



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

June/September, 2023

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From the President's Pen

By Jenn Rader

Hello Birders!

This time of year, birding can slow down for some of us thanks to the hot, windy, and sometimes incredibly humid conditions of a Kansas summer. We as birders either don't get out as much, or the birds are less active during the same time we are due to heat. Feeder activity can also slow way down, as we know, while birds breed and nest, too. Another big factor for our state, both in recent years as well in past years, is how long our droughts last. This certainly impacts bird activity and populations.

Drought can cause a whole host of problems for birds: lethal dehydration, malnourishment (or death) from diminishing food sources, and disease spread, just to name a few. These are problems we can think of and see from the standpoint of "meteorological drought". It can also lead to something called "ecological drought" – a widespread and prolonged decrease in available water that leads to multiple stresses across ecosystems. Ecological Drought considers the cultural, ecological, hydrological, socioeconomic, and climatic dimensions of drought. (Check out drought.gov or droughtmonitor.unl.edu for more information on Ecological Drought, drought conditions in our state & all things drought related.)

With that said, it's sure been nice to have parts of the state see some much-needed rain! We have a cyclic climate pattern change to thank, in part, for that with the change from a La Niña cycle to an El Niño cycle

this June. But, even with some glorious rain events in areas of great need, we are still in an overall drought cycle and should always keep in mind the role we humans have on global climate, particularly with our land and water use.

I hope we continue to get a water recharge in our state while the current climate cycle lasts, but it doesn't hurt to think about ways (or act!) to alleviate water issues that are most certainly in our future, even if it turns out to be the distant future. Here's a place to find some ideas, <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving>.

For now, we can still help our avian friends in our communities by keeping the bird bath full and clean, and in a shady spot during the afternoon, if possible! They'll appreciate the oasis in the summer heat.

On another note, I want to thank you so much for allowing me to be your KOS President these past couple of years! It's been a privilege. I'll still be lurking around for a couple more years as Past-president, and of course plan to be at any KOS events in the future that I can.

Best wishes and happy birding,

- Jenn

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Change happens all the time and it seems to be happening more and more. Some change we notice, some slips right by us. Whether we like change or not, we aren't going to stop it.

Bird species are lumped and split. Taxonomic check-list order is changed. We gain life birds, we lose life birds. The progress of science brings new knowledge that allows us to better understand each species relationship to others. (See check-list update article on page 6!)

KOS is at a nexus as is nearly every organization in this state and country. Part of it is a generational change and much of it was accelerated by the COVID pandemic. Where we head in the future, and if we are even there (I hope we will be) is up to the direction of future boards. We need more KOS members willing to serve on the board! Many of you might say that you don't know what to do on the board. That's okay because most of us didn't when we came on the board. It's a learning and growing process, but there are people who can help you learn. Essentially, as an organization we need to reinvigorate ourselves.

Sometimes reinvigoration is best accomplished by long term board members stepping out of the way. That is my intent in the next two years. I have numerous projects involving Kansas bird records and distribution just waiting on the sidelines for me to tackle. But I can't take those on while I'm also holding several other positions. Even in retirement there's still only 24 hours in a day and I do need a few hours of sleep every night.

I intend to step down by the end of next year as Horned Lark Editor. I've done it long enough. It's time for new fingers to be at the keyboard. One thing that I've always told my successors in any position: everything I've done is temporary. Once you take it over, you are in charge and you can make it look however you want (as long as the Board agrees to it!)

By the end of 2025, if not before, I intend to step away from being the KSBIRDS.ORG webmaster. I've done that for even longer than I've been Horned Lark editor. The website needs a new look and that means it needs a new webmaster. To be blunt, I don't want to learn the new systems that a new website requires.

Finally, by the end of 2026, I want to hand off the secretary position. Between now and then I intend to scan all of the old minutes into digital format so they can be preserved in something more than just paper (fragile paper in some cases) in a notebook. KOS has an awesome history, and it needs to be preserved.

All of these dates are absolute, end of road dates. Earlier departures may happen! Sometimes the hardest part of change is to simply admit that you need to change. By making these dates public, I can be held accountable, and you have all been warned! Hope to see many of you in Hays!

- Chuck



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

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KOS Fall MEETING

Hays, Kansas

October 6 - 8, 2023

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

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 6

6:30-8:00 p.m. - Informal gathering at Albertson Hall Lobby, Ft Hays State University (FHSU) Campus.

Saturday, October 7

8:00 a.m. - Registration in Albertson Hall.

9:00 a.m. - Welcome and morning paper session in Albertson Hall 169.

11:30 a.m. - KOS Business Meeting

11:45 a.m. – Lunch on your own.

KOS Board Meeting If Needed: Location will be announced.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Birdwatchers Hour. An opportunity for you to show your bird photos from the past year. Please bring your photos on a flash drive.

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. – Afternoon paper session, Albertson Hall 169.

4:30 p.m. – KOS Business Meeting

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Banquet at the Black and Gold Room, FHSU Memorial Union.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Awards and speaker. Dr. Megan Judkins, Aviary Director, Grey Snow Eagle House, Perkins, Oklahoma, will present "A Full Circle Approach to Eagle Conservation and How We All Have a Part."

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Fall Meeting Information *(continued)*

Sunday, October 8

7:00 a.m. – Half day field trips will include areas around Hays and surrounding areas. Field trip destinations and group leaders will be announced during the day on Saturday. Meet in front of parking lot A-3 west of Albertson Hall.

12:30 p.m. – Compilation at Frontier Park East shelter. Frontier Park is located on the south end of Main Street along US Hwy 183 Alternate/Hwy 40 Bypass. Frontier Park East is on the east side of Main Street. **There is no box lunch option - bring your own lunch!**

Lodging in Hays

There are numerous lodging options in Hays. There is no lodging block but attendees are encouraged to make a reservation soon.

Registration *(registration form is on page 7, or register on line at <https://ksbirds.org>)*

The meeting registration fee is \$20.00. This fee will be waived for all high school, undergraduate and graduate students. The Saturday evening banquet is \$20.00 per person. **To be certain to have a meal, you must be registered by September 27! Student fees are NOT waived for the banquet. If your abstract for presenting a paper is accepted, you will still have to register. If you are not needing to make a banquet reservation, register by sending Max Thompson an email at maxt@cox.net** Registrations must be received by Sept. 27 to be included in the meal counts. There are no refunds for cancellations after Sept. 27. Registrations received after Sept. 25 will have a \$10.00 surcharge per person.

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

(for period since October 1, 2022)

Mail to:

Eugene Young
Northern Oklahoma College
1220 E. Grand. PO Box 310
Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310

Or e-mail to Gene at: EUGENE.YOUNG@noc.edu

Species _____

Observers _____

Location _____

KOS 2023 Spring Meeting Field Trip Bird List

Compiled list from Cloud, Jewell, Mitchell, Ottawa and Republic counties.
May 5—7, 2023

For a county by county list go to: https://ksbirds.org/kos/KOS_2023_list.htm

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Snow Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Lesser Scaup
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Northern Bobwhite
Wild Turkey
Ring-necked Pheasant
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Coot
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Killdeer
Semipalmated Plover
Snowy Plover
Upland Sandpiper
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Stilt Sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Baird's Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper

White-rumped Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Greater Yellowlegs
Wilson's Phalarope
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Black Tern
Forster's Tern
Double-crested Cormorant
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Bald Eagle
Mississippi Kite
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Barred Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Great Crested Flycatcher

Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Loggerhead Shrike
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Horned Lark
Bank Swallow
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Martin
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
White-breasted Nuthatch
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Eastern Bluebird
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
House Sparrow
American Pipit
House Finch
American Goldfinch

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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
 Baltimore Oriole
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Northern Waterthrush
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler

Nashville Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 American Redstart
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Dickcissel
 (Thank you to Malcolm Gold for
 helping to compile this list!)

Kansas Check-list Update

Mid-summer always brings the publication of the latest American Ornithological Society's (AOS) update to the *Check-list of North American Birds*. The arrival of this annual supplement frequently causes massive upheaval in names and taxonomic order of birds. Summer also brings the June issue of the KOS *Bulletin* which contains the report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) for the previous year, which can also bring occasional changes to the Kansas check-list.

The impact of both of the events was fairly minimal this year. As we all know, 2022 was the year of the Limpkin. Ten records were accepted for Limpkins in Kansas and this species was added to state list.

The AOS supplement was also fairly benign, at least to Kansas species. There was no major taxonomic re-ordering, thank goodness. Northern Goshawk was split into two species. The old world species becomes European Goshawk and the new world species (the Kansas species) becomes American Goshawk, *Accipiter atricapillus*.

Lastly, the confusing *Empidonax* flycatchers became slightly less confusing. Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Cordilleran Flycatcher were lumped back together and resume the former name of Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*. This move was "based on extensive hybridization and lack of consistent vocal, genomic, or morphological differentiation in a broad contact zone in southern British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, eastern Washington, Idaho, and Montana..."

- Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

**Interested in serving on the KOS Board?
 Please contact a current board member!**

**Don't think you know what to do?
 No problem, we'll help you learn!**

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

Registration Form, KOS Fall Meeting October 6 - 8, 2023 Hays, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2023 KOS Fall Meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

	Number	Total
Registration Fee \$20/person	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet \$20/person	_____	\$ _____

To be certain to have a meal, you must be registered by September 27!
Banquet is a taco bar buffet.

Surcharge for payment received after Sep 25th \$10/person _____ \$ _____

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) _____ \$ _____

Online payment option is available

Number of persons in party: _____

Special needs or requests: _____

Registrations received after September 25th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.

No Cancellation Refunds after September 27th.

Please mail/email completed registration with full payment (even if paying online) to:

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

e-mail: maxt@cox.net

In submitting this registration form I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2023 KOS fall 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 _____

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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.

We Need A Spring Meeting Location!

KOS Spring Meeting is traditionally held the first weekend of May (or sometimes the second weekend). We need a location (and volunteers willing to coordinate this—with a little help). In fact, not only the 2024 spring meeting but the 2024 fall meeting and future spring and fall meetings are in need of locations.

We are working on planning documents that would lay out, step by step, what is needed to help those who might be interested in hosting.

But for now, we'd really like to get spring meeting 2024 planning started soon. We try to move these meetings around the state. Last spring we were in Concordia and most recent prior locations to that were: Ft. Scott, Dodge City, Pittsburg, Winfield, and Scott City. Contact Chuck or any other board member if you are interested!