



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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From the President's Pen

By Jenn Rader

Spring commonly brings feelings of renewal and growth, and for me this rings true. I look forward to seeing the vegetation come alive again as the sunlight hours grow longer, and of course hearing the symphony of singing birds (and insects and amphibians!) I don't mind winter as much as I used to, as I also relish in the opportunity to rest and recharge during the colder, shorter days. Plus, life is so much better when you can participate in a Christmas Bird Count! Still, spring brings the excitement of more activity and the promise of more outdoor adventures in generally fairer weather.

This spring, I have a challenge for you. Before I get to that challenge, I hope you'll allow me to provide a little backstory.

We're brought together here by the wonder of birds. Each of us has our own reasons for enjoying the Avian Class. We're also aware of the challenges birds face, as well as the importance of a healthy environment. Cue the discussions on conservation, ecology, the One Health movement, biodiversity and more. Personally, I'm in awe of the interconnectedness of living and non-living things in an ecosystem and the relationships between them. It's fun to watch birds, but really examining how a bird interacts with the different features in its environment...okay, I'm already getting myself sidetracked!

Back to those challenges. Birds face many, but the number one challenge they face is habitat loss and degradation. It is the number one challenge for most organisms, in fact. We could talk about the numerous types and what causes it and so much more, but let's focus on how each of us can help.

If you grew up and/or currently live some place with a yard or near a green space, count yourself lucky! I'll make an educated guess that you're also part of the more than 57 million Americans that contribute to spending 4 billion dollars on feeding birds each year.¹ We attract birds to our yards and green spaces, but do those spaces have quality bird habitat? Unfortunately, highly manicured lawns are poor substitutes, and can contribute to the problems wildlife face.

My challenge to each of you this spring is to add some native habitat features to a green space near you. If you have a yard, add a variety of native plants in a corner. If you've already made bird friendly habitat a feature of your yard, maybe you can help someone you know get started on this worthy endeavor or get your yard certified in one of several backyard habitat certification programs. Don't have a yard? Check with local conservation groups to see if you can help plant something or donate money. Get ahold of your city's parks department to see if they would put in a native garden at a local park. If you're still not sure how to help, contact any of our KOS board officers and we'd be happy to provide more ideas. Whatever you decide to do, I hope you'll join me this spring in the challenge to reduce monoculture by improving and increasing native habitat near you. Every little bit helps!

Wishing you all a birdy spring,

- Jenn

¹ Virginia Tech. 26 March 2019. "People who feed birds impact conservation." In ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, <<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190326081337.htm>>.

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

March brings us the start of spring full of new hope, new birds, and perhaps the return to pre-pandemic normalcy...almost. Regardless of the latter, few things raise the hopes of birders like spring migration!

Spring migration, or perhaps northbound migration, is already underway. Those “early birds” may not be the flashy warblers, but they’re already here. Goldfinches are getting their alternate (summer) plumage. You walk outside in the morning and the level of bird song has increased noticeably. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles are back in my yard. Maybe not the most popular yard birds, but they are evidence that the cycles of nature are still there.

We wait with anticipation of those first true migrant warblers. Perhaps a Louisiana Waterthrush belting out it’s song along some small stream or a Yellow-throated Warbler blasting out it’s song from the top of a sycamore! As the days of April move towards May the sense of excitement grows with every day that we have a warm south breeze blowing. And then almost as quickly as it started, it’s over and we bemoan what wasn’t seen and settle into the birds of summer. But in the meantime, the anticipation of those first ten days of May will make many an adult giddy as a school child!!

This year, right smack in the middle of that early May time frame we have a KOS spring meeting alternative—a birding blitz! One day, when we’d normally have our spring meeting, that we’ve set aside to see how many birds we can see across the state. Perhaps even to see how many counties in the state we can generate bird lists from. One day that we can all make it a point to be out and birding and enjoying the warm weather and sunshine (we hope!) Regardless of the weather, one day we are going to set aside to make sure that we are out birding! Please check out the information on the opposite page (page 3) for details on “The Birding Blitz” and if you have any questions, drop me a note.

Pages 11—13 are the draft minutes for the KOS Winter Board meeting. Even though we haven’t officially approved these minutes we are including them to keep you, the members, aware of what’s happening in your Society. While technology helps us to have meetings while scattered all across the state, and see each others faces on the computer screen, it just isn’t the same as being able to shake somebody’s hand in greeting!

You’ll notice a double shot of seasonal Birding Roundups in this edition. Since we only had three issues of the newsletter in 2021 we had to play catch-up to get back on track, hence the double shot!

Let me wrap up with an encouragement to read the bottom of page 6. Mike Rader is giving us a teaser on something that I feel is quite exciting and that several of us have been involved with—the Kansas Birding Trail. Hopefully it’ll be on line by the time you read this!

- Chuck



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https://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_officers.html

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It's A Birding Blitz!

When COVID-19 won't let you have a traditional
KOS Spring Field Trip, why not have a Birding Blitz!!!

Saturday, May 7th, midnight to midnight,
(Or any hours you wish to participate)
Pick a county (counties) and bird until you drop!
(Or you need a nap!)

Bird by yourself.
Bird with your family.
Bird with whomever you are comfortable to be with.

At 7 p.m. on the 7th we'll have a social hour (or two) via Zoom.

Keep track of your sightings and then send Chuck your list(s).
eBird check-list URL, or a typed list, or snap a photo of your hand-
written list. Email it, text it, put in an envelope with a stamp or
even via carrier pigeon!

To get the Zoom link, for the Saturday night social you need to
register by sending an email to Chuck at cotte@twinvalley.net

Email your check-lists for the 7th to cotte@twinvalley.net

Or share them on eBird to KSOOrnSociety

Or via Postal: Chuck Otte, 11319 Dundon Rd, Milford, KS 66514

Let's see how many Kansas counties we can cover!

Kansas Birding Roundup, Summer 2021

June – July)

Chuck Otte, compiler

This is the report of the summer birding season in Kansas, June and July. It is the shortest “season” of the birding year and is filled with breeding birds, heat, lingering migrants, potential dullness (from a birding perspective) with the tantalizing hint of possible rarities. This summer season would not bring any of those unexpected rarities. One question that always crops us is when does a lingering migrant become a summering rarity. In recent years it seems that more and more shorebirds fall into this category!

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to be found in more counties. Their presence in Kansas is no surprise. We continue to monitor expansion into new counties and new breeding records. There were a lot of summering waterfowl in western Kansas. Good water conditions also led to lots of summering, or lingering, shorebirds. When we have conditions like this anywhere in the state we expect substantial numbers of both waterfowl and shorebirds. The western Kansas playa lakes can be an incredibly rich source of food for these species and more birders should visit western Kansas when we have these conditions. Had we included all the reports for these species we likely would have filled up 4 pages of text!

Western hummingbird southbound migration season started about on time. Sixty years ago, any hummingbird other than Ruby-throated Hummingbird was considered a rarity in Kansas. Now it has become apparent that many western Hummingbirds are annual in the western half of the state. Black-chinned, Rufous, Broad-tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds should be expected in July and August nearly anywhere in the western half of the state.

Loons continue to show up somewhere in the state in intriguing numbers every summer. This year it was three birds in basic plumage that were present from Memorial Day on through the season at Milford Lake. There have been teasing hints of breeding, but as yet, no proof of breeding. This summer’s reports also have no indication of breeding so we can only assume that these are birds, who chose not to venture north to normal breeding grounds, merely found comfortable enough conditions to simply stay in the state.

Pine Siskin numbers were impressive in the winter and spring season and carried on into the summer season. Whether juvenile siskins are seen or not, the presence of Pine Siskins in mid-June are a good indication of breeding. Reports from Finney county showed evidence of breeding and several other locations had late reports as well.

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 or mailed to 11319 Dundon Rd, Milford KS 66514.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	5 flying overhead and calling, Garden City	Finney	6/01	KM
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	4 at Marion SFL	Marion	6/03	TE, RW
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 first year male in Larned	Pawnee	7/26	AN, CS, TE
Calliope Hummingbird	1 adult male in Larned	Pawnee	7/24	DMY
Rufous Hummingbird	1 adult male at feeder	Gove	7/24	CF
Common Gallinule	1 at Shawnee SFL Seen again on 7/12	Shawnee	6/04	LZ
Sandhill Crane	1 at Hwy 98 playa	Meade	7/06	TL
Least Sandpiper	1 at Quail Rd & 390 playa	Logan	6/23	CF
White-rumped Sandpiper	1 at Quail Rd & 390 playa	Logan	6/23	CF
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 lingering at KCP&L Wetlands	Johnson	6/10	GCh
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 late near Anthony	Harper	6/12	CE
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1 at Quail Rd & 390 playa	Logan	6/23	CF
Solitary Sandpiper	3 at Quail Rd & 390 playa	Logan	6/29	CF, HA
Solitary Sandpiper	2 at Slate Creek Wetland WA	Sumner	7/09	MT

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 late at Marias des Cygnes	Linn	6/18	MGo, ML
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 at Quail Rd & 390 playa Still present 6/27	Logan	6/24	CF
Willet	1 lingering at Webster Reservoir	Rooks	6/17	GCy
Greater Yellowlegs	1 on Quail Rd & 390 playa Still present 6/29	Logan	6/21	CF
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at Lawrence WTP	Douglas	7/01	DB
Common Loon	3 near tower at Milford Lake Continuing, 7/17	Geary	6/19	CO, m.ob.
Common Loon	1 at LaFarge Sandpits	Sedgwick	7/17	MN
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Harvey County East Lake	Harvey	6/30	KC, DP
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Kirwin NWR	Phillips	7/21	SN
Franklin's Gull	<u>11</u> at Tuttle Creek, good number for June	Riley	6/21	TC
American Bittern	1 NW of Tribune	<u>Greeley</u>	6/06	DMK, MP
White-faced Ibis	1 westerly at Hugoton Cemetery (flyover)	Stevens	7/13	MR
Swainson's Hawk	1 at Mound City Lake, easterly	Linn	6/18	ST, JH
Swainson's Hawk	1 in Girard	Crawford	7/24	AMM
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 near State Line Rd in Prairie Village	Johnson	6/02	MMH
Peregrine Falcon	1 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	7/19	SP
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 in Moundridge	Harvey	7/14	DZ
Western Wood-Pewee	1 at Scott SP Continuing, 7/23, 6/08 – seen carrying nesting material	Scott	6/07	CS
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 at Farris Caves, singing Continuing 7/06	Ellsworth	6/23	DK
Chihuahuan Raven	1 along K-27 north of Tribune	Greeley	6/06	DMK, MP
Chihuahuan Raven	1 near Syracuse	Hamilton	6/12	AM, JM
Chihuahuan Raven	1 near Hugoton Cemetery	Stevens	7/14	MR
Cave Swallow	1 at CBWA 1 continuing, 6/08	Barton	6/03	DK
Marsh Wren	1 at Lawrence Airport Oxbow Lake Continuing 7/27	Douglas	7/02	MRb
Marsh Wren	1 at Stranger Creek Bottoms	Leavenworth	7/21	JS
Marsh Wren	1 at Jamestown WA	Republic	7/23	TE
Purple Finch	1 at Topeka feeder with House Finches, late	Shawnee	6/01	SD
Pine Siskin	2 in yard in Palmer Continuing 6/11	Washington	6/03	DT
Pine Siskin	1 at rural residence, Glasco	Cloud	6/05	JRc
Pine Siskin	1 at Hays residence Continuing 6/17	Ellis	6/08	HA
Pine Siskin	1 adult feeding 2 young in Garden City Continuing 7/05, 3 juveniles at feeder 6/20	Finney	6/10	SSh
Pine Siskin	2 present all spring in Manhattan Continuing 6/20	Riley	6/14	TC
Pine Siskin	2 in Topeka residential area	Shawnee	6/26	MP
Pine Siskin	Several coming to feeder near Milford	Geary	6/26	CO
White-throated Sparrow	1 at Baker Wetlands, a rare summer record	Douglas	7/07	SK
Canyon Towhee	1 at CNG, Point of Rocks Still present 6/09	Morton	6/02	DMK, MP
Green-tailed Towhee	1 at CNG, Point of Rocks	Morton	6/02	DMK, MP

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Yellow-breasted Chat	1 in Tribune	<u>Greeley</u>	6/02	HA, DL
Bobolink	1 male at Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie	Wabaunsee	7/09	JA
Ovenbird	1 in Baldwin Woods, territorial Still present on 6/27	Douglas	6/08	RB
Tennessee Warbler	1 late NE of Newton	Harvey	6/10	CS
Summer Tanager	1, westerly summer record	Lincoln	7/12	JA
Scarlet Tanager	1 male at Norton Rest Area, westerly	Norton	6/23	ABr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	First year male westerly along Walnut Creek	Rush	7/30	PJ
Painted Bunting	1 singing on Garfield River Rd.	Pawnee	6/21	HA, JC
Painted Bunting	1 male, 2 miles south of River Rd	Pawnee	6/21	HA, JC
Painted Bunting	2 at Wilson Lake	Lincoln	7/06	HS

Locations and notes: CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, KCP&L – Kansas City Power & Light, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, WA – Wildlife Area, WTP - Water Treatment Plant.

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, Jackie Augustine, Roger Boyd, Aaron Brees (ABr), Dan Broers, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Kathy Carroll, George Chiu (GCh), Greg Cooksey (GCy), Steve Crawford, Stephen Davidson, Christopher Frick, Corey Enriken, Tom Ewert, Malcolm Gold (MGo), John Hanna, Pete Janzen, Scott Kimball, Dave Klema, Dan Larson, Tony Leukering, Micky Louis, Alex & Mary Marine (AMM), Mick McHugh (MMH), Debra McKee (DMK), Kurtis Meier, Donna Meyer (DMy), Anthony Miller, Joseph Miller, Sue Newland, Atcha Nolan, Mark Nolen, Chuck Otte, Shane Patterson, Diane Persons, Mark Pheasant, Mike Rader, Justin Rice (JRc), Mark Robbins (MRb), John Schukman, Carolyn Schwab, Sara Shane (SSh), Hezekiah Swihart, Dan Thalmann, Max Thompson, Simon Thompson, Rodney Wedel, Linda Zempel, Dick Zerger

Groups: Many observers (m.ob.)

Kansas Birding Trail

Spring 2022 not only brings back a season of awesome birding, but also an opportunity to utilize a new program initiated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, the Kansas Birding Trail. The term “trail” is sometimes thought of as a walking or biking path, but in this case, it refers to a series of twelve different driving routes specifically geared for introducing the user to great birding locations across the state. A committee of Kansas birding experts has been formed to put together some of the best sites on public property for birders to visit. We concentrated on locations linked by region and proximity that have mostly paved roads to access the sites, while providing great opportunities to see birds in the appropriate seasons. It is hoped this project will be of value to new visitors to Kansas for birding and also for those in our state that might want to explore different areas to look for birds.

The twelve trails highlight the many habitat zones and geographic regions we have in Kansas, emphasizing bird species that can be found in those regions and how to get to them. This project is expected to launch sometime in mid-March and can be accessed from a link on the KDWP website. The site will have a bright, clean look to it with narratives for each location on the respective trails and a sampling of fantastic bird photos from Kansas’s own, Bob Gress. While a tremendous amount of time and effort has been put into this project, we will still be able to update and add potential new sites or trails in the future. The hope is to be able to provide links to local amenities in the various communities associated with the trails in another phase of this project, in addition to providing even more high-quality birding locations as they are identified. The project committee and the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks are eager to get this up and running and believe that the birding community will find it useful and informative. Check back with the agency website www.ksoutdoors.com for more details after it has been launched.

- Mike Rader

Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2021

August – November)

Chuck Otte, compiler

This is the report of the fall birding season in Kansas, August thru November. Non-birders struggle to think of August as “fall” but for birders, southbound migration begins in late July, hits full stride in August, and carries on in to November in most years. This year, fall was fairly slow in arriving in many parts of the state which, of course, led to many species lingering longer into the fall season than we would normally expect. Numerous sightings that many years would be noteworthy, were commonplace this year. There were many exciting birds seen this season which gave listers plenty of opportunity to crisscross the state.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the western part of the state are a novelty. This season there were more reports westerly in the state and later in the season across all of the state. The aforementioned late fall weather can be thanked for much of this. About the normal number of western species wandering east were reported. The hummingbird highlight, though, was the female Broad-billed Hummingbird that showed up in Doris Burnett’s yard on the east shore of Tuttle Creek Reservoir in November. It obliging stayed for over a week and Doris obliged many birders with her hospitality to obtain great views of the fourth state record for this species!

Sandhill Cranes are being more commonly seen in the eastern part of the state, not only in the fall season during migration but in other seasons as well. Numerous reports of Sandhill Cranes from the eastern tiers of counties and in southeast Kansas lead many to wonder just what is going on here.

In mid-August an astute birder, at Marion Reservoir, noticed a tern that didn’t fit the mold of any other expected terns in Kansas. Lisa Hoffman quickly reported this to eBird which resulted in a mass stampede of birders flocking to Marion County to try to get a glimpse of the reported, and well photographed, Royal Tern. Those birders who dropped everything and immediately went that Saturday afternoon were rewarded with a view of the bird. For those of us who waiting until Sunday morning, not so much. The fate of this sighting is in the hands of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) but is likely to have been accepted by the time you read this!

The previously mentioned Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that were wandering west in greater than normal numbers this fall season weren’t alone. Many other species followed suit not only wandering east but doing so early and staying late because of the weather. American Redstarts were one that started showing up across the state as early as mid-August in many locations. Flycatchers and warblers both seemed to be wandering back and forth across the state with seemingly little regard to traditional regions!

In mid-October, the Shanes saw a small nuthatch in their Garden City backyard and immediately assumed it would be a Pygmy Nuthatch, as I suspect we all would have for that far west in the state. After all, Pygmy Nuthatches have been seen in the state on numerous occasions in a dozen different counties. But further examination of the bird and the photos showed the miniscule nuthatch to be the highly unexpected cousin from the southeastern US, the Brown-headed Nuthatch. This second state record nuthatch remained through the end of the season (and into the new year!) Sara and Tom accommodated many birders wishing to see this extreme rarity and faithfully provided updates of its ongoing presence via eBird.

While “the tern” and “the nuthatch” and “the hummingbird” were all quite exciting, “the kingbird” may have been the show stealer at the end of the season. Elizabeth Walker, a birder visiting from Texas, found a kingbird at Lyon State Fishing Lake that seemed to fit the mold for Couch’s Kingbird. When reported to eBird, it started yet another listers stampede with folks hoping for a view of yet another potential first state record. As the reports came in, discussion commenced as to just what this species actually was. While it may never be conclusively known, it is now in the hands of the KBRC.

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Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1 lingering in Wichita	Sedgwick	11/26	CE
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2 adults with 4 downy young	Cowley*	08/21	DS
Mottled Duck	1 at MDC WA, KBRC Continuing 08/11	<u>Linn</u>	08/03	MGo, MMH

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at Osborne WTP	<u>Osborne</u>	11/15	HA
Red-breasted Merganser	1 female at Le'Mar Lake	<u>Gray</u>	11/19	TE, KG, PJ
Chimney Swift	10 in Lawrence, slightly late	Douglas	10/24	KCM
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at feeders, Grinnell, westerly Bird was seen regularly well into September	Gove	08/29	CF
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at feeders, Dighton, westerly	<u>Lane</u>	09/03	HA
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 westerly and late	Ford	10/15	CMM
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 late, female/immature	Johnson	10/29	TSw
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Arkansas City	Cowley	08/20	EY
Rufous Hummingbird	1 on Rolander Road Slough. easterly	Pottawatomie	08/17	DR
Rufous Hummingbird	1 at feeder in Dighton	<u>Lane</u>	08/18	HA
Rufous Hummingbird	1 female coming to feeder	Butler	10/04	BBY
Broad-billed Hummingbird	1 female at feeder Tuttle Creek, KBRC Seen through 11/27	<u>Pottawatomie</u>	11/19	DBu, m.ob
Whooping Crane	1 with Sandhill Cranes near Hugoton	<u>Stevens</u>	10/23	DMK, MP
Piping Plover	1 at Atchison County Lake	<u>Atchison</u>	08/12	GS
Long-billed Curlew	1 at Wellington Lake	Sumner	09/20	SQ
Red Knot	1 at Cheney WA	Reno	09/10	MN
Sanderling	2 at Goodland WTP	<u>Sherman</u>	09/04	TE, KG, PJ
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<u>217</u> at Colwich Sod Farm	Sedgwick	08/15	KG
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Slate Creek WA Continuing 08/13	Sumner	08/06	MT, EY
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at MDC WA Continuing 08/27	Linn	08/07	DMK, MP
Red-necked Phalarope	1 west of Garnett	<u>Anderson</u>	09/05	MGo, ML
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 at CBWA	Barton	09/06	AM
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 immature at CBWA	Barton	11/13	BW
Sabine's Gull	1 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	09/04	MMBJ
Sabine's Gull	1 at CBWA Possibly same one sighted on 10/24	Barton	09/13	TSS
Sabine's Gull	1 at Scott SP Still present 9/17	Scott	09/14	CF
Sabine's Gull	1 at Cheney SP Still present 10/06	Reno	10/01	BP
Sabine's Gull	1 at Quivira NWR Still present 10/15	Stafford	10/01	SMi
Little Gull	1 at Pomona Reservoir	Osage	09/07	MLd
Little Gull	1 at CBWA	Barton	09/17	MK
Little Gull	1 adult at Clinton Lake SP, Marina	<u>Douglas</u>	11/10	KMD
Short-billed Gull	1 at CBWA	Barton	09/26	EY, CMf, AP
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Cheney WA Still present 9/30	Reno	08/16	MN
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Perry Lake Yacht & Marina	Jefferson	09/08	JCP
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Wilson WA Continuing 11/07	Russell	10/09	MR, LS
Royal Tern	1 at Marion Reservoir, KBRC	<u>Marion</u>	08/14	LH, m.ob.
Common Tern	1 at Marion Reservoir, early	Marion	08/14	LH
Common Tern	1 at Nemaha WA	<u>Nemaha</u>	08/25	KC, DP
Common Loon	2 at Milford Lake Dam (present all summer)	Geary	08/09	CO
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Marion Reservoir Dam & Outlet Area	<u>Marion</u>	08/15	MR
American Bittern	1 at Nemaha WA	<u>Nemaha</u>	09/08	DL

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Glossy Ibis	1 at Slate Creek WA Continuing 08/17	Sumner	08/06	MT, EY
Black Vulture	1 near Lyons	Rice	08/22	DMc
Black Vulture	1 in southwest part of county	Leavenworth	10/01	GP
Black Vulture	1 at Cave Park	Sumner	10/23	MN
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 southwest of LaCygne	<u>Linn</u>	08/28	ML
Swallow-tailed Kite	2 over Manhattan, later in Pottawatomie Co Pottawatomie birds assumed to be same as Riley birds and were seen near Olsburg Continued through 9/07	Riley/ <u>Pottawatomie</u>	08/31	MS
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 near Legends area Still present 9/20	<u>Wyandotte</u>	09/13	MGu
Golden Eagle	1 easterly north of John Redmond Res.	Coffey	11/04	EDk
Harris's Hawk	1 in Ensign	<u>Gray</u>	10/21	TL
Swainson's Hawk	1 late near Great Bend	Barton	11/06	MRb
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1 heard calling, Scott SP	Scott	10/09	CMM
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 at CNG Middle Spring	Morton	09/18	MMi, SMi
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 adult male at Sharon Springs City Park	Wallace	10/01	HA, DL
Prairie Falcon	1 early at Shawnee SFL	Shawnee	09/15	AN, CS
Couch's Kingbird	1 at Lyon SFL, KBRC Seen through 11/30	Lyon	11/27	EW, m.ob.
Cassin's Kingbird	1 on County Road 160	<u>Logan</u>	10/01	HA, DL
Western Kingbird	2 late, CBWA	Barton	10/25	WK, NMC
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1 late near Lawrence	Douglas	11/04	DB
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 at Beaver Creek Ranch	Rawlins	09/03	HA, PJ, KG, TE
Western Wood-Pewee	Continuing in Horsethief Canyon Scott SP	Scott	08/02	SSh
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 in Goodland, westerly	Sherman	09/03	TE, KG, PJ
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 somewhat late at Clinton SP Marina	Douglas	10/13	NS, CR
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at CNG Middle Spring	Morton	09/04	MN
Willow Flycatcher	1 slightly early along Crooked Creek	Meade	08/06	TL
Dusky Flycatcher	1 at CNG, Middle Spring	Morton	09/05	MN
Northern Shrike	1 at York Rd Swamp	Labette	11/19	CG
Fish Crow	1 late, Clinton Lake area Still present 11/07	Douglas	10/25	LDC
Fish Crow	3 late near Arkansas City	Cowley	11/08	EY
Carolina Chickadee	1 at Dewese Park, Cheney WA, northerly	Reno	09/11	ML, JHm
Bank Swallow	1 late at Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/22	MkM
Tree Swallow	20 somewhat late at Hillsdale SP	Miami	11/03	KK
Tree Swallow	25 somewhat late at Perry Lake Dam	Jefferson	11/04	LS
Cave Swallow	2 adults, 1 juvenile, Slate Creek WA	Sumner	08/02	MT
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at residence in Dodge City Still present 09/07	Ford	08/02	CMM
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1 at Garden City feeders, KBRC Continued through the reporting period	<u>Finney</u>	10/14	SSh, TS, m.ob.
Rock Wren	1 in Overland Park, quite easterly	Johnson	10/12	PH
Rock Wren	1 west of Anthony	<u>Harper</u>	10/13	CE
Sage Thrasher	1 on Wildlife Drive, Quivira NWR	<u>Stafford</u>	10/02	TM
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 in Holcomb	Finney	10/09	KM

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Common Redpoll	2 southeast of Bucklin	Ford	11/18	TL
Common Redpoll	1 at Scott SP	Scott	11/26	JM
Lesser Goldfinch	1 immature at feeders in Garden City	Finney	10/19	SSh
Snow Bunting	1 near Rossville	Shawnee	11/13	DA
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1 adult in Garden City alley	Finney	10/04	TS
Canyon Towhee	1 at CNG, Point of Rocks	Morton	10/25	HA
Orchard Oriole	1 somewhat late at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/16	PG
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	Douglas	09/03	MZ
Golden-winged Warbler	1 near Lone Star Lake	Douglas	09/21	LZ
Blue-winged Warbler	1 at Rocky Ford Campground, Tuttle Creek	Riley	09/11	LJ
Nashville Warbler	<u>200</u> along Meadowlark Trail, Lindsborg	McPherson	10/11	RK
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 on Meadowlark Trail, McPherson	<u>McPherson</u>	09/11	LZ
Cape May Warbler	1 at Hillsdale Reservoir	Miami	09/19	MYB
Magnolia Warbler	1 late near Clinton Lake	Douglas	11/03	JB, RF
Magnolia Warbler	1 at Lake Coldwater	<u>Comanche</u>	10/01	CMM
Blackpoll Warbler	1 at Frazier Park	<u>Grant</u>	09/18	HA, JC
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 at Paola WTP	<u>Miami</u>	010/02	MGo
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 in St. Francis	<u>Cheyenne</u>	09/04	PJ, KG, TE
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 early in Heritage Park, Olathe	Johnson	08/04	BB
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 very late female, Pawnee Prairie Park	Sedgwick	11/20	MN

Locations and notes: CBWA – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, Marais des Cygnes – MDC, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, Res – Reservoir, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, WA – Wildlife Area, WTP - Water Treatment Plant.

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, Henry Armknecht, Brad Biggerstaff, J Braun, Dan Broers, Bob Broyles (BBY), Doris Burnett (DBu), Jeff Calhoun, Kaelan Cameron (KCm), Kathy Carroll, Jacob Cooper (JCp), Lucas DeCicco (LDC), Eric Decker (EDk), Corey Enriken, Tom Ewert, Rebecca Flood, Christopher Frick, Chad Gardner, Michael Gaume (MGu), Malcolm Gold (MGo), Kevin Groeneweg, Peter Grund, Jennifer Hammett (JHm), Patty Heil, Lisa Hoffman, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, William Kaempfer, Marlo Kauffman, Kevin Keltner, Robert Kruger, Mark Land (MLd), Dan Larson, Tony Leukering, Micky Louis, Colleen Mansfield (CMf), Thomas Martin, Nancy McClelland (NMC), Kathy McDowell (KMD), Mick McHugh (MMH), Debra McKee (DMK), Christie McMillen (CMM), Kurtis Meier, Dave Minnich (DMc), Anthony Miller, Joseph Miller, Mark Miller (MkM), Michael Miller (MMi), Seth Miller (SMi), Atcha Nolan, Mark Nolen, Chuck Otte, Diane Persons, Alan Peryam, Barbara Peterson, Mark Pheasant, Galen Pittman, S. Queen, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Mark Robbins (MRb), Cheryl Rosenfeld, Tom & Sam Schermerhorn (TSS), Carolyn Schwab, Greg Scott, David Seibel, Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Marla Shoemaker, Logan Smith, Noah Strycker, Terry Swope (TSw), Max Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Bryan White, Melissa Yates-Bruce (MYB), Eugene Young, Molly Zahn, Linda Zempel **Groups:** Many observers - m.ob., MMBJ – Malcolm Gold, Micky Louis, Bob Yang, and Janet Reynolds

Items of Note

In lieu of a traditional spring meeting, again, a one day Birding Blitz! How much of the state can we blanket?? See Page 3!

Pages 14 & 15 have nomination information for the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award and Avian Conservationist of the Year Award. We are hoping that we will have an in-person fall meeting and can make these presentations!!

Draft Minutes

Kansas Ornithological Society Winter Board Meeting January 22, 2022

The KOS Board met via Zoom on January 22, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Jenn Rader.

Attendance: Jenn Rader, Chuck Otte, Dave Rintoul, Malcolm Gold, Max Thompson, Cheryl Miller, Rachel Roth, David Seibel, Robert Penner, Gene Young, Kurtis Meier, and John Schukman. Jeff Calhoun had informed Jenn that he would not be able to be in attendance.

The agenda was reviewed with nothing noted to be added.

Minutes had been mailed out from the July 28, 2021 Zoom Meeting and the notes that Jenn had written up concerning activities of the virtual Fall 2021 meeting. Seeing no corrections being noted, **Chuck moved to accept all outstanding minutes. Cheryl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report: Max shared several screens of information on the Society's financials. We were in good shape although we would have a sizeable printing and mailing bill soon as three issues of the *Bulletin* and one newsletter were being printed and soon to be mailed. Max pointed out that thanks to the Champeny bequest, the research fund had grown from about \$2,000 to \$49,000. He reminded everyone that this is an endowed account to provide funds in perpetuity for bird research. Depending on the markets it is expected to return \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually. As these funds have just been invested in the past few months it will be a full year before earnings would be available. He also pointed out that as often happens in January, the markets have been down so far in 2022. A review of the ledger showed that deposits for 2021 were more than expenses. All annual paperwork has been filed with the appropriate entities, primarily sales tax, Secretary of State annual corporation report and the IRS Form 990E. **Gene moved to file the report for audit, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Research Fund Committee: *As John Schukman could not stay on for the entire meeting, his committee report and subsequent discussion was moved up in the agenda.* John reported that the average annual amount paid to research grants had been \$700 and the average per person award had been less than \$600. There had been very few requests for funds in recent years. John wondered whether, given that we now have a steady source of income for research grants, if we needed to increase the amount we could give. The Research Funds Committee currently is evaluating three grant requests. There was discussion of how the committee functions, how it had been funded and how it had, in recent years, been changed from a Student Research Fund Grant to a Research Fund Grant (1/30/2016), open to anyone wishing to do research on birds. Gene wondered if there didn't need to be two funding lines under the new Wallace Champeny Research Fund, one for students and one for general research by non-students. Max felt that Gene's idea would create a bookkeeping challenge. It was pointed out that the information on the web page had not been updated since 2013. Chuck requested that John/the Committee send him new information to be posted. Rob asked how people found out about the grant. Max said that we have traditionally depended on professors to tell their students about it. Jenn asked who was sending the information to the professors. John asked the board if they felt it appropriate to increase the amount that could be awarded in a grant. Several members indicated that they thought this would be appropriate. Chuck suggested that the Research Fund Committee meet and develop a proposal for the board to act on. John said that he would do that. He thanked the board for their time and left the meeting.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary's Report: Jenn had heard from Jeff that it appeared that membership is steady to slowly growing. There had been 311 mailings sent out on the last one. Max expressed that it would be nice to see a breakdown of how many members per category. Chuck said he would ask Jeff for that breakdown and include it in the minutes.

Continued on page 12

Bulletin Editor's Report: Gene thanked the board for their patience while he worked his way through COVID-19 issues. The March 2021 *Bulletin* had just been approved for printing. He was about to approve the June and September 2021 issues for printing. Those would both have color photos in them. These three *Bulletins*, along with the December Horned Lark newsletter would be sent in one mailing which will save some postage dollars. The December 2021 issue is in process. There are three manuscripts out for review. The March 2022 issue is the Christmas Bird Count issue and is a massive undertaking. Reports from all counts (49) that ran have been sent in, data has all been compiled, and the analysis is already underway. The June 2022 issue is the annual report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee. The information for that issue will be assembled once all the records from 2021 had been finalized.

Gene discussed how there had recently been some shortages of extra copies of the *Bulletin* due to reductions in the numbers that had been printed. Gene and Chuck had recently discussed this issue and decided that with about 310 current mailings going out that he would instruct the printer to run 350 *Bulletins* and 330 Horned Lark newsletters in each run. The excess copies of the *Bulletin* will be split between Gene and the Membership Secretary. The extra copies of the newsletter will stay with the Membership Secretary. This will give Gene extra copies to distribute to authors of papers and give the Membership Secretary extra copies to send to members whose copies never arrived in the mail, which is a periodic problem especially with libraries.

Horned Lark Editor's Report: Chuck reported that the March issue has been started. Once decisions have been made today regarding the spring meeting he will be working on that with a goal to have it mailed in early/mid-March. If anyone has items that they want to see addressed, or included, please let Chuck know! He is planning on having a short piece in the March issue regarding the Research Fund grants that are available.

Electronic Media Coordinator: Chuck asked the board to notify him if they run across dead links or things that haven't been updated that need to be. Things can be addressed fairly quickly but only if he is aware of the issue.

Business Manager's Report: Malcolm reported that 200 calendars had been printed and sold out earlier than anticipated. He will print more next year. Numerous board members thanked Malcolm for the great job he has done with the calendars. He indicated that he has other ideas – more things to put in the calendar – just needs to find the time to do it. In 2021 he had \$2,600 in sales. \$300 had been sold out of the gift shop at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms. He had not had any new apparel made for the past couple of years as these seem to sell best at in-person meetings, which we had not had. Once we start doing in-person again he'll have some more items printed up. He acknowledged that he is less of an idea person and more of a “get things done” person, so if anyone had ideas for merchandise, please let him know. He had also visited with the printer he uses for the calendar about quotes on printing the newsletter and *Bulletin*. The prices were so close to what we are paying now that it wouldn't make sense to move. There was additional discussion on the challenges and costs of mailing vs. electronic delivery. This is a complex issue due to bulk mailing requirements and will continue to be investigated.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Dave reported that the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council had had one meeting in recent months and would likely have another one in late Winter. There was nothing outstanding to report. There is a move going forward in the legislature to create a special license plate for the Chickadee Checkoff program as a way to generate more funds for that program. Rachel brought to the board's attention that the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773), which has been a long on-going effort has passed out of the House Committee with strong support and may have the best shot of being passed in a long time. If passed and signed this could generate significant dollars to the state for wildlife, especially non-game wildlife.

Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC): KBRC chair Gene Young reported that the 2020 KBRC report was about to be printed and mailed. 2021 reports were way down and the voting round to finish the 2021 records was in process at this time. Once the voting round had ended the KBRC would meet to discuss records, members, officers and other things. The committee will be looking at some procedural rules changes to resolve a potential

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

issue with the secretary (who does most of the work on collecting the records and making them available for the members to view prior to voting.) The committee makes recommendations on changes to the procedural rules, and committee membership, to the KOS Board, who has the final decision on such actions.

Finance Committee: Max explained that the Finance Committee, by our bylaws, is comprised of the treasurer, the immediate past treasurer and the president. In recent years it has not been very active. It was suggested that perhaps the board needed to look at changing the membership of that committee so it could be more functional.

Audit Committee: Max explained that the Audit Committee is appointed by the president, usually 2 or 3 members, who sit down with the treasurer at the Fall Meeting to review the books to insure all is in order. Because there has not been an in-person fall meeting for two years there has been no audit done. It was felt that while the board has implicit trust in Max as the treasurer, it would simply be good procedure to be sure that an audit is done as soon as we can have an in-person meeting.

Website Committee: Malcolm reported that the committee had had some initial discussion about a year ago but no follow up. There was a brief discussion on transitioning to a new web management platform. It was felt that Malcolm, Rachel, Chuck, Dave and whomever else wanted to help should have a meeting (possibly Zoom) in the near future to discuss where we are and where we should be heading. It was pointed out that deciding the new look would be fairly easy, but could be tedious to get everything transferred over and then, again, who will maintain it.

Unfinished Business:

Dingus Property: Bill Busby had been contacted about periodically checking up on the Dingus Property and reporting back to the Board. Bill visited the property in early December, along with two other people. Bill reported that everything seemed to be in order and found nothing out of order. He will continue to check on it. It was suggested that he double check to make sure that purple paint, No Hunting indicators, was still visible. Max reported that several surveys by Kansas Biological Survey and KU researchers had been completed last year at Dingus. One was on vascular plants and another one was specifically on lichens. He is trying to obtain the reports so he can share them with the board.

Documenting KOS Procedures and Processes: Jen explained her desire to have all officers and committees be diligent in trying to document all that they do so that a Procedures and Processes document can be created to help with future officer transitions as well as to assist with sustainability of the Society.

New Business:

Spring Meeting: There ensued a spirited discussion of whether an in-person meeting was feasible or desirable given the inherent risks with the latest COVID variant. An overall sense of unease developed with having any form of in-person meeting. Gene expressed his view that KOS touts itself as a science-based organization and as such there is no question what we should do as the science said that large gatherings are simply not advisable. It was felt that something should be done to simply keep in touch with the membership. It was felt that the event two springs ago seemed to go over well. **Chuck moved to hold a one day “Birding Blitz” on Saturday May 7th for our spring meeting. Members would be encouraged to bird where they are or at a location of their choice. In the evening there would be a Zoom gathering for socialization. Check-lists for the day would be collected and compiled electronically. Chuck further volunteered to coordinate this event. Max seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Membership Engagement: Jenn asked the board to think of ideas for membership engagement. There was substantial discussion of the need for fun engagement with the recognition that this is going to mean different things to different people. It was felt that the objective would be to simply get people out and birding. Rob stated that he was hoping to get a Fall Flint Hills Shorebird Survey going this year and would be recruiting volunteers to help with this. Jenn said that this was the sort of thing she had in mind. There was no formal action taken.

Announcements: Jenn announced that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has been working on a Birding Trails website. Several members of the KOS Board had been serving on the committee helping with that. It is hoped that the website would go live this spring.

With no further business to be discussed, **Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting. Max seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.**

Chuck Otte
Corresponding Secretary



**Official Nomination Form
2022 Kansas Ornithological Society
Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award**

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

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

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AUGUST 1ST

Nomination Form

To make a nomination send this form, with attachments, to Jenn Rader, jennrader34@gmail.com

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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



**Official Nomination Form
2022 Kansas Ornithological Society
Avian Conservationist of the Year**

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

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AUGUST 1ST.

Nomination Form

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

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator's Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

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

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 _____

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Short Takes!

DUES!

If you have not paid your dues for 2022, this issue will be the last one that you will receive!

BIRDING BLITZ?

Hopefully, for the last time, we will not have an in-person spring meeting. Instead, let's do a birding blitz! See Page 3 for details!

KOS BOARD

We are always looking for new and innovative people to serve on the KOS Board. If you are interested and want to volunteer, contact any of the current board members (list on Page 2).

The past two years have been challenging for everyone. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work our way through all of this!!!

- Chuck

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.