



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

June, 2024

Vol. 51, No. 2

Call for Papers, KOS Fall Meeting **How to Submit KOS Paper Abstracts**

The KOS fall meeting traditionally features papers given by scientists, students, and birders. The Fall 2024 Meeting will be held in Lawrence at the University of Kansas, September 27 - 29, 2024. Paper presentations are on Saturday, September 28.

To submit an abstract: Include the title of the presentation, the list of authors (use an asterisk to indicate the speaker), the institutional affiliation of the authors (if applicable), and a brief abstract of up to 250 words. Abstracts will be printed in the KOS meeting program. When you submit the abstract, please provide the following additional pieces of information:

- 1) The multimedia equipment you will need (computer and projector are provided);
- 2) Papers will be 15 min, including questions. If you need a shorter or longer time slot, please let Alice Boyle know;
- 3) Whether you are eligible and would like to be considered for a student presentation award. If so, what stage of program (undergraduate, MS, or Ph.D.).
- 4) Full and complete mailing address including zip code
- 5) Students having abstracts accepted for presentation **MUST** register for the meeting. **Registration fee is waived for all students but you MUST register. Submitting an abstract is NOT registering.**

Paper abstracts are due by September 18; please send, in MS Word, to Alice Boyle at aboyle@ksu.edu. In the subject line of the e-mail, please indicate the meeting and give your surname: "KOS 2024: Jones."

Example abstract:

Interspecific competition with wildcats limits populations of jay-hawks in northeast Kansas.

Willie T. Wildcat (*), Division of Biology, Kansas State University.

Ongoing declines in autumn populations of jay-hawks (*Cyanorufa chalkii*) are a topic of conservation concern in Kansas. To assess the role of interspecific competition with wildcats (*Felis purpura*) as a factor contributing to observed population trends, I conducted three-hour observation bouts of captive animals in large enclosed arenas. In competition trials, jay-hawks demonstrated a strong aversion to environments saturated with royal purple. Thus, interspecific competition from wild felids may be a limiting factor that controls foraging and reproductive success of jay-hawk populations in the state of Kansas. Effective conservation strategies for jay-hawks should include keeping cats indoors.

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Where does the time go? It just seems like last week we were in Manhattan for the Spring Field Trips! On that note, a big thank you to Jeff Calhoun, Alice Boyle and a plethora of students who helped lead field trips! It was an honor to work with them in hosting the spring meetings!

Which brings us around to the Fall Meeting. It's KOS's 75th Anniversary so we are heading back to where it all began in 1949, the University of Kansas. Details are still being worked out so keep an eye online and for the next issue of the Horned Lark for registration details. The dates are September 27—29 so go ahead and make your hotel reservations now!

As always, we'll be needing folks to run for positions on the KOS Board of Directors. We always need two Directors at Large as these folks serve two year terms. As of this time we also know that we'll need a new editor for the Horned Lark as I've said that this is my last year. I've done this for about 20 years in two different stints and it's time for a new editor with new and better ideas. I'll still be around in my other roles, but it's time to hang up the editor's cap!

Mid-summer always seems to bring on the summer doldrums with heat and bugs, but in reality, southbound migration is going to get started by mid-July with shorebirds and hummingbirds. Then we hit August with more southbound migration, but we also start to experience northward post-breeding dispersal of southern nesting species. We haven't had any Limpkin reports yet in 2024, but if they're going to arrive it should be soon.

In this century we have had 13 confirmed Swallow-tailed Kite sightings and 9 of those have been in the month of August. In recent years we seem to have these beautiful raptors arriving about every other year. We had three in 2018, three in 2020, and one in 2022. I think it's about time for them to show up again so keep your eyes skyward in August!

Also keep in mind that as those hummingbirds start meandering south, it's the time that those of us in the eastern half of the state have an increased chance of seeing some of those western rarities. Keep those feeders filled and cleaned!! We've had a good breeding population here at the Geary County farm this summer. The breeding season slow down just didn't happen this year. I'd better go put sugar on the shopping list come to think of it!

I want to wrap up this issue's column with an encouragement to attend the Fall Meeting. This is a special year. While we don't have any charter members left, we have a few who joined a year or two after KOS formed. I know at least one of them will be there. I never get tired of listening to the papers that are presented and have watched some of those students and grad students go on to do amazing things in the field of ornithology. So set aside a weekend, come to Lawrence and join in the revelry and camaraderie of being a member of the Kansas Ornithological Society!

- Chuck



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

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2024 KOS Spring Meeting Field Trip List

The 2024 KOS Spring Meeting was held in Manhattan May 3—5. Field trips were led by a wonderful cadre of energetic leaders to Clay, Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley Counties. A total of 201 species were seen in those four counties over the three days. A compiled list follows below of all the species that were seen. A complete listing, by county, can be viewed online at: https://ksbirds.org/kos/KOS_2024_Spring_Meeting_Sightings.htm

For those wondering where the 201 species stands with other traditional (non-COVID years) spring meeting lists, it lands as a tie for 2nd with the 201 species seen in 2017 in southeast Kansas (Cherokee, Crawford, Neosho, and Labette counties.) The most species seen at a spring KOS meeting (any KOS meeting) was 203 seen during the 2013 meeting hosted in Norton (and visiting Decatur, Graham, Harlan (NE), Norton, Phillips, Rooks, and Sheridan counties. Complete listing of the species seen at each spring and fall KOS meetings (where such a list was found) can be viewed at: <https://www.ksbirds.org/kos/KOSMeetingsHistory.htm>

A big thank you to the spring meeting organizers, Jeff Calhoun, Alice Boyle, and Chuck Otte. Field trips were admirably led by the three above individuals as well as a great group of Kansas State University students (if I tried to list them all I'd forget somebody!) Thank you to all of these folks for a fun birding weekend!

Greater White-fronted Goose	Chimney Swift	Caspian Tern
Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black Tern
Wood Duck	Virginia Rail	Forster's Tern
Blue-winged Teal	Sora	Common Loon
Northern Shoveler	American Coot	Double-crested Cormorant
Gadwall	American Avocet	American White Pelican
American Wigeon	Killdeer	Great Blue Heron
Mallard	Semipalmated Plover	Great Egret
Northern Pintail	Piping Plover	Snowy Egret
Green-winged Teal	Upland Sandpiper	Cattle Egret
Ring-necked Duck	Hudsonian Godwit	Green Heron
Greater Scaup	Marbled Godwit	Glossy Ibis
Lesser Scaup	Stilt Sandpiper	White-faced Ibis
Red-breasted Merganser	Baird's Sandpiper	Turkey Vulture
Ruddy Duck	Least Sandpiper	Osprey
Northern Bobwhite	White-rumped Sandpiper	Northern Harrier
Wild Turkey	Pectoral Sandpiper	Cooper's Hawk
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Bald Eagle
Ring-necked Pheasant	Long-billed Dowitcher	Mississippi Kite
Pied-billed Grebe	Wilson's Snipe	Red-shouldered Hawk
Eared Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Broad-winged Hawk
Rock Pigeon	Solitary Sandpiper	Swainson's Hawk
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-tailed Hawk
Mourning Dove	Willet	Eastern Screech-Owl
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Greater Yellowlegs	Great Horned Owl
Common Nighthawk	Wilson's Phalarope	Barred Owl
Common Poorwill	Bonaparte's Gull	
Chuck-will's-widow	Franklin's Gull	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Ring-billed Gull	- continued next page

Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orchard Oriole
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Downy Woodpecker	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird	Common Grackle
Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Great-tailed Grackle
American Kestrel	Northern Mockingbird	Ovenbird
Merlin	European Starling	Louisiana Waterthrush
Peregrine Falcon	Eastern Bluebird	Northern Waterthrush
Great Crested Flycatcher	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Black-and-white Warbler
Western Kingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Prothonotary Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Hermit Thrush	Tennessee Warbler
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	Orange-crowned Warbler
Olive-sided Flycatcher	American Robin	Nashville Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	House Sparrow	Kentucky Warbler
Least Flycatcher	American Pipit	Common Yellowthroat
Eastern Phoebe	House Finch	Hooded Warbler
Bell's Vireo	Pine Siskin	American Redstart
Yellow-throated Vireo	American Goldfinch	Northern Parula
Blue-headed Vireo	Grasshopper Sparrow	Magnolia Warbler
Philadelphia Vireo	Lark Sparrow	Bay-breasted Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Chipping Sparrow	Blackburnian Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Clay-colored Sparrow	Yellow Warbler
Loggerhead Shrike	Field Sparrow	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blue Jay	White-crowned Sparrow	Blackpoll Warbler
American Crow	Harris's Sparrow	Palm Warbler
Fish Crow	White-throated Sparrow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-capped Chickadee	Henslow's Sparrow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Tufted Titmouse	Savannah Sparrow	Wilson's Warbler
Horned Lark	Song Sparrow	Summer Tanager
Bank Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow	Scarlet Tanager
Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Spotted Towhee	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Purple Martin	Eastern Towhee	Blue Grosbeak
Barn Swallow	Yellow-breasted Chat	Lazuli Bunting
Cliff Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Indigo Bunting
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Bobolink	Painted Bunting
Cedar Waxwing	Eastern Meadowlark	Dickcissel

**KOS Fall Meeting
75th Anniversary Celebration
September 27—29, 2024
Lawrence, Kansas**

Start making plans to attend now!

Notes from the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC)

The Kansas Bird Records Committee, an official committee of KOS, is tasked with evaluating records of rare birds observed in the state and determining if there is adequate information to accept said records OR if a new species is to be added to the state list—which currently stands at 486 with a potential new species waiting for action by the KBRC.

The KBRC membership is comprised of both professional ornithologists as well as experienced birders. Records are acted on in a scientific manner evaluating all the written information, photos, videos or audio recordings submitted. Records come from direct submissions to the KBRC secretary or gleaned from eBird records if enough information is available.

Two of the current challenges to the KBRC are ravens and the Solitary Vireo complex. Chihuahuan and Common Raven populations are in a state of flux with uncertainty in researchers, and birders, minds as to what is happening. The KBRC requests detailed reports of any raven sightings along with photos or recordings.

The Solitary Vireo complex (Plumbeous, Cassin's and Blue-headed) is not as straight forward as many birders think they are. The KBRC encourages birders in western Kansas to observe these species closely, study your field guides and read the paragraph at the end of the June *Bulletin*.

Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

It isn't too early to start getting your nominations submitted for best bird of the year (since September 30, 2023. Consider submitting a numbered list of what you consider to be the five or ten best birds, or whatever number you feel like. Regardless, start getting those sent in to Gene so he can start sorting through the list and get it put together.

(for period since September 30, 2023 - more than one bird can be nominated)

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 _____

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



**Official Nomination Form
2024 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 KOS 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 Kurtis Meier, kurtis.meier@ks.gov

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
2024 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 _____

Help Wanted!!

Every year, during our annual business meeting, we have elections of officers. Look at the box along the margin of page 2 to see that list. Directors serve a 2 year term so we elect two new ones every year. All the other positions are elected annually. I (Chuck) have already said that I will not run again for Editor of the Horned Lark. We need someone to pick that up (please contact me for more details on that!) Most of the officers probably haven't thought about whether they will run again or not. But those decisions will be made soon. If you want to have a say in how the Society runs, here's a chance to help!

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.

Future Meetings

As nice as it would be to have a long list of future locations for Spring and Fall KOS meetings, they are more prone to just sort of evolve over time and the board is always looking for volunteers to lead the charge!

Fall Meetings need to be held where we can have a paper session on Saturday, as well as our annual business meeting. While often held at a college/university, they haven't always been, as long as there is a large room for presentations and a good location for a nice evening meal.

Spring Meetings tend to be more laid back with a gathering place for Friday night, places to go birding all day on Saturday and Sunday morning (and tour leaders) and then some sort of informal plan for a Saturday evening meal.

If you are interested, please contact myself (Chuck) or any board members. We're here to help but need local boots on the ground to make things work smoothly!