



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

March, 2024

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Current Alerts!

Have You Paid Your 2024 Dues?

If you have not paid your 2024 dues, this is the last issue of the Horned Lark (and any future Bulletins) that you will receive. If this applies to you, then you do have options! On the back page of this issue (and every issue) there is a membership renewal form. OR, included with this mailing there is a renewal form. OR direct your web browser to: https://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_member.html and you can renew very easily on-line! If you know of some young birders, submit a student subscription for them. It'll be the best five bucks you ever spent!!!

Spring Meeting Registration Issue

On pages 6 and 7 of this issue you can find information on the spring meeting. It'll be held in Manhattan on May 3—5 and will focus on birding in Riley, Pottawatomie and Geary Counties. So much good birding to be had in this part of the state and we haven't had a spring meeting in that area since 2014! Here's a good chance to meet your birding friends, make new birding friends, and do some birding in the northern Flint Hills and around Tuttle Creek and Milford Lakes! You can also find registration information online at: https://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2024/kos_2024_spring_meeting.htm

Am I Missing a *Bulletin* issue?

No, you are not missing a *Bulletin*, there isn't one in this mailing. It takes a lot longer to make an issue of the *Bulletin*, because it is a scientific, reviewed, publication. The March issue is especially grueling as it is the Christmas Bird Count issue and it takes quite a bit of time to get all that data organized, edited and proofed! It will be included in the June mailing along with the June *Bulletin* which has the annual report for the prior year of the Kansas Bird Records Committee. At its winter board meeting, the KOS Board decided to start posting *Bulletins* on line as soon as they are published instead of waiting for two years. They can be found at https://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_pubs.html along with past issues of The Horned Lark!

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Just so no one forgets, we are looking for a new newsletter (Horned Lark) editor. I'm hanging it up at the end of this year. If you need details or more information or are interested, contact me, PLEASE!

Also note that if you missed it on social media or on the front page of this issue, KOS Spring Field Trip registration is open. More details on that can be found on pages 6 and 7 herein. Getting ready for a spring field trip always makes me giddy because it's a big reunion of birding friends, some I may not have seen for months or even years. PLUS, this year it's in my home area so I can help lead birders to birding locations in my local patch! I hope I get to see many of you in May!

In pulling together some KOS history I came across an item from the March 1999 Horned Lark. In that issue were the minutes of the KOS Board Meeting held in February 1999 where it was decided to establish a web page and the board authorized funds to do so. In that same issue was the first time that website address, ksbirds.org, was mentioned. James Barnes was the board member that brought idea forward. So this spring marks the 25th anniversary of our website. Later this year KOS will celebrate its 75th anniversary as an organization. There'll be more on that in coming issues and a special celebration is being planned for the fall meeting in Lawrence (September 27—29).

Back to the website. James led the charge on getting the website up and running with a lot of help from Dave Rintoul and to a lesser extent myself. A few years later James moved out of state, so Dave and I picked up the slack. One thing I always encourage people to remember is that in those early days, a great number of our members, myself included, were visiting the website via dialup modems. Information was painfully slow in downloading so the website was created very text heavy since text could load more quickly than images and graphics. The website has continued that look over the years, mainly because Chuck didn't (and still doesn't) want to learn a lot of new web page programming code. One other thing to keep in mind is that none of the current or past webmasters have ever been paid for any of their work. If you are with any organization that pays for web design and maintenance, it can carry a hefty price tag.

One of the other alerts that I recently posted was that I would be stepping down as webmaster no later than December 2025. I will still maintain some of the current information on the website, like county check-lists and Kansas Bird Records Committee information, but I will no longer be in charge. Work is currently underway to redesign the ksbirds.org look. It isn't being done by me, but it is happening. A target date to roll this out has not been determined yet, but you will know it when it happens. A big thankyou to those KOS members that have stepped forward and our working on this! For now though, my focus is on Spring Field Trips 2024, and I hope to see you there!

- Chuck



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

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(The following are draft minutes and will not be official until approved.)

Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS)
Winter Board Meeting
March 9, 2024
Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS

The KOS Board met on March 9, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10:56 a.m. by President Kurtis Meier.

Attendance: Jeff Calhoun, Andrew George, Malcolm Gold, Terry Mannell, Kurtis Meier, Mark Nolen, Chuck Otte, Max Thompson, and Eugene Young. Alice Boyle joined the meeting via Zoom as did KOS Research Committee Chair John Schukman. Jenn Rader had advised the board that she would not be able to attend. Joseph Miller was out of the country and unavailable to Zoom in to participate.

The agenda was reviewed with nothing noted to be added.

The minutes of the KOS Board meeting, held during the Annual Meeting on October 7, 2023, had been emailed to all members. Seeing no changes needed **Terry moved to approve the minutes, Eugene seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Chuck reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting minutes would be approved at the Annual Meeting in the fall.

Treasurer's Report: Max handed out an account summary. The investment account earned a very good 14.4% return in 2023. Max had taken some money out of the investment account, the first time since the account was established, to provide support for the rewrite and publication of *The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots, Expanded Edition*, by Pete Janzen and Bob Gress and also for the purchase of a Motus tower and monitoring equipment for Emporia State University. Both of these expenditures were approved at the 2023 Winter Board Meeting. The report was accepted and will be filed with the minutes. (Any KOS member in good standing may see a copy of the statement of accounts by contacting KOS Treasurer Max Thompson.) It was asked about the long-term plan for the investment account. Max explained that some of the funds were reserved for maintenance of the Dingus Area, some was in the Book Royalty Fund (for support of book publications about Kansas birds), and some was in the Research Fund. While there was no written statement about long term plans, the remainder was kept in reserve to help support the Society or for special requests such as the Motus tower/equipment purchase.

Vice President's Report: Alice reported that she did not have a report but was looking forward to becoming more involved with the Society. Chuck said that he would visit with her in the near future about her responsibilities with the fall meeting.

Membership Secretary: Jeff reported that the most recent KOS mailing was sent to 284 recipients. Even though about 35 members had not yet renewed their annual membership, he would send the March mailing to them and asked that a dues reminder card be included in that mailing. KOS has a total of 156 Life Memberships. Of those, fifteen (15) were Libraries or Organizations, and 141 were individuals or families with paid life memberships. There were 128 annual memberships in the following categories: 6 libraries, 5 contributing members, 33 families (15 sustaining member, 18 regular), 74 individuals (19 sustaining, 55 regular) and 10 students.

Bulletin Editor: Gene reported that the March *Bulletin* (Christmas Bird Count issue) is in process. He and Max have been working on it. It will not be ready to mail when the March newsletter will be going out simply because of the magnitude of producing the March issue. Gene discussed the situation of where issues of the *Bulletin* are not available on our website until two years post publication. He had been approached by several people at universities/colleges about the challenge of viewing the recent *Bulletins*

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for pertinent Kansas ornithological information. He said that the two-year moratorium also applies to the agreement with EBSCO. Chuck explained that at the time that the decision was made to put the *Bulletins* online, there was concern that having them immediately available would hurt membership. Chuck added that he did not feel that this was a valid concern. He added that all it would require is a motion from the board to change this. **Malcolm moved to end the two-year moratorium and make copies of the *Bulletin* available electronically as soon as they are published, both with our own website and any other locations that they are electronically stored. Chuck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Gene also mentioned discussions that he had been having with some of the faculty at the University of Kansas regarding the possibility of starting a journal dedicated to Great Plains Ornithology. These discussions were in their infancy with really no plan in place. Alice suggested that if these discussions move forward that the area of inclusion should extend north into the corresponding prairie regions of Canada. Gene will keep the board informed of further discussions.

Secretary/Horned Lark editor/Electronic media coordinator – Chuck informed the board that he is slowly going through the Secretary's "archives" to scan all copies of minutes, including early handwritten minutes, to digitize them and store them electronically as PDF files. The December Horned Lark is finished except for the President's column, which Kurtis promised to get to Chuck soon. Since there were no *Bulletins* ready to be printed/mailed and no pressing information in the December issue Chuck has chosen to hold it until the March issue, with spring meeting registration information, was ready and mail them together. He indicated that due to the other regional editors' decision to stop providing the Southern Great Plains regional report for North American Birds, he had not compiled a regional Birding Roundup for several issues and asked, given the amount of information available on eBird, if KOS Board members thought it was still of value. Several members acknowledged that they appreciated the concise and focused approach of the Birding Roundup. Chuck said that he would get started and get them caught back up to date. Chuck had sent out a report to the board showing the costs of the website. Current annualized costs for all items of the website was \$311. This covered website hosting, SSL certificate (for security purposes) and the domain name registration fees. Chuck said he pays these directly and is then reimbursed by the treasurer.

Business Manager: Malcolm reported that the calendar sales did well again this year. He felt he had printed a few too many, but a good profit was still made. He feels he has a good idea of how many he will sell each year and will adjust his order this fall appropriately. He is working on several merchandise ideas and would like to have something special for the KOS 75th Anniversary this fall. He is working on logo ideas for things that could be used on shirts, tumblers, stickers, embroidered patches, etc. He's trying to find some interested graphic designers to help do a digital version of our logo so that it would be of much higher quality for future items and for use by the society.

KOS Research Fund: John had emailed out some thoughts and recommendations of items he would like the Board to act on. The first item of discussion was raising the amount of grants that could be awarded. For the past several years grants up to \$750 could be awarded. This amount had not changed for several years. John suggested raising the amount to at least \$1,000. There was discussion of why there had been that limit. Max said that with the amount of money in reserve in the endowment now, the annual earnings could handle awarding more than \$750. **Eugene Young moved to increase the amount that could be awarded to \$2,000. Chuck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** One of the recipients for the current year had originally asked for \$1,000, but at the time could only be awarded \$750. **Malcolm moved to increase the amount of Logan's grant from \$750 to \$1,000. Terry seconded the motion. Alice Boyle indicated that she needed to abstain from the voting. The motion passed unanimously with Alice abstaining.** There then followed discussion about items that would and would not be funded and what items historically not funded might need to be considered to be added. Positive considerations as well as potential issues were discussed at length. **Terry moved to add to the list of approved items that could be paid for by grants "stipends for student assistants" and "permanent equipment, with the understanding that if the award went to a student or faculty member at an institution, the equipment would remain at the institution after said student or faculty member left". The motion was seconded by Chuck and passed unanimously.**

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John also updated the board on past research grant recipients and whether they had fulfilled their obligation of presenting a paper at the KOS Fall Meeting. Chuck said that he would send out the revised wording for the Research Grant information on the website for everyone to review before he updated the web page. John signed off the Zoom call to the meeting.

Kansas Bird Records Committee: Max said that the KBRC was meeting right after the KOS Board meeting was over. Chuck said that three positions were up for election and after KBRC had conducted their election, he would electronically forward a request for the board to approve the newly elected members.

New Business:

Fall Meeting: Town Peterson, from the University of Kansas (KU), joined the meeting via Zoom. With the acknowledgement that the first weekend of October conflicted with the American Ornithological Society meeting in Colorado, it was decided to move forward one week to September 27 – 29. As 2024 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Kansas Ornithological Society, the meeting will be in Lawrence where the first meeting was held at KU. Plans are still being formulated but preliminarily the Friday night social will be at the Natural History Museum at KU. Saturday paper sessions and business meeting has been suggested for the new Student Union. The Saturday evening banquet will likely be held off campus. Town will get information together on possible venues so the board can examine the options. Sunday Field Trips would be around the area and a location for the compilation will be determined at a later date. Baker Wetlands were suggested as one possible location. Max felt that it would be good for KOS to spend a little more than normal on the meeting due to it being the 75th Anniversary. **Max moved to authorize \$1,000 be spent for the 75th Annual Meeting. This could be used to help bring in a special speaker, offset other costs, etc. Malcolm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Town will work with Max who will forward information to the board.

Spring Meeting: Spring Meeting will be May 3 – 5 at Manhattan. Jeff, Alice and Chuck are leading the planning for the spring meeting/field trips. There will be no headquarter hotel. There are numerous lodging options in Manhattan. A Friday night social is being planned, location yet to be determined. Field trips will target Riley, Pottawatomie and Geary counties. Any birds seen May 3 – 5 in those three counties will be counted in the compilation. Attendees who use eBird will be encouraged to share their checklists from those days with KSOrnSociety. Saturday evening there will be a group meal with the price likely included in the registration. Alice is checking to see if the Barn and other facilities at Konza would be available. If not, then the Saturday evening meal will be at Pottorf Hall at the Riley County Fairgrounds in Manhattan. Sunday compilation is being planned for the River Outlet area at Tuttle Creek Reservoir. The compilation will continue the recent trend of “bring your own lunch”.

Future Meetings: Kurtis had received a couple of emails about future meetings and possibly doing some cooperatively with neighboring states. Pluses and minuses of doing this were discussed and possibilities will be considered. It was felt that spring meetings might work better for multistate gatherings. Andrew said that given his location at Pittsburg State University he could make a multistate fall meeting work as well.

Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting, Max seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kurtis adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Chuck Otte
Corresponding Secretary

#486

Included in the records acted on in 2023 by the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) was a very well documented and photographed record of a Mexican Duck from Hamilton County. This is the first record of Mexican Duck for Kansas and becomes species #486 for the state. Additional details on this record, and about 40 other records, will be in the June *Bulletin*.

-Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

KOS SPRING MEETING

Manhattan, Kansas

May 3 - 5, 2024

Register and pay online at: https://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2024/kos_2024_spring_meeting.htm

KOS Spring Meeting 2024 will be headquartered in Manhattan with field trips to Riley, Pottawatomie and Geary Counties. **NOTE:** Compilation will include sightings from these three counties only. Please share your eBird Check-lists with KSOmSociety. The infamous big check-lists will be available Friday and Saturday evening and at the Sunday compilation. Any sightings from these three counties on Friday, May 3 through Sunday May 5 will be included.

Headquarters: We aren't designating any specific hotel as a headquarters.

Friday Evening: This will be a casual gathering time (6:30 to 8:30 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 Pottorf Hall on the Riley County Fairgrounds, 1710 Avery Ave, Manhattan. 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 6:30 a.m. at the Flint Hills Discovery Center parking lot. (Geary County Field Trip will meet at Sapp Brothers Truck Stop, located just off I-70 Exit 295 at 6:30 a.m. Saturday.) Sunday Field Trips will be shorter and stay closer to Manhattan. More information and sign-up for field trips will be available at the Friday evening gathering.

Saturday Evening: Meet back at Pottorf Hall (1710 Avery Ave, Manhattan) for pizza and great conversation/camaraderie and see who had the best sightings of the day. **NOTE: The cost for the pizza is included in your registration.** There will be variety of pizzas available, both meat and meatless, from AJ's NY Pizzeria.

Sunday Compilation: Compilation will be BYOL (bring your own lunch). We will meet around 12:30 at Shelter #1 at the Tuttle Creek Outlet Park.

Accommodations: There are MANY hotels in Manhattan. The ones closest to the Saturday/Sunday gathering point include Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield Inn, Holiday Inn Express, and Candlewood Suites but there are many other choices nearby.

Camping: Camping is available at Tuttle Creek State Park.

Early Birding: Chuck Otte is willing to lead folks on early bird birding, Friday May 3rd, around the Geary County/Milford Lake Area. Contact Chuck at cotte@twinvalley.net if you are interested.

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

Registration Form, KOS Spring Meeting, May 3 – 5, 2024 Manhattan, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2024 KOS spring meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	\$30/person	_____	\$ _____
Surcharge for payment received after April 20th	\$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)			\$ _____

Or register and pay online via PayPal— https://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2024/kos_2024_spring_meeting.htm

Number of persons in party: _____

Special needs or requests: _____

Registrations received after April 20th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.
No registration refunds for cancellations after April 25th.

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 2024 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 _____

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amazonsmile

Spring Meeting to be hosted in Manhattan!

The KOS 2024 Spring Meeting is heading to Manhattan! The last time Manhattan hosted a spring meeting was in 1997 when it was held in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society's annual meeting. Details are still being worked out but it will be May 3—5. Field trips will be in Riley, Pottawatomie and Geary Counties. With Tuttle Creek Reservoir and Milford Reservoir in this zone there are lots of opportunities for lots of field trip locations.

The 2024 Fall KOS Meeting will be the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Kansas Ornithological Society. As such we plan to take it back to where it started; Lawrence. Lots of details to still be worked out and the exact date will depend on football schedules, of course! But start planning now to attend this wonderful celebration!

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.