note of some species that have already fledged young, such as Canada Geese and American Robins. Like most meetings, some people added lifers. Janet Reynolds (La Cygne) found her first Blue-headed Vireo and Atcha Nolan (El Dorado) discovered her lifer Buff-breasted Sandpipers! Staying close to home at this time of the year yielded a few unexpected surprises. Henry Armknecht (Hays) commented that he had never been in his home county during the first weekend in May, and during the digital meeting he added both Blackpoll Warbler and Summer Tanager to his Ellis County lists, #239 and #240 respectively! Malcolm Gold (Overland Park) saw a Dunlin at Hillsdale Reservoir, his 265<sup>th</sup> species for Miami County, while I added Magnolia Warbler to my Ford County list for my 268<sup>th</sup> species and later added a Bay-breasted Warbler that Christi McMillen (Dodge City) found on her local Sunday birding efforts! Carolyn Schwab’s (Newton) 273<sup>rd</sup> Harvey County species, a Greater Roadrunner, was found right down the street from her house. Andrew George (Pittsburgh) added a new county record Common Gallinule for Crawford County during his efforts!

The field trips also looked a bit different during this spring meeting and each person did it uniquely to them and their situation. For Rick Tucker (Parsons), it was an opportunity to participate in a Spring Meeting he otherwise wouldn’t have been able to. Doris Burnett (Manhattan) went birding with her two dogs. Lisa Weeks (Lawrence) casually noted birds around her backyard while working outdoors. Simultaneously, Mark Land (Overland Park) drove more than 200 miles seeking birds all around Johnson County, finding a whopping 101 species in one day! On the same day, Scott Seltman (Larned) set out to find 100 species in a day in Kiowa County and after taking a wrong turn he somehow ended up at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge on the way home! Sam and Terry Mannell (Topeka) spent the day exclusively enjoying the birds in Jefferson County. Wichita birders Kevin Groeneweg and Tom Ewert were undertaking modified but successful bird-a-thons for Wichita Audubon Society. In Garden City, it felt similar to a Christmas Bird Count when nine participants spanned the countryside in Finney and Kearny Counties, locating a cumulative 107 species. Curtis Schmidt (Hays) took his dad, sister, and brother-in-law on their first birding experience to Cheyenne Bottoms. With at least 93 people spanning the entire state, the compiled list is truly phenomenal. Statewide, it includes 29 species of shorebirds and 28 warbler species during the weekend! This modified spring meeting emphasized a fact many already knew: Kansas has some phenomenal birding!



And finally, the socializing and sharing of sightings also had to change with the situation. On Saturday evening and again on Sunday afternoon, more than thirty people joined in on Zoom meetings to talk about the birds and to conduct a makeshift compilation. It was very neat to see seasoned Kansas birders sharing their sightings alongside new birders, but instead of this being in Concordia and in person, it unfolded on the computer screens in our homes. Faces from across the Kansas birding landscape chatted birds, enjoyed a few quips from the one and only Sebastian Patti on Saturday, and participated in Chuck Otte's compilation on Sunday. Two newer birders, Melanie Falcon (Lindsborg) and John Stemert (Wamego) both commented about how much fun they had seeing the passion of the group as we were discussing our sightings, and both Melanie and John were feverishly checking their field guides to look up some of the species being discussed! It looked different, but still included a little bit of the magic of a typical Spring Meeting. KOS's first ever digital meeting was not exempt from the faux pas that accompany Zoom meetups, however. A few people took a few moments to settle in and figure it out. Some never did. We inadvertently met a few curious pets, including Cheryl Miller's cat Ginger, Doris Burnett's dog Sadie, and Henry Armknecht's cat Blackie. Birder specific challenges arose too. Matt Gearhart (Lenexa) had a Carolina Wren singing so loudly in his backyard during the compilation that he had to go on mute. My first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the year was seen on my computer screen, visiting Dan Larson's feeder behind where he was positioned at his home. Stuck quarantining in western Kansas, I don't know whether I can count it as my first-of-year Hummingbird or not! This modified spring meeting emphasized another fact many already knew: Kansas birders are a one-of-a-kind bunch!



As many as 42 people participated in Zoom chats on Saturday evening and Sunday. This “group picture” is from the Saturday evening chit-chat.

# 2020 KOS Virtual Spring Meeting Compiled Bird List

Compiled by Jeff Calhoun and Chuck Otte

Snow Goose	Baird's Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Least Sandpiper	American Kestrel
Wood Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper	Peregrine Falcon
Blue-winged Teal	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher
Cinnamon Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	Western Kingbird
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird
Gadwall	Short-billed Dowitcher	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
American Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Mallard	American Woodcock	Acadian Flycatcher
Northern Pintail	Spotted Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher
Green-winged Teal	Solitary Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe
Redhead	Lesser Yellowlegs	Say's Phoebe
Ring-necked Duck	Willet	Loggerhead Shrike
Greater Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs	White-eyed Vireo
Bufflehead	Wilson's Phalarope	Bell's Vireo
Common Goldeneye	Red-necked Phalarope	Yellow-throated Vireo
Hooded Merganser	Bonaparte's Gull	Blue-headed Vireo
Common Merganser	Franklin's Gull	Philadelphia Vireo
Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Warbling Vireo
Northern Bobwhite	Herring Gull	Red-eyed Vireo
Scaled Quail	Black Tern	Blue Jay
Ring-necked Pheasant	Forster's Tern	Black-billed Magpie
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Common Loon	American Crow
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	Neotropic Cormorant	Fish Crow
Wild Turkey	Double-crested Cormorant	Horned Lark
Pied-billed Grebe	American White Pelican	Bank Swallow
Eared Grebe	American Bittern	Tree Swallow
Rock Pigeon	Great Blue Heron	N. Rough-winged Swallow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Great Egret	Purple Martin
White-winged Dove	Snowy Egret	Barn Swallow
Mourning Dove	Little Blue Heron	Cliff Swallow
Greater Roadrunner	Cattle Egret	Carolina Chickadee
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Green Heron	Black-capped Chickadee
Black-billed Cuckoo	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Tufted Titmouse
Common Nighthawk	White-faced Ibis	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Common Poorwill	Black Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch
Chuck-will's-widow	Turkey Vulture	House Wren
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Osprey	Winter Wren
Chimney Swift	Northern Harrier	Sedge Wren
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Marsh Wren
King Rail	Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren
Virginia Rail	Bald Eagle	Bewick's Wren
Sora	Mississippi Kite	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Common Gallinule	Red-shouldered Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Coot	Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Bluebird
Black-necked Stilt	Swainson's Hawk	Gray-cheeked Thrush
American Avocet	Red-tailed Hawk	Swainson's Thrush
Killdeer	Barn Owl	Wood Thrush
Semipalmated Plover	Eastern Screech-Owl	American Robin
Snowy Plover	Great Horned Owl	Gray Catbird
Upland Sandpiper	Burrowing Owl	Brown Thrasher
Whimbrel	Barred Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Hudsonian Godwit	Belted Kingfisher	European Starling
Marbled Godwit	Red-headed Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Ruddy Turnstone	Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Stilt Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	American Pipit
Sanderling	Hairy Woodpecker	House Finch
Dunlin	Northern Flicker	

Pine Siskin  
 American Goldfinch  
 Cassin's Sparrow  
 Grasshopper Sparrow  
 Lark Sparrow  
 Lark Bunting  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Clay-colored Sparrow  
 Field Sparrow  
 White-crowned Sparrow  
 Harris's Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Vesper Sparrow  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 Spotted Towhee  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Yellow-breasted Chat  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 Bobolink  
 Eastern Meadowlark  
 Western Meadowlark  
 Orchard Oriole  
 Bullock's Oriole  
 Baltimore Oriole  
 Red-winged Blackbird

Brown-headed Cowbird  
 Brewer's Blackbird  
 Common Grackle  
 Great-tailed Grackle  
 Ovenbird  
 Louisiana Waterthrush  
 Northern Waterthrush  
 Blue-winged Warbler  
 Black-and-white Warbler  
 Prothonotary Warbler  
 Tennessee Warbler  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Kentucky Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Mourning Warbler  
 Hooded Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Northern Parula  
 Magnolia Warbler  
 Bay-breasted Warbler  
 Blackburnian Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Blackpoll Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Yellow-throated Warbler

Prairie Warbler  
 Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Canada Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Summer Tanager  
 Scarlet Tanager  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 Black-headed Grosbeak  
 Blue Grosbeak  
 Indigo Bunting  
 Painted Bunting  
 Dickcissel

*The 242 species listed here represent the sightings reported from the 93 participants in the "Digital Spring KOS Meeting" from all day on May 2nd up through the online compilation at noon on May 3. For obvious reasons there was no attempt to assign all the sightings to county. However several new county records were found and reported in the process! - Editor*

## Pandemic Planning

The KOS Board has spent a lot of time in recent months examining multiple scenarios regarding, first, the spring meeting and now the fall meeting. These discussions are fraught with unknowns and uncertainties. But the full range of options from a "normal" fall meeting to a virtual fall meeting paper session to nothing at all are on the table.

The Fall Meeting is scheduled to be at Benedictine College in Atchison the first weekend of October. We don't know what local authorities may be allowing for gatherings at that time—they probably don't know either. We don't know what the status of Benedictine College will be for allowing non-students, as well as students, staff or faculty on campus. We don't know what your comfort level may be with getting out and about. And those are just some of the known unknowns!

Many organizations are facing this same problem right now. This would be our annual meeting where elections would be held and new board members elected. Most organizations, when their bylaws were written and developed, never considered anything like this pandemic. How does an organization deal with this and their annual cycles of meetings, events, activities, etc.?

KOS President Cheryl Miller, in her President's Pen column, has asked for input. Please drop her an email. Contact any of the KOS Board members (Page 2) and let them know your thoughts. The board will be discussing this much more in the coming weeks as we try to plan for and around this pandemic.

- Chuck Otte, KOS Secretary

# KOS Membership

New Member       Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

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

## Support Kansas Ornithological Society Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

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

### Non-discrimination Statement

KOS is a non-profit organization committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and free from discrimination in our membership community and associated KOS activities because of race, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.

## Upcoming KOS Meetings!

### Fall Meeting, 2020

The KOS Fall Meeting is scheduled to be held in Atchison, KS at Benedictine College on October 3 - 5, 2020. Due to Covid-19 all plans are up in the air for this, just as they are for much of our lives. As updates become available they will be posted on the KSBIRD-L listserv and on Facebook. The September issue is scheduled to be out in late August and will have the KOS Board's decisions and details.

### 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 were scheduled to be in Concordia in north-central Kansas. We hope that we will be able to try that again next spring. But beyond that, the plate is open. Feel free to make a suggestion to the KOS Board but be ready to help out on a local committee when you do!