



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

September, 2025

Vol. 52, No. 3

KOS Fall Meeting September 26—28, 2025 Pittsburg, KS

Registration information on Pages 3 & 4, Registration form on Page 5.

Online Registration can be found at:

https://ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2025/kos_2025_fall_meeting.htm

Baker University Wetlands Announcement

Max Thompson alerted me to the following announcement printed in the June 2025 Ducks Unlimited Newsletter:

Baker University Wetlands finalized a restricted deed covenant with the Douglas County Register of Deeds. Dr Roger Boyd, former director of Baker Wetlands and a biology professor at Baker University is quoted “The restrictive covenant that is attached to the deed will ensure the area is protected in it’s entirety from any future development that would detract from the mission of education, research and conservation.”

Baker University Wetlands also announced a conservation partnership in October 2024 with Ducks Unlimited and the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Stream (KAWS) to manage and collaborate on the services and care of the wetlands.

A thorough & fascinating history of this area can be found on the Baker University website (www.bakeru.edu) by searching for Baker University Wetlands and Discovery Center.

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

What is your best bird of the year (since September 30, 2024)? I have not submitted any nominations in the past two years I have been a member of KOS, but I will this year.

An early morning in May, Chad and I were walking on 170th Road along the cattails and willows at Quivira NWR in Stafford county. All of a sudden there was this very loud repeating three syllable squawking. We silently looked at each other implying, "What is that?" Merlin ID'd it as a Black Rail. It was very hard for me not to scream out "It's a Black Rail!". I later texted KOS member Henry Armknecht what happened and noted, "It kept vocalizing on and On, and, ON for what seemed a very long time (a couple minutes)". Henry said the first one he encountered, he never did see, but was running back and forth a foot or two in front of him calling incessantly.

We saw a bit of movement in the grass in front of the cattails although it looked like we were looking at nothing and were able to make a short recording. Chad took several photos. It was difficult to get any shot at all, but he was able to get a photo where you can just barely see the top of it's black round head.

We all have so many unique birding moments we experience whether it's observing a bird or birds in the backyard, in the neighborhood park, or traveling around the state. I would like to hear about them (grasslandgardens@gmail.com). A paragraph or two long and I will include one here and there when possible. I think others would enjoy and learn from them as well. And submit those Best Bird of the Year nominations to Eugene Young (pg 8).

The KOS Fall Meeting information and registration form can be found on pages 3,4, & 5. Thank you to Andrew George and Chuck Otte for planning the logistics, itinerary, forms, and all the many details involved. April Board Meeting Minutes pages 6 & 7. Attention Christmas Bird Count Compliers: A request from Chuck page 7.

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.



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.

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

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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, 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

Trish Remley, Miltonvale, KS
grasslandgardens@gmail.com

Past-President

Jenn Rader, Galena, KS
jennrader34@gmail.com

Directors at Large:

Lucas DeCicco, Lawrence, KS
lhdecicco@gmail.com

Kevin Groeneweg, Wichita, KS
kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com

Joseph Miller, Nickerson, KS
josephlowellmiller@gmail.com

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

KOS FALL MEETING

Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas

September 26 - 28, 2025

Fall Meeting Program *(Paper authors please note that they will be presented in the order printed in the program.)*

Call for Papers

Map of Pittsburg State University

Registration Form as a fillable PDF form *(please save form to your computer, complete it and email it to Max Thompson)*

On-line Payment Registration ***If you register and pay online at PayPal you do not need to send the form to Max.***

Minutes from 2024 Annual Membership meeting *(will need to be approved during the Business Meeting)*

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 26

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Friday evening gathering will be in the Heritage Room at PSU Overman Student Center.

Saturday, September 27

8:00 a.m. - Registration

9:00 a.m. - Welcome and morning paper session in the Governor's Room at PSU Overman Student Center (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, Wilkinson Alumni Center. Dr. Tim O'Connell, Oklahoma State University is the banquet speaker. His presentation is titled, ***"Teaching ornithology with the wisdom of Merlin at your side"***

Sunday, September 28

7:00 a.m. - Half day field trips will include areas around Pittsburg. Gather outside Yates Hall. Field trip locations will be announced Friday evening and Saturday.

12:30 p.m. - Compilation location will be announced on Saturday during the meetings and at the banquet. (Keep checking back to the web page if there are updates prior to that time.)

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

Lodging in Pittsburg

There is a block of rooms at LaQuinta Inn at \$129/night. Their phone number is 620-670-5614. You need to call them directly and mention the KOS room block. Deadline for this rate is September 19th. A listing of other options can be found here.

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$15.00. 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 18! 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 a student not needing to make a banquet reservation, register by sending Max Thompson an email at maxt@cox.net** Registrations must be received by Sept. 18 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.

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, 2024. 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).

Banquet Speaker and Program Information

"Teaching ornithology with the wisdom of Merlin at your side" - Whether he's recruiting birders for Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Survey routes, or his own projects — or just helping folks discover the joys of birding in their own backyards — Tim O'Connell has spent decades introducing people to birds and helping them build their skills. In a presentation that will emphasize how his approach has changed with emerging technologies, he will share his thoughts on what works to encourage the lifelong learning to which each new birder is inspired to commit. With roots in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, O'Connell is today an Associate Professor in the department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and past-president of the State College Bird Club (PA), Payne County Audubon Society (OK), Oklahoma Ornithological Society, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Dr. O'Connell's web site (www.timoconnell.wordpress.com).

Registration Form, KOS Fall Meeting

September 26 - 28, 2025

Pittsburg, Kansas

I (we) plan to attend the 2025 KOS Fall Meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

	Number	Total
Registration Fee \$15/person	_____	\$ _____

Student Registration <i><u>(No charge for students but you still need to register)</u></i>	_____	\$ <u>0.00</u>
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Saturday Banquet, \$20/person	_____	\$ _____
<u>To be certain to have a meal, you must be registered by September 18!</u>		

Surcharge for payment received after Sep 18 th \$10/person	_____	\$ _____
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Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS)	_____	\$ _____
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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 2025 KOS fall meeting. (Registering on line, or submission of this form electronically indicates your acceptance of these conditions.)

Signatures Date

Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS)
Board Meeting (DRAFT)
April 13, 2025
Conducted via Zoom teleconference

The KOS Board Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by President Kurtis Meier.

Attendance: Alice Boyle, Jeff Calhoun, Malcolm Gold, Kurtis Meier, Joseph Miller, Mark Nolen, Chuck Otte, Trish Remley, Max Thompson, and Eugene Young

Max Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2024 board meeting conducted at the Fall KOS Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Max reported that we are solvent. The investment fund has dropped during the first two weeks of April. The most recent newsletter mailing has been invoiced and paid. Annual insurance premium has also been paid. The Dingus Property valuation continues to rise but KOS is tax exempt so does not pay property tax. Max made a brief report on the Dingus Property noting that KOS can never sell it. If they no longer wish to keep it, then it reverts back to The Nature Conservancy. The size of the Dingus Preserve is 171 acres. Max also reported that there were already 29 registered for the Spring Meeting. The Champeny Estate is still not settled. The trust company is still waiting on one item to clear and then final disbursements will be made. KOS should receive an additional sum at that time. Max had received a check from a KOS Member for a life membership, but the individual was already a life member so it was treated as a donation. *(Exact financial figures will be made available upon request to the Treasurer by any current KOS member).*

KOS had received a request by a researcher to study flying squirrels at the Dingus Property. There had also recently been a request to study mosses at the property. **Eugene moved to approve both requests, and ask that results from these studies be shared with the KOS Board once completed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Both individuals will be notified in writing that their requests had been approved.

Vice President: No report.

Membership Secretary: Jeff reported that that the most recent mailing went to 239 addresses.

Bulletin Editor: Eugene reported that the September & December, 2024 Bulletins will be combined into one large issue and will be an Index of the Bulletins since the last Index was compiled in 2004. In the future the intent is to place an annual Index in each December issue as compiling a multiyear index is quite tedious! The March 2025 Bulletin will be the Annual Report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee and is nearly finished. The June issue will be the Christmas Bird Count issue. This had traditionally been in the March issue but is becoming an increasingly complex issue to assemble so has been moved to the June issue. Eugene finished by indicating that he had several articles working their way through the review/editing process for future publication.

-Continued on next page

Horned Lark Editor: Trish indicated that it has been a learning process and appreciates the board's patience as she works through this period!

Business Manager: Malcolm reported that he had met with Max earlier in the year to finalize sales tax for 2024. Malcolm reported that there had been approximately \$2,100 in sales taxable items sold during the year. There are options for print on demand clothing items but all that was needed was artwork and then clothing could be made in two to three weeks. This was followed by a brief discussion on the preference of using designs created by people versus AI created artwork.

John Schukman had emailed the board a proposal for surveying bridges in western Kansas for Eastern and Say's Phoebe's nests. He felt that with KOS Spring Meeting being headquartered in Ulysses it would be an opportunity for spring meeting attendees to help with this survey. He has a list of proposed bridge locations that would be shared online. The board didn't see any issues with this proposal and Chuck will contact John.

Kansas Bird Records Committee secretary, Chuck Otte, briefly explained the role of the KOS Board in formally appointing the members of the KBRC. Chuck had emailed the board following the KBRC meeting in March regarding the recommendations for KBRC positions as follows: Mark Robbins - KBRC Member #1, Eugene Young - KBRC Member #2, Pete Janzen - KBRC Alternate Member #1, Chuck Otte - KBRC Alternate Member #2. All of these will be four-year terms. **Max moved to formally appoint the slate as reported. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Jeff reported that everything seemed to be all ready for the spring meeting and was looking forward to hosting it.

Chuck had been in conversation with Andrew George regarding the fall meeting. Andrew is looking at either the last weekend in September or the first weekend in October. Pittsburg State does have a home football game one of those weekends, but he had hosted other statewide events on home football weekends and had experienced no issues.

Chuck reminded everyone that we would need a President and Vice President candidate since Dr. Alice Boyle would be leaving the state in late summer to take a job in Canada. Alice indicated that she would be working with Chuck to get the Call for Papers together, distributed and announced. The board members expressed their regret that Alice would be leaving and wished her well in her new position

Seeing no further business needing the board's attention, Max moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Kurtis adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Chuck Otte
Corresponding Secretary

Attention Christmas Bird Count Compliers.
Please send your planned dates and details to Chuck Otte
at cotte@twinvalley.net

BEST BIRD OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

It's time to start getting your nominations submitted for best bird of the year (since September 30, 2024). Consider submitting a numbered list of what you consider to be the 5-10 best birds, or whatever number you feel like. Regardless, start getting those sent into Gene so he can start sorting through the list and put it together.

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 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
_____ 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 _____