



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

September, 2024

Vol. 51, No. 3

Announcements

**KOS Fall Meeting
September 27—29, 2024
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas**

Registration information on Pages 5 & 6, Registration form on Page 7.

Online Registration can be found at:
https://ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2024/kos_2024_fall_meeting.htm

Special note for students on Page 6!

Spring KOS Meeting/Field Trips

Plans are still being worked on for the Spring Meeting. An announcement MAY be made at the fall meeting in Lawrence. We are always looking for volunteers to help coordinate spring meetings—contact a KOS Board Member if interested!

Interested in Serving on the KOS Board?

We are always looking for people to serve on the board. It is very easy for boards of organizations to get stuck in a rut and recycling the same members in various capacities. The only way to break out of this rut is for members of all ages and walks of life to step forward and say, “Hey, I’d like to serve on the board!” If you are interested, please talk with one of the current board members (see list on page 2!)

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

I've been thinking about the number 75 a lot in recent weeks, as in the 75th Anniversary of KOS. That's a pretty impressive feat!

I think back to the late 1940's. World War II had not even been over for 5 years. The Interstate Highway System was still a dream of some traffic engineer. Most communication was by the U.S. Mail. Phone calls, especially "long distance" phone calls were only for very serious business. Scientists had been studying birds in Kansas for about 75 years at that point. People had been watching birds, and taking notes on birds in Kansas, for about the same amount of time. Roger Tory Peterson's first field guide, *A Field Guide to the Birds*, had only been out about 15 years. That field guide, in my opinion, marked the dawn of birdwatching as we know it today.

Birdwatchers and biologists knew of other bird interested people in their immediate area or perhaps at other colleges. For that group of charter (founding) members to have the foresight to get together and form an organization that reached across those birders of all classes was just amazing! That simple action, in May of 1949, has reverberated through the decades and impacted birders and birds ever since!

As the current KOS secretary I have the past secretarial "paper trail." My goal is to scan all of those old minutes into digital format so that they do not exist merely in a plastic storage tub in the current secretary's home. If you think about it, in 1949 there weren't copiers. You either took something to press with lead type, or it was retyped on onion skin paper with carbon paper in between to make a second copy. Many of you probably remember the mimeograph machines from school and the purple printed pages. In the past 75 years, nearly everything we do has changed.

A Roseate Spoonbill is seen by birders at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and within minutes birders all across Kansas, in fact all across the world, are made aware of it and can view a photo of the bird. 75 years ago, word of the sighting would be weeks or months old by the time that it circulated.

While we are watching all of these changes, over the past 75 years, the one thing that hasn't changed is our mutual love, fascination, enchantment (choose the adjective of your choice) for birds! Our fascination with birds takes on many different forms. It may be for the simple joy we have from watching these feathered marvels. It may be for a desire to better understand bird distribution in our state and how it is changing, for whatever reason. Perhaps it's a desire to better understand what defines a species as we move from physical measurements for that determination to genetic analysis (talk about quantum leaps!) But at the heart of it all is all of our fascination with those creatures with wings and feathers. Share your joy and love of birds with others and join us in Lawrence in late September for a wonderful celebration of birds and birders!

- 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

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

Vice-President

Alice Boyle, Manhattan, KS
aboyle@ksu.edu

Corresponding Secretary

Chuck Otte, Milford, KS
cotte@twinvalley.net

Membership Development Coordinator

Jeff Calhoun, Manhattan, 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

Jenn Rader, Galena, KS
jennrader34@gmail.com

Directors at Large:

Andrew George, Pittsburg, KS
adgeorge@pittstate.edu

Terry Mannell, Topeka, KS
Terryman0405@gmail.com

Joseph Miller, Nickerson, KS
josephlowellmiller@gmail.com

Mark Nolen, Wichita, KS
nolen.mark@gmail.com

A Few Birdwatchers Had an Idea...

In the late 1940's, a few influential birders had the idea of forming a state ornithological society to be made up of professional ornithologists, ministers, bankers, really, just anyone who was interested in birds. On May 21, 1949, 65 people met in the Pine Room of the "Student Center" at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Ornithological Society was formed. Virtually everyone in attendance was from northeastern Kansas.

The first officers/board members elected were as follows: President—Ivan Boyd, Vice President—H. T. Gier, Secretary—Eugene Dehner, Treasurer—L. B. Carson, Bulletin Editor— Charles G.

REG. NO.	NAME	DATE	LOCALITY & INSTITUTION
1	Robert C. Gier	5/21/49	Cherokee County
2	Eugene Dehner	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
3	L. B. Carson	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
4	Charles G. Sibley	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
5	Ivan Boyd	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
6	H. T. Gier	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
7	Max Thompson	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
8	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
9	William R. Eastman Jr.	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
10	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
11	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
12	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
13	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
14	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
15	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
16	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
17	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
18	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
19	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
20	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
21	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
22	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
23	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
24	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
25	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas
26	Harold Hedges	5/21/49	Lawrence, Kansas

Sibley, and Councilors (now called Directors) - Harold Hedges, Theodore M. Sperry, Ted F Andrews, William R. Eastman Jr. The first year there were 89 dues paying members. Dues the first year were \$1.00! A complete list of the officers/board members through the years can be viewed at: https://www.ksbirds.org/kos/KOS%20Officers,_1950_to_present.htm

On April 28-29, 1950 the second annual meeting was held in Topeka. The highlight of this meeting was a guest speaker by the name of Roger T. Peterson who spoke at the banquet and lead the field trip the following morning. The 3rd Annual Meeting was held in Manhattan at "Kansas State College".

By now membership was truly expanding across more of the state as evidenced by Annual Meeting locations in those subsequent years of: Newton, Emporia, Hays, Atchison, Wichita, Baldwin City and Pittsburg.

Registration page from the first KOS Annual Meeting

Annual Meetings would be held each spring, and the fall meeting was field trips, until 1979 when the Annual Meeting was held at Hays in the fall and the Spring Meeting, in 1980, was Field Trips to Cherokee County. Over the years both spring and fall meetings have moved around the state. All told, fall meetings have been held in 31 different locations and spring meetings in 39 different locations. A complete listing of meeting locations as well as lists of birds seen at those meetings can be viewed online at: <https://www.ksbirds.org/kos/KOSMeetingsHistory.htm>.

Membership has fluctuated over the years reaching a high in the low 400s, although we are less than that now. We lost the last KOS charter member, Phillip Menninger, in 2016. A few current members joined in the first few years of KOS and we are blessed to still have them as members.

The KOS *Bulletin* started being printed within the first year and has continued ever since. The newsletter (originally called the KOS Newsletter and now known as the Horned Lark) started, almost as a whim, in October 1963 with Dr. Charles Ely and Max Thompson being the first editors.

What hasn't changed is KOS's dedication to birds and bird issues in Kansas. Perhaps now, more than ever, attention to bird conservation is very important. Climate change and increased pressure on our natural areas makes our attention to these issues, and its impact on bird life, increasingly critical.

Thank you for continuing to be a member of KOS!

Calling All Christmas Bird Count Compilers!

The editor and data scrutinizers have nearly wrapped up the 2023 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season and with any luck, that issue of the KOS *Bulletin* will be going to the printers soon! Which means that it isn't too early to start making your plans for the 2024/25 CBC season, it's just a few month away. Once again we want to post a web page on ksbirds.org that shows all the Kansas CBCs and the pertinent information for those who may want to join in the fun.

KOS will accept counts that are run from December 12th to January 12th. If you also submit your count to National Audubon then remember that their dates are December 14 through January 5. We'll be collecting KOS data pretty much the same way as we have in recent years so you need to send Chuck Otte (cotte@twinvalley.net) your pertinent information as outlined below.

What's the count name? Who is the compiler (and their email address)? What is the date for your CBC, what contact information do you want interested birders to use to get in touch with you, what time and where are you meeting as well as any other important information. Send all of that to Chuck at the above email address so we can post the website starting around Thanksgiving. If you are waiting to see when some others are having their count just let Chuck know and he can post it as "To Be Announced" and he may have that information ahead of time, so just ask!

We have a wonderful 75 year history of conducting and publishing Kansas Christmas Bird Counts, let's keep the fun going!

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.

KOS FALL MEETING

University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

September 27 - 29, 2024

75th Anniversary of KOS

Additional Registration Information and links to campus map & online registration form can be found at https://ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2024/kos_2024_fall_meeting.htm

IMPORTANT ON CAMPUS PARKING NOTICE: You will need to park in the parking garage just north of the KU Memorial Union (1260 Oread Avenue) and across the street from the Jayhawk Welcome Center. All on campus parking is enforced 24/7 and you will need to pay in advance at the kiosk at the parking garage. Keep your receipt, just in case!

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 27

7:00-9:00 p.m. - Informal gathering at Dyche Hall (KU Natural History Museum, 1345 Jayhawk Blvd), University of Kansas Campus. (See above note on parking. Dyche Hall is roughly a 750 feet walk from the parking garage.) An opportunity to visit with friends, view some of the displays and venture up to view specimens in the collections!

Saturday, September 28

8:00 a.m. - Registration in Jayhawk Welcome Center (JWC) (1266 Oread Ave, Lawrence)

9:00 a.m. - Welcome and morning paper session in JWC Room 202 (all of the day's meetings will be in this room).

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 (USB thumb drive).

2:30—4:30 p.m. – Afternoon paper session

4:30 p.m. – KOS Business Meeting

7:00—9:00 p.m. Banquet, awards and speaker. We will be at the Twisted Vine Winery, 24305 Loring Road, Lawrence, KS 66044 (This location is just a few miles northeast of Lawrence.) The speaker will be Bob Gress.

- agenda and additional details continued on Page 6

Sunday, September 29

7:00 a.m. – Half day field trips will include areas around Lawrence. Meeting location will be announced.

12:30 p.m. – Compilation at Clinton Lake, shelter number 2, (located at: 38.940261, -95.340739.) This is on the northeast corner of Clinton Lake. Turn off East 900th Rd on to 1402 Rd N (like you were turning in to the entrance to the Corps of Engineers headquarters building) and just continue on towards the lake.

There is no box lunch option - bring your own lunch!

Lodging in Lawrence

There are numerous lodging options in Lawrence. There is no lodging block but attendees are encouraged to make a reservation soon. An extensive list of lodging facilities can be found at the Explore Lawrence website: <https://www.explorelawrence.com/places-to-stay/hotels-and-motels/>

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$10.00. This fee will be waived for all high school, undergraduate and graduate students. The Saturday evening banquet is \$30.00 per person for non students. Students banquet ticket price is \$20.00 thanks to a generous donation! **To be certain to have a meal, you must be registered by September 20! Student fees are NOT waived for the banquet meal. 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. 20 to be included in the meal counts. There are no refunds for cancellations after Sept. 20. Registrations received after Sept. 18 will have a \$10.00 surcharge per person.

If your abstract for presenting a paper is accepted, you will still have to register!

Special Note for Students

Students (all the way from elementary through graduate school) may attend the Fall KOS Meeting and pay no registration fee—BUT you still have to send in a registration form! Additionally this year, students may purchase a discounted banquet ticket for \$20 thanks to a generous donor that is subsidizing their meals.

Top 10 Best Birds of the Year

Any and all are welcome to submit nominations for bird sightings of rare or unusual birds that were observed anywhere in Kansas since September 30, 2023. These are typically awarded in a Top 10 format with multiple honorable mention species usually included. Multiple nominations may be submitted. Please send your nominations to Eugene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand. PO Box 310, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; or EUGENE.YOUNG@noc.edu. Be sure to include the species, location and name(s) of the observer(s).

We only turn 75 once! Plan to attend and join in this celebration!!

Registration Form, KOS Fall Meeting September 27 - 29, 2024 Lawrence, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2024 KOS Fall Meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

	Number	Total
Registration Fee \$10/person	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet, non-students \$30/person	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet, students \$20/person	_____	\$ _____
<u>To be certain to have a meal, you must be registered by September 20!</u>		
Surcharge for payment received after Sep 18 th \$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 September 18th will have a surcharge of \$10.00 per person.

No Cancellation Refunds after September 20th.

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) |



_____ Name _____ Daytime phone or email

_____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code

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

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 would prefer not to 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!