



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

March, 2023

Vol. 50, No. 1

From the President's Pen

By Jenn Rader

Greetings!

It's still officially winter as I type but we've sprung forward, and the signs of spring are "budding" all around. Spring is certainly an important time of year for birdwatchers!

As we all anticipate what this year's spring brings (besides severe weather and allergies!), let's also take a moment to appreciate the spark that got us all interested in birds. For some of us, it may be one pivotal point in time etched forever in memory. For others, it might be a culmination of many little moments that are hard to pinpoint or remember in detail, but they still led to us truly enjoying birds in some way.

Stop me if I've told this story before, but one of the distinct memories I have as a child involves an unexpected avian visitor to Wilson Reservoir in central Kansas when I was around 6 years old. The details are fuzzy, but I remember the excitement around me when we got to the lake and witnessed a Brown Pelican actively hunting fish at a location outside their typical range. I know my family was there (my dad reported the rare bird) and probably a few other birders and lake staff, but I don't remember all those things in any detail. I do remember how I felt seeing that pelican dive into the water from a great height to find food, and the enthusiasm and joy around me from others also seeing that dinosaur-looking bird do a totally normal thing for it, but in the middle of Kansas.

Flash forward to a few weeks ago: A member of our Kansas birding community stopped by the nature center I operate while on the way to another birding hotspot out of state. He mentioned getting to attend the Wilson Lake Christmas Bird Count and being amazed at the number of Mountain Bluebirds he saw down one of the roads he covered in the count circle. I have my own fond memories of watching large flocks of Mountain Bluebirds with other avid Kansas birders in that same area. The conversation and good memories got me thinking about how much those birding moments over the years influenced me to where I am now, and how I feel when I look back at those experiences.

We all can be a positive part of someone else's "spark" moment or moments. Many of you reading this may have been part of some of mine! I encourage us all to keep that in mind as we head out on our birding adventures this spring. Know of someone who likes birds, but hasn't taken the birding plunge yet? They might enjoy a KOS membership gift or getting to tag along with you to the Spring KOS Meeting in May! Do you have a youth relative that likes spending time outside? Get them a little pocket guide and a pair of kids' binoculars and encourage their curiosity! Science and our natural resources could really use that kind of support in today's world anyways, so we might as well make some fun memories in the process!

Here's to a happy spring and all the great birding adventures to come!

- Jenn

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Did you check out the masthead on this issue? Turn back one page and look at that line right below the image of the Horned Lark, specifically clear over on the right hand side: No. 50. The very first KOS Newsletter was written and mailed in October 1963. Yes, that's 60 years ago, not 50. But for the first ten years, the newsletters were simply numbered sequentially. In 1973 the decision was made to lump those first ten years as "Number 1" and the 1973 editions became Volume II or what we now call No. 2. In those early years, the newsletter was simply referred to as "The Kansas Ornithological Society Newsletter". It wouldn't be until 1989 that it would be titled, "The Horned Lark." Keep in mind that KOS will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2024. If you are interested in reading some of those newsletters from the early years, they are online at: https://www.ksbirds.org/kos/HOLA_archive.html.

Those first newsletters were penned by Max Thompson. Max recently relayed this story regarding the start of the newsletter. "I told Dick Johnston (Bulletin Editor in 1963) that the KOS Bulletin wasn't enough and we needed to do a newsletter to keep the membership informed. He said write one and I did and was the first editor of the newsletter. I would have to look at minutes but I don't remember even asking the board about doing it."

Please be sure to note the short notice on the bottom of page 7 regarding KOS's support of Motus wildlife tracking activities. I talked about it in the last Horned Lark and am very excited about the information that it can generate and how it can improve our knowledge of bird movements across and in our state. I'm very proud that KOS is in a position to support activities like this!

We have been trying, since spring of 2020, to hold a spring meeting in Concordia and by golly, barring the sky falling in the next six weeks, we're going to get it done this year! A big thank you to Mike Rader and all of the folks who have agreed to be guides for working with us to make this happen. Registration is now open on line and information/registration forms are on page 3 and page 11 of this newsletter.

I've been attending spring KOS meetings since 1991. Not every year, but a vast majority of them! I find that as I drive to each one, on Friday afternoon, I have a certain giddiness regarding the upcoming couple of days. A chance to see old friends, a chance to meet new friends, and a chance to go birding in some new and different areas. I have so many wonderful memories from these meetings that I can't wait until early May and our gathering in Concordia. Granted, this is a busy time of year and if you can only come for one day, then show up for when you can. You will be welcomed and I will be excited to see you. With that, have a good early spring and I look forward to seeing you in Concordia!

- Chuck



Statement of non-profit status and copyright: The Kansas Ornithological Society is a 501(c)3 organization created for the study, conservation and enjoyment of wild birds. The Horned Lark is the membership newsletter of the society and all material contained herein is copyrighted.

KOS Board of Directors

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

President

Jenn Rader, Galena, KS
jennrader34@gmail.com

Vice-President

Dave Rintoul, Manhattan, KS
drintoul@ksu.edu

Corresponding Secretary

Chuck Otte, Milford, KS
cotte@twinvalley.net

Membership Development Coordinator

Jeff Calhoun, Dodge City, KS
jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com

Treasurer

Max Thompson, Winfield, KS
maxt@cox.net

Business Manager

Malcolm Gold, Overland Park KS
malcolmgold@gmail.com

Editor, KOS Bulletin

Gene Young, Arkansas City, KS
eugene.young@noc.edu
youngg6264@yahoo.com

Editor, The Horned Lark

Chuck Otte, Milford, KS
cotte@twinvalley.net

Past-President

Cheryl Miller, Wichita, KS
avian67226@gmail.com

Directors at Large:

Kurtis Meier, Garden City, KS
kurtis.meier@ks.gov

Robert Penner, Ellinwood, KS
rpenner@tnc.org

Andrew George, Pittsburg, KS
adgeorge@pittstate.edu

Terry Mannell
Terryman0405@gmail.com

KOS SPRING MEETING

Concordia, Kansas

May 5 - 7, 2023

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

After four years, KOS is having an in-person spring meeting! We've had the Concordia area "on hold" since we originally planned to meet there in 2020. There will be field trips headed in literally all directions from Concordia led by several birders many of us know well! We hope you will plan to attend and start making reservations and plans now!

Headquarters: A Friday evening come and go gathering will be at the Holiday Inn (on the south side of Concordia on US-81). Gathering location for Saturday and Sunday field trips will be at Parking Lot #4 at the Cloud County Community College. For those who wish to car pool, this will also be where you can park your vehicle. This parking lot is at the corner of College Drive and State St/Campus Drive. Map can be seen at <https://tinyurl.com/46wh5deh>

Friday Evening: This will be a casual time (6:30 to 9:00 p.m.) to meet and greet birding friends that you may not have seen for a few years and a chance to meet new birding friends. This will be held at the Holiday Inn meeting room (go past the front desk and left down the hallway.) There will be snacks and refreshments and a time to find out who is leading Saturday field trips in which directions.

Saturday and Sunday Field Trips: Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Cloud County Community College parking lot #4 at to gather with whichever group you wish to go with. Sunday Field Trips will be shorter and stay closer to Concordia.

Saturday Evening: There is no formal meal location for Saturday evening. Gather with some of your birding friends and enjoy the food at one of the many local eating establishments. Ask your motel front desk for their suggestions!

Sunday Compilation: We will meet around noon at the picnic shelter in the City Park, West 11th and Washington Streets. The compilation is BYOS (bring your own sandwich.) There are numerous fast food options in Concordia, most right along Lincoln Street (US-81).

Accommodations: There are three motels in Concordia. We have a small block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express - some double queens and some kings - for \$129.99. The block will be held until April 24th so call early to get in on this rate. The block should be under Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Contact information for all three motels is below.

Holiday Inn Express: 2175 Lincoln St, Concordia, 785-243-2700

Super 8: 1320 Lincoln St, Concordia, 785-243-4200

Regency Inn: 89 Lincoln St, Concordia, 785-243-4545

Camping: There is limited camping available. Airport Park Campground is on the south edge of Concordia right off US-81 (Lincoln Street). Call 785-243-2670 for more information.

Early Birding: Pete Janzen has indicated that he plans to spend Friday birding his way through Ottawa and Cloud counties enroute to Concordia, starting at Ottawa State Fishing Lake. Contact Pete at pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net if you want to meet him for some "early birding".

Kansas Birding Roundup, Fall 2022 (August – October)

Chuck Otte, compiler

This is the report of the fall birding season in Kansas, August to November. The fall season is long mainly because southbound migration is sometimes difficult to detect/differentiate and southbound migrants do not feel the same urgency to “arrive” as northbound migrants do when heading to the breeding grounds.

Hummingbirds seemed to be abundant this season and we were blessed with many Calliope Hummingbird records ranging from Harvey County west to the Colorado border. Rufous were statewide again with many reports coming in. Hummingbird feeders should be watched closely in August and September as Rufous will show up statewide! Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, while common in the eastern half of the state become less common in the western quarter of the state and become noteworthy when they do show up. Additionally, ANY hummingbird seen after the end of October should be observed closely as it is frequently not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Mississippi Kite migration can create spectacular overnight numbers in roosts. Max Thompson often reports hundreds in Winfield on morning surveys. Fall of 2022 did not see the large numbers on any one day, but the migration seemed to be more spread out. Max’s top count was only 212 in mid-September. While the majority of migration is in late August through mid-September there are always stragglers moving through on into early or mid-October.

Ongoing western drought is likely the reason for some of the oddities seen this year. Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jays are not that uncommon in southwestern Kansas in the fall season and were present through much of the period. Of particular note though are the Steller Jays that were reported well east in the state in Stafford and Norton counties.

In their annual North American Check-list update, the American Ornithological Society finally split the Eastern Meadowlark into the Eastern Meadowlark and the Chihuahuan Meadowlark of the desert southwest. There are no Kansas records or specimens of Chihuahuan Meadowlark from Kansas. However, they have been confirmed fairly close to southwest Kansas. Given this, the Kansas Bird Records Committee has placed Eastern Meadowlark on its Review List from extreme southwest Kansas and are asking for records from Morton county north to Hamilton, east to Finney and back south to Meade. (The counties in white on the map at <https://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/EAME.jpg>) Reports of new records of Eastern Meadowlark, or Chihuahuan Meadowlark should be submitted, along with documentation, to the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

It appeared that warbler migration was spread over a longer period than normal. Many species started being reported earlier than normal and final fall departure (last of season), appeared to be later than normal. This continues a trend observed in recent years, especially the delayed departure at the end of the season. Early arrivals may be breeding birds that had failed nesting attempts or in some cases, individuals that never left in the spring to proceed further north. Ultimately though, birders rarely complain about finding warblers!

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	Continuing at location from summer Lingering and present 11/28	Crawford	08/10	AG
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Adults with hatchlings at KSU beef unit Continuing 09/07	<u>Riley*</u>	08/13	MMf, CB
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2 adults with 5 young Observed walking through courthouse parking lot	<u>Cherokee*</u>	08/15	CJ
Trumpeter Swan	1 at Neosho WA Continuing 09/09	Neosho	08/18	AL
Mottled Duck	1 at Neosho WA	Neosho	09/16	ABu
Surf Scoter	1 slightly early at Cheney SP	Reno	10/11	BP

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Red-necked Grebe	1 at Clinton Lake Continuing 10/11	Douglas	11/08	ML
Common Nighthawk	1 somewhat late, Perry Res	Jefferson	10/22	DMK, MP
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1 late, calling, near Lone Star Lake	Douglas	10/05	MS, NP
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 female westerly in Goodland Same or different bird continuing 10/14	Sherman	09/14	CK
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Garden City	Finney	10/14	SSh
Anna's Hummingbird	1 at Shane's feeders, Garden City, KBRC Continuing 10/22	Finney	10/17	SSh
Calliope Hummingbird	1 in Shane yard, Garden City Continuing, or a second one, 08/31	Finney	08/09	SSh
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Goodland Continuing 08/17	<u>Sherman</u>	08/10	CK, LKn
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Goodland	Sherman	10/06	CK, LKn
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeders in Dodge City Continuing 08/14, perhaps a second bird on 09/01	Ford	08/11	CMM
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeder in Hays	Ellis	08/16	HA
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeders northeast of Newton	<u>Harvey</u>	08/29	CS
Calliope Hummingbird	1 at feeders near Grinnell	Gove	08/29	CF
Rufous Hummingbird	1 female at feeders in Salina, late Continuing through end of reporting period	Saline	11/19	HCM
Limpkin	1 at Blue Door B&B near Chanute, KBRC Continuing 08/22	Neosho	08/14	BA
Limpkin	1 at Tuttle Creek SP Willow Lake, KBRC Continuing 08/24	<u>Riley/Pottawatomie</u>	08/22	DR
Limpkin	1 at Wilderness Park, Frontenac, KBRC	<u>Crawford</u>	09/10	AG, m.ob.
Limpkin	1 at Mill Creek Streamway Park, Lenexa Continuing 10/01	Johnson	09/25	RMz, m.ob.
Limpkin	1 at Heritage Lake, Heritage Park Continuing 11/15	Johnson	10/24	GCh, m.ob
Whooping Crane	5 overhead south of Russell	Russell	10/20	MK
Upland Sandpiper	1 late calling on flying over high school	Mitchell	10/03	JL, NN
White-rumped Sandpiper	1 at QNWR, possibly injured	Stafford	08/13	AGLM
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Tuttle Creek, Fancy Creek Area	Riley	09/11	HCM
Sabine's Gull	1 at Neosho WA	<u>Neosho</u>	09/16	ABu
Sabine's Gull	1 at Clinton Lake, Bloomington Area Continuing 09/19	Douglas	09/16	CE
Sabine's Gull	1 at QNWR, Big Salt Marsh Continuing 10/03, 2 present on 10/01	Stafford	09/17	CM,RC,SN,m.ob.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 at Cheney WA	Reno	08/15	MN
Common Tern	1 at SCWA, early	Sumner	08/08	MT
Red-throated Loon	2 at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	11/13	MGo, JCA, MYB
Red-throated Loon	1 at Cheney SP	Kingman	11/17	BP
Tricolored Heron	1 imm at QNWR Continuing 08/15	Stafford	08/11	DwM, FMi
Tricolored Heron	1 at Sedgwick County Zoo	Sedgwick	010/01	JB
White Ibis	1 near Sedgwick County Zoo	Sedgwick	08/31	JB
Turkey Vulture	1 late in Newton	Harvey	11/13	EMy
Turkey Vulture	2 at Scott SP, late	Scott	11/27	AP

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 along US 35, west of Washington	<u>Washington</u>	08/28	AGn
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 at Southwestern College, Winfield	Cowley	08/29	SC
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 near the Salina Airport	<u>Saline</u>	09/16	JK
Golden Eagle	1 easterly at Atchison County Lake	Atchison	09/22	DMz
Ferruginous Hawk	1 near Baldwin City	Douglas	11/06	ML
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 northeast of Concordia	<u>Cloud</u>	09/25	PJ
Red-naped Sapsucker	1 in Garden City, KBRC Continuing 10/10	Finney	10/08	SSh
Pileated Woodpecker	1 near Glasco along Solomon River	<u>Cloud</u>	09/23	PJ
Merlin	1 slightly early at QNWR	Stafford	08/09	TCn
Merlin	1 slightly early at Konza Prairie	Riley	08/11	MMf
Willow Flycatcher	1 at Atchison SFL	Atchison	10/01	KOS
Willow Flycatcher	1 at Independence Creek	Atchison	10/01	KOS
Western Wood-Pewee	1 at Scott SP, continuing – known location	Scott	08/02	SCR
Gray Flycatcher	1 at CNG, Middle Springs, KBRC	Morton	09/11	MN
Northern Shrike	1 easterly at Stranger Creek Bottoms	Leavenworth	11/29	BV
Steller's Jay	1 at feeders near Norton, KBRC	<u>Norton</u>	10/29	DSk
Steller's Jay	1 at feeders near St. John, KBRC	<u>Stafford</u>	11/10	JCn
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	1 at CNG, Western Crossing Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays were reported throughout the fall season.	Morton	09/17	AdM, JM, FMi
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	4 on River Road near Coolidge	Hamilton	11/12	LDC
Common Raven	2 near Syracuse	Hamilton	11/05	SSh
Purple Martin	1 late at Warnock Lake, Atchison	Atchison	10/01	KOS
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 in town of Ellsworth	Ellsworth	09/05	MR
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 late at Chisholm Creek Park	Sedgwick	11/03	GN
Rock Wren	1 at Tallgrass Prairie NP	<u>Chase</u>	10/10	TB
Curve-billed Thrasher	1 at Smoky Valley Ranch	<u>Logan</u>	10/18	GB
Sage Thrasher	1 at Northeast Sedgwick Co Park, KBRC	Sedgwick	10/22	MN, m.ob.
Evening Grosbeak	1 female at feeder, Council Grove Continuing 09/20	<u>Morris</u>	09/18	CP
Evening Grosbeak	1 at feeders in Holcomb	Finney	10/23	AZ
Evening Grosbeak	1 at feeders near Salina	Saline	11/24	MGo, ML
Purple Finch	1 early near Doniphan	Doniphan	09/30	RW
Cassin's Finch	1 at feeders, Garden City	Finney	10/26	SSh
Red Crossbill	2 in Garden City	Finney	08/07	SSh
Red Crossbill	2 or more at feeders in Garden City, Possibly same as birds on 08/07, 4 present on 09/05, continuing 09/28	Finney	08/24	SSh
Red Crossbill	2 near Bonner Springs	Leavenworth	09/05	KC, DP
Red Crossbill	1 at Carey Park Golf Course	Reno	09/10	AdM
Red Crossbill	1 at Elkhart Shelterbelt	Morton	11/11	NV
Red Crossbill	1 flying overhead, calling, Lenexa	Johnson	11/14	MG
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at feeders, Dodge City	Ford	08/09	CMM
Lesser Goldfinch	1 at feeders, Manhattan	Riley	11/28	MMf
Lapland Longspur	1 early at Clinton Lake	Douglas	09/25	JCC, AF
Snow Bunting	1 heard flying over, Minooka Park	Russell	11/20	MR
White-crowned Sparrow	1 early, northeast of Coldwater	Kiowa	09/11	TL
Vesper Sparrow	2 early near Onaga	Pottawatomie	08/08	DMK, MP
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 northeast of Newton, early or lingering	Harvey	08/02	CS

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 in Cave Creek area	Comanche	10/15	JCC
Eastern Meadowlark	2 at Cottonwood Flats WA	Hamilton	11/12	LDC
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at MDC, rare late summer record	Linn	08/07	MGo
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 window strike, Dodge City Comm College	Ford	08/22	MMk
Nashville Warbler	1 early, Perry WA, Kyle Marsh	Jefferson	08/10	DMK, MP
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 late and westerly at Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	10/29	AdM
Townsend's Warbler	1 at Ford SFL	<u>Ford</u>	09/13	TL
Prairie Warbler	1 westerly northeast of Newton	Harvey	10/03	CS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 westerly at feeders in Garden City	Finney	09/26	SSh
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 westerly southeast of Rawlins	Rawlins	10/01	AR

Locations and notes: CNG – Cimarron National Grasslands, imm – immature, KBRC – Kansas Bird Records Committee report filed by observer, MDC – Marais des Cygnes, NP – National Preserve, QNWR – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Res – Reservoir, SCWA – Slate Creek Wetland Area, SFL – State Fishing Lake, SP – State Park, WA – Wildlife Area

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, Bonnie Ashing, JC Avena (JCA), Grant Beauprez, Timothy Becker, Jeremy Birket, Coleen Brown, Andrew Burnett (ABu), Tom Cannon (TCn), Randy Carman, Kathy Carroll, Henry Castro-Miller (HCM), Susan Chandler-Reed (SCR), George Chiu (GCh), Jacob Christiansen (JCn), Jacob C. Cooper (JCC), Sean Cowden, Lucas DeCicco (LDC), Corey Entriken, Alexandra Files, Christopher Frick, Matt Gearheart, Andrew George, Malcolm Gold (MGo), Arthur Green (AGn), Pete Janzen, Chris Johnson, Joshua Keating, Mark Keller, Chad Killian, Les Killian (LKn), Tony Leukering, Jonas Letourneau, Aaron Locke, Micky Louis, Mark Mayfield (MMf), Ethan Maynard (EMy), Debra McKee (DMK), Christi McMillen (CMM), Don Merz (DMz), Andrew Miller (AdM), Dwight Miller (DwM), Franklin Miller (FMi), Joseph Miller, Morgan Mink (MMk), Carol Morgan, Rosanna Munoz (RMz), Sue Newland, Nicholas Niewald, Mark Nolen, Gary Northwall, Alex Patia, Diane Persons, Barbara Peterson, Mark Pheasant, Celeste Plitz, Nicholas Pumphrey, Mike Rader, Art Reisman, Dave Rintoul, Carolyn Schwab, Sara Shane (SSh), Darrell Skrdlant (DSk), Mandy Stratus, Max Thompson, Nick Varvel, Brian Voorhees, Rodney Wedel, Melissa Yates-Bruce (MYB), Anthony Zukoff **Groups:** m.ob. – many observers, AGLM – JC Avena, Malcolm Gold, Micky Louis, John Mallery, KOS – Kansas Ornithological Society Fall Meeting

KOS Supporting Motus in Kansas

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. There are several entities in Kansas involved with the Motus network. The amazing technology that is being used and the potential to unlock so many unknowns about movements of wildlife, especially birds, in Kansas, is just mind boggling! Literally, we are just now seeing the tip of this immense iceberg with so much more information to yet be uncovered.

Recognizing the value of these activities, the KOS Board recently approved a donation of \$7,000 from the Wallace Champeny Research Fund to support a Motus receiving station at the Emporia State University, Ross Natural History Reservation near Americus in Lyon County. This station, in conjunction with other Motus stations in the Flint Hills, will be able to monitor the movement of tagged birds as they migrate through or move throughout the Flint Hills region.

Support like this is only possible through the forward thinking donations of KOS members to KOS.

Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS)
Winter Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)
January 28, 2023
Emporia State University, Ross Natural History Reservation

The KOS Board met on January 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by President Jenn Rader.

Attendance: Jenn Rader, Dave Rintoul, Chuck Otte, Max Thompson, Robert Penner, Andrew George, Terry Mannell, Malcolm Gold, and Gene Young. (Jeff Calhoun and Cheryl Miller had given their proxy votes on items concerning support for the Motus project discussion to Jenn and Chuck.) Also present was Dr. William Jensen, Emporia State University.

The agenda was reviewed with nothing noted to be added.

Minutes had been mailed out for the March 14, 2022 Zoom Board Meeting and the October 1, 2022 Annual Meeting. Seeing no corrections being noted, **Max moved to approve both sets of minutes. Gene seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Support for Motus receivers/towers: Requests had been forwarded to KOS for several months regarding financial support for the Motus project, a nationwide effort to track movements of birds, and other wildlife, via small radio telemetry tags. Drs. Alice Boyle (Kansas State University), Andrew George (Pittsburg State University) and William Jensen (Emporia State University) have been collaborating on placing receivers throughout the Flint Hills Grassland region. As Emporia State University (ESU) has the Ross Natural History Reservation near Americus, in tall grass prairie, it is desirable to add a receiving station there to supplement the ones at Konza Prairie near Manhattan in Riley County and near Independence in Montgomery County. There are currently 12 Motus receiving stations in Kansas involving several different groups. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) has also indicated that they will likely be applying for a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) State Wildlife Grant (SWG) to install multiple Motus receiving stations. The department had inquired if KOS might be interested in being a financial contributor to help meet the required match for the SWG grant. *(After introducing the topic, Jenn recused herself from discussion as it involved possible funding with KDWP, her employer. Other than answering occasional questions, Jenn did not participate in the discussion. Vice President Dave Rintoul handled the voting when it got to that point.)* There was extensive discussion that was greatly aided by the presence of Robert Penner (involved with Motus via The Nature Conservancy at Cheyenne Bottoms) Andrew George and Bill Jensen. Seeing as how there had been multiple requests to date, Gene posed the question of how do we target where we put our money. All board members present had no issues with supporting Motus due to the information that could be generated from it. Gene stated the first question – how do we target – and the second question was how much can we spend. Max addressed the latter question. Money in the investment account fluctuates wildly with the markets. KOS also has no regular income stream to the endowment fund. Concern was also expressed that investment managers are reluctant to take on “smaller” accounts due to the lack of fees that they generate so we want to be cautious about not taking on excessive amounts of funds or our fees will really start to increase. Andrew and Bill were asked how much a receiving station would cost. Five examples were provided from absolutely no structure, power or internet all the way to an existing structure, power and internet. The cost range (including a fixed amount to provide ten years of maintenance) ranges from \$11,500 to \$7,000. It was asked if money was provided for a station in Lyon County if that could count towards the match for the SWG grant by KDWP. It was also asked if a donation was made to support the KDWP SWG grant if it could be targeted to be located at the ESU site. In both cases, the answers were simply, “there’s no guarantee and no way to know at this stage.” **Terry moved to donate \$7,000 for a Motus receiving station at the ESU property in Lyon County. The motion was seconded by Rob. Vice President Rintoul called for a vote. Voting in favor of the motion were 6 members plus 2 aye votes via proxy. There were no votes opposed and Jenn Rader and Andrew George abstained from voting for conflict of interest. The motion passed.** Bill Jensen excused himself from the meeting and the board thanked him for his input on the topic.

Jenn resumed chairing the meeting and moved into reports from officers and committees.

Treasurer: Max handed out a sheet showing current account balances as well as detail on the investment account. The Checking account was in good shape but we will have printing and mailing bills to pay in March and June and have yet to be billed for the Fall Meeting. Max reported that the 2022 financial records had been delivered to President Jenn who will deliver them to the audit committee and report back to the full board at a later date. **The report was received and filed for audit.**

Vice President and Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council: Dave reported that from the Vice President role he had nothing to report. The Advisory Council had been rather quiet from a bird perspective. There had been recent discussions about prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets which can somewhat impact Ferruginous Hawks. He felt that given the proposed listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken by USFWS that this topic could be rather heated in the near future at council meetings.

Membership: Jenn handed out a membership report from Jeff who had conflicts with the meeting. For January the membership was similar to previous years. Jeff was planning to reach out to non-renewing members encouraging them to renew their memberships. Max pointed out that several people purchase Sustaining Memberships and make additional donations beyond what is required. He indicated that this was a great help to the treasury.

Bulletin Editor: Gene reported that there are draft manuscripts for the September and December 2022 issues but no final manuscripts. One author has simply not responded and there appears to be an issue with files getting transferred via email between another author and the editor. This is being looked into. Gene reported that he would often talk with paper presenters at the fall meetings and work with potential authors to develop manuscripts. Not having a fall meeting for two consecutive years hurt that effort. The March 2023 issue will be the Christmas Bird Count issue and likely won't be mailed until the June mailing as some extensive data analysis is currently being done. The June 2023 issue will be the annual report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC). The Committee will be meeting immediately after the KOS Board meeting to provide resolution on one final record and then the KBRC secretary will start working on that report. It should be ready in time for the normal June mailing.

Horned Lark/Electronic Media Coordinator: Chuck reported that he was working on the March issue which will include registration materials for the Spring Field Trip. Chuck and Malcolm have talked briefly about a web design update but both acknowledge it will be a big task.

Business Manager: Malcolm handed out a written report and highlighted points. Total 2022 sales were just over \$2,500, nearly the same as last year. This total included a couple hundred dollar increase in year-over-year calendar sales. Less KOS merchandise was sold at KWEC on consignment this past year. Differences in apparel sizes and colors put a limitation on the benefit of bulk ordering, so limited apparel will return as an option with an online store. Look for details on KOS shirts and sweatshirts being available for the Spring 2023 Meeting through a Bonfire store. Multiple shirt styles, colors, and sizes will be available without the need to maintain inventory. Moreover, it will allow individuals to choose the product that best fits their preferences. Prices are a bit more expensive than the long-sleeve sun shirt a couple years back, but there will be minimal profit on each item as they are intended for member enjoyment. The downside from this decision will be no excess inventory for consignments at KWEC for these products. Vinyl decals were created as KOS swag for the 2022 Fall meeting and are available on the website for purchase.

Committee Reports:

Student Scholarship/Research Fund: No applications have been received of late. Jenn is asking Chuck and John Schukman to work with her to update all the online materials about scholarship/research fund so it is clearer that anyone can apply for research funds, not just students.

Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC): Gene reported that two member's terms were expiring and both had to cycle off the committee after completing two terms. Since he is one of those a new chair will need to be elected. KBRC is meeting immediately after the KOS board and an email will be sent out with a list of the new members to be approved by KOS Board as per the Society's By-Laws. Only one indecisive record will need to be resolved. Thirty-five records were received in 2022, up from twenty-one in 2021 but down from forty-five in 2020. The committee has amended their procedures such that eBird reported sightings of Review List species can be evaluated from the eBird list, not requiring a traditional report form being filed. If the committee feels that more information is needed than what is with the eBird report, they will request it. 2022 was the first year that this was done so the process is being fine-tuned.

Audit: The treasurer has turned over 2022 financial records to the President so that the audit committee can review them in the near future.

Unfinished Business: Spring Meeting – Mike Rader and Chuck Otte are taking the lead on the meeting to be held May 5 – 7 in Concordia. Field Trip leaders have been lined out. Locations to go birding will depend on the weather. A room has been reserved at the Concordia Holiday Inn Express for a Friday evening social at a cost of \$50. They will likely not set up rooming blocks and simply encourage attendees to make reservations early. Chuck is working with folks from the Extension Office for possible locations for a Saturday evening meal. It might be at an area restaurant or a caterer lined up at some location. An area has been arranged at Cloud County Community College for Saturday and Sunday morning vehicle parking. A location has also been reserved for noon lunch/compilation.

New Business:

Fall Meeting: Given locations of recent meetings we likely need to look at locations central to west for the fall of 2023. Andrew volunteered to host a future meeting, after 2023, at Pittsburg State University.

Central Flyway Committee (Council?): Jenn informed the board that KDWP is involved in the Central Flyway Committee and the department receives periodic updates. She indicated that if the board wanted to see these reports she would talk to the appropriate people in the Department and get them forwarded to the KOS Board. A great deal of interest was expressed by those present.

Dingus Area: Jenn suggested that maybe we need to consider having a BioBlitz in the future. June might be a good time. Other state organizations for other species could be invited to join in. With more areas around Dingus being bought by groups for deer hunting, the board may need to decide how to handle people wanting permission to track wounded deer on to the property even though it is no hunting.

With no further business to be discussed, **Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.**

Chuck Otte
Corresponding Secretary

**KOS Spring Meeting
Concordia, May 5—7
Details on page 3, Registration on page 11
OR: https://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2023/kos_2023_spring_meeting.htm**

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

Registration Form KOS Spring Meeting May 5 – 7, 2023 Concordia, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2023 KOS spring meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	\$20/person	_____	\$ _____
Surcharge for payment received after April 25th	\$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) Or pay online via PayPal -			\$ _____

Number of persons in party: _____

Special needs or requests: _____

Registrations received after April 25th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.
No registration refunds for cancellations after April 30th.

Please mail/email completed registration with full payment 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 2023 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 _____

Support Kansas Ornithological Society Inc.

When you shop at 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.

It's Dues Time Again!

If you haven't renewed your KOS membership this will be the last issue of the Horned Lark you'll receive. The paper membership form is above, or you can pay on line at: https://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_member.html. At only \$20 a year for an individual membership, it is a bargain!

Plan to Attend the Fall KOS Meeting!

October 6—8, 2023
Ft. Hays State University
Hays, Kansas

Details are still being worked out but mark your calendar. Professors, students, and members at large: start thinking about topics of research or interest that you could present a paper about!